Sex on the Beach: A personal essay on public sex, all-over tans & growing up in Carmel.

by Brian Benoit
Special to The Paper

I don't remember exactly when it was that I first made the rocky descent down the craggy gulch and on to one of California's most dramatically picturesque beaches, but it was back when the large gully caves that were carved into the hillside were still intact and inhabited by transient naturalists.

I do have vague recollections, strewn with wisps of ganja smoke, of hitchhiking the 10 miles down the coast to Garrapata Beach, so it was prior to '76, the year I legally gained the driving privilege.

What originally motivated me to go there was unequivocal lust. I remember my older brother telling me a story when I was about 8 or 9, of how he and his friend had been there on a field trip and had seen two people fucking in the sand, and I had heard rumors over the years that it was a nude beach.

I had been sexually active in Carmel since the age of 12 in a clandestine and anonymous world of bushes and bathrooms seething on the periphery with the pandering eyes of decaying old men. Of course, my homosexual exploits were an anomaly to my "normal" heterosexual life; I rationalized them to be the result of an over-abundant sex drive, and the inability to find the right woman, capable of satisfying my glut of libidinous desire.

So I was eager, even subconsciously, to express my closeted sexuality, or more poetically put: shoot my wad in an open expanse of sand and salt, naked unto the universe, amidst a sea of unclothed masculinity.

Natural Wonders

I can remember the surge of excitement and anticipation that would well

Continued on page 4

Feature Article

Sand in the Lube: Looking north up Garrapata Beach, 10 miles south of Carmel. Men gather in the canyon brush for anonymous sex.

Photo: Wes Kashwagi

The Queer Readers' Guide
Which Local Bookstore is Tops for Gay Literature?

James A. Mearns
Contributing Writer

There is an ever-increasing number of books out on the market these days written by, for, and about gay men and lesbians. But, like a good man, gay literature can be hard to find, especially here on the Monterey Peninsula, where book selections may be dictated more by proximity to churches and tourists, rather than by the tastes of those who call this area home.

I've found that even though a local bookstore may have a collection of books of interest to gay men and lesbians, they may choose to conceal it, or mask it by shelving it in an unrelated section that may attract a "fringe" element. This of course, makes these books as hard to sell as they are to find, and potentially creates a situation whereby the bookstore can justify eliminating a collection altogether.

In the interest of those out there who still read, I've compiled a rambling list of local bookstores (complete with my own disjointed commentary and observations) and their corresponding gay and lesbian literary content, with approximate locations for those that would rather not have to ask the clerk at the counter for directions to the queer section. Perhaps if we all read more about ourselves, we wouldn't worry about stuff like that so much. Besides, I think it's time that bookshop cruising came back into style.

Continued on page 5
How to Reach Us

The Paper
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Monterey, CA 93942-2081

To submit an article:
(408) 647-8906, ask for Barbara

To place an ad or info on rates:
(408) 899-2263, ask for Matthew

You can also reach us digitally!
E-mail: stickyrice@aol.com

The Paper Would Like to Commend...

With AIDS Awareness Month
The Paper would like somehow to acknowledge the many local individuals, groups and businesses, organizers, good hearts and heroes who have contributed to the fight against AIDS. With pride, then humility, gratitude, and recognition of what all it could mean we realize there are far too many to name.

And yet, because we have the opportunity, we are going to use this space to acknowledge in particular some of the local literary talents who have responded to AIDS. These artists have brought the experiences, insights and tools of their sensibilities to reflect upon, record and somehow reshape some of the phenomena that we have come to know as both the primary and secondary effects, the often profound conditions in which HIV/AIDS appears.

Organizing local poetry fund-raisers, such writers as John Thompson, Matt Friday, Eliot Roberts, John Dodson, and now John Lauwe (with the National Writer’s Union) have presented some of the voices that have awakened, roused, soothed, blessed, enveloped or ignited the hearts of hundreds. Besides those already named, poets Don Marsh, Carol Staudacher, John Detro, Raylyn Moore, William Minor, Joseph Cleanan, Nancy Reeve-Wilson, Jennifer Lagier, and Joan Olmstead have been featured at these events. Numerous additional writers have been responsible for the enormous success of some of these readings: David Bury, Edward Hanefant, Elaine Pietro, Pat Brown, and Kathy Wilden to name only a few.

Sara Rittenhouse and Wayne Johnson have also contributed much in raising attention, networking and organizing expertise, staging events at the Coffee Bean in Salinas and the Thunderbird book store at the Barnyard respectively. MCAP has contributed available resources; and Barbara Murphy of the now-vanished Portofino Cafe in Pacific Grove helped enormously in keeping these fund-raisers and readings alive, contributing space, contacting, hard work and compassion to late in the night.

The Paper would like to commend these good people — and the many unnamed — for the riches of their interests, hearts and talent, for giving voice to tragedy, and doing so with great capacity, humor and grace.

Editorial Policy
The Paper invites submissions of articles, interviews, reviews, announcements, literary pieces, poetry and short stories, commentary and letters to the editor. The Paper reserves the right to edit any submission. There is no payment or other remuneration for submissions. Copyright privileges revert to the author(s) upon publication.

If a contributor prefers to use a pseudonym or otherwise retain anonymity, we will honor that request. The Paper also reserves the right to refuse to publish materials that do not meet standards, but will not be limited to, the exclusion of libelous or slanderous remarks, or remarks intended to bring racism, abuse or prejudice to bear upon another.

The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the staff of The Paper, the Monterey County AIDS Project, State of California, or the Monterey County Health Department.

The Paper does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnic group, religious affiliation, or physical challenge. Advertising and subscriber lists will not be offered for sale or use beyond the delivery of this paper and its associated procedures.

Mission Statement
"To inform and give voice to the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender 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."
by Wes Kashiwagi
Managing Editor

You take care of it; we're off the hook. That's how one member of the Gay Men's Consortium characterized the prevailing attitude towards the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP) and local HIV/AIDS outreach.

Sparked by the sudden resignation of MCAP's Man-to-Man outreach coordinator Bobby Callery in December, local activist Wayne Johnson called the Jan. 21st meeting of the Consortium to representatives from local AIDS agencies and concerned citizens could meet to discuss the ugly problem everyone would rather ignore: the local gay community's continued indifference and unreachability when it comes to HIV/AIDS outreach.

Dumb and Dumber?

More than a decade after HIV was identified as a sexually transmissible virus, many gay men remain in the dark about safer sex. Whether this is by choice or through simple ignorance, HIV/AIDS outreach should be there to provide potentially live-saving information.

One-on-one outreach within the gay community is both the most effective and most problematic job for an HIV/AIDS educator. For MCAP, the problem is compounded by high staff turnover in their outreach program for gay males, Man-to-Man.

From The Trenches: Anita Hilton tells the Consortium "what it's really like out there when it comes to HIV outreach.

Callery's resignation letter in which he stated that the gay male population in Monterey is far more closeted and fragmented than he ever expected, and therefore difficult if not impossible to reach; this, and the outreach goals outlined in his contract, made the situation untenable. The Consortium recognized these to be the biggest stumbling block to any local outreach or education program.

However, some members argued that the problem may have been with Callery's approach to the task. Anita Hilton, who coordinated MCAP's Man-to-Man outreach on a volunteer basis before Callery's hiring, said that the Woman-2-Woman HIV outreach program has managed to overcome similar hurdles with no money and no staff. Relying on their own instincts for guidance, Woman-2-Woman has successfully reached out to the entire community, not just lesbians.

