WE’RE HERE, WE’RE (BLANK) GET USED TO IT!

EDITOR’S SPACE

POINT OF VIEW

Welcome to the first issue of "The Paper. "As you read this publication, you might wonder how it came to be. This column will attempt to answer that question and others.

This column will be used in future issues to address concerns and issues that affect the populations that we seek to represent as well as those who might have a different point of view. It is my hope that as “The Paper” grows, so will all of our communities. This paper was developed through a Monterey County AIDS Project Education and Prevention grant from the State Office of AIDS. Working in conjunction with the Monterey County Health Department, and Planned Parenthood, MCAP formed a “Collaborative." The Collaborative then met to plan out how the parties would apply for the State Office of AIDS money. Each member was allowed to say how they planned to reach certain target populations with education and prevention messages. MCAP’s Focus areas included Men Who Have Sex With Men and Substance Users. "The Paper" represents what is termed “a supportive community environment in which HIV risk reduction is clearly and regularly promoted.

So what is a supportive community environment and how does that provide for the prevention of, and education about, HIV? How does this fit into the different communities that comprise the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gender communities that this paper seeks to serve? Many of us who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans-gender have experienced a society that is for the most part not supportive. Many of us sought out others like ourselves in places where society would “allow” us to be. Often those places were bars or baths or other venues where, with the use of alcohol or drugs, we could act on the urges that we were not allowed to have in public. Our families often shunned us or totally rejected us. Our friends would disappear when they found out. All of these societal influences combined to make many of us feel that we did not deserve a chance for happiness. Many of us succumbed to that lowering of self-esteem. With everyone telling us that our innermost feelings are “sinful” or “wrong”, is it any wonder that we don’t always

MISSION STATEMENT

To inform and give voice to the concerns of lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and trans-gender groups and individuals of Monterey County in order to contribute to the growth, stability and cohesiveness of that community to the benefit of all its members.

EDITORIAL POLICY

In order to represent the various interests of our readers, we invite submissions of articles, interviews, reviews, announcements, business and personal advertisements, literature (e.g., poetry and short stories), commentary and letters to the editor. Limitations on the length or word count for submissions will vary by department.

We therefore reserve the right to edit for the sake of clarity and brevity. There is no payment or other remuneration for submissions at this time. Copyright privileges revert to the author(s) upon publication.

If for any reason, a contributor prefers to use a pseudonym or otherwise retain anonymity, we will honor that request. And, while the opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the staff or Monterey County AIDS Project, we also reserve the right to refuse to publish materials that do not meet standards, but may not be limited to, the exclusion of libelous or slanderous remarks, or remarks intended to bring racism or rancorous abuse and prejudice to bear upon another.

In keeping with good conscience, and the spirit of both state and federal law, this paper does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnic group, religious affiliation, or physical challenge.

Advertising and subscriber lists, if developed, will not be offered for sale or use beyond the delivery of this paper and it’s associated procedures.

This is our first edition, and inevitably includes some errors in spelling, style, grammar etc. Please bear with us while we strive to improve.

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AIDS Concern is a non-governmental organization (NGO) providing AIDS education and support services in Hong Kong. This report from one of its volunteer members summarizes the organization’s struggle to involve local Hong Kong Chinese in the fight against AIDS in their community.

AIDS Concern began in 1990, as a project of a predominantly expatriate charity dealing with the care of the terminally ill. One year later if broke away from the parent group to become its own full-fledged AIDS community group. But right from the beginning AIDS Concern was dogged by the Gweilo [foreigner]-group image; we were perceived locally as an organization that was run by and for non-Chinese. This perception mirrored the misconception at large in society that AIDS was only got by and from foreigners.

Although our services have always been used by local Chinese people, it is easy to see how the Gweilo-group label started. The founding members were all Caucasians or Western-born or educated Chinese. Many of them couldn’t speak a word of Cantonese. Moreover the very idea of voluntary work was seen as being un-Chinese. But despite this, when we began our telephone information and counseling service on World AIDS Day 1990 we had sufficient Cantonese-speaking members to be able to offer a bilingual service, even if somewhat erratically.

From the beginning the aim was to be a “community group. "AIDS Concern was Hong Kong’s first NGO dealing with AIDS and we wanted to involve the community in the provision of AIDS education and support services. Back in 1990, only 150 people had been tested HIV-positive at government clinics and the general public didn’t seem aware or concerned about the disease. People knew enough to know that AIDS was linked with sex and that was enough to make it a taboo subject. AIDS was seen as something to disassociate oneself from, both culturally and individually. This might explain why the first community response was not primarily a local initiative. Furthermore, although men having sex with men were on record as the
Editor’s Space…continued from page 1

listen to messages about how to protect ourselves? Is it any wonder that I hear statements such as “I don’t use condoms because I’m going to get it anyway”? That is why we need a supportive community environment.

In this issue you will see a diverse collection of thought by and for all of our communities. (I use communities since there are many diverse views that make up the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gender populations.) It is the dream of all of those who have worked on this paper to represent all of those populations. It is my personal hope that all will participate. If we are ever to have our dreams and hopes realized, it will be by accepting what society has not yet accepted, our cultural diversity.

We can no longer survive with the attitude that says “you can be gay or lesbian only if you look like, talk like, think like, or act like me.” We must CELEBRATE our diversity.

To all those who contributed articles, or gave their time, sweat, blood and tears to make this happen, you have my heartfelt thanks. To those who are about to read this I would say the following: Let us know how this paper affected you. How can we make it better? Please send your comments, articles, or opinions. We cannot print political endorsements. We can print your input, so let us know. Above all we want you to be part of the solutions to our communities’ problems and our successes. Be part of that “supportive community environment.”

THE PAPER ▼ STAFF

James D. Barrett       Bill Twyford
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Notes from Abroad
Hong Kong...continued from page 1

largest transmission group, “homosexuality” was still illegal; and Hong Kong’s first gay group, the 10% Club, was an underground organization. It is hardly surprising then that the first AIDS volunteer group was not a gay initiative.

This did not mean that one of the most important challenges in the early days was how to recruit local Chinese volunteers. It was a difficult product to sell; not only are you asking people to work for no money (in Hong Kong of all places!), you are asking them to associate themselves with a socially unacceptable cause — something which not many people like to do even if you pay them for it. To begin with there weren’t many takers. Volunteers came and went and we seemed to have a hard time meeting the demands placed on our services since most of these demands came from local non-English speaking people.

But things have been changing very quickly over the last few years; the exponential increase in HIV infections has been matched by an exponential growth in awareness. Voluntary work is gaining credibility (especially amongst the young) and homosexuality has been “decriminalized.” Consequently AIDS Concern is now over 80% local Chinese and we have a much larger contingent of local gay men on board. Our Helpline, Education and Buddy Services are fully bi-lingual and we rarely get a call in English on the Helpline now. We also have three full-time paid staff, all of whom are local. As a result of these internal changes we are now planning to implement a new education strategy targeted at specific groups in the community, one of which will be gay men. It has to be said that this is long overdue. Up to now Gay men in Hong Kong have received very little AIDS education. We hope that AIDS Concern is able to redress this state of affairs.

If you have information or suggestions for future “Notes from Abroad,” please contact Bill Twyford at 649-6041 or 372-5071.
A couple of weeks ago, while attending a meeting for the creation of this newspaper, the issue of Bisexuality came to the forefront for me, and I haven’t been the same since. We were discussing the eventual renaming of “The Paper.” We agreed unanimously that the new name should not detract from the fact that “The Paper” should address issues pertaining to all members of the non-heterosexual community. The Committee had decided during the previous meeting, to list the identified groups of this community in alphabetical order, so that no order of preference should be implied. “Bisexual” came first, followed by “Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender.”

Suddenly, this arrangement didn’t sit well with me. I argued that “lesbian” should be listed first, as lesbians were generally less well-represented than gay men. “Well,” came the reply, “by that logic, ‘Transgender’ should come first.” I felt flushed. What I was about to say was not going to be P. C. “The Paper” I argued, “is first and foremost for the homosexual community.” Not verbalized was my next thought. “Bisexuals have the rest of the world—I think they should be included, but they’ve got it easier than the rest of us.” If any priority of representation were to be implied, I wouldn’t have minded “Bisexual” in the last place, preceded by “Transgender.” I ranted for awhile, “Something’s wrong with what I’m saying, and I’m feeling kind of sick about it.” “It’s OK,” said the Committee, “We don’t really care about this issue the way you do. Have the order any old way you want it.” Great. I was feeling amorphous guilt, and they weren’t helping me out of it.

