

Manifesto

Free Personals!

Do you want
this man
deciding who
you can and
can't marry?

How we're
going to win
the latest
battle in ...

The War Over Gay Marriage

California State Sen. William "Pete" Knight (R-Palmdale)

Gay News for the Monterey Bay

Lavender Page

Manifesto: directory of gbt-owned and -friendly businesses

	Page		Page		Page		Page
ARCHITECTS		BOOKS		GRAPHIC DESIGN		PERFORMANCE ART	
G. Schulz 459-0955	24	Herland: The WanderGround 902 Center St., SC 429-6636	4	Poe Boneless Productions Kim Fryer 761-3176	24	Adult Improv Acting Classes taught by Clifford Henderson & Dixie Cox of Sappho's Lapphos. On-going Saturday class. Laugh- ter guaranteed. Beginners wel- come. Call 425-2678 or 427- 1840. See our web page, www.relaxationresources.com	
ATTORNEYS		CHIROPRACTORS		HEALTH		PRINTING	
Margaret A. Leonard Attorney at Law 426-1482		Chiropractic Care Center Patricia Shea 425-4525	14	Santa Cruz Co. HIV Services Consortium HIV Services Coordination 454-4000		Many Names Press Kate Hitt 475-5863	14
BARS / NIGHTCLUBS		COMPUTER		MASSAGE THERAPISTS		PSYCHOTHERAPY	
Blue Lagoon 923 Pacific Ave., SC 423-7117	14	Cruzio—The Internet Store 903 Pacific Ave., Ste. 101 459-6301		Heather Brockett, CMP 426-6662	4	Andrew Purchin, LCSW 460-0241	24
BEAUTY		EVENTS		Pacific Delight Massage Curt Keyer, CMP 459-8451	4	Connie Batten, MA, MFT 425-4432	14
Larry Zellers International Hair and Make- up Designer 475-6701	24	Youth Leadership Awards April 14 460-0630	7	Re-membering Wholeness Integrative Body Work Ellen McCauley, CMP 427-5308		Jerry Solomon, Ph.D. 425-8785	24
Housing Available		FIX-IT				Lauren Crux, LMFT 427-4595	24
Room for rent Live Oak area, near beach, fireplace, hottub, yard, decks, w/d, clean, women preferred. \$475, 1/3 utilities, call Carrie at 476-9593.		B & B Small Engine Repair 3621-C Soquel Drive, Soq. 476-6306	14				

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and tell them you saw their ad in Manifesto.

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- one to a customer
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- don't include the Seven Deadly Words
- include a valid address and phone number

Fill out form / send info to:

Manifesto Classifieds / Personals
PO Box 2701,
Watsonville, CA
95077-2701

•or• e-mail all info to
NonHetPapr@aol.com.

(Use separate sheet if
you need more room.)

Personal Classified

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Text: _____

Replies:

- Direct (list personal info at your own risk)
- Through us (we assign box number; forward US MAIL REPLIES ONLY to you)

"Free" doesn't mean you can't make a tax-deductible donation!

Make checks payable to Manifesto.

Advertising in Manifesto

Coming soon. We'll be set up to accept credit cards.

Display Ads. Everything from business cards to full pages. Prices start at \$25 a month for a business card-sized ad, up to \$400 for a full page. All display ads include a free basic three-line listing in the Lavender Page Business Directory.

Discounts. We offer discounts for display ads that run in consecutive editions, as follows; 5% for three; 10% for six; 15% for 12. We also offer a 20% discount to not-for-profits, regardless of how long the ad runs.

Sale. First-time display advertisers are eligible for our buy three, get a fourth free sale: run any size display ad in three

consecutive editions and we'll run it again for free. The multiple edition discount does not apply to this sale.

Personals / Classified Ads. See left.

Lavender Page. Prices start at just \$4 a month for a basic three-line listing (\$48 a year). Add \$.20 a word per edition for additional words.

Underwriting. You can underwrite features like *Dykes To Watch Out For* or the Spanish-language news and we'll throw in a business card size display ad and listing in the Directory.

Deadlines. To reserve ad space, the 15th of each month. Artwork / text is due by the 20th.

Call Mark at 761-3176

The Non-heterosexual Newspaper of the Monterey Bay

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A large, bold graphic with the text "NO on KNIGHT PROP 22" in large, black, sans-serif font. To the right, the text "VOTE March 7, 2000" is written vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font against a dark background.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: Proposition 22 has galvanized our community into action. The battlefield is scattered with land mines, so how will we win? (see Cover)

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Bay. The opinions expressed in Manifesto: are not necessarily those of Manifesto: 's staff or contributors. The inclusion of any person's name or likeness in Manifesto: is not a guarantee that they're gay. **Subscriptions.** \$15 - \$20 a year, sliding scale, to the address above. **Advertising.** display ads start as low as \$25 a month, Mark at 761-3176 for details. **Deadline.** for submissions and advertising reservations is the 15th of each month. Photos without a SASE cannot be returned. **December 1999 Financial Statement.** Income Ads \$1,209.25; Subscriptions \$342; Donations \$25; Total Income \$1,576.25 Expenses Fees \$5; Film & Processing \$35.44; Grant '99 \$1,439.44; Outputting \$36.43; Postage \$30.32; Supplies \$38.84; Vendors \$280; Total Expenses \$1,860.38. **Net Loss** \$838.58. **Transfers (from LGBTCC)** General \$1,550.18; Grant '99 \$2,210.56.

Time and Tide

What does it take to get the paper out on schedule?

Why does the paper come out late sometimes? I'm so glad you asked, and many of our readers have. I wish I could say there was an easy answer. Getting the paper out is part skill and part luck. More often than not, I rely on luck.

Most editions start at the beginning of the month when I do the bookkeeping, pay the bills, and send out the invoices. I also catch up on correspondence (thank you notes and the like), work on any "big" projects that are due (grant applications and reports, letters of introduction, donation pitches, etcetera), schedule the printer and mailing preparation house, and try to sell an ad or two. Meanwhile I peruse the newsletters and press releases that come in at a rate of a dozen or more a day, to find stories people will be interested in. I also make a lot of phone calls, and talk to different people and organizations in the community. This serves two purposes: first it helps me keep the resource directory up to date and second I can find out what's coming up that we should be prepared to report on. This is when the edition starts to take shape: I begin to prioritize and cull the stack of submissions, looking for themes because those reveal what we care about. If there's a local story emerging that ties into that theme, all the better. I'm also looking for our cover story, if there isn't one already on the schedule. Some editions are no-brainers: pride in June, Coming Out Day in October, World AIDS Day in December, while others evolve from current events. By deadline, I usually have a pretty good idea of what I'm doing. Not always, though. On a few occasions I haven't had a cover until three days before press. I hate those editions. As deadline approaches, I make any last-minute phone calls and e-mails to find people to write on the theme or about an emerging issue.

Then it's time to research whatever I'm going to be writing about, which is anything essential I couldn't find someone else to take on. These stories are in addition to my regular "writing" duties: the local news briefs, and calendar and resource directory listings, all of which then have to be cross-referenced so that if we announce a meeting in the news, it also

shows up in the calendar and directory. I don't always succeed.

Meanwhile, I'm editing and formatting the text that's come in. Adding a comma here, taking out a comma there, uncapitalizing "gay," and sending back the big changes (cut 100 words please). I'm choosing which books and movies will be reviewed, trying to determine whether this month's "Sex Talk" will be of more interest than this month's "Out Right," and trying to get a press photo from Sen. Knight's office for the cover (we got the one we used from his web site). All the while, I'm keeping a tally in my head to make sure we're not running more men than women, more white people than people of color, more left than right commentary. I e-mail the local news to the appropriate people to make sure I got all the details, and got them right. I forward any stories and listings for translation to our Spanish-language editor and we schedule a time when he can come over to my house and add the accent marks to the text.

At this point I haven't even opened up the file I use to lay out the pages.

It's time to scour the database for the advertising reservations and this month's updates to the resource directory. I edit and format those. I gather all the photos we're going to use, scan them in, and format them. This is also when I format the pre-scanned images and design any special graphics.

I write the table of contents, giving a loose form to the chaos.

I open "the file." It's still laid out with last month's edition. I start deleting, and try to remember what I was thinking when I did *that*.

I skip the business directory and contents pages (I can't do either before the text and ads are placed) and start on page four. Do we have a big local story? Or just the briefs? Have I written an editorial? It goes pretty fast now. News first, then commentary, starting with local, then state and national, international, culture, calendar, features, and the Center page. The cover story goes in whatever section it relates to.

Once I have the basics placed I go back and make sure I remembered to place everything. Then each line of text and photo is adjusted. This is the most time-consuming

part of production. Line by line, page by page, sometimes three or four passes: and heaven help me if I forget to place an ad. Once that's done I go back and lay out the business directory and table of contents. I update our financial report, list of contributors, and volume / edition information. Then I design the cover. I do that last so that its design complements the interior. I hope.

I make a back-up copy of the computer files and transfer copies of everything onto two separate zip disks, just in case one of them doesn't work. I also collect all the hard art: Dykes To Watch Out For, Ethan Green, and any ads. Then I'm off to Kinko's, which has the large format printers (11x17) I need to output the pages. This can take anywhere from one to three hours, depending on how temperamental the printers are being, plus drive time.

I proof each page quickly as it comes off the printer, and circle the glaring errors. I reprint the bad pages and check them again. I count to make sure they're all here. This is the point of no return. Once the pages are printed and I've deleted all the files off the hard drive, making a correction means reloading the files from the floppy. I've never had to do that.

The pages are trimmed and pasted onto "boards" (huge sheets of paper with the printers specifications on them). The hard art pieces are trimmed and placed, the pages are put in order, and I'm ready to go home. My house mate Kim drops the finished boards at the printer on her way to work.

While I'm waiting, I update and print the mailing labels and clean up the kitchen / office. I archive the electronic files and file the paper ones.

When the papers are printed, I gas up the car and, over the course of three afternoons, do the mailing and deliver stacks of papers to sites all over the bay: from Santa Cruz to Pacific Grove, Watsonville to Salinas.

At any point in this process things can go awry. That's why the paper occasionally comes out late. 🐷

Mark Krikava lives in Watsonville with his delusion that Matthew Perry really is gay.

No Time
for Hawaii...
Take a Massage
Vacation



Pacific Delight
Massage



Curt Keyer
Certified Massage
Practitioner
9am - 9pm
831 459-8451

Self-defense
Workshop for
Lesbian and
Bisexual Women

Learn strategies and
physical self-defense
techniques to increase
personal safety. Build
confidence and skill in
a safe setting.

Sponsored by the City of
Santa Cruz and the Santa
Cruz LGBTCC.

Saturday, February 26

10 A.M.

Louden Nelson Center (301
Center Street in Santa Cruz)

Free for Santa Cruz city resi-
dents, all others \$15.
For info call 420-6298. To
register call Parks and Rec-
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· Safer Sex Supplies · Scrumptious Jewelry



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Open Everyday · Everyone Welcome

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Will AGEM Happen this Year?

A Gay Eveing In May held its annual board meeting last month and elected a new board of directors: Mike Tossy, Mark Grantham, Michael Piña, Tom Freeman, and Larry Olund, all of whom have extensive histories with the beleaguered talent show / fund-raiser. In past years, AGEM has served as a cornerstone of local gay culture and philanthropy, entertaining thousands of people with an annual talent show that raised tens of thousands of dollars for local non-profits. Now an apparent lack of interest by experienced volunteers and an

ongoing decrease in attendance over the last few years has left one of our most cherished and long-standing institutions struggling to stay afloat. According to Grantham, there is a meeting scheduled for February 13th to address these issues and determine if this year's event will happen. If the answer is yes a schedule will be set for directors' proposals, performer auditions, and media outreach. And if the answer is no? Grantham says that doesn't necessarily spell the end. "Maybe what we need is a year off to decide how AGEM can best serve the community," he said. If you'd like to attend the meeting to give your two cents or work on the project, call Mike and Mark at 475-6068 or e-mail Michael Piña at mikeyp63@juno.com. 🐾

WINNERS

Youth Leadership Awards Seeking Nominations

The Santa Cruz County Task Force for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth is seeking nominations for its 3rd Annual Gay Youth Leadership Awards. The awards, which will be presented on April 14th at the Cocomanut Grove in Santa Cruz, will recognize four young people, one adult, and one organization for their work supporting gay youth. Anyone can make a nomination in any category, and deadline is the 18th of February. A panel of youth and adult judges will select the honorees, who will be announced at the cere-

mony. In addition to a plaque, the four youth winners receive a \$500 prize.

Since its beginning, the awards have become an important event, both as a public acknowledgment of gay youth achievement and as a social and networking opportunity for youth and their advocates. Last year's event was attended by Sheriff Mark Tracy (who was also a judge), and Pajaro Valley Unified School District Superintendent John Casey. If you've been wondering where the gay political movers and shakers have been hanging out, look no further.

Nomination forms, as well as tickets for the ceremony, are available at Herland: The Wanderground (902 Center Street in Santa Cruz), the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz), or by calling 460-0630. For more information, check out their ad in this edition. 🐾

GUY THING

New Peer Support Group for HIV-negative Men

The second session of this free 12-week group is forming this month. Offered by local therapist Andrew Purchin in conjunction with the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, the purpose of the group is to give men the tools they need to break out of "feeling stuck," and will achieve that by exploring ways in which to become "more inspired, creative, and clear with friends and lovers," Purchin said. Attendees will employ "touch, clear thinking and intentional listening to increase expression of feelings, work through emo-

tional blockages, and enhance relationship skills."

The first group, which happened last fall, was very empowering. Purchin said, "It has been wonderful to see the men in the first group get closer to each other, develop excellent counseling skills and to achieve personal breakthroughs. I expect the next group will be at least as powerful."

The session begins with an introductory talk on Wednesday, February 16th, 7 P.M., at Equinox (755 Cedar Street in Santa Cruz). Refreshments will be served. Regular meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 23rd and will require a 12-week commitment to complete course. If you have any questions or wish to reserve a space, please contact Andrew Purchin at 460-0241 or at Dwoo@cruzio.com. 🐾

HELP WANTED

Triangle Speakers Hiring Manager

Following up on last's month's story about Triangle Speakers receiving \$20,000 in new grants, they are putting some of that money to use by hiring a full-time manager to oversee their programs. According to the press release, the position "requires at least two years of work experience with coordinating volunteer, speaker, or other similar programs, preferably in the non-profit area. It also requires excellent organizational and

communication skills, the ability to work independently as well as part of a team, and computer experience with e-mail, word processors, spreadsheets and databases. Some evening/weekend work is entailed and a car for local travel is required. Bilingual Spanish/English would be a plus. The position pays \$28,000 - \$31,000 per year and includes medical benefits." Interested? A full description of the job is at Triangle Speakers' website (www.trianglespeakers.org) and there should also be a copy posted at the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz). Résumés are due by February 11th. 🐾

Milestones

Appointed. Leslee Hamilton has been appointed to the post of Regional Coordinator for the Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara, and San Mateo County No On Knight campaigns. We welcome Leslee to our beautiful bay.

Elected. Stuart Rosenstein, a staff assistant at the UCSC GLBT Resource Center, has been elected to the post of "Co-chair" of the Santa Cruz County Task Force for LG-BTQ Youth, until June of this year. Rosenstein is a recent UCSC graduate pursuing a career in journalism and hopes to bring about more inter-generational interaction within the task force. The task force, which among other things is the producer of the annual Youth Leadership Awards (see related story), meets on the third Monday of every other month. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 20th at the Aptos Public Library. Contact Terilynn Miller-Pennisi, tpennisi@natsci.ucsc.edu, 479-9627, or Stuart Rosenstein, rosenstein@hotmail.com, or 425-3362.

Appointed. Leslee Hamilton, Regional Coordinator for the Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara, and San Mateo County No On Knight campaigns, has been appointed to the No On Knight headquarters in Sacramento, as the State Field Director. We bid her a fond farewell and wish her luck. Leslee, we hardly knew ye.

Webbed. Equinox, an HIV education and prevention program for gay youth, has their new web site up and running (www.geocities.com/equinox4sc). Check it out.

Appointed. Ross Naksone has been appointed to the post of Regional Coordinator for the Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara, and San Mateo County No On Knight campaigns, replacing Leslee Hamilton. Ross comes to us as a result of a leave of absence from a position in Sen. Byron Sher's office. We welcome Ross to our beautiful bay. You are sticking around for while, right?

A ROSE IS A ROSE

LGBTCC Gives Itself a New Name

Try this. Say out loud, "Thank you for calling the Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community Center. How may I help you?" Now try it without getting light-headed or saying it so fast that you sound like Andy Dick. It's not easy, is it? But changing the name is controversial: lots of people were involved in the evolution and have an emotional stake in it. And that doesn't even begin to address what the new name would be: just "gay" doesn't work, too many people don't like "queer," and "sexual minority" sounds so ... well, mind-numbingly dull. Naming it after a person doesn't work either because that means someone has to be chosen and then it's an ongoing struggle to educate people about who that person was (just ask the Billy deFrank). And the one obvious choice—Charlie Parkhurst—already has an organization named after him (yes, I know the Charlie Parkhurst Society seems to have disappeared, but you know the minute the Center decided to use it, someone would

come crawling out of the woodwork to make a scene and if history is any indication, it wouldn't even be anyone who was actually affiliated with the Society or Parkhurst's descendants). As a result of all this, and more, the Center has stood by its name, albeit apologetically, in the face of jokes and nastiness, both from the general population and, sadly, from within our own community. Until now.

In a move that is sure to cause a stir, or at least some note, our little hole-in-the-wall (which, by the way, is looking rather snazzy of late) will now be known as "The Diversity Center." According to Center President Denny Carroll, the full official name will still be used on correspondence and official documents (like checks), but the physical space will carry the new name. "Many names were considered over the last few months before one was selected," he said. So why not just change the corporation's name? "The board felt it was very important to keep the 'lgbt' words intact in our documentation and on the window sign." If nothing else, it will now be harder to mix up the order of the words and staffers won't get dizzy whenever they receive more than one call during their shift. 🐾

Event

SCAP Sings for its Supper

Lovin' Spoonfuls, a fund-raiser for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, is bringing together complimentary art forms—ceramics and cooking—for an afternoon of soup and song. Attendees purchase a soup bowl—hand-made by local artisans—and choose a soup—hand-made by local restaurants—to fill it. While they're eating, attendees will also be entertained with live music—hand-made by local musicians. This unique event is the brainchild of Cathy Conway, SCAP's

development director. "What better way to spend a cold winter afternoon than with good friends, hot soup, and live music," she said, "and you get to keep the bowl as a reminder of the event."

