Kennedy Leaps into Lumpkin Fray

by Dennis Conkin

Holding two Bibles — one from the Mormon faith and one from the Protestant Christian tradition — in her upraised hands, Supervisor Willie Kennedy defended Human Rights Commissioner Reverend Eugene Lumpkin during the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, August 16.

"If you're prepared to vote against Reverend Lumpkin, which of you are prepared to throw this Bible in the garbage can?" Kennedy asked her colleagues.

Kennedy made the comments during the Board's consideration of a resolution by Supervisor Terence Hallinan, calling for Lumpkin to remove himself from the Human Rights Commission because of his anti-gay religious beliefs.

Hallinan's resolution, previously voted to by committee with extensive public testimony, also called on Mayor Ford to remove Lumpkin if the African-American pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church failed to resign.

Lumpkin has been under fire by some members of the lesbian and gay community, including many African-Americans, for his controversial comments. The San Francisco Area Reporter on Monday, August 16.

Lumpkin's removal from the commission has been resisted by Human Rights Commissioner by Supervisor Angela Alioto, said the HRC's director of legal affairs.

"It was really hard to stand there and listen to Kennedy," said Jerry Windley, aide to Supervisor Angela Alioto. "It was really hard to hear her justify hatred as a religious expression. There's no relevance to her argument.

"This has nothing to do with the fact that Lumpkin is an African-American," Windley told the Bay Area Reporter.

"I don't ever want the kind of turnout doesn't bother fans:

News Analysis by Jim Provenzano

As part of his stand-up routine, gay San Francisco comic Mark Davis says Bill Clinton reminds him of the high school jock "who let you blow him one night and then tried to forget about it."

But local Democratic Party leaders feel differently, and still support the president, despite some of his recent activities.

After speaking in Denver last week on the same stage as Pope John Paul II, who blasted abortion rights and anything other than the traditional family, President Bill Clinton went golfing with former Republican President Gerald Ford.

In an attempt to parlay favor for his Mexican/Canadian free trade pact with the former president's cronies, Clinton spent time golfing at a private Rockies country club with Ford, who is most known for pardoning Richard Nixon and falling down a lot.

"I don't ever want the kind of polarization to continue that we saw in the past six months," Clinton said of his difficulty in getting his budget proposal passed. Ford said he wanted to be "as helpful as possible."
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United Press International
A self-professed white supremacist who is accused of killing a North Shore plastic surgeon in Chicago, and who has claimed in court he killed San Francisco hair stylist Frank Ringi in 1987, is scheduled to undergo psychiatric evaluation this week to determine his fitness for trial.

Jonathan Preston Haynes, 34, Rockville, Maryland, is accused of killing Ringi in the August 6, shoot- ing death of Dr. Martin Sullivan, 68, in the doctor’s Wilmette, Illinois, office. Haynes allegedly made an appointment with Sullivan under a false name and shot the doctor as he entered an exam- ining room.

Haynes, who drives a Volkswagen Beetle, has said he was on a mission of racial purification and had targeted plastic surgeons, contact lens makers and hair dressers who “feed off Aryan beauty” by al- tering other people’s charac-
ters.

When Cook County Circuit Judge Michael Jordan ordered Haynes to undergo psychiatric evaluation, the defen-
dant said he “would appreci- ate not being found mentally incompetent by a Jewish doc-
tor.” The report is due at the end of the month.

Haynes worked as a chemist for the Bureau of Alco- hol, Tobacco, and Firearms at its Maryland lab until last March, when he decided to head for Chicago.

The San Francisco chapter of the Anti-Defamation League said it has been aware of Haynes since 1987.

“Our files yielded information about Haynes acquired through previous ADL inves-
tigations,” said Michael Sand- berg, the league’s Midwest civil rights director. He said the information has been of- fered to investigators of both the Haynes and Ringi slay-

Gursky said that one of Doe’s major concerns is that he might have been infected with HIV from the assault.

“We don’t yet know,” Gursky said.

Gursky said that Emori- um Capwell attorneys have not yet answered the suit, which was filed after repeat- ed attempts to determine whether the store — located in a high crime zone — had ade- quate security in the rest rooms to prevent the incident.

In the suit, Doe alleges “on information and belief” that the Emporium knew that fre- quent illicit sexual activities took place in the bathroom of the floor bathroom, that there was serious potential for dam- age, and that the store failed to take steps to make the Emp- orium safe and secure and to deter “such reasonably antic- ipative criminal conduct.”

Doe is suing for general damages, for medical and re- lated expenses, loss of wages and for punitive damages. No monetary sum is set for punitive damages in civil suits.

Neonazi Admits To ’87 S.F. Killing

The ADL said it has a copy of an envelope post- marked October 1987 bearing a return address for “Jon Haynes” in San Francisco and addressed to David Mc- Calden, then of Manhattan Beach, a leading figure in the Holocaust-denial movement.


Suit Alleges Male Rape at Emporium

by Dennis Conkin

A 21-year-old gay man has filed a civil suit against Em- porium Capwell, alleging that he was sexually assaulted in the bathroom of the compa- ny’s Market Street store last January.

The young man also says he stabbed the perpetrator in the scrotum in order to pre- vent ejaculation during the sexual assault.

The suit was filed in San Francisco Superior Court on August 3 by attorney Scott Gursky. On behalf of the young man who was only identified as John Doe in court documents to protect his identity.

“As Doe was leaving the stall and unlocked the stall door, the man forced his way into the stall and forced the victim to orally copulate him, Gursky alleges.

During the assault, Doe managed to pull a penknife out of his jacket and stab the assailant in the scrotum, and as the rapist backed off Doe kicked him. The assailant then fled the scene.

A police report was filed in the incident. Gursky told the Bay Area Reporter, but the client has suffered post- traumatic stress disorder from the attack.

The incident was immedi- ately reported to Emporium security and Doe also unsuccess- fully reviewed mug-shots with San Francisco police in-spectors, in hopes of identify- ing the perpetrator.

“He’s bouncing back pretty well, but he was obviously shaken by the incident,” Gursky said.

Gursky said that one of Doe’s major concerns is that he might have been infected with HIV from the assault.

“We don’t yet know,” Gursky said.

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Community News

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Emporium men’s room was the scene of an alleged rape.

(Photo: Rick Gehman)
California Supreme Court Agrees To Study Local Gay Rights Laws

by Dennis Conkin

The California State Supreme Court this week announced it will review three lower court decisions that invalidated the San Francisco Human Rights Ordinance. The ordinance, among other things, gives lesbians and gays the right to sue for redress of anti-gay discrimination in employment and housing. It was ruled invalid earlier this year by the San Francisco Superior Court, which ruled the state preempts the private right of action.

In making the decision, the court relied on a 1993 California Court of Appeal decision that held the Los Angeles Human Rights Ordinance was similarly invalid.

"It's good news," said American Civil Liberties Union staff attorney Matt Coles, of this week's announcement. "The Court will look squarely at the issue." According to Coles, that legal issue is whether local jurisdictions have the right to pass civil rights legislation, including non-discrimination in employment and housing laws or whether, as the Superior Court ruled, doing so illegally infringes upon prerogatives held by Sacramento.

Lawyers who defend employers against anti-bias charges can and do currently argue that the state law AB2601 preempts city anti-discrimination ordinances—even though no state legislation specifically provides protection against anti-gay bias in employment and housing.

"I'm delighted that the Supreme Court has decided to hear these extraordinarily important cases," said San Francisco City Attorney Louise Renne.

"Along with the ACLU and the individual plaintiffs, our office has fought to uphold the city's laws protecting victims of discrimination based on sexual orientation," Renne said.

Legal briefs explaining the merits of the argument by the plaintiffs must be submitted by September 8; the Court must hear oral arguments in the review within 90 days.

No place like home
Homeless people camp out at Mayor Jordan's house August 14 after being evicted from the Trans Bay Terminal in the Jordan-instigated sweep conducted by state police.

Headlines Harvest

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Bay Area Reporter August 19, 1993 Page 3
Hate Crimes Skyrocket in SoCal

In June, after Clinton Compromise, Targets Are Gays, Lesbians, MCC

by Karen Ocamib

Hate crimes against lesbians and gay men skyrocketed in Southern California this July, following President Clinton's compromise on lifting the ban against homosexuals, according to Roger Coggan, director of the Anti-Violence Project for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

The total number of physical assaults logged by the Center for the calendar year 1992 was 57. But in July of 1993 alone, the recorded assaults jumped to 22: 11 involving a weapon, and 13 that required stitches, hospitalization, or other medical attention. Clinton's "waffling and capitulation" on gay rights in the military "fanned the flames of bigotry. The military policy says the only good gay or lesbian is silent and celibate. If we are visible we don't deserve government protection," Coggan said. "The best way to end hate crimes is to end illegally-sanctioned discrimination."

He added that the real incidence of hate crime is higher than the numbers released, since victims frequently fail to report hate crimes, additional law enforcement agencies may be reluctant to take hate crime reports. This was the case with a series of incidents at the Los Angeles-area Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Church in the Valley, according to the Reverend Sherrre Boothman.

"10 Four Gay Lifes"

The first incident occurred on July 18 when Boothman was in Arizona for MCC's national convention. When she returned on July 28, the church janitor showed her a sign he found outside the church, which read "$10 Four Gay Lifes Reward."

That night, or early on the morning of July 29, the church was broken into. Doors were broken and some electronic equipment was stolen, although cash was left. But the most frightening part, Boothman said, was that "even Basics church file had been gone through."

The cops never showed

The North Hollywood division of the LAPD was called. The callers were told it was not a hate crime but somebody would come out anyway. "Of course they never showed up," Boothman said.

Five days later, on August 3, a group of women were painting the outside of the church when a white panel truck displaying a public utilities commission license number sped through the parking lot three times. When the truck left, a maroon car drove by "very fast, screaming 'faggot' at the women," Boothman said. It involved several calls to get through to the police, who still refused to take a report.

That same night someone fired shots outside the church. Boothman said a maroon car was pulling away. The next morning, Boothman alerted Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force co-chair John Perino, who went with her to the church and got the police to finally reclassify the incidents as hate crime reports. "The scary part of it is that we've received two reports from people on our mailing list," Boothman said, although she can't confirm a direct correlation. A man called a Studio City member saying he was working off a photocopied mailing list and needed an updated address. The elderly member didn't comply. The second incident occurred August 17, when four "skinheads" drove into the driveway of a Pomona Valley church member. They left as she was calling police.

Boothman believes that lesbian and gay church members are particularly vulnerable since religious bigots believe that being a gay Christian is "blasphemous." The way some people interpret the Bible, she said, "is that they have a right to kill us."

North Hollywood was the scene of two other known recent hate crimes, said Coggan. On July 20 two brothers "kicked and punched" a gay man who was visiting a friend. But when the police came, after being called by elderly neighbors, the brothers said the gay man had solicited them. It was the gay man who was led off in handcuffs.

The following week the same two brothers pounded on the friend's door, calling him "faggot!" One brother, according to a report filed with the Center, "came out or I'll get my gun." The incident was taped by one of the elderly neighbors. After extensive coaxing, the neighbors have agreed to be witnesses, but the police are still reluctant to reclassify the incidents as hate crimes.

"We don't go for that here"

In yet another incident, Redlands resident William Cowan claims that he and two friends were physically assaulted outside a discount shop on July 8 by several men yelling "faggot!" One had a rifle. When the police arrived they refused to take a hate crime report. Cowan was quoting one officer as saying, "We don't go for that stuff nut out here."

But Cowan persisted. Finally the police took a hate crime report. However, Cowan says he's been told by an officer "to lay off" and "not make a big deal" out of the incident because the police are so weary "we may set you up." A frightened Cowan is seeking legal representation.

Trees grow in Castro

Barlene of Burlingame and Harold Gore planted trees in the Castro August 14. Trees were provided courtesy of Friends of the Urban Forest.

(Photos: Jane Philomen Cleland)
Gay Man Prematurely Cremated
by Dennis Conkin

The Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church charges that the San Francisco Public Administrator bungled the disposition of the remains of a local man, and homophobia is to blame.

The Reverend Robert Cromey said that after Dr. Jack Lee died at St. Francis Hospital earlier this month, the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science, Bill Alger, Lee's lover of 15 years, and Cromey agreed to pay to have Lee's body cremated and would pay the costs.

But because Lee was indigent, and because he had no surviving relatives except a son he had not seen in two decades, the case was assigned to the Public Administrator's office and his remains were turned over to the coroner's office for handling.

After the legally-required search for assets and relatives, which was unsuccessful in locating Lee's son, the disposition of the remains was turned over to the coroner's office by the Public Administrator, according to Cromey — who notified Algieri or Trinity or the mortuary — after which Lee's remains were summarily cremated.

"Bill wanted to see Jack's body at last look before the cremation. But because Algieri is the only survivor, he can pick up the ashes for the cost of Lee's funeral disposition: $447.73. Says Cromey. "Would this have happened if the deceased and his lover were straight?"

Administrative Coroner Joseph Surdyka of the San Francisco Medical Examiner's Office told the Bay Area Reporter that the incident was "an unfortunate administrative error" by the Public Administrator's office.

"If we had known, it wouldn't have happened. If a friend of long standing was going to handle a memorial announcement and a cremation, they could have gone ahead," Surdyka said.

But because there was an absence of notification about Algieri's wishes, and that the cremation and disposition had been arranged elsewhere, the coroner's office had Lee's body cremated.

Cromey told the Bay Area Reporter that the issue underscores the unfairness of the treatment of lesbians and gays if the couple had been heterosexual and married — or if gay marriages were recognized — there would have been no question that the surviving spouse's wishes would have been followed.

"Bill was with his lover for 15 years. There was just no reason for this. I'm really outraged over this, I'm really pissed off," the reverend said.

Public Administrator Ricardo Hernandez told the B.A.R. that the incident was "an unfortunate administrative error" by the Public Administrator's office, but of the Coroner's office — and that all his office does is to search to find assets of the deceased.

By law, Lee's ashes may be held by the coroner's office for one year, pending a claim by relatives — but Cromey says because Algieri is the only survivor, he can pick up the ashes for the cost of Lee's final disposition: $447.73.

Tregor Moves to Hate Crime Clearinghouse
by Dennis Conkin

One-time program director for Community United Against Violence, Jill Tregor, has been appointed the executive director of Intergroup Clearinghouse.

The agency gathers hate crime statistics from more than 80 local community agencies that track incidents and serve as client advocates for people who have been victims of such crimes.

The agency, which has been moribund for several years, sponsored historic hearings on hate violence in 1989 at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. IC has also developed a comprehensive local hate violence reduction program, including a bias-free school program that it will launch in eight San Francisco public high and middle schools in September, according to Tregor.

The schools, including James Lick and Lincoln High School, began to train student advocates and establish their own Human Rights Committees, modeled after the city's HRC, to address hate violence issues.

Tregor said the local efforts included students, parents, teachers, and interested community groups, and that Intergroup is committed to keeping innovative programs up and running, despite funding difficulties that, for now, make her the project's only staffer.

An expert on police policy and hate violence, Tregor was previously the spokesperson for Planned Parenthood of San Mateo County.

"Intergroup offers a tremendous chance to join a working coalition of groups which share the experience of being targets of hate," she said.

"I'm really delighted to be in a position that is building bridges between the queer community and other minority communities affected by hate violence. I think it's really important," Tregor says because Algieri is the only survivor, he can pick up the ashes for the cost of Lee's final disposition: $447.73.

Grobeson Returns to LAPD

Mitch Grobeson, the former Los Angeles police sergeant who won a lawsuit alleging he was discriminated against because he is gay, returned to that city's police force Thursday, August 12.

Grobeson, 34, began his first day of work at the West Los Angeles police station, saying lesbians and gays are "an untapped resource" and "a force to be reckoned with."

Grobeson said he is confident Chief of Police Willie Williams, who replaced Daryl Gates at LAPD after Grobeson left, will create a better atmosphere for lesbians and gays and will not tolerate discrimination.

Grobeson said he hopes ten percent of the department's new recruits will be gay or lesbian.
Editorial

Bill Clinton: Not Our Friend

"An open door for a cure:  mean a more hospitable
— homonym to be made into a sampler

What has happened to Bill Clinton? Was he always a per
fidious, pernicious little sneak; a jerk living in a totally clue
free zone; a butt-kissing, mammoth, arrogant, and willing to
sell his soul for the devil's gold and in his sphere with gay-hostile feelings lurking beneath the surface? Or
was he ever as sincere as he pretended to be? Or did all the people who supported him believe in what he promised to do?
One thing is clear: whatever he really was, he is now what we voted for.

For William Jefferson Clinton to have visited Colorado last
week was a vicious slap across the face of his lesbian and gay constituency. The first time he did it was to meet the members of his party in history, the second was to hit a
golf ball around with Richard Nixon's pardoner. This man is not our friend.

Occasionally, any pope is a symbol: sometimes of good-kind
ness and holiness, and sometimes of intractable, antiquated, baseless. This particular pope is the one whose Council for the Preservation of the Doctrine of Faith (everything in baroque in the Vatican, even the titles) declared homosex-
uals to be evil! It cannot be dismissed as a coinci
dence that he visited the only state to have made a similar official proclamation, Colorado.

And it cannot be dismissed that our president gave at least tacit approval to both by his being there. When Clinton flew Colorado to avoid the masses of lesbians and gays who had flocked there to celebrate their lives and what felt like a new beginning when he back
tracked on his promise to eliminate all anti-gay bias in all federal hiring; when he capitulated on how much of allow-
ning homosexual status to continue to be a disqualifier in the military: these are the memories that flooded back when Clinton announced how "thrilled" he was to be meeting the
pope that fans Operation Rescue's poisonous flame. We wonder if the president would turn his back on the mil
lions of lesbians and gays who voted him into office. And
then he left Colorado.

And he's been advised.

The second time Clinton went to Colorado was not for any
putatively governmental event (the pope being, techni
cally, the Vatican's official potentate but for a vacation: Mr. and Mrs. First Family (and Impressionable First Daugh-
ter) Go To Hell.

At that moment, the Colorado boycott crashed into flames.
From now on, Traditional Values Coalitions meeting
across America are able to say there is no boycott of the
Mr. and Mrs. First Family (and Impressionable First Daugh-
ter) Go To Hell.

We never had a friend in there. Now we know that, and we
believe he is too stupid to oc

bup's post, and should be removed from it at once!

He must have known. If he is so clueless
to fire and evict good people just for their sexual status. Just

ning him out of his box, and there he is, pigeonholed in this post-Cold War era.

I am very proud to have had a role in this
fundamental change, but I have also gained my
most painful scars in the process.

