One local lesbian will put her determination and quadriceps to the test May 14th in the fight against AIDS. Susan Frawley will join an estimated 2,000 cyclists in AIDS Ride 2, a 525-mile, 5-day trek from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Riding with her in spirit will be friends, family, and supporters now helping her raise the $2,200 needed to participate in this super bike-a-thon.

The Long Road to the Ride

Frawley, 32, is an energetic Central Coast native who started cycling seriously just 16 months ago. She will be one of two local women riding in AIDS Ride 2.

The bike path between Monterey and Marina and the steep road to Jack’s Peak are Frawley’s training grounds. When asked how she has dealt with the recent bad weather, Frawley flashed a smile and said, “I ride in my living room and watch cartoons.”

Reaching Out to Family

Most of the donations Frawley has received have come from relatives and friends. Now she is reaching out to the local gay community through fundraisers, including a recent tea dance and raffle at the After Dark. Groups such as the Lesbian Alliance have also pledged to help.

Pedaling for Life

Nothing speaks louder than action in the fight against AIDS. Dedicating her time, money, and muscle makes this remarkable young Monterey woman a true local hero. HIV and AIDS have struck close to home. “I have friends who have it, friends who have died from it,” said Frawley, “We have to do something.”

The AIDS Ride 2 route will pass through Santa Cruz and the Aromas area then swing east towards the Pinnacles. Their route can change up until the day of the ride.

How You Can Help

Send your tax-deductible donations to Susan Frawley, 450 Casanova, Monterey, CA 93940. Make checks payable to AIDS Ride 2. You can also reach Susan at 372-2935.

by Wes Kashiwagi

GWM... Not!

by Deborah Aguayo-Delgado

We're Here, We're Queer, and We Know How to Make Headlines
We Dig Digital Files

If you have access to a computer, we like to receive things on diskette or by E-mail. We can accept most Macintosh & DOS-formatted floppies. We like plain ol' text-only files (leave the formatting to us) and please include a hardcopy.

How To Reach Us

The Paper
P.O. Box 2081
Monterey, CA 93942-2081

To submit an article: (408) 647-8906, ask for Barbara or (408) 655-3756, ask for Wes
E-mail: stickyrice@aol.com

Editorial Policy
The Paper invites submissions of articles, interviews, reviews, announcements, literature (e.g., 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.

We Are All Gay+

By Wes Kashiwagi
Co-managing Editor

A teaching assistant at my alma mater used to grade papers by throwing them down his apartment stairwell; those that made it to the bottom got the 'A's. Some of you may be wondering if we employ a similar methodology at The Paper's editorial meetings.

The 40% Mandate
Most of the articles in The Paper come from people with a pet cause they want publicized. We like that. However, the grant that pays our printing costs requires us to devote 40% of every issue to HIV/AIDS prevention. We aren't limited to straight news articles on virology or safer sex, so we try to be creative when meeting the quota.

Many people, including myself, are put off by all of the red ribbon waving whenever they pick up a gay publication. "Gay" should never equal "AIDS."

Stupid Paper Tricks
We would like The Paper to reflect all that our community has to offer, even when it doesn't look like Mayberry. Yes, we will continue to devote 40% towards AIDS prevention, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THE SAME CONDESCENDING CRAP YOU'VE HEARD A MILLION TIMES BEFORE.

If you read an article on the HIV/AIDS page and you happen to be HIV+, the information provided should be useful and, more importantly, it should be news to you. If you're HIV-, we'll provide the information you need to stay that way.

Clarity Starts at Home
The purpose of The Paper is to create a sense of community. When men, women, and those in transition know that there are others like them willing to be recognized for their accomplishments, we'll all be a little less apt to invent phantom girlfriends and boyfriends, disguise a lover as a "roommate," or live in fear of something as innocent as walking arm-in-arm down the streets of Salinas.

Well-deserved Recognition: Weldon Webb, owner of the After Dark nightclub, received a Community Action award from MCAP for making a significant contribution towards the betterment of the community at a ceremony held Feb. 14th in Salinas. Webb was among the first to become involved in the formation of MCAP.

Layout Fairy Needed!
If you know Quark Xpress, have a fair sense of design, and know a little about print production, we need to talk. I may be leaving town soon, and we need someone to step in as The Paper's volunteer layout person. You should have access to a fairly zippy Macintosh or Windows PC with a high-density 3-1/2" floppy drive, a laser printer, and a BIG pot of coffee. I'm working on getting us a free copy of Xpress and a computer, but don't hold your breath. Interested? Call Wes at 655-3756 for more information.

From the February/March 1995 issue

In the article on the meeting of the Gay Men's Consortium on page 3, I mistakenly described The Network as a "gay" organization. It is not. I also listed the Community Calendar under the wrong organization. It is not. I also listed the organization. It is not. I also listed the organization. It is not. I also listed the organization.

The Paper's Executive Committee, most of whom are women, men, 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.

We Need Photographers - Call Wes at 655-3756 for Info

Corrections
The incorrect address was given for Being Alive on page 14. The correct address is 3626 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.
The Paper apologizes for these errors and any misunderstandings that may have resulted from them. -WK
Chico) and others have introduced three bills to ban state sanctioned "preferential treatment" based on race or gender. Assemblyman Bernie Richter (R-Chico) and others have introduced several bills dealing with affirmative action to the state legislature.

The gay community is familiar with the arguments that are being put forward. Anti-gay measures in Oregon, Colorado, and other places have all used the "special rights" argument to deny lesbians and gays the ballot initiative. Affirmative action is expected to be the divisive issue used by Republicans to win more seats—even the Presidency—in 1996. The lingering recession and corporate downsizing have increased tension over hiring and promotions.

Ironically, most corporations aren't making a lot of noise about affirmative action. They have benefited from having a more diverse workforce. It is largely the perception by white men that they are being held back from jobs or promotions by people less qualified and eligible only through affirmative action.

If the focus is on class instead of race or gender, all economically disadvantaged people would be covered. The word "quota" is loaded with baggage. All qualified people for a position should be eligible for affirmative action without safeguards, is to risk returning to the "old boy network." The issue of equal rights, and BAYMEC will work in coalition with women's groups, organized labor, civil rights organizations and others to ensure that equality of opportunity is the cornerstone of any compromise reached on affirmative action.

Dr. Wiggy Siervsten, co-founder of BAYMEC eleven years ago, is leaving the BAYMEC Board in order to establish the organization's new non-profit group, Open Mind Network, Inc. (OMNI). OMNI "will be developing educational material and programs for corporations, schools, and other institutions to inform them of issues relevant to our community and to influence and help develop policies to benefit our community in education and employment at the local level." (excerpted from BAYMEC's "Issues to Watch" by Leslee Hamilton)

Wiggy is one of these extraordinary people who both excites and educates everyone she meets. We know her new efforts will be no less successful—because many more of us will be there. Thanks, Wiggy, for everything you've accomplished already.

A Letter from the Mailbox

Concerned Citizens of Pacific Grove,

At the "town hall meeting" in February, I sat in the audience as a 22 year resident of Pacific Grove and was appalled by the concerns that were voiced: too much trash around McDonald's, dirt sidewalks, building on Rocky Shores, and so it went on and on.

There was one person who spoke and to this day I wonder if anyone had heard him besides me. He is an addict and HIV+. His point, as I understood it, was that of awareness.

