Rider with a Cause

by Wes Kashiwagi

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. "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.
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

To place an ad or info on rates:
(408) 655-3756, ask for Wes

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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.

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 may not be limited to, the exclusion of libelous or slanderous remarks, or remarks intended to bring rectum, abuse and/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 challenges. We like everyone.

Advertising and subscriber lists will not be offered for sale or use beyond the delivery of this paper and its associated procedures.

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.

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.

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MCAP Education Director
Allas Klein

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 second consortium meeting in the Community Calendar under the wrong date.

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
BAYMEC

by Matthew Friday
Staff Editor

Affirmative Action!—an initiative is expected to be on next year's ballot 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 equal social and financial status.

A recent Los Angeles Times poll found that 73% of Californians back 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 the position; but, to abandon affirmative action without safeguards, is to risk returning to the "old boy network." The issue is gay 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. Wiggsy Sievertsen, 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)

Wiggsy 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, Wiggsy, 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 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

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 has 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 members speak in the community on educational panels, to church congregations and to individual groups. We are currently using money donated to us by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force and purchasing books to be placed in local and county libraries. We are always looking for new members and hope to have a major fund raiser in 1995. We publish a monthly newsletter and sell PFLAG T-shirts. Buy one!

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.

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

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Over 100 women, men, and children from the gay and straight communities gathered at Pacific Grove City Hall for the candlelight vigil and prayer service that marked the end of AIDS Awareness Week. Pacific Grove Mayor Sandra Koffman (lower right) read a proclamation supporting this special event. The procession made its way through downtown P.G. to St. Angela’s, where local religious leaders shared messages of remembrance, hope, and tolerance.

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 MCAP, nor the meeting facilitator, nor the convenor 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.

GWM...Not! Continued from page 1

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, MCAP Board of Directors, and the E/F 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.

Any 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 County 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 MCAP 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.

The process of getting input from communities traditionally without a voice must be made accessible. What has been tried in the past may not have been relevant: a "brain-storming session" is unheard of in El barrio or the ghetto or "on the other side of the tracks" in East Salinas.

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 cover letter in English? Why should a 20-year old Latina think that anyone understands the need for appropriate outreach which addresses the dichotomy between 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 MCAP 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 acquire the tools and esteem to assert their needs or issues and challenge the established power structure.

Lesbians of the World Unite!
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 inane 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.

Queer Youth: Call for Submissions

The Evergreen Chronicles is a semi-annual journal dedicated to exploring gay and lesbian arts and culture. 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)

Stay Tuned: Part 2 of Megan's Comic in the Next Issue
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 sticklyric@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.

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 communications 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 communications 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 existing 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 program is being designed to reach.

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 You Can 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.

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.
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 the theatre, but I don't have to wait tables anymore! Can you believe that? I am so lucky to be working, doing what I love.

JB: Is your character gay?

SC: Gay as pink ink! Please!

JB: How does it feel to get the chance to play a gay character?

SC: The perspective of being gay has brought to my life and my character's life. Being gay makes me open to knowing myself. In this way, being gay gives you an attitude.

JB: As a gay man, how does it feel to get 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.

JB: Did you just say, "Being gay gives you an attitude?"

SC: Yes. I figured it all out years ago. I was walking by Cliff'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 theshians 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 Furtur-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 head around.

JB: How does it feel to be in the first production in the Circle Theatre in 25 years?

SC: The Circle Theatre is great. I've been in charge of restoring the downstairs theatre. My directions were to make it pretty. You should have seen what I 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.

Stepphen's [Moorer] been great. He just lets me do my thing. Restoring this theatre has been good for me. After Jim died, and I broke up with a lover (who left me for a woman!), I needed this kind of rejuvenation. I just come down here and work. Of course I have lots of help.
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 egg-stravaganza for every-bunny. Starts at 6p.m. No cover. Call the After Dark for information, 373-7828.

Mon 17
Awakening the Healer Within
Gabriel Goldrain, spiritual clairvoyant and energy healer, and Carie Ford-Broecker will discuss how spiritual healing happens naturally when you open yourself to higher consciousness. The Barnyard Community Room, Carmel. Free. Call Pam at 394-4747 for info.

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

Thu 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.

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

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.

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.

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!

June 4
Santa Cruz
June 11
San Jose
TBD
Pacific Grove Pride Potluck
June 25
San Francisco

“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 (hmmmm) 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 Trunbo (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 bearing 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 risque (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 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.

“I Don’t Need a Boyfriend, I Have a Mortgage.”
**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,*

Set your boundaries on this one. You have the right to date and feel good about it. As long as you’ve been honest about what’s going on for you, it’s your friend’s problem.