That night at home, I mulled over the problem. I’d made an assumption about bisexuality, and dismissed transgendered peoples qualities to her. But my careless action at the newspaper meeting, based on my assumption of privilege, discounted her place of importance in “my community.”

She talked of her five-year relationship with a woman. She talked about a lover who tried to force her to identify as a “lesbian” as a condition of their relationship. She complied, because she wanted so much to be accepted. She told me about a woman who had said that “if all the bisexuals weren’t around, there would be no AIDS cases among lesbians.” She talked about her family’s coolness towards her sexual identity, and about the fact that her main emotional sustenance came from gays, lesbians, and the other “out” bisexuals (when she could find any). That is to say, my friend identifies with the “not-straight” community as a whole. Listening to her, any belief of privilege left my mind. How difficult to be on the margins of acceptance in both the straight and the “not-straight” world.

I used to believe that a bisexual person who was experiencing harassment from the straight community for having a same-sex partner, could simply get another partner of the opposite sex, and say, “See, everything’s OK now.” If that were not the case, it would be easy to say that Bisexuality equals privilege. But what if the person were in love? This person goes both ways. To an “out” bisexual, the pressure to go the “right” way of those both ways can be even more intense. There’s more hope for eventual “reform.” and this person has less chance for his/her homosexuality to be accepted, than an avowed lesbian or gay would. Ditto for the bisexual with an opposite-sex lover who deals with prejudices in lesbian and gay territory. Flak from both sides. As things stand now, the only way a bisexual can be assured of acceptance in both our straight and homosexual societies, is to “do as the Romans do” in each territory—and give no hint of the other side. There is no closed for refuge, just the equivalent of a one-person revolving door. What is revolving is one’s identity.

The stigmas of labelling oneself as bisexual is evident by how mismatched our sexual identities can be to our actual sexual practices. Most of the lesbians I’ve known have at one time or another slept with men. Many of them, including myself, have enjoyed it. Some of them still have sex with a man or men once-in-a-while. Some gay men I’ve known have felt attractions to women at some point or another, and act on them to varying degrees. Some don’t (of course), but, the point is, that much true bisexual practice parades under the labels of Lesbian, Gay, or even Straight, hiding from the stigmas that the label bisexual brings. Although everyone has the right to choose their own labels under their own definitions—we need to guard against imposing our own definition of who someone is, based upon the label they have given themselves. That is, “who they are” in terms of genuineness, quality of character, and the like me/not like me scale.

I’ve dated women for about seven years, and I’ve always called myself a lesbian. Actually, no—I’ve mostly called myself a Dyke (and that’s another story). Though I am happily “relationshiped” now with a wonderful woman, I have felt the pressure, as have many lesbians, to “explain away” the men in the past—some after “coming out.” I no longer feel obligated to justify these experiences. If they make me bisexual in practice by the Almighty Defining Rule, then so be it.

That night at home, I mulled over the problem. I’d made an assumption about bisexuality, and dismissed transgendered people because they were not lesbian like me. I confess my ignorance of most issues related to gender change—but bisexuality…I might have been wrong, but I couldn’t be sure. I know that I’d catch crap from one of my dearest friends, an avowed bisexual, but I told myself I’d take that chance. I wasn’t prejudiced in general. Before and even after coming out as a lesbian, I’d had some experiences with men myself. The facilitator of San Francisco’s Bi-Friendly group used to hang out at my house when I lived in the City. Why didn’t I know I’m cool. Bisexuals are cool.

Until we had a chance for equal billing in your paper,” my friend chided two days later at the dreaded confrontation. Your paper rang in my head. “The Paper” was supposed to be for everyone who fit the description of “Not Straight” or (God forbid) Queer. Now it was “My Paper.” I had succeeded in...continued on page 15
FIGHT? FLIGHT? or NCBI? "A DREAM"
By Joan Husby

There is not a one of us "family members" who haven't been the brunt of a nasty prejudice called homophobia. Employment has been denied us — biological families have abandoned us — the community social life has ostracized us — religions have condemned us!

Some gays/lesbians choose to fight, taking to the streets with Queer Nation and other organizations, asserting their God-given rights for personal and social justice. I respect them. Some gays/lesbians choose to flee this hostile environment, hoping to find safe enclaves where they can find the elusive "home", away from abandonment and ostracizations issues. I appreciate them. These two reactions are normal reactions, as we are told by the medical and psychological fields, but I have a dream:

I have a dream that one day gay/lesbian couples will walk hand-in-hand down the streets of America.

I have a dream than one day gay/lesbian couples will dance, along with their straight brothers and sisters, in all the dance halls and nightclubs of America.

I have a dream that one day there will be no need for gay bars, that we will be welcome in all neighborhood pubs.

I have a dream that one day parents will be delighted to hear that their sons and daughters are homosexual.

I have a dream that one day there will be no need for gay/lesbian "underground" newspapers and magazines, that our stories and our needs will be met through community journalism.

I have a dream that one day same sex couples will be able to, under the law, have legal marriages with all the legal advantages that status will afford them.

I have a dream that one day there will be no need for gay/lesbian cruises, that I will be able to stand on the bow of ANY cruise line with my arm around my hone, enjoying the sea breezes, and not hiding from anyone.

I have a dream that one day organized religions will recognize our importance in their history, and have a special day honoring all we have done in their midst while being invisible.

And so my choice is neither fight or flight, buy to stay and quietly build bridges of understanding, to be an instrument of peace, to educate the straight community, and to take the risks of being an "out" lesbian in order to bring about that change.

THE NATIONAL COALITION BUILDING INSTITUTE is about that, an organization dedicated to ending the mistreatment of every group whether the mistreatment stems from nationality, race, class, gender, religion, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, age, physical ability, job, or life circumstance allowing people to work on their own issues. The Monterey County Chapter was established in March, 1992, to address, including other prejudices, HOMOPHOBIA. One day workshops are held for community members, introducing them to the model we use. After that, there are many options for everyone to go deeper into the internal and external healing process. For me, the internalized oppression of

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FOR A CHILD, KILLED BY HER OWN HAND
By Erica Neely

If it hadn't been for fate,
If it hadn't been for time,
We might have learned to wait,
You might be left behind.

If you thought we'd understand,
Your needs you might have said,
If we had helped and held your hand,
You might no now be dead.

If we'd seen the anguish you hid from view,
If we had heard you cry,
Then perhaps we would have known to tell you,
That "gay" need not mean "die."

If we had helped you then,
If we'd given you some hope,
If we had learned to listen,
You might have learned to cope.

The fires of hate ourselves will burn,
Your help we should have sought.
And now we cannot ever learn,
The things you might have taught.

We might have learned to ask,
We might have learned to give,
In praise you might have basked,
With love you might have lived.

But from this final deadly lesson,
Comes a moral we cannot ignore,
And if death is not to be incessant,
We must stop the internal wars.

We have to share the burden,
Difference we must accept,
And we have to help the children,
Our future we must protect.

This rhyme is for all who live in fear,
And think they are alone,
Perhaps if some wish not to hear,
This hits too close to home.

For if it hadn't been for time,
And hadn't been for fate,
You might have lived to see this rhyme,
But now it is too late.
This smell of rain fills me with a hunger insatiable as the collar of rage still living in my throat. I seek out your sleeping stillness: Mamita, quiero dulce, In the dark of half moon sleep I cover you with the treasured quilt of my waiting flesh. My fingers are fevered tendrils searching out your sweetness. Breasts, nesting birds, sucked up plums rise to greet my hot mouth. You are the first woman I have ever wanted more than the sizzle of Abuela’s Christmas pastel: rum plumped raisins, creamed coconut sliding across my tongue.

The night we met the scent of burning amber rose up around me like hope; the butter of your neck begged my lips, quieting that restless ache my body has always known. Splayed across the bed like a fan of cards I cradle the chalice of your throat, hum colors into your ear. My hip rides you like an unexpected squall. You need to unfurl your legs or die.

II

The creation tree that pushes up through the earth now cleaves our bed into two halves; we are on all fours tethered to the ground by our need. Spray of desire falls like seed, black as guava pod. Whole worlds pass through our bellies; Tatiku, Corn Mother, bears witness as our heads blossom. Strength is gained with every act of our loving. Soy Lesbiana. I am a Lesbian. Not because of loss or fear. I am as I should be: Arrogant and proud as childbirth scars, defiant in my declaration of faith. Slowly, the fog lifts and stars reveal themselves one by one in this, our place of light.