Hilton was incensed at how easily outreach efforts are ignored. Hilton recounted how a friend with an HIV+ lover 'had been sitting by the outreach table listening to the same shtick [on protected sex] for a year' but ultimately chose to ignore her message and is now also HIV+.

While this incident brings up the question of whether HIV outreach is now more or less ignored by gay men, Coleen Haworth, an MCAP outreach volunteer, told The Paper that sometimes just handing out condoms really does lead to safer behavior. "People have come running after me out the front door [of the After Dark]," said Haworth. She and Hilton have become fixtures at the nightclub, and men know that they can always go the MCAP table if they need condoms or information.

MCAP Looks for Answers

MCAP's Alisa Klein read a letter from Joy Rubey, MCAP's executive director. Rubey, who could not attend, listed the steps that MCAP will soon be taking to fill the position and possibly solve the outreach problem. MCAP plans to renovate Man-to-Man based on the input of staff and volunteers, members of the community, both organizations and individuals, and meet-

Where is the Community Center?

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

Lambda Community Resource Center is dead! Last issue I announced that Lambda CRC had come alive, but now, one issue later, it has died. To some of you, this is probably not news. Similar efforts had been tried unsuccessfully in the past. The LCRC died because the steering committee determined that LCRC was not right at this time.

To some, the most important factor might seem to be money, yet the Lambda Community Resource Center had sufficient financial support. Community financial support is essential for a community resource center but other factors must be present.

Success is more than money: an actual need must exist. The needs, concerns and desires of different communities must be expressed. Individuals interested in pursuing a par-

Local Agencies Represented

Gay Men's Health Coalition
HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee (Monterey County Board of Supervisors)
John XXIII AIDS Ministry
Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP)
MCAP Woman-2-Woman Outreach
MCAP Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Advisory Committee
Monterey County Health Department

Photo: Wes Kashiwagi

Don't Make Us Beg: Submit your article today
"Family" Hiking

The Loma Prieta Gay Sierra Club Hikes the Local Hills

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

Do you like to hike? What would it be like to hike with "family"?

I joined the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club on a hike at Point Lobos. Yes, the Sierra Club has gay and lesbian chapters. One is in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles, and a little closer to home we have a Loma Prieta chapter. I had a good time seeing the familiar sites: sea otters, dramatic coastline, tourists, yet the experience left me wanting more. We have many good trails in the area and would like to see more gay and lesbian groups hiking the local trails.

The Sierra Club's lesbian and gay chapters started ten years ago in San Francisco to bring together lesbians and gays interested in environmental issues and the enjoyment of the great outdoors. The Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS) became an official activity section of the Sierra Club in 1986. Today over 1,800 men and women a year participate in GLS activities. The 1,200 members are equally split male and female. Who are the other 600? People like you and I who do not belong to the Sierra Club or a GLS chapter. We are welcome to join in any activity. Most events are co-ed. Some are for women only, and some are for men only.

These outdoor activities are as diverse as the lesbian and gay community: biking, back-packing, car camping, skiing, hiking, and habitat restoration. The Sierra Club's agenda is greater reaching than just the outdoor activities. But you know that.

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the GLS puts out a bi-monthly newsletter, "The Wild Side" with local GLS news, business, and most importantly a calendar with upcoming events. A $10.00 individual annual membership fee includes a subscription to the newsletter, but they will send a sample issue for free. Contact GLS/Loma Prieta Chapter Info Line (408) 236-2170 or write GLS Loma Prieta Chapter/Sierra Club, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto 94303. Contact the GSL/Bay Chapter at (415) 281-5666.

Lesbians and gays from Monterey County can be hosts for our friends in the greater Bay Area by participating in hikes, suggesting hikes and even being a co-leader on a hike you might want to share. See you on the trail.

Garrapata Beach

Continued from page 1

up in my groin as I rounded the last corner past Shell Beach and Pyramid Hill, and the first sight of the mile long beach would come into view. It was all I could do to keep my spoo from exploding right into my skivvies.

I'd park at the north end instead of continuing down to the gentler coastal access trail at the south end, because all the action was at the north end, and there was a real sense of cocky accomplishment for having made the precarious descent, and arriving trailsmenlike, at the precipice just above the tiny waterfall to show everyone that I was there, and ready for action.

Sandy Niches

Although the memories fade of the years, some do stand out as qualifiable Master's & Johnson's peak sexual experiences.

I remember one older (everyone was older then) health freak with whom I had an incredibly hot and sweaty encounter one balmy and windless summer afternoon. I had staked out my territory in one of the sandy niches that the beach is famous for, and was catching the rays nonchalantly, when he found me and suddenly the action was on me, his wild and well-defined physique sauntering towards me. There was an intense purpose in his gait, and he shed his bronzed skin glistening in the sunlight.

We dispensed with the introductory fal­lacies and went right at it, like two bulls in a sandy pit. It lasted through the afternoon, and continued up high in his way he went past both sides. I can still recall the scanty stench of suntan oil mixed with sweat that spilled out of the van as I staggered back to my VW in the evening dusk.

Tourist Trade

I've experienced semen-al bliss with more than one landscape there; I guess their vocational inclination for the great outdoors carries over into their more pleasurable leisure time activities as well.

I recently enjoyed an innocuous twilight jer­koff session with one of Carmel's elder surf-nazis down there, after which he told me he had to get back home to his girlfriend.

There's a stockbroker from the inland valley that pages me each time he comes through town...

There's a stockbroker from the inland valley that pages me each time he comes through town.

The Lagoon

During a stint at Cabrillo College back in 1979, I discovered The Lagoon, where I've encountered an equal number of natural wonders.

Located 10 miles north of Santa Cruz, just south of Bonny Doon Beach, The Lagoon was where I had my first real fuck with a blond-haired sailor from The City. I remember recoiling in horror afterward, shocked at the things that men will do to get their nut. That was also where I met the world's biggest hippie-dick, attached to a tall and emaciated long-haired dead-head.

Last time I was there, I fell in love with the perfect stranger. He was tall, dark, shortly-coiffed, and well-sculpted; with concrete bonage-oh, but alas! Our phone numbers exchanged themselves; all I know is that he's a student from San Jose, named Mark...or Mike...or was it Bruce?

Sand Bars or Gay Bars

Cruising at a nude beach can be a lot more direct than cruising at a smoky bar. There's more certainty about what you can expect sexually, and far less chance of misinterpreting body language—you can see your mark's uncolo­thed body, with all its deformities and abnormalities, before you make the commitment to get it on; and a stiffening cock is rarely misunderstood. The glance that transits into a fixed gaze is an unmistakable indicator of sexual interest (unless you've got some weird tattoo or something).

Naturally, there's an aspect of exhibitionism attached to the semi-public sex act, but don't we all, sometimes secretly, want to be porn stars? Anyone expecting or requiring sexual privacy on a sexually active nude beach is missing a chromosome. Everything and everyone is fair game, and voyeurism can be rampant. Unsolicited advances by unworthy prospectors are fairly easy to fend off, as long as you don't mind being gawked at.

There's a certain sense of anarchistic freedom that comes with shedding one's clothes outdoors; you can rewrite the rules to suit your individual needs. Most everybody has a common sense of social decency and propriety, so offenses to one's sensibility are relatively rare as long as you're up front with yourself about why you're there to begin with. There are also the additional perks of fresh air and sunshine, and the healthy glow that a fresh tan, coupled with a gratifying sexual experience, can create.