*Dear Single,*

You make suggestions about getting together (not sexually, socially). Then detach from the outcome. They may not connect, 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 “better than” can be really entertaining when you’re bored. Fun is fun, but I wonder if you are so used to relating from a certain position that you are not longer flexible enough to lighten up. Try this Beginner’s mind. You show up. You meet people. You express your genuine pleasure at getting to know them. You see what you have in common. You make suggestions about getting together (not sexually, socially). Then detach from the outcome. They may say yes or no. Come from a place (within yourself) of completion. Let me know if it makes a difference.

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.

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**DPN Rules!: the ’zine for the AIDS Generation**

by Wes Kashiwagi  
Co-managing Editor

Ever feel like gagging when Greg Louganis gives an interview or wonder how many CBCs it would take to suck Newt dry? Ever trip your HIV-lover just so you could say “Now whose counts are falling?”

*Dear Quicksilver,*

Girlfriend, you’re sick. And DPN is for you.

*Dear Single,*

DPN doesn’t swallow: Offended by this picture? Mary, get over it.

Also included in every issue is the Couch Potato’s Porn Review, a handy look at what’s available for the sex toy of the 90’s, the home VCR. Videos are judged on veracity, artifice, surreality, and longevity (total orgasm-inducing potential).

Get Fat, Don’t Die

One of the most unusual features of DPN is its recipe section. HIV+ men and women are often advised to stay 10-15% above their optimal body weight so they won’t waste away too quickly when they come down with something. [Editor’s Note: lean muscle mass is also thought to contribute to increased survival among PWAs, so the message should also read “Get Buffed, Don’t Die.”] The recipes all sound quite toothsome and are worth a read even if you don’t feel like wearing a husky-size hospital gown.

**The Goods**

DPN offers a selection of snifty T-shirts, condom party packs, and other paraphernalia for the truly liberated HIV+ man. Sadly, I’ve yet to see anything bearing the likeness of my favorite DPN invention, “AIDS Barbie,” replete with IV drip, KS lesions, and a Malibu Dream Hospice.

**Where to Find DPN**

You can pick up a copy of DPN at several San Francisco bookstores, Printers Inc. in Mountain View, and Valley Women’s Books in Fresno. Subscriptions are $10/year (4 issues) or $3 for a sample issue. Write to: FOG Press c/o Men’s Support Center, P.O. Box 30564, Oakland, CA 94604.

You can send DPN E-mail at dpnmail@netcom.com or phone them at (510) 891-0455.

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**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

Sunday Services  
Santa Cruz: 10 a.m.  
YWCA, 303 Walnut St.  
Monterey: 6 p.m.  
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Ave.

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*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 a wide range of water activities, but historical attractions and lazy afternoons to spend sipping a favorite drink by a guest-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 gay camaraderie, Key West has its aquarium, offering one of the best collections of tropical Florida Keys fish.

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 350 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.

Free Information

To discover the paradise of Key West, write for a colorful “Guide to Key West” brochure. The address is P.O. Box 4640, Key West, FL 33041.

If you have access to an on-line computer service such as America Online or Compuserve, check the gay forums for additional information.

Life Under the Lights

by Jane S. Wynn
Contributing Writer

Leslie 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 intimacy fathers and over achiever daughters; 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, 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. And what about Judy Davis who made a not as well-defined character seem very dimensional as she bantered back and forth with her commandant. And 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.

Key West, FL 33041.
487 & Still Counting

Thoughts on the Pandemic, Lost Friends, & the Pain of Survival

by Wes Davis
Staff Editor

My best friend died the other day. That makes 487 people that I have personally known who died from HIV/AIDS.

Too damn many. It is difficult to keep things in perspective when I hear another gay man tell me that they do not always take precautions. It is hard not to preach or to deride their decision making.

I know that this will not persuade them to change, that only they can make it. Yet I hear it every day.

It is hard not to remember by me for their special gifts. Their "gifts" help me cope with the overwhelming loss.

For me the pain of survival is different, it is those who are not infected but who put themselves at risk. If we could only find the way to get them to change their risky behaviors. If we could only find the words. Until we do, the count goes on.

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 now know that you are infectious from the first day of infection. Even more reason to use protection.

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.

The importance of this conference for HIV/AIDS researchers has grown, now that the International Conference on AIDS is being held every other year (the next is scheduled for 1996 in Vancouver).

HIV Dynamics

The conference began with a presentation by Dr. David Ho on his recently published research on how HIV works in the human body. HIV works fast in the human body, creating some 110 million viral particles each day. In response, the body's immune system also works fast, producing some two billion CD4 cells every day. This dynamic continues throughout infection.