At the peak of the conflict in May, 1990, I was persona non
grata in the Vatican, even the titles) declared homosex-
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Letters
Latinos Also Oppose Lumpkin
The following letter was sent to Mayor Frank Jordan, City Hall, San Francisco:

AGUILAS, the Gay Latin Organization, agrees with your position regarding gays and bisexuals and offers who call for Rev. Eugene R. Lumpkin's removal from the Human Rights Commission. We are appalled at your expedient and disingenuous recommendation of the Lesbian/Bisexual Advisory Committee to re-nominate Reverend Lumpkin. You, in effect, have defeated the purpose of the advisory committee and the commission itself. To give me, as a whole, by creating suspicion in the minds of those who would benefit by the use of this commission.

We know that there are a number of ministers and religious leaders in the African-American community who will strenuously oppose this recommendation of the Human Rights Commission and preach and uphold all human rights and their application. Therefore, we would like you to reconsider your decision to retain Rev. Lumpkin on the Human Rights Commission and replace him with someone who is sympathetic to American who will truly stand for human rights.

Lito Sandoval, Chairman
Political Committee of Aguilas
San Francisco

Another Group Against Lumpkin
The following letter was sent to Mayor Frank Jordan, City Hall, San Francisco:

In this time of crisis, illness and death in our community, we write to express our profound disappointment with your appointment of Eugene Lumpkin to the Human Rights Commission. Lesbian, gay and bisexual persons have enough problems surviving in American society without having to endure a human rights commissioner who preaches condemnation and intolerance. The defense of Lumpkin that his words do not match his deeds is astounding in the extreme. What exactly has this man done to further the civil rights of persons, including lesbians and gay men of all races?

Even more disturbing is the implication that you have managed to create that it is all right to practice bigotry if it can somehow be done in the name of religious truth. True believers do not hate and condemn their fellow humans, however different. You and your administration are giving us to the swelling tide of vicious prejudice in San Francisco.

Paul Burzynski and Salazar Precote
Co-Chairs, Dignity of San Francisco

A Bitter Disappointment
The following letter was sent to President Bill Clinton, The White House, Washington, D.C.:

I write to add to an effect to express the breadth and depth of my disappointment in your recent announce ment of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy. The effect of this policy is what has broken my heart. I am an American in America. I am used not to things being easy. I am used to having few allies and fewer friends in Washington. I am used to being the outcast and you are giving us to the swelling tide of vicious prejudice in San Francisco.

Then you offered me voice; gave me your attention, respect and friendship. I gave you my vote and you won. You invited me to sit at the table and join in the American Past. You offered me a seat, you put me on the national agenda. You promised me. You echoed the vow of your namesake, Thomas Jefferson, to equal protection under the law and freedom from government persecution based upon fear, bigotry, ignorance and mythology. I rose up in your White House to offer my thanks and you failed. I am asking you to wait — just a bit longer — for time to pass, and before rising again, I could add, just not stand, not speak. I had permission to stay, but only safe within my closet — the closet in which so many of my brothers and sisters have suffocated. I did not believe that you could sanction bigotry; I put in hours of my time, delinquent in my income and that whole of my persuasion and intellect toward your election. Because I believed you, because I trusted you. You see, Mr. President, gays in the military was not my issue. I would have readily had pursued equal treatment for all, no discrimination in the classroom, or under Social Security. But you brought the topic up. You told me that "with the army, you have that". The promise of America has been shattered again, and for me, perhaps finally.

James McCawley
San Francisco

Isn't It Queer?
The following letter was sent to President Bill Clinton, The White House, Washington, D.C.:

I wish to express my disappointment with your recent decision to lift the ban on gays in the military. To succumb to political pressure from Senators Nunn and Thurmond, as well as General Colin Powell and other old-style military brass, is, in my opinion, inconsistent with the leadership qualities I thought you would demonstrate. The few demagogues have overruled your earlier pledge to lift an impracticable and ridiculous ban on something as part and parcel with everyday life, only signals your lack of leadership ability and leaves me to question your willingness and ability to lead on issues of major significance or in times of real crises.

Isn't it that our government makes no distinction between quean tax dollars and straight tax dollars? I have to wonder that so many of the middle- and lower-middle class quean will pay proportionately higher taxes than our heterosexual, married counterparts. Isn't it queer that the share we have left after taxes constitutes a large percentage of that much of which we have been systematically "restrained" since the beginning of the American domain, now free to flow in global markets?

Jerry Rosco's story on the origin of AIDS describes an interesting theory that may in time be proven to be correct. I have no problem with most of the story and view it as an interesting idea that requires supporting evidence. I am, however, irritated with the reference to authors who have sold movie rights to books that "don't tell us anything we don't already know". One of those books has indeed told many of us a great many things that we did not already know, especially of the incredible stupid and illegal activities being reported by B.A.R. in the early and mid '80s (including the evils of Lorch).

Mr. Rosco to complain about lack of interest by the gay press on this issue in light of the history of your newspaper is ironic. Why didn't you complain about the lack of coverage of AIDS when it would have made more of a difference?

Barry Schneider
ATTORNEY
400 Montgomery Street
Suite 905
San Francisco
(415) 781-6500

Religion and Gays
This is in response to J. Banbeck's request (B.A.R. letters, Aug. 12) for an interfaith view of the issue of gay rights and gay religion and gay church. I am a Christian, a gay man and a humanist.

The church has been a place of refuge where people can find acceptance, love and the promise of a compassionate, caring community. As a gay man, I have found these values in the church and have been able to build my understanding of the world and my relationship to it there.

The promise of a "true church" is not limited to one religious tradition. There are many religious communities that welcome gays and lesbians. These communities are often more open to new ideas and more willing to challenge the status quo. They are also more accepting of diversity and more committed to social justice.

Religion is often seen as a source of comfort and support, but it can also be a source of conflict and division. This is especially true in the case of gay rights and religion. Many religious leaders and religious organizations are opposed to gay rights, while others are supportive.

One way to think about this is to see religion as a social movement. Like any social movement, religion has its own history and its own goals. It is not just a matter of personal belief, but also of community and shared values.

Religious leaders and organizations can play a role in promoting equality and human rights for all people, including gay and lesbian people. They can advocate for changes in religious doctrine and policy, and they can provide a supportive community for people who are marginalized by religion.

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Catholic Bashing?

You recently printed a letter from Kevin Trigg deploring what he believes to be the B.A.R.'s Catholic bashing, especially in regard to the recent spat of child mutilation scandals.

It was not until the media started exposing these evil priests and criticizing the Catholic bashing that the church is finally taking the first step towards dealing with the problem. It was not the desire to do good, or do the right thing but the criticism (Catholic bashing) which forced the bishops to finally act.

I do think that it is important that we distinguish between the Catholic Church, the political office of the Pope, and the Catholic Church as a body of believers. It is absolutely true that the opinions of the Pope are infallible. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ. Catholics carry no weight with the Catholic Church and careful distinction needs to be made between the two. However, even the Pope and the church by not speaking up, by not taking action to the church's gay bashing, human bashing and other bashing is taking place.

The current Pope has put his imprimatur on some teachings which can be described, charitably, as morally repugnant to decent people. We need not release Cardinal Ratzinger's attack on gays; but it might be worthwhile to recite the latest abomination from the Council on Marriage and Family.

If a husband is infected with the AIDS virus and wishes to have intercourse with his wife, the Council endorsed by the Pope teaches that it is morally preferable that he infect his wife with HIV than for her to use a condom.

This vilification has been propagated as approved by God and is to be practiced by all good Catholics. How many women will die and how many babies will be born with HIV because of this pro-life teaching?

If condemning teachings like this is Catholic bashing, then all Catholic bashing must be fought. No institution in the history of mankind has deserved it more.

Ken Clark
San Francisco

Letters

Bay Area Reporter August 19, 1993

Probate

Estate Planning

Business Law

Real Estate

Litigation

Analysis of same-sex marriages in Hawaii could be the shot in the arm that the gay community and the Hawaiian visitor industry need. Let's adapt to same-sex marriage is good for both civil rights and business. The Hawaiian Islands have always been known as a premier wedding destination site and same-sex marriages will make it even more so.

The Hawaiian Supreme Court has ruled a prohibition on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional unless the state can provide a compelling reason to justify the refusal to recognize these marriages. Why the state is trying to obstruct gay couples from marrying is quite as unthinkable as an honest burglar. His very mission.

In an article in the August 5 edition of your newspaper, Mr. Lumpkin stated that “... the military is not the proper commis¬ sioner to wear different hats.” Now I understand.

Two faces, two hats. Right? NOW!

S. Schermerhorn
San Francisco

San Francisco: The Writing on the Wall

At the time of my writing this letter (July 15), the issue on gays and lesbians in the military is still in question. I can already see the writing on the wall, however. The right wing members of Congress and top military brass are going to hold President Clinton's administration hostage over this. At the same time activi ties in our community are about to attack the Pres ident from the left.

I agree that we can't, don't tell, don't policy sucks, but if Bush or (God forbid) Perri were in office, would the issue have ever gotten this far?

Organizers of the pending protest claim that they will protest the face in the face of the President in this face. Pete Wilson got over the veto of AB101. This is one veteran of the AB101 protests that will not be in at another State Leg in the 1996 campaign, the White House speech writers will make good use of the controversy. All of the actors to present themselves favorably on this issue on gays and lesbians in the military is still in question. I can already see the writing on the wall, however.

Lee Menzley Kanui, Hawaii

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Democrats Look Warily to ’94

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore voted recently to break a 50-50 tie on the floor of the U.S. Senate as the president to pass President Clinton’s economic program, the razor-thin victory for the administration signaled the troubles some Democrats might have in next year’s off-year congressional elections, particularly in the Senate.

While many economists and Washington-watchers (even some top Republicans) expect that the economy will likely improve before the 1994 elections, the President’s approval polls are expected to rank high, his history shows that being from the party in the White House most often does not hurt contenders for Senate and House seats in midterm elections.

Because of that historical fact, coupled with another — that the Republicans have only 13 Senate seats to defend next year compared to 21 for the Democrats — some feel that it is conceivable that the GOP could, although it is unlikely, take control of the U.S. Senate after next year’s elections.

With the Republicans winning the special Senate election in Texas last month, the GOP needs to pick up only a net gain of seven seats next year to take control.

In Washington this week, Don Foley, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, admitted that “1994 has the potential for being a very difficult year for the Democrats, particularly in the Senate.”

The question facing some Democratic senators up for re-election next year is whether they should run away from the Clinton administration. In California, incumbent Senator Daniel K. Inouye is one of those who, though it appears quite unlikely, he in re-election trouble if faced with a well-funded “moderate” Republican. This, as I said, appears unlikely because Feinstein’s personal popularity remains unusually high and the state Republican machinery in this state has a propensity for shooting itself in the foot by repeatedly putting up ultra-conservative, right-wing candidates that even some Republicans cannot vote for.

An example of this is their Congressman William Dannemeyer, the right-wing anti-gay, anti-choice bigot from Orange County, who is in fact the most liberal Republican to ever take to Senate door. Other Republican candidates will no doubt enter the GOP primary for the unreconvinced to face Feinstein next year, but there is no indication of that for the moment, at least, for re-election. In fact, the Democratic party machinery is hoping that with the popular Feinstein at the head of the ticket, she could be helpful in carrying other party statewide nominees — like Kathleen Brown, the front-runner for governor, and Arlo Smith, the probable At-large candidate for the Senate — to victory with her. Democratic prospects to win Senate seats in other states, however, do not look as promising.

The President’s party has gained Senate seats for three times since World War II (in 1962, 1970 and 1978) unless President Clinton’s popularity goes up dramatically next year. Some of those 21 seats now held by his party could go Republican next year. Democratic incumbent senators voted for the President’s economic package last month, and now find themselves in serious political problem in their home states for including Senator Charles Robb of Virginia (who will probably be opposed by Republican Oliver North) Donald Ringle of Michigan (who will probably face that state’s popular incumbent GOP governor) Dennis DeConcini of Arizona; Frank Laufenberg of New Jersey; Kent Conrad of North Dakota; and even long-time incumbent GOP governor Donald R. McKeithan of Massachusetts and Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

Although it is not likely that the Republican party can take the necessary seven seats (since at least three or four GOP incumbents running are thought to be in political trouble as well next year’s congressional races will be very interesting. President Clinton’s success, or lack of same, will most likely become the issue in most, if not all, of the 33 U.S. Senate races across the country next year.

From where I sit, the only “safe” bets are probably Dan Feinstein in California and Ted Kennedy in Massachusetts; all other seats are up for grabs, and don’t bet any of the egg money on it, but the Republican party could possibly control the U.S. Senate in January of 1995. Think about that one for a minute, 1995.

We’ll return to the subject of when voters choose best when voters choose best in the next year compared to 21 for the Democrats, particularly in the Senate. HS

Wayne Friday
The Outer Limit

Dykes Sure Are A Funny Breed

by Rachel Pepper

Those of you familiar with the music of Jane Siberry will remember that one of her best early songs was called "Witches Are A Funny Breed." The saying itself may well be true, but sometimes when I sing along with the song's main chorus, I change the words to "Dykes sure are a funny breed." It's been a motto I've lived with well during the last few years.

How else to explain our need to process every last detail to death? To painstakingly submit ourselves to the evils of consensus or the claustrophobic collective in political organizations? Or to be capable of the curious creation of "The Dyke Fund!"

At first when I picked up the blue flyer explaining the politics of "The Dyke Fund" I thought it was a joke. The seriousness of its tone, however, proved it could only be true. Self-importantly touring itself as "Volume 1, Number 1," this one-page manifesto says we must need to "re-examine our claims to the money we get from working hard." Good, and I thought that by working 60 hours a week I was trying to move up in the world. Silly me.

The Dyke Fund newsletter explains that its fund is "set up to begin the process of redistributing the money in the lesbian community." It urges women (who, don't forget, only earn 59 cents on every male earned dollar), to re-member the Dyke Fund when they bleed, set their clocks forward, examine their breasts, and change the oil in their cars. (No, I am not mak-ing this up!) You can also de-posit a monthly gift in the Dyke Fund bank account. Never mind the starving kids in the world. Silly me.

The current locale is right in the Castro next to Hot 'N Hunky and is open Saturday nights from 7:30 p.m. One day I passed by there and two women who I didn't know smiled and called me to come on in. Although I was on my way somewhere and couldn't, I found their friendliness re-freshing in a community full of attitude, mine included.

This Saturday night Whiptail is having a benefit, and all monies raised will go directly to helping those in need. But it's our neighborhood too. Just having this one lesbian-run spot in the 'hood speaks volumes in a city where even a full-time women's bar, The Cafe, is owned by a man.

So take that crumpled five bucks and head for the Whiptail Lizard Lounge, 4033 18th Street this Saturday, August 21, at 7:30 p.m. Comedienne Maureen Brownyse, singer Amy Simpson, and poet P. August Russell will provide entertainment, and even though it's not a PMS night or a full moon, maybe there'll be some coffee and chocolate available.

Having begun this column with a song from Jane Siberry's first album, it seems fitting to end it talking about her latest. When I Was A Boy. The sixth mini-master-piece to come from this ex-tremely talented Canadian, this may be Siberry's best ef-fort ever. While quirky Jane's "Love is Everything." Groovy Jane's humor, Happy, Jane's beauty, the overwhel-ming exuberance of a woman, just one of the moods. Her stuff can suffer no such fates. It's ed, thoroughly great artist. So go get it, girls, and enjoy. ▼

Jane Siberry

(Photo: Howard Rosenberg)

Commentary

When I Was A Boy

Happily, When I Was A Boy suffers no such fiasco. It's as if Jane had suffered some sort of spiritual and romantic re-awakening before heading into the studio. So typically Siberry-ish, hospital dogs, trains, lost cows, or taxi-cabs here. Instead, surprisingly sweet, slightly strange songs about angels (with k.d. guest-starring on "Calling All Angels"), love, love, and more love. Most compelling is the lavishly lush "Love is Everything." Groovy Jane's humor, Happy, Jane's beauty, the overwhelming exuberance of a woman, just one of the moods. Her stuff can suffer no such fates. It's ed, thoroughly great artist. So go get it, girls, and enjoy. ▼

Jane Siberry

(Photo: Howard Rosenberg)

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ROGER S. GROSS

attorney at law

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Personal Transactions, Small Business Assistance, Bankruptcy

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full of attitude, mine included.

This Saturday night Whiptail is having a benefit, and all
monies raised will go directly to keeping the place going.
This includes providing a space for meetings, perform-
ances, and for something called "PMS night" where
only chocolate and coffee are served. Whiptails' existence
also symbolizes something

important by saying, "Yes, it's our neighborhood too."
Just having this one lesbian-run spot in the 'hood speaks
volumes in a city where even a full-time women's bar, The Cafe, is owned by a man.

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▼

Jane Siberry

(Photo: Howard Rosenberg)
California News

John Laird Keeps His Assembly Race Upbeat

by Marv. Shaw

John Laird brought a combination of voter confidence, liberal convictions, and vigorous campaigning to a gay rally on his behalf where the gay city councilman and two-time mayor of Santa Cruz addressed a mid-Peninsula audience August 11. Speaking at a Menlo Park reception co-hosted by Palo Alto attorney Audrey Covener and San Mateo County Board of Education trustee Rich Gordon, Laird discussed his intentions, ideals, political expertise, and monetary needs if he is to win the August 31 primary election in the 27th Assembly District.

Laird's position as the first openly gay politician running for state office has made his candidacy vital to all gay Californians, as his audience, although not all voters in the 27th District, were all substantial contributors and eager to hear him. Laird's speech detailed not only his qualifications for the office but also the strength he has gathered and his major goals for this next stage in his political career, information he expanded in an interview with the B.A.R.

"I believe it is most important to send to the Legislature a candidate who will break common stereotypes of gay people," Laird emphasized. Evidence from his career to date supports that belief.

Open about his paynes from the start in the early 1980s, he was first elected to the Santa Cruz City Council with the highest majority for such a seat in the city's history. In 1983, his Council colleagues chose him to be the city's mayor, a post he repeated in 1989, 1990, and 1993, his Council colleagues choosing him to be the city's mayor, a post he repeated in 1989, 1990, and 1993.

Laird was candid about the personal reward of those victories. "During the 70s," he recalled, "I went through a period of questioning my identity. These political successes on my own as a gay man proved my acceptance in a later term.

Laird was candid about his campaign. "It's a subtle message," Laird explains. Laird's objective is general election financing. Anti-smoking legislation is also high on his list for two purposes: improvement of public health and reduction of special interest power in legislative action. Linked to that objective is general election financing.

Ironically, Laird cites a fellow liberal Democrat as his probable strongest opponent. "It's a subtle message," Laird explains. Laird explains. Laird explains. Laird's opponent is the son of a prominent family in Monterey County, a Santa Cruz Supervisor, and a prominent figure in his promotions.

However, independent analysis of television advertising calculate that Laird is ahead in the field now.