Some of the restaurants who are donating soups include Pearl Alley Bistro, Oswald, New Leaf Community Markets, Dahrma's, Beckman, and Cabrillo's Culinary School.

This event has "classic" written all over it, doesn't it?

Saturday, February 12th, NOON - 4 P.M., at the Pacific Cultural Center (corner of Seabright and Broadway in Santa Cruz). \$15 (or more if you can afford it). For more information, call 427-3900.

LGBTCC Wish List

Can you help us with your generous donation of any of the following items?

- 501(c)(3) tax accounting svc.
- LGBT books
- coffee table
- sofa
- file cabinet
- bookshelves
- newspaper racks

Call us at 425-5422 and we'll make arrangements to pick up items that are in suitable condition.

**Buy 3
Get 1 FREE!**

**Save 25% on
display ads in
Manifesto:**

Our Summer display ad sale was so popular, we've decided to extend it to ALL first-time advertisers from now on!

And that's not all...

Display ad orders include a FREE basic listing in the Lavender Page Business Directory!

- Reach potential customers throughout the Monterey Bay.
- Support a non-profit volunteer-driven service.

Sale price available to first-time display advertisers only, not applicable to classified ads.

Call 761-3176

Robert Imada

Homos on the Hill

Connecting the Issues

Why can't I be both?

"Fucking Asian Faggot!"

The epithet still lingers in my mind...

My unpleasant encounter with these choice words occurred during my first year at UC Santa Cruz. I was on Pacific Avenue, roaming around downtown. Splurging on CD's and drinking coffee are two of my favorite activities whenever I have free time. Spring quarter had just started, and many other students were taking advantage of the clear weather to get off campus.

After I emptied my wallet for a bunch of CD's and a triple iced café mocha, I decided to stop by the LGBT Community Center. But as I walked out of the Wherehouse music store and turned the corner, the warm sun and caffeination didn't prepare me for what happened next.

Walking towards me, was every gay boy's worst nightmare: three big, macho, tough-looking boys. Their demeanors screamed of homophobic, anti-gay butchery. You might as well have put some post-it-notes on their foreheads, reading: "Don't look at me, you fruit, or I'll kick your butt." Following my defensive instincts, I looked straight ahead, trying not to make eye contact with them. But as I brushed past them, one of the guys looked back at me and said, "Fucking Asian Faggot!" I kept walking, more angry and bitter than I was afraid.

I told some of my friends at school about the incident. Although both were sympathetic to my situation, their responses were completely different. One of my friends, a heterosexual Asian female, immediately tried to console me. "I can't believe it," she said. "Some people are so racist. Santa Cruz is predominantly White I guess, but you would think the town would be more diverse minded." I waited for her to address the homophobic part of the boy's comment, but she continued to rant and rave about the issue of racism in America.

Another friend, a Caucasian gay male, said, "Wow! That must have really hurt. Everyone thinks Santa Cruz is completely gay friendly, but I guess there's still homophobia in some places out there." Not once did he address the racial slur.

What really upset me is that not one of my friends acknowledged both forms of hate within the context of the boys' comment. I was called a Fucking Asian and a Fucking Faggot. Talk about killing two birds with one stone.

I continue to tell people this story because I believe it reflects the experiences and struggles many queers of color face in this country: the struggle between one's ethnic community and the queer commu-

nity. It also shows the connection between all forms of discrimination, and how we make the mistake of focusing on only one type of prejudice.

I believe our society has a tendency to separate different forms of hatred and discrimination. This practice of separation, and sometimes "othering" of people's misfortunes, is one reason why discrimination continues to be a problem in America. This act of separation may be done out of deliberate hatred, but it is also a result of ignorance. We fail to realize that the cause of every type of prejudice and discrimination filters down to the way we were socialized when we were children. We speak up for our own rights and needs, but fail to stick up for other people who also suffer from prejudice, though their situation may be different from ours.

So often is the case in the queer community. We fail to make connections between homophobia and racism. An example of this occurred at the National Gay, Lesbian, Task Force (NGLTF) Creating Change Conference in Oakland last November. During the latter part of the conference, an African-American transgendered person was assaulted outside of the conference hotel by a man with a broken beer bottle. She was hospitalized after the attack. According to witnesses, the police officer who responded to the incident told the victim, "I am tired of having to do all this paperwork. You guys have been told not to be on the corner of 14th and Broadway. I am tired of your shit. Who has to do the paperwork? Me, that's who."

The next day, NGLTF officials quickly organized a march against the Oakland Police Department. That afternoon, more than 1,500 people attending the conference converged in the hotel lobby for a pre-march rally. NGLTF Director Kerry Lobel addressed the crowd over a megaphone, saying the Oakland PD should be more sensitive towards transgendered people and the GLBT community. She was interrupted, however, when an African-American man shouted behind her, "This is also a people of color issue, when are we going to have a chance to speak?"

His comment was followed by shouts of support from the crowd, and the megaphone was handed over to an African-American woman who addressed the crowd on issues of racism and the importance of diversity in the queer community.

NGLTF is a superb organization, and many other queer organizations should model themselves after its structure. Under the direction of Lobel, who will be resigning next year, NGLTF has improved its representation of all members of the

queer community and fighting for everyone's rights, not just those of gays and lesbians. However, there is a need for a more diverse NGLTF staff and a continual push for the connection between homophobia and all other forms of discrimination.

I admit I am privileged to be attending a progressive academic institution where I have the opportunity to learn and engage in discussions about such issues as racism and homophobia.

Everyone is not as fortunate as I am to be able to utilize resources such as UCSC. A goal for our society is to give everyone an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with one another. This should begin in our public schools.

Fucking Asian Faggot... the words have led me to a broader realization: I am not Japanese-American one day, and gay another. I deal with racism and homophobia on a continual basis. I face homophobia and racism as a member of our society and I also have to deal with racism within the queer community. One type of discrimination is not more important than the other. My identities are fluid.

We need to learn to speak up for one another. Ethnic minorities, GLBT persons, women, the homeless, the disabled, the elderly, youth, the poor, those who are discriminated against based upon their religion—we all share the same roots of pain and discrimination. Most importantly, how can we be individuals in society and our communities and be able to love and be loved by one another? 🐘

Upcoming Events Open to the Public Tuesday, 22nd

6 P.M. • **Film and Forum** The GLBT Network and Queers of Color (QoC) will be sponsoring a Film/Open Forum event at the GLBT Resource Center (behind Merrill College). At 6 P.M., there will be showing of the film, *Black is, black ain't...* as part of African-American History Month. Following the film at 8 P.M., there will be an open forum entitled "Intersections of Racism and Homophobia." Facilitated by members of the GLBT Network and QoC, people are invited to sit down in a safe, laid-back atmosphere and share their thoughts and feelings about homophobia, racism, and the connections between the two. It is not required to attend the film showing in order to participate in the forum. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or for directions to the GLBT Resource Center, call 459-2468.

"I was called a Fucking Asian and a Fucking Faggot. Talk about killing two birds with one stone."

Basile Gabriel

Potshots

Hollywood

Men, Movies & Myths

If anyone has any doubts that it truly is a man's world, all they need to do is take a short trip to Hollywood. The first thing to hit your eye are all beautiful young men adorning the larger-than-life billboards mounted on the sides of buildings, hoisted over skyscrapers and hanging off the hillsides. Strong, beautiful, fleshy male torsos seduce you along the main thoroughfares of the city. Sculpted chests and ruddy jaws, eyes that are at once luring and yet aloof, scorn you for even daring to imagine. Whether its clothing or cars, cologne or candy, you can be certain there will be a gorgeous, young, male torso splayed across a billboard promoting the product.

Ever since its founding at the turn of the last century, Hollywood has been a magnet for worldwide entertainment wanna-be's. It is the undisputed movie capitol of the world and a major center for the music and recording industry. With its fabulous weather and beautiful homes, it has the reputation, whether deserved or not, of being a party town. It is one of the few cities in America with a huge, city-wide Halloween party, Christmas is celebrated with parades and shows while gatherings ranging from the gala to the grunge abound in the clubs and private homes. People come for an opportunity to develop their talent, to find unconventional outlets for their creativity and simply for the challenge and adventure of making it in Hollywood. As some photographer in the 1950's once said, "It's always been known as a gathering place for psychotic peacocks."

But Hollywood is still not an openly gay town in spite of the large amount of gays in the area and in the industry. No one wants to hire gay men for lead roles in films and if a man who shows potential for box office draw is known or suspected to have homosexual dalliances, he is either blacklisted or else married off and carting children around like props on a set. As far as the lesbian representation in Hollywood is concerned, well, let's just say that it is all quite hush-hush. In other words, like everything else in Hollywood, the supposed tolerance is just an illusion that is perpetuated in order to sell products while the reality is that it is as conservative and all-American of a town as you may find in the Cornbelt.

Hollywood had its heyday in the 1930's through the 1950's. The stars were big, the sets were fantastic and the

costumes were glamorous. The stories were simple and we escaped into a world of make-believe where love conquered all and good triumphed over evil. The name Hollywood itself comes from the branch of the holly tree, long associated in pagan circles with magic spells, wishes and dreams. Although many people still cling to those faded myths of Hollywood's glorious by-gone era, it just is not the same any more. Those days are long gone as the industry now gears its products towards an increasingly younger audience. Where films were once made for an adult audience, today they are being mass-produced for the teenagers, the young dating crowd, the seventeen-year old set. In the world of film and television, youth rules.

But why the proliferation of males? Since female frontal nudity is prohibited in American film, directors have resorted to exploring and exploiting the male body as much as they are allowed while advertising corporations shamelessly splay male torsos with their products. Gone are the days of the casting couches. Instead, the question is how good the body is and whether or not the actor is willing to perform in the raw. That the person be pleasing to the eye is more important than talent and a good body will get you much further than a pretty face these days. As a result, Hollywood has become somewhat of a narcissist town, fueled by the young teen body thing. The line between pornography and legitimate film is becoming more blurred each year.

Now don't get me wrong. You may not get the lead role if you're gay or lesbian, but, hey, but you can still have a good time in Hollywood just the same. There is a lot to do and see there, places to check out and people to gawk at. If you're in the right place at the right time, you may even run into a star or two. And there is no better place to live for someone interested in any aspect of the film or acting industry. Creativity runs rampant and there is a spark of life and vitality there that you won't find anywhere else. Everyone seems to be in the industry, to have some project in the making, a script optioned out, an audition or meeting, some fantastic deal on the horizon. Just don't take it all too seriously because the reality is that for most, Hollywood is a harsh town full of wanna-be's and has-beens, lofty dreams and shattered hopes. 🐷

"...tolerance is an illusion perpetuated to sell products..."

MANIFESTO: • FEBRUARY 2000

▼ THIRD ANNUAL SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ▼

GAY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

BANQUET • AWARDS CEREMONY • DANCE

FOUR \$500.00 AWARDS
PRESENTED TO
YOUTH LEADERS

AND

RECOGNITION AWARDS
PRESENTED TO
ALLIES OF GAY YOUTH
AND ORGANIZATIONS
SERVING GAY YOUTH IN
OUR COMMUNITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH 2000

DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.

DINNER 7:00 P.M.

CEREMONY 8:00 P.M.

DANCE TO FOLLOW

COCOANUT GROVE, SUN ROOM
400 BEACH STREET, SANTA CRUZ

YOUTH (23 AND UNDER) \$10.00-\$20.00*

ADULTS \$20.00-\$35.00*

(*SLIDING SCALE)

• NOMINATE •

DO YOU KNOW AN
IMPRESSIVE
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
GAY YOUTH
TO NOMINATE FOR A \$500.00
LEADERSHIP AWARD?

OR

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
NOMINATE AN INDIVIDUAL OR
AN ORGANIZATION
FOR A GAY YOUTH
ALLIES AWARD?

YOUTH MUST BE 23 OR YOUNGER
MUST BE FROM SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
NOMINATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

• 1999 AWARDEES •



1999 WINNERS CIRCLE
FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:
BRENDON CONSTANS, AILIN CONANT, SHANNON SULLIVAN.
STANDING: MELIZA BANALES, LEIGH CARSON, PAMELA SPYCHER,
SHIRLEY LOPEZ, GLENN COCHRAN, KATE KAUFMAN, VICTORIA
CAMPBELL, RAUL BONILLA, CYNTHIA DRULEY, KIPP HERMAN.
*REPRESENTING TRIANGLE SPEAKERS.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TASK FORCE
FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED, AND QUESTIONING YOUTH,
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
AND NUMEROUS OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS,
BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS.

FOR NOMINATION FORMS, TICKETS, OR INFORMATION, CALL 460-0630
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT
HERLAND BOOKS, 902 CENTER STREET, SANTA CRUZ

It's easy boys and girls... if someone offers to limit your right to marry whomever you choose, take a tip from us and ...

Just Say "No"

mark krikava

Love and War

How is Proposition 22 breathing new life into politics as usual?

We're in the news again. It must be time for an election. Like clockwork: leap year, summer Olympics, elections, and through it all there's around-the-clock coverage of "gay" this and "gay" that. Look, Melissa and Julie are on *Larry King Live*. Did you hear? CNN says that McCain thinks he has gaydar! Isn't that cute?

And like clockwork, the Religious Right has gone to its secret vault and dusted off its other Bible—The Gay Agenda, a checklist of evil calculated to bring western civilization to its knees (so to speak). The joke is that our community can't agree on anything, including how to be the fifth horseman of the apocalypse. Military service, outing, sex, politics, and of course, marriage: we haven't agreed on what we want or how we'll get there, let alone constructed a master list. Over the years, ideological differences have led us to create hundreds if not thousands of little projects, each pursuing its own goals. That's not a bad thing: we are storming the castle from all sides. But it does mean we rarely work together on big issues—like hate crimes or poverty—and sometimes we work at cross-purposes. As a result many of us eschew politics altogether. That's not all bad, either: we need artists, too. In the end, though, this approach make us less a part of a larger community and more like tenants in an imaginary ghetto, where our only common experience is dodging bullets. Along comes Proposition 22 (its gang name is "The Knight Initiative"). Six months ago it was a small-time pusher on the outskirts of the playground. It has become public enemy #1.

What is it about this diminutive and (everyone agrees) redundant piece of legislation that has captured our attention and galvanized us in the pursuit of a common goal? As with all things political, the answer may be moot.

It is not likely that we are drawn to what

Prop 22 is, a piece of legislation that adds "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" to state law. California has had a similar law on the books since the 1970s. It's hard to imagine we would spend much energy to defeat something that already exists.

The answer could simply be that Prop 22 is gay-bashing. Propaganda aside it's hard not to see that. If there was an initiative that said Only citizens of the United State are valid and recognized in California, we'd see it for what it is. Right? Okay, so maybe it's not that clear to the average voter, which may also explain why some in our community are asking what the big deal is.

Maybe it's because, if enacted, the only way to negate it will be via another ballot election or by being challenged and overturned in the courts. The legislature and the governor can't just vote and sign it out of existence, but there is a good chance the courts would overturn it. Prop 22 is a clear violation of the US Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which says (among other things) that every state is obliged to recognize the marriages performed in every other. For example, in some states it's legal to marry at 16, while in others you can't marry until you're 18—full faith and credit says both marriages are legal in every state. So if Vermont makes gay marriages "valid and recognized" in their state, the other 49 have to at least recognize those marriages, even if they don't allow them to occur in their own backyards. We could go to Vermont, get married, and California would have no choice but to offer us the same advantages, and disadvantages, of any other married couple. This is, in fact, the stated reason Prop 22 was drafted—to close that loophole. A state, however, can't override the US Constitution. So that doesn't answer the question, either. The law already exists and the courts will overturn it (which negates our need to put it on the ballot again), so why are we pouring so much energy into defeating it?

Perhaps it's because there's something more going on here than meets the eye. On



its surface, Prop 22 is just another gay-bashing, but there is a less obvious impact to its being on the ballot: it will bring conservative voters to the polls. Whether or not this was an intentional outcome is a matter of conjecture because the other side isn't talking and besides, it is the ends and not the means the No On Knight campaign has to address to win. This kind of collateral damage is evident only to seasoned politicians, so it's unlikely the average Joe or Jane has even seen it, let alone acted on it.

Whatever the reason, and most likely it's a combination of different things, we have come together. Even anti-marriage (of any kind) advocates are on board. Regardless of the outcome on March 7th, and whether we want to admit it or not, we do owe Sen. Knight and his followers a debt of gratitude. For better or worse, it is often the way in politics that we find our common ground in a common enemy, and with a revitalized "them" there is a revitalized "us." That is more than any legislation can take away.

How We'll Win

Grass roots is the politics of hearts and hands

Old fashioned grass roots politics means pressing flesh, kissing babies, and making the other guy look bad. How is that different from today's mega-campaigns? In grass roots politics,

you have to mean it: there are no second takes and no soft money to help you recover from a dip in the polls. Local campaigners knock on doors, sit at phone banks, and they always look like they were taken out of the dryer before the buzzer went off—it's a hard life. But the rewards are sweet. Ammi-ano didn't win the San Francisco mayor's race, but he upset the apple cart by pulling together a campaign in less than six weeks with not even a quarter of the money Brown was spending, and forced a run-off as a write-in candidate. That's power. A lesser man would have given up. It's a good thing grass roots campaigning is so challenging—it weeds out the weak.

One of the other ways grass roots politics is set apart is that things happen quickly. Events are planned and executed in days rather than months, volunteers come and go as frequently as soundbites, and the stars rise and fall like, well, falling stars. No sooner did the No On Knight headquarters hire Leslee Hamilton to coordinate Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County efforts than she was reassigned to the state office and someone new was hired. And anyone can be a star in grass roots politics. There are internal squabbles, of

Monterey County No On Knight Coordinator Matt Friday (right) and his partner, Bruce Carlson. Photograph by mark krikava for Manifesto.

Full Disclosure

I hate it when I read something I'm assuming is "news" (read: impartial), only to discover that the publication has some vested interest in the story. So you know: *Manifesto*: has endorsed the No On Knight campaign, we're donating a full page ad to the local effort in next month's edition, and we've volunteered to take photos for their web page. We're not impartial and we're not pretending to be. If you'd like to see an argument in favor of Prop 22, read another newspaper.

course, but achieving the common goal—with no time and no money—tends to keep people focused.

Let's not forget the surprises. Who could have imagined that the Watsonville City Council would go on record opposing Prop 22, and do it before Santa Cruz or Monterey? Not me, and I've lived in Watsonville most of my life.