POPPERS AND HIV
WHY THERE IS A RISK
by Wes Davis

Recently, I was approached by a client who wanted to know if amyl nitrite or butyl nitrite, better known as "Poppers," were something to be avoided. The overwhelming answer is YES.

The following is a compendium of 24 different studies that were conducted concerning amyl nitrite and HIV.

Under immunosuppression amyl nitrite was found to cause "changes in lymphocyte function that suggest that volatile nitrite inhalation results in a cycle of modest immunosuppression followed by a gradual (4 days) recovery after cessation of drug inhalation. NK (natural killer) activity was most noticeably affected and was the slowest to recover."

Another study found that "The results showed that exposure to amyl nitrite can induce changes in the immune function even after short exposure to moderate doses." This study went on to say that this period of suppression may last for as long as 7 days and then be followed by an "overshoot" of non-directed activity. The result would be a situation where virus-infected cells could propagate in this non-directed activity. In other words, not only does amyl nitrite cause your immune system to slow down, (in some cases to stop), but this can continue for up to seven days. It also causes the immune system to be overstimulated. In this over-stimulation the immune system does not fight any infection, and does not destroy the virus (HIV)-infected cells.

With regard to how poppers affect risk, several studies have found correlation between high-risk behavior and poppers. In one study the researchers found that "The use of poppers in conjunction with sex is a strong predictor of high risk behavior." Yet another study of 1005 seronegative gay men found that a general relapse to unsafe sexual behaviors had two distinct markers: "Predictors of unsafe sex were younger age (24 and younger), and using poppers during sex."

One of the factors that seems to be prevalent in these studies is that poppers cause disinhibition. You may know how to avoid exposure to HIV and other STDs, but when you are high on any drug you tend not to take precautions. Additionally, poppers deaden some nervous endings and heighten certain sensations. Again, these both result in helping a person to be receptive to certain behaviors such as unprotected sex.

The link between KS and poppers has been debated by some for a long time. However, "Five epidemiological studies have shown a statistical association between the development of KS among gay men with AIDS and the use of large quantities of nitrite inhalants when compared with gay men with AIDS, but without KS." As reported in the American Journal of Epidemiology, V138: 256-65 (1993), "More of the KS cases were from L.A. and used a higher number of recreational drugs, and the KS cases were more sexually active and had more STDs.

Among the drug variables, poppers/nitrites stood out as most significant in a multivariate model with geography, sexual activity, and sexually transmitted infections."

The link to KS is very solid. It is my opinion that these should not be used by anyone, and especially by any one who is HIV-positive.

To summarize, poppers have a documented effect on our immune systems that can last as long as seven days after one dose. That effect is a one-two punch that first knocks out your system and then causes it to malfunction for a period so that no infection-fighting activity is being conducted. Poppers have been found to be a significant link for relapse to unsafe behavior. Poppers have a documented statistical relationship to KS in gay men more than any other variable. With all these going for them I wonder why amyl and butyl nitrite are still being sold. I also wonder why anyone would use them.
An Excerpt from:
THE YUCCA TREE MADONNA
A novel in progress by C. M. Gregor Archer
THE FLASHBACK

Buddy looked into Mitch's eyes. They were strangers to one another really, having met only months ago. "Tell me buddy, you can trust me," he heard Mitch say. "Trust?" Buddy wondered to himself. "What is trust? I seem to have forgotten that one a long time ago. Who is there to trust now? Who could I be with?" Buddy felt his mind spin over and over with endless thoughts of despair. When he finally became aware enough, he saw Mitch's reassuring face. Within moments, Buddy heard himself recite his past to Mitch. At first it was like reading an essay, then everything became magnified and Buddy witnessed the whole dramatic picture unravel before his eyes, as if he were reliving it all over again... They had met in college while working at the Sun, an up-and-coming daily newspaper. They were young and talented. Gifted and eager. Buddy Childs was an outrageous and fun entertainment writer. Covering the slick Hollywood beat, he always landed the interviews with well-known personalities. Buddy's writing style was fresh and lively. It had a humorous pulse. After one year of scripting celebrity profiles, Buddy quickly became the Sun's entertainment editor, and immediately the Lifestyle Section took on a whole new personality. It thrived, and smacked of the cutting edge. In a short time, the section was read religiously. A writer was in his element. It didn't take long before Buddy became consumed with crankout one awesome interview after another. Yet, while his career was thriving, his live life was at best lukewarm. Buddy was lonely. He longed for a heart-felt connection with someone. Even though his cute, blonde, five-foot eleven frame caught many glances, Buddy was oblivious to it. He was too busy creating wonders in print. Naively, he thought life would always be a frivolous, imaginative event—just like his feature's pages. Michael Richmond was a controversial political cartoonist. His vivid work had a sharp, biting edge to it. Although he was only 23, he was able to see a much larger political picture. Michael frowned on the injustices of the past and cynically viewed the future. When his scathing, and sometimes attacking views of the political world hit the Sun's opinion page on a regular basis, the local community began to stir. Michael became the rave of the newspaper. His work tore into the social conscience, provoking thought and ripping apart the status quo. What more could Michael want? He was doing what he loved and people loved him for it. His adorable broad grin, olive skin and jet black hair complemented a mini five foot eight Greek God physique. But his love life was far from holy. Michael's cartoons meant everything to him. He saw life within the four corners of a big black-bordered box. If there was something that didn't fit into his picture, it would have to be erased. They met at a Halloween party. Buddy came dressed as a mime, Michael a terrorist. The two met by the guacamole dip where a talk about Sandinistas and centerfolds was getting out of hand. Buddy took one look at Michael's fatigues and combat boots, saw his smudged, olive face, and immediately felt an attraction. Buddy had always been attracted to males. It was who he was, not a choice, a fact he was beginning to understand slowly. He sensed Michael had a young and enthusiastic energy about him. They became friends instantly. The next few weeks moved quickly. Buddy and Michael were inseparable. They became the best of friends, exploring their thoughts about families, love and relationships. On the night they both admitted they had mutual attractions to men, something shifted. They weren't aware of it, but they were falling in love. One night, when the air was cool and the breeze whispered, the duo commenced to Buddy's apartment. After lighting the fire, Buddy plopped himself down on the sofa and babbled about a celebrity interview. The room flickered provocatively with shadows as Michael sat before the fire and listened. The conversation lead to feelings again and things deep. When the energy was at it's peak, Buddy hear himself say, "You know, I could just reach out and give you a hug" "What's stopping you?" Buddy gave Michael a grin and left the sofa to offer him a friendly hug. They embraced innocently at first, but by the time Buddy was ready to pull away, he felt Michael kiss his neck. His insides sank as he felt an overpowering sensation run throughout his whole body. "It's OK," Michael reassured him, and kissed Buddy again. Nothing was ever the same for Buddy again. The two of them were in love. During the next two months, they explored every facet of each other's lives, uncovering layers of undiscovered territory. They let themselves explore their sexuality in a way new to both of them. Buddy and Michael seemed connected on a deep level. At first Buddy went along with Michael's plea to keep their relationship hidden from their newspaper friends, but eventually Buddy questioned Michael's intentions. Michael gave the excuse that he was an extremely visible persona "It wouldn't be safe to share our relationship" Buddy tossed it all aside, besides he was happy; he was in love. What could possibly go wrong? One night, Buddy hosted an annual movie marathon at his apartment—ten hours of wild and deep films. When he opened the door and saw Michael's ex-girlfriend Natalie, attached to Michael's arm, Buddy saw red lights spinning. Something wasn't right...
The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) is the closest thing I know of to a Gay PAC. Founded in 1984, the organization has lobbied in behalf of lesbian/gay populations on a variety of issues and campaigns in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Monterey Counties.

The impact of their efforts is inestimable. Besides lobbying elected officials on the issues that affect our lives, BAYMEC provides meaningful endorsements—and funding—to candidates whose civil rights position reflects a positive integration with lesbian/gay concerns.

The process that begins with a simple inquiry—or a candidate's request for BAYMEC's endorsement—is followed up with a frank review of the candidate's position on issues, legislative goals, history and current practices, e.g., requests for lesbian/gay advisors or other staff. (While I have always found BAYMEC's representatives to be direct, good-tempered, professional, accessible and thorough, I hear that these questions— and interview answers— can be intense, requiring from a candidate the kind of clarity and commitment we should expect our leaders to show.) An on-going effort, once elected those officials, like others within BAYMEC's auspices, are held accountable...