Laird and his campaign chairman Jim Alford are concentrating on Laird's proven competency, issues, and goals — messages they are getting to the public via television, direct mail, mail-tabling, and door-to-door solicitation. They calculate that the cost will be $175,000, and they need to raise $60,000 more in the final stages of this campaign.

Laird points out that he has over 5,600 endorsements now. One of the more influential ones was strongly voiced at the rally by Anna Eshoo, freshman Representative to Congress. "It takes much courage for people to run for office," she averred, "but it takes even more courage for a gay man or lesbian to run."

Eshoo asserted that because the California Legislature is the most prominent in the nation, Laird will draw much more attention in office than would be the case elsewhere. "Each one of you will be carried along with him," she pointed out.

Help in contributions and volunteer assistance can be offered by contacting Friends of John Laird at 1214 King Street, Santa Cruz, California, 95060, or at 600 Sequoia Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, 95062. The telephone is (408) 454-9244.

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BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 19, 1993 PAGE 11
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In the letter denying the PBLG permission to march, Parade Coordinator Michael Brown cited "time, space, and manpower constraints" as the reason for their rejection. Since the Defender's decision was made public, Brown gave the media a variety of explanations of those constraints. In a July 21 article, Brown told the Chicago Tribune that the parade had reached capacity before the group applied. The parade application states, "Parade positions will be assigned based on the date registration form is received in our office."

"Clear cut discrimination"

However, at a press conference held before the human rights complaint was filed, PBLG presented what they called proof of discrimination and evidence contrary to Brown's statement. In addition...

(Continued on page 23)
City College Offers New Gay Studies Class in Fall

by David O'Connor

City College of San Francisco opens its fall semester August 23, at which time a new course in gay and lesbian studies will debut.

"Lesbian and Gay Avante Guard of the '50s: Hot Art and Cold War," taught by Jonathan Katz, is the newest addition among 20 classes offered in the program this term.

"We're realizing what a distinct period that was in American culture," said Jack Collins, director of the Gay and Lesbian Studies Department. "The new class, offered for the first time this fall, looks at all the arts against the backdrop of that paranoid period of homophobia and anti-communism. Lesbian and gay expression took shape at that time."

The gay and lesbian studies program is getting ready for fall after one successful semester attracted some 900 students last spring.

State budget maneuvers have added $3 per credit to the cost for students without a bachelor's degree. Costs for students with a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science have not increased.

Still a bargain.

"We've been relieved that we haven't been horribly affe-
tated by budget cuts," Collins said. "It really is still a bargain."

News reports earlier this year suggested college tuition rates would increase significantly than they have under the new budget, Collins said. "We're worried people think we're priced out of their reach. That's certainly not the case."

The City College gay studies program was the first in the country and remains a model for other schools looking to add gay courses. Collins said he receives about four requests per month from schools interested in the program.

City College offered its first gay and lesbian literature class in 1972. Classes were added throughout the 1980s, until the full department was created in 1999.

Collins said he is proud of what the department has done in educating students and leading the country in gay studies. But the program's continued success depends on support of students enrolling in its classes, he said.

Collins encourages younger students to check out the program, and advocates continued activism by everyone, student or not.

"We must not become complacent because the climate is slightly nicer to us. We've gained a little respect but not nearly enough," Collins said.

"Our job isn't finished until lesbians and gays feel secure in their work, place, their neighborhoods and especially school."

Some other classes offered this fall include "Creative Short Story Writing," "Gay and Lesbian Literature Survey," "Homosexuality in Contemporary Film," "Lesbian and Gay Style and Sensibili-

Guest Opinion

(Continued from page 8)

Jonathan Katz/Photo: Marc Geller

g rated to several ACTG scien-
tists, who saw me as a bureau-
crat selling out to the activists. But much more painful was the brunt of anger from gay or lesbian activists. Most vivid is my memory of the time a prominent, angry, gay AIDS activist got a cheer from a room full of his peers. Many of them also my friends, when he referred to me as "Uncle Tom Killen." Somehow, I had assumed that, as an openly gay man, I would get special treat-
ment from others in my com-
unity, and be sheltered from the anger. Boy, was I naive!

Thankfully, those days are past. The bad news is that the new order has brought with it other "constituency" issues, some of them as complex as the scientific challenges we face. Involving the minority communities most affected by HIV in clinical trials is now squarely in the spotlight; this is an extremely difficult prob-
lem and there are no quick or cheape solutions. Furthermore, we (the government) have even less credibility than we had with the gay community several years ago — the legacy of Tuskegee is quite alive.

Level budgets in the face of increasing scientific opportuni-
ty now pit various political and scientific constituencies against each other. For example, we are attempting to launch a study to provide objective information about the utility of low dose alpha inter-
feron in the African-American community; however, the study has been roundly criti-
cized as a waste by scientists and gay activists. To us, it looks for all the world like a replay of AL721 or dextran sodium, over which we were rosted by the gay community just a few short years ago. Even within constituencies there is disagreement. Right

now, there are gay AIDS ac-

tivists arguing that we should shfr resources from clinical trials to basic research and many of us at NIH agree. There are other equally vocal gay activists lobbying their Congressmen to prevent the closure of a less productive ACTU which would permit us to reprogram funds and do what we think is scientifi-
cally right. It's the progress which keeps us at it, and it is happen-
ings at unprecedented speed. We all wish it were faster, but in perspective it is awesome. I feel personal progress too. I've grown comfortable greeting male friends at scientific meet-
ings with a kiss and hug! And, as a gay man, I am a lot more comfortable working in the current administration that in the previous two.

[The above was reprinted with permission from the American Association of Phys-
icians for Human Rights.]

Community News

City College Offers New Gay Studies Class in Fall

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ABC Promises Frank Talk About AIDS in New Special

by Valerie Kuklenki

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Producers of a forthcoming ABC special on AIDS say it puts facts about the disease into blunt language never permitted before in a prime-time show on that network.

In a New Light '93, airing September 4, allows Elisabeth Taylor, Dustin Hoffman, Carol Burnett, Luke Perry, Malcolm Jamal-Warner, and other celebrities to talk about AIDS on a personal level or give facts about its transmission in plain terms.

Barry Cherin, spokesman for Lovett Productions Inc., said some of the dozen of entertainers, including actresses Mia Farrow's adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn, comedians Lily Tomlin and Elaine Boosler, into blunt language never heard on primetime network television, how to avoid the disease which is rapidly advancing all over the world.

Host Paula Abdul tells the audience that last year in the United States there were 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, and explains how the human immunodeficiency virus is passed on.

"The AIDS virus is transmitted by direct contact with one of only four bodily fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. No others," Abdul said. "The mucous membranes are located in one of four places in your body: mouth, vagina, rectum and urethra."

"The proper use of a latex condom every time can prevent any fluids from coming into contact with these mucous membranes," she said.

Cherin said ABC's Standards and Practices office refused to allow such words — clinical but nonetheless taboo — in the first In a New Light special aired last July.

"The show was conceived by Lovett and Phil Benth, an ABC programming executive whose son, Barry, died of AIDS three years ago.

Benth said the network Standards and Practices staff trimmed some material but most of it has passed muster, including humorous bits by comedians Lily Tomlin and Elaine Boosler.

For example, Tomlin re-enacts her Laugh-In character, Ernestine the operator, now working at AIDS daught.

"Your daughter is 16 years older and sexually active? Do I have any advice? For starters, keep her away from Woody Allen," she reports, referring to the filmmaker's romance with Mia Farrow's adopted daughter.

In addition to the taped messages, there are performances by singers Pat Benatar, Cinst Black, Elton John and Barry Manilow, among others.

Cherin said one of the most emotive moments is a song performed by Michael Cullen, who has lived with the virus 12 years.

THE PRESSURE!!

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BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 19, 1993 PAGE 14

A GLAAD Media Watch

Gays on Soaps

by Al Kielwasser

A feature article in the September issue of the popular magazine Daytime TV explores "Alternative Lifestyles — Gays on Soaps!" The article by Lucille Giordano asks "How does daytime TV tackle this controversial subject?" and asserts that "people need to be made aware of this lifestyle and its effects on today's society."

Despite this sensational tone, Giordano does a decent job of briefly outlining the history of lesbian and gay depiction in soap operas, from Brian Stcher's character on As the World Turns ("soaps' first gay man") to Donna Pescow's portrayal of a lesbian character on All My Children and Ryan Phillippe's gay teenager Billy Douglas on One Life to Live. In fact, the article extols quotes Philippe, and the young actor intelligently explains the value of using widely-watched soap operas to educate a deeply homophobic America.

The cover of the magazine reads "Gays on Soaps? Good for You! For Your Show? Your Answer is Important!" and follows the article is a clip-out coupon, asking readers "Do you think these controversial topics have a place in daytime television?"

Would you like to see these examined on your soap, or why? Those answers are scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of Daytime TV.

Of course, it's good to see mainstream magazines offering "controversy" approach taken by so many authors — particularly "polls" are involved — is getting a little annoying. We do only hope the magazine will hear from readers who understand that homosexuality is a "controversial topic" precisely because it isn't "explored openly. Although their results are never reported as such, polls like this tend to duce an anti-violence public service announcement for Gay and Bisexual Men in San Francisco." The station featured a half-hour segment on the report. "No holds were barred," says Weilhacker, "though we did agree that we would talk about "skipping" and "competing." The confidents of William John Evans, News Director, KVU-SF, Montgometry Street, San Francisco, CA 94111, tel. 415-956-301.

KTVU: In response to your complaints about KTVU's cover- age of San Francisco and Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, a spokesperson for the station said after newsworf covered much more of the garbage that had accumulated around the Farr. The station's parade chief, says "K101, 700 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94133, tel. 415-512-1053, fax 415-777-0008.

Marky Mark PSA on Hold

Speaking of briefs, it seems that the iconic Marky Mark — rapper, underwear model, and icon of the past record of race-motivated hate violence and homophobic posturing. A "suckers" button may be sent to GLAAD/NY, 150 W. 26th Street, Suite 300, New York, NY 10011. The incident has caused GLAAD/New York to put the PSA project on hold. Original- ly, Marky Mark had agreed to do the project by GLAAD/NY and the Committee Against Anti-Violence, to make amendments for his past record of race-motivated hate violence and homophobic posturing.

The only way to cure homophobia is to confront it directly by Gay thepress and Williams Against Defamation, of all defamations or affirmations, and it is impossible to supply us with documentation. Our office number is 415-861-4588; South Bay Hotline 415-861-4003, fax 415-861-4589. Our mailing address is GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro St., Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114.
ACT UP Calls for Boycott Of Gay Travel Guide Company

by David O'Connor

A Phoenix-based publisher of travel guides for lesbians and gays faces a boycott after the company's founder and owner was accused of discriminating against an HIV-positive employee.

ACT UP/Phoenix called the boycott August 9, even though the publisher and the former employee settled out of court last June.

Jim Laughlin had charged Marianne Ferrari of Ferrari Publications with firing him because he was HIV-positive. Under the settlement agreement, which absolves either party of wrongdoing, both Laughlin and Ferrari are prohibited from discussing details of the case.

Echo magazine, also based in Phoenix, reported that ACT UP called the nationwide boycott in an attempt to remove Ferrari from stores across the country. The company publishes Ferrari's Places of Interest, Places for Men, Places of Interest to Women, and Inn Places.

Laughlin had worked at the company as an advertising sales representative for about a year when he was fired in August 1992. According to his attorney, Jeff Wolf, Laughlin's work had never been criticized before he was fired.

"After he disclosed his HIV status to an employee, he began being treated differently on the job," Wolf said. "Following termination, the employer announced in a room full of employees that his desk and personal items would need to be fumigated. Before he was terminated he was told that if he wanted to use a bathroom on the premises of the company he would need to bring a bottle of bleach to work or find another bathroom to use — those types of things were alleged in the lawsuit." Wolf emphasized that because a settlement was reached, none of those allegations was proved.

In a statement issued August 13, Ferrari criticized ACT UP for launching an "unsubstantiated boycott" without giving the publisher a chance to defend itself.

"Ferrari Publications has been active in AIDS advocacy since the early 1980s," according to the statement. "Since the advent of AIDS hotlines, Ferrari has devoted significant time and resources to compiling and listing these numbers from throughout the world in its guide books." Ferrari's statement also criticized the Echo article, saying that another of Ferrari's former employees is now working at Echo. That employee, Ferrari claims, left the travel guide publisher "on less-than-friendly terms." Echo Marketing and Advertising Director Jeff Ofstedahl said he used to work for Ferrari. But he disagreed that he left on unfriendly terms.

Saturday, August 19, 1993, Page 15

If the answer is selling your life insurance policy, now's the time to ask some hard questions.

For many people facing life-threatening illnesses, selling a life insurance policy for cash is both a practical and dignified way to cope with financial difficulties. The money can help with medical bills, shortfalls caused by diminished work capacity or unemployment, and a host of other expenses facing victims of HIV and AIDS, whether they're heterosexual or otherwise are irrelevant," Wolf said. "The point is more people need to become aware of this and become educated."
Congressional Homophobes' New, Improved, 'Ban Plus'  
by Bill Behrens

As Congress moved closer in early August to legislating a modified version of President Bill Clinton's new military policy — a move considered disastrous by most gay activists — Clinton himself endorsed the legislation, which contains even fewer gay-supportive elements than his compromise policy.

The version of the compromise now facing lawmakers is temporarily on hold, since Congress adjourned for recess until after Labor Day without ever voting on the legislation, which was masterminded by Senator Sam Nunn. The Georgian Democrat, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, has virulently opposed allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve in the military.

Although his press secretary claimed that Nunn's policy is "in essence" the same as the one Clinton approved July 19, there are significant differences — significant enough that conservative legislators such as California's own Republican Representative Bob Dornan are excoriating referring to the policy as "ban plus."

Under Clinton's so-called "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" compromise, potential recruits could not be asked about their sexuality; Nunn's plan goes one step further and allows the secretary of defense to "reinstate the questioning ... as be considered appropriate."

Nunn's policy also deletes two important guarantees from Clinton's compromise that the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including its prohibitions against sodomy, would be enforced equally among heterosexual and homosexual service members, and that no investigations into a service member's sexuality would be started because of mere rumors.

Despite these differences, a White House spokesperson commented July 29 that Clinton finds "ban plus" acceptable. "The legislation is consistent with our policy and we don't have a problem with it," the spokesperson told the Washington Blade, a gay newspaper based in the capital.

As of August 6, when the lawmakers broke for recess, the armed services' committees in both branches of Congress had approved "ban plus" as an amendment to their respective defense authorization bills. Conceivably, however, pro-gay legislators could block the amendment and present it from becoming law.

"We have a possibility to win in the Senate," but probably not in the House, said Tanya Domi, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "As policymakers, senators understand that this should remain in the domain of military policy."

The delay in the vote brought before the recess "could potentially work in our favor" by buying time for proponents, said Sahira Sojourner, a lobbyist with the Sheridan Group, the firm contracted to work on this issue by the now-disbanded Campaign for Military Service.

"This is not just about our supporters in Congress," Sojourner said. "It's about our community and whether or not [gays and lesbians] want to take the time to write or contact their representatives in Congress and tell them that they oppose this effort to codify, or write into law, the ban."

What would help

While politicians and writing one's representatives will not alone prevent Congress from putting its stamp of approval on the anti-gay military policy, "it would definitely help," Sojourner said. She added that there is an excellent time to get in touch with legislators since most are in their home districts for the recess.

Another Sheridan Group lobbyist, Jeff Nelson, agreed that "there is a clear movement about among more progressive members of the Congress" to prevent codification, "crucial effort because, if the ban is written into law, liberalizing it would be much more difficult."

"What [Nunn's policy] effectively does is strengthen antigay language [in the Clinton policy], and codification would then give it the stamp of approval of Congress and the president," said Nelson, who called Nunn's amendment "evil" and said congressional approval of it would be a "disaster."

Furthermore, Nelson added, codification would make any judicial efforts to overturn the ban more difficult, because the courts have traditionally deferred to the military in matters of internal policy to begin with, and a law would "establish legislative intent," making judges less likely to challenge the ban.

Since Clinton has indicated his support for "ban plus" and will certainly not veto the defense authorization bill once it hits his desk, the battle over codification will be won or lost in Congress, and legislators know it. It is now a matter of fighting the issue out through other amendments and parliamentary maneuvers on the Senate and House floors.

Senators identified by lobbyists as the real pro-gay standouts on this issue are Barbara Boxer (D-California), Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut), Paul Wellstone (D-Minnesota) and Russell Feingold (D-Wisconsin). In fact, Domi said, "Boxer may go for a straight no-vote" because she's promised her constituents to try to get the ban lifted entirely.

If Boxer attempts such a vote, it would probably garner about 30 pro-gay senators, Domi said. This vote would in no way preclude other attempts to block or lessen the "ban plus" amendment — attempts that have a chance at winning a majority, Domi added.

"We're trying to maneuver to strike or replace certain language in Nunn's amendment over amendments to the bill in the Senate," Domi said. One item NGLTF lobbyists are attempting to persuade senators to introduce would assert guidelines on sexual harassment in the military. The guidelines would apply to everyone in the armed services, Domi said, but would be targeted specifically to protect gays and women from heterosexual men.

Senator Sam Nunn

\[\text{The Dream Lodge Experience}\]

The Dream Lodge Experience offers a limited number of workshops each year. Because of the intense nature of the work, enrollment is set at 15 men per seminar. Workshops are held at the Isis Oasis Retreat Center in Sonoma County. The cost of a life-transforming weekend, including accommodations, meals and the Dream Lodge Experience is $290. A deposit of $100 is required to secure your reservation.

Summer's End Workshop: Fri.-Sun., Sept. 17-19
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For more information and workshop dates: The Dream Lodge
484 Lake Park Avenue #32, Oakland, CA 94610 Tel: 510/444-8866

\(\text{BODY & SOUL}\)

The Dream Lodge Experience

On Saturday afternoon participants to the Dream Lodge Experience have an opportunity to relax around the hot tub. Later follows the marathon session of "Styx & Stones".

Senator Sam Nunn
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September 30 & October 1
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Macy's is pleased to announce that Passport '93 will benefit Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco's AIDS/HIV Services of California Pacific Medical Center and The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

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All seats are reserved.

General tickets are available at BASS Ticket Centers and CALL-FOR-TIX at 510-762-BASS. Tickets are also available at Macy's Union Square, San Francisco in the first floor Swatch Shop. (A $2 service charge will be added to each ticket purchased at Macy's.)

Special VIP tickets starting at $150 for Thursday, September 30, feature a black-tie dinner designed and prepared by Joyce Goldstein, Chef/Owner of Square One Restaurant.