One downside is that because grass roots campaigns rely on the community to act of their own volition, there isn't always a defined command structure or complete instructions on how to do something. It's easy to say "write a letter," but unless you have an idea of what you want to say, or should say, and how, even that seemingly simple task can be overwhelming. The upside is that if you have the heart and hands, you're part of the team.

All this is what makes grass roots politics so exciting: you never know what's going to happen and when it does, you're there. No velvet ropes, you're in the bull pen when the copy boy yells "stop the presses."

So how is the local No On Knight campaign shaping up? According to John Laird, one of the coordinators of the Santa Cruz County effort, it started coming together last month. "The holidays are over," he said, "and people are starting to look forward to the elections." With barely five weeks before election day, what's the final

push going to look like? "We're phone banking and there are house parties in the works," he said. Matt Friday, coordinator of the Monterey County campaign added, "The big three right now are getting out the vote, finding volunteers, and getting donations."

Local organizers are also doing some work specific to our area: Bookshop Santa Cruz is reportedly setting up a "No On Knight" display and the Monterey County effort is raising money to take out an ad in a local newspaper with a list of local endorsements, including Congressman Sam Farr and the mayor of Pacific Grove, Sandra Koffman.

According to Friday, the way we'll win is "One person at a time. By each of us telling our friends, our families, our co-workers that Proposition 22 is wrong." According to Laird, it will be the "occasional voters" who will tip the scales in one direction or another. "The majority of registered voters sat out three of the last five elections," he said.

Both leaders are optimistic about our chances. As of press time, the polls indicate that there are only a few percentage points separating the Yes and No camps (with Yes in the lead), so every vote is going to count. "Of course we can win," Laird said, "we just need to keep talking to people about the initiative." Friday agreed, stating, "and we have to vote!"

In other words, hearts and hands. 🐘

Is that it? No. There is a lot more to be said about the No On Knight campaign and the local effort, but we ran out of time. We didn't get to do an interview with Ramon Gomez—the Watsonville City Council member who reportedly spearheaded the effort to get the Council to take a No stance on 22—we haven't found out who's funding both sides of the campaign, and we didn't explore the connection between the No On 22 and the No On 21 (Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act) campaigns. We're going to try to follow up with those stories in next month's edition. March will be our "Election Spectacular" edition. We've asked all the political action committees (local and national) to submit their candidate endorsements and recommendations, and we've asked local experts to write opinion pieces on the presidential primary race, education issues, and the gay political scene in general. We invite you to write letters to the editor, as well: who are you voting for, and why?

The Battlefield

Us

Them

Generals

Mike Marshall, heads the "No On Knight" campaign.

Sen. William "Pete" Knight (R-Palmdale), drafted the initiative. Campaign is run by Protection of Marriage Committee.

Propaganda

"The Knight Initiative doesn't defend marriage. It attacks families."

"Saying Yes on 22 is saying Yes to families."

Battles Won

The Name Game: State Attorney General Bill Lockyer changed the name from "Definition of Marriage" to "Limit on Marriage;" Protection of Marriage Committee challenges in court, and loses.

The Tamale Incident: Will & Grace has to do a last-minute rewrite in an episode where a Guatemalan maid is referred to as a "tamale." Fracas draws attention away from their No On Knight PSA and Protection of Marriage Committee builds support in the Latino community.

Friendly Fire

Big name Democrats (Clinton, Gore, Bradley) keep saying they don't support gay marriage.

Pete Knight's (gay) son comes out, says dad is homophobic.

Aid and Comfort (endorsements)

Big Names:

Melissa Etheridge
Former US Surgeon General Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders

Dr. Laura Schlessinger
Former State Attorney General Dan Lungren

Who you would expect:

Lots of Democrats, civic groups, and churches

Lots of Republicans, civic groups, and churches

Who you wouldn't expect:

Watsonville City Council

Latino Chamber of Commerce of Santa Cruz County

The Republican

US Rep. Tom Campbell

The Democrat

San Diego City Councilman George Stevens

What You Can Do

Want to help defeat Proposition 22? Here are some ideas and the people to contact. If there isn't a contact listed for a specific task, contact the main office in your county (see below).

Vote Duh. The last day to register is 30 days before the election. Most Government offices have the form (DMV, city hall, etcetera).

Staff a phone You know those people who call to ask your opinion about water management? It's like that, except you're educating and (hopefully) convincing people to vote no on 22. You're not making it up as you go along—there are "scripts"—and there are other people there, so if you get stuck there's back up. In Monterey County contact the main number (below); in Santa Cruz County, Natalie Steinberg (natalias@aol.com) and

Terri Gilbert (tgilbert@sprynet.com).

Throw a party You invite your family, neighbors, coworkers, friends, etcetera, and someone from the campaign explains the initiative, signs up volunteers, solicits donations, and so on. It's the political version of a Tupperware party. In Monterey, contact Sondra Rees, 624-4242; in Santa Cruz, the main number (below).

Walk around Santa Cruz County is distributing door hangers on election day. Contact Glen Schaller at merriesc@aol.com.

Write letters You did send thank you notes to everyone who came to your wedding, right? Of course you did. Write a note about Prop 22 and send it to those people. Write letters to the editor (including *Manifesto*'s). Write to your City Council, County Board of

Supervisors, and other elected officials (ask them why they aren't on record as supporting a No vote, or thank them if they are). For help, call Lorita in Monterey, 375-8301 and in Santa Cruz, the main number.

Make it known You can download and print the No On Knight poster (free) and buy T-shirts and caps at the web site (www.NoOnKnight.org). The T-shirts are only okay, but the caps are really cool.

Make a donation Money, of course, is always welcome and much-needed. Send checks or money orders (payable to "No On Knight") to any of the addresses below. Donations are not tax deductible.

Go to a meeting Still not sure how you'd like to help? Go to one of the organizing meetings. In Monterey on

Tuesday, February 8, 7 P.M. at the Monterey Library (625 Pacific) and Tuesday, February 29, 7 P.M. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula (490 Aguajito Road in Carmel). In Santa Cruz on Tuesdays, 5:30 P.M., at the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane).

No On Knight Contacts

Monterey County: 899-2263 or write No On Knight, PO Box 135, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Santa Cruz County: 761-9652 or write No On Knight, c/o SC Gay Pride, PO Box 3358, Freedom, CA 95019

State Headquarters: 415/227-1020; (fax) 415/227-1029; or write No On Knight, 505 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; (web) www.NoOnKnight.org

We're Going to Ruin Marriage ...and Create Something Better

I don't blame straight people for trying to keep us from getting married. We're going to tear down their hallowed institution and they know it.

Well, parts of it, anyway. We'll do to marriage what we've done to other dilapidated institutions—fix it up, increase the property value, and make it a place everyone wants to live in.

If gay people move into marriage like we move into run-down, in-town neighborhoods, straight people will face all the problems created by urban gentrification. Namely, that some of them will be forced out. Urban gentrification tends to displace retirees, households with fixed incomes and families who simply can't afford the rising rents and property taxes.

The same thing will happen with marriage gentrification. There will be victims: Couples who have fixed intellectual in-

Michael Alvear has never renovated anything in his life, with the possible exception of his reputation, which is still under construction. You can reach him at mikealvear@aol.com

comes (they won't be able to afford the rising level of thinking), families who don't respect diversity and couples who buckle at the difficulty of propping up loveless marriages in the face of loving ones.

The possibility of displaced straight couples must be taken into consideration before allowing gay marriage. Where will these people go once the institution is refurbished? A cheaper part of town, no doubt, but we have to make provisions.

That's why I'm proposing that gay activists back down from their demands of full equality under the law and back a more modest approach. Namely, creating a government incentive program that slowly introduces gay marriage while softening the blow to straight couples who'll be uprooted by the beautification process.

The plan: Get rid of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) and replace it with MARGE (Marriage Gentrification Enactment). Modeled after President Clinton's "Empowerment zones," we'd identify 20 marriage-distressed communities—"MARGE zones"—and make their gay residents eligible for marriage.

These newly married gay couples would

also receive federal grants and tax-exempt bonds to finance sweeping revitalization and marriage-creation programs. This would have a dramatic effect in marriage-poor areas, which tend to have an astronomical number of divorces, unwed mothers and dateless gay men.

Part of the program would also involve a set-aside for the covenant-challenged—the straight couples who can't or won't stay in an institution where love and commitment are the only criteria for residence.

Can MARGE work? Are gay people talented and creative enough to reverse the blight and moral decay that straight people have brought to marriage? Hard to say, really. We're not exactly strangers to the blight and moral decay thing. Still, if we can make neighborhoods walkable, we can make marriages livable.

Marriage is a once-grand neighborhood in need of renovation. And who better to do it than us? You don't want a tract-housing specialist. You want somebody who's going to do with air, light, and color what Madonna did with tits, clothes, and dyes.

Across America, low-marriage neighbor-

hoods could be reclaimed by identifying them as MARGE zones. Armed with engineering studies, architectural plans and full-length make-up mirrors we could actually end up rehabilitating what thrice-married, abortion-paying, DOMA-creating congressman Bob Barr thinks we'll destroy.

Urban and marriage gentrification share the same goals—safe, well-lighted streets (though I must say the current lighting may be too harsh for the gay sensibility), more constructive behavior (marrying out of love, not out of expectation), preservation of beauty (fighting for character rather than sprawl), and a culture of service to others (children to some, three-ways to others).

MARGE is the perfect antidote to DOMA. It eases gays into the institution of marriage while providing sanctuary for straight couples displaced by the gentrification.

The only problem I see with MARGE is HOMER (Homosexual Egos in the way of Marriage Residency), a loud-mouth, self-sabotaging gay activist off-shoot sure to develop. Usually, when a good idea like MARGE, meets a bad organization like HOMER, the results are sure to suffer. 🐷

Paula Martinac

Lesbian Notions

Marriage is a Civil, not a Religious, Issue

The recent Vermont Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage is a watershed event destined to have an important impact on the future progress of lesbian and gay civil rights. What was most significant about the decision was that it stressed the economic and legal benefits of marriage and implied the need to maintain a clear distinction between the civil and religious varieties of this hotly contested institution.

In a nutshell, the Vermont justices proclaimed that "the issue before the Court ... does not turn on the religious or moral debate over intimate same-sex relationships, but rather on the statutory and constitutional basis for the exclusion of same-sex couples from the secular benefits and protections offered married couples."

That's a very important distinction to make. The United States has long struggled with the issue of separation of church and state, and the fight will undoubtedly intensify in coming years over contentious issues like abortion and school vouchers.

Too often, the government treads on thin

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books, including *The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

constitutional ice where church and state are concerned. Recently, for example, the Department of Education, with President Clinton's enthusiastic approval, began officially encouraging churches to enter into "partnerships" with public schools in an effort to build moral fiber among students and stem school violence. The potential for First Amendment lawsuits if evangelical Christian groups start attempting to convert Jewish kids is mind-boggling.

Then there's the disturbing fact that most of this year's presidential hopefuls have gone out of their way to lay out their private (Christian) religious beliefs to the public. In the Iowa debate televised in November, the Republican candidates scrambled to outdo each other in expressing their complete devotion to Jesus—as if that were somehow a qualification for high office.

Also, the *Washington Post* has reported that Al Gore admits to asking himself repeatedly, "W.W.J.D.?"—"What would Jesus do?"—a popular slogan among born-again Christians. In this particular campaign, only Bill Bradley has explicitly stated that his religious views are a private matter.

John F. Kennedy's Roman Catholicism was an issue in 1960, as was Jimmy Carter's born-again Christian faith in 1976. But in those instances, the candidates' religion came into question primarily because people feared how their spiritual beliefs might interfere

with governing the country—in other words, how they might affect the cherished principle of separation of church and state. This new brand of tell-all religious disclosure should deeply unsettle all Americans concerned with religious liberty, but gay Americans in particular should be worried about what it may portend.

The push and pull between church and state is nowhere more evident than in the debate over same-sex marriage. The objections that many people harbor against gay couples marrying are based primarily on religious beliefs. But marriage is, in fact, not just a religious institution but a civil one carrying numerous economic and legal benefits denied to same-sex couples.

And that's the problem—marriage, which is government-regulated, overlaps with religion in an inappropriate way. A government that truly rested on the principle of separation of church and state would never allow clergy to serve as civil officials at weddings. Religious unions should be purely spiritual events—as they are for gay couples now and were in many religions in the past.

While marriage may be a secular institution, the language the opponents of same-sex marriage use reveals the deep enmeshment of religion and marriage. Gary Bauer likened the Vermont decision to a terrorist act against a "sacred" institution. Gore's spokesperson reiterated the vice president's

opposition to same-sex marriage and his firm commitment to the "religious sacrament" of heterosexual marriage.

The catch is that the "sacrament" of marriage isn't in question when we talk about gay marriage rights. Religious leaders should (and will) decide whether or not to bless the unions of lesbian and gay couples.

In light of this, it seems to me that same-sex marriage faces a more serious hurdle than many people realize. The Vermont court has left to the state legislature the question of how to afford gay couples equal rights, and that body will, in all likelihood, pass a sweeping domestic partnership law that avoids the "M" word.

But even in cities like San Francisco and New York, which extend a broad system of rights to lesbian and gay couples, domestic partnership falls way short of marriage. When all is said and done, the only thing equal to marriage is marriage, which is inextricably linked in the public mind with religious beliefs. And time and again religion proves a big obstacle to civil rights.

What's the answer to the same-sex marriage dilemma? Splitting civil and religious marriage would be a good way around the problem, but it's also the least likely route. It's clear that in a country unable to completely separate government from religion, same-sex couples need to have not just the courts but the pulpits on their side. 🐷

Dale Carpenter

OutRight

Some Advice to Gay Conservatives

Like other gay conservatives, I spend a lot of time critiquing the gay left. Turnabout is fair play, so here's some advice to my gay conservative compatriots:

Come out. Years ago, when I was still substantially closeted, a straight friend observed that it's hard to change the world from a hiding place. He was right. All conscientious gay people should make coming out a top priority. But gay conservatives have an especially great obligation to do so. We know there's no gay lifestyle, no gay or "ungay" thought or idea. We must convince the rest of the world, including some gay people, of that. And we can't unless we're seen and heard.

Of course, there's some risk of rejection or career impairment in being visible. But one should be dedicated in life to something other than wealth or career. Otherwise, you may find yourself 60, rich, and empty.

Get involved. Conservatives, by disposition and ideology, are reluctant to be "activists." Unless it's got a hammer and sickle tattooed on its forehead, we tend to think it's benign or just foolish, and hence disregard it. But the truth is, if you're gay in America today you're something less than a full citizen, even if you drive a Mercedes and drink 25-year-old port. It will take work, *our* work, to change things.

Join political and civic organizations. Write to newspapers and magazines when you read something wrong or offensive. Engage the gay left and the religious right

in debate. And don't quit at the first sign of trouble or resistance.

Don't whine. Lots of my conservative gay friends say they hate going to Pride parades and other gay events because everybody there is in drag or leather thongs and tit clamps. They also lament the dominance of the left in gay organizations. They say that such people represent only a small fraction of all gays and that this distorts the picture the rest of the country gets of us.

They're right that the parades and the outlandish behavior and dress that often occur at them do not portray most gay lives, but gay conservatives are wrong to stay away. The antidote to the false impressions created by such events is not to stay home and disdainfully watch them on TV; the answer is for us to go ourselves. The answer is to ensure that at such events, and in gay organizations and media, we are present to provide a necessary corrective. We cannot blame anyone else—certainly not those on the margins of our community—for misrepresenting gay life. By our silence and our absence, we have allowed that false picture to be painted.

Tolerate difference. While we're on the subject, this is probably a good time to remind ourselves that not all gays, not even all gay conservatives, wear suits and ties and act like proper ladies and gentlemen. We should be striving to secure equality for all gays, including those who dress and behave differently from the mainstream.

We can still criticize theatrical excesses, like public nudity, and we can still condemn real moral wrongs, like pedophilia. But we will have to respect the right of others to craft their own public image. It may not be the image we would

choose for ourselves, and we will want to counter it with more representative depictions of gay life, but we must grasp that we are part of a diverse and colorful movement.

Focus on the real enemy. This I promise you: when the bullies are pummeling your bloodied body, the person standing between you and eternity will not likely be your Heritage Foundation debate partner. It will be that bull dyke with a nose ring who thinks a single-payer health-care system is really cool.

Even taking into account the stifling effect of high taxes, counterproductive social welfare programs, crime, and the encroachment of "hate speech" regulations, the most organized threat to our civil rights today comes from the religious right. A gay leftist may think you're overbearing or self-righteous, may call you names and grossly misunderstand you at times, but I've yet to hear one ask the state to lock you up under the rubric of a sodomy law. So let's try to keep our squabbles with the gay left in perspective. When you get frustrated, remember this line from an old movie: they may be rancid butter, but they're on our side of the bread.

Educate. Many, though by no means all, gay political leaders and writers have only a dim view of what gay conservatives stand for. That fact is disappointing, but it is a measure of how much work we must do. Yet the animosity and suspicion with which the gay political establishment views us is partly understandable: the only people they've ever known as "conservatives" told them they were immoral, unnatural, or worse.

We must painstakingly correct their impressions of us and fill in the large gaps in their understanding of our ideas. And we must emphasize again and again that we stand with, not against, them in the pursuit of equality for gays. 🐷

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com. For more OutRight, visit www.planetout.com.

COMING SOON

Future Editions

Here's a list of stories and events that are on our schedule to be covered. We're providing this list not just so you'll look forward to future editions, but also to encourage you to get involved and contribute directly to the paper by writing articles and commentary.

March

Elections.

- Endorsements and recommendations from political action committees
- Commentary on presidential primary candidates

Capitola Christian Conference.

- Report by Pastor Mike Wilker
- Gay Pentecostal conference in Florida

Women's History Month.

- Gay men write about their favorite lesbians

L&G Chorus Concert.