Putting it on the line, BAYMEC:

• Fights for civil rights,
• Strives to end discrimination against lesbians and gays,
• Educates public officials about our community,
• Elects gays and lesbians to public office,
• Provides a voice for gays and lesbians in local politics.

There was an informal reception for BAYMEC on Friday, May 20, 7:30 to 9, at 830 Rosita Road, Del Rey Oaks. Speakers included Leslee Hamilton, VP of Political Action, who presented BAYMEC’s current endorsements for political office. We hope to begin to develop a network of concerned individuals in Monterey County. There are quite a few possibilities to involve oneself here in both behind-the-scenes and face-to-face political contact, depending on your personal time and interests.

For more information, please contact Jane Wynn at 455-1794 or Matt and Bruce at 899-2263.

The Paper Would Like to Commend...

The paper intends to provide space in coming issues for a regular feature titled “The Paper Would Like to Commend,” thanking individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to the community. Because there are many who deserve mention (and much more!) we ask that supporters be patient with our limitations of space. While we can’t offer guarantees, you are invited to submit names and descriptions of who, what you’d like to see in print. We have several nominations, of course, and (without prioritizing) would like to begin...

...The Monterey County AIDS Project and John XXIII for unswerving dedication and the hard work of both paid and volunteer staff in sometimes very demanding circumstances. We thank you for your attention, successes, and on-going efforts! We couldn't be doing this without you.

...Cupertino-based attorney Cathy Stahler for her good heart, courage and sacrifice in agreeing to represent a Los Gatos Gay man in what was to be a test case for the application of IRS mandates against an individual who was levied a penalty tax for the premature (and, in the IRS's view, serial) sale of his personal real estate. Because the individual experienced compounded unkindness, rancor, harrassment and homophobic discrimination at the hands of his neighbors, he defined his property not only as unusable by him, but, in effect, stolen. There is some precedent for this sort of claim; the case has, however, been dropped. In talking with the attorney we were humbled and gratified by her outrage in discovering homophobia and the breadth of Gay legal disputes, as much as inspired by her commitment to “fight the good fight.”

...Such mavericks as, to name only a few: J.T. Mason, Joe Long, Ray Davi, Ric Powers, Anita Hilton, Jeff Merritt, Sarah Rittenhouse, Wayne Johnson, Jennifer Padron and George Norlock who've sometimes pressured, cajoled and convinced, and who have— with untold loss or sweetness— made things happen.

...Don and Del with the PPP for maintaining a calm port in the storm, for interesting programs, uncounted opportunities for bridge building, for an open forum, social contact, good-naturedness and continuity.

...The Grande Cypress Empire, who've brought color, livliness, money, and pretty dresses) to the community. These girls are doing much more than just “Entertaining the Troops”!

...Task Force Co-chair, Joe Beale for an excellent letter to the Editor in the May 15 issue of the Herald. His letter congratulates the city of Salinas for the inclusion of “Sexual Orientation” in the city’s anti-discrimination policy statement. We also extend our respect and appreciation to the Salinas city government for their recognition of this group in its statement and the important civil rights principles that inclusion protects!

...and last, the many good people who gave time, effort, talent and energy in making their essays, stories, reviews and articles available for The Paper: you deserve the applause—and please keep the stuff rolling' in!

The Staff

Nuestra Comunidad

¿Por medio de la presente saludamos muy cariñosamente a todos nuestros amigos y lectores de habla hispana! The Paper es un nuevo vínculo de unión y solidaridad en nuestra comunidad gay y lesbiana, y los invitamos a todos a formar parte de este nuevo esfuerzo!

Ya es hora que dejemos de vivir en las tinieblas y que declaramos el orgullo que sentimos todos en nuestra comunidad. En las páginas de esta gaceta verán Uds. la manifestación de este nuevo orgullo. Su cooperación asegurará que esta publicación—la primera en el Condado de Monterey—sea portavoz que nos unirá a todos.

The Paper es una gaceta que se publica con la cooperación de MCAP, el Proyecto de SIDA del Condado de Monterey, y con fondos de la Oficina Estatal de SIDA del Estado de California. Esperamos que nuestra gaceta será fuente de información, entretenimiento y consejo, así como ser un lazo que nos uná a todos.

¿Qué se preguntará Ud.-¿Qué puedo yo hacer para formar parte de este nuevo esfuerzo? Yo no sé nada y no tengo nada que contribuir! En vista de que para la mayoría de nosotros, nuestras experiencias, pensamientos y emociones han sido privadas y, tristemente, hasta a veces ocultas, es aún más importante que compartamos todo esto como testimonio de nuestra comunidad. Todavía estamos en las etapas iniciales de formular el contenido y enfoque de The Paper, y sus opiniones, contribuciones y críticas serán muy apreciadas.

Por esta razón solicitamos material en Español de nuestros lectores y amigos. Nos urge material de cualquier índole—poesías, ensayos, política, sátira, humor, cocina, anuncios de interés. Nos reunimos cada semana en la noche para planear la gaceta, y nos gustaría que nos ayude con más secciones en Español. Puede ponerse en contacto con nosotros en cuanto a lugar y hora mediante la información que aparece en el último párrafo.

Como verán Uds., tenemos un campo abierto y necesitamos su cooperación para asegurar el éxito de nuestros esfuerzos. Si desean que sus contribuciones sean anónimas, obviamente respetaremos sus deseos. ¿No quiere formar parte de esta nueva publicación, y así contribuir a su triunfo? Si es Ud. comerciante y desea anunciar su negocio, The Paper puede aumentar sus ingresos y, a la vez, ser testimonio de su apoyo a todos nosotros.

Pueden llamar a Wes Davis al 424-5550 o 394-4747 para mayor información, o nos puede escribir a MCAP, The Paper, P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, Ca. 93942. Para aquellos que tengan servicio de computadora CompuServe y quieren enviar su material bajo este modo electrónico, la dirección electrónica es 73374,3150.

De nuevo, les damos a todos nuestros amigos una cordial bienvenida a nuestra gaceta, ya sea como lectores o contribuyentes y... ¡un fuerte abrazo a todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas!

Personal de The Paper
WE AIN’T THERE YET!
Commentary By James D. Barrett

So, let me get this “straight,” we all decided that one million pissed off queers in Washington would make the government change its mind and let us all have our PDA’s and all that nifty hullabaloo... So, with joy in our hearts, and condoms in our pockets we (as a community) all ran to Washington D.C. on April 25, 1993, to proclaim our rights as a minority and as a people.

I did not attend the festivities in D.C. but stayed in Monterey County and went to the Toro Park picnic (which eventually cost me my job). So, I asked one of my acquaintances what exactly happened, all our plans, our hopes... KER-FLUSH, GLUG, GLUG.

He said that he and a whole lot of people had intended to lobby their congress-person and proclaim their right to dignity. Yet when he got there: “What a party!”

This year as we come upon our 25th anniversary of the accepted modern Gay/Lesbian Rights Movement we seem to be a little way down the long road of liberation. Despite all our glee and pleasure, “we ain’t there yet.”

I wonder what many of the people who were actually at Stonewall thought of the “March on Washington” when they viewed its effects in retrospect.

About one year before the “March on Washington” my hometown became the first town in the State of Oregon to enact anti-gay legislation, Springfield, OR. It’s still anti-gay.

I’ll say this about the “March on Washington,” and this is the good side to the whole thing, even though we haven’t gotten much farther, there are a lot more of us trying to get farther.

Before “the march” I was a nice semi-closeted legal secretary, after work I was queen of the hill but during work I was Mr. Quiet Straight-man. I attended the Toro Park picnic and was filmed on camera. Shortly after that I was seeking new employment and I had become a moderate activist. Slowly, I’m becoming more of an activist, I don’t want to take it up full time though.

So leaving the bad things about “the march” the good things are...

We have been encouraged by the unity represented in the set up of “the march.” Gay/Lesbian groups are now openly and happily working together and compiling their resources.

We have been encouraged by the fact that one million queers (by our estimate) made it and showed their enthusiasm.

We have been encouraged by the fact that this could actually be done. Who at Stonewall would have guessed that 24 years later there would be such a large gathering in the nation’s capitol to demand our rights.