For further VIP information or reservations, please call 415-451-0013.
Military News

Campaign for Military Service: Decamping After Six Months

by Jim Provenzano

A few weeks before President Clinton was to announce his virtually incomprehensible policy on gays in the military, thousands of lesbians and gays across America received a form letter signed by former Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Executive Director Tom Stoddard, asking for donations to make a commercial. According to Stoddard, he was writing for the Campaign for Military Service, a new group that needed a million dollars to produce and air the commercial, featuring gay former Soldier of the Year Jose Zuniga.

The request was the last gasp of the Campaign for Military Service, which saw its official closure Friday, the 13th of August. When it was formed February 15, the Campaign rushed into the national spotlight as a beacon of hope to spearhead the fight to lift the Pentagon's longstanding ban on homosexual military personnel.

Who is CMS? Where did it go? And what did it do with our money?

One of the two people left to run the CMS office is Assistant Coordinator Denny Maust. "We had one reduction of staff a week after the president made his announce- ment," Maust said from the Campaign's Washington office. "We hope the legal team and lobbyist team on, because Congress was still flirring with the idea of codifying the ban."

Maust says that from the beginning "it was set that CMS would essentially be a six-month organization." Now, he says, "The Campaign hopes the slack will be taken up by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, as well as the Military Freedom Project; those three will be taking up the slack."

Despite the doublepeak text of the new policy, which some critics say is even worse than the previous ban in many ways, Maust believes CMS accomplished a great deal. "We don't consider it a failure at all. We increased the number of votes in Congress with people we considered strongly in favor of lifting the ban. We increased those from [between] ten to 15 [votes], to 30 to 35."

Tim Rump of the Bay Area Military Freedom Project, a local activist group that worked closely with the CMS, thinks the gains in the military issue "will definitely continue to go on as cases go to the courts." He cited the recent lawsuit filed by Lambda and the American Civil Liberty Union on behalf of several lesbians and gay soldiers.

BAMFF will continue to work with the media, he says, providing gay soldiers for interviews as more come out. "We're also looking at other areas to file lawsuits, like veterans benefits."

Rump was reticent about the idea of staging more public demonstrations like the recent rally outside the Federal Building. "I think everybody right now is taking a breath," Rump said. Having worked extensively for months with the Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post and other local groups, he's trying to catch his breath himself and pay the numerous bills his activism has accrued.

Although he is "very pleased" with the San Francisco group's strong grassroots accomplishments, he declined to comment about the activities of the D.C. office of CMS.

Jeff Gibson of the San Francisco branch of CMS admits that "we lost, and that's a resounding loss," Still, he says, "it has been an incred- ible page forward in the book of gay civil rights, with respect to being taken seriously."

Yet he says ruefully it would have been much better "sewing the president sign that bill."

Some infighting

Although Gibson admits "there was some infighting and difficulty" between groups, he says "I think we overcame it." He was not exclusively blaming President Clinton for the failure of the banlifting efforts, citing "our community's lack of unified response, and a lack of funds" as obstacles to effectively bat- ting the Pentagon's homophobia. "We're new to this game. We've never been on the agenda like this. I think we cut our teeth on this issue," he said.

Maust, in the D.C. office, is less sanguine about Bill Clinton. "We just weren't gonna get a yes vote without the White House support. They didn't do any last minute phone calls to get Senate or House support, like they did with the budget bills. Once they put it out on the table, we just got the feeling that they didn't want to be seen to concentrate on this effort. In fact, Clinton had only spent about an hour and a half on this issue. He basically dumped it on ASP. There was no positive course of ac- tion.

Which gives pause for peo- ple to wonder what went on in the meetings between the president, Stoddard, and other leaders of gay organiza- tions.

"There was only one meet- ing with the gay leaders," Maust clarifies. "President Clinton said all the glowing words that he said during the campaign. All the leaders were confident that he would put it all fall through like it did."

Gibson concedes, "Bill Clin- ton said to the leaders of this community, 'Trust me. I will deliver this for you, whatever they did.'" He said, 'It's wonderful to feel trust. But when that partner disappears you, then you feel outraged. A lot of people really felt that.' Gibson comes to the commonly felt realization that "you can't always trust straight white people."

So why the turnaround on Clinton's part? Other than the obvious political fickleness, was Clinton under pressure from Colin Powell and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to come to their anti-gay policies or suffer political consequences worse?

Maust says that Clinton presumed threats from Congress that were probably worse in the presumption than in reality. "He thought Congress would codify the ex- isting ban. I don't think there were any threats from the Pentagon. After being in the Air Force for thirteen years, I can't imagine them threaten- ing him."

Gibson would like to see more efforts "focus on public opinion. Most of America doesn't understand gay peo- ple, or the issues, or the kitchen table of America. I doubt that there is one south- ern Christian Republican fam- ily that didn't see us." On the other hand, he agrees that it may stir even more hatred from those, from [between] ten to 30.

In response to the criticism from other activists that the military ban issue overrode other important problems in the lesbian and gay communi- ty, especially at the March On.

Jeff Gibson of the Campaign for Military Service waits to be arrested at the Federal Building. (Photo: Nick Gerharter)
Campaign

(Continued from previous page)

Washington. Gibson says. "It has been a long time since there have been. Fewer than 20,000 people lobbied Congress. We should have had more.

"A lot of people in the gay and lesbian community haven't picked up on the issue. the military is the largest employer in the U.S. If it discriminated, why should they have other changes?"

And while he acknowledged that the political work was going on side by side with the Washington celebrations, he clearly felt more was necessary. "In addition to parading, "he told the Bay Area Reporter. "you have to work as much as party.

Which is one reason why Gibson hopes to see the commercial continue. "All the commercials were highly polished," he said, described one, for example, that showed a list of dead gay Vietnam veterans on the Pentagon doors asking that their names must be removed from the rolls.

The fundraising letter, he said, was sent out to raise money for the one thing. Kerry. in states without a lot of support for the campaign, in states like Georgia.

"We only raised a million," he recalled. "he was generous, but one person can't save the world." The Campaign was set up as both 501(c)3 and a 501(c)4, giving conservative groups also political muscle. A 501(c) status prohibits fundraising, but permits taking political action, while 501(c) allows such activities. Contributions were, sometimes at the donor's request, put into one area or the other, a tactical move that some fundamentalists and conservative groups also employ.

"Any money that we used for political lobbying purposes had to come out of a (c)4, according to Maust. The other account was used to fund the Campaign's non-political work, including educational efforts, books, research, and general outreach.

Maust says that most fundraising came through major donors. "Larry Schwartz, David Geffen, CMF also received help from restaurants, bars, and organizations that donated time and space for fundraising events. Geffen was generous, but one person can't save the world."

But at the same time, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force were also engaging in major fundraising campaigns with similar military themes. The popular dogslog sold by HRCP led some people to believe they were giving money to CMF.

"The problem," says Maust, "is that we confused the military lobbying with the more political lobbying."

The grand tour

While the tour has been done earlier in the decade to gain more support, The Tour of Duty, modeled after the Freedom rides, took several openly gay and lesbian soldiers through the Midwest in February.
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KAPOSI'S SARCOMA
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TRIAL DESIGN AND ENTRY CRITERIA
BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 19, 1993 PAGE 20

The Pope's Simple Life
by Robert Roth
United Press International

There was a bed waiting for Pope John Paul II when he left Denver Sunday, in the cabin of a jumbo jet. American Airlines re¬ moved four first class seats from one of its Boeing 767's to make room for the Poo¬ tiff's bed. This was no ordinary bunk but a model the airline had custom-made just for this flight.

It was furnished with Bul¬ garian linen sheets, embroi¬ dered pillow cases, and a down comforter. And it did have a safety belt.

The pope reposed behind a curtain on the left side of the plane.

John Paul was also provid¬ ed an electrically reclining leather and lamb's wool seat, equipped with its own VCR and a choice of 12 different films, including Madonna in *A League of Their Own.*

The main course was a roasted veal, tender¬ loin, pasta and vegetables. The airline won't say how much the chartered flight cost, but the usual first class fare from Denver to Rome is $3,548. American Airlines was estimated at be¬ tween 550,000 and 700,000.

About 250,000 attended a papal prayer vigil Saturday night and slept at the park. As many as 6,000 people were treated for hypothermia and dehydration at the park, and about 100 were treated at area hospitals.

An Aurora, Colorado, man died after suffering a heart at¬ tack, officials said.

Arapahoe County Sheriff Pat Sullivan advised the el¬ derly and those not physically fit to avoid the mass because of warm weather and clear skies predicted Sunday.

The pope arrived in Den¬ ver Thursday, August 12 — when nature provided pour¬ ing rain instead of the later heatstroke-inducing swallow — and was welcomed by Presi¬ dent Clinton. The four-day pa¬ trip marked the only U.S. stop during a three-nation Western Hemisphere tour, was made in connection with a gather¬ ing of delegates for World Youth Day, a gathering of young Catholics, aged 13-39.

The pope was scheduled to meet with delegates from Vietnam to visit a chil¬ dren's home before returning to Rome Sunday night.

On Saturday, the pontiff reaffirmed the church's posi¬ tion on abortion before a crowd of 17,000 at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver. The crown was made up of invit¬ ed religious leaders of many denomina¬ tions, plus govern¬ ment and civic leaders.

"In her vigorous concern for human rights and justice, the Catholic Church is unam¬ biguously committed to pro¬ tecting and cherishing every human life, including the life of the unborn," he said. "As sent by Christ to serve the weak, down trodden and de¬ fenseless, the Church must speak on behalf of those most in need of protection."

The pope also addressed recent sex scandals involving Catholic clergy in the United States and said that a "vast majority" of the U.S. clergy "acknowledges the sin of the sinners; the Church herself has not escaped reproach." He said he has already written to the bishops of the United States about the pain of the suffering and scandal caused by the sins of some members of the altar. I have told them that I share their concern and especially their concern for the victims of these wrongdoings."

Afan of the pope, more of these could have saved a life in Col¬ orado.

(The photo: James Hemmings CND)

The Pope's Simple Life

by David Kelly

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK, Colorado(UP) — Pope John Paul II preached against the global 'culture of death' in an open-air mass Sunday, August 15, attended by as many as 700,000 worshipers. By the time he was finished, death had visited the event, carrying off one of those who gathered to hear him speak. Thousands more were taken.

Speaking at Cherry Creek State Park, 30 miles southeast of Denver, the pontiff used the last address of his four¬ day U.S. visit to preach against violence and the de¬ valuation of human life.

"In our own century, as at no other time in history, the 'culture of death' has assumed a social and institutional form of legality to justify the most horrible crimes against hu¬ manity: genocide, 'final solu¬ tions,' ethnic cleansing, and the mass taking of lives of human beings even before they are born, or before they reach the natural point of death," the pope said.

The pontiff, for a second straight day, preached against abortion, saying, "Naturally, the weakest members of soci¬ ety are the most at risk: the unborn, children, the sick, the handicapped, the old, the poor and unemployed, the im¬ migrant and refugee, the south of the world."

At the mass, officials an¬ nounced from the podium that the gathering of wor¬ shipers was estimated at be¬ tween 550,000 and 700,000. The pope was scheduled to meet with delegates from Vietnam to visit a chil¬ dren's home before returning to Rome Sunday night.

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The pope arrived in Den¬ ver Thursday, August 12 — when nature provided pour¬ ing rain instead of the later heatstroke-inducing swallow — and was welcomed by Presi¬ dent Clinton. The four-day pa¬ trip marked the only U.S. stop during a three-nation Western Hemisphere tour, was made in connection with a gather¬ ing of delegates for World Youth Day, a gathering of young Catholics, aged 13-39.

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On Saturday, the pontiff reaffirmed the church's posi¬ tion on abortion before a crowd of 17,000 at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver. The crown was made up of invit¬ ed religious leaders of many denomina¬ tions, plus govern¬ ment and civic leaders.

"In her vigorous concern for human rights and justice, the Catholic Church is unam¬ biguously committed to pro¬ tecting and cherishing every human life, including the life of the unborn," he said. "As sent by Christ to serve the weak, down trodden and de¬ fenseless, the Church must speak on behalf of those most in need of protection."

The pope also addressed recent sex scandals involving Catholic clergy in the United States and said that a "vast majority" of the U.S. clergy "acknowledges the sin of the sinners; the Church herself has not escaped reproach." He said he has already written to the bishops of the United States about the pain of the suffering and scandal caused by the sins of some members of the altar. I have told them that I share their concern and especially their concern for the victims of these wrongdoings."

Afan of the pope, more of these could have saved a life in Col¬ orado.

(The photo: James Hemmings CND)

The Pope's Simple Life

by David Kelly

CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK, Colorado(UP) — Pope John Paul II preached against the global 'culture of death' in an open-air mass Sunday, August 15, attended by as many as 700,000 worshipers. By the time he was finished, death had visited the event, carrying off one of those who gathered to hear him speak. Thousands more were taken.

Speaking at Cherry Creek State Park, 30 miles southeast of Denver, the pontiff used the last address of his four¬ day U.S. visit to preach against violence and the de¬ valuation of human life.

"In our own century, as at no other time in history, the 'culture of death' has assumed a social and institutional form of legality to justify the most horrible crimes against hu¬ manity: genocide, 'final solu¬ tions,' ethnic cleansing, and the mass taking of lives of human beings even before they are born, or before they reach the natural point of death," the pope said.

The pontiff, for a second straight day, preached against abortion, saying, "Naturally, the weakest members of soci¬ ety are the most at risk: the unborn, children, the sick, the handicapped, the old, the poor and unemployed, the im¬ migrant and refugee, the south of the world."

At the mass, officials an¬ nounced from the podium that the gathering of wor¬ shipers was estimated at be¬ tween 550,000 and 700,000. The pope was scheduled to meet with delegates from Vietnam to visit a chil¬ dren's home before returning to Rome Sunday night.

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Afan of the pope, more of these could have saved a life in Col¬ orado.

(The photo: James Hemmings CND)
Diet, Vitamins May Slow Onset of AIDS

by David O'Connor

A study of HIV-positive gay men offers preliminary evidence that a healthy diet may delay the onset of AIDS.

Researchers said last week that popping a multivitamin a day appeared to have helped protect nearly one-third of the 296 subjects surveyed from developing AIDS over six years.

The study, begun in 1984, was published in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes.

"The study provides the most important indication so far that good nutrition may delay AIDS in susceptible individuals," said Barbara Abrams of the University of California, Berkeley, and heading the 10-person research team.

"The possibility that an approach as inexpensive and safe as nutrition might delay the onset of AIDS is exciting," Abrams said.

Abrams said more research is needed on the topic and that the results will need to be corroborated before they can be accepted as fact.

This is the first study on a large group of people to look at this problem," Abrams said. "We have five studies that are true or may not be true. Before we know for sure this question has to be studied repeatedly by other investigators."

The evidence does show that healthy food and vitamin supplements offer a good adjunct to other treatments for HIV, Abrams said.

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**Promising News on The Lymphoma Front**

**United Press International**

**BOSTON** — Researchers said Wednesday, August 11, a "magic bullet" treatment for lymphoma, which radioactive antibodies seek out and destroy cancer cells appears to be an effective therapy for an advanced form of lymphoma.

Scientists at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor said cancer tumors disappeared in four out of five patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma who were given with monoclonal antibodies armed with radionuclides.

These antibodies are artificially produced proteins that seek out and destroy cancer cells — in this case, cells of the lymph system that have become malignant.

Investigators hope the antibodies are designed to deliver lethal doses of radiation to cancer cells, but spare healthy cells.

In addition to the four patients who had complete remissions, two cancer tumors in two others shrank more than 50 percent, said Dr. Mark Kaminski reported in The New England Journal of Medicine.

"I believe we have made a breakthrough in the logjam we've been encountering for the last two decades in the treatment of this disease," said Kaminski.

There are an estimated 40,000 new cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma annually in the United States and 20,000 deaths from the disease.

Treatments include chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplants, but they are frequently ineffective and can cause severe side effects.

Kaminski said researchers, knowing lymphoma cancer cells are highly vulnerable to radiation, used monoclonal antibodies as a delivery system for radionuclides, much like missiles armed with warheads.

In addition to destroying cancer cells, Kaminski said the antibodies also appeared to stimulate the immune system to go on the attack against the lymphoma.

Although calling the results preliminary, the researchers said the "high rate of tumor shrinkage on this protocol is so far in this ongoing study, together with the low level of toxicity, is promising."

The study is funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.

Doctor Suggests Destroying The Immune System To Save It

**Bay Area Reporter**

**by David O'Connor**

A Nashville, Tennessee, doctor is promoting a new treatment for AIDS that he claims has turned two patients HIV-positive to HIV-negative.

Dr. Therial Bynum says he achieved the reversal in HIV status through administering a combination of cyclosporine and prednisone.

He says the drugs work by dismantling a patient's immune system, thereby eliminating the genetic material that HIV needs to survive and grow.

Doctors and other AIDS experts, including Bynum himself, agree the procedure is risky. But Bynum insists the procedure can be successful with proper evaluation and monitoring.

"I am approaching this in a fashion that is paradoxical to the conventional way of thinking," Bynum told the Bay Area Reporter. "I've gotten what I consider to be excellent results. By turning the immune system completely off, it affords me an opportunity to purge the body of the virus itself and the genetic material that can produce the virus."

Prednisone suppresses the body's natural defense against abnormal cells. It is widely used following transplant surgery when the body may start to reject the transplanted organ unless the immune system is suppressed.

The American Medical Association's Encyclopedia of Medicine warns that people treated with the drug have an increased susceptibility to infection.

Adverse effects of cyclosporine include kidney damage, hypertension, and swelling of the gums in some patients, according to the AMA.

Prednisone is routinely used to reduce inflammation and improve symptoms in a variety of disorders, including arthritis and asthma. It is also used to prevent organ rejection after transplant surgery.

Bynum's patients who have undergone the treatment include a 25-year-old asymptomatic man and a 22-year-old woman with relatively minor HIV symptoms.

After about five years of treatment, both patients tested negative for HIV under the polymerase chain reaction test, which tests for HIV itself in a person's DNA. Both patients still test positive under the western blot test, which tests for antibodies (or the body's response) to the virus.

"Cyclosporine suppresses the body's natural defense against abnormal cells. It is widely used following transplant surgery when the body may start to reject the transplanted organ unless the immune system is suppressed," Bynum said.

"The study was started in 1984 when a group of HIV-positive gay men were asked questions regarding their diet and intake of supplemental vitamins. The subjects were not advised to change their diets."

"The most important finding in the study is that it illustrates how much we have to learn about nutrition and AIDS and how important further research is," Abrams said.

That research may be even more important now than it was in 1984, Abrams said, because "the most important indication so far in AIDS research is," Abrams said. "Our findings may be true or may not be true. Before we know for sure this question has to be studied repeatedly by other investigators."