Tom Tanner
Certified Massage Practitioner
753-0149

Read The Paper: Strong Enough tor a Man, But Made tor a Woman

The recent storms have washed away much of Garrapata Beach. The area is currently quite dangerous, especially close to the surf. In other words, keep your distance. -WK
New Study Says 6 = 63 in Risky Sex

The number of sexual partners with whom you have unprotected sex can exponentially increase your chances of being infected with HIV. A new study points out just how risky it is. In a recent issue of "Men's Health" magazine, a study at Ohio State University showed that if you have unprotected sex with 3 partners, your actual risk is the same as having 63 partners, Laura Brannon, Ph.D., co-author of the study, says, "People don't understand the woeful arithmetic of sexual promiscuity." -WD

Queer Reader's Guide

Continued from page 1

Thunderbird
3600 The Barnyard, Carmel

Located in the center of the Barnyard, the Thunderbird used to be regarded as an unconventional bookstore where one would go to find that which they wouldn't elsewhere. While it's still a comfortable and friendly place to browse, it seems to have lost some of its more unique qualities and literary selections (along with its once fabulous cheesecake) to the banal tastes of the tourists who overrun it.

You'll find the Thunderbird's Gay and Lesbian literature selection in an enclave of the store, on two shelves labeled "Gay/Lesbian Studies" in the lower part of the Sociology/Political Science section, underneath Hispanic Studies. On my visit, I found one collection of short stories by gay men and women, amongst books on gay and lesbian couples and parenting, notable gay men and women of the past and present, with the bulk of the collection devoted to lesbian literature. Titles included: Hollywood Lesbians, Ferrari's Places for Women '95, Lesbian Couples, Lesbian Coming Out Stories, Chloe plus Olivia, The Search for a Woman Centered Spirituality, and the Lesbian Heritage Calendar, among others.

The Thunderbird had no gay periodicals, and the only publication I could find that resembled the alternative press was the "Une Reader." In spite of their miniscule and somewhat concealed Gay Lit section, the T-Bird gets points for having a better than average selection of lesbian literature, and a comfortable and friendly atmosphere to peruse it in.

Brentano's, Carmel Plaza

Brentano's meager collection of gay literature is hidden on the bottom two shelves of the Women's Studies section, which is in the back of the store, behind the enclosed stairwell. There are no signs or labels to indicate the subject matter on the bottom two shelves, which is unfortunate because there are some good contemporary titles covering a variety of subjects. I purchased two large volumes; an encyclopedia of Gay & Lesbian Film and Video, and Gay and Lesbian U.S. History. Brentano's is owned by the same parent company as Waldenbooks, and you can use your Waldenbooks discount card, but not for purchasing gay magazines, because Brentano's doesn't have any, unless you count GQ and Paris Vogue.

Books Inc., Ocean Avenue, Carmel

Due perhaps to its arterial proximity to the heart of the out-of-town pedestrian circulatory system, Books Inc. has no gay literature section. There is a Women's Studies section, but I couldn't find any lesbian titles, (nor any lesbians) as I sashayed by it. I did find Michael Signorelli's Queen in America under "S" in the Social Science section, just after Conduct Unbecoming by Shilts. If I'd continued searching in the "S" section, I probably would have encountered Gloria Steinem's new book, but I wasn't in touch with my femininity that day, and gave up.

Continued from page 14

Community Center

Continued from page 3

ticular aspect must participate. The individuals must care for and nurture a part of the whole.

We thought a need existed when we first formed the dream for the Lambda CRC. We began dreaming and developing a plan to extend the dream. We sought other individuals' opinions and invited participation. Those of you who did attend a meeting or two, thank you. Those of you who phoned and expressed interest, thank you too. You helped the Lambda CRC take its first steps during its short life.

I really thought there was a need for this potential unifying element. PPN is always looking for a willing host. MCAP can always use more meeting space. PFLAG could have had a publicized event. We might have hosted a LTMG (Last Thursday's Men's Group—from the Santa Cruz area) meeting. Perhaps the Lesbian Alliance could have used the proposed research materials. The local high schools could have provided a safe place for gay teens to meet one another and interact with positive role models. Any of the gay and lesbian religious organizations might be able to use the space. BAYMEC's Monterey County contact point could have been the Lambda Community Resource Center. Gay (and Lesbian) AA lost a regular haven.

The upside is that we are still here, and things have not changed much. We did not lose anything in dreaming and putting out a proposal. It's just a matter of time before the right proposal comes along to grab our attention. As diverse as we might be, I still believe we can maintain our diversity and still come together.
We'd like to thank you for picking up The Paper. We have great things in store for you in the next issue, which brings up ugly fact...

Funding for The Paper runs out after the next issue. And we're getting a little anxious. Now is the time to make out that $100,000 check you've always wanted to send (we'll name the paper after the first lucky donor!). Smaller gifts and advertising will also earn our respect and gratitude.

The Paper is funded through a grant from the State of California. All labor (writing, photography, and distribution) are volunteered. Our only cost is printing (around $600 per issue) and one extra-large pepperoni pizza (we use a coupon).

We Live in Interesting Times
Our mission hasn't changed. We still hope to foster a sense of belonging and family in Monterey's great invisible gay population. We want to bring you news of your fellow citizens, the stories that until now only circulated at dinner parties. The upcoming issue will include a story (at last!) from the transgender community, and other groups unrepresented in mainstream media (straight or gay).

We hope you'll pick up an issue, and tell us what you think. -WK

Working Together: Consortium member listens to a letter submitted by Matthew Friday.

The Consortium devoted most of this first meeting to discussing the lack of response from local individuals and organizations. "The gay community expects MCAP to be the only player in the job," said Jeff Merritt, current Director of the MCAP Board of Directors, lamenting the gay population's reluctance to form any sort of communal bond, instead fragmenting into groups based on income, race, age, and sexual habits.

The Consortium itself is not immune. Of the 20+ members in attendance, only three have actually done community outreach locally. The question many ask is how someone who never goes to local gay nightclubs can decide on the best method for reaching men who do. And, if the Consortium is concerned with quickly resuming local outreach, why aren't they out doing it themselves?

Local gay organizations have also proven unresponsive when it comes to hand-on assistance for MCAP. When Wayne Johnson attempted to rally the 700 members of the Peninsula Professional Network (PPN) to train as companions for MCAP clients, only one application was submitted. "I made my lover send in an application," said Johnson. While the PPN does successfully raise money for MCAP through charity events, PPN events that focus on HIV/AIDS issues are reportedly poorly attended by the membership.

Barking Up the Wrong Cypress
The Consortium's next meeting will focus on possible solutions to the HIV/AIDS outreach quandary, including reaching those men who do not gather in well-defined locations or who somehow fall through the cracks, such as men who do not identify as "gay" but nonetheless have sex with other men.

The next Gay Men's Consortium meeting is scheduled for February 25th at 615 Abrego in Monterey. 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 373-8055 for information.
Digital Queers Raises $100K at S.F. MacWorld
by Wes Kashiwagi
Co-managing Editor & Digital Queer

SAN FRANCISCO - Members of Digital Queers (DQ) raised over $100,000 for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund at this year's MacWorld computer conference. The theme for this year's fundraiser was Love on Trial. Entertainer Lea DeLaria, barely contained in everything from a tux to two coconut shells, entertained the audience with her trademark mix of bawdy stand-up, shtick, and soulful ballads. DQ co-founders Tom Reilly and Karen Weikre welcomed the more than 500 men and women crowded into the Center for the Performing Arts for the event. Backed by a digital video presentation by Randy Ubillos of Adobe, Reilly and Weikre explained how the Lambda Legal Defense Fund has worked to end discrimination against gays, lesbians, and HIV+ individuals.

Tim Gill, founder of Quark, followed with an off-the-cuff speech covering his involvement in DQ's fundraising. The Gill Foundation, a philanthropic organization Gill created to fund the development of gay and lesbian organizations, provided matching funds for donations over $100 and an additional $10,000 challenge grant to those in attendance. The night ended with a raffle for software, dinners, and cruises, and then a little dancing.