We have been encouraged by the out-pouring of support from our friends and “family” in high places such as Hollywood, New York, and Miami.

We have been encouraged by the love that was so evident that you could feel it touching you from your TV screen as you watched C-SPAN, or CNN.

We have been encouraged by the fact that hundreds of millions of straight conservative, or moderates were forced to see normal men and women who they considered abnormal and, we hope, came to see and combat the prejudice in their minds.

We have been encouraged by the surveys that have come out in recent months showing that acceptance among Generation X (my generation) has grown in leaps and bounds, and continues to do so.

I have been a subscriber to Network Q (a gay/lesbian video magazine) since about two months before “the march” and I play it quite a bit to feel the love and encouragement of the moment. It gives me a boost to go on because we still have some stuff to work on.

Politically, we were both damaged and rewarded. While legislation told us that straight people could make all the whoopee they wanted while in the military it sounded like a straight boy’s mother when telling us to keep our pants zipped. But, on the home fronts of the U.S. of A., we were recognized. Even in Salinas, during the past month with their adoption of a sexual discrimination act. Let’s hope the peninsula follows suit very soon.

Socially, we were rewarded. This kind of follows the political scale, but finally we (as a community) were discussed that the Oscars (Philadelphia, Tom Hanks won an Oscar). MTV has it’s “Rockumentary” called Sex in the 90’s (don’t laugh, it’s actually pretty comprehensive) addressing all issues of current day sexual activity, including in-depth comments in regard to sexuality and acceptance of differences in sexuality and sexual activities.

So, even though we haven’t gone far politically, we have begun a steady upward momentum socially. As for the “March on Washington’s” main objective, well hindsight is 20/20. Let’s keep this in mind as we (as a community) have our “March on New York” during the 25th anniversary celebration and pride parade commemorating the raid at Stonewall.

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America, O America
It is me, your son
(To whom you will not speak),
The quiet one, displaced, unsure — a sissy
O America, it is I
Who's been asked to sing
Of your greatness.
You look afraid —
What secret am I holding;
What is in this box?
What power, ornament or malady
That you will buy it,
Like my quiet, from me?
O America, a great song swells
In my chest. I can foretell your dreams.
We have been doing
Your work for peanuts
America,
And are cut loose,
A great elephant, some
Circus thing. No longer the monster in your closet,
We are your prick, America
Your vagina, pink and holy;
We are delicate and generative.
Your parents, teachers,
Lawyers, soldiers,
And priests.
Spasming, we nursed you
Bleeding, we praised
We have lifted your eyes to beauty
And we have sat with your fantasies,
Listening to your dark seaminess
Your fears hoarsely whispered;
You have eyed us from mirrors
In T-rooms and subways away from your families
—
You have dirtied our shared knowing
In exchange for protective
Loyalty, silent
Necessity and longing.

O, America, again you've denied our meeting.
We have seen you, jack-rabbit scared
Deny everything.
Oh, America, now we are on stage,
Out of shadow or dreams,
Asked to praise a few glories . .

You protest. Why all the swearing —
I'm the last one left, America;

I've spent a lifetime getting ready:
America, for precious thighs,
For all your untouched shame,
For purple bruising, bashings, names
Upon our fruited . . . Your daughter,
Tells you America,
Your abandoned son is dying.
O America, accept our dead at least —
Their songs cannot hurt you
They can't tell the stories
Their brushes lie drying
They don't dance,
Criticize, amuse.
We lift them to you
Your children, second-guessed,
Our arms and shoulders heavy
Our own heads fall
In a dirge for the dead or the dying —
America! Stop not looking!!!
Always, and everywhere
(Your "last" revolutionary)
We have been with you from the first
— And at breakfast this morning.
A member of your still growing Family.
We will not march quiet to the grave.
The drums you hear
Are no longer military, America,
We are sorrow and joy — unafraid
Of the intimacy.
O America, terribly we have become
Your voice
Of the dead and the living.
## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD**
Annual Women’s Campout, June 3 - 5. San Antonio Lake, $20 includes camping. (805) 481-9405.

*A Generation of Pride: A Celebration for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities and residents of Santa Cruz County* kicks off with its first Dyke March. Gather at 7PM at the town clock on Water St. and Pacific Ave. in Santa Cruz.

Benefit for Santa Cruz’s “Generation of Pride” celebration at the Blue Lagoon. Donation $3.00. 923 Pacific Ave. 423-7117.

“Profile Exhibit: Portraits of a Gay and Lesbian Community”. A reception welcoming the exhibition of photographs by Ray Martinez opens 5:30PM at the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz.

Companion Advocate Training June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Contact Carie at Monterey County AIDS Project, 394-4747.

Monterey County AIDS Project’s General Volunteer Orientation (required of all new volunteers). Contact Deborah at 394-4747.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH**

Big Book Study, 10:30am. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

**BAYMEC Annual Dinner, San Jose Convention Center. 423-2563.**

Women’s Democratic Club, 10am - 12pm. (in conjunction with League of Women Voters) presents the Propositions at the Monterey Library.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH**
Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) meets 6:00PM every Sunday at the Little House in the Park in Pacific Grove. Call 439-0660 for information.


**MONDAY, JUNE 6TH**
AA Men’s Stag 8pm. Little house in the park, Pacific Grove.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH**
AA Step Study, 8pm. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

Santa Cruz P-FLAG 7pm. St John’s Episcopal Church.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH**
PPN/MCAP AUCTION TO BENEFIT MCP: 7-10PM AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL IN CARMEL, 8TH AND DOLORES. info: 646-9331 or call MCP 394-4747

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH**
Gay/Les AA, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

Frameless’s 18th International San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival begins, continuing through the 19th. Call 415-703-8650 for more information.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH**
San Francisco International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival. (Through June 16th).

Lesbian Night every second, third and fourth Friday of each month. Franco’s Norma Jean Club. Begins 8:00PM. No cover. Call 633-2090 for information. Castrovile.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH**
Big Book Study 10:30am. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.


San Jose Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration.


**SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH**
San Jose Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration.


Metropolitan Community Church. See Sunday, June 5th.

Los Angeles Gay Pride Day.

**MONDAY, JUNE 13TH**
AA Men’s Stag, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

Women’s Community Center of Monterey Presents “The Influence of Responsibility in Healing Ourselves” with Verena. Childcare available. Donation. From 7-8:30PM at the Unitarian Church, 490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel. For information call 647-2307.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH**
Gay/Les AA, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH**
Lesbian Night at Franco’s Norma Jean Club. See Friday, June 10th.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH**
Drag Show at Franco’s Norma Jean Club. See Saturday, June 11th.

Big Book Study, 10:30pm. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH**
MONTEREY PENINSULA GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION!
Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.
San Francisco Gay Pride Day. Begins 11:00AM at the Civic Center, and ends with a celebration on Folsom St.


Metropolitan Community Church. See Sunday, June 5th.

**MONDAY, JUNE 20TH**
AA Men’s Stag, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST**
AA Step Study, 8pm. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND**
Monterey County AIDS Project’s Multiple Loss Grief Workshop. June 22, 29, and July 6 and 13. Facilitated by Judy Tatesbain. All meetings from 7-9:00PM at Monterey County AIDS Project, 780 Hamilton, Seaside. Contact Carie at 394-4747.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD**
Gay/Les AA, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH**
Lesbian Night at Franco’s Norma Jean Club. See Friday, June 10th.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH**
Big Book Study, 10:30am. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH**
Stonewall 26th Celebration, New York City.

Drag Show at Franco’s Norma Jean Club. See Saturday, June 11th.


Metropolitan Community Church. See Sunday, June 5th.
Community Calendar
continued

MONDAY, JUNE 27TH
AA Men's Stag, 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28TH
AA Step Study, 8PM. Unitarian/Universalist Church, Carmel.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH
Gay/Les AA 8pm. Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove.
Last Thursday's Men's Group, 7-10 pm. Santa Cruz, Call 458-2881 for info. (214 Branciforte Ave., #1, this month)

Looking for... something new to do after midnight?

Join The Paper!

Information for the Community Calendar for July, August and September should be submitted no later than June 10th. To submit information, please call 424-5550. Please remember to include: time, place, and phone number for inquiries.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets the fourth Thursday of every month at the Unitarian Church, 490 Aguajito Road, Carmel.

HIV Positive Men and Women of the Peninsula Support Group meets 7:00PM every Tuesday at Monterey County AIDS Project, 780 Hamilton in Seaside. For information contact Carie at 394-4747.