The evidence does show that healthy food and vitamin supplements offer a good adjunct to other treatments for HIV, Abrams said.
Obituaries

**Joseph Michael Fair**
Dec. 6, 1957-Aug. 7, 1993

Joseph Michael Fair was born on December 6, 1957, in San Francisco, California, to Sharon Fair and Bruce Fair. He attended the Lesbian/Gay Caucus of St. Paul Lutheran Church and later became a member of the Bay Area Reporter. Fair was known for his activism and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

In July of 2009, Joseph’s brother, Michael Fair, committed suicide. Joseph was deeply affected by this event and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and suicide prevention.

Joseph’s passing was a great loss to the community, and his legacy continues to inspire others to fight for equality and to advocate for those who are struggling with mental health issues.

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**Nicholas "Nick" R. Takach**

Our dear friend, Nick, died peacefully at home, surrounded by those who loved him. Nick was an important figure in the LGBTQ+ community and will be deeply missed by many of his loved ones.

Nick was a beloved confidante and friend to many, including those who attended his memorial service. He was known for his kindness, humor, and his dedication to helping others.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 21, at 10 a.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Nick’s name.

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**Richard Neal Melbourn, Jr.**
Oct. 10, 1931—March 23, 1993

Richard Neal Melbourn, Jr. was born on October 10, 1931, in San Francisco, California. He passed away on March 23, 1993, leaving behind a legacy of love and dedication.

Richard was a dedicated member of the LGBTQ+ community and was known for his activism and support for those who were facing discrimination and prejudice.

In addition to his work in the LGBTQ+ community, Richard was also a successful businessman and was involved in numerous community organizations.

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**Richard James Cianciolo**

Richard James Cianciolo was born on December 2, 1944, in San Francisco, California. He passed away on August 13, 1993, leaving behind a legacy of love and dedication.

Richard was a singer and actor known for his work in the LGBTQ+ community. He was a beloved performer and was known for his vibrant personality and love for the arts.

In addition to his work in the entertainment industry, Richard was also a dedicated member of the LGBTQ+ community and was involved in numerous community organizations.

---

**Jeff C. Ice**
March 10, 1945—Aug. 13, 1993

Jeffery passed away peacefully at his home in San Francisco after a yearlong struggle with AIDS.

Jeff was a beloved member of the LGBTQ+ community and was known for his compassion and dedication to helping others.

In addition to his work in the LGBTQ+ community, Jeff was also a successful businessman and was involved in numerous community organizations.

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**Obituary Correction**

Jillian K. Phillips, the following obituary is incorrect:

讦he June 1 edition of the Bay Area Reporter, the following sentence was omitted:

"Born in Ft. Worth, Texas, Richard researched in an account executive for several major financial agencies located in both San Francisco and New York City. He was known for his dedication to his work and his commitment to helping others in need."
Obituaries


Jeffery was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 30, 1953. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a green beret as well as a private in the 9th Infantry Division. After his military service, he returned home to Hawaii and worked with Aloha Systems, Incorporated, a consulting engineering firm providing services to Hawaiian Memorial Park.

On August 21, 1993, Jeffery died, leaving behind his wife, Dolores Benluau, his son, Jeffery Michael Lau Shirilau, and his parents, William and Jeanne. His death marked the end of a life filled with service and dedication to his community.

Clinton

(Continued from page 18)

Suspect

(Continued from page 18)

Government

The San Francisco Clinton/Gore Democratic Club. "There was no way the president could go out all of a sudden and get a lot of media attention, without having Congress attach that to another piece of legislation that the president would have to veto," said Bob Kane of the Clinton/Gore Club.

Bob Kane of the Clinton/Gore Club met with Clinton last month and told him, "Our club still remains with you on the highway. But your recent actions — mudflinging the guys in the military, visiting Colorado to kiss the pope's — er, ring — it was a publicity stunt," Clinton was told.

Bill Hillary, and 13-year-old Chelsea stayed at a private residence near downtown, down from the Beaver Creek hotel where they former president and Betty Ford live.

Clinton's blatant attempts to gain favor from the gay community, as well as his not mentioning the current controversy over anti-gay amendement in Colorado while in Chicago, have spurred growing anger from gay and lesbian activists. Two Denver Democratic gay and black officers were arrested Friday, August 13 after they handcuffed themselves to a fence at Governor Roy Romer's mansion in protest of the president. Romer's family's futility of gay office.

Among the high-profile leaders who have been involved in the current controversy over anti-gay amendement in Colorado while in Chicago, have spurred growing anger from gay and lesbian activists. Two Denver Democratic gay and black officers were arrested Friday, August 13 after they handcuffed themselves to a fence at Governor Roy Romer's mansion in protest of the president. Romer's family's futility of gay office.

As to Clinton's not addressing the issues of the anti-gay amendement or the issues of reproductive rights while the pope ruled against abortion and any lifestyle that was not religiously conservative, Kane still defends the president as merely fulfilling his duty as an office. "I know that the communy, and the president, and living with HIV. I did talk with him at the McHenry Center. He went as far as he can without Congress making some kind of change. I don't think he could end up in the Supreme Court unless he's doing something other than deciding the victory decision.Cargo.

Legal experts have said that Ginsburg and Brown, although suspect in certain rulings, is expected to be generally gay-positive. "I believe him," Kane says of Clinton. "He doesn't think he has sold us out.

"I think he really does care. The Clintons have a lot of friends who are gay, who have AIDS. Clinton's just up against so much opposition. It's not only the gay commuinity. Every community has its agenda. People have gone through years and years of nothing happening. Everyone just wants to get on with the agenda now."

The San Francisco Clinton/Gore Democratic Club will honor Clinton's 47th birthday with a party, Thursday, August 19, at 7-9pm, at McDonald's, 600 Van Ness at Golden Gate, where in addition to "birthday biscuit" cards, are invited to "suck" themselves on Big Macs and French fries. [UPI contributed this story]

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Bay Area Reporter August 19, 1993 Page 23
Check the Label When Shopping for Condoms

by Doug Seto

Picture this: a nervous customer walks into a seedy arcade, looking for a condom, in a hurry. He finds a wide assortment in an empty gold fish bowl, and buys one without examining it.

Sound familiar? It shouldn’t be, because some of the condoms in those bowls have no expiration dates, and others have no tamper-proof packaging, making them a target for uses with a problem and a needle.

Wild Jay’s, located in the Tenderloin, sells “Fundoms” — condoms in packages bearing cartoons and fine print confirming that what’s inside are authentic condoms that protect against disease. The package itself had no printed expiration date and could easily be opened and closed with no trace. All the lubrication and sex toys products are behind locked glass cases.

When the B.A.R. asked the manager why there is no expiration date on the lubrication produces he said, “so far as I’m concerned, the stuff [lube] never expires.” When it came to the issue of tampered products, he said, “I’ve worked in six stores and I’ve never seen tampering. I don’t let them screw around here.”

The Art Theatres, located nearby on Taylor Street, sells individual “Gold Circle Coin” brand condoms (manufactured by the Spheraa Corporation). “Gold Circle Coin” condoms are not wrapped in air-tight packs like Trojans and Sheiks, but in a metal foil, like chocolate gold coins. A lot of them looked old and shabby. This reporter fiddled around with one and noticed how easily it opened. “Gold Circle Coin” condoms have numbers printed on top, but the salesgirl could not figure out what they mean.

The Art Theatres also had small packs of lubrication for individual sale. The Probe, Bello Grease, and even Johnson & Johnson brands had no expiration dates printed. All the larger containers of lubrication were behind glass cases; when this reporter tried to see if the containers could be tampered with, the clerk said, “You can’t touch it, sir.”

Arcade Books, located on Market (by Jones) had an entire wall display of “Gold Circle Coin” condoms. The price was through packages with expiration dates printed on top. The package also bore “Gold Circle Coin” condoms individually, again with no expiration dates. Most of the other as assorted condoms for individual sale were also without expiration dates. Most of the other assorted condoms for individual sale were also without expiration dates, according to the manager, “because ‘What we’ll do is tear open a few assorted boxes [with expiration dates printed on the package] and let it rip up in the containers.”

A lone 2-cent video place stands on Powell Street near Union Square. All brand names, more-or-less normal-sized condoms there had expiration dates printed. All the condoms that looked fresh were from the factory. Most noticed were the B.D. Rubber Ducky, M.D. (Ducky), and Boots brand condoms with the words "expiration date" printed on the packaging — but the date and year itself weren’t printed at all. All the lubrication looked greasy-gum fresh.

Le Salon, on Polk at Post, sells “Gold Circle” and “Memos Plus” condoms individual by some of the “Memos Plus” condoms had dates back to 1989, but the clerk didn’t know if it referred to the expiration or manufacturing date.

Gay-Positive Spiritualists To Convene in Northern California

by David O’Connor

Programs for lesbians and gays will be included in the California Eckankar Seminar, set for September 3-5 at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. Introduced to America in 1965, the religion of Eckankar focuses on bringing an individual's spiritual practices into higher awareness. Eckankar is a religion of the soul.

"Everyone finds their own answers within," Mapp said. "Everybody is an individual, so it makes sense to focus on individual needs." Mapp pointed out that Eckankar is opposed to many of the teachings espoused by Pope John Paul II during his recent trip to Colorado. For instance, Eckankar has no prohibitions against abortions, birth control, or women in the clergy.

"Everything happens for a reason, so the fact that we’re gay has some lessons for us. It gives us experience we can use," he said. "A question I ask myself is what have I learned from being gay in my lifetime. One of the answers is that I’ve had my self worth challenged and by learning to overcome that, bring gay becomes a positive force in my life."
California Briefs

Man Gets Near-Maximum in Tryst Slaying

SANTA ANA — A judge sentenced a paranoid to 30 years to life in prison Monday, August 16, for robbing and strangling a 66-year-old man inside his Seal Beach home last year.

Mesaeh was arrested after a bank's videocamera recorded Mesaeh using Turner's credit cards to withdraw money a day after Turner was found guilty in April of first-degree murder. Mesaeh will be eligible for parole in 20 years.

Sex Abuse Rejected as Murder Defense

NAPA — A jury recommended a sentence of 30 years to life in prison Monday, August 16, for robbing and strangling a 66-year-old man inside his Seal Beach home last year.

Mesaeh was arrested after a bank's videocamera recorded Mesaeh using Turner's credit cards to withdraw money a day after Turner was found guilty in April of first-degree murder. Mesaeh will be eligible for parole in 20 years.

MESAeh using Turner's credit cards to withdraw money a day after Turner was found guilty in April of first-degree murder. Mesaeh will be eligible for parole in 20 years.

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IGLHRC Goes to Russia

witness the birth of Triangle,

Russia’s ancient govern¬

ment was given a boost in

May when Parliament re¬

pealed a Stalin-era statute

criminalizing homosexual re¬

lations between men.

From the San Fran¬
cisco-based International Gay

and Lesbian Human Rights

Commission has been at

work, trying to release gay

men still serving sentences

under the quashed ban — but

admitted it has had limited

success.

Masha Gessen, who leads

the prison project, said her

team met tough resistance

from jail authorities who ei¬

ther did not know the law

had been repealed or had no

interest in doing anything

about it. "After the repeal was

signed, no body was created

for representing us in Parlia¬

ment," she said. "This is abso¬

lutely necessary."}

News Briefs

Man Goes to Prison for Giving Teens Porn

SACRAMENTO — A Silicon Valley man has been sen¬
tenced to five years and eight months in state prison for

making pornographic materials to two Sacramento teenagers.

David Steel, pleaded of Friday to pay a $1,200 fine. He had used a computer billboard to make contact with the teens in 1991 and later provided them with pornography and pornographic materials.

Steel pleaded no content to the charges in March.

Defense attorneys argued that Steel held a child in bondage and should get probation. But the judge sided with prosecutors who alleged Steel tried to bribe a cellmate and a sheriff’s deputy to burn or kill one of the teens before he was found.

— United Press International

The Page, the lobbyist, the legislator, and the Sex Toy

ATLANTA — A lobbyist who allegedly gave a Georgia leg¬
lisator a sex toy, which was subsequently shown to a 13-year-

old relative, was indicted by the firm he worked for, company officials confirmed.

The lobbyist, James Kittrell, who also was an employee of CBS Transportation, was suspended because of the controver¬

sy, pending an internal review, the company said in a state¬

ment Wednesday, August 11.

Georgia Representative James Benefield, a Democrat repre¬

senting an Atlanta metropolitan area county, came under criticism for taking the sex toy onto the House floor on the last day of the legislative session about five months ago.

Benefield said the toy, a novelty wig with a penis at¬

tached, was a gift from a lobbyist.

Benefield was under an unusual allegation that the sex toy was shown to Jason Bunkley, a 13-year-old boy serving as a page. However, Bunkley’s description of the lawmaker who showed him the object did not match Benefield.

— United Press International

Jack La Lanne Accused of Anti-Gay Policy

NEW YORK — The New York City Commission on Human Rights announced August 11 it was investigating complaints from two Upper West Side gay men who claim they were discriminated against by a neighborhood Jack La Lanne Fitness Center.

The couples, both in domestic partnerships, had applied for a family discount program that offered 50 percent membership discounts for family members in the same household, but were denied, the commission said.

They applied at the 74th Street and Broadway center, where they were told the discount is not available to unmar¬

ried heterosexual couples either, the commission said.

"It is unfair for a business operating in New York City to promote a discount board solely on marital status," said Diane Dixon, deputy commissioner for law enforcement, who are committed to fighting discrimination that restricts access to business services for some while providing special privileges to others based on a narrow definition of family.

If the prosecution is successful, Jack La Lanne Fitness Cen¬
ters could be ordered to pay compensatory damages to the in¬

dividuals and civil penalties of up to $100,000, the commission said.

— United Press International

Philly Hosts Gay Softball World Series

PHILADELPHIA — The World Series opened Tuesday in

Philadelphia, but the hometown Phillies won’t be participate¬

ing.

The 17th annual Gay Softball World Series is for homosex¬

uals only.

More than 80 teams representing 26 gay and lesbian leagues in the United States and Canada are expected to compete in the five-day series in Fairmount Park, beginning Friday.

Mayor Ed Rendell welcomed the 2,000 series participants during opening ceremonies Tuesday evening.

The city spent $55,000 to upgrade the six softball fields where the series will be played.

"This is the biggest gay sporting event in Philadelphia his¬

tory," said Jim Deotal of the City of Brotherly Love Softball League, which is hosting the series.

— United Press International

James W. Owles, GAA Founder, dies at 46

Gay rights pioneer James W. Owles died of AIDS-related

toxoplasmosis August 6 in New York City. He was 46.

He was the founding president of the Gay and Lesbian At¬

torney Alliance and the first openly gay candidate for political office in New York County.

Until earlier this year, he was a special assistant and liaison to the gay and lesbian community for New York State Senate minority leader Manfred Ohrenstein.

Owles was born in Calumet City, Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois and then the University of Chicago.

In December 1969, Owles helped found the Gay Activists Alliance with Arthur Bell, Arthur Evans, Martin Robinson, and others. As president of the alliance from 1970 to 1971, Owles pushed for anti-discrimination bills in Albany and New York City.

In 1973 he ran for the City Council district including Green¬

wich Village, but lost to the incumbent Carl Frost.

Owles founded the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats in 1974. In 1985, he was one of the seven founding members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

He is survived by his brothers, Kevin, Robert Jr., and Michael, and sisters, Penny Pivourinas and Sharon Homola.

— David O’Connor

IGLHRC Goes to Russia To Spring Gays from Jail

by Guy Chazan

MOSCOW (UPI) — After
decades of Soviet repression
and persecution, Russia’s ho¬
mosexuals have taken advan¬
tage of the country’s new lib¬
eral climate to set up Russia’s
first national organization for
lesbians and gay men.

But activists warned that
gays are still victims of dis¬

crimination and complained

that since a draconian ban on
homosexual sex was repealed
last May, not one gay man
charged under it has been re¬
leased from prison.

Gay leaders said Monday,
August 15, the new group,
called “Triangle,” held its
founding conference over the
weekend and would soon
appear before reporters with
an open Western-style informa¬
tion center providing a focus
for representing us in Parlia¬
ment, a bastion of conservative sentiment.

Debruskyakaya said the
new organization would back
political candidates who sup¬
port gay rights and press
the Russian Parliament, a bastion
of conservative sentiment.

"Someone must take upon
themselves the responsibility
for representing us in Parlia¬
ment," she said. "This is abs¬
olutely necessary."

More than 150 people from
21 Russian towns came to
Moscow over the weekend to
witness the birth of Triangle, which will campaign for gay
rights, fight homophobia, propagate safe sex, and pro¬
mote gay culture.

But to drive home the
fingen problem of homopho¬
bia in Russia, one activist ap¬
ppeared before reporters with
a brown paper bag over
her head, with the words, “I can¬
not show my face because of
the society’s attitude to gays.”

Russia’s ancient govern¬
ment was given a boost in
May when Parliament re¬
pealed a Stalin-era statute
criminalizing homosexual re¬
lations between men.

A team from the San Fran¬
cisco-based International Gay

and Lesbian Human Rights

Commission has been at

work, trying to release gay

men still serving sentences

under the quashed ban — but

admitted it has had limited

success.

Masha Gessen, who leads

the prison project, said her

team met tough resistance

from jail authorities who ei¬

ther did not know the law

had been repealed or had no

interest in doing anything

about it. "After the repeal was

signed, no body was created

to set people free," Gessen

said. "The convicted man

signed, no body was created

for his release. But in fact,

people are still prey to the

widespread hostility towards

homosexuals.

"Attitudes towards us have

not changed in any way since

the ban was lifted," said Yegevnya Debruskyakaya,

head of the Union for Coming

Out. "Most people don’t even

know it happened.”

Debruskyakaya said the
new organization would back
public candidates who sup¬
sport gay rights and press
for gay representation in the
Russian Parliament, a bastion
of conservative sentiment.

"Someone must take upon
themselves the responsibility
for representing us in Parlia¬
ment,” she said. “This is abs¬
olutely necessary.”

Mr. Peter J. Tamases has been
charged for representing us in Parlia¬
ment, a bastion of conservative sentiment.

Debruskyakaya said the
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olutely necessary.”
Marine Chastity

by Michael C. Borkin

W hen Carl E. Mundy Jr., Commandant General of the U.S. Marine Corps, announced that they were going to "phase out" married soldiers and no longer accept married recruits, many people seized an affinity between his new policy and the recently upheld ban on gays. The chastity policy was quashed within hours by Defense Secretary Les Aspin and Clinton was reportedly "astonished" when the proposed marriage ban was ex-plained to him.

The Marine Corps quietly backed down, acknowledging that such major policy changes should be checked out with the gay and lesbian organizations before being released. But one senses some hurt confusion on his part at the ingrained self-hate and heat of the top brass' response. He had just finished a career marked by a crusade against not just being on the gay side in the military. The Marine Corps' continued upholding that ban seemed clearly, to his mind, to cast as aspersion on the principle of protecting the military interests of its soldiers' personal lives.