April

- April Fool's Day
- Youth Leadership Awards
- Queer Awareness Week (UCSC)
- Violence Against Women of Color Conference at UCSC

May

- A Gay Evening In May
- Community Foundation LGBT Partnership Funding Cycle

June

- Monterey and Santa Cruz Pride
- GALA Chorus Convention

July

- Spring Events Scrap Book

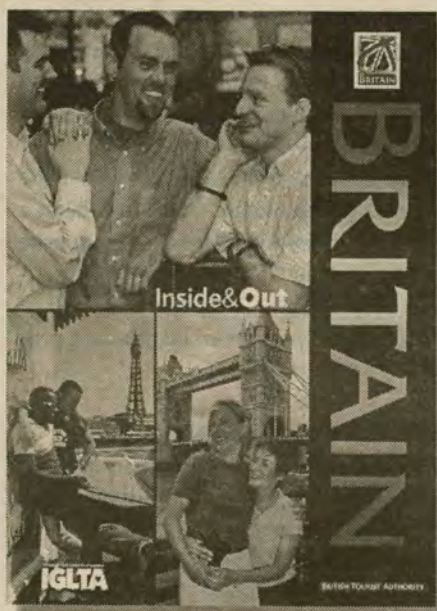
Story Ideas

- How'd Triangle Speakers Do That?
- Excerpt: "Transgender Manifesto" from *A Femme Affair*
- Person of the Year
- Out in Watsonville
- Profile on Charlie Parkhurst
- Our favorite straight people

Cool Stuff

Britannia Rules!

If you've ever wanted to visit the gay side of Britain (there's a straight side?), the British Tourist Authority has just what you need—a 28 page full-color brochure that expounds on the numerous sites (historical and otherwise) of gay interest, with a heavy dose on the arts and shopping. Manchester, London, Brighton, and Newcastle are the featured cities, with a quick side trip to Scotland, as well. There's also a handy calendar of events so you can plan to be in town for your favorite (take your pick: Scotland pride in June, London Mardi Gras in July, or the Manchester Queer Up North Arts Festival in August). Sponsored by the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association. For more information or to get a brochure of your own, call 877/857-2462 or visit their web site at www.gaybritain.org.



Pen & Ink



Rex Wockner

Boy George Casi Muere

El cantante gay Boy George casi muere el 14 de diciembre cuando una gigantesca bola espejada se le cayó encima durante un ensayo para un recital que iba a dar en la ciudad costera de Bournemouth, en Inglaterra.

El colgante, de 28 kilos de peso, golpeó a George en el hombro y le raspó la cabeza antes de hacerse pedazos contra el suelo.

Tuve que ser atendido por el impacto y por la severidad del golpe, pero continuó de todas maneras con el espectáculo esa misma noche.

"Boy George se desplomó", dijo un testigo. "Pensé que podía estar muerto. No puedo creer que la haya sacado tan barata. La verdad es que tuvo mucha, mucha, mucha suerte".

Más tarde, George dijo al periodismo que "Hubiera sido a la vez irónico y glamoroso que me liquidara una bolla brillante de 1.20 metros de alto. Pero he sobrevivido y sigo aquí, aunque la espalda me duele horrores. Me agarró la oreja, que también me duele mucho".

Discriminación En El Trabajo Para Australianas/os

El 52% de una muestra de 900 gays, lesbianas y transgéneros de Australia dijo haber vivido discriminación anti-gay en su trabajo, en una encuesta.

El estudio se titula "El techo rosa está demasiado bajo" (The Pink Ceiling Is Too Low), y fue realizado por el Centro Australiano de Investigaciones Lésbico

Gay y por el Lobby por los Derechos de Gays y Lesbianas en Nueva Gales del Sur.

"Esto muestra que las leyes antidiscriminatorias no alcanzan", dijo Kathy Sant, una de las convocantes del Lobby. "Necesitamos una campaña concertada entre los gobiernos, el movimiento sindical y los empleadores para eliminar definitivamente este tipo de conductas".

Iglesias Escocesas En Favor De Una Ley Anti-Gay

La iglesia Católica Romana, la Iglesia de Escocia y la Iglesia Libre de Escocia unieron sus fuerzas el 13 de diciembre para exhortar al gobierno a que abandone sus planes de derogar la ley anti-gay que se conoce como Sección 28.

Este estatuto británico, que ya lleva 11 años en vigencia, prohíbe a las ciudades que "promuevan la homosexualidad en forma intencional" y prohíbe enseñar "el carácter aceptable de la homosexualidad como supuesta relación familiar" en las escuelas.

"Nos preocupa que, sin esta ley, algunos docentes presenten ante los niños cosas que no consideramos sanas", dijo a Reuters el vocero católico Tom Connelly. "Nos preocupa que la remoción de esta cláusula socave la vida familiar".

La Asociación de Consejos Escolares Escocesa también quiere que la ley siga vigente.

"Lo que no quiere ver que suceda es que se obligue a los docentes a promover cualquier tipo de actividad sexual, ya sea homosexual u de otra clase", afirmó la

titular de la Asociación, Ann Hill.

Servicio De Consejería Amenazado

El Servicio Gay Lésbico de Consejería de Perth, Australia, está en quiebra y puede cerrar durante la temporada de las fiestas—una época en que se considera que aumentan los suicidios de gays y lesbianas.

John Derry, vocero del grupo Igualdad para Gays y Lesbianas, que se dedica al lobby, espera que el gobierno del estado de Australia Occidental salga al rescate.

"El gobierno tiene que hacerse responsable en alguna medida por los altos niveles de suicidio juvenil en la comunidad", afirmó Derry. "Las personas jóvenes que se sienten atraídas por alguien de mismo sexo pueden sentirse muy solas y a menudo sienten un profundo miedo de que las personas a las que más aman las vayan a rechazar si descubren cómo es su sexualidad".

El servicio se financia mediante donaciones.

Entra En Efecto Ley Sobre Censura En Internet

Una prohibición que afecta a los contenidos calificados como R y X (prohibidos para menores) en la Internet, entrará en efecto en Australia el 1 de enero.

La Ley de Enmienda de los Servicios de Radiodifusión (Servicios en línea) fue aprobada por el parlamento el 30 de junio.

A los proveedores de servicios Internet se les exigirá que detengan la entrada de materiales prohibidos en la frontera o de

lo contrario deberán abonar multas de U\$S 27.500 por día.

La Comisión Internacional por los Derechos Humanos de Lesbianas y Gays (IGLHRC) teme que los contenidos gays—sexuales y otros—sean víctimas de los poco sofisticados software para bloqueo que muy probablemente utilizarán los proveedores en un intento fútil por cumplir con la ley.

Detener clases enteras de material circulante por Internet es algo que, por supuesto, está más allá de la capacidad aun de los censores más dedicados.

La ley define como "materiales R" a los que "se ocupan de temas o contienen representaciones que requieren de una perspectiva adulta (o que) pueden resultar ofensivos para algunos sectores de la comunidad adulta". Los materiales calificados como X son aquellos que podrían ofender a una persona adulta razonable o enseñar a alguien cómo cometer un delito.

"Esta legislación invita a las agencias privadas a suprimir la expresión de identidades (culturales) dentro de un nuevo sistema de control social fundado en una caza de brujas basada en el diccionario: una caza frenética de sustantivos ofensivos, indiferente a la riqueza semántica, a las complejidades sociales y a las comunidades vivientes y contextos que esas palabras pueden representar", afirma IGLHRC. "En suma, la legislación abandona el proceso democrático al capricho, los prejuicios y las necesidades de lucro de las corporaciones".

Britain Lifts Military Gay Ban

Britain lifted its ban on gays in the military Jan. 12, implementing a Sept. 27 European Court of Human Rights ruling that the policy violated servicemembers' rights to privacy and family life.

"Homosexuality will no longer be a bar to service in Britain's armed forces," said Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon. "The law is the law. We cannot choose the decisions we implement. ... There is no longer a reason to deny homosexuals the opportunity of a career in the armed forces. ... The status quo is not an option."

Like heterosexual servicemembers, gay servicemembers will be prohibited from engaging in behavior while on duty that undermines the "efficiency or operational effectiveness" of the armed forces—such as unwanted sexual come-ons, offensive displays of affection, or taking advantage of a subordinate.

People who have been kicked out of the military for being gay are being invited to rejoin.

Gay Airline to Launch

A former British Caledonian air steward has leased four jets and will launch the world's first gay airline in April flying out of Luton and Manchester, England.

Freedom Airways 757s and 767s will

fly to North Africa, Gran Canaria, Thailand, Indonesia, Burma, New Zealand, Australia, Florida and Los Angeles.

The company's insignia will be the rainbow flag.

Founder Martin Langham, 34, said the idea came to him when he was flying to Bali and a stewardess told him to take his head off his lover's shoulder.

Church Leader Supports Gay Couplings

The head of the Scottish Episcopal (Anglican) Church, Robert Holloway, told the BBC Jan. 9 that he supports church blessings of gay couples.

"If we can bless battleships and foxhunts, why can't we bless a couple of human beings who want to be faithful to one another?" Holloway said. "Sex is the last hang-up of the church. We have been operating an ethic which is no longer appropriate to our time."

Holloway added: "I think that gay priests should be allowed to have stable relationships just like straight priests. There are a lot of gay priests, of gay Christians, it's tough for them to feel marginalized, made into some kind of moral lepers, and the Church would collapse without them."

Calgary Police Support Sex Change

Police officials in Calgary, Alberta, Can-

ada, are pleased that the department has responded favorably to an employee's decision to change from male to female.

The individual began coming to work dressed as a woman about six months ago and will undergo gender-reassignment surgery in another six months or so.

Human Resources Deputy Chief Jack Beaton told local media: "We're quite proud she stayed here and wanted to go through the transition here—that tells us the police service is on the right path. We have a positive workplace policy and this is an issue of diversity."

The transsexual, who does not want to be identified in the media, said: "It's been a fairly easy transition. [I]t seems to be the safest place to be."

The \$8,000 (US\$5,440) operation will be paid for by the provincial health-care program.

Study: Gays Are Better Dads

Gay men are better dads than straight men, says a new study by Dr. Gill Dunne of the London School of Economics.

After studying 100 gay fathers, Dunne concluded that gay men are more nurturing, caring, committed, sensitive and compassionate, more likely to maintain strong ties with kids after they split with a partner, and more likely to be on good terms with an ex-

The men who were studied had become fathers via donor insemination, adoption, fostering and previous marriages to women.

Ugandan First Lady Denounces Homosexuality

The first lady of Uganda, Janet Museveni, demonstrated Jan. 12 that she agrees with her husband's gay-bashing.

"Do not experiment these new sex fashions in town, like homosexuality and others," Mrs. Museveni advised. "Please, I warn you youth of Uganda, that it pays to stay pure sexually, respect your life and guard it well."

Last Sept. 27, President Yoweri Museveni called for the arrest of all gays for committing "abominable acts."

"I have told the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] to look for homosexuals, lock them up and charge them," he said. "Even the Holy Bible spells it out clearly that God created Adam and Eve as wife and husband, but not men to marry fellow men."

Museveni's homophobia has been denounced by the US State Department, which said, "We would view the arrest and imprisonment of persons based on their sexual orientation as a serious human rights violation, regardless of whether such arrests are sanctioned by Ugandan legislation."

Waging a Queer Jihad

Sulayman X

When I founded a web site devoted to the needs of queer Muslims I called it 'Queer Jihad,' believing the meaning would be quite self-evident. It was not. While provoking outrage in the Muslim community for using a sacred term in a profane way, it was also greeted with genuine puzzlement by many queer Muslims who didn't see the connection, or saw other meanings and shades of meanings not necessarily there—the most humorous being the image of queer folks taking up scimitars and ransacking villages.

It was a lesson about words, about what they mean, and what we think they mean, and what they do mean.

'Jihad' is a word easy to misunderstood. It does indeed mean a holy war, but only in the sense of spiritual warfare with oneself. The task of any Muslim is to wage this Jihad with one's lower, baser instincts, to struggle to do good, to be good, to live what the mouth preaches, to achieve some consistency between the inner and outer man. That's Jihad. Only in a narrow, highly technical sense does it mean a physical confrontation between disputing parties, and in that situation it can only be waged in self-defense.

The funny thing about words is that they are so often not up to the task of conveying the truth of things. Pictures can get painted with them, an idea shared, a small glimpse offered of the reality—but no more. Extreme care must be taken with them, and it must be understood that words are only symbols, a means to an end, and not an end in themselves.

I am reminded of these things each day because many Muslims believe that the proper response to homosexual activity is a whipping, a jail sentence or even death punishments that are carried out in Muslim countries by people who believe they are doing the will of God and cleansing their community of what they believe to be an unimaginable evil.

These punishments are based on words supposedly spoken by the Prophet Muhammad, words such as "homosexuals should be killed wherever you find them" or "effeminate men and masculine women should be driven from your homes."

Such sayings, known as hadith, carry great weight in Muslim circles and along with the Qur'an form the basis of Islamic law. Thus one reads of the Taleban, in Afghanistan, putting homosexuals to death by bulldozing brick walls on top of

Sulayman X is the founder of Queer Jihad, a web site devoted to the needs of queer Muslims. He lives in Asia where he works as a journalist for a major newspaper. Visit Queer Jihad at www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights/8977

them. And too, one comes across the peculiar Islamic notion that one cannot be a 'gay Muslim,' that to be gay is so contrary to Islam as to put one outside the realm of Islam altogether.

Islam bases its condemnation of homosexuals on both what the Prophet is supposed to have said, and the Qur'anic version of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah involving the prophet Lot and the destruction of Sodom (the Qur'an does not mention Gomorrah).

The story will sound familiar: two angels visit Lot and warn him that the city is about to be destroyed; the people of Sodom show up on Lot's doorstep demanding he turn over the visitors so that they might, presumably, rape or molest them; Lot refuses, chastising them for 'leaving off their natural affection for women and approaching men with lust;' the city is destroyed while Lot escapes; his wife turns to look back and is destroyed.

This story has been interpreted by Muslims as a blanket condemnation of homosexuality. But we come back to the problem of words, of what they convey, and what they are meant to convey, and of how they often fail in these tasks.

There are, in the language of the Eskimos, many words for "snow"—dozens and dozens, in fact. In English, we have one. The shades of meaning are lost to us since snow isn't much part of our daily lives, not the way it is to those who live with it day in and day out throughout most of the year.

Likewise, there are many words in certain languages for "homosexual." In English, we have perhaps three: homosexual, gay, queer, with lesbian denoting female homosexuality. We also have words for transvestite and transgendered, and not much more. But other languages like Arabic, the language of the Qur'an—have a wider variety to choose from.

An Arabic scholar would know, for example, the difference between a "gay man" and a "straight man who enjoys raping young boys." It's this latter category that many references to homosexual activity are most likely meant to condemn, not the former. Raping young boys was a favourite pastime in many cultures, and the Arabs were no different. Rape was also employed as a way to humiliate men defeated in battle.

These things were understood, once upon a time, and the words used to describe these things were also properly understood, once upon a time.

There was, for example, an Arabic word to denote men who were not "complete men"—they had no sexual attraction to women. It was customary during the time of the Prophet Muhammad for such "men" to spend time with women, to be employed as their servants. They were

not to be included in the segregation of the sexes since they were not interested sexually in women and thus posed no danger to their virtue. In fact, on one occasion, when such a young "man" began to show interest in the beauty of a certain woman, the Prophet ordered that he separate himself from women because of the uncertainty over his true sexuality.

Christians have begun to confront this problem of words and cultural understandings. Biblical research has turned up a similar fondness for raping boys and straight men in Roman culture, which St Paul rightly condemned in some of his Epistles. That those condemnations are now used to condemn homosexuality reflects ignorance of the society in which St Paul lived and not necessarily any Divine outrage over two men who love each other and want to express their love physically.

Islam has many stated values that seem to have been forgotten when it comes to the Islamic treatment of queer peoples, treatment which can involve physical punishments like whippings or jail sentences, or the more likely treatment of silencing, shaming, or shunning. The Qur'an is filled with impassioned pleas for justice, fairness, honesty, forthrightness, caring for widows and orphans and the disadvantaged, honesty in one's business dealings, paying a fair wage, creating just societies that value the contributions of each member. Men and women are equal in the eyes of Allah, the Qur'an says. And one cannot be truly Muslim until one does for his brother what he would do for himself, or so Muhammad is supposed to have said.

Do these stated values apply only to heterosexual members of the Muslim family?

One is touched, when reading the Qur'an, by the numerous times Muslims are urged to care properly for widows and orphans. Muhammad himself was an orphan, and one can safely conclude the experience coloured his life—an orphan in a society such as his could find life harsh indeed. Is it any wonder he so often demanded his followers care for the disadvantaged, the small, the fragile, that they honour one's parents and kin and family ties, that Muslims unite in one brotherhood of submission to Allah?

In tale after tale, Muhammad is depicted as a man of compassion and fairness, a man who sacrificed greatly on behalf of the poor, who lived simply and gave most of his wealth away, who was ever sensitive and attentive to all of the peoples under his care.

Where, then, does this virulent homophobia of today's Muslim come from? How does it square with Islam's stated values of justice and compassion? If the

Additional Reading

Web Sites:

Queer Jihad www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights/8977

Born Eunuchs www.well.com/~aquarius

Al-Fatiha www.al-fatiha.org

Books:

What the Bible really says about homosexuality

Daniel Helminiak

The Good Book

Peter Gomes

Anything by John Shelby Spong, an episcopal bishop

Sex, Longing and Not Belonging

Badruddin Khan

Islamic Homosexualities and Sexuality and Eroticism Among Arab Males

Muslim models his life on that of the Prophet, where is the compassion, the care for the disadvantaged, the concern for the suffering? Where are the Muslim voices of outrage at the way some of their number are treated by the ignorant and misguided? Since when has Islam become a religion where certain segments within it can be killed with impunity, can be shamed and silenced and burdened with unimaginable guilt and self-hatred?

It's a matter of words, of what they mean, of what we think they mean, of what they were meant to mean.

Muslims will say this homophobia is justified, that the destruction of Sodom indicates Allah's disgust with homosexuals, that Muhammad's injunctions to "kill them wherever you find them" should be taken seriously.

However, many Muslims—myself included—question the value and authenticity of many of the sayings attributed to Muhammad. Would this man of great spiritual stature and compassion and widely-recognised leadership skills advocate the killing of certain groups of people? Would any genuine spiritual person—Jesus, Buddha, Ghandi—advocate such killings?

It is well known that many of these sayings were fabricated for one reason or another. One of the mail compilers is said to have collected three million of such sayings, only to accept 7,000 as being valid. Further, these efforts at collecting the sayings of Muhammad were not undertaken until at least 200 years after his death. Trying to reconstruct what someone said 200 years ago is, of course, fraught with peril.

I am not alone in my questioning of these sayings. Some Muslims reject them entirely as having nothing to do with Islam, impossible to verify, and in many instances directly contradictory to the Qur'an itself. Libya's Qaddafi, for example, instituted a form of Islam based sole-

ly on the Qur'an, as have others. There is even a breakaway group within Islam which calls itself the "Religion of Submission" which rejects all these sayings entirely as being contrary to the Qur'an itself and an unnecessary addition.