HIV Positive Men and Women of Salinas Support Group meets 4:00PM every first and third Wednesday of the month at Monterey County AIDS Project, 10 Sherwood Dr., Suite 5, in Salinas. For information contact Carie at 394-4747.

HIV Positive Men and Women IVDUs of the Peninsula Support Group meets 7:00PM the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Monterey County AIDS Project, 780 Hamilton in Seaside. For information contact Carie at 394-4747.

Family, Friends and Partners of the Peninsula Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Monterey County AIDS Project, 780 Hamilton in Seaside. For information contact Carie at 3944-4747.

Family, Friends and Partners of Salinas Support Group meets 7:00PM the first and third Sundays of the month at Monterey County AIDS Project, 10 Sherwood Dr., Suite 5, in Salinas. For information contact Carie at 394-4747.

Family, Friends and Partners of Salinas (En Espanol) Support Group meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at Monterey County AIDS Project, 10 Sherwood Dr., Suite 5, in Salinas. For information contact Carie at 394-4747.

John XXIII AIDS Ministry AA meeting for infected and affected. Call 655-1737 for information.


Family Members and Friends of People with HIV/AIDS Support Group. Meets at Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) 911 Center St., Santa Cruz. For information call 427-3900.

Women with HIV/AIDS Support Group. Meets at Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) 911 Center St., Santa Cruz. For information call 427-3900.

Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee

CENTRAL COAST
725 Front Street, #206
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 426-1494 FAX: (408) 426-8415
Advocating for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Civil Rights in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.
Powers of Attorney

Two kinds of powers of attorney are essential to place the person of your choice in the legal position of “next of kin.” Without powers of attorney, the law defines who may act on your behalf if you become incapacitated or die: first, your spouse (whether or not you have maintained contact with a separated spouse), then adult children, then parents, then brothers and sisters, and so on. With powers of attorney, you decide who handles your property and who will make health care decisions for you if you can’t make them yourself.

A durable power of attorney for health care can name the one you want to make medical decisions for you if you are too ill to make your own. You can also authorize the person of your choice to the one to have first priority to visit you in the hospital, and to carry out your wishes concerning the use of life supports if you are in an irreversible coma. A durable power of attorney for health care, including a nominations of conservator, could have avoided the heartbreaking result in the Sharon Kowalski case where a court ordered that, after a disabling car accident, Sharon’s parents should care for her rather than her domestic partner of many years. Especially if family members are not supportive, a power of attorney for health care is essential to preserve the integrity of your relationship in case of a medical emergency or disability resulting in mental or physical incapacity. A preprinted form for the durable power of attorney for health care is published by the California Medical Association, or an attorney can draft one to meet your specific needs. The durable power of attorney for health care must be signed in front of a notary or two witnesses, or both; the second kind of power of attorney authorizes the person you name to handle your finances. It can come into effect only upon your own incapacity (called a “springing power of attorney”) or it can be effective at all times with, of course, the understanding that it won’t be used unless you become incapacitated. Because the power of attorney is “durable” it endures beyond your own incapacity and authorizes the person you name to act on your behalf to receive money, pay bills, pay for your medical care, and dispose of your property if necessary. Preprinted forms for general powers of attorney are widely available at stationary stores, but they must be read carefully to make sure that they are “durable” and broad enough to empower your partner to take care of everything you need. The State printing office publishes a “statutory form” durable power of attorney which contains many options. These powers of attorney must be signed in front of a notary so that they can be recorded if necessary.

Any power of attorney is effective only during your lifetime; after you die, your property will be handled according to your will or trust.

Your will is your statement of how your property should be distributed after you die. It names your executor who is authorized to do whatever is necessary to carry out your wishes. It sets out what property should be given to people you name, or you can leave your entire estate to a person or in shares to a group of identified people. These are called your beneficiaries. Your will should also provide for distribution to alternate beneficiaries if those you name die before you do. (For example, “I leave my entire estate to my domestic partner if he/she is living, or if not, then to my brothers and sisters in equal shares.”) You can also leave mementos to your friends and family, or to your executor if you trust the executor to distribute items to the people he or she knows you want to have them. Your will can also name a custodian or guardian to manage property left to a child under 18. You may also state your burial instructions in your will, or designate who should decide.
being a lesbian is the most difficult issue that NCBI is helping me to overcome.

Bruce Carlson and Matt Friday (899-2263), and I (Joan Husby, 424-808), are team members of an NCBI Training especially for the gay/lesbian community on June 4th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at MPC. We have fliers. Call one of us, ask us questions, help us distribute the fliers, but most of all COME! COME and see another way out of the dilemma we are in. COME and heal the inner oppression that cripples us. COME and heal the wounds within the gay/lesbian community. COME learn how we can support and love each other. Become a bridge builder within the gay/lesbian community. Be a teacher to the straight community. I look forward to meeting you there.
by Don Nelson
Spend a little time doing voter registration and you hear every reason why people don’t vote. Below are some of the more common reasons or misconceptions used by people to avoid voting.

“I sent a change of address card to the Post Office. That should take care of it.”
Wrong. You must submit a voter registration card if you move or if you’ve changed your name.

Voter registration cards may be obtained at your local post office or library. (We apologize that this information will not reach you in time for the June 7 primary but it will apply to the November general election.)

“I didn’t vote in the last primary so I can’t vote in the general election.”
Wrong. Only voters who have not registered with an accredited party cannot vote for partisan offices in the primary otherwise all non-partisan elections that include ballot initiatives, city and county officeholders, bond measures, etc. are open to all registered voters.

“If I register to vote, I’ll get called to sit on a jury.”
Probably. But if you have a license to drive a car, you are in the jury pool already.

“Why bother. My one vote won’t count.”
Wrong. Be assured that at this very moment, an enemy of our community is using his or her pulpit, radio talk show or newspaper column to encourage their legions to vote against us. You can make the difference.

Does YOUR Mother Know?
Lots of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have difficulty coming out to family members (and in general).

Did you know about a local resource that offers support role models information education AND STUFF TO GIVE YOUR PARENTS?
• speakers
• videos
• films

You’re welcome to come to our next meeting. We’re also a source of advocacy and political action information, being tapped into a larger network. Subscribe to our newsletter! Get a subscription for your parents! Help us fold and mail the newsletter! (Can you tell we’d love your help?) And buy a pin.

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Tom Tanner
Certified Massage Practitioner
46-11 Stone St.
Salinas, Ca 93901
753-0149

ART BOYNTON, C.M.P.
403 Grass Valley Road
Hollister, Ca. 95023
(408) 637-3370

State Certified Massage Practitioner

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THE POWER OF A PIN.

Show your support for five historic civil rights struggles— and Monterey County P-FLAG— ORDER a PROMOTE TOLERANCE PIN for yourself, your friends, and your family. P-FLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is here to support you—as well as your family and friends—but we can’t do it without your help.

Send a check for $6.00 + 29 cents postage for each pin to: P-FLAG of Monterey County P. O. Box 9052 Monterey, CA 93942.

Pins will be shipped in 2-4 weeks.
The busier he is the funnier he gets, Keaton is good in his role and moves through the crowded desks of the clanging newsroom with a dancer's ease. The best scene is between Keaton as metro editor of the tabloid and Spalding Gray as editor of the rival The Sentinel (a New York Times look-a-like). Trash meets sophistation.

Marisa Tomei, wasted here as the whining pregnant wife of Keaton, is a funny woman and is still searching for a really good role. She is better when she puts on her reporter's hat and sleuths around to help Keaton.

Robert Duvall literally puffs his way through as the Sun's editor-in-chief. With a "prostrate the size of a bagel," the writing for Duvall's character goes off track when he leaves the cigarettes behind and searches for a reconciliation with his daughter.

But it is Glenn Close with her square jaw stuck out, her pointed nose, her high forehead and bouncing yellow hair who captures the money-hungry Alicia when she takes over briefly as managing editor, only to land on her ass. She and Keaton give the film the jump start it needs.

With two Tony awards, three Emmy nominations and five Academy award nominations under her belt, Glenn Close can do it all. She can be Sarah, plain and tall, as easily as she can be knife-wielding Alex in "Fatal Attraction." She first caught this reviewer's eye in 1982 when she played Robin Williams's 60-year-old mother in "The World According to Garp," when in fact Williams was only five years her junior.