Digital Queers is a San Francisco-based group of gay men and lesbians from the computer industry. Founded three years ago, DQ provides gay and lesbian organizations with the hardware, software, and skills needed to be effective in the information age. Past DQ beneficiaries include the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Lambda AIDS Project, the Lambda Youth Network, and many other community-based and national organizations.

You can reach Digital Queers at digiqueers@aol.com.

Barney Is No Fag National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Denounces "Fag" Comment from Arney


Deplorable & Dangerous
"Rep. Armey's comment is deplorable and dangerous," said Robin Kane, director of public information at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"For a member of the House of Representatives to use such a childish but harmful slur is beneath that office and must be roundly condemned by his colleagues," Kane said.

Texas Violence
The anti-gay slur occurs in the same week that two major media have focused on anti-gay violence in Rep. Armey's home state of Texas. The February issue of Vanity Fair magazine and Prime Time Live this week featured stories highlighting the fact that Texas is the site of eight brutal murders of gay men in less than two years.

Do As I Say?
"As an elected official from the state of Texas, Rep. Armey should be keenly aware of the impact of such hateful and dehumanizing speech," Kane said. "He represents a state where a number of Texas newspapers eliminated many allies of civil rights for gays and increased the number of Radical Right members.

Local contact: Pat Reaves, Simply Equal, Oklahoma City, (405) 524-7510. NGLTF contact: Robert Bray, field organizer, (415) 552-6448; Robin Kane, public information director, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3311.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - State House Resolution on Anti-Gay Initiative

Issue: Notorious anti-gay state legislator Bill Graves last week introduced a House Joint Resolution (HJR1018) that would submit a state constitutional amendment to a state-wide referendum. It would prohibit any state, county, or municipal government from adopting or enforcing laws, policies or regulations "whereby homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation...shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person...to have minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination." The measure would also prohibit "teaching of homosexuality, lesbianism, or bisexuality as natural lifestyles" and prohibit adoption and foster care by gays/lesbians/bisexuals. Local activists are convening community leadership to discuss strategy. Conservative Democrats still control the leadership of state legislature, but like many other states, the recent November elections eliminated many allies of civil rights for gays and increased the number of Radical Right members.

Local contact: Pat Reaves, Simply Equal, Oklahoma City, (405) 524-7510. NGLTF contact: Robert Bray, field organizer, (415) 552-6448.

TAMPA, FL - Anti-Gay Initiative-March 7 Ballot Vote

Issue: The Florida chapter of the American Family Association, headed by David Caton, has placed a measure on the March 7 local election ballot that would repeal the section of the local human rights ordinance that bars discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. In 1992, Tampa voters repealed the ordinance, but that vote was thrown out due to flaws in the petitions that placed the measure on the ballot. Citizens for a Fair Tampa is battling the local referendum (Referendum 1), calling the measure discriminatory and bad for business. Another Florida city, West Palm Beach, just faced a similar repeal referendum earlier this month. That referendum was defeated in a 56% to 44% vote.

Local contact: Gary Barlow, field coordinator, Citizens for a Fair Tampa, (813) 227-6457. NGLTF contact: Robert Bray, field organizer, (415) 552-6448; Robin Kane, public information director, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3311.

The Paper's Next Article Deadline is March 15th.

Certified Massage Practitioner
753-0149

Read the Paper: It Won't Try to Move In After the Second Date
February

9
A Taste of Monterey
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. A wine and hors d'oeuvres reception on Cannery Row to kick-off HIV/AIDS Awareness Week in Monterey. Co-sponsored by the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, A Taste of Monterey, Central 159, and MCAPA. $6 for chamber members, $15 non-members. Call MCAPA for info, 394-4747.

The Lesbian Ball at Franco's

10
Poetry Reading
7:30 p.m. at the Thunderbird Cafe. Featured writers will be John Gill and Matthew Friday; members of the audience will also have the opportunity to read. $5 admission. Proceeds will benefit MCAPA. Co-sponsored by the Monterey/Santa Cruz Local 7 of the National Writer's Union. Call MCAPA for info, 394-4747.

The Lesbian Ball at Franco's

11
The PPN
"Red & White" Ball
"Cloak & Dagger" is the theme for the Peninsula Professional's Network's 11th Annual Red & White Ball at the American Legion Hall in Carmel. For ticket information, contact the PPN at 659-2446.

12
Valentine Tea Dance Fundraiser
4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ever want to really good look at who you were talking to? Fun and dancing to help commemorate AIDS Awareness Week. $3 cover. Call the After Dark for info, 373-7828.

13
Community Action Awards
Local citizens who have made significant contributions towards the betterment of the community will be honored. Free. Call MCAPA for info, 394-4747.

14
Valentine's Day
Kiss your sweetie.

15
The 3M Foundation Presents
"Hearts on Fire" to benefit MCAPA's Man-2-Man and Woman-2-Woman outreach programs. Call the After Dark for info, 373-7828.
March

March 12
March Masquerade
The 3M Foundation presents March Masquerade" to benefit John XXIII AIDS Ministry.

March 25
Gay Men's Consortium: HIV Outreach
Help determine the future direction of local HIV outreach. All are welcome, with a special invitation extended to ethnic and racial minorities. 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 615 Abrego, Monterey. For more info. call Wayne Johnson at 373-8055.

Lesbo Porno
by Twisted Sisters
Special to The Paper

The question was asked: What's the difference between lesbian porn and straight porn of two women having sex? We confidently stated there is a big difference. Lesbian porn is written and filmed to excite women, not as a performance to fulfill a man's fantasy. To prove our point we volunteered to review some lesbian porn films for The Paper.

Cheesy Doodles
The first movie, Waking Up: A Lesson in Love (or Waking Up: There Ain't Nothin' Happenin' in Austin, Texas...) was a torturous journey following the exploits of Susan as she discovers her life as a lesbian. The highlights of the first ritual scene include: 1) three women disrobing to the beat of drums (1, 2) them diving into a lake and swinging from vines à la Tarzan and Jane, and 3) an Ode to Cheese Doodles and Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Noodles. We then segued into the land of Petticoat Junction (all we can remember is a lot of bad dyke-shags) where Susan finds "Butch," the well-muscled, high-stepping two-stepper. Following is a masturbation bath scene (or was it a petit mal seizure?) showing her fantasies including a dragon tattooed woman (perhaps the most artistic aspect of the whole film). Suffice it to say we were left basking in the afterglow... of hysteria, and hoping that the next film was somehow erotic.

Paintfully Slow
Next was Images: A Lesbian Love Story. Although Charlene Worthley did a good job as Dori, one corner of the love triangle, and obviously has some acting talent, the other two actresses were terrible (and unfortunately they were the two who had sex). The movie features "original women's music," mostly of an old English ballad variety. We found it painfully slow and monotonous, as was the action. During the one and only sex scene we discovered it was much more interesting to run the tape at fast forward. At least at that speed they seemed to have orgasms.

10% is Not Enough
Lastly, is Long Awaited Pleasure (another Lesbian Love Story). The two main actresses, Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw, actually are talented and have a special chemistry between them. The dialogue is believable and the supporting characters are entertaining. But the movie is 90 minutes long, and Lois and Peggy date for 80 minutes and have sex for 10 minutes (bad planning for a porn movie!). Then when they do finally get to bed (believe me, this was long awaited), they're covered with a sheet for most of the time. Come on!!! This was the best of the three videos, but we were still frustrated.