I believe as a community we need to re-evaluate our priorities. Focusing on what is really happening here in Butterfly Town U.S.A. would bring awareness and possible solutions to our struggling business community, our bored youth, residents who are HIV+, addiction and alcoholism, our homeless, and yes, even the murders and rapes that occur here. If the ignorance and denial continue, the severity of these issues will leave devastating effects on us all. So, wake up P.G. and see where your priorities lie. Maybe that donation or solution could help save someone's livelihood instead of that Monterey Pine for a change.

Sincerely, Shannon Scott

Solead Street Block Party

MCAP volunteers served a meal to approximately 150 local residents, many of whom were homeless or indigent. MCAP's David True, CHOW Coordinator, worked with volunteers to make it a success. Volunteers later helped clean up the surrounding neighborhood.

Local PFLAG

Going Strong

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has a threefold mission: Support, Education, and Advocacy.

The Monterey County Chapter, founded in 1991, is carrying out that mission.

Our chapter had its inception at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Carmel as a tiny support group. Since then our membership has grown considerably as has our involvement in the local community.

Our meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Every other month we have a speaker combined with support; the other meetings are just for support. We usually have about 30 people in attendance. More than half of our membership is gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; the rest are parents.

Our speakers have included Mayor John Laird, the Reverend Ron Barton, psychologist Jerry Solomon and educator Shirley Lopez.

Our meetings are open to the public, and our chapter seeks to be inclusive and welcoming to all people who are interested in learning more about PFLAG. We welcome individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including parents, friends, and allies.

Our chapter has a threefold mission: Support, Education, and Advocacy. We provide support to parents and friends of LGBTQ youth, offer education and resources to the local community, and advocate for LGBTQ rights and equality.

Support:

Our chapter provides support to parents and friends of LGBTQ youth. We offer a safe space for individuals to share their experiences and connect with others who understand their struggles. We also offer resources and information on various topics related to LGBTQ identity and rights.

Our meetings typically feature a guest speaker or a panel discussion on topics such as coming out, gender identity, and promoting LGBTQ visibility.

Education:

Our chapter offers education on LGBTQ issues to the local community. We provide information on topics such as LGBTQ history, discrimination, and discrimination in the workplace. We also provide resources and support to local schools and organizations for LGBTQ non-discrimination policies.

Our chapter also hosts educational events such as workshops and forums to raise awareness and promote LGBTQ inclusion.

Advocacy:

Our chapter advocates for LGBTQ rights and equality. We work with local and national organizations to promote visibility and support for LGBTQ individuals.

Our chapter is committed to fighting for LGBTQ rights and equality. We actively participate in local and national advocacy efforts, such as supporting LGBTQ candidates for public office and advocating for LGBTQ issues in legislation.

We are committed to creating a more welcoming and inclusive community for LGBTQ individuals. We offer support and resources for parents and friends of LGBTQ youth, provide education on LGBTQ issues, and advocate for LGBTQ rights and equality.

For more information on local PFLAG activities, call 655-FLAG

PFLAG has become the fourth largest advocacy group for gay rights in the U.S. and offers publications and programs on key issues. The 14th annual convention will be held in Indianapolis from September 29 - October 1, 1995.

We publish a monthly newsletter and sell PFLAG T-shirts. Buy one!

Morgan's Offene Tea

Certified Massage Practitioner

Tom Tanner

753-0149

Washington street, monterey ca 93940
408-379-9897

Morgan's Offene Tea

For more information on local PFLAG activities, call 655-FLAG

Morgan's Offene Tea

Certified Massage Practitioner

Tom Tanner

753-0149

Read The Paper: It's Stronger and More Absorbent
GWM...Not!
Continued from page 1

However, most remarkable, albeit not surprising, was the fact that no one else in the room, not even the representative of the Health Department, nor MCA P, nor the meeting facilitator, nor the convener of the meeting seemed to notice the absence of people of color (or younger people). When questioned by the other non-white about efforts to involve members of gay communities of color, the organizers claimed to have extensively publicized the meeting, as if publicity alone was sufficient to ensure a diverse group out of which decisions affecting the entire community would be made. I do not mean to single out this meeting effort—it is only one example of the subtle and not so subtle ostracism of people of color.

When will people learn that a simple “invitation to participate” in this kind of forum does not guarantee access to people who are subject to conscious as well as inadvertent racism and classism?

Diversity or Tokenism?
People of color are marginalized through the process of trying to prevent cultural obliteration: trying to maintain and celebrate our own cultures under the constraints of a foreign dominant culture, language barriers, religious beliefs, differences in class backgrounds which result in greater obstacles to educational and career opportunities, and the assumptions made about individuals and groups based on skin color, language, and hair texture.

If the goal truly is to ensure diversity and be less exclusive, the local “gay community” needs to make a commitment to identify ways of encouraging people of different cultures and classes to participate in influential groups such as the Ryan White Consortium, Gay Men’s Consortium, MCA P Board of Directors, and the E/P Network at a decision-making level. The longer the same people—older, white and male—run the show, the longer the “gay community” of Monterey County seems to provide mere lip service to diversity and inclusion.

Nothing less serves to further the perception of many that the white gays in Monterey County only want their community to have a sprinkling of people of color—preferably desirable, traditionally educated, and well-behaved (read: exotic). Or worse is that they will be reserved for forbidden forays into passion and (un)safe sex. Two different scenarios—both equally devastating and inherently racist.

Peninsula-centrism
Those few people of color who manage to take part in such organizing meetings find themselves in the position of reminding the powers that be that Salinas and South Monterey are as equal a part of Monterey County as Carmel and Monterey; that it is safe to schedule a meeting after dark in Seaside or at the MCA P office in East Salinas; that brochures or flyers not only need to be produced in languages such as Spanish or Tagalog, but that they must be culturally appropriate and include photos of people that represent these communities.

...if people who are marginalized by class or race complain, they are labeled “angry,” and advised to “pick themselves up by the bootstraps”...

Credibility Gap
Why would a young, gay Latin man want to work for an organization that never does culturally relevant outreach in his neighborhood? How could that person, a potentially effective HIV educator, even be considered for the job if he is dismissed out-of-hand because of limited ability to spell or write a proper letter in English? Why should a 20-year-old Latina think that anyone understands the need for appropriate outreach which addresses the dichotomy of her desire and religious condemnation when the thought of protected sex is just another knot in her nose? Why would an African-American gay male believe the challenges within his community would be validated if he served on the MCA P Board? Why should a working class poor or farm laborer believe that there is a place for him “at the table” of discussion?

What evidence have we been given that it is worthwhile to risk humiliation and shame in order to prioritize active political participation along with basic issues of survival? Invisible people who live on the fringe face huge obstacles to acquiring the tools and esteem to assert their needs or issues and challenge the established power structure.

Continued on next page
Historically, (this holds true for the gay liberation movement as well) people of privileged backgrounds make decisions, make assumptions, and if people who are marginalized by class or race complain, they are labeled "angry," and advised to "pick themselves up by the bootstraps," that it is our attitude that needs to change; that we are too passive or too aggressive; that we expect handouts; that we should be grateful for what we have.

A Place for Us

It is time for those of us who are willing to lend voice to the invisible members of our community to not shy away from the role of angry instigator as long as we are equally committed to reason and action. We will not be able to push forth the vision of inclusion unless the people who look like us, talk like us, eat the food of our homelands, grew up craving the same kind of loving, are welcome, and feel as if there is a place for us within this community.

If not, we need to band together and demand that the community make a place for us. It is time that the organizers, the "movers and the shakers" of the local "gay community" get honest with their intentions. Because ready or not, here we come.