Not many people know that it was the Broadway stage which first grabbed Close appearing as P.T. Barnum's wife in the 1980 musical "Barnum." But during the last fourteen years this Connecticut yankee has shown us what challenge reach and risk can bring someone. We danced around the kitchen table with her in "The Big Chill," heard her declare "War!" in "Dangerous Liaisons," and watched her in a coma as Sunny Von Bulow in "Reversal of Fortune." Not only does she have two new movies out, but she continues to wow L.A. audiences as the aging star Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical "Sunset Blvd.," and will soon depart for Broadway. From comedy to tragedy to musicals, she stands alone. The following is a brief review of her performances in "The Paper" and "The House of Spirits.

The Paper is Ron Howard's film of 24 hours in the life of a New York tabloid, The Sun. The film captures the chaos of deadlines, maintenance crews with ladders stumbling between desks over failed air conditioners, fast-paced cigarette-filled newsrooms, but somehow we're left saying, So What?

"The Paper" gets off to a rather slow start but manages to hit a high point with Henry Hackett (Michael Keaton) the metro editor, and Alicia Clark (Glenn Close) the managing editor, in various half-nelsons and split lips in the press room. Keaton is the good guy and Close, once again, the one we love to hate.

The Paper intends to do some of that; it is a defining characteristic of any community: a language or voice.

It's formation, development and consummation, however, are not the only concerns or goals of associated with it. Health, safety, personal growth, belonging, play or camaraderie, self-esteem and quality of life issues are prioritized differently for each of us.

Working towards the satisfaction of those goals neither begins nor ends with this (not so little) family project we call "The Paper." Nor should it.

If someone were to ask me now if there's a community, I'd say there's a means of expression, there are people who make a kind of spiritual economy, there are shared concerns and a variety of ways to meet them. There are growing opportunities. We have a mirror, imperfect, but something through which anyone everyone! — can see at once.

If these make a community, with all its strengths and weaknesses, yes, we have one.

No. I mean if there ever will be one, we'll have to be able to appreciate our diversity, or as when all the various rhythms of the body, like heartbeat, respiration, hormonal systems, lymphatic, etc., have no more variability — we're probably dead.

"But the body has defensive systems too, even if only a voice," she retaliated. "And you've used the concept of one whole body, doesn't that seem like a community?"

I had to admit, she had me. But she'd brought up an interesting point. Where are our defensive systems? Like the Ink in Colin Turnbull's Mountain People, a group in which displacement, fragmentation and hardship seemed to obliterate trust, hard work, cooperation and decency are we similarly stymied? Do these same or similar challenges happen in every minority group, are they symptomat­ic of society at large (and we're just the latest barometer)? When do we take risks; and how do we form, out of these challenges, the solutions, even the techniques for problem solving, recognizing when the problems are being worked on, when it's right to break out the barricades and when it's time to cut losses and get on with the next thing? How do you build respect and mutuality? Like the 100th monkey, will these things tumble of their own accord when sufficient mass, interest or learning have taken place? Is "community" a function of size — or ability, the ability to recognize common goals and create the opportunities that will bring us to the realization of those goals.

"The Paper" intends to do some of that; it is a defining characteristic of any community: a language or voice.

It's formation, development and consummation, however, are not the only concerns or goals of associated with it. Health, safety, personal growth, belonging, play or camaraderie, self-esteem and quality of life issues are prioritized differently for each of us. Working towards the satisfaction of those goals neither begins nor ends with this (not so little) family project we call "The Paper." Nor should it.

If someone were to ask me now if there's a community, I'd say there's a means of expression, there are people who make a kind of spiritual economy, there are shared concerns and a variety of ways to meet them. There are growing opportunities. We have a mirror, imperfect, but something through which anyone everyone! — can see at once.

If these make a community, with all its strengths and weaknesses, yes, we have one.

So Close by Jane Wynn

With two Tony awards, three Emmy nominations and five Academy award nominations under her belt, Glenn Close can do it all. She can be Sarah, plain and tall, as easily as she can be knife-wielding Alex in "Fatal Attraction." She first caught this reviewer's eye in 1982 when she played Robin Williams's 60-year-old mother in "The World According to Garp," when in fact Williams was only five years her junior.

Not many people know that it was the Broadway stage which first grabbed Close appearing as P.T. Barnum's wife in the 1980 musical "Barnum." But during the last fourteen years this Connecticut yankee has shown us what challenge reach and risk can bring someone. We danced around the kitchen table with her in "The Big Chill," heard her declare "War!" in "Dangerous Liaisons," and watched her in a coma as Sunny Von Bulow in "Reversal of Fortune." Not only does she have two new movies out, but she continues to wow L.A. audiences as the aging star Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical "Sunset Blvd.," and will soon depart for Broadway. From comedy to tragedy to musicals, she stands alone. The following is a brief review of her performances in "The Paper" and "The House of Spirits.

"The Paper" is Ron Howard's film of 24 hours in the life of a New York tabloid, The Sun. The film captures the chaos of deadlines, maintenance crews with ladders stumbling between desks over failed air conditioners, fast-paced cigarette-filled newsrooms, but somehow we're left saying, So What?

"The Paper" gets off to a rather slow start but manages to hit a high point with Henry Hackett (Michael Keaton) the metro editor, and Alicia Clark (Glenn Close) the managing editor, in various half-nelsons and split lips in the press room. Keaton is the good guy and Close, once again, the one we love to hate.

Robert Duvall literally puffs his way through as the Sun's editor-in-chief. With a "prostrate the size of a bagel," the writing for Duvall's character goes off track when he leaves the cigarettes behind and searches for a reconciliation with his daughter.

But it is Glenn Close with her square jaw stuck out, her pointed nose, her high forehead and bouncing yellow hair who captures the money-hungry Alicia when she takes over briefly as managing editor, only to land on her ass. She and Keaton give the film the jump start it needs.

BI-FEAR (continued)

alienating a member of what I thought was our community by prioritizing the relative value of bisexual representation away. I swallowed. She was right. I hurt a dear friend. I admitted that I was confused. Weren't bisexuals more privileged in some ways? She was shocked at my question. The stereotypes which plague the identity of bisexuality are many. How could she know that I didn't subscribe to all of them? Nothing in our friendship suggested that I thought she was a Fence-Sitter who couldn't make up her mind. I'd never called her promiscuous, undiscriminating, treacherous, or unable to commit.

Perhaps if the red carpet had been rolled out for bisexuals in the same way, I'd be walking it now. Maybe I'd be a broader, less narrow-minded person. It's hard for me to tell what I might have become.

I've since become comfortable with my "lesbian" label, as, I believe it perfectly describes my orientation (if not all my sexual experience), but I ardently support a climate in which everyone can accept the conscious and courageous efforts of those who identify as Bisexual to see bisexuality viewed as a genuine expression of openness and value to the individual — no matter what gender.

If we aren't accepting of bisexuality on an emotional level, let's consider how shitty it feels not to be accepted. Can we accept our own Lesbianism, our own Gayness, our own gender? It shouldn't be too great a stretch, especially if you have any bisexuality in your background. You and a great many bisexuals have a lot in common. The difference lies, says a good friend of mine, in your willingness to be open to what the future holds in the form of both sexes. I would also add, that — if you are committed and sexually exclusive relationship — the difference lies in the forms of attraction you experience now.

What we call ourselves has an enormous impact on who we are and what we can become. What we call others, has an effect which might be more powerful still. Respect for other folks' chosen identities will go a long way towards building our community. It's easy to say, I know. If you are having trouble differentiating what is true and what is a stereotype, take the time to find out. There is no ignorance regarding humankind that cannot be resolved by relating to another human. Whatever your assumptions, prejudices or facts are, let them out of the cage. Give someone else a chance to see them and respond. Then, give yourself a chance to learn something new.
AS I DROWNING, SWIM
by Nancy Reeve-Wilson
Submerged airless by our dissent, I swim
Toward unknown waters, nowoman’s land.
Dark bright streams beckon me to breathe.
I go blind in this shining cavern.
None can gauge why I dive once more
Toward deeper lure.

DO I DARE?
By Erica Neely

Do I dare to smile at her, Do I dare to take her hand,
Do I dare to speak a word, Do you think she’d understand?

But no, she’s too rigidly defined, By what others think and say, She could not ever become mine,
She’d never think she’s gay.

So, one more true love goes unknown, And one more heart is lost, And one more soul away is thrown, Ignorant of the cost.