It's unfortunate that the stereotype of lesbians that don't desire more than to cuddle, talk and fall in love is further supported by this truly boring "lesbian porn." Although disheartening, it does provide us with an excuse to continue our search for... truly erotic lesbian pornography. Next issue we'll review the boarding school cult classic Therese and Isabelle and the modern day Claire of the Moon.
quicksilver answering service

Advice Column

Dear Quicksilver,
I am dating a woman who identifies as lesbian. She continues to insist that I am a lesbian although I identify as bisexual. She says I'm in denial. What should I tell her?
Signed, Pressured

Dear Pressured,
The model I use in dealing with sexual orientation issues and identity boundaries is from Fia Melody's work. I believe it is sexually abusive to deny, attack or ignore your perceptions of your sexual identity. I would tell her that it is understandable that she is feeling invested in you being lesbian identified AND by discounting your perceptions she is inadvertently creating distance between you. Exactly the thing she does not want.

Dear Quicksilver, My partner and I have not been sexual for over a year. We have been together for 5 years. In the beginning of our relationship we promised not to see anyone without telling each other. Recently I met someone I'm attracted to. I've been thinking of getting sexually involved. I don't want any hassles or hurt feelings at home so I don't plan to let my partner know. It seems to me that I've already tried everything to work things out between us. What do you think?
Signed, Frustrated

Dear Frustrated, No problem. When you started seeing your partner you said things you meant. You made commitments you planned to keep. You can make a conscious commitment not to feel guilty about getting your needs met.

I don't recommend seeing the other person or getting physically involved before ending the current relationship. Consider revising the terms of your commitment. You don't want to disappoint your partner. By getting sexually involved you add betrayal to grief. Finding out from someone else will result in distrust and chaos. Not wanting to "complicate" things by being honest, I feel, is an attempt to avoid standing up for yourself. Attempts to avoid the issue at home have to do with dysfunctional patterns that affected the sexual relationship. Try sharing your anger and let your current partner know you're at the end of your rope. Many of the couples I've seen for therapy polarize into approach or avoidance problems.

Dear Quicksilver, I have a friend who is dating someone who is HIV+. I know they have been sexually active and I know that my friend doesn't know that his lover is positive. I feel I have to tell him and at the same time I feel torn about this situation. What do you think is the best way to handle this?

Dear Concerned, Anytime the issue of HIV status comes up it requires delicacy and diplomacy. Your best bet is probably to go personally to the person who is HIV+ and tell him that you are concerned. The idea of consensual sex imposes making a conscious decision. Your friend can't give his consent when he's not informed. It's inappropriate for anyone to make a decision involving risk factors for someone else.

It takes courage to tell someone that you are HIV+. It's understandable about wanting to put it off "for just a while." It's also understandable to just "wish people would mind their own business." In cases like this all of the angles are not going to come together neatly. This is a time to be subjective about your friend.

Send questions for Quicksilver to The Paper. Quicksilver Answering Service is provided by a Licensed Marriage, Family and Child Therapist. The suggestions made here are intended to be helpful in general situations. If you are experiencing overwhelming feelings contact a local mental health professional.

The Paper welcomes articles from the bisexual & transgender communities. We can help. Call us.

Acapella Salon
Gary Tosta
229 Crossroads Blvd. Carmel
626-3655

FAST 2 Reviews of Cultural Elements
by seVen FouRty
Contributing Writer

FILM
Immortal Beloved: Educational, but not Amadeus. Bad make-up. Go Gary go.
Vanya on 42nd Street: Who knew Chekov could be so relevant? Can you sit and listen?
Dumb and Dumber: Get dragged to this one and enjoy it!
Disclosure: If you are in this rat race, this is a hurdle. A famine upon reflection. Why bother?
Heavenly Creatures: Not to be missed. It has a script, characters and exploits the medium's inherent possibilities.

RENT!
Kurosawa's The Hidden Fortress (1958). The basis for Star Wars: Rescue the princess with two bumbling bums. Yes, it has subtitles.
Delicatessen (1991). Not for everyone. Post-apocalyptic French comedy/love story about cannibalism, attempted suicide and neighbors from hell paying rent with lentils and corn. I am not kidding! Yes, it has subtitles.

CD
Night Prayers/Kronos Quartet: They keep on bringing us the new, most of it enjoyable.
Tuesday Night Music Club/Sheryl Crow: You think you've had it with pop music, then, pop!
Pale Sun, Crescent Moon/Cowboy Junkies: Powerful words trapped by music in a difficult mood.

STAGE
Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo at Santa Cruz Civic. You have to like ballet to enjoy the Trocks. I'd heard how funny they were for a decade. I've seen funnier good dance. Oh well.
We Want Your Nose.

For Local News. And your eyes and mouth and hands and feet. We want you to help get out Monterey's gay community newspaper.

For information on how to get involved, call Wes at 655-3756 or Barbara at 647-8906.

You can also write to The Paper at P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942-2081 or send e-mail to stickyrice@aol.com.

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Hawaiian Eco-Tours, Amazonia, & Tanzania

by Dan Presser
Contribution Writer

Lots of people are looking for a little excitement in their life. Here are a couple of ideas to add spice to your life with some Ecological Adventure Travel.

At a recent meeting of the International Gay Travel Association in Hawaii I was turned on to a couple of guys who run a dynamite diving spot in Kona. They formed Eco-Adventures nearly four years ago and have now laid claim to being the premier scuba diving and adventure travel outfitter on the Big Island. Eco-Adventures is a PADI 5-Star Instructor Development Center, the highest rating PADI gives. They teach all levels of diving from snorkeling to open water certification courses where you can learn to swim with the dolphins. The next time you're going Hawaiian, give the guys at Eco-Adventures a call. Their number is (800) 329-7116.

If you're looking for real adventure check out the Amazon jungle, one of the great wild places left on earth. This giant meanders through nine South American countries (Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, Surinam and French Guyana) and cradles at least 30,000 of Latin America's species of plants, making this a truly unusual, but interesting place to visit. There are several suppliers specializing in gay and lesbian travel to the exciting Amazon.

One of the most remarkable adventures you can ever experience is to visit Tanzania in East Africa. The moment you head for the bush you may think you're going to leave comfort behind. That's actually true as long as you're bouncing with every bump Tanzania can toss at you. Once it's time to call it a day, you can find yourself in such places as the Serengeti Sopa Lodge. It's a haven of civilization deep within the disappearing landscape of vanishing species. With luck you'll see all five of Africa's big game animals-cheetah, leopard, elephant, lion and rhinoceros-before they bite the bullet at the hands of greedy mercenaries. Gay and lesbian tours of magnificent Africa are gaining popularity.

The next time that wild urge grabs you, make a real adventure out of it and take an Eco-Tour.
The "Good Old Days" Were Not That Good: A different look at nostalgia

by Wes Davis

I recently took a call from a gay man about my age who was lamenting how he missed the good old days. "What exactly do you miss?" I asked, attempting to narrow the field to a manageable dimension. "I miss the days when being gay didn't mean you died from having sex. I miss the days when I could express myself more freely." He said that he really would like to return to the free sex days of the seventies and eighties. When pressed, he admitted that he really would

HIV Commentary

Heterosexual Transmission of HIV

The New England Journal of Medicine recently reported on a French study of three hundred heterosexual couples. One partner was seropositive and the other negative. Researchers were looking to see if safer sexual practices would cut down the rate of HIV transmission. The couples were followed for an average of over two years and were interviewed every six months.