The story of Sodom presents the next problem. A few things seem clear, and are generally accepted as fact by the Muslim world: the people of Sodom were either homosexual, or heterosexual men experimenting with homosexuality—"Do you leave off your natural affection for women to pursue your lust for men?" as the Qur'an asks. Homosexuals don't have a natural affection for women, so it would seem likely that something else is going on. The people of Sodom were also known to be bandits and thieves and rapists—of straight men and young boys—who did not honour the hospitality laws of their society.

Was it, then, their sexuality or their behaviour that was condemned in the Qur'an? Rapists, thieves, bandits—are these not enough reasons to arouse Divine wrath? The conclusion seems obvious, yet many otherwise pious, educated Muslims look at the story of Sodom as being nothing more than a condemnation of homosexuality, and some even assume—incredibly—that homosexuality leads to rape, theft and banditry, and that all queer folks are involved with these things.

Needless to say, experience has shown otherwise.

Will today's Islamic scholars and linguistic experts take a second look at Sodom and begin to educate the public as to what the Qur'an really says, rather than what the man on the street assumes it says? Is not an accurate understanding of the Qur'an essential to modern man?

These and more are questions and issues Muslims must face, a task to which some queer Muslims have already devoted themselves. Al-Fatiha, a group began last year and based in the US, has been at the forefront of this effort, hosting retreats and conferences and gaining attention worldwide. It's next retreat for queer Muslims is scheduled for late May in London. The group is actively searching for scholars who can speak authoritatively on the Qur'an and put to rest the controversy surrounding the story of Sodom. And although the Queer Jihad web site used to be the only site devoted to this issue, it has since been joined by others, with many more gay and lesbian Muslims and breaking their silence.

Much work needs to be done, especially among queer Muslims themselves. The unbending condemnation of homosexual activity is so ingrained that most cannot even begin to conceive of how they can remain true to Islam and yet be true to themselves, much less live an openly gay

life. Many view their homosexuality as a test from God that must be struggled with each and every day, a never-ending source of frustration and travail. All too often the only way out of this intense psychological pain is to abandon Islam—whether one wishes to do so or not.

Some would argue—as I do—that it is possible to be a good Muslim and a gay person, that there is no inherent contradiction between the two. Islam is only hurting itself when it shames and silences its gay sons and lesbian daughters, when it refuses to deal with the question of sexuality, when it relies on interpretations handed down hundreds of years ago to answer challenges posed by today's world.

Words, words and more words. Sometimes the simplest are the best, like 'love', and 'truth', and 'goodness'. To love another person, to be truthful, to be good, to turn away from deceit and dishonesty, to honour the feelings and yearnings of one's heart—how is it possible these things can be construed as evil when, of course, they are not? And how is that so many queers, Muslim and otherwise, can be rendered so uncertain?


The whole concept of 'jihad' was born from a verse in the Qur'an which gave Muslims the right to fight when their access to 'holy places'—mosques and places of prayer—was denied.


Ironically enough, queer Muslims find

their access to 'holy places' denied by often well-intentioned by mislead Muslims who shun, shame and silence them, and oftentimes drive them from homes and communities, refusing them the right to be spiritual people. In this sense, the queer Muslim has the right to declare 'jihad', to demand access to the holy places, to question mullahs and scholars who promote oppression against them and who encourage the Muslim faithful to shame and silence them. A Muslim cannot remain silent in the face of injustice, especially when that injustice involves brothers and sisters in Islam.

By the same token, queer Muslims must wage the true jihad with themselves, struggling to do good, to be good, to achieve consistency between the inner and the outer man.

We expect too much from words and easily get caught up debating endlessly the finer points of the story of Sodom and what the prophet did and did not say, all the while ignoring their own experience, their own hearts and souls and feelings and what they know to be true, deep inside, a truth that does not need words to make it valid: love is never sinful. We are what we have been made to be. Love is good, kind, healing. It is right to love one another.

Jesus, considered one of Islam's holiest prophets, had it exactly right: "God is love." 


✦ ✦ ✦
 I wish I may ✦
 ✦ ✦ ✦
 I wish I might ...
 ✦ ✦ ✦
 ✦ ✦ ✦
 ... for our very own
 ✦ ✦ ✦
 Stapler.
 Oh, and some staples.

 Manifesto: little dream 2.3


On-going support group for
Lesbians with Cancer
 free of charge
 call for information
Women CARE
Women's Cancer Advocacy, Resources & Education
 457-2273

Lawnmowers, Chainsaws, Blowers, String Trimmers, Hedgetrimmers
 Outdoor Power Equipment

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Black History Month

We discovered a web site called "Book House Cafe," an on-line book store specializing in books and videos by, for, and about the black GLBT community. We did a search for "history" and these are some of the titles that came up. For more info about Book House Cafe, check out their site at www.bookhousecafe.com.

<i>2nd Time Around</i>	<i>Gym Rats</i>	<i>No Name In The Street</i>
James Earl Hardy	Eric Saunders	James Baldwin
<i>A Burst Of Light</i>	<i>Haruko / Love Poems</i>	<i>One More River To Cross</i>
Audre Lorde	June Jordan	Keith Boykin
<i>A Queer Kind of Love</i>	<i>Here to Dare 10 Gay</i>	<i>Oral Tradition</i>
George Baxt's	<i>Black Poets</i>	Jewelle Gomez
<i>Abide With Me</i>	Assotto Saint	<i>Push</i>
E. Lynn Harris	<i>Hiding My Candy</i>	Sapphire
<i>Ain't Gonna be the</i>	Lady Chablis	<i>Respecting the Soul</i>
<i>Same Fool Twice</i>	<i>Humid Pitch</i>	Keith Boykin
April Sinclair	Cheryl Clarke	<i>Shade</i>
<i>And This Too Shall Pass</i>	<i>I Love Myself When I Am</i>	Charles Rowell &
E. Lynn Harris	<i>Laughing</i>	Bruce Morrow
<i>Banned</i>	Alice Walker	<i>Sojourner Black Gay</i>
Alice Walker	<i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>	<i>Voices in the Age of AIDS</i>
<i>B-Boy Blues</i>	James Baldwin	B. Michael Hunter
James Earl Hardy	<i>If Only For One Night</i>	<i>Speaking In Whispers</i>
<i>Black Gay Voices</i>	James Earl Hardy	Kathleen E. Morris
Other Countries	<i>If this World Were Mine</i>	<i>Spunk</i>
<i>Brother To Brother</i>	E. Lynn Harris	George C. Wolfe
Essex Hemphill	<i>In The Life</i>	<i>Tell My Horse Voodoo</i>
<i>Callaloo & Other</i>	Joseph Beam	<i>and Life in Haiti and</i>
<i>Lesbian Love Tales</i>	<i>Invisible Life</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>
LaShonda K. Barnett	E. Lynn Harris	Zora Neale Hurston
<i>Detached</i>	<i>Jonestown & other madness</i>	<i>The Angela Y. Davis</i>
Lorenzo C. Robertson	Pat Parker	<i>Reader</i>
<i>Does Your Mama Know?</i>	<i>Just As I Am</i>	Joy James
Lisa C. Moore	E. Lynn Harris	<i>The Best Man</i>
<i>Don't Explain</i>	<i>Ladies First (Revelations</i>	Dwayne Carter
Jewelle Gomez	<i>of a Strong Woman)</i>	<i>The Big Mama Stories</i>
<i>Experimental Love</i>	Queen Latifah	Shay Youngblood
Cheryl Clarke	<i>Last Rights</i>	<i>The Bull-Jean Stories</i>
<i>Face Forward</i>	Marvin K. White	Sharon Bridgforth
Julian C. R. Okwu	<i>Lettin It All Hang Out</i>	<i>The Cancer Journals</i>
<i>Forty-Three Septembers</i>	RuPaul	Audre Lorde
Jewelle Gomez	<i>Like Breathing</i>	<i>The Complete Stories</i>
<i>Fragments that Remain</i>	Ricc Rollins	Zora Neale Hurston
Steve Corbin	<i>Living As A Lesbian</i>	<i>The End Of Innocence</i>
<i>Giovanni's Room</i>	Cheryl Clarke	Alaric Wendell Blair
James Baldwin	<i>Low-Hanging Fruit</i>	<i>The Gilda Stories</i>
<i>Go Tell It On the</i>	G. B. Mann	Jewelle Gomez
<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Movement In Black</i>	<i>To Mardi Gras Wit' Love</i>
James Baldwin	Pat Parker	K. Rhydell Waston

Book Marks

Illumination and Night Glare
by Carson McCullers. University of Wisconsin Press, \$24.95 cloth

Author of *The Member of the Wedding* and other now-classic novels, McCullers left an unfinished autobiography when she died of a stroke in 1967 at the age of 50, and her estate only recently allowed the manuscript to be published. Dictated to an assistant while McCullers was bed-ridden and in pain, *Illumination and Night Glare* lacks the stunning prose that made her such a great novelist. Still, the book is a treasure for its chronicle of McCullers' early life and its hints at her bisexuality. Following her written instructions, the appendices include letters between McCullers and her husband, as well as the outline of her first

novel, originally called *The Mute* but later retitled *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.

Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts
by James M. Saslow. Viking Press, \$39.95

Art professor Saslow, who wrote an earlier book on queer life and art during the Renaissance, has now produced a sweeping, landmark study of homosexuality in art from ancient civilizations until the present. Saslow's prose style is clear and accessible, and his grasp of art history over many centuries and across numerous continents is impressive. But the main attraction of this book may very well be its 150 beautiful photographs, a fifth of which are in full color. One quibble: Saslow interweaves les-

bian visual expression with that of gay men, but the two are very different and men's historical dominance in the realm of art makes the book a little lopsided. Separate volumes on women and men may have been preferable.

Subterranean Kerouac: The Hidden Life of Jack Kerouac

by Ellis Amburn. St. Martin's Press, \$16.95 paper

Amburn, the editor of Kerouac's last two novels, *Desolation Angels* and *Vanity of Duluoz*, was also a personal friend of the author. His *Subterranean Kerouac* is an

Queer Culture

UP YOUR ASS!

Wen Minkoff

Got your attention, didn't it? But wait, it's not what you think. I didn't sneak into the bath house or steamy boy toy play party. *UP YOUR ASS* is Valerie Solanas' 1966 play, the one over which she shot Andy Warhol after he wouldn't return her only copy. The one he said he didn't have. The one that was recently discovered in his effects at the Andy Warhol Archives.

If your idea of a good time is radical lesbian satire and cultural commentary set to tunes like Aretha Franklin's *Respect*, then have I got a play for you.

Solanas, radical lesbian feminist, sex worker, and writer, is best known for her attempt on Warhol's life and her "SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men) Manifesto," so I was prepared for a not-that-funny, bitter treatise on the ills of patriarchy. What I got instead was an astute, satirical look at gender and sexual norms. Even more surprising, and ultimately depressing, was that many of Solanas' words still rang true 25 years after she wrote them.

Solana set *UP YOUR ASS* in a sidewalk café, but in this production, under Director George Coates, it becomes a karaoke bar, with Solanas' original text set to pop music such as "Blue Moon." It works, though. I swear. You'll recognize the tunes, and the words may not be pretty, but they are witty and gay.

This play is only the loosest of narratives, and its pleasure isn't in the upward ascent of an Aristotelian curve and climax, but rather in the journey. Leather-jacketed Sara Moore convincingly plays tough talking dyke Bongi Perez, whose character is based on Solanas. Comedian Karen Ripley does double duty as loser Alvin Koonz, and a doddering female teacher at the Homemakers Institute, where marriage is "fun, fun, fun!" Leanne Borghesi is excellent as Ginger, the mouthpiece for the modern doormat, uh, I mean, sexually liberated career woman. Borghesi pulls off playing Ginger as sweet and sincere, despite the sometimes raunchy lines. One of my favorite moments is Ginger's first scene, in which she runs frantically about the stage, giant chopsticks in hand,

looking for turds. (Yes, turds.) She's making dinner for two nice, successful men, and, she tells us, "men just love a woman who can lap up shit with a smile." Her song about being passed up for a promotion because she was too valuable in her present job is also a winner. Ginger's character, more than any other, brings out the contradictions inherent in the construct we call "femininity." As a gender-bending bonus, all the male parts are played by, yes, you guessed it, dykes in drag.

The theater itself is a funky, renovated space filled with artsy lesbians in black attire and the occasional, somewhat-nervous straight couple. On the night I attended, the sound system left much to be desired—I like my political commentary without acoustic distortion—but maybe that's the price you pay when you go to a cheapie \$12 preview instead of waiting for the opening.

Solanas dedicates her play to "ME—a continuous source of strength and guidance and without whose unflinching loyalty, devotion and faith this play would never have been written. Additional acknowledgements: Myself—for proofreading, editorial comment, helpful hints, criticism and suggestions and an exquisite job of typing, and I—for independent research into men, married women and other degenerates." After seeing the play, I'd say she deserves it, although whomever came up with idea for the karaoke bar mise-en scene is definitely a close second. 🐷

UP YOUR ASS premiered January 12 at George Coates Performance Works (110 McAllister in San Francisco), not far from where Solanas died of pneumonia in a Tenderloin flophouse in 1988. Performances: 8 P.M. on February 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26; March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31; April 1, 7, 8. Seating is general admission, tickets are \$16 through City Box Office, 415/392-4400. Student and group rates available. www.georgecoates.org for more information. There's a nifty press release on *UP YOUR ASS*, as well as information on other Coates productions.

Special Events

*Tentative Dates

February 2000

Tuesdays

5:30 P.M. • **Organizing** Santa Cruz County No On Knight campaign organizing meeting at the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz), 761-9652

Tuesday, 1st

7:30 - 9 A.M. • **Roundtable** gay/bi men's breakfast discussion group; subjects will include the Community Foundation's LGBT Partnership Fund; Marie Callender's Meeting Room (3400 Clares Street in Capitola [across from Trader Joe's]); no-host breakfast, \$6.95 (includes tax & tip, no one turned away for lack of funds); RSVP to Terry, 454-4774, or Chris, 818-8410

February 8th & 18th

CALL • **Orientation** required for people interested in volunteering at MCAP; in Salinas on the 8th, Seaside on the 18th; Darcie at 772-8200

Hot Ticket

Saturday, 12th

NOON - 4 P.M. • **Soup & Song** Lovin' Spoonfuls, a fund-raiser for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Buy a hand-made bowl, eat some hand-made soup, and listen to some hand-made music, all donated by local artists (see Local News). At the Pacific Cultural Center (corner of Seabright and Broadway in Santa Cruz). \$15 (more if you can afford it). For more information, call 427-3900.

Wednesday, 16th

7 P.M. • **Introduction** to the second dynamic peer counseling group for HIV-negative men (see Local News), designed to help men become more "inspired, creative, and clear" with their friends and lovers. 12-week course begins meeting Wednesday the 23rd. Andrew Purchin, 460-0241 or Dwoo@cruzio.com

Tuesday, 22nd

6 P.M. • **Film and Forum** The UCSC GLBT Network and Queers of Color (QoC) will be sponsoring a Film/Open Forum event at the GLBT Resource Center (behind Merrill College). At 6 P.M., there will be showing of the film, *Black is, black ain't...* as part of African-American History Month. Following the film at 8 P.M., there will be an open forum entitled "Intersections of Racism and Homophobia." Facilitated by members of the GLBT Network and QoC, people are invited to sit down in a safe, laid-back atmosphere and share their thoughts and feelings about homophobia, racism, and the connections between the two. It is not required to attend the film showing in order to participate in the forum. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or for directions to the GLBT Resource Center, call 459-2468.

February 25th - 27th

CALL • **Training** Santa Cruz AIDS Project Buddy Program training. Eli Salzman, 427-3900

Tuesday, 29th

7 P.M. • **Organizing** Monterey County No On Knight campaign organizing at the

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula (490 Aguajito Road in Carmel), 899-2263

March 4th

8 P.M. • **Concert** Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Santa Cruz winter concert, "Sing Out," at Loudon Nelson in Santa Cruz. Ticket info in next month's edition

March 5th

3 P.M. • **Concert** Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Santa Cruz winter concert, "Sing Out," at Loudon Nelson in Santa Cruz. Ticket info in next month's edition

March 7th & 23rd

CALL • **Orientation** required for people interested in volunteering at MCAP; in Salinas on the 7th, Seaside on the 23rd; Darcie at 772-8200 to sign up

March 26th

5:30 P.M. • **Party** 3rd Annual Santa Cruz AIDS Project Oscar Night Gala Soiree, at the Coconut Grove. Tickets are available now at SCAP. Cathy Conway, 427-3900

March 26th

5 P.M. • **Party** 9th Annual MCAP Academy Awards Benefit, at the Embassy Suites in Seaside. Tickets are \$40, available at MCAP. Maleene Osuna, 772-8204

April 14th

DETAILS TBA • **Awards** GLBT Youth Leadership Awards, at the Coconut Grove.

April 28th - 29th

DETAILS TBA • **Conference** "The Color of Violence: Violence Against Women of Color" Explore and strategize around the connections between sexual/domestic violence, racism, and colonialism in the

QTV Schedule

Saturdays at 11 p.m.

Community Access in Santa Cruz (TCI Channel 71)

*Feb. 5 • Tune in for QTV's 100th show celebration!!

Feb. 12 • "Conference for Effective Change: October 3, 1999 with GLSEN, Triangle Speakers, Speakers from the Coalition to Free Mumia, and more

Feb. 19 • Daphne Scholonski, author of "The Last Time I Wore A Dress," about gender identity disorder and how the system treated her

*Feb. 26 • Details not available at press time

*New show.

live and histories of women of color. At UCSC. Free, registration is limited.

May 19th & 20th

A Gay Evening In May?

June 3rd

Dyke March

June 4th

Santa Cruz Pride


July 14th

DETAILS TBA • **Concert** L&G Chorus Summer Concert, "A Feast for the Ears," with Equal Voices (a SF men's chorus) and the San Jose Choral Project.