So I will watch her from afar, And I will sit and dream, About the day I’d take her arm, And we’d kiss where all could see.

children will know your name: gentle compadre who knew love too late.
You died. You were killed. Your were twenty-five. And the voice shall forever chant: Mean Culpa, Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa, Amen.

BETWEEN MY LIFE AND YOURS
By D. M. Aguayo-Delgado

Thrust up like shards of broken spine too many
nights spent alone mapping the neat little circles
drawn across my brow

I sit across the world from you watch you walking
on the rain longer than a nightmare, your silence
beats only for strangers demanding spare change
on Waverly Place, taking all night to empty your
mind of one thought.

Between my life and yours is the shadow of a lady
lion slung down from the moon like a holy war.

Sitting across from you shakes me like a lust for
good fortune out of my natural sway; your mouth
on my breast greedy bird a sound pulled up by
the hair runs up through the roots of my body.

Between my life and yours caressing tenement walls
your angel smile comes away in my hand like
lead paint, shoving the dust into my fevered
canyon.

DISTANT MEMORY
by Erica Neely

How can I forget that face,
That stared at me so lovingly,
Passionate kisses, your sweet embrace,
Now but a distant memory.

How could you just fade away,
And give no warning of your flight,
Nothing that you wished to say,
Just empty beds on cold gray nights.

And I knew not what you desired,
If you had but whispered in my ear,
Then we might have been inspired,
You did not speak, I did not hear.
23 YEAR OLD BI-SEXUAL LOOKING
for a 24 - 30 year old bi-woman who is looking for a fun sexual man. I want to have a good open relationship with someone fun and beautiful. Respond to Box #138.

HELLO SWEETIE!!
If I had not picked up the lucky red ball, you and I would never have become winning partners. So many of our dreams have come true and I only see more good fortune in our future. I always hold you in my heart and I love you very much. I'm always thinking of more to say...

HAPPY 5th ANNIVERSARY!!!
WE'VE MADE IT!!
I LOVE YOU
ALL MY LOVE
JTB

ONE YEAR WITH MY SWEETIE!
And I love her more than ever! She's spunky, funky, sweet as squeeze bear honey, smart and funny. She makes me feel like a kid again. I love you J. will you play with me?

LONG DISTANCE SUCKS, DON'T IT?
Craig, we'll be together soon. As much as we want to be. I love you. If I follow you home, will you keep me? J.D.B.

BARFLIES NEED NOT APPLY
Hello, I'm the boy next door, the one your family will enjoy meeting. I'm Prince Charming with a heart and soul of pure gold. I live to love and love to live. I'm seeking friendship, compassion, understanding, love, monogamy, passion and trust. I'm 29, 5'8", 150, HIV-, Cute, Irish/It. Respond to Box #136.

GWM, 29
Looking for similar. I enjoy sunning, swimming, nature, motorcycles. Humor a must. Respond to Box #137.
### Guidelines

**CLASSIFIEDS**

To place a classified advertisement (a business directory will be included in this section) please check the appropriate box at the top of the form and then fill out the spaces. Your ad may run up to TEN lines, including a headline. Please limit your headline, which will be printed in BOLD CAPS to the first line only.

The cost for each line (average of five words per line) is $1.25. Make check/money order payable to Monterey County AIDS Project.

**GUIDELINES:**

"The Paper" will only accept advertising forms that are legible and complete, including signature. Payment MUST accompany the ad, or it will not be published. We reserve the right to edit, reclassify or reject any advertisement. In the event of a typographical or informational error, "The Paper" agrees to run a similar identically valued ad for free in the next issue and include an editor's note of apology in the Letters to the Editor section.

**PERSONALS**

To place a FREE personal ad please check the appropriate box at the top of the form and then fill out the spaces! Your ad may run up to TEN lines long, including a headline. Please limit a headline to the first line only. FREE ads may be renewed on a month-to-month basis, for a maximum of three months. Additional months may be purchased at $2 per line per month. All responses to ads will be received by mail. There is no charge to receive a response.

**CATEGORY:***
- Woman to Woman
- Man to Man
- Other

**GUIDELINES:**

Include any information about yourself that you would like to share, but please note that "The Paper" reserves the right to edit for graphic language or reject any advertisement deemed offensive or negative. "The Paper" will only consider ads submitted by persons 18 years of age and older. Furthermore, no ads will be published seeking persons under age 18.

**DISCLAIMER:**

"The Paper" neither holds nor assumes any responsibility for the content of personal advertisements, nor to any reply received by the advertiser. The advertiser assumes full and total liability for the content of the advertisement and all responses received. The advertiser agrees that "The Paper" and its employees are to be indemnified of any liabilities, damages resulting from the publication, or any costs or expenses (including attorney's fees).

**RESPONSE:**

In order to respond to any personal advertisement, write a letter, seal it in an envelope and mark it with the designated box number. Enclose the letter with proper postage affixed and $3.00 for each letter to be forwarded (check/money order only), in another envelope and mail it to The Personals, c/o "The Paper." Double your chances for the right connection by placing ads as well as responding!

**SAFETY BLURB:**

To make your personal connection safe and fun, "The Paper" advises that you trust your instincts above and beyond your hormones. Be smart! Meet in a public place, i.e., coffeehouses, restaurants, movies, etc. First impressions about a situation are often accurate.

We can't put a periscope under your sheets to check up on you, so please make safer sex part of the fun!!

---

**Classified/Personals Form**

(Please fill in one letter per box; leave a blank for spaces)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category:</th>
<th>Month of issue:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City: Zip:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** Enclosed: $_________ Check/Money Order Only Please

For PERSONAL ADS only:

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older: ____________ SIGNATURE ____________________

For CLASSIFIED ADS only:

I certify that the above information is accurate and complete. ____________ SIGNATURE ____________________
EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!
READ ALL ABOUT IT

1ST MONTEREY COUNTY GAY PAPER HITS STANDS

"I believe in miracles!" say pillars of Monterey Co.
"Rumored to include transgendered, bi-sexuals and lesbians also."

***A DISCO DAZZLER***
CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES!

DATE: SUNDAY-JUNE 05, 1994
TIME: 6:00PM UNTIL ETERNITY
PLACE: MONTEREY'S VERY OWN "AFTER DARK"
214 LIGHTHOUSE AVE.
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

SURPRISES AND PRIZES!!!
LOADS OF FUN FOR ALL!

FEATURING............
............GROOVY
FROM THE "D" LIST

DIVAS
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DESSERT
DILEMNAS
COME ON DOWN!!!

$2.00 DONATION TO BENEFIT MCAP.
"THE PAPER" A PUBLICATION OF MCAP

***A DISCO...DAZZLER***
CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES!

......FAR OUT AND ENTERTAINMENT
FROM THE "C" LIST

COFFEE
KRISTINA K.
CAKE
CONFESSONAL
CUTE KISSERS
CONDOMS
COOLNESS
THE PRICE IS RIGHT

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How to Reach Our Leaders:

President Bill Clinton, or The White House Comments Desk 202 456-1111 or 202 456-1414
The Hon. Henry J. Mello 916 445-5843
The Hon. Bruce McPherson 916 445-8496 or 408 646-1980
The Hon. Rusty Areias 916 445-7380 or 408 422-4344
Senator Dianne Feinstein 202 224-3841
Senator Barbara Boxer 202 224-3553
The Hon. Sam Farr 202 225-2861 or 408 649-3555
The Hon. Pete Wilson 916 445-0658
The Congressional Operator 202 224-3121

U.S. Senators
Senator Dianne Feinstein 331 Hart Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
Senator Barbara Boxer 112 Hart Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Representatives
The Hon. Sam Farr, 17th Congressional District, 1216 Longworth B Washington, D.C. 20515 or 380 Alvarado St., Monterey, CA 93940

Local Assemblymembers
The Honorable Bruce McPherson, 27th Assembly District Room 4017, P.O. Box 942849 State Capitol Sacramento, CA 94249-0001 or 1200 Aquajito Road, Room 203 Monterey, CA 93940

Assemblymember for Salinas
The Honorable Rusty Areias 28th District, State Assembly State Capitol, Room 5136 Sacramento, CA 95814 or 356 Victor St., Suite L Salinas, CA 93907-2044

Governor
The Honorable Pete Wilson Governor of California, State Capitol, 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

State Senator
The Honorable Henry J. Mello, 15th District, State Senate, State Capitol, Room 313 Sacramento, CA 95814 or 1200 Aquajito Road Monterey, CA 93940

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