Researchers report that 48% of the study group consistently used condoms whenever they had intercourse. This group had no incidence of seroconversion. However, in the group that only sometimes or never used condoms, there was a seroconversion rate of 12.7%. Clearly, condoms do work in cutting down HIV transmission. Researchers also noted that transmission was more likely to occur if the infected partner was in an advanced stage of HIV disease. This is consistent with other studies on HIV transmission. The stage of HIV disease of the infecting person is one factor that determines whether transmission will occur.

Long Term HIV Infection

The journal AIDS recently published the findings of the researchers that are conducting an ongoing study of some 600 gay and bisexual males. This group from the San Francisco City Clinic Men's Cohort are known to have already been infected with HIV in 1978. The men were involved in a Hepatitis B study at the time, so blood samples were available when eventually in the mid-1980s the test for HIV antibodies came along. By mid-1994, 69% of the study group still had CD4 counts over 500, showed no symptoms, and showed no CD4 decline. This latter group are the so-called non-progressors. Researchers found no correlation between a history of sexually transmitted disease and whether one was a progressor or non-progressor. They also found no correlation between prior use of drugs and/or alcohol and disease progression. Researchers did note that non-progressors have higher CD8 counts than the progressors.

Itchy Bump Syndrome

Eosinophilic folliculitis, more commonly referred to as "itchy bump syndrome," are little pimple-like outbreaks around hair follicles. They occur frequently in people with HIV whose CD4 count has dropped below 300. A number of treatments have been tried including ultraviolet light, azithromycin (brand name Hismanal), and other lotions. AIDS Treatment News reports that some have had success with the use of itraconazole (Sporonox); this is an anti-fungal, although eosinophilic folliculitis does not appear to be a fungal infection.

Transmission of AZT-Resistant Strains of HIV

At the recent ICAAC Conference, researchers reported on a study that looked at the frequency of transmission of AZT-resistant strains of HIV. In the period from 1988 to 1991, researchers found that only 3% of the HIV isolates from those who had recently seroconverted were resistant to AZT. In 1993 and 1994, almost 20% of the HIV isolates from the newly infected were found to be AZT-resistant. This has implications for early use of antivirals. It may be that for a growing number of the newly infected AZT alone will not be effective. Perhaps we should be starting people on a course of combination antiviral therapy, rather than the monotherapy that is currently the standard of care for early intervention.

AIDSpeak

Phase I Trials Studies done to determine a treatment's safety

Phase II Trials Studies done to see if the treatment is beneficial.

Phase III Trials Studies for efficacy & to find the best dosage

d4T Safety Summary

The FDA requires a quarterly safety summary for new drugs, and the manufacturers of d4T recently published their side effects profile. Data were based on d4T use by over 14,000 patients in Phase I-III trials, as well as the Parallel Track.
pressing ourselves as gay men. What mattered was society other than just another way to find the cosmos ourselves. We had become so used to being torn apart that we began to accept. WE men were inferior, animal-like and good only for one thing. SEX! We forgot that we have so much to contribute to the history of those individual moments. We've all been there whether in passion, giddiness, fear of loss, inhibition, lack of confidence, unpreparedness (certainly gives a new twist to the Boy Scout motto doesn't it?), and sometimes in denial, depression or despair. We have to start talking about some of these things, recognizing our humanity in them.

The challenge may be just that in fact: homophobia, whether from outside or inside ourselves, fosters the conditions in which otherwise casual decisions can take a desperate edge. It is just as true of specific members of any group that has experienced similar levels of unacceptance, frustration and ennui.

Besides the important work already being accomplished in AIDS outreach, we can look at the social context in which the decisions to ignore HIV/AIDS are being made. The internalized callousness matches the conditioning; it is what some have learned is their (unacceptable!) lot.

Does the community offer models, events, networks to contradict the negativity of those destructive messages? Do we seek to ignite in our brothers and sisters self-confidence, the willingness not just to get past this moment's difficulty, but to look forward to everything life offers with the intent of putting a lot into living? AIDS awareness—and with the Valentine month—upon us, are we reaching out to one another with something more than plastic?

Good Old Days
Continued from page 12
pressing ourselves as gay men. What mattered was getting our rocks off. In effect we were devaluing ourselves. We had become so used to being torn down by others to the common thread of our sexuality, which we began to accept. WE men were inferior, animal-like and good only for one thing. SEX! We were VERY good at having sex. Unprotected sex. We forgot that we have so much to contribute to society other than just another way to find the cosmic orgasm.

Looking Ahead
When we look back at the good old days, we must remember that part of what we did to ourselves was to deny our self-worth. We unknowingly destroyed our value as human beings. We must now take responsibility for our actions. I don't mean to suggest blaming or excoriating ourselves, but rather to acknowledge that our actions affect not only us but the society in which we live. We owe to that society a certain responsibility to make it a better place. Gay men have a great deal to contribute, and in so doing will regain much of our self-esteem.

Part of that process will be to remember the "good old days" for what they were, not for what we wish they were. Part of that process will be to express ourselves in a sexual manner, but with some forethought and planning. Part of the process is to mature as a valued segment of society. This process includes the acknowledgment by society of our worth as individuals and as a subset of society. All of this must happen. After all, in a few years these will be "The Good Old Days." Let's make them even better now, than when we will remember them later.

Where Would You Take Your Date on Valentine's Day?

**Contestant Number One**
Dinner at Pacific Edge at the Highlands, followed by hot tubbing at Esalen. Then a continental breakfast with a red rose at Ventana.

**Contestant Number Two**
Bondage a Go Go, San Francisco, followed by a night of fisting with our favorite bottle of wine on the San Francisco Pier.

**Contestant Number Three**
Lunch at Fresh Cream, then horseback riding along Big Sur, followed by a massage. On to dinner at Deetjen's Big Sur Inn, then a midnight game of hide and go seek in the hot tubs at Esalen to be continued in our cabin.

**Contestant Number Four**
Long, hot sex at the tip of Point Lobos at sunset, then Tequila shots and dancing at the After Dark, then a night spent in the redwoods, under the stars, in each other's arms.

Homosexuality and the Church:
A New Series of Classes Tackles Common Questions Among Gay & Lesbian Christians

Educational classes, "Homosexuality and the Church," will be held at All-Saints Episcopal Church, Dolores and 9th Streets, Carmel, 7:30-9:00 p.m. starting Monday, March 6th and running for eight consecutive Monday nights. The cost is $10.00 for each session or $60.00 for the series.

The classes are coordinated by E. Richard Brown. Richard was ordained a Presbyterian pastor and awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary for writing his thesis on gay and lesbian issues facing the church.

There will be participation from the gay and lesbian community, parents and friends of lesbians and gays, John XXIII AIDS Ministry, and the Monterey County AIDS Project.

Subjects to be discussed:
The classes are intended to educate interested heterosexuals and homosexuals about the following topics:

1. What it means to grow up gay or lesbian.
5. The gay agenda according to the fundamentalist church.
6. How has AIDS impacted the community?
7. The family and the gay community.
8. An open forum with a facilitator and personal testimony.

All interested people please contact Richard Brown at (408) 373-5811. Registrations will be taken at the door starting at 7:00 p.m. before each session.

Lavender Road
Metropolitan Community Church
"A Christian Church Affirming Gay and Lesbian People"
Rev. Jean Hart, Pastor
P.O. Box 1764
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
408 335-0466
The Queer Reader

Continued from page 5

When I asked if there were any magazines, the handsome clerk suggested I try Brentano’s.