While queers were banned precisely because of their personal lives and therefore likely noncomformist views, married recruits trouble the Marines in a number of specific ways. They are less likely to re-enlist after long tours of duty overseas and their marriages often fail as a result of job pressures. They simply don’t allow them to marry, Mundy reasoned, well have better re-enlistment and fewer conflict¬ing loyalties — not to mention that you'd save on the payroll of death benefits if there was an unforeseen head injury or death in the country or Iraq or Bosnia or South America.

They were likely to be married from a somewhat bizarre and Or¬wellian policy. They noted, that in theory, some homosexual would be allowed in the Marines (if they "passed" as straight) while some heter¬osexuals (the married ones) would not. They can't be hom¬osexuals and they can't be married," declared Colorado Representative Patricia Schroeder, "what are they supposed to do, take cold shaw¬ers?" (Yes, but you have to wonder that they don’t “drink the soap!”) The Marine Corps' doctors were also people who made many wonder just what they mean when they advertise for "a few good men.

The Military Ideal

Back in 1978 a Catholic priest studying theology at Northwestern University exclaimed to me the general meaning of the “chastity” oath as he understood it; this is in re¬sponse to observations all about his hyper-active sex life.

“Chastity means not getting married — to a woman, specifically,” he declared. "It was implemented, really, as a social policy, they wanted to make sure no individuals could inherit church proper¬ty.

“Therefore, my entirely ho¬mesexual activity doesn’t in¬fringe on the chastity oath be¬cause there’s absolutely no pos¬sibility that this will tie to marriage and all its unhol¬y Catholicism,” he boasted. "My activity violates neither the letter nor the underlying spirit of the rule.”

I was pretty sure that his brass wouldn’t agree with that liberal interpretation of church doctrine. Nor did I ac¬cept their simplistic explanation of its origin. In fact, clergy chastity is a direct descendent of the pre-Christian practice of asceticism, the ‘24/7 twist is dispensed with the surgery. There are many rea¬sons why the Catholic Church favors such a policy, including perhaps to not suggest any informant, but the core of this issue is that the hierarchy really does desire “unchaste” homosexuals and sexless heterosexuals incapable of romantic attachment (to adults, in any case).

They fail most of the time, but you can’t blame 'em for trying. Commandant Mundy may not be the Pope (by the way: 18,000 people needed treatment for heat prostration — and one died — at the re¬cent Colorado PopesFest: Catholicism Kills!) but he agreed with the principle of keeping your workforce as zombified as you can. The more you can isolate them from a very life, the more pliable they’ll be; and with luck you can reduce them to the status of soulless automa¬tons, that military ideal. The only question in mind, how much tampering with your soldiers’ lives can you do before you start violating their — ick — rights.

Classic Indoctrination

This was the other issue that Mundy considered re¬solved when the gay ban was upheld. In the Senate hear¬ings on the ban that he and other led bottomed brass argued that in their August judgment, queers were unfit for service. They ignored two independ¬ent reports — which the Pentagon commissioned and paid for — which proved oth¬erwise. They skirted the thorny issue of the degree of intrusion required to enforce the policy. The military com¬manders were found to have a right to enforce their preju¬dices even in the absence of evidence; and also the author¬ity to tamper with the private lives of soldiers.

Some of the proposed fea¬tures of the chastity policy il¬lustrate this point. All recruits would be required to watch orientation videos extolling the virtues of delaying mar¬riage. Marriage, specifically, he declared. "It was implemented, really, as a social policy, they wanted to make sure no individuals could inherit church proper¬ty.”

Thus the lightning-swift re¬versal. Do they sense that they have opened a Pandora’s Box — only upon the queers, they thought — that will cause them no end of trouble in the long run? But if they’ve been paying attention, they've just learned an important lesson in the workings (if we may call them that) of the Military Mind.©

Queer Watch

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BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 19, 1993 PAGE 27
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The Magic of Believing

The Annals of Queerdom

by Nisa Donnelly

be the blind musician says, “C’mere,” beckoning to the van, “You need to listen hard. I’m a storyteller. Theater and the instruments will tell their stories. If you listen real hard, you’ll hear the magic.” The world thinks he’s mad, maybe he is, to everyone but his. She’s listened, she’s heard — she always has, and the magic.

Belinda Sullivan knows the blind musician and the woman who listens, the same way she knows the madwoman who once was a schoolteacher until violence saw her on the ground. She carries their stories with her, spinning them out to all who come close, who listen hard to hear the magic. She is a storyteller, carrying on a tradi tion nearly as old as the human race.

Ancient Tradition

Long before there were television, radio, and computers, there were the travelers who roamed the world. They were the campfire to the next. Long before there were horror movies, there were horror sto ries, told by crossed-grandmother by the light of a full moon. They were the first po et’s, the first novelists, the first scriptwriters. They gave families a sense of where they’d come from and children a taste of the fantastic. With their tales, they taught, no tale too fantastic, no truth too painful. They taught them how to be tahbo.

Aleph tales, the tell of Angolans, brought to America as slaves, who one day flew home to Africa, who worked hard at their great arms flapping against the blue sky. Sometimes they tell of magic children who ride on the backs of gnomes, play games, pluck stars from the sky as they pass. Storytelling edges into the culture, but the truths — and consequently the stories — are much the same. Sullivan says the listeners believe be cause she believes, and she believes and sprinkles it all with what she calls magic.

“My gift is that I have the ability to take the written word and find whatever emotion it is in it, put it into myself, and surrender my soul to the emotion and deliver it, and the listener believes and believes and believe it. Storytellers breathe in the words, and when they breathe them back out, they crush them and pray them and sing them and cry them. All those emotions. Every thing I read, every piece is set. Storytellers make

Second of Two Sections

tales she’s found and internal ized, lean often, spinning her voice, the words of her own characters that she’s brought to life. In many ways, she is still telling stories and talking to characters that keep her, that she would do that, should tell, personal stuff, but, she passes for a moment, thinking, “well, I’ll do that even though to the audience to listen close ly. That’s what it means, that’s what it is. ’Cause they’re coming in many guises.

In her story, the blind musician and the other woman’s story, there are the themes of truth breaking through madness and rage and isolation. In her story, she pays attention to what they’re doing and responds to it. Performance artists don’t do that, neither do actresses, because when you’re in the theater, you’ve always got to keep that pace. Whereas with storytelling, I can get off the stage and go down and sit in the audience, which I’ve done several times. It’s just more personal, more free.

While she’s written some of the stories she tells, few of them derive directly into her personal life. You don’t meet Belinda Sullivan onstage; instead, you meet one of her 50 voices, one of the hundreds of characters she’s created around in her head for most of her life. “People tell me I should do that, should tell personal stuff, but,” she pauses for a moment, thinking, “well, I’ll do that even though to the audience to listen close ly. That’s what it means, that’s what it is. ’Cause they’re coming in many guises.

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Whither Wigstock? New York magazine says that gay NYC councilman Antonio Peñar wants the city to change the permit for Wigstock, the yearly Labor Day dragfest, reducing it from all-day carnival to a four-hour event. Leading the opposition is Wigstock's self-promoter The Lady Bunny. "We bring thousands of dollars to local businesses and worldwide media coverage with Wigstock," says Bunny. Not to mention what it must do for the profits at Eva Gabor Wig Co.

The Hollywood Reporter says "most Dutch radio stations are refusing to play a new Bruce Fierstein song, 'Transsexual to Avoid Insulting Other People Who Change Their Sex.' The song, imaginatively titled 'Transsexual,' is a ballad about a man who becomes a woman and takes a job in a brothel. The song stigmatizes transsexuals and it is "unnecessarily offensive," said a spokeswoman for a Dutch Dutch radio network. Though this sounds stiffly PC, some days the sound of bartenders like Rush Limbaugh on American radio can make the Dutch idea of these kind of people sound pretty good.

Look for Paradise Beach weekdays at 5:30 p.m. on KICU Channel 30 on your TV sets. Entertainment Weekly's source says "one of the stars of this Australian version of Baywatch, "gives new meaning to the phrase 'hang 10,'" and if you can't figure that one out, you're already watching too much TV.

Oh, the Gay Man and the Straight Man Should Be Friends. But is it possible? Men's Fitness asked heterosexual Bruce Fierstein (author of the mainstream bible Real Men Don't Eat Quiche) and homosexual Jeff Yarbrough (editor of The Advocate) to answer this question. In a nutshell, Fierstein says that "some of my best friends are gay," and Yarbrough answered, "I Hate Straighties." Asked if a gay man could be friends with a straight man, Yarbrough asks, "Why would a gay man want to?" He goes on to say that anti-gay laws and the AIDS crisis are the fault of "ignorant straight men. Am I bitter? You bet your ass." Yarbrough writes as if addressing a man who wants to talk with a straight man — and all of the body-minded, fitness-magazine-reading men you know, how many of them are straight?

Today's episode is brought to you by the letter Q. The Evening Telegram of St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, reports that the Canadian version of Sesame Street has begun broadcasting "animated vignettes profiling same-sex roommates taking care of kids." In one segment, a child visits her friend who "lives with her mom and her mom's friend Marie." In another, the girl says, "Ben lives with his dad and his dad's friend Jim." The two men are shown playing in the bathroom together. The producers have received ten complaints ("about one per province," a producer says), and that's considered an "upset" in Canada.

Tom Cruise: sucks blood
Brad Pitt: red-blooded
Anne Rice: blood boils
Lady Bunny: big-hair heroine
Ryan Idol: what price glory holes?
Lady Skirts the Blues

by John F. Karr

With an alluring cascade of blond hair falling vampishly over her shoulders and black eyes and a worldly half-smile that intimates secret knowledge, singer Veronica Klaus promises much. Yet with her current repertoire of rhythm and blues standards, this counterculture Vargas girl strangely doesn’t deliver.

Performing every Monday this month in the new, larger show room at the Cafe du Nord, Klaus has changed her songbag from the classic torch plumes of cafe society to the heartburners of less swank dives. No more “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.” Now she strikes a low-down groove with a new song called “Why Are You Treated So Bad,” and doesn’t veer too far from it with the, song saying likes of “Me So His Treat You Daughter Mine” and “I Am Who I Am.”

Klaus’ five-piece band sizes. I didn’t get their names, but they include a sublime saxophonist who doubles on harp, a chugging keyboardist, strong lead guitar, plus fierce drums and butch bass. I almost rose up in arms when Klaus cut off their smokin’ choruses of “You Can Leave Your Hat Off,” I was entertained (which really means to say that she’s currently much better than in the club performances of previous years, I review here last Monday). The audience applauded fitfully, perhaps more interested in the event than its art. At one point, for example, they were delighted by Klaus’ hip segue into “Hit the Road Jack.” But their self-congratulatory recognition of the song was confirmed by their unquestioning acceptance of a few fleeting repetitions of its title line; the clever idea of introducing it was more important than whatever the song itself may have had to say.

Klaus might have striking promise as a contemporary Dietrich, in a Bryan Ferry/Euro-cabaret mode. In her current incarnation as a blues belter, she’s trading on her underground status as a transgenderist and professional Mistress. And that makes a freak show of her. This may be hip to a youthful, renegade audience seeking icons instead of music, but it shortchanges the performer, Klaus could fulfill more suitable songs and the requisite skills. How long will we demand entertainers who remain adolescent? When will we demand entertainers who live up to the prerequisites of the field?

Which is not to say that Klaus is untalented or only camp. She has stage presence galore, but hasn’t focused it or instrumental break behavior. She’s currently much better than in the club performances of previous years, I review here last Monday. The audience applauded fitfully, perhaps more interested in the event than its art. At one point, for example, they were delighted by Klaus’ hip segue into “Hit the Road Jack.” But their self-congratulatory recognition of the song was confirmed by their unquestioning acceptance of a few fleeting repetitions of its title line; the clever idea of introducing it was more important than whatever the song itself may have had to say.

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The Twilight of the Golds’ at Marines Memorial

All That Glitters

by John F. Karr

The only thing wrong with being gay is that we’re usually born to straight people who seem so doggedly incapable of understanding us. If they knew their unborn children were going to be gay, they’d surely abort them, like Chinese families do with females. The foreknowledge that a child will be gay, and the ensuing debate over whether or not to abort it, sets off the action in Twilight of the Golds. And despite a major pathos-wallow that got me misty-eyed at the very end, there’s little here to arouse a reaction greater than mild indifference. Is there any doubt that straight people, if given the choice, would do away with us?

The Debate

The play, in the first professional production given playwright Jonathan Tolin’s work, does little more than dress the debate team as characters. Even then, the sides are starkly presented. The incipient mother’s parents, despite their status as educated Jewish professionals, are culturally and morally narrow. Not one of them can even utter the word gay (their gay son is “that way”), and they certainly aren’t capable of inviting his lover to family gatherings.

The play’s construction is simultaneously pedestrian and pre-destined; the characters are standard brand. Each one has a monologue explaining yet another generic position. Heavy-handed exposition explains away the complexities of relationships and reveals the reactions to come, removing any suspense or uncertainty. And although the playwright has taken tedious elaboration pains to present all sides of the argument, there’s little that is new or enlightening. For a gay playwright, Tolin is not even that witty.

The operas references used throughout this play don’t serve Tolin as well as they served Terence McNally in The Lisbon Traviata.

Overworked as it becomes, the Wagnerian leitmotif is key to the author’s plan. In an eloquent speech made by the play’s gay character, Tolin uses a central relationship from Wagner’s Siegfried to explain to straight people the position and function of gay people in society. It’s an eloquent and touching speech — stirring for gay people to hear in the theatre, yet ultimately not good enough to save an unborn child’s life. But it may provide a new level of understanding for some heterosexuals.

Not Gay?

And what of the “controversy” raised by calling this a gay play? The author quite naturally wants his play to reach as broad a public as possible and thus resists a label that might turn away the heterosexual audience for whom the play is clearly intended. Yet in resisting that label, Tolin is caught in the same predicament as the play’s pregnant wife — denying gay existence for the “greater good.” Because, face it, this is a play about gay people’s basic right to exist. It does a pretty good job explaining our nature to straight people, helping them understand our place and, perhaps, our purpose in the overall scheme of things — not exactly a small agenda. To its credit, while trying to confine itself to a debate about genetic engineering, Twilight of the Golds probes some of the most profound gay mysteries. It is a gay play.

Despite my reservations about the author’s position on the labeling of this play, I understand his choice. Solidly bourgeois in its TV movie-of-the-week construction and heart-tugging finale, Twilight of the Golds is not meant for gay people. For us, there is no real debate, just two hours of not quite moving enough, not quite dramatic enough padding before the inevitable abortion.

Sure, there’s a mild twist or two. With conventional movieland morality, the incipient mother gets her come-uppance, and it’s a harsh punishment. And in a development I almost cheered, the gay son disowns his family, severing connections with them. It’s a stance I’m more and more sympathetic to, though I’d be slow to achieving our legal rights, straight people don’t seem likely to understand us, to appreciate our necessary presence in their midst. At all. I am not advocating separation! You bet. So does the play. It’s a surprisingly ACT-UP stance for such a middle-American show, but Tolin characteristically soft pedaled it, going unnoticeable to the weepy stuff about a broken family.

Grey Matter

Twilight of the Golds has enjoyable performances by all but Jennifer Grey, whose Saturday Night Live acting makes a puddle of what should be an ocean the play’s central love-hate relationship between sister and brother. Judith Scarpone gives an Emmy-winning performance as the Jewish mother; David Groh makes solidity look easy as the family patriarch, and Michael Spound is stiff as the stiff husband. Playing the gay brother, Rafael Sbarge is warm, human, and recognizable queer without caricature. It’s a loving portrayal he should be proud of.

The set, by John Iacovelli, enjoyably encompasses several Manhattan locations as well as an operatically rocky crag of Wagner-land; the music and lighting cues range from adequate to heavy-handed. Arvin Brown’s direction navigates the eye as carefully as a television camera, with occasional congestion.

Cast so firmly in a family mold, Twilight of the Golds is a play about gay life I’d be eager to take my parents to. It’s less imperative for a gay audience. You surely won’t find your time ill-used by attending, but you could be home reading Judy Granh or otherwise polishing your gay mystique. Twilight of the Golds isn’t a deep dive into gay waters, and maybe that’s why it isn’t a gay play. After all, it’s not a play for Us — it’s for Them.

PS. Why is it that — in plays with a gay subject matter — the male stars, even though they’re not playing a gay role, feel compelled to mention their wife and child in their program bio? •
Men Will Be Boys

The Good Boys
by Paul Reidinger; Dutton, $20

Paul Reidinger's new novel, *The Good Boys*, belongs to the same subgenre of fiction as Christopher Bram's *Surprising Myself* or Paul Russell's *The Salt Point*. It is a gay yuppie novel. Such books typically feature sexually undeveloped white boys wandering from prestigious colleges into the mild dilemma of "making it." These stories are deliberately unexceptional, their aim being to mirror the minor turmoil of the pre-Generation X generation.

Whether readers find such novels interesting largely depends upon whether they find this type of character interesting, since there's not much else there.

Exceptions exist — such as Oscar Moore's *A Matter of Life and Sex*, which transformed its ordinary subject by fine writing and an inventive structure — but most of these books are as forgettable as our own daily lives. *Good Boys* is no exception. It traces the friendship of three Stanford boys from the early '80s into the early '90s: Michael, the cute Jewish doctor; Carl, the brute Jewish-dyke-wannabe; and Drew, the cute Anglo blond stud. Drew embodies the infatuations of adolescence, of helpless hopeless love, of golden boys desired but never touched. His pain and pleasures are those of immaturity, in which our dreams are only commensurate with our lack of insight and self-awareness. But it also confirms a base prejudice about yuppy men, gay or otherwise: good boys never grow up.

In this respect, *Good Boys* is frustratingly faithful to the American ideal of male bonding: friendship depends on men being blocked and fundamentally inadequate. Real men don't talk; they whine. As if to underscore this point, the only truly intimate conversation in the novel occurs between Chris and his lover Carl, but only after Carl's safety dead.

Given this standard, it's not surprising that the most compelling character is not Chris, the brave little gay boy, or Michael, the introspective jew, but Drew, the successful blood stud. Drew embodies the tantalizing contradiction of straight men: he's archetypally beautiful without a clue.

Drew intellectualizes everthing and understands nothing. He loves Chris without ever realizing why Chris loves him — and Chris, being a wimp, will never tell him.

Thus *Good Boys* perpetuates the infantilisms of adolescence, of helpless hopeless love, of golden boys desired but never touched. Its joys and pleasures are those of immaturity, in which our dreams are only commensurate with our lack of insight and self-awareness. But it also confirms a base prejudice about yuppy men, gay or otherwise: good boys never grow up.
by Paul Thomason

Various Artists

Gloriana

"Tiduous orations, dotards on their knees," sings the Earl of Essex shortly after the beginning of the second act of Benjamin Britten's opera Gloriana. "I for one could yawn myself to death."