October 11th

Coming Out Day

December 1st

World AIDS Day / Day Without Art 

Regular Events & Resources

Arts

Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Santa Cruz open to all, 423-4023 • Tue, 7 P.M., rehearsal, Garfield Park Christian Church (111 Erret Circle in Santa Cruz)

The Bulkhead performance art production company; PO Box 3025, Santa Cruz, CA 95063

Sappho's Lapphos lesbian improv troupe; improvisational theater & sketch comedy; 425-2678

Um...Gee...Um... comedy improv troupe; members.aol.com/umgeeum; 425-4447

Bars

Blue Lagoon dancing; 923 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz; 423-7117

Club Dakota a gay/gay friendly establishment, European ambience, dancing; 1209 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz; 454-9030

Eddie's large dance floor, DJ, pool table; 2200 North Fremont in Monterey; 375-

6116 • Sat., lesbian night

Franco's Norma Jean Restaurant and Club dancing; 10639 Merritt Street, Castroville; 633-2090 • Sat., midnight, drag show; 3rd Fri, women's night

Lighthouse Bar & Grill pool table, food, & music; 281 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey; 373-4488

Bilingües

Alianza de Jovenes Gay un lugar de apoyo y seguro para (lgbtq) y jovenes que cuestionando su sexualidad, edades de 14 a 25 años y de todos los sexos, las reuniones son en las oficinas de MCAP (12 E. Gabilan Street) • 1st & 3rd jueves, llame

Apoyo para Mujeres en Crisis intervención en crisis, apoyo, advocación y consejería para las mujeres que han experimentado la violencia doméstica, asalto sexual, o dependencia química. Este programa ofrece alojamiento a las mujeres abusadas y sus niños. Ofrece un Orden Temporaria de

Restricción, asistencia y acompañamiento a la corte. Las 24 horas todos los días de la semana; 429-1478

Arcoiris grupo social y de apoyo para hombres Latinos en Watsonville (gay, bisexuales, transgéneros y los que están cuestionando su sexualidad), martes de por medio, 763-3431 • Every other Tue., 7 - 9:30 P.M., llame

Centro de Salud para Mujeres organización sin fines de lucro, provee servicios médicos de salud y educación para todas las mujeres. Se cobra según los ingresos, se acepta MediCal, MediCare, y seguros de salud privados. Servicios de pediatría, menopausia, exámenes de los senos, acupuntura, y consejería de nutrición; 250 Locust St., Santa Cruz; 427-3500

Clínica Salud Para La Gente organización sin fines de lucro, provee servicios médicos de salud y educación para toda la familia. Se cobra según los ingresos, se acepta MediCal, sccho, MediCare, y seguros de salud privados, ofrecemos un plan de pagos. Pruebas del VIH/SIDA gratis. 204 E. Beach Street, Watsonville; 728-0222

Cuidado de la Mujer servicios de advo-

cación sobre el cancer para la mujer, recursos y educación, 761-3973

Defensa de Mujeres provee intervención en crisis, apoyo, advocación, y consejería para las personas sobrevivientes de una violación sexual, violencia doméstica; provee alojamiento confidencial para las mujeres abusadas y sus niños. Ofrece una Orden Temporaria de Restricción, asistencia y acompañamiento a la corte. Las 24 horas todos los días de la semana; 685-3737

El Hospicio es un proyecto de cuidado para personas en la etapa final, provee servicios en los hogares, y una variedad de apoyo y consejería de grupo para personas dolientes; 688-7684

El Ministerio Juan XXIII del SIDA provee apoyo de fé y espiritual para todos, apoyando emocionalmente, oportunidades de vivienda para las personas, y sus familiares viviendo con el VIH/SIDA en el condado de Monterey. El domicilio es 1098 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey. Tel. 655-1737

Franco's Norma Jean Restaurante y Club de Baile, los sábados espectáculo travesti; 10639 Merritt St. Castroville; 633-2090 • Todos los sábados por la noche, Baile y

Espectáculo Travesti; Viernes 21, La Noche de Las Damas

Gay and Proud grupo social y de apoyo para varones y mujeres en edad de la escuela secundaria, cada jueves de por medio en Watsonville, 761-6131 ó 763-3431 • Jueves 11 & 25, llama

Hombre a Hombre ofrece una variedad de programas y eventos, sobre sexo-seguro organiza fiestas calientes y sanas sobre el sexo-seguro, educación para hombres gay; Cristian, 772-8203

Información sobre las pruebas del VIH Santa Cruz, 454-4014

Intercambio de Gujas llame por la hora y el tiempo de intercambio

- Monterey, 759-1794
- Santa Cruz, 427-4557
- Watsonville, 425-3023

LLEGO the national Latina/o lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender organization; 1612 K St., NW Ste. 500, Washington, DC 20006; www.llego.org; (f) 202/466-8530; 202/466-8240

Línea para los Jóvenes en Crisis ayuda y consejería para los adolescentes y su familia, conflictos emocionales, problemas de drogas, alcohol, abuso físico o sexual, negligencia (incluye los jóvenes escapados del hogar). Las 24 horas todos los días de la semana; 425-0771

Manifiesto: el periódico no-heterosexual de la Bahía de Monterey; PO Box 2701, Watsonville, CA 95076-2701; (f) 761-0130; (e) NonHetPapr@aol.com

Prevención del Suicidio consejería confidencial e intervención en emergencias para las personas de la comunidad en peligro de cometer daño personal. Las 24 horas todos los días de la semana; 458-5300

Bisexual

Women's Bisexual Network of Santa Cruz and the Greater Monterey Bay Area social / support group that welcomes any bi, bi-curious, or bi-friendly women to various activities / discussions; 427-4556

Campus

All in the Family CSUMB student group. We're getting more information

GL Straight Education Network bringing together all people concerned with ending anti-gay bias in schools; Cece, 425-5226 or Pam, 460-1142

Gay/Straight Student Alliances in alphabetical order by high school

- Aptos; info coming soon
- Everett Alvarez; John Williamson-Page and Marla Netzer
- Harbor; Ron Indra
- North Salinas; info coming soon
- Santa Cruz; Noreen Winkler or Gail Levine
- Soquel; Mark Knapp
- Watsonville; info coming soon

Pajaro Valley Lesbian Gay Straight Task Force 761-6082

Santa Cruz City Schools GLB Student & Families Task Force Cece Pinheiro, 429-3476, or Maryanne Tong, 429-3305

UCSC GLBT Resource Center open to the public Mon. - Fri. Info & resources, art shows, lending library, videos, calendar,

groups, etcetera. Located behind Crown and Merrill Colleges; 459-2468

Centers

Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center 938 The Alameda, San Jose; 408/293-2429

Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Community Center (The Diversity Center) social and support groups, drop-in space, lending library, housing & job resources, events and activities calendar; 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz; www.sclgbtcc.org; 425-5422 • 1st Mon, 7 P.M., Board Meeting, call for location; Wed, 7 P.M., women's discussion group; Thu, 7:30 P.M., men's discussion group; Fri, 6:30 P.M., movie night; June, Santa Cruz Pride Parade & Celebration

Deaf

Community Advisory Group of the Deaf AIDS Center deafaids@aol.com

Deaf Gay Lesbian Center 150 Eureka, San Francisco, CA 94114; 415 / 255-0700 (TDD); 24-hour 415 / 255-9944 (TDD)

Deaf Queer Resource Center www.deafqueer.org

Deaf Queer Santa Cruz open to all deaf and hearing-impaired people and their friends • 3rd Fri, 7 P.M., Caffé Pergolesi in Santa Cruz

Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf PO Box 641511, San Francisco, CA 94164-1511

San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf PO Box 90035, San Jose, CA 95109-3035

Events

A Gay Evening In May annual talent show / fund-raiser; 457-6822

Pride Monterey County annual celebration; 177 Webster St., #A3833; Monterey, CA 93940

Santa Cruz Pride annual parade and celebration; PO Box 3358, Freedom, CA 95019; 761-9652

Family

Friends and Family of People with HIV/AIDS support group, 427-3900 • 1st & 3rd Tue, 6 - 7:30 P.M., SCAP

GLBT Parents & LB Mom's and their Children groups Walnut Avenue Women's Center, 303 Walnut in Santa Cruz; 426-3062 • 1st Sun., 1 P.M., GLBT Parents and their Kids group; 3rd Sun., 1 P.M., Lesbian and Bi Mom's and their Kids group

Lesbian Insemination Support Group 423-2258 • 1st Wed

Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) a support organization for parents, relatives, and friends of gays, as well as for gay people seeking better family relationships, also maintains a speakers bureau • 1st Tue, 7 P.M., Santa Cruz, 662-4780; 4th Tue, 7 P.M., Monterey, 655-FLAG

Prospective Queer Parents peer support for LGBT people interested in child-raising and parenting to meet new friends and potential parenting partners; 457-8065

HIV-NEGATIVE GAY MEN



Discussion Group for Negative Gay and Bisexual Men



One 2-hour meeting per week beginning March 2000
Meeting in Seaside
(Call for details and location)



Ten-week group facilitated by Robin Keeler, MSW. Discussions on sex, dating, relationships, emotions, etcetera. Sponsored by Monterey County AIDS Project's Man-2-Man Program. Twelve openings; please call to reserve a space. For more information call Craig Wenzl at ...

772-8202

Thank You!

The volunteer staff of Manifesto: would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far with our \$5,000 challenge grant project.

We're closer than ever, just \$84 away from our first thousand.

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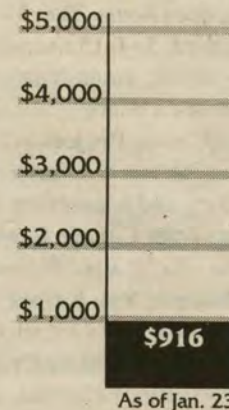
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Watsonville, CA 95077-2701

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Future editions of DTWOF are available for underwriting. Call Mark at 761-3176.

Health & Safety

Drop-in Center condoms, coffee, and conversation: 412 Front Street (across from the Metro Station); 457-1163 • Mon, NOON - 4 P.M., open hours; Tue, 3 - 6:15 P.M., HIV testing; Wed, 3 - 6:15 P.M., HIV testing; Thu, 12:30 - 4 P.M., youth hours; Fri, 1:30 - 5 P.M., women's hours

Hospice Caring Project provides hospice homecare services, a variety of grief support groups and counseling; 688-7684

Lesbians with Cancer Group 457-2273 • 2nd Thu., 10:30 A.M., WomenCARE

Matsubayashi Ryu Karate unchain your inner warrior, open to all genders, free, Loudon Nelson in Santa Cruz; 425-2249 • Tue, 7 P.M.; Thu, 7 P.M.; Sat, 10 A.M., morning workout

National Coalition Building Institute a non-profit leadership training organization that works to eliminate prejudice and intergroup conflict

- Monterey County, 177 Webster St. #A370, Monterey, CA 93940; 373-4606
- Santa Cruz County, PO Box 757, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0757; 465-9048

Needle Exchange

- Monterey, 759-1794
- Santa Cruz, 427-4557
- Watsonville, 425-3023

Salud Para La Gente health clinic; 204 E. Beach Street, Watsonville; 728-0222

Suicide Prevention confidential peer support counseling and emergency intervention for community members in danger of harming themselves. 24 hours, every day; 458-5300

Wo/Men's Alliance For Medical Marijuana 423-5413

WomenCARE women's cancer advocacy, resources, and education, 457-2273; Spanish (v) 761-3973

HIV/AIDS

Client Advisory Council helping inform the HIV-positive community of Santa Cruz County, 427-3900 • 4th Wed, 6:30 P.M., open grievance forum at SCAP

Community Advisory Group of the Deaf AIDS Center deafaids@aol.com

Friends and Family of People with HIV/AIDS support group, 427-3900 • 1st & 3rd Tue, 6 - 7:30 P.M., SCAP

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Discussion

Group David Beckstein, 427-3900 • Thu, 7 P.M.

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Group support / social group for men of all ages; starting in March 2000 in Monterey, Salinas in spring; free; Craig at 772-8202

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Support Group opens every 12 weeks in Santa Cruz; Andrew at 460-0241 • Wed

HIV Testing Hot Line

- Santa Cruz, 454-4014

HIV-positive AA 423-8914 • Wed, 6:30 P.M., Sienna House (Holy Cross) in SC

John XXIII AIDS Ministry provides multi-faith/spiritual, and emotional support, housing opportunities to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Monterey County; 1098 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey; 655-1737

Monterey County AIDS Project Salinas, 12 E. Gabilan, 772-8200; Seaside, 780 Hamilton, 394-4747; www.mcap.org

Positive Press bimonthly newsletter by and for Santa Cruz County's HIV-positive community; c/o SCAP, PO Box 557, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Potluck for HIV+ Gay Men in Santa Cruz, 427-3900 • 3rd Thu

Santa Cruz AIDS Project 75 Walnut Ave.; 427-3900

Transformations for Living HIV+ substance abuse / depression group; David Beckstein, 479-4465 • Mon

Women's HIV/AIDS Group Lauren Crux, 497-3300 • Fri., 1 - 2:30 P.M.

Legal & Political

American Civil Liberties Union PO Box 2528, Santa Cruz, CA 95061; 426-5433

Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee gay, lesbian, bisexual civil rights political action committee; San Jose, 408/486-9049; Santa Cruz / Monterey, ?

GL Straight Education Network bringing together all people concerned with ending anti-gay bias in schools; Cece, 425-5226 or Pam, 460-1142

Log Cabin Republicans political action committee of the Republican Party; National office, 202/347-5306; Silicon Valley Chapter, Shane, 510/226-1701

National Stonewall Democratic Federation PO Box 77165, Washington, DC 20013-7165; 202/783-8670

No On Knight campaign to prevent passage of Proposition 22, aka "the Knight

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

Four Star Fugitive
With Ethan's & boyfriend Etienne.

Etienne knew he couldn't hideout at the little hotel on Lake Como for long. But erotic nights with the innkeeper & creative days perfecting his consomme, made leaving difficult.

Come UPSTAIRS
SHALL I LET INTERPOL KNOW HOW LONG YOU'LL BE STAYING?
Not Now. I'm Perfecting My Consomme
Be RIGHT UP..

Using the cash he kept stashed in her wallsafe, Etie kissed Marta (and Mahoud the Consierge) farewell, and left for the train station.

He made his way to Paris slowly, switching trains regularly to avoid detection, & indulging in the pleasures of provincial stations whenever the spirit moved him.

Welcome To Trevoux.
THANKS.

Back in Montreal, Leeza has taken over Etienne's. She and her smart new lover Claudia have revised the menu & accounting procedures. They're making a bundle.

And Gaston, Etienne's "connection" is in big trouble with the higher-ups for not offing Etienne when he had the chance. He vows to track the chef down & finish him off for good, possibly with a duck press.

BRAIN OF A DUCK
AH WILL PUT EEM IN THEES DUCK PRESSE AND SQUEEZE HAHHA
NOT AN AWARD WINNING SENSE OF HUMOR

At the moment, however, it's a lovely day, and Etienne has arrived undetected. He decides to enjoy a glass of wine in the Marais...

Orner@BELLATLANTIC.NET

To Be CONTINUED, 1-15-'00

Future editions of Ethan Green are available for underwriting. Call Mark at 761-3176.

Initiative," in March 2000

- State Headquarters, 505 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105; 415/227-1020; (fax) 415/227-1029
- Monterey County, PO Box 135, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, 899-2263 • Tue, Feb. 8, 7 P.M., Monterey Library (625 Pacific); Tue, Feb. 29, 7 P.M., Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula (490 Aguajito Road in Carmel); primary party on March 7.
- Santa Cruz County, 761-9652 • Tue, 5:30 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

The Pro-life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians 202 / 223-6697

Men's

- Arcoiris** Latino adult men's group in Watsonville; 763-3431
- Bowling** for gay/bi men of all ages, \$2.90 per person per game, free shoe rental • Fri, 6 - 8 P.M., Surf Bowl (115 Cliff Street in Santa Cruz)
- Equinox** support for queer, gay, and bi men under 30; 755 Cedar in Santa Cruz; 457-1441 • Tue, 6:30 P.M., Proud Voices, discussion group for queer youth under 25; Thu, 6-8 P.M., free anonymous HIV testing for all gay/bi men, free pizza and lube; 8 P.M., Young Men's Café, discussion group for gay / bi men under 30; Fri, 6 - 8 P.M., bowling, for gay/bi men of all ages, \$2.90 per person per game, free shoe rental, Surf Bowl (115 Cliff Street in Santa Cruz); 8 P.M., Queer Youth Movie Night, for youth of all genders and their friends—free pizza and popcorn
- Gay Men Living Positively** Dale at 427-3900 • Mon
- Gay Men Living Sober (AA)** 475-5782 • Mon, 8 P.M., Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Soquel

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Discussion Group David Beckstein, 427-3900 • Thu, 7 P.M.

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Group support / social group for men of all ages; starting in March 2000 in Monterey, Salinas in spring; free; Craig at 772-8202

HIV-negative Gay/Bi Men's Support Group opens every 12 weeks in Santa Cruz; Andrew at 460-0241 • Wed

Man 2 Man offering a variety of sex-positive programs and events, sponsor of gay movie nights, Gay Teen Alliance, gay men's outreach and education in Monterey County; www.mcap.org/m2m; Craig, 772-8202

Men's Discussion Group 425-5422 • Thu, 7:30 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Potluck for HIV-positive Gay Men in Santa Cruz, 427-3900 • 3rd Thu

Radical Faeries monthly heart circle in Santa Cruz; 335-5861 • 3rd Sun, 6 P.M.

Santa Cruz Organization Uniting Transmen open to anyone interested in exploring ftm issues, partners and supporters welcome; 429-5663 • 4th Mon, 7 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Young Men's Café discussion group for gay / bi men under 30, 457-1441 • Thu, 8 P.M., Equinox (755 Cedar in Santa Cruz)

National

National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum 1612 K St., NW, Ste. 500, Washington, DC 20006; nblglf@nblglf.org; www.nblglf.org; (f) 202/483-4790; 202/483-6786

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force working to eliminate prejudice, violence, and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people at the local, state,

and national level

- Closest Chapter: 175 Stockton Ave., San Jose, CA 95126; 408/236-3300

- National Office: 1700 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20009; www.nglf.org; 202/332-6483

!OutProud! the national coalition for gay, lesbian & bisexual youth; 369 Third Street, Ste. B-362, San Rafael, CA 94901-3581; info@outproud.org; www.outproud.org

On-line

BookHouseCafe.com on line book store specializing in books and videos by, for, and about the black GLBT community; www.bookhousecafe.com

CompuQueer web page with links to local gay web sites; www.compuqueer.com

Electric Café local gay-owned bulletin board service (BBS); 425-JAVA

Lesbians I Could Know a net list for lesbians in Monterey and the surrounding area; to subscribe send e-mail to FemTopGrrl@aol.com

Monterey's Gay Web Site www.mbay.net/~wes/monterey/

Santa Cruz GLBT ListServ electronic mailing list for announcements maintained by the LGBTCC; to subscribe, send an e-mail message to majordomo@planetx.org with the following in the body (not the subject): subscribe sc-lgbtcc <your e-mail address>

Santa Cruz Mountain Women An e-mail list for lesbians who live in the Santa Cruz mountains. To subscribe, go to www.queernet.org/lists/scmtwmn.html

SpeakOut the electronic newsletter of Monterey County; to join the mailing list or submit announcements contact mfanbdc@redshift.com

Uppity Women Magazine online feminist/queer-friendly 'zine; www.labyris.com; send submissions to editor@labyris.com

Other

Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey County raises money for non-profit organizations; 899-1350

Professional

Gays & Lesbians In Business Claire Moore, 335-7756

Peninsula Professional Network a social group for professional men and women; 659-2446 • 2nd Wed, 7 P.M.