As members of the global gay community, we share a history of learning to demand "equal opportunity" from society as a whole. Given this and the fact that gay people have borne the painful brunt of fear and loathing inflicted by non-gay society, how can the gay community turn around and deny the same opportunities to their sisters and brothers of color?

Fear of Differences or Similarities?

These are the contradictions that fuel my radicalism. Some people allow malice to fuel their tacit disregard of those who are different; however, I believe that it is the terror of difference or simple ignorance, and the insane need to feel superior to another individual—or better yet, a group or class of people—that fuels the separation among us.

However, I suspect it is actually the fear of similarities among us that fuels the exclusionary behavior of so many.

When we allow ourselves to turn our backs on one another—whether for public power, personal gain, private validation, or to protect our own asses from whatever it is we imagine "they" will take away if allowed voice—we help to foster the feeling of hopelessness among so many gay people of color who are living and dying in this county.

The Paper invites articles from groups not represented in mainstream media.

Queer Youth: Call for Submissions

The Evergreen Chronicles is a semi-annual journal dedicated to exploring gay and lesbian arts and cultures. A section of Volume 11, No. 1 will be devoted to work by queer youth and work by adults who work with queer youth. We are interested in combining these two usually separated perspectives in one volume.

What To Send

We are interested in short fiction, essays, poetry, nonfiction, cartoons, rants, raves, and visual screams. We are not interested in interviews and roundtable discussions. Our deadline is July 1, 1995. All work that is published will receive an honorarium and a copy of the journal. Please send four copies of all manuscripts, a brief bio and an SASE for notification. Poetry: Submit single-spaced, typed poems. Limit: 5 poems. Prose: Submit double-spaced work. Typed if a typewriter or computer is accessible. Limit: 25 pages or less. Artwork: Send a clean reproducible copy in black & white. Artwork can not be returned.

Send to: The Evergreen Chronicles, P.O. Box 8939, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408. PH: 612-649-4982 (voice mail)
Step 1: Getting Digital

Each issue of The Paper will bring a computer column to talk about various computer subjects.

Computers are great tools for the gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender communities and for the HIV/AIDS community. We created this column to allow the lesbian, bisexual and gay populations to be up to speed.

Virgins and Semi-Pros

Some readers may have little or no experience using computers. Or, they may only have experience in a few aspects of a computer’s use, such as a spreadsheet and word processor. It you are in this category and want to learn more, we have the basics for you.

Each column will also have a sidebar to discuss more detailed aspects of the main column. Look here for applications of what’s being discussed, what resources are available or further technical information.

You can send E-mail to John E. Brennan at 74744.3653@compuserve.com. You can reach The Paper at stickyrice@aol.com.

How Do I Get "On-line"?

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

To get “on-line” from your computer, you need a modem. A modem is a physical device designed to get your computer to “talk” on your phone line.

Just as humans use a phone to make a call, computers use a modem. Some modems are inside your computer with just a jack to plug in the phone in the back. Other modems are a box that sits outside your computer with flashing lights.

The Digital Basics

Just as a telephone does several things to assist you in making a call (provides a speaker for you to hear the dial tone, buttons to dial, a speaker for your words to be heard, etc.), a modem also does several things. And, just as the phone needs you to dial and to talk (the phone can’t make a call on its own accord), a modem needs information from the computer to do anything.

Digital Helpers

A computer user uses software as a means to provide information to the modem. Software is a general term used to describe the pre-set commands given to a computer. In general, software makes it easy to get the information from you, the most important part of the system, to the modem. So you can see that the modem is simply a tool for you to connect your computer to a telephone line.

Like live-in lovers, the routine between your software & modem is very similar day-to-day...

Many types of software (also called "programs") exist to communicate with your modem. All communications software performs the same basic routine with your modem.

A Lovely Routine

It wakes it up, gets a hot cup of tea and begins talking. Like live-in lovers, the routine between your software and modem is very similar day to day. Luckily you, as the computer user, don’t need to face this routine. Your computer, the communication software and the modem exist to perform this little routine all alone so that you can have a glamorous life.

So now you have a better idea about what all the fuss is about. With what you know, the answer to the question, “How do I get on-line?” is fairly easy. You use your communication software to tell the modem to dial a phone number and open up a line of communication between you and “out there.”

Next issue: "What’s Waiting for Me Once I Get On-line?"

Making Safer Sex Stick:

Consortium seeks key for successful HIV outreach program

by Wes Kashiwagi
Co-managing Editor

The Gay Men’s Consortium continued their search for the touchstone for improved HIV outreach to gay men in Monterey County at their Feb. 25th meeting.

No Easy Answers

"There really is no such thing as a successful HIV outreach program," said Joe Beale, former coordinator of MCAP’s Man-to-Man outreach program. Beale was responding to a question about using outreach programs as a model.

Beale described how outreach programs in San Francisco and other major cities with more easily accessible gay communities have not proven 100% effective in stopping the spread of HIV. The problem may not be one of education.

"When I was doing outreach," said Beale, "people knew all of [the methods of transmission] already. We’re really talking about a change in behavior."

Beale commented that the ultimate responsibility for following safer sex guidelines rests with the individual. "We’re talking about adults that aren’t impaired emotionally or intellectually."

Put That Butt Out

One consortium member noted that there is something to be learned from current anti-smoking campaigns, since smoking has become socially unacceptable in a remarkably brief period.

Like unsafe sex, smoking’s role as a potential killer is well-known. And, just as the effects of HIV can take over a decade to emerge, the harmful effects of smoking may take a lifetime to develop.

If unsafe sex was universally stigmatized, more gay men might choose the safer alternative.

Pillow Talk

Joan Mortensen, the consortium’s mediator, suggested that a local outreach organization conduct a survey of those

The questions would be straightforward ("What causes someone to have unsafe sex?") and might provide insight into why gay men often say that they practice safer sex in public, but slip into unsafe behavior between the sheets.

"They talk the talk, but do they always walk the walk?" joked Mortensen.

Potential Paths

The consortium identified specific aspects of outreach that they felt were important.

These included condom distribution at venues where men meet other men, workshops at which gay men could explore personal risk assessment and harm reduction, and what it is to be HIV-in the 90’s.

The return of MCAP’s "Hot & Healthy" parties is another option. These were small social gatherings held in private homes where safer sex issues could be discussed in more graphic terms.

The parties were discontinued because of reported drug and alcohol abuse by participants and the dwindling interest of local gay men.

For information on how you can get involved in the Gay Men’s Consortium, contact Wayne Johnson at 373-8055.
**An Alternative Approach**

The Healing Center offers complementary treatments for HIV/AIDS

By Larry Drenske
Contributing Writer

The purpose of The Healing Center of the Monterey Peninsula, Inc. is to provide individuals who have HIV/AIDS, treatments complementary to their standard medical care, in order to enhance immunity, and their quality of life. The Healing Center is a public benefit non-profit corporation dedicated to providing treatment to the HIV community regardless of financial status. In 1994, 237 pro bono patient visits were provided to clients.

Thus far in the fight against HIV secondary infection, the strategy of standard medical treatment is to rid the body of pathogens causing infections.

The Healing Center offers proven complementary methods of enhancing the body’s natural immunity, thereby reducing the frequency of secondary infection. In addition, these same complementary methods can often reduce unwanted side-effects of drugs used in standard medical care. Used together, both standard medical care and complementary treatment methods serve to improve the quality of life, and longevity of the individual with HIV.