Waldenbooks, Del Monte Shopping Center, Monterey

My next bookshop stop took me through the woods, and over the hill, and to the top of the outdoor escalator at Del Monte Center. Waldenbooks has recently expanded and now has what no Monterey bookstore can do without: a cafe with outdoor tables. You’ll find seven shelves devoted to Gay Studies located in the Social Sciences section next to New Age literature. Waldenbooks has a very good selection of contemporary titles covering gay politics, philosophy, history, culture, sexuality, relationships, and so on, from men’s and women’s perspectives. Waldenbooks provides a fairly even mix of both gay and lesbian literature.

I purchased The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies by Vito Russo, a book I’ve been wanting to read ever since I gave it to my ex-boyfriend a year and a half ago. I also purchased The Gay Guys Guide to Life by Ken Hanes, which is comprised of 463 platitudes, comments, and suggestions like “only call a 900 or 976 number that charges by the day or hour, not the minute”, “don’t discriminate against heterosexuals”, and “beefcake calendars are the weapon of choice for use in the-dark condoms”. Gee, I wish I could meet someone like that.

Waldenbooks has a vast assortment of magazines in general, and has always had one or two gayzines in particular. When I was last there, I found “Frontiers”, the West Hollywood version of the L.A. weekly; “10 Percent” - the sophisticated S.F. magazine; and the slightly less sophisticated “Genre”, from slightly less sophisticated L.A.

Monterey Coffeehouse Bookshop, 472 Alvarado, Monterey

After diligently searching in the Sociology and Psychology sections, I found M.C.B.’s gay and lesbian books of interest interspersed with hetero-erotic books on the bottom shelf in the Eros section. Hidden away amongst the “what he really wants in bed” sex manuals for straight women, I found a few collections of short stories, books on religion, history, and a new book called The Unofficial Gay Manual which is a rip-off of the yuppie manual published during the ’80s but without any of the wit or originality. After picking it up and leafing through it, I felt pretty disgusted that a couple of supposedly gay lawyers from D.C. are making so much money off this piece of fishwrap that is supposed to be humorously self-deprecating, but is actually just a gross embarrassment. This book would seem to have been written by someone with homophobia cloaked in jock sensibilities rather than out and about men of the nineties. I was not sympathetic when I read that one of the co-authors actually had to “come out” as a result of his collaboration on the book. Maybe he’ll do us all a favor and stay away from his word processor and go “back in”.

In the magazine section, I found only “The Advocate”, the stalwart gay ‘zine that’s been in publication since at least the late sixties. As you know by its name M.C.B. has a cafe, with outdoor seating off the sidewalk.

Bay Books, 316 Alvarado, Monterey

Bay Books has by far the most visible gay and lesbian lit section, owing to the fact that it’s identified by a hanging aisle sign, visible from throughout the store. There are three shelves allocated to gay and lesbian books on spirituality, history, coming out, liberation, teachers, and fiction. I purchased a book on astrology entitled Gay Love Signs by Michael Jay, which absolutely and entirely explained why I’m no longer with that Capricorn from a couple of years ago.

I found the “Village Voice” among the great assortment of national and international newspapers, in the magazine section where I also found “10 Percent”. Bay books also has a cafe, with, of course, outdoor seating.

Books & Things, 224 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey

Books & Things is a used book store which happens to be located right next door to the A.D. Books & Things has lots of books, but I failed to find any. There’s a Women’s Studies section.

Medical Update

Continued from page 12

tients in Phase I-III trials, as well as the Parallel Track program. Peripheral neuropathy was reported by 22% of those defined as in the advanced stage of HIV disease (defined as less than 200 T-cells). For those with less advanced disease (i.e. over 200 T-cells) the incidence of peripheral neuropathy was 9%. This side effect was more likely to occur at the higher doses of ddT (over 2 mg/kg of weight per day).

Pneumonitis was reported in only 1% of the population using the drug. However, elevated amylase, one of the indicators of possible pneumonitis, was noted in 42% of the Phase III trial group and in 29% of those in the Parallel Track program. If you are on ddT, you should have your amylase levels checked at least every three months. Finally, headache and nausea were reported by about 3% of those in the trials and Parallel Track program.

3TC Update

Lamivudine, more popularly known as 3TC, is the latest reverse transcriptase inhibitor to be developed. Glaxo, the manufacturer of 3TC, has set up an expanded access program for the drug. To be eligible, you need to have less than 300 T-cells and be intolerant of or have failed on the other available RT Inhibitors. In addition, you need to be unqualified for any ongoing drug studies. For more information, have your medical provider call (800) 248-9757.

In early trials, viral resistance to 3TC developed quickly when the drug was used alone; its antiviral efficacy may be best realized in combination with another antiviral. At a recent international conference in Glasgow, Glaxo reported on its study of 3TC in combination with AZT. For those who had never taken an antiviral prior to the study, the combination of 3TC and AZT yielded a mean increase of 80 T-cells above baseline at the end of 24 weeks. In contrast, those on AZT alone showed a mean drop of 7 T-cells at the end of 24 weeks of study. For those who had previous antiviral experience, the combination brought a mean increase of 30 T-cells vs. a mean decrease of 20 T-cells for those on AZT alone. Researchers also noted that there was a nosedifference in outcome whether the dose of 3TC was 150 mg or 300 mg twice a day. The lower dose may be as effective as the higher.

To date, 3TC appears to be extremely well tolerated. There have been reports of a small incidence of neutropenia, a decrease in white blood cells.

Protease Inhibitor Update

Saquinavir, the protease inhibitor being developed by Roche Laboratories, continues to lead the pack of PIs in development. So far, saquinavir has shown only limited side effects. Locally, UCLA and Harbor UCLA are conducting a study of saquinavir vs. ddI vs. a combination of the two drugs. Up at Stanford, they are looking at the use of high dose saquinavir, setting the daily dosage at 7200 mg, in contrast to the current standard of 1800 mg per day.

The Merck protease inhibitor, L-524 is being studied at Pacific Oaks Medical Group; this study is currently closed. Reports on Abbott’s PI, ABT-538, indicate excellent absorption in Phase I trials. Finally, the protease inhibitor under development by Searle, SC-52151, has been abandoned; the manufacturer cites lack of efficacy as the reason for ceasing the development effort.

In all, protease inhibitors appear to drop the viral load to a much greater extent than is found with the currently available reverse transcriptase inhibitors (AZT, ddI, ddC, ddT). There is hope that at least one of the PIs under development will achieve FDA approval in 1995.

Hydrea Used to Fight HIV

Hydrea is the brand name of the leu­kemia drug, hydroxyurea. This drug has been around for a number of years. In a recent issue of Science (Nov. 18, 1994), researchers reported on a test tube study where Hydrea was combined with ddI. With this combination, viral replication was almost completely blocked, and the dose of Hydrea was only about a tenth of that used by leukemia patients.

This is exciting news and opens up a new area of study. Of course, we need to keep in mind that this is a test tube study, and human studies are needed to determine the clinical value of using Hydrea in combination with an antiviral. The FDA has approved a protocol for human testing that compares a regimen of Hydrea alone to a combination of Hydrea and AZT and to a second combination of Hydrea and ddI. Locally, Shared Medical is set to conduct this trial as soon as funding becomes available. Initial testing will be limited to those with CD4 counts over 300 and no symptoms of HIV disease.

Reprinted by permission from the Dec 1995 issue of the Being Alive monthly newsletter. Subscriptions are $24/year. Call Being Alive at (213) 667-3262 or write to 3263 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, ATTN: Newsletter. Being Alive is an organization OF and FOR people with HIV/AIDS.
Job Listings

MAN-TO-MAN OUTREACH COORDINATOR
FT, $22K + benefits. Requires excellent interpersonal skills, ability to work flexible hours and motivate and supervise volunteers. Call for application packet: 394-4747. Closes 3/10/95.