Publications

La Gazette feminist monthly; 426-7828

Lavender Reader queer quarterly; 423-7287 or 423-8044

Manifesto: the monthly non-heterosexual newspaper of the Monterey Bay; PO Box 2701, Watsonville, CA 95077-2701; (f) 761-0130; (e) NonHetPap@aol.com

Positive Press bimonthly newsletter by and for Santa Cruz County's HIV-positive community; c/o SCAP, PO Box 557, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Radio & TV

Closet Free Radio music & news • Mon, 7 P.M., KZSC 88.1FM

Outright Radio nationally syndicated radio show produced in Santa Cruz; KUSP 88.9FM; 476-2800

QTV / Queer Youth TV queer television, 425-5226 or 335-5081 • Sat., 11 P.M., Santa Cruz Public Access Cable channel 71 (TC1)

Radio Q / Talk of the Bay interviews for the lgbt and women's community with host Daniella Wolfe • Mon, 6:30 P.M., KUSP 88.9FM

Talkin' Shit with Sista Snatch Hip hop, spoken word, queer-core, queer news & issues, anti-racist activism, interviews; 427-

Bluenotes

Love is in the Ground

Happy Groundhog Day! I like the idea of a cute rodent letting us know when spring will come. It's much better than that other holiday in February, you know the one where love-struck couples celebrate the execution of a bishop who refused Claudius II's edict forbidding marriage. While in prison the bishop fell in love with the jailer's blind daughter and miraculously restored her sight before his execution. His farewell note to her was signed, "From Your Valentine." From this we get the holiday that makes Hallmark, FTD and See's Candy millions. Rodent? Execution? Rodent? Execution? I'll take the rodent, thank you.

I also like Groundhog Day because in many ways it signifies the end of the holiday season. I'm always pleased with myself when I survive another year of festivities. There's nothing like a rodent poking its head out of a hole to signify the end of a long, strange party.

Cadillac Hope Marie Prestley lives in Santa Cruz and is auntie to Face, Leese, Kate, Ella, and now Zackary Weston Cramer.

Christmas was great, spent with the family, as usual. Tame and relaxing. The Devil's holiday was the opposite. Sure he spent time with his family but was neither tame, or relaxed. In the end, the tally was two on-duty cab drivers, one bartender, and numerous other Vegas locals. I'm telling you, keeping track of her is harder than holding onto a greased pig.

Speaking of greased pigs, I found my new favorite website, Turkish Greased Wrestling, called Kirkpinar. Basically, big burly men get oiled up on a field and wrestle (I kid you not!). You can check them out at www.ne.jp/asahi/bayside/yokohama/index.html. I've decided to give up my career as a civil servant and become an oil girl.

I digress. New Year's was a hoot. Everyone, it seems, was praying for Armageddon. It didn't happen, I lived to tell, and what a story it is.

It started with a cocktail party at Jeremy and Joel's house. It was fabulous, and probably the most innocent event I went to all weekend, even though Stanley showed up wearing just panty hoes and I was trying to make it with this hot married daddy. Prue pinched me, I woke from my fantasy, and

we were off to the next affair. The Devil and I went to the Dakota to toast the end with the wonderful staff there. We had reservations to end the year gastronomically right at Pearl Alley Bistro. The staff was dressed in French cabaret get-ups, with Steve looking extra hunky and Sierra looking extra busty. It's amazing what a couple rolls of toilet paper can do. Then we headed to the Blue Lagoon to ring in the New Year with Prue. It's a good thing the kiss at midnight doesn't mean any thing because the daddy who stuck his tongue down my throat could have gotten me hot and bothered if it did.

The rest of the weekend is a little hazy, but I woke up on the first—still in my same New Year's outfit—and started cooking for our New Year's Day bash, now deemed appropriately The Hangover Party. People dropped by for fried chicken, catfish, greens, black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, corn bread, the works. I don't know what time everyone finally left (one couple was still here on Sunday at two o'clock in the afternoon), as I had passed out on the couch, only to be awakened at one point by a naked woman mistaking me for a big comfy bed.

See why groundhogs make a logical end to the story?

Sunday, we decided to brunch at Pearl. Mind you, at this point I haven't bathed or even changed my clothes since 1999 and

wasn't especially hungry, but decided I could use a cocktail. Rich, the brunch chef, once complained that I never write about him in this column. Part of the reason is that if I started talking about him, I would have trouble stopping—he is so gosh-darn cute. There's a line in *The Mambo Kings*, "If she cooks as good as she looks, I'd lick her plate." Rich, I'll lick your plate any time. Your cooking is *that* good. And your looking is that good, too. After brunch, and cocktails with Melissa at Dakota, Cadillac is drunk again. (Was I ever sober?)

I ended up at the Blue, making eyes at this hot daddy who eventually invited me to the back of the bar for a hot make-out session. Things got a little too hot and we ended up in the Honeymoon suite. An hour later, I stumbled out a changed woman. Literally, it turns out, as in our struggle to untangle and get our clothes back on, I put my blouse on backwards. Thanks, Joey, for pointing that out. I met up with Prue at the Asti, then finally went home and passed out. It's no wonder that after relating this story to my friend, Gloria, she sent me the address for Betty Ford.

I lived, but I think a groundhog and a nuclear holocaust would have been less painful.

Love me if not yourself,
Caddi 🐹

4523; request line 427-3772 • Thu., 10 P.M., Free Radio Santa Cruz 96.3FM

Recovery

Gay & Lesbian AA 373-3713 • Sat., 10:30 A.M., St. Angela's, room 6, 9th Street in Pacific Grove

Gay Men Living Sober (AA) 475-5782 • Mon, 8 P.M., Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Soquel

Gay-friendly Step Study (AA) Tue, 8 P.M., Loudon Nelson in Santa Cruz

Gay/Bi Al-Anon 476-6698 • Tue, 8 P.M., Congregational Church in Soquel

GLBT AA 373-3713 • Thu., 8 P.M., call for location (Pacific Grove)

Grateful and Gay (Gay & Lesbian AA) • Thu., 8 P.M., Loudon Nelson

HIV-positive AA 423-8914 • Wed, 6:30 P.M., Sienna House (Holy Cross) in Santa Cruz

Lesbian AA 476-6698 • Sun., 7 P.M., Calvary, Episcopal Church in Santa Cruz

Social

Bridge Billy DeFrank GL Center in San Jose; 408/293-2429 • Tue, 6 P.M., lessons, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M., play (duplicate)

FATTYS (Fat And Tired of Taking Your Shit) & Allies a fat-positive social, support, and activist group for self-described fat folks and allies; straight friendly; 425-3966

Gay Community Alliance social and activity group open to GLBT people age 18 and up; 772-8202 • 1st Wed, 6 – 7 P.M., MCAP, 780 Hamilton in Seaside

Gay Movie Night MCAP offices in Seaside 772-8202 • 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 P.M., 780

Hamilton Ave. in Seaside

GL Book Club 3rd Wed, 7 P.M., Borders in Sand City

Morgan's Coffee & Tea weekly mixer; 498 Washington Street, Monterey • Mon, 7 P.M., gay & lesbian night

Movie Night 425-5422 • Fri, 6:30 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Over (and Under) Forty Potluck open to all ages and genders; Ray, 475-2306 • 2nd Fri., 7 P.M.

Peninsula Professional Network a social group for professional men and women; 659-2446 • 2nd Wed, 7 P.M.

Speakers Bureaus

Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) a support organization for parents, relatives, and friends of gays, as well as for gay people seeking better family relationships, also maintains a speakers bureau • 1st Tue, 7 P.M., Santa Cruz, 662-4780; 4th Tue, 7 P.M., Monterey, 655-FLAG

Triangle Speakers a Santa Cruz County gay, lesbian, bisexual education project; 425-3227 • 2nd Mon, 7 P.M., Board/Business meeting at Loudon Nelson in Santa Cruz

Spirituality

Evangelical Network a network of evangelical churches, ministries, and individuals to unite gay/lesbian Evangelical Christians together for fellowship and support; 415/979-4200

Grace Inclusive Church a Christian congregation for all people; 475-1463 • Wed, get together; Sat, 6:30 P.M., services at Loud-

en Nelson Center in Santa Cruz

Grace United Methodist Church Reconciling Congregation Program member, welcoming all persons, an accepting, joy-filled Christian community seeking spiritual growth and working toward social justice; 425-1770 • Sun., 10:30 A.M., 1024 Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz

Holy Cross Outreach Ministry Catholic GLBT discussion group; 423-8914 • 1st Sun., 7 P.M., Holy Cross High School, Room 108

Integrity (Episcopalian) services throughout the Central Coast, call for days, times, and locations, 484-2326

Lavender Road Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) 459-8442 • Sun, 10 A.M., services at the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) silent worship • Sun., 10 A.M., Georgiana Bruce Kirby School, 117 Union Street (upstairs) in Santa Cruz

Trinity Presbyterian Church 420 Melrose Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062; 423-8995

Twice Blessed (Jewish) Temple Beth-El Community Center in Aptos; 479-3444

Unitarian Universalist Church in Aptos, 684-0506; and Carmel, 624-7404 • Sun, 9:30 & 11 A.M., 490 Aguajito Rd. in Carmel; 10 A.M., 6401 Freedom Blvd. in Aptos

Vipassana (Buddhist) silent meditation & informal talks; Mary Orr at 688-3958 • Tue, NOON, Santa Cruz Zen Center (115 School Street); Thu, 7 P.M., First United Methodist's Fellowship Hall (250 California in Santa Cruz)

Sports & Recreation

Bowling for gay/bi men of all ages, \$2.90

per person per game, free shoe rental • Fri, 6 – 8 P.M., Surf Bowl (115 Cliff Street in Santa Cruz)

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans enjoying outdoor adventures and camaraderie on the Peninsula, in the South Bay, and along the coast from Santa Cruz to Monterey; 408/450-0402 to request a complimentary newsletter

Gay Volley Ball Tue, 6 P.M., Carmel Beach

Santa Cruz Squares GLBT square dance club; nominal class fee (no one turned away for lack of funds); Scott at 427-2646 • Mon, 7 P.M., First United Methodist Church in Capitola

Surf City Sirens women's rugby, come play this fun, full-contact sport, no experience necessary, open to women of all ages and orientations; call for practice locations; 427-0825 • Tue, 7 – 9 P.M.; Thu, 7 – 9 P.M.

Support

Gay & Lesbian National Hotline Mon. – Fri. 6 P.M. – 10 P.M., Sat. NOON – 5 P.M.; all times are Eastern Standard; 888/843-4564

Resource Center for Nonviolence and The New Society Bookstore 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; 423-1626

Transgendered

Santa Cruz Organization Uniting Transmen open to anyone interested in exploring ftm issues, partners and supporters welcome; 429-5663 • 4th Mon, 7 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Women's

Body Image Task Force 425-7379

Astrology

2000: The Chinese Year of the Metal Dragon

Hold on, folks, because this February a partial lunar eclipse will usher in the Chinese Year of the Metal Dragon, promising a year of startling challenges and daring achievements. Look out, however, that you don't overestimate your potential as things may not always be as stable as they appear. In other words, don't go throwing caution to the wind by gambling everything on a long shot. This is the year to make it or break it, so look twice before taking the plunge and then come back up with your scales glittering and spitting fire. If nothing else, it's going to be a year of surprises and all of it will come in tumultuous waves. The air becomes electrified and tempers will flare as people struggle to break the false securities of ages past. The Rabbit has run back into its hole and the Dragon is on the loose.

Aries. In the words of the immortal Betty Davis, "Buckle your seat belts, it's going to be a bumpy evening." The Dragon will intensify your Arian drive and you'll come

alive in ways you haven't experienced for quite some time. This new surge of vitality is sure to ruffle some feathers, so be gentle.

Taurus. Think you can manage the Dragon? If anyone can, I think you stand the best chance. Before you jump into anything, make sure you have the stamina to carry your plans to completion. Money won't matter as much as following your heart, so make sure whatever you do will bring you true happiness.

Gemini. We all know that you don't purposely want to mislead anyone, so cultivate a little bit of introspection this year. The Dragon may take you from one endeavor to another, and leave you with nothing at the end. Pace yourself in the months to come and you may get somewhere.

Cancer. This may be a very trying time for you. The Dragon energy may put you on edge and send you ducking into your shell for safety. If you try to ignore the upsets, they will mount and you may find yourself exploding like a volcano. Look for imagi-

native new solutions rather than avoiding the call.

Leo. I think you are going to find it will be a fun-filled year for you. The Dragon will intensify your love for life and urge to enjoy yourself. Don't overdo it and you should make out well. Love will prosper this year if you can learn to express your deeper feelings and develop a sense of empathy.

Virgo. Don't wait for everything to cloud over before acting this year. Considering that the Dragon intensifies the qualities of the signs, your tendencies towards mental scrutiny and absolute perfection may become a little too fastidious even for yourself. Once you know what you want, the road become easier.

Libra. What's glowing over there in that dark corner? Oh my, it's you. I heard that the energy of the Dragon shines best through the autumn signs, but I never realized that it bestowed such clarity or sense of purpose. Your true elegance and diplomacy will have a chance to come alive this year, so work it well.

Scorpio. Don't make it too hard for us to love you this year. You may be a little extra touchy with the Dragon breathing fire on you, so don't go picking fights when the tension rises. You can put the stinger away and still keep your independence, but you also need to define the role you are playing

here on earth.

Sagittarius. My sources tell me this is going to be your year. Enthusiasm will run high and you'll find yourself in the wildest and most unimaginable adventures. You'll want to try everything new that you come across and will quickly sort out the flesh from the fluff. An essential talent if you ask me.

Capricorn. I hear you and the Dragon are old friends, and that you bow to one another in submission. It's a master/slave thing, but the roles aren't really clear here. What is certain, however, is that you will reach your goals by whatever means necessary this year. Look me up when you dump the Dragon.

Aquarius. When will you ever get over yourself? Not this year, that's for sure. The Dragon comes to you as a pet to walk on a leash, to flaunt to the world and to elevate you to loftier goals. You will find yourself handling your problems with particular ease, but try and be realistic in your approaches.

Pisces. I would have thought that the Dragon would come to you as a frightful and demonic figure, not as a cute, soft, cuddly little lizard. It's going to be an all-or-nothing kind of year, full and rewarding. Others will find you a little more charming than usual, more understanding and a great deal more seductive. 🐉

Defensa de Mujeres provides bicultural crises intervention, support, advocacy, and counseling for survivors of rape and domestic violence; operates a confidential shelter for battered women and their children, and offers Temporary Restraining Order assistance and court accompaniment. 24 hours, every day; 685-3737

Drop-in Center condoms, coffee, and conversation: 412 Front Street (across from the Metro Station); 457-1163 • Fri., 1:30 – 5 P.M., women's hours

Eddie's large dance floor, DJ, pool table; 2200 North Fremont in Monterey; 375-6116 • Sat., Lesbian night

Garden Variety Dykes monthly gathering for women who love to garden; Kelsey, 425-8052 or Geri, 426-9685 • 2nd Sun.

Lesbian AA 476-6698 • Sun., 7 P.M., Calvary Episcopal Church in Santa Cruz

Lesbian Alliance of the Monterey Peninsula social / support organization w/newsletter; 644-8384 • 2nd Tue, 7 P.M., 245 Foam Street, Suite 220, in Monterey

Lesbian and Bi Women's Group Jennifer at 772-8206 • 1st Wed, 7 P.M., MCAP office in Salinas

Lesbian Insemination Support Group 423-2258 • 1st Wed

Lesbians with Cancer Group 457-2273 • 2nd & 4th Thu., 10:30 A.M., WomenCARE

Open Door Group for women who have experienced abuse in their lives; free child care provided; 335-3371

Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women free women's self-defense classes; 420-6298

Santa Cruz Mountain Women An e-mail list for lesbians who live in the Santa Cruz mountains. To subscribe, go to

www.queernet.org/lists/scmtwmn.html

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center non-profit provider of medical and health education services for all women. Sliding scale fees, MediCal, Medicare, and insurance accepted. Primary care for women, pediatrics, menopause consults, breast cancer early detection, acupuncture, and nutritional counseling. 250 Locust St., Santa Cruz; 427-3500

Sexual Harassment Support Group Walnut Ave. Women's Center; 426-3062

Slightly Older Lesbians potluck, games, and discussion; 429-9668 • 1st Fri.

Surf City Sirens women's rugby, come play this fun, full-contact sport, no experience necessary, open to women of all ages and orientations; call for practice locations; 427-0825 • Tue, 7 – 9 P.M.; Thu, 7 – 9 P.M.

Women's Bisexual Network of Santa Cruz and the Greater Monterey Bay Area social / support group that welcomes any bi, bi-curious, or bi-friendly women to various activities / discussions; 427-4556

Women's Crisis Support crises intervention, support, advocacy, and counseling for women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, or chemical dependency, operates a confidential shelter for battered women and their children, and offers Temporary Restraining Order Assistance and court accompaniment. 24 hours, every day; 429-1478

Women's Discussion Group 425-5422 • Wed, 7 P.M., the Diversity Center (1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz)

Women's HIV/AIDS Group Lauren Crux, 497-3300 • Fri., 1 – 2:30 P.M.