The complementary modalities used by The Healing Center are: Traditional Chinese Medicine (acupuncture and herbs), Nutrition, Chiropractic, Therapeutic Massage, and Guided Imagery.

Many patients are already being treated pro bono by private practitioners. A recent survey of persons who have HIV showed there is an increasing demand for these types of complementary treatments. Currently, the demand for complementary treatment has outstripped the time and energy practitioners have to donate.

What We Need

The Healing Center has just achieved Non-Profit Organization status from the State of California. Our IRS exemption paperwork has been submitted and we are awaiting approval. Our initial focus will be to raise funds until such time as a clinic can be opened. Your tax-deductible charitable donation will provide seed-money for the formation of the clinic.

How to Help

We are starting from the ground up. Your time, money, energy and materials are all appreciated and needed. We need fund-raisers, grant writers, bequests, and other potential income producing ideas for this very worthwhile public benefit corporation. We thank you in advance for your generosity and good will.

For more information or to add your name to our mailing list, leave a message at: (408) 644-8282.

**FAST 3**

Reviews of Cultural Elements

by SEVEN FORTY

**FILM**

Death and the Maiden: Humane retribution is subtle. Probably a better play than film.

Outbreak: It gets a little caught up in itself. Stays focused while Boys on the Side wanders. Made me think lots about HIV.


To Live!: Not as great as the reviews say. A kinder, gentler Mao reign. Yes, it has subtitles.

**RENT!**


The Bad Sleep Well (1960): Kurosawa’s contemporary corporatedrama with Japanese intensity and architecture. Yes, it has subtitles.

Tempest (1962): Interesting cast in this contemporary adaptation. All the cards on the table. More accessible than Greenaway’s Prospero’s Books, but less interesting. Great cast.

**STAGE**

La Bete at Pacific Rep. What’s strange is that it’s a contemporary play. Hurry for the revival of the Circle Theatre with such a funny, profound production. Not to be missed.

**MISC!**

KSPB (91.9FM) - RLS High School’s radio station. Listen and learn. Eclectic as hell. Greater broadcasting range. At times there’s nothing better than a teen-age DJ or The World Service of the BBC.

**EAT: Solving the Epicurian Equation**

Garden B.B.Q.: Great Korean food, finally. The food is the star and tables are hot! Lunch specials are a deal, otherwise plan to spend $10-15 with tip. Bring friends or a lover but not a date.

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**NGLTF Denounces AIDS-phobic Olympic Proposal**

**NGLTF News Release**

If Fulton County Commission Chairman Mitch Skandalakis has his way, no Olympic athletes who test positive for HIV will be allowed to compete in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) denounced Skandalakis’ proposal which would codify discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS living in Fulton County calling it “demoralizing and unconscionable.”

NGLTF released letters to Chairman Skandalakis asking that he abandon his proposal. NGLTF also called on Georgia Governor Zell Miller, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA-5), Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-GA), and Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) to take a public stand against the proposal.

Skandalakis, responding to the Friday announcement that Olympic medalist Greg Louganis knew he was HIV+ when he competed in 1988, called for county lawyers to investigate whether the local government could bar HIV+ amateur athletes from competing in the Olympic games or other sports events in Fulton County.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said they won’t conduct HIV testing for athletes competing in the 1996 Olympics. The IOC medical commission found that the risk of transmitting the virus during athletic competition is extremely low.

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Interested in Starting a Sports Column? - Call Us
Interview with Sid Cato

"Valere" in La Bete

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

John Brennan: So Sid, tell me what this play means to you.
Sid Cato: It means I get to work, full-time in the theatre! I just wonder why I waited 24 years. I have a contract with Pacific Repertory and I don’t have to wait tables anymore! Can you believe it?

SC: The Circle Theatre? Great. I’ve been in charge of restoring the Circle Theatre in 25 years?
JB: How does it feel to be in the first production in the Circle Theatre in 25 years?
SC: The Circle Theatre? So much fun. Someone told me I looked like Linda Blair. You know, she was such a good actress the way she could spin her hair around.

JB: What is your character gay?
SC: Gay as pink ink! Please! As a gay man, how does it feel to play a gay character?
SC: It’s just not the sexual aspect, but what the perspective of being gay has brought to my life and my character’s life. Being gay makes me open to other points of view; better able to understand differences and to better know myself. In this way, being gay gives you an attitude.

JB: Did you just say, “Being gay gives you an attitude?”
SC: Yes. I figured it all out years ago. I was walking by Clift’s Variety [the gay hardware store and more on Castro], and the display was so artful, and I thought, “only homos can do that.” (Giggle) Darling! [Other theatres have joined us in our booth at the Mucky Duck]
JB: How has the audience received your rather large character?
SC: The audience has been great. Sometimes some of them are dumb-founded. Most people think the play is a hoot.

People have always asked me to do Franken Furter-type rolls but I have always shied away. I don’t know, it just did not feel right. But this role is so much fun. Someone told me I looked like Linda Blair. You know, she was such a good actress the way she could spin her hair around.

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JB: How does it feel to be in the first production in the Circle Theatre in 25 years?
SC: The Circle Theatre? Great. I’ve been in charge of restoring the Circle Theatre in 25 years. My directions were to make it pretty. You should have started with.

I just love this space.

Pacific Repertory Company is really coming to life. La Bete is just short of an Equity-quality production. The donors and supporters know what we have and have been so supportive. They’ve trusted Pacific Rep. That feels good, and I know that that money will be well spent. Even when the lighting console was ripped off, and one of the actresses began to cry, I comforted her and said, “Honey, ain’t nothing going to stop us.” And we continue to put on shows and the audience doesn’t know we are missing a key piece of equipment. We just move on and put on a good show.

I wish local people knew the potential this theatre has. We can be one of the great regional theatres, like Ashland [OR] or Lenox [MA]. And the building and company are full of local history and local talent. The shows are diverse and interesting, and with the new space, we have a chance to do more experimental work.

Oh, I’ll have another Cape Cod, a single this time.

Thanks. [La Bete runs through 4/22. Call the Circle Theater at 622-0700 for information.]

On The Airwaves: Local Weekly Radio

Mondays: 7:00 p.m. Closet Free Radio. Local gay & lesbian news & announcements. KZSC, 88.1 FM
Tuesdays: 12:30 p.m. This Way Out. Int’l lesbian & gay news. KUSP, 88.9 FM.

Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. My Sister’s House. Women’s Music & interviews. KAZU, 90.3 FM
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Breakfast in Bed. Women’s Music on Radio. KZSC, 88.1 FM 1:00 p.m. Women’s Radio Collective! Music and requests. KAZU, 90.3 FM.

April

Wed 5
Healing with Sound: A Tibetan Journey
With Linda Shake. For people infected and affected by HIV. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Barnyard Community Room, Carmel. Free. Call Pam at MCAP for information, 394-4747.

Thruough Field Therapy
with Glenn Leonoff, Ph.D. A revolutionary development in the treatment of psychology problems. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, Aguajito Rd., Carmel. Call 649-0834 for reservations. Sponsored by the YWCA.

Fri 7
Women’s Night at Franco’s
Every Friday at Franco’s Norma Jean nightclub. 10639 Merritt St. in Castroville. No cover. Dancing, full bar. Call 633-2090 for information.

Sat 8
Dancing & Drag
Saturday nights at Franco’s Norma Jean nightclub. 10639 Merritt St. in Castroville. Dancing, full bar. $4 cover. Call 633-2090 for info.

Sun 9
“Divorce Court”
Presented by the Magic, Music & Memory Foundation of Monterey County at the After Dark. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 9. Call Scott for more info, 647-8224.