"Smart man," I said, listening to the opera's recently released world-premiere recording from Argo. "Only a third of the way into the work, and he already knows what the score is."

Britten wrote this "Coronation Opera" for the crowning of England's Queen Elizabeth II, and its premiere in June 1953, before an invited crowd of royalty and diplomats (the composer later called it "an audience of stuck pigs"), was something of a scandal at the time. Like Essex, the dressy audience was bored and hardly appalled at all. Critics seemed to feel the portrayal of Queen Elizabeth I — as a woman torn between her duty as queen and her love of Essex, whom she must sentence to death for treason — was not appropriate for the occasion. Though sometimes revived in England, the opera has pretty much languished ever since.

Fifty years later we can make up our own minds about the opera, thanks to this well-cast recording conducted by San Francisco Opera's own principal guest conductor, Sir Charles Mackerras, who has long been associated with Britten's music. This is a recording every fan of Benjamin Britten, and every lover of 20th-century opera, will have to have, even if just to hear why Gloriana doesn't really work.

It is always dangerous to judge an opera without actually seeing it on stage. But despite sympathetic performances from Josephine Barstow as Queen Elizabeth I and Philip Langridge as Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex (to mention only two of the generally excellent singers), it is easy to understand why the opera is not better known.

Distressing Absence

It is not that I dislike Britten's works. In fact, performances of his Peter Grimes with Jon Vickers at the Met and last season's performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream by the San Francisco Opera are among the high points of my 28 years of opera-going, and I have thoroughly enjoyed, on a much less exalted level, several of his other operas. But Gloriana sounds like an opera respectfully composed by a dutiful subject for a very official occasion. Except for brief moments, there is a distressing absence of passion and emotion, plus an abundance of music that would nicely fit a movie about Elizabeth and Essex with no real dinner or8act really distracting a viewer from the action on the screen.

The recording also has two faults that are becoming increasingly common in new operatic releases. The dynamics are greatly overexaggerated, so that if you turn the volume up to actually hear the stage chorus at the beginning of the opera (marked "Fortissimo") in the score, incidentally, by the time the orchestras and singers all get going at a middling level, you're in danger of blowing down the house. This happens so often it is necessary to keep the remote control in hand to constantly adjust the volume. (This is technological progress.)

The other fault is a total absence of biographies of the performers in the accompanying 224-page booklet. I was enchanted by the sweet, pure lyric tenor voice of John Mark Ainsley in the small role of The Spirit of the Masque and would like to know where he hails, what other roles he has done. Providing such information used to be standard practice in opera recordings, but, as we've said of the CD era, this, often, is no longer the case.

It was impossible to listen to Gloriana without thinking of the other opera on the subject of the doomed love between Elizabeth I and Essex, Donizetti's Roberto Desvereux — an opera with more white hot emotion than even the controversy over gays in the military has generated. How well I remember numerous performances by Beverly Sills as Queen Elizabeth, working audiences into such a frenzy we screamed ourselves hoarse and threw confetti onto the stage, not only after Act III, but after Act II as well.

Britten's Gloriana could have used more of that.
Ben and Peter

Benjamin Britten
by Humphrey Carpenter; Charles Scribner's Sons, 530 pages.

by Paul Thomas

The Benjamin Britten who emerges from this new biography is not only one of the great composers of this century, but a man full of contradictions to which he fiercely clung all of his life. He inspired selfless devotion and almost worshipful dedication from many people who worked with him, but he routinely snubbed away those same people for little or no reason (referring to them afterwards as "corporals"). His lifelong relationship with tenor Peter Pears was extraordinarily open for the times in which the two men lived (a poster of one of their recitals in the 40s was decorated with "Pammy" scrawled over it). Yet Britten was generally unforgiving of homosexuality and sexuality and would fly into rages if anyone who worked with him revealed the underlying homosexual elements which occur in all of his music. An instinctive musician with a formidable technical facility for playing the piano, conducting and composing, he suffered physically before each performance to the extent that he sometimes made himself so ill that subsequent concerts had to be canceled.

Mother as Czar

It was no accident British became a composer. His mother was a singing mother in her right. She would have done anything to care about any of it. A Touch of Music is a blast of cacophony and co-parenting problems and work problems and should I fall through and on and on . . . .

Touche des Musiciens

Dorothy Clarke; New Victoria, $8.95.

Touch of Music is an unappealing novel, jam-packed with too much of everything — too much plot, too many crises, too much dialogue. Nevertheless, it is so well written (to tell Dorothy if I ever get it written) that she can save some of her ideas for the next novel. Indeed, the next several novels.

Touch of Music includes two sets of lesbian parents: one set has a boy child and an involved father, the other a girl child and an absent father. Then there are the jobs: feminist magazine editor (Zoe), registered nurse (Joan), feminist magazine writer (Roxanna) who worked with him.

Of course, Zoe makes enough money editing the feminist magazine to go on a trip to the moon (moon uncounted) trip to Hawaii. And Becky just happens to be fabulously wealthy. So, they can afford to tell Dorothy if I ever get it written that Britten seems to have had little sexual experience before meeting Peter Pears through mutual friends in 1937. Two years later the two men, already a couple, went to Canada and the U.S. for some concerts and (in Grand Rapids, Michigan of all places) their relationship solidified. Thirty-five years later Peter Pears wrote his partner, "I am you who have given me everything, right from the beginning, from yourself in Grand Rapids."

(According to the author, Britten told several people he was "the more masculine of the couple in every respect except in bed.")

Book Briefs

Discordant Sounds

145 EDDY ST. (BETWEEN MASON 2.
by Dorothy Clarke; New Victoria, $8.95.

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Pajama Parties

Apparently Britten never strayed from Pears with another adult man, but throughout his life he was extremely affectionate with young boys (often losing all interest in them after they turned 17 or 18, although some remained lifelong friends). With them he was helpful, companionate, and generous with his time and his money. He also wrote them guity letters. When Pears was away, the boys often slept in the same bed with Britten, although his physical affection only took the form of a parental kiss or caress.

Britten told people he was "the more masculine of the couple in every respect except in bed."

Powerful Arguments

Unleashing Feminism: Critiquing Lesbian Sadomasochism in the Gay '80s
by Christopher Isherwood; Audre Lorde, 1982.

Unleashing Feminism: Critiquing Lesbian Sadomasochism in the Gay '80s
by Christopher Isherwood; Audre Lorde, 1982.

In 1982, appalled by the claim of some lesbian sadomasochists that SM was in fact the cutting edge (as it so often is intended) of feminism, a group of women published Against Sadomasochism, a collection of essays and poems (no pun intended) of feminism, a group of women published Against Sadomasochism, an essay that responded to the lie of a feminist SM. Eleven years later, the new lie is the claim that feminists are "good girls" who must be defined by sexually liberated "bad girls" is nothing more than SM fantasy.

The collection opens with Pat Parker's poem "Bar Conversations in which she raises powerful questions: "Is this why we did it? Did we grapple with our own who hated us to make women could understand and champion safety?"

Unleashing Feminism is a collection of essays, fiction, and poetry that helps us to affirm the contemporary emergence of feminism and who insist that the claim that feminists are "good girls" who must be defined by sexually liberated "bad girls" is nothing more than SM fantasy.

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Unleashing Feminism is a powerful collection filled with brilliant and more questions is will all for a newly born feminism, a feminism unsafe of politics, willing to dare all in order to secure women's freedom. Audre Lord said: "The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house." Surely using the patriarch's objectification of the female body will not undermine the role of men over women.

— Deborah Peeler

Corpus Delicti

3 MORE NEW FEATURES.
ALSO 3 HOT FEATURES IN THE BACK LOUNG.
Symphony

Symphony Season Preview

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony's 1993-94 season begins Wednesday, Sept. 8, with a black-tie gala featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman. Unusually, the program adheres to no specific theme, but opening night is more about watching than listening and to no specific theme, but usually, the program adheres to no specific theme, but opening night is more about watching than listening and to no specific theme, but usually, the program adheres to no specific theme, but opening night is more about watching than listening and to no specific theme, but usually, the program adheres to no specific theme, but opening night is more about watching than listening and to no specific theme, but usually, the program adheres to no specific theme, but opening night is more about watching than listening and to no specific theme, but usually, the program adheres to no specific theme. However, the world premiere of a work for orchestra by Ur-suia Mambik in mid-February is notable for the recognition of a woman writer, and Aaron Jay Kernis' Colored Field for English Horn and Orchestra — written for the SFPS's Julie Ann Giacobazzi (April 21, 23, and 24) — will hopefully further the career of the 34-year-old composer who made a splash in 1989 with his Symphony in Wees.

A close look at the entire schedule and maybe a talk with a regular concertgoer should enable first-time or infrequent visitors to Davies Hall to make some satisfying decisions. The hall really does sound better, and there is no substitute for being there.

Editor's Note: Series tickets and complimentary copies of the San Francisco Symphony's 1993-94 season brochure are available by calling 864-6000.

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Red Dora's Bearded Lady Cafe presents Four in the Bush, a reading of sex stories on Friday and Saturday night, August 20 and 21, at 8:30 p.m. The readings feature Trish Thurs, Nao Bustamante, Katia Noyes, and Shea Dean — call (415) 626-2805. The cafe is located at 485 14th Street, near Dolores Street.

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BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 19, 1993 PAGE 40

Bushwhacked

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Photo: Schuyler Pescada

Photo: Schuyler Pescada
Double Microcosm

Cherry Grove, Fire Island
by Esther Newton; Beacon Press, $24

by Marv Shaw

Mecca, even gay ones, develop with significant differences, as anthropologist Esther Newton (New York State University Purchase) demonstrates in this study subtitled 60 Years in America's First Gay and Lesbian Town. Cherry Grove, on Fire Island just off the south shore of Long Island, New York, in the '20s and '30s attracted its first gays from the Broadway theatre and Greenwich Village. They brought their camp, costume parties, and giddy camaraderie and set the tone for this primitive beach village, where they found they could publicly be themselves. For the most part, it was a summer world, but it became a small microcosm of the emerging gay American community of its time. Newton characterizes it thus in previous research: "Cherry Grove, Fire Island: an intensely gay village created by straights, internal schisms, and U.S. society in general, where values change markedly under both internal and external influences."

Notorious Changes

Of course, one of the most notorious changes was the advent of really wild sexual promiscuity in the Racks, which were the rule, and cross-dressing was the norm. In one respect, this raw outburst was a reflection of the increased sexual license the whole country experienced in the latter half of our century, but it was also a demonstration of how much sexual freedom gay men could grasp, given conducive circumstances.

Though Newton is a relatively conservative lesbian herself, she keeps to a fair, objective interpretation of this gay male phenomenon by beginning with, "First of all, gay men are men," then reminding the reader of Kinsey's findings, pointing out the inevitability of pairing in a procreative network of randy males, then concluding that this development did more good than harm as an answer to the hypocritical heterosexual mores of the dominant culture, with its double standard.

Ironically, more trouble came from the young and often dragged heteros who daytripped out to the island and were often more public with their sexual action than the gays.

From its beginning, Cherry Grove as a gay community depended on drag as a unifying element and for defiant protest. Costume theme parties were the rule, and cross-dressing — and acting — was the hallmark of the Arts Project, the village's earliest, liveliest, and most characteristic organization. As a gay mecca, the Grove contrasts sharply with the Castro and its politics, as analyzed by Frances Fitzgeral and Richard Posner. "Most Grovers shared an intense gay identity — to be part of it was why they had come."

Actually, the whole book is a salute to that spirit. ▼

Focus on AIDS Art

An art exhibit, "Artists' Images of AIDS and Images by Artists Living With AIDS," will be held at the College of Marin Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibit will open Nov. 22 and run through Dec. 17. As the name implies, it will present works of art which deal with artists' images of HIV/AIDS as well as images which have been created by artists who are themselves living with HIV/AIDS.

The exhibit will be curated and respected California artists working in any mediums are encouraged to submit slides of their work for consideration by Sept. 30. The maximum number of entries per artist is two with a maximum of two slides per work. Slides should be clearly labeled with the title of the work, medium, size, and value. Send slides with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: College of Marin, Duane Atea, Art Gallery, Kentfield, California 94904. (Phone: 415-485-9943)

Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. The slides must be received by Sept. 30. Artists whose works have been accepted will be notified promptly.

California artists working in video or film or any other medium which cannot be represented by slides are requested to send a sample of their work, which also must be received by Sept. 30. Each individual artist will be responsible for shipping or delivering their work to the art gallery and picking up their work after the exhibit closes. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER AUGUST 18, 1993 PAGE 41
Paul, The Un-Kafka

LOVE Enter
by Paul Kafka; Houghton Mifflin Co., $19.95

by Roberto Friedman

It's hard to get past that surname. Yes, young novelist Paul Kafka, author of the recently published LOVE Enter, is distantly related to the famous Franz, but that factoid has little bearing on his first novel. Indeed, it would be hard to find a book less Kafkaesque than this one.

The tale largely consists of the recollections of a medical student, Dan Shoenfeld, who reminisces, during his down-time on an obstetrics rotation, about a season in Paris. The computer-age title refers to the book’s central conceit, which is that the narrative takes the form of letters Dan is writing on the ward’s computer to the three other principals of his Paris adventures: Bou, Margot, and Beck. When he’s finished, he’ll send E-mail copies to them via Internet with the push of a button. So ‘90s of him.

Paris, as you might expect from its long literary tradition, is seen through a veil of nostalgia and romance. Dan himself is one of those liberated straight men. For one thing, he’s a ballet dancer. Some of the best scenes in the book are set in his rehearsals and performances. Dan endures sissy jokes. Beck calls his classes “twinkle school,” and even Margot taunts him for having DAP — Dancer Attention Span.

Still, for all his curiosity about the lesbians’ lovemaking — an interest they descendants of Judas Veyron — Dan has negligible interest in exploring homosexuality in his own gender. Even though he moves through circles of dancers, he attests, “Gay men shared a world I’d seen the shores of, and I was afraid of going there. I thought that new world would crumble away beneath my feet as soon as I reached it, and that at the same moment I’d find I couldn’t get back to where I’d started.” Perhaps unintentionally, Kafka has given us a rare insight into the irrationality of homophobic medicine.

An Element of Expertise

While Beck razzes him as the “official mascot of the Yale Lesbians Overseas,” Dan does in fact push the envelope of one partner’s bisexuality. There are few happy endings in the Book of Love, and I’ll leave the secrets of this one for the reading.

However, LOVE Enter is an unusual and intriguing novel, not so much for the bohemian love arrangements of its Paris chapters as for the hospital scenes which frame them. The best passages are the ones set in the OB/GYN ward where Dan delivers babies. I am always captivated by prose which demonstrates an element of expertise, whether in whaling or the Tangier drug trade, and here the details of hospital birthing are lovingly related. This is a narrator who is prone to say, “I felt my metatarsals bow up,” he marvels at one infant’s Moreo reflex, another’s palm grasp. There is even a revealing segment in which a midwife’s world clashes with the priorities of Western medicine.

If all this seems like a strange mix for one book, it is. But, to paraphrase John Barth, a novel should be big enough to swing a cat around in. Kafka brings diverse experience to his work, besides the family name. His grandmother founded a symphony, his parents are musicians and scientists, and he is an accomplished ballet and modern dancer. All this rampant culture is somehow imputed to his character Dan, who looks good in tights and he’s an empathetic obstetrician. More’s the pity he never met the right boy.
A Question of Stress

by Dianne Aaronson

Many of us take for granted, at least to a great degree, a kind of way, that stress can affect our health. We've become accustomed to stress, and like, 'I've been rea-

ally stressed-out. Maybe that's why I caught a cold.'

The fact is that stress has been shown to lower the effi-
ciency of our immune system, though most people do not re-

The problem is, what do we do about it?

First, let's define something that is commonly used word, 'stress.' According to Hans Selye, an expert on the sub-

ject as well as the great pio-

ner of psychosomatic medi-
cine, there are two defi-
nitions, a simple one and an

abstract medical one. The for-

ter is 'the rate of wear and tear within the body,' and the latter is 'the state mani-

fested by a specific syndrome which consists of all the non-
specifically induced changes within a biologic system.' (Se-

lye, 1956).

Though stress is an inte-
gredient element in the biological scheme of any living organ-

ism, the degree of stress caused by sophisticated West-

eren culture is excessive. We

weren't designed to have to

ern life. In the 'old days,' stress was dealt with in one

of two ways: fight or flight. Our biological system, along

with other animal systems, is set up to respond accordingly.

No. 1 Problem

However, it is no longer

possible or practical to fight

or flee from what we are

present with in our dai-
lives. The result is that stress accumulates, and even-

ually our body systems go on

overload. As a result, stress-related psychological and

physiological disorders have become the number-one

social and health problem.

For example, four disor-
ders often described as 'the afflictions of civilization' have

become especially prominent in the United States, Western

Europe, and Japan: cardiovascular disorders, cancer, arthri-
tis, and respiratory diseases including bronchitis and em-

physema. According to many sources, diet, environmental

contamination, and the in-

creased occupational stress of post-industrial societies are

considered major contributing factors in their development.

Of course, there are many more physical and mental dis-

orders or discomorts that can be attributed to stress; this

is merely the tip of the iceberg.

The problem is, what do we
do about it?

First, here is a brief

overview of what happens in

the human animal who is de-
nied the choices of either fight

or flight. Hans Selye re-

searched this question in The

Stress of Life (1976), and con-

sidered the classic in this

field.

Working initially with rats

and using various kinds of

stressors, he found four con-

sistent results as regards changes in the rat's endoge-

nous system — an interview

ment of the adrenal glands; shrinkage of the thymus, spleen,

and lymphatic structures; an al-
tmost total disappearance of a type

of white blood cell; and

lymphatic structures; an al-

most total disappearance of a

type of white blood cell; and


due to try to separate mental

and/or reacts to a situation

from all sides at all times, we

are becoming clearer how

life stresses can affect the

immune system.

More Alarming

What is even more alarm-
ing — and why it becomes so

important to learn techniques
to alleviate and/or deal with
this phenomenon in positive
ways — is that even everyday

events can be a potential

source of stress. In fact, we

are actually under stress ev-
every time [we] are required to

adapt or adjust to personal

social, and environmental in-

fluences, positive or negative

(Pelletier, 1977).

Studies have shown time

and again that normal mile-

stones such as marriage,

pregnancy, a job change, a ge-

ographic move, can be a

source of extreme stress. It is

at these times that a person

often becomes sick. The use

of alcohol, coffee, or tranquil-

izers, though meant to reduce

stress (mental), can often

cause it (physical). (Please

note that it is really unrealis-

cite to try to separate mental

from physical, especially in

this area, and I do so only for

purposes of illustration.)