WomenCARE women's cancer advoca-

cy, resources, and education, 457-2273; Spanish (v) 761-3973

Youth

Drop-in Center condoms, coffee, and conversation: 412 Front Street (across from the Metro Station); 457-1163 • Thu., 12:30 – 4 P.M., youth hours

Equinox support for queer, gay, and bi men under 30; 755 Cedar in Santa Cruz; 457-1441 • Tue, 6:30 P.M., Proud Voices, discussion group for queer youth under 25; Thu, 6 – 8 P.M., free anonymous HIV testing for all gay/bi men, free pizza and lube; 8 P.M., Young Men's Café, discussion group for gay / bi men under 30; Fri, 6 – 8 P.M., bowling, for gay/bi men of all ages, \$2.90 per person per game, free shoe rental, Surf Bowl (115 Cliff Street in Santa Cruz); 8 P.M., Queer Youth Movie Night, for youth of all genders and their friends—free pizza and popcorn

Gay and Proud co-gender youth group (high school age) in Watsonville; 763-3431 • every other Thu

Gay Teen Alliance a safe and supportive place for glbt and questioning youth ages 14 – 25, all genders, to meet and socialize; 772-8203 or 393-3457 (24-hour info) • 2nd, 4th, & 5th Fri, 7 P.M., meeting, call for location (Monterey); 2nd & 4th Tue, 7 – 10 P.M., movie night, call for location (Salinas, bilingual); 1st & 3rd Thu, 7 P.M., meeting in Salinas (12 E. Gabilan, bilingual)

Gay/Straight Student Alliances in alphabetical order by high school

- Aptos; info coming soon
- Everett Alvarez; John Williamson-Page and Marla Netzer
- Harbor; Ron Indra

- North Salinas; info coming soon
- Santa Cruz; Noreen Winkler or Gail Levine
- Soquel; Mark Knapp
- Watsonville; info coming soon

GLBT Youth Task Force serving youth of Santa Cruz County; Terilynn Miller-Pennisi, tpennisi@natsci.ucsc.edu, 479-9627, or Stuart Rosenstein, 425-3362, srosenstein@hotmail.com • Every other 3rd Mon (2000: Mar. 20, May 15, Jul. 17, Sep. 18, Nov. 20), 3:30 – 5 A.M., organizing meeting, Aptos Public Library

!OutProud! the national coalition for gay, lesbian & bisexual youth; 369 Third Street, Ste. B-362, San Rafael, CA 94901-3581; info@outproud.org; www.outproud.org

Proud Voices discussion group for queer youth under 25, 457-1441 • Tue, 6:30 P.M., Equinox (755 Cedar in Santa Cruz)

Q&A Project peer education and outreach program for youth. Outreach, workshops, and social events; 454-4826

Queer Youth Movie Night for youth of all genders and their friends—free pizza and popcorn, 457-1441 • Fri, 8 P.M., Equinox (755 Cedar in Santa Cruz)

Queer Youth Television part of QTV, apprenticing young people in television production; 476-5933 or 335-5081

Young Men's Café discussion group for gay / bi men under 30, 457-1441 • Thu, 8 P.M., Equinox (755 Cedar in Santa Cruz)

Youth Services Crises Line help and counseling for teens (including runaways) with family conflicts, emotional, personal, or drug and or alcohol problems, and neglect, abuse and or molestation. 24 hours, every day; 425-0771 🐉

Our Community Offers Diverse Support for Couples

An essential feature for building better relationships is outside assistance. One valuable informal resource for gay and lesbian couples is friends, and many of us count on friends to help us with relationship difficulties. Although friends may only hear one side of the story, they can offer valuable guidance. Keep in mind, however, that friends tend to side with you, often attempting to protect you from harm. Friends may not understand the complexity of what's going on and why, for example, you may wish to continue a relationship with someone who has not treated you well in the past.

Families of origin may not understand the complexities and differences in our relationships, but they can be a helpful resource. For both family and friends, however, be sure to tell them the good attributes of your partner. If they only hear about the bad stuff, you may create a wedge between them and your spouse.

There are a variety of self-help and fa-

cilitated groups available for same-sex couples. Relationship workshops can be very helpful; most couples find that the themes of their relationship challenges are universal. Understanding this as well as discovering what works for other couples can be very helpful. And if you grew up in an alcoholic or highly dysfunctional family often you may find help in 12-step groups such as Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA), Alanon and other support groups.

There are many books which offer direction, and it's often a matter of finding ones that relate to your situation. Harville Hendrix' "Getting the Love you Want," Betty Berzon's "The Intimacy Dance," and Rik Isensee's "Love Between Men: Enhancing Intimacy" are good books on the subject. While there is only lesbian/gay magazine devoted solely to lesbian and gay couples ("Hero"), there are often articles in various magazines and newspapers which apply to same-gender couples.

Several websites offer a vast array of resources for lesbian and gay couples. The Partner's Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples can be located at

www.buddybuddy.com, and the task force offers information and support for same-gender couples. The Couples National Network, which has many local chapters, can be located at www.couples-national.org. More sites can be obtained by doing a search, and some search engines devoted to lesbians and gay men, such as I.Q., located at www.studio8prod.com/iq/.

Seeing a therapist can be helpful to resolve problems and enhance communication. There are agencies and individual mental health practitioners which provide this service. While many couples wait until it is too late before seeking counseling, most couples enter therapy during a particular crisis, but continue going to a counselor to discuss other relationship issues. Further, if both partners go into couples counseling for relationship difficulties, there's a better chance of staying together than if only one person gets counseling.

In order to strengthen your relationship, you can hire a lawyer to draft powers of attorney, wills, and other contracts. There are some municipalities where couples can register their partnerships and obtain rights which approach heterosexu-

al married couples.

A new resource for lesbian and gay male couples is mediation services. In New York, the Lesbian and Gay Mediation Service was established in 1990 to assist same-sex couples. The service offers trained mediators to deal with couple grievances in order to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution.

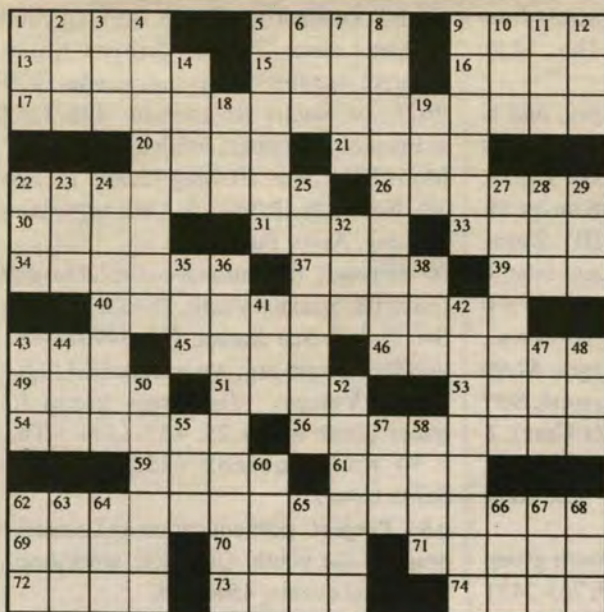
Another recent addition to community resources for lesbian and gay couples is pre-marital counseling. Several therapists and places of worship offer counseling for couples who are interested in marriage. Finding a counselor or clergy-person for pre-commitment counseling or to enhance an already good relationship is an effective, resource.

With the growing number of resources available for lesbian and gay couples, could it be that until legal marriage is possible that the seeds are being sown for a single mentoring, mediation, and registration resource for same-gender couples? While there are several places where same-sex couples can turn for assistance, the lesbian and gay community will hopefully continue to discover new ways to support our relationships. 🐾

Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is an author and psychotherapist in Los Angeles. He can be reached at Cheson@AOL.com

Puzzle

"A Couple of Real Fruits"



ACROSS

1. Came to rest
5. Surface wound, after a few days
9. He comes between Tom and Harry
13. Part of S.O.B.
15. Eke ___ living (barely scrape by)
16. Mozart's ___ *kleine Nachtmusik*
17. Fruity Mississippi River rafter?
20. Jodie Foster's alma mater

21. Gal pal, in Paris
22. Fruity drummer in David Letterman's band?
26. Cochise or Geronimo
30. 5th-century pope known as "the Great"
31. Metallic sound
33. New Mexico art colony
34. Clara Blandick's role in *The Wizard of Oz*
37. ___ cost (free)
39. ___ *Misérables*
40. Fruity "Buffalo

43. Stance" singer?
43. Zadora in *Hairspray*
45. Margarine
46. Monicagate figure's family
49. They depend on their masters
51. Office part-timer
53. Exam for high-school jrs.
54. They're here... get used to it!
56. Fruity foster mother of Sweet'Pea?
59. *Schindler's List* star Neeson
61. ___ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
62. Fruity ex-Harlem Globetrotter?
69. Food for 49-Across
70. Inter ___ (among other things)
71. Francis Bacon work
72. Hart Crane work
73. Holler
74. "Are you ___?" (common response to "Mom, Dad, I'm gay")

DOWN

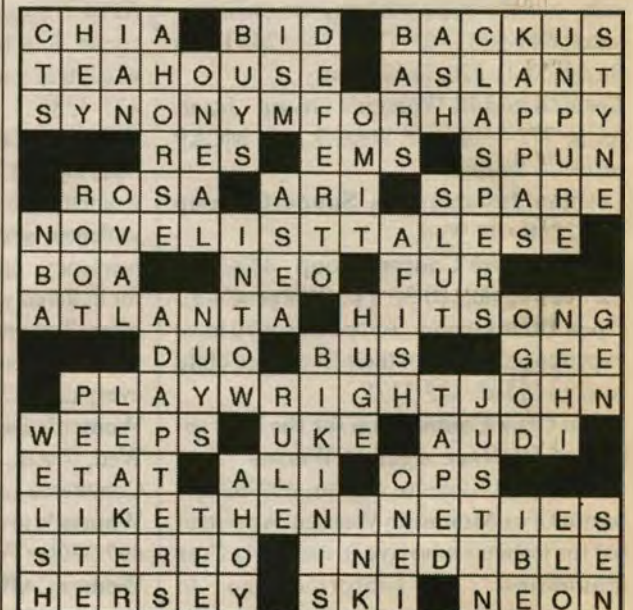
1. Bonfire remnant
2. *Solstice* composer Harrison
3. Gay Men's Health Crisis, ___

4. Frequenter of the gay bars "Fuji" and "Dragon"
5. Amen
6. Hustler's stick
7. Big name in razors
8. Attractive one in a nightclub?
9. Beat the pants off of
10. Three, on some clocks
11. *Larry King Live* broadcaster
12. He's a real doll
14. Dessert of egg custard topped with caramel
18. Fairy's cousin
19. Puppy's squeak
22. Chicken ___ king
23. New, in Nuremberg
24. Capacity of a merchant ship
25. *Rent* inspiring composer Puccini
27. Jacques Cousteau went down in it
28. Gardener's long tool
29. Un-PC suffix with steward
32. To the ___ degree
35. Brian who collaborated with Bowie
36. Disappears like the Wicked Witch of the West
38. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby

41. ___ *Haw*
42. Quality of a yellow banana
43. ASAP
44. Debt memo
47. What a 44-Down giver promises to do
48. Letters on Mark McGwire's cap
50. Hardly ever
52. "Lesbians," "gays," or "bisexuals"
55. ___ de Janeiro
57. Type
58. "You Don't Know

- Me" singer Jerry
60. Ms., in Marseilles
62. Where to find Fire Island and Provincetown
63. "Can't Get It Out of My Head" rock gp.
64. Homo's ancestor
65. Feel crummy
66. East Lansing college, for short
67. Water sports accessory
68. *Bill* __, *The Science Guy*

Last Month's Solution



The Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Community Center

1328 Commerce Ln.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: 831/425.5422
Fax: 831/425.0763
email: info@sclgbtcc.org
Web: http://www.sclgbtcc.org

Groups

New...

Queer Games Games, games, and more games. Every Sunday starting at 3 P.M., Paul Pratt, hosts "Queer Games" at The Diversity Center. Paul is an avid game player and collector. Each week he brings a selection of different and entertaining games from the past and present, but don't be shy about bringing your own. As always soda and goodies will be provided by the Center.

Fem. Film Every Saturday at 3 P.M. our own Loraina hosts lesbian films. These films focus on lesbian life and issues. The group is mixed and everyone is welcome.

Men's Games Beginning Thursday March 2nd, the Men's Group will start a series called Process Games. It is a fun and lively way of getting to know yourself and others. Many of the games focus on self-improvement and life enrichment. We will begin with "Looking For Mr. Right" (exploring the reasons "why I don't have a boyfriend"). Included in this are: finding the boyfriend within and finding the boyfriend without.

Starting Thursday March 16th, we will begin a Sexual Awareness Workshop. This workshop helps heighten awareness of your own sexuality, and deals directly with sexual patterns, identity, and object choice.

In the following months we will cover many other topics, including Defining Life Goals, Values Clarification, Ceremonial Design, Theater Games, and much more.

Our own Tom Larson will be guiding us through these games. He has a great deal of experience with them and has taught them to many groups including groups of therapists. Tom has also worked for sexual therapy programs and

counseled transsexuals. Not least of all, Tom was in musical theater for 45 years, plus has been on Broadway and participated in many theater awareness workshops.

And We are in the process of forming two new groups; a transgender group and a coming-out group. They will be meeting on alternating Tuesdays starting in late March. If you have interest in either please call the Center at 425-5422.

Ongoing...

Movie Night Every Friday is movie night. Most often the films are queer relevant, but we mix it up. There's always lots of popcorn and goodies to share, but seating can be limited so come early. The fun starts at at 7 P.M.

Men's Group The men's group meets every Thursday at 7:30 P.M. The group does whatever takes their fancy. One week might be discussion and the next a movie. Or, if someone has a problem, we discuss it. As with all groups at the Diversity Center, it is supportive and confidential.

Women's Group The women's group is our fastest growing and best-attended event. Every week the participants decide what they are going to do. Sometimes it is a discussion; other times a film. Recently everyone colored mendhalas as they talked. After the meeting, most of the women go as a group to the local bar for drinks and dancing.

Meet Our Volunteers

Mardi Brown, LGBTCC Bookkeeper

She was raised in Hollywood and moved to Santa Cruz in 1979 to have a slower lifestyle and better quality air. Once here she began a love affair with the area that is still alive. Today she saw that this was where the redwoods meet the sea, she knew that this was where she wanted to live. Mardi worked at UCSC for 14 years until they offered an early retirement package that she couldn't say no to. Since her retirement she has enjoyed traveling with her partner, volunteer work, walking on the beach with her dogs (Amelia & Eleanor) and breakfasting with her friends in Capitola Village.

The Diversity Center



LGBTCC Board members getting together to put a fresh coat of paint on the Diversity Center. Front row; Mardi Brown (left), Lorena Orzco; back row, left to right; Steve Everman, Paul Pratt, Denny Carroll, Bob Correa. Photo by Mardi Brown.

Mardi was one of the original Board members for The Center and has been active somewhere in the organization ever since. She has served in many positions and for the past 5 years has been the bookkeeper for The Center. She has a strong belief that the presence of an LGBT center in our community adds strength to our voices.

Mardi's partner of 14 years, Carole Weidner, died of cancer in May after a short illness. Since then life has changed for her. She has been healing with the help of her friends and family and has recently become a volunteer for the Native Animal Rescue here in Santa Cruz. She is committed to working for choice for herself and her community.

Note: Mardi has been at the Center's side since its inception in 1989. We are lucky to have her and we appreciate all that she does to keep things going!

Website

Okay, by now you may be sick of hearing about it, but if you haven't checked out www.sclgbtcc.org, stop reading and start surfing! We have been working very hard on compiling a list of resources that truly represents the entire queer community in Santa Cruz County, and beyond! The site debuted January 1, 2000 (we knew the world wouldn't end).

If you or your organization has events on our Calendar or listings in our Resources areas that need changes, additions, or corrections, fax them to the Center, e-mail them to info@sclgbtcc.org, or call Denny at 426-6253 and tell him.

Proud Crowd

Financial contributions were made to the LGBTCC during the month of January by:

...

Alan Segal & Jerry Solomon
Ann Klint
Carter Wilson & Tom Pistole
Eli & Kaleo
Kate Kaufman & Kellie Allyn
Lavendar Road MCC
Lou Waters
Mardi Brown
Merrie Schaller & Natalie Steinberg
Mischa Adams
Paul Pratt & Stephen Everman
Rahne Alexander
Sharon Hoyenga & Laura Clark
Sherwood Dudley
Shirley Lopez
Terri Gilbert
Terry Hart
Todd Bowser

Financial Report

December 1999

Operating Income

Board Business, Communications,
Fund-raising, Membership,
Programs & Services, Transfers
\$2,302.00

Operating Expenses

Board Business, Communications,
Fund-raising, Membership,
Program & Services, Transfers
\$1,249.01

Gain for the Month \$1,052.99

Funds Available \$2,693.08

*Trust Account Balances

(May Not Be Used for Operation of the Center)

Fund-raising
Entertainment Books \$0.00
Pride \$1,459.56
Grant '98 - 99 \$44.77
Over/Under 40's \$83.91
Programs & Services
Men's Self-defense \$285.50
Youth Awards \$3,143.38

* All Manifesto: funds have been transferred to Manifesto.

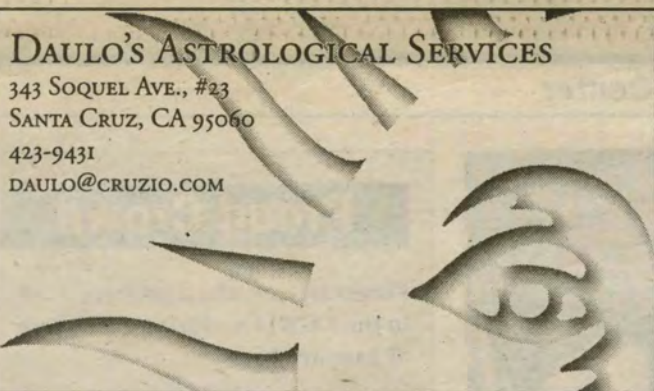
Detailed Financial Statement is Posted at the Center or Available Upon Request

Schedule of Ongoing Meetings and Special Events at the Diversity Center

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 - 5 P.M. Open Hours	2 - 5 P.M. Open Hours	NOON - 4 P.M. Open Hours	2 - 5 P.M. Open Hours	3 - 9 P.M. Open Hours	3 - 6 P.M. Open Hours	2 - 5 P.M. Open Hours
	5:30 - 7 P.M. No On Knight Meeting	7 - 9 P.M. Women's Discussion Group	7:30 - 9 P.M. Men's Discussion Group	6:30 - 9 P.M. Movie Night	3 P.M. Lesbian Films	10 A.M. - NOON MCC 3 - 5 P.M. Games afternoon

DAULO'S ASTROLOGICAL SERVICES

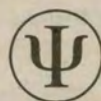
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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
423-9431
DAULO@CRUZIO.COM



LGBTCC
PO Box 8280
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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Jerry Solomon, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
PSY 7825

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(831) 425-8785
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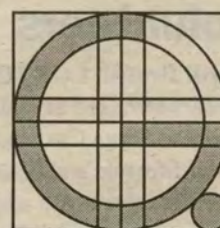


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Sliding Scale

<http://members.cruzio.com/~dwoo>

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