Mon 10
Annual Spring HIV/AIDS Retreat
A 4-day getaway in the hills of Los Gatos. Topics include legal issues, spirituality, & healing. Limited to 26 participants so register today by calling 655-1757.

Tues 11
Underwear Party
The 3M Foundation presents a night of briefs & boxers at the After Dark. $3/person or $1 w/ticket. Doors open 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m. Call Scott, 647-8234.

Wed 12
Your Healer in Your Dreams
with Sr. Kay. For people infected and affected by HIV. 1 p.m.-3 p.m., The Barnyard Community Room, Carmel. Free. Call Pam at MCAP, 394-4747.

“If I only had a dollar for every ounce of Clinique on his face...”
Thu 13
What's Behind the Blue Door?
The mystery will be solved at the After Dark.

Fri 14
Big Sky BBQ to Benefit MCAP
at the Monterey County Sheriff’s Posse Grounds in Salinas, 3-9 p.m. $30/person, kids under 12 free.
Live Country & Western music, kids’ activities. Call 394-4747 for information.

Sun 16
Easter Tea Dance & Egg Hunt at the A.D.
An eggs-stravaganza for every-bunny. Starts at 6 p.m. No cover. Call the After Dark for information.

Sun 30
Lip Sync at the After Dark
Join the contest and win a cash prize. No cover. Call the After Dark for info, 373-7828.

Mon 19
Biofeedback with Ellen Saxby. For people infected and affected by HIV. 1-3 p.m., The Barnyard Community Room, Carmel. Free. Call Pam at 394-4747 for info.

Mon 20
Death Valley Car Camping Weekend
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club sponsors a 4-day weekend getaway. Call Gene Coan at (415) 493-8242. $10 fee.

Mon 26
Discussions for Living with Trisa Poci, energy worker. For people infected & affected by HIV 1-3 p.m., The Barnyard Community Room, Carmel. Free. Call 394-4747.

Sat 29
Women & HIV: A Call to Action
A free 2-day conference to reduce the impact of HIV on women at UCSC. Topics include Woman-to-Woman Transmission, HIV Symptom Recognition in Women, and much more. Free childcare available. Space is limited so register early, 459-3772.

May

Fri 12
A Gay Evening In May
Santa Cruz comes out to enjoy two evenings of entertainment from the gay community and friends. Tickets are $10, $15, $20 and are available at BASS ticket outlets and the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Box Office. Call 475-6068 for information.

Sun 14
"Fairytails" at the After Dark
The 3M Foundation presents a children’s theme show to benefit the Gay Men’s Health Coalition. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 9. Call Scott or Diana for info, 647-8234

$4.98 Fashion Show
Coming one night in May at the After Dark. Presented by the Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey County. Watch for announcements or call the GCEM at 899-2048 for info.

June

Sat 3
BAYMEC Dinner Dance
Call 486-9049 for more information.

Gay Pride ’95

Sun, June 11
Monterey Gay Pride Homecoming
Afternoon rally & BBQ (location TBD). Homecoming dance at the After Dark begins at 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m. including selection of the Homecoming King & Queen and the observance of Diana’s 6th birthday!

Gay Pride ’95

“Sensual” Lesbian Not Quite Porn
by Twisted Sisters

This issue we’ve decided to review lesbian “sensual” video (rather than porn). Our choices are Claire of the Moon and Therese and Isabelle.

Birth of a Lesbian
The 1992 film Claire of the Moon split us (hmmm) as Twisted Sisters on our reviews. One sister enjoyed the film: I found the acting ability (as well as the looks, breasts and bodies) of Karen Trumbo (as Noel) and Trisha Todd (as Claire) to be good and very exciting. The ongoing seduction scenes were a definite turn on for me and the final sex scene was passionate. However, it’s too bad the seduction went on for most of the movie, leaving only 5 minutes of actual sex. Another personal frustration was that although the final scene was erotic, there were far too many close ups of Claire’s face and no pubic shots. I’m assuming they went down on each other, but in Claire’s case I think she was still wearing her jeans (a definite logistical problem). But overall I found the movie stimulating, and well worth watching (again).

The other sister disagreed: After the widely distributed Desert Hearts, I, like so many dyke-movie-starved-lesbians, ran out to see Claire of the Moon when it first premiered. Hoping to find some sort of celluloid woman-loving-woman validation, I was once again disappointed and wondered to what audience the screenplay writer was hoping to reach—certainly not sexually active lesbians. Set during a seaside writer’s retreat, what made this movie especially difficult to enjoy was that so much of it was unbelievable—to the point of almost being ludicrous. It was a writer’s retreat, yet no one was doing any serious writing; women always seemed to be in flowing cocktail dresses and semi-formal wear (not writing retreat attire, believe me!), and alcohol punctuated almost every scene. I am no teetotaler myself, however, in light of the fact that so many women in our community have difficulty with alcohol, I found it in poor taste to have the characters constantly drinking.

However, the most offensive aspect of this film was the blatant absence of lesbian sexuality until the final scene! Instead, the film is filled with a variety of scenes in which the “questioning” woman is screwing a variety of men. As if hearing witness to this little tortured journey isn’t enough, the final “lesbian” sex scene lacked nudity and passion. Too bad.

Boarding School Girls
The 1968 black and white film Therese and Isabelle brought us back together. We found its directing too dated (1960-ish) and far too melodramatic. Although we’re sure the shots of two naked girls kissing and fondling each other were very risqué in 1968 (yet more than Claire offered), we again found it frustrating that they didn’t show them having oral sex. (What’s wrong with showing a woman going down on another woman? What’s wrong with pussy shots?) Is it because of the fear of the dreaded “X” rating? I’d rather watch Meg Ryan in When Harry Met Sally. At least she was honest about faking it.) And the narration during the sex scenes was awful! “I burst with warmth like a fruit.” Give me a break! We give a definite “Don’t Bother” rating to Therese and Isabelle.

In the next issue we hope to have more lesbian pornography to review. If you have any videos you’d like to offer us, call our editor Barbara Burke at The Paper, 647-8906.

Both films can be found at local Blockbuster Video stores.
**Quicksilver Answering Service**

Dear Quicksilver,

I am dating a man who wants a relationship. I've been very honest about my intentions. I enjoy him and we have a good time together. He keeps trying to insist that I be faithful to him. Every time I see someone else, he runs a trip on me. What should I do?

Signed, Tired of Being Guilt Tripped

Dear Tired,

It's normal to feel good about it. As long as you've been honest about what's going on for you, it's your friend's problem. I'm not asking as if you know a secret Shangri-La... I'm just expressing my frustration.

Signed, Single

Dear Single,

What is with this place? I'm a gay man looking for a love interest. The bar is not a great place to meet men, I don't like the public sex places (because I don't want public sex), and I go to all the damn gay events I know. What else can I do? Where else can I go? I'm not asking as if you know a secret Shangri-La. I'm just expressing my frustration.

Signed, Single GWM, 32

Dear Single,

From the intensity of your question I gather that you're upset and angry about not having enough companionship to meet your needs. Thank you for writing to me and reaching out. Bad news...even though you may be feeling hurt and confused about not connecting, the tone of your question suggests a lot of hostility and desperation—it could be that your attitude is keeping people distant.

My suggestion is that you first stop putting people or events down. I have to admit that sometimes a one-up style of being is not connecting, the tone of your question suggests a lot of hostility and desperation—it could be that your attitude is keeping people distant.