OFFICE MANAGER
FT, $20K + benefits. Bilingual (Spanish/English). Requires word processing, organizational skills, interpersonal skills, ability to motivate and supervise volunteers. Call for application packet: 394-4747. Closes 3/10/95.

Women's Services

Battered Lesbians Support Therapy
For lesbians involved in emotionally or physically abusive relationships. Meets weekly (there is a fee). Call 649-6283.

HIV/AIDS Services

HIV+ Hypnotherapy Workshop
Hypnosis for Healing invites HIV+ men & women to a monthly relaxation workshop. For info, call MCAP at 394-4747.

HIV+ Men & Women Support Group
Sponsored by the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP). Group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call 394-4747 for information.

Family, Friends, and Partners Support Group
Meets the 1st & 3rd Weds. of the month at MCAP in Seaside, 394-4747.

John XXIII AIDS Ministry
Michael Center, 540 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 655-1737.

Moms for Moms Support group for moms of people with AIDS. Meets the 2nd & 4th Weds. of every month in Monterey. Call 655-1737 or Jeanne Steinbach at 484-2265.

Monteber County AIDS Project (MCAP)
780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-4747; and 10 Sherwood Dr. Ste. 5, Salinas, 424-5550.

Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP)
911A Center St. Santa Cruz, 427-3900.

Community Resources

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Central Office
373-3713 or 424-9874

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for Monterey County
373-491 or 373-0823

BAYMEC Lesbian & gay political organization, 899-2263

Gay Men’s Health Coalition
649-2555

Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey, Inc.
899-2048

Integrity Gay Episcopalian group. Call 484-2326.

Lesbian Alliance
648-4338

Metropolitan Community Church Services held Sunday evenings in Monterey 335-0466 or 372-2182

Nat’l Coalition Building Institute
373-4606

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
Meets the 4th Tues. of every month in Carmel, call 655-FLAG

Pet Loss Grief Support Group
649-6283

Peninsula Professional Network (PPN)
659-2446

Transgender Support Group
462-3663

Triangle Speakers
425-3227

Women’s Bisexual Network
427-4556

Youth Group for Gay Teens
626-4620 or 424-5550

NEXT DEADLINE is March 15th

Classifieds

Rates: Classified listings $.25 per word; “For Free” and “Community Resources” listings are free.

The Paper cannot publish your ad or listing without the following information. It will be kept strictly confidential.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Home Ph # ____________________________

I certify that the above information is accurate and complete (required for classified ads only):

Signature ____________________________

Enclose check(s) made payable to The Paper. Mail to P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942. Ads not accompanied by payment cannot be accepted. We reserve the right to reject any classified ad or listing submitted for publication.

There’s No Charge to List Free Stuff or Community Resources!
Hints for Straight People when Meeting Gays & Lesbians

1. Do not run screaming from the room; this is rude.
2. If you feel you must back away, do so slowly and with discretion.
3. Do not assume they are attracted to you.
4. Do not assume they are not attracted to you.
5. Do not expect them to be as curious about meeting a heterosexual as you may be about meeting a gay person.
6. Do not immediately start talking about your boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife in order to make it clear that you are straight.
7. Do not ask them how they got that way. Instead, ask yourself how you got the way you are.
8. If you have more than a passing acquaintance with medicine, don't ask a gay man why his hypothalamus is smaller than yours.
9. Do not assume they are dying to talk about being gay.
10. Don't ask if they've seen the Oprah or Donahue show on television.
11. Do not trivialize their experience by assuming it is a bedroom issue only; they are gay 24 hours a day.

The Queer Reader
Continued from page 5

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- 6 months (three issues): $6
- 1 year (six issues): $12

The Paper will be delivered in a plain envelope.

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The Queer Reader

Continued from page 5

with a few feminist titles, but gay and lesbian titles are found in the Eros section, next to the cash register. There was mainly fiction, but perhaps because Books & Things is a used book store, there were also some venerable titles from the seventies and eighties that are interesting not just because of their pre- and early AIDS awareness levels, but also from a historical standpoint as a direct reference to gay life at the time.

I bought a book that had its first printing in 1977 titled "Men loving Men - a Gay Sex Guide & Consciousness Book" and boy, is it groovy. It's also less pretentious than some of the postured and supposedly more mature modern day writing. There's a history section for each basic act, and a black and white pictorial with unpierced long-haired men...wow. If you require coffee in order to read, as one might assume by the prevalence of cafe/bookstores in Monterey, it can be acquired across the street at the Bagel Bakery. Books & Things had no magazines on the day that I was there.

Raven in the Grove

505 Lighthouse, Pacific Grove

If you continue down Lighthouse another couple of miles, you'll find Raven in the Grove across from the Pacific Grove Coffee Roasting Company. Raven in the Grove is more than a bookstore, it's an art gallery, object d'art shop, and community forum. It has a bulletin board with all kinds of postings of interest to women and the community at large. There is a fine array of photographic art on display as well as sculpture, metal goods, prints, lithographs, and jewelry. There is a wide range of women's literature; the atmosphere is comfortable, and somewhat reminiscent of the Phoenix shop at Nepenthe.

Lesbian literature is tucked away in a corner to the left of and behind the magazine section. There are two shelves of books: one devoted to lesbian fiction and the other devoted to lesbian studies. There appeared to be a fairly good variety, even though it was surprisingly small for a bookstore devoted entirely to women's literature.

Raven in the Grove had copies of "Deneuve", and "Out" magazines, and was the only bookshop that had copies of The Paper!

Bookworks 667 Lighthouse, Pacific Grove

Further down Lighthouse on the other side of Forest Avenue, you'll find Bookworks, with its picture of Walt Whitman on its logo. In spite of their use of a renowned gay literary hero for their identity, and a lot of square footage, there is no gay and lesbian book section, and virtually no Gay and Lesbian books. There are, however, Women's Studies sections and Men's Studies sections located directly adjacent to the Christianity A-Z section.

In the Women's section I found the usual predominantly hetero mix of Women on Top because they are Women Who Love Too Much so they develop "Female Rage" and become "Wild Women" also known as "Women who run with the Wolves"...but no real lesbian stuff.

Similarly in the Men's studies section, I found some drip my drivel about drumming and sweating, and getting in touch with your mythical masculinity (read latency), some visceral stuff about the men's movement, and something that must have been about ulcers entitled Fire in the Belly. And then, down on the bottom shelf, I found a single copy of The Unofficial Gay Manual which confirmed my belief that this worthless piece of printed trash was written solely for the purpose of allowing straight men to develop ridiculously stupid ideas about us.

Bookworks has a coffee shop in the back with counter service and tables. I found "OUT" magazine in stock on their magazine rack.

B. Dalton 198 Country Club Gate Center, Pacific Grove

B. Dalton is located up the hill from Bookworks in the Country Club shopping center behind Pacific Grove High School. B. Dalton has a clandestine Gay book section which is located in the Astrology section next to Theatre Arts.

There were just a couple of lesbian books, and most of the selection was comprised of "Bad Boy" books - trashy sex novellas that could have been written by a bent computer. There were however, some old 70s and 80s books that may be of interest to anyone trying to gain a historical perspective on our loosely defined community, including: Coming out in the 70s, Gay Men's Health (1983), Ed Dean is Queer (70s), and my personal favorite, Pei Yu - Boy Actress. I found "Out" and "The Advocate" next to "Ms." & "Wired", and "International Male" next to "Playgirl" in their "zine section.

Closing Notes

Well, that's it. If there are any of you literati out there who feel that I've left anything out, you can write a letter to The Paper and let us know, and we'll in turn let everyone else know. Happy browsing.