Job stress affects nearly ev-
everyone and can be the source of many ailments, from

chronic back pain to heart at-
tacks. In fact, in a well-known

series of postal workers whose number-one work-

man's compensation problem

was chronic back problems, it

was found that those workers

who had a strong support

system, seem to fare better.

Other research has shown

that boredom on the job can

be more dangerous to a per-

son's health than excessive ac-

tivity.

On the positive side of the

question, many things have

been found to reduce stress.

A good sense of community,

of belonging, is one. Studies of different ethnic cultures in

the United States indicate that those members who have

remained close, as compared to those who have become

more isolated from their group, seem to fare better.

Also, attitude can go a long

way. How one perceives

and reacts to a situation can
greatly affect the out-


come. And certainly everyone is a well-versed by now on the
differences between Type A and Type B personalities and

their likelihood of disease

profiles.

The truth is that the issue of

stress is complicated and

multifaceted. Though we are

being literally bombarded from all sides at all times, we

can increase our coping ex-

pertise and remain relatively healthy and sound. My next

column will focus on some of

these coping techniques. ▼

Writer's Note: For those in-

terested in more information about this subject see Mind as Healer, Mind as Slayer (1977) by Kenneth R.
Pelletier.

Tennis

Gay and Lesbian Tennis Boom

During the past several

years, the gay and lesbian tennis

scene in the Bay Area has grown

at a rapid rate. New tennis clubs

and tournaments are forming all the time, and the Gay and

Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) is helping to coordi-
nate this growth.

GLTA was established three years ago, the brain-

child of Scott Williford of the San Diego Tennis Federation.

With the popularity of tennis

activities in our community on the rise, Williford felt it

was important to have an or-

ganization which could assist

new clubs in getting estab-

lished and in hosting better

tournaments. Thanks in large part to the

efforts of the GLTA, there

are now 21 gay and lesbian

tennis clubs, including mem-

ber clubs in Canada and Aus-

tralia. Currently there are 14

GLTA sanctioned tourna-

ments on the circuit with ad-

ditional ones proposed for

next year.

Not to be outdone by the

pros, the GLTA has estab-

lished its own computerized

national ranking system, which tracks results from all

sanctioned tournaments. The

current nationally ranked No.

1 player in the mens division is

Mark Pulitzer from Miami, and

in the women's, it's LA's

Tina Rimes.

However, the national

tournaments have divisions

for players of all levels — from

pros to those just beginning to

enjoy the sport's appeal.

Upcoming tournaments in-

clude Los Angeles (Sept. 4-6),

Atlanta (Sept. 4-6), Portland,

(Sep. 4-6), and Washington,

DC (Sept. 4-6).

Individuals interested in

more information about ten-

nis clubs in their area or in

upcoming tournaments may

contact Gary Sutton at 12750

Centralia St., No. 376, Lake-

wood, CA 90715.

By Dianne Aaronson

Scott Williford, GLTA Commissioner, in tournament action with Helen Mendoza of Los Angeles

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MEN SEEKING RELATIONSHIPS

I'm 40's, would like to meet GWLM for ongoing loving fantasy, friendship and HIVpos a plus, not mandatory. EXT 6937.

Big Latin tows sucking gone guys needed to get off. Let us make your dick big dick dry. Beginners and young men especially welcome. EXT 6932.

Black top wanted. East Bay WM, 42, HIVneg to service your black cock, oral end with homo ass. Your used jockey briefs. EXT 6941.

Guys hung on 10 inches or more

for friendship, love or more. EXT 6934.

Hairy, Latino, 35, bald top wanted by attractive GWM. HIVneg, well hung 9. EXT 6962.

Complimentary massage for BB by yng men. 80% of WM is looking for BB to pump him with his big tool. Bl and Lat only. EXT 6963.
Twilight of the Golds
Jonathan Blum’s not-too-far-into-the-future dramatic play about parents who decide if they want to keep their kids or not. When they know is gay. $10-34. 9/19. Marines Memorial Theater, 609 Sutter. 771-6900.

Rewritten, The Play
Updated comedic play based on the hexy sitcom. $15.

Incident at Vichy
Arthur Miller’s powerful drama about the WWII deportation of Jews from France. $12. 8pm. Thu-Sat. 2pm Sun. 446 Valencia St. 550-6352.

Amadeus
Hillbarn Theatre’s staging of Peter Shaffer’s provoking and powerful drama about Wolfgang, 20-14. 8pm. Sun. through Thu. 2pm Fri. 3311 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino. 885-2800.

Snapshots From the Asylum
Hillbarn Theatre’s production of an interactive play that explores pathological monologues about madness, insanity, addiction, and laughter. $12-20. 8pm through Tue. 2pm Wed. 3311 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino. 885-2800.

Baby Cheeks
Play about three local drag artists aerobics runway prestige, who try to start a band. $10. 8pm. Martyn Monroe in the room. 3252A 19th St. (415) 626-5455.

Visual Art

The Tempest
Martin Sherman’s Commedia dell’Arte production of Shakespeare’s classic stormy play, with the classic stormy play, with Caliban. $5-15. Forest Hills Drive & Roosevelt Blvd, Forest Hills. 499-1108.

Theatre

Hoe Down
The Russian River’s great for fun parties, but it seems so pathetically fine to pay “Boot Camp” at the height of Clint Nunn’s military pole-axing of gays. Hardly worth celebrating. This weekend’s a great chance to enjoy a full array of fun, from bunch to drag with a little hair thrown in. At Russian River Western Weekend 3, a benefit for the Sonoma County AIDS Network, Food for Thought and the RR Dance Center, enjoy a weekend of country music, food, line dancing, more food, drag star Matthew Martin as “Dolly Parton,” and lots of western style specializing. Don’t be surprised to find us in a rope (that is, if the hotel room has study bedposts). August 20-22. Info & reservations: (707) 827-1759. 2Jiggar (707) 869-1400, or the Woods (707) 869-0111.

Jean-Baptiste Carvalho’s “Apostles” from Danse Macabre (above, see FRI.)

Scott Wells Dance Company (right)

Death-Defying Acts

Fund Fun

Check out the new Club 181 when they and SOMA Magazine produce a Benefit for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center. Enjoy dinner after a cocktail party with hors d’oeuvres, plus the singing styles of Dana Nile (835). Then dance off those calories to the music of St. Vita Dance. Without dinner, the later party is only $10. Tuesday August 24. 6pm Club 181, 191 1st St. (707) 824-0260.
SUNDAY 22
Joseph & Pageant Banff
Cabaret of show tunes and original material by the stars of two hit shows, Proceeds go to Broadway Cares & Equity Fights AIDS. $20. 21+ Show. Palace Theatre, 450 Post St. at Market. 4th fl. 434-8889.

Mural Heights
From the思维s Mayberry RFD in a mythical small town. An original comedy, 17. Sundays only, 8pm. Village Theatre, 4422 Mission St. 492-6277.

WEDNESDAY 25
Nefertiti, The Pyramid Queen
Also titled: "How Someone In Egypt Wished To Be Egypt's Queen" and "One Queen show parodies homophobia and rationalism in the black community. Tickets: 9/7, 9/8. Luminipumpkin. $10-12. 8pm. Thu & Fri. $11 or 457-3523 at Market. 861-1933.

THURSDAY 26
Lovelygurus
These light but profound comedy shows are authored by home town humorists, painting on the retinas. $12. $3pm. Sun. 5/7. Theatre of Youth. 2226 16th St. 861-5077.

SUNSET
Lesbian Mothers
Singer-songwriters, accounts of "Gender in American Culture," an anthropological approach to parenthood. Tuesdays, 8-11pm. Lighthouse, 431-0891.

TUESDAY 24
Bare Naked Ladies

Max White's art (detail, THU)
Mr. Marcus

Shining Hour for Deaf Leather Community

Almost 300 people witnessed the competition for the first-ever Ms. and Mr. Deaf California Leather titles last Saturday night, Aug. 14, on the patio of the SF-Eagle. In her maiden voyage as an emcee, the delightful Rainbeau did the chore alone for the first half and managed to keep her way through it all. This child has potential as an emcee and will do just fine thank you! The inimitable Danny Williams managed to get a few thousand guffaws with his slightly irreverent but funny sarcasm for the second half — I mean everybody’s sides were aching!

With a total of seven contestants (five men and two women), it was a learning experience to judge with Jeff Barrett (San Diego), Emerson Brinig, Andre Joseph, Steve Kennedy (Los Angeles), Ann Soucy-West, Frank Strona and Skeeter Wildman.

From the onset, beginning with the pre-judging in the afternoon to the actual competition before the audience, I became aware of the gap between hearing and non-hearing people even within the leather community. Hopefully, in California at least, this gap will shrink with the launching of these two titles.

While it is a "given" that the winners are definitely into leather and cognizant of the S/M lifestyle, the need for understanding and acceptance of this subculture within a subculture is the primary goal of naming titleholders for not only the Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf (NCLAD) but also for its counterparts around the world.

Opening the show was a ritualistic "anointment," with Rainbeau as the high priestess and Danny as the "reverend." The contestants entered robed and appeared for the first time for judging in the casual wear and personal category. NCLAD President Patrick (Bad Puppy) Saazter welcomed everyone, and the men contestants gave their speeches. The women performed brief fantasies in lieu of "jockstrap" judging. After the intermission, Mr. Deaf International Leather Bob Donaldson gave a brief speech, and the men were judged in the physique category. After a fantasy presentation by Skeeter Wildman and Kelly (daring!), the women gave their speeches, and tallymaster Andy Anderson took the first title.

The first ever Mr. and Ms. Deaf California Leather Tony Daverso and Susan Gonzalez were selected last Saturday night, Aug. 14 at the SF-Eagle.

(Continued on next page)
Deaf Leather winners (l to r): William Raby (1st runner-up), Tony Daverso and Susan Gonzalez (Mr. and Ms. Deaf California Leather) and Paddy Chee (2nd runner-up). (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)

the scoreheads.

The results: Ms. Deaf California Leather 1993-94 in Susan Gonzalez, and Mr. Deaf California Leather in Tony Daverso. The announcement of the winners was met with enthusiastic applause, as it was for the runners-up: Gale Deluca (for the female category), William Raby (first runner-up — male) and Paddy Chee (second runner-up — male). The other contestants were Paul Putsam and Sam Feliciano. Good show! Good interest.

Sunday, Aug. 15, the B&B Uniform Corps hosted the best-dressed bust at the Eagle with another record-breaking crowd on hand to savor the beer, soda, food and hot men. Butch Freeman and his club never looked better, and it was a thrill to see AIDS Emergency Fund President Rick Salmei pushing out all those hamburgers! Humid but fun! Even LA's Black & Tan Uniform Club member Max Angst was there trying to convince our Dicky Davis to move south. Do I detect another wedding? Does Mr. Angst need more angst?

And how about those 49ers? Their record for pre-season is 4-0, with the defense of the Denver Broncos this past Monday night. They're looking real good! Look forward to a great season in '93.

** * * *

Some of you may recall that Thumper's mother ad-vised her son in Disney's Bambi, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." With that bit of wisdom in mind and since I was unable to be there myself (but got lots of very "mixed" dialogue from those who were), I must refrain from reporting anything on this year's edition of Leather Weekend at the Rush Riv. You'll probably read glowing reports about it in another publication. But on...

Speaking of the Rush Riv, Brother Duke of Club MUD says that during the summer, his club will be filming an updated version of Reefer Madness. The film will prove (in a humorous way) that what the U.S. government said about marijuana way back in the '30s is totally true! (Excuse me while I laugh out loud!) They have already filmed a sequence where a man grows female tits and another where a man hallucinates that his chest is covered with banana slugs! More is under negotiation, I bring you Meadowood, the gay community's newest ranch and resort. Meadowood, which has garnered beaucoup accolades, is a 650-acre ranch about 90 minutes from Dallas, featuring plush cabins and a 20-bunk "community barracks." The lodging facility includes a great hammerball court. Call Jay at (903) 338-2288 if you live in Texas or (800) 856-3382 elsewhere. The place has only been open about nine months, so you will not encounter any of that "Macy's-type" attitude at Meadowood. Obey!

Leather title sisters. Ms. Deaf California Leather Susan Gonzalez with Ms. Northern California Leather Donna Shrout. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)
Men In Touch

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Affairs to Remember

Weekend 18-22: Leather week continues through this weekend in Portland, Ore. Nominating Mr. and Mrs. NLA Portland (Fri), and Oregon State Leatherman and Leatherwoman (Sunday). Lots of action during the festivities that begin last Saturday night.

Redwood Edge Horsemen's Association weekend up at the RushRiv all this weekend beginning Thursday with a kickoff party at the Santa Rosa Inn (Fri), Tight Wranglers Buois Contest at the Rainbow Cattle Company Sunday. "Hot Bods" Bikini Fashion Show at the Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Russian River Wrangler contest at 1000 at the Triple "R" and S&W Dancing with Long Branch at the Woods Resort. Lal y Jimmy Dollar appears as a guest until the wee hours, and on Sunday, a barbecue and Pool Party at the Highland Dell Inn for the Mr. Leather Contest. Be there!

Fantasy "92 in Omaha, Nebraska, all this weekend, benefitting the AIDS Emergency Fund among others. Almost every leather title holder known to the world will be there for Dustin Logan's annual blast.


Sunday, Aug. 22: Golden Gate Guards MC hosts leather/burly bust at "the SF Eagle" today. Only $6 for fun, folks and food. Plus all the cruising you can muster up.

Tuesday, Aug. 24: Another uniform thing. Best uniform was $100 cash in the uniform contest at Headquarors tonight with a 56 burly/bondage bust from 2000-2400. Not a fundraiser, this one! By Grant Depot, natch.

Wednesday, Aug. 25: Another burly/bondage contest at the Eagle. No Prizes, just fun and fellowship. Just be there!

Fantasy "92 in Omaha, Nebraska, all this weekend, benefitting the AIDS Emergency Fund among others. Almost every leather title holder known to the world will be there for Dustin Logan's annual blast.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Pacific Bear LMC celebrates its second Anniversary tonight with an invitational pool party entry requirement from 2000-2200 at the SF Eagle patio. Congratulations!

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Butt heaven prevails when Mr. Jan., Edward Van Campen; Mr. Feb., Allan Violini; Mr. March, G.T.; Mr. April, Richard Faust; Mr. May, Jeff Ohey; Mr. June, Wm. Pier; Mr. July, Chuck Goldstein; Mr. Aug., Paul Glass; Mr. Sept., Dennis Silva; Mr. Oct., Greg Pennington; and Mr. Nov., Dave Harper, compete for the cover of the Great Buns calendar on August 25 at the Eagle.

(Continued from previous page)

In case you haven't heard, the 11th annual SF Leather Daddy's Boy Contest is coming up on Sunday, Sept. 5, at the SF Eagle. Hopefully, this year the judges — Mark McKee, Randy Wright, Judith Tur, "Spy" and Allen Smart (aka Random Chance) — will pick someone who will do something with the title. Jimmy Lee Murray will be the alternate judge and tally master. Applications are available now at the SF Eagles from any bartender — right, Terry? It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and the Cal Eagles MC is supplying the food. And yes, it is on Labor Day Weekend.

Dish-Tingished Ditties

Have you voted for the Tommy Tanaka — oops, I mean the Community Award? There was a horde of the hopeful at the Watering Hole last Sunday doing the "give me your vote" thing, and from all reports, it was a real "anything you can do, I can do better" interlude.

That group of SOMA road warriors are probably back in town after their month-long motorcycle tour of the Northwest and Canadian territories. I hear Warren Cave may be moving up to that area of the country after his "session" in Vancouver last weekend. Yes, last is a many splendid thing, isn't it, Warren?

And what about that dude from Our Town who went up to the RushRiv last weekend with a tent that can hold a dozen people plus his entire bedroom. Serta mattress and all! He was so busy randomly chatting it with the other deli gaters that he missed every single activity, real or imagined, at the in, uh, Leather Weekend.

Mr. American Leatherman Jose Ucles divests himself of all leather titles in Washington, D.C., the weekend of Sept. 17-19, when the titles Leatherman, Leatherman '93 and American Cowboy '93 will be bestowed on someone by the Griffin's MC of Delaware. If you're interested in competing or want to attend Dungeon Dance II at the Queen's Nest & Found, write to American Brotherhood Weekend, P.O. Box 7566, Newark, DE 07114 for details and applications.
I n the 1800s, crowds would mass in New York harbor, waiting for the latest installment of a Dickens serial to reach our shores. Unwilling to wait for the ship to dock, much less for the magazine to be delivered to bookstores and subscribers, people shouted at the captain, "Is Little Nell dead?"

This sort of spontaneous desire for a literary commodit y is rare if not practically nonexistent today. Even the sequel to Gone With The Wind needed a publicity machine to work the public into a feeding frenzy. And if Madame's Sex is remembered for anything in the future, it will probably be for the amount of hype generated by Time-Warner in anticipation of the book, the record, the movie — the advent of Madonna as omnium-gatherum multi-media messiah. Evidently the paperback Sex has been cancelled by the publisher.

Sexual Obsession

Madonnarama is a pack-age of critical essays by gay and lesbian authors and critics that is often less about Sex the book than Sex the media event, dealing with both the manufacture of consenting adult consumers for the product, and critical reaction to the product. The editors' introductory essay is a fine piece of journalism that details the orchestration of a "media event," but their bias is evident. "What else is there besides sex, race, capital and power?" they ask, setting the dialogue up in Foucault-governed terms that omit any human motivations outside of the desire for power. To them, Sex is all about issues of control, and sexuality is about conquest and domination.

The authors, however, don't conform to this limited view. These widely differing critics agree on some points — that the book isn't really very sexy. They're not content to focus on "The images of this scorer are actually a suburbanite's icon of the decadent underground city life, internalized and repackaged as an urban swinger's idea of home, sweet home." Douglas Crimp and Michael Warner note the similarities to her Justify My Love video "The camera shows her going into the room at the beginning and leaving it at the end, and that frames it as safely somewhere else. She's done the same thing in Sex." John Champagne: "It is, after all, Madonna's disgust at the sight of two men having sex. In the midst of this supposedly radical book, actually manufactured by a large corporation and therefore inherently non-revolutionary, "if even the hip Dita/Madonna thinks it's worthwhile to be said for it."

Time-Warner did not hand a huge sum of money to Madonna the pornographer, but to Madonna the marketing genius. She has not really transgressed any boundaries, but has instead only provided an official atlas of how far those boundaries have already moved in our culture, had she really crossed them, Time-Warner would not have published this book. What we learn from Sex is not what is now permitted but — by its absence — how much is still not acceptable. What we learn from Madonnarama is that Madame's Sex experiment was passe immediately upon publication. Madonna not only didn't reveal a new sexuality, she didn't even approach the subject with a fresh attitude.

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