Let me know if it makes a difference.

Beginner's mind. You show up. You meet people. You express yourself. Then detach from the outcome. They may or may not connect. The bar is not a great place to meet men, I don't like the public sex places (because I don't want public sex), and I go to all the damn gay events I know. What else can I do? Where else can I go? I'm not asking as if you know a secret Shangri-La. I'm just expressing my frustration.

Diseased Pariah News is a slick little quarterly from the Bay Area. Although aimed at HIV+ gay men, it isn't a medical journal and it isn't covered with the sort of self-pitying confessions that pass for AIDS wisdom in most gay rags. DPN is smart, funny, and unapologetic.

Pariahs in Charge

Like any healthy organization, DPN gathers most of its material from those it benefits. Most of the contributing writers are either HIV+ or have full-blown AIDS. The only unfortunate thing about this arrangement is the high turnover due to death (the editors kindly note the passing of contributing writers).

Issue #9 includes articles on the vagaries of Marinol use, how to outsmart drug protocol exclusionary guidelines, and support group hijinks. Surviving partners spin their tales of sadistic nurses, morphine-dripped lovers, and how they kept from being robbed blind by avaricious in-laws.

There's a pleasant smart-ass quality to the writing, and it's all flavored with a dollop of gallows humor.

The Naked Truth

Sex after seroconversion is one of life's dimensions AIDS journals tend to quietly avoid. DPN is sexy. Every issue has a stylish nude centerfold, in addition to a rather run-of-the-mill HIV Personals section.

The full-frontal photos of the study HIV+ models are sometimes accompanied by a list of their current medications (a telling factoid in the HIV dating circuit).

The Paper Personals Return! See the Classifieds for Details.
Key West Getaways

by Dan Presser
Contributing Writer

Key West sits lazily in America's tropical waters and is a paradise for those who live there as well as those who visit.

There's good reason to visit Key West: near perfect weather, averaging 79 degrees with tropical trade winds pumping cool breezes. Key West offers visitors not only house pool surrounded by tropical gardens. Key West boasts nearly 600 rooms in guesthouses and resorts that are considered exclusively gay accommodations.

What to Do

There's always something going on in Key West. Fall offers a wild “Fantasy Festival” that salutes the Halloween season with costumes and craziness. Summer months feature the "Gay Arts Festival" when the island salutes excellence in the arts. "Women in Paradise" is when women gather to learn more about themselves and Key West.

In addition to camaraderie, Key West has its aquarium, offering one of the best collections of tropical Florida Keys. Although many major airlines link South Florida with Key West, driving there is lots of fun. Florida's Overseas Highway is 155 miles long with 42 bridges and features spectacular views of the Gulf of Mexico on the west and the Florida Straits and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. It's about a three hour schlep from Miami to the Land of Oz.

What to Eat

Dining is an adventure in Key West with more than 300 different restaurants plus fast food places. Let your palate be your guide by selecting from among French, Italian, Mexican, Cuban and a variety of American gourmet delights. Most restaurants spotlight fresh seafood dishes. Dine in outdoor surroundings which are often aglow with candlelight for soft atmosphere. The night comes alive with entertainment at the major resorts or at tiny open-air clubs. Musical sounds range from jazz ensembles to country bands to quiet piano bars.

Life Under the Lights

by Jane S. Wynn
Contributing Writer

Lorraine Simon and company recently put on another production of the acclaimed Last Summer at Bluefish Cove, the lesbian retreat drama by Jane Chambers. Although the Monterey production was very good, I thought from a more technical aspect, the play as a whole worked better in the more intimate surrounding of the Art League Theatre in Santa Cruz and the cast seemed to work equally as nicely in the small setting.

Close Shines as Colonel

Some of you may recall my opening column in The Paper on Glenn Close. I could not let the opportunity go by without commenting on what we were all doing on Monday night, February 6, 1995 from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. since Glenn was involved in NBC’s "Serving in Silence."

Long time coming, but here was a love story if there ever was one between Col. Greta Cammemeyer and Diane Divelbess. Set amidst the turmoil of life in the military, the movie gave out very important messages to all about gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the military and what a farce the policies are; showed a complex, accurate picture of fear of intimacies of family believes, or actual family; taught us that non-Mormons cannot go into the church to witness a son's wedding; and, if that wasn't enough, we saw a true story of two women who meet and fall in love. Two very different women, mind you. One bossy and the other artsy.

Yes, Yes, I know they only kissed once, but Rome was not built in a day, and maybe Mabel and George in Podunkville watched also and experienced some good feelings for these women and questioned the military's course of action along the way.

Yes, it's true that this great woman's life had to be condensed into 90 minutes, with 30 minutes of commercials, but it was a breakthrough for all of us. Ms. Close clearly was able to show the conflict between the very private Cammemeyer and the Cammemeyer who must fight on, not only for herself but for all of us. What about Judy Davis who made a not as well-defined character seem very dimensional as she bantered back and forth with her commandant. It should be noted that both Close and Davis told the powers that be that if they were not permitted to show some intimacy that neither of them would do the film.

Streisand's Influence

And finally, no good review could or should leave out the name of the woman who made it all happen. She was the one who sat down with Cammemeyer and convinced her that her story should be done for all to see. Barbra Streisand. Who would have thought that way back in 1966 when she spoke to me through her songs and I sat on the back of the bus in Queens, New York singing "People" with my best friend, that 29 years later she would produce "Serving in Silence" and speak to me once again? Here's to Barbra Streisand, one powerful woman and here's to the powerful woman in all of us.
Viral Load Higher During First 24 Hours of Infection

by Wes Davis
Staff Editor

A new study has revealed that when one is first exposed to HIV, viral replication is much higher than we had thought. The new study recently released measured the viral load of newly infected individuals. What it found was that during the first 24 hours a newly infected person produces about 10 BILLION viral particles compared with your body’s ability to produce only 1 billion antibodies.

What this study has proved is that as soon as you are infected, you can infect someone else. This also explains why it takes a certain amount of time for your body to produce enough antibodies to trigger the test. Your body produces antibodies immediately but they are overrun by the amount of virus being produced. As the ratio begins to even out, then your body produces enough antibodies to survive and trigger the test.

This new study has profound implications. In the past we knew that once someone tested HIV+, that they were infectious. We know now that you are infectious from the first day of infection. Even more reason to use protection.

Action = Life
You = Volunteer

Office Help • Data Entry • Mailing • Food Delivery
Outreach Workers for Man-to-Man & Woman-to-Woman
Client Helpers to give rides, clean house, etc.

The Monterey County AIDS Project 394-4747

Report on the Second National Retroviral Conference

by Jim Stoeker

The Second National Human Retroviral Conference, sponsored by the American Society of Microbiology in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, was held in Washington, D.C., in January.

Viral Load Tests
We now have tests that measure the amount of virus in the blood. These tests do this by measuring the amount of HIV genetic material or viral RNA. The currently available viral load tests are Q-PCR, developed by Roche, and b-DNA, developed by Chiron. These tests are not yet FDA-approved and are not yet widely available.

For people with over 200 T-cells, it is often difficult to determine if antiviral therapy is called for; viral load tests will give these people a much clearer picture of the state of their HIV disease. And changes in viral load can tell us quite whether an antiviral (or a combination of antivirals) is working for the individual. This means not only quicker drug development, but also more individualized antiviral regimens.

Viral load has predictive value. The less virus measured in an individual, the less chance that individual has of getting sick; the higher the viral load the shorter the time to clinical symptoms.

Combination Therapy
The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta reported on a study of over 5,000 people treated in Atlanta over the past few years. The group was broken down into those who took one antiviral (monotherapy), those who took one drug and then switched to another (sequential monotherapy), and those who took two or more antivirals at the same time (combination therapy). The researchers found that the sequential monotherapy group had a 21% survival advantage over the monotherapy group; the combination therapy group had a 43% survival advantage over the monotherapy group.

Protease Inhibitor Update
Protease inhibitors continue to show more promise than fulfillment. The promise is that we will at long last have an antiviral that works at a point in the HIV life cycle that is different from AZT, ddi, ddC, and the like. The currently available antivirals are all reverse transcriptase (RT) inhibitors, and only work in “virgin” cells, i.e., cells that have not yet been infected.

Continued on next page
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Protease inhibitors work in chronically infected cells, cells already infected by the virus. The long range hope is that protease and RT inhibitors in combination will be able to fight off HIV by stopping viral replication in both acutely and chronically infected cells.

Today we are still at the point of small dose-ranging studies of a number of protease inhibitors. Merck's L-735,524 and Hoffman-LaRoche's saquinavir both appear to work best at the higher doses studied. Both show promise of being potent antivirals. Some believe that Abbott's ABT-538 may be the most potent of all. In a twelve week dose-ranging study, CD4 counts more than doubled at all doses tested; researchers also noted equally impressive reductions in viral loads. The optimal dose of ABT-538 has been set at 600 mg/day for future studies.

The problem with the protease inhibitors, as we have seen with other antivirals, is the rapid development of viral resistance to the drug. This is why higher doses of the drug were needed in dose-ranging studies. At the lower doses rapid resistance rendered the drug ineffective. Researchers have also noted some cross resistance with protease inhibitors. If a person is resistant to L-735, he/she will also be resistant to ABT-538. Such cross resistance has not been seen with RT inhibitors. That is why RT inhibitors seem to be more effective in combination. Hoffman-LaRoche is currently planning to study saquinavir in combination with other, non-protease inhibitor antivirals to see if resistance can be stopped or delayed.

New Formulations of Ganciclovir

The oral form of ganciclovir was recently approved by the FDA as maintenance therapy for CMV disease. This form of ganciclovir also has potential as prophylaxis for this O.I. At the conference, researchers reported on a study that compared 1,000 mg of oral ganciclovir a day to a placebo.During the course of the study, 24% of those on ganciclovir had a CMV event, and the time to the first event was 270 days. In contrast, during the same period, 47% of those on placebo - had a CMV event, and the time to the first event was 470 days. In contrast, during the same period, 47% of those on placebo - had a CMV event, and the time to the first event was 470 days. In contrast, during the same period, 47% of those on placebo - had a CMV event, and the time to the first event was 470 days. In contrast, during the same period, 47% of those on placebo - had a CMV event, and the time to the first event was 470 days.


dated results. Feelings about Bill Clinton could also have suppressed gay voter turnout, even though he has been by far the most friendly President gay men and lesbians have ever had.

Clinton has proposed increased AIDS funding, has met with gay and lesbian elected officials, and has been the first President to make openly gay or lesbian appointments, but he rarely mentions the word "gay" in public anymore.

For those younger gay men and lesbians coming of age now, this whole analysis must seem incomprehensible. They have no recollection of past struggles. Most term themselves "queer," and can't understand why many older lesbians and gay men—for whom that term was the prelude to a physical attack or social marginalization—don't choose it for themselves.

United or Divided

This leaves a community that can be united by homophobia as represented by the high rate of physical attacks, child custody battles where lesbian or gay parents have limited rights, lack of government response to AIDS, residency in one of the twenty-two states where being gay is still illegal, or the general lack of legal recognition for our relationships.

Or it can leave a community that focuses on divisions over how we call ourselves, our economic status, or how we are challenged on a day-to-day level by our lesbian or gay identity.

If we still are threatened politically, legally, and economically for being gay or lesbian, that ought to be enough to unite us.

It requires some introspection—and some willingness to get along with each other—but last November's election might have been just the wakeup call we needed before the going gets really tough.

John Laird is a former mayor of Santa Cruz and the former executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. An unedited version of this article will appear in the next issue of the Santa Cruz lavender Reader.

The Political Climate: Dorothy in Newtland

by John Laird

Contributing Writer

Shortly after November's election, one report speculated that 40% of lesbian and gay voters went for Republican members of Congress. Could it be?

Living in Santa Cruz makes such a statistic seem farfetched, but I think it's possible. When there is a large threat, like the 1992 Republican "family values" challenge, the gay community unites. There was no such threat in 1994. And our own successes have made the conservative portion of the gay community more apparent than ever before.

The Safety Closet

When I was introduced to the writer Vito Russo [The Celluloid Closet] in Santa Cruz a few years back, he told me about checking into his hotel here.

"You must be proud to have an openly gay mayor," Russo offered to the gay hotel manager.

He was surprised by the response: "We hate him."

When front-page stories had appeared across California about Santa Cruz's openly gay mayor, this same hotel manager asked, "Why is he making such a big deal about it?"

"Homosexual" to describe us.

"You must be proud to have an openly gay Mayor," Russo offered to the gay hotel manager.

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He was surprised by the response: "We hate him."

When front-page stories had appeared across California about Santa Cruz's openly gay mayor, this same hotel manager asked, "Why is he making such a big deal about it?"

His closet allowed him to base his politics on his economic interests, which were conservative. He was never represented by the gay movement, nor did lesbian and gay activists really consider him part of it. I remember him using the term "homosexual" to describe us.

I don't think there are still many people around like the guy I just described. But due to the work of the activists in the 1970's and 1980's, there are non-discrimination protections in eight states and many major U.S. cities. Many more conservative gay men and lesbians now have the comfort of being open, while still giving priority to their economic concerns.

The political battles against discrimination were won by activists who were publicly lesbian or gay and called themselves such. And just as it was the drag queens who rioted at Stonewall in 1969—appear that the movement has gotten more conservative. For those who were open early and in the struggle all these years, turning your back on those progressives seems ungrateful.

The Bad Guy Deficit

The 1992 election, where our community was united by the threat from the Pat Buchanans of the world, may have been an aberration.

I talked to a number of older gay men who told me this was the first election in which they had ever voted for a Democrat. It's possible that they went back to the Republican Party for economic reasons in 1994 without such an imminent threat.

It's also possible that the gay community was not immune to the national trend of a lower voter turnout, with the lower turnout favoring more conservative
Keeping Our Heads in the Sand...

by Joy Rubey
MCAP Executive Director

The cover story of the last issue of The Paper, “Sex on the Beach” piqued (peaked?) the interest of many of our readers, generated a few panicked phone calls to members of MCAP’s Board of Directors and put Garrapata Beach on the map for those uninformed fans of public sex who have yet to explore its rugged coastline. But Benoit’s article raised far more than a few eyebrows at the Carmel Post Office and the level of sales of SPF 15 tanning lotion...

The Thrill of It All

“Sex on the Beach” is a classic example of gay culture—at least one very popular form of it. In this article are celebrated a sense of gay culture—and “raunch”, the power and defiance of it. In this treatment of public sex.

The assertion that the idea of safer sex is frightening to extend friendship, or manipulate through threatening or understood, norm.

Some talked about the fear, not always directly; the whispered remarks, clutched purse, demeaning tone of voice, the standards set seemingly by our own groups. In each group some hinted at or spoke of their own fear. Liz and I mentioned our anxieties and recognized the fear we’ve seen in other people. We also saw—and spoke of—our hopes, our beliefs, and our own growth.

But Benoit could, however, have done a greater service to his peers by mentioning—even once—something about safer sex. By failing to mention safer sex, Benoit continues the unacknowledged tradition of making it a non-issue—something to be ignored, something discussed only in “polite (or politically correct) company” or in the HIV/AIDS section of The Paper, certainly not in the bedrooms, bars, bookstores and beaches where it really matters.

Brian Benoit Responds:

While I appreciate Ms. Rubey’s observations of gay culture in general and my eloquent writing style in particular, I must take exception to the idea that the mere mention of “safer sex” would do anything for my article save make it more politically correct. The assertion that the absence of these two words promotes an absence of their practice is unfounded.

My intention wasn’t to make anyone feel good, but rather to give an honest portrayal of my experience in the pre- and post-AIDS world of the Monterey Peninsula. This wasn’t a work of fiction, and to insert these words would have been nothing but a patronizing contrivance. I agree that the problem lies in the lack of willingness to discuss sexual practices prior to engaging in the, but simply saying “safer sex” isn’t enough. Everyone has heard it, few know what it actually means.

As I See It...

by Matthew Friday
Staff Editor

At a recent workshop organized by NCBI (The National Coalition Building Institute), a prejudice reduction organization, about 20 people representing Jews, African-Americans, teenagers, Christians, Latinos, Whites, women and homosexuals met to discuss what we’d like other people to know about our groups. Elizabeth Husby and I represented the lesbian and gay point of view or, more accurately, what we wanted people to know about gays and lesbians.

Because this was a 3 to 4 hour workshop, Liz and I, like the members of other constituency groups, had a bit more time than we might have expected to look closely at our lives and experiences. Both of us brought the perspective of not “fitting in” at some point, of course, but also the sensitivities of a struggle to be honest with ourselves and genuinely revealing to the gathering. We weren’t alone in this. Each group, no matter what its size, spoke out of the same concern; each individual offered some insight into what it means to be perceived as less desirable, capable, worthy or attractive than some clearly implied, if rarely understood, norm.

Some talked about the fear, not always directly; the whispered remarks, clutched purse, demeaning tone of voice, the standards set seemingly by our own groups. In each group some hinted at or spoke of their own fear. Liz and I mentioned our anxieties and recognized the fear we’ve seen in other people. We also saw—and spoke of—our hopes, our beliefs, and our own growth.

Following is the list of ideas or identifiable “things” Liz and I brought back to the larger gathering. They answer the question, “What do you want others to know about your group?”

- It is frightening to be so vulnerable to losing your job, the respect of others, status or affection.
- We are invisible. Slurs and avoidance behaviors surround us, confronting us continually. We cannot see one another to provide comfort because cues can get us in trouble.
- Being ostracized in the community is one thing, being ostracized by family is another. It is very painful.
- Everything we do interpreted through the stereotypes or expectations attached to our sexuality.
- We work at defining what is important for ourselves, often without the guidelines of prescribed pathways of our communities—there is a lot of misunderstanding and we see that we’re all mid-process.

Once said you can ask yourself if it will make a difference; if insight, identification or understanding will be improved. Probably the best measure of that would be our own response to another group’s concerns, the discovery of those feelings and experiences that free or greedily limit us.

Even then it’s liberating to stand up for yourself, to say something that rings—even in a small room—with clarity and truth and heart, to be heard. Having been heard it sometimes easier to hear another. Hearing another we do make an undeniable difference.

MCAP Now Offers HIV Testing Twice a Week, Call 394-4747 for Information
Roommates
Roommate Wanted
Own cable, 1/2 water and PG&E, non-smoker, $300 monthly. Call Gerald/Jerry at 394-4246.

Nightclubs
The After Dark
214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey
Dancing, full bar.
373-7828

France's Norma Jean
10639 Merritt St., Castroville
Dancing, full bar.
633-2090

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

Monterey Rape Crisis Center
Rape Crisis Line, 373-4357; North County Crisis Line, 633-5900; Office, 373-3955.

YWCA

Tuesdays, Domestic Violence support group, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. YWCA office, 2115 Fremont, Seaside.

Wednesdays, Divorce support group. 6:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m. YWCA office, 2115 Fremont, Seaside.

Women's Crisis Center
757-1001

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

Family, Friends, and Partners Support Group
Meets the 1st & 3rd Weds. of the month at MCAP in Seaside. For more information, call MCAP at 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.

Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP)
780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-4747; and 10 Sherwood Dr. Ste. 5, Salinas, 424-5560

Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP)
911 A 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
373-4491 or 373-0823

BAYNEC
Lesbian & gay political organization. Call 899-2263 for information.

Gay Men's Health Coalition
649-2265

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 at Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, Call 335-0466 or 372-2182

National Coalition Building Institute
373-4606

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month in Carmel. Call 655-PFLAG for information on meetings and speakers.

Pen Loss Grief Support Group
649-6283

Peninsula Professionals Network (PPN)
A social group for professional men and women from the Central Coast. Call 655-2446 for information.

Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Community Center
1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz. Call 424-2240 or 425-LGRC for information on programs and community activities.

Transgender Support Group
462-3663

Women's Bisexual Network
427-4556

Next Deadline is May 8th

Attractive Bi-monthly Seek Writers for LTR - Contact The Paper for Info
Top 10 Ways to Tell If Another Man is Straight

10. Can't use the word "penis" in a sentence.
9. No fanny pats in the gym shower.
8. Can't go shopping without a woman.
7. Doesn't turn his head when someone yells "Girlfriend!"
6. Allows himself to be seen with marginally unattractive men.
5. Tampax in grocery cart.
4. Hears "cruising", thinks "Love Boat".
3. Thinks a size queen is a big washing machine.
2. Gags when eating even small hotdogs.
1. He's not your type.

"The Paper" Lives On!

Two things. First, The Paper has funding for one more year. Second, The Paper will stay The Paper for at least this issue.

Dizzy Queens for a Day
Sorry for our (premature) death notice in the last issue. We appreciate your outpouring of support, especially the subscription requests we received. Be assured that this was no ploy to drum up sympathy; we truly believed we were going under.

The Name Game On Hold
The response to the "Name the Paper" contest left us a little flaccid. We received a grand total of four "real" entries, plus a few from the staff.

Most of the staff wants it changed to That Paper. Some want to keep the original name for the sake of consistency. If you have an opinion, now is your last chance to make it known.

[Editor's Note: thanks to Larry Perrigo from the A.D. for his creative involvement in the "Name the Paper" contest.] -WK

Subscriptions

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Home Phone

The Paper cannot fulfill your subscription without the above information. It will be kept strictly confidential. Enclose check(s) made payable to MCAP. Mail to PO. Box 2081, Monterey, CA, 93942-2081. Subscription requests not accompanied by payment will not be accepted. For information, call Wes at 655-3756.

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The Nominees

- Around the Bay News
- That Paper
- The Family Paper
- All in the Family
- One!
- 10% News
- Gaywatch
- Meat & Fish
- Big Sur & Little Wimmin
- The Flaming Otter
- The Pink Pages
- Non-Breeders Digest
- Gay By the Bay
- Closetland
- Top to Bottom News
- Vanity Fairy
- The Gaily News
- Jodie's Kind
- Girlfriend!
- Montegays
- The Out Post
- Mary Get Over It News
- The Lavender Tribe
- News from Uranus
- The Bay Gayzette