Thus, there is a war going on between the immune system and HIV from day one of infection. And the body might be called the "best antiviral" because for a number of years it does a good job of controlling the virus. At some point, however, HIV gets the upper hand and the response of the immune system becomes inadequate.

The Leukemia Model

Now that we understand that there is no "latency" period for HIV, researchers are questioning the wisdom of waiting until T-cells drop or symptoms appear to begin antiviral therapy.

They look to the leukemia model of "hitting hard and hitting early" as the way to effectively treat HIV disease. The theory is that early and aggressive treatment might suppress viral activity for a long time. When viral load again goes up, as measured by the new viral load test, other drugs could be tried to again suppress viral activity.

The problem with this theory is the reality of current drug availability. We don't yet have the drugs to do the long-term job effectively. And would this leave the patient resistant to antivirals in late stage disease? At the moment, early antiviral intervention remains practically if not theoretically problematic.

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 Amersham. 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 quickly 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.

Both the Q-PCR and b-DNA express their results in terms of how many genetic copies of HIV are found in a milliliter of blood. A "low" value would be less than 10,000 copies per ml; a "high" value would be more than 100,000 copies per ml. As with CD4 counts, one test is not the full story; one needs to look at the trend over time.

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, 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
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?”

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 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—

not doctors, attorneys, or business people—it was the work of rank-and-file activists who followed that made it safer to be open today.

The larger constellation of open lesbians and gay men—many, like the hotel manager, who were hesitant to come out because they could be penalized economically—have come out and made it 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 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.

Letters to the Editor Always Welcome! Go Ahead, Dish Us!
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 uninhibited 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 we celebrate a sense of freedom and sexual abandon, the exhilaration and “raunch”, the power and defiance that appeal to so many of us gay men (and women). Part of the mission of The Paper is to give voice to the various gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities in Monterey County, and who could argue that the bronze-bodied men of Garrapata Beach aren’t a vital part of that? (You have to be pretty vital to manage that climb!)" 

Still, even for some of our more open-minded readers, there was something amiss in this treatment of public sex. Conspicuously absent amidst the colorful collage that is the gay community is Benoit’s observations of the “gay 90’s”, and as gay, bisexual and transgender men and women, we’ve got to start acknowledging it! We can’t pretend any longer that we’re living in the “good old days” when we could do whoever however whenever we chose, and clear up any negative consequences with a dozen roses and a course of penicillin. Neither can we continue to perpetuate the myth that the gay community has its act completely together when it comes to safer sex. We must develop a cultural climate that allows us our human frailties and actively supports us in self-preservation on both the individual and community levels.

Not a Non-Issue

This reader found “Sex on the Beach” to be a worthy composition, and thanks the author for bringing public sex to the front page through an entertaining and honest treatment of a very real component of the culture that is the gay community. 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 since it makes less 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.

Editorials & Opinions

As I See It...

by Matthew Friday
Staff Editor

At a recent workshop organized by NCRI (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 had little matter that is 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, flushed faces, 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 difficult and a struggle to be seen as sexually exploitive because we are gay.
- It is frightening to extend friendship and have that deliberately betrayed or manipulated through threatening the group that’s “out” (or at least not “in”!). We have learned to identify with minority issues, definitions, strengths and limitations.
- Our ears and eyes and hearts are opening (and closing) to the struggles of others. Because of what we’ve been through we make good allies.
- Because we have embraced our true selves, even with the fear of ostracism, we are empowered: we cannot easily accept cowardice as someone else’s solution to our vulnerability.
- It is very important to us to work on self-acceptance, even in our own 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 greatly 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’s sometimes easier or harder to hear another. Hearing another we do make an undeniable difference.
**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, 375-4357; North County Crisis Line, 633-5900; Office, 373-3955.

**YWCA**
Also, individual & family counseling offered. Office, 649-0834.

**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**
Micah 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**
373-4491 or 373-0823

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

**Gay Men's Health Coalition**
649-2555

**Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey, Inc.**
899-2048

**Integrity**
Gay Episcopal group. Call 484-2326.

**Lesbian Alliance**
648-4338

**Metropolitan Community Church**
Services held Sunday evenings at Mariposa Hall, 601 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.

**Pet 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 425-LGBC for information on programs and community activities.

**Transgender Support Group**
462-3663

**Women's Bisexual Network**
427-4556

**Next Deadline is May 8th**

**Classifieds & Personals**

**All Listings FREE until August**

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**Send this form to "The Paper" Attn: Classifieds**
P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942-2081

**Local**

**Gay/Lesbian**

**Discussion Meeting**
- Thursdays, 8 p.m., Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove, Central & Forest.

**Book Study**
- Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., Unitarian Church, Monterey, Hwy. 1 at Aguajito.

**Step Study**
- Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove, Central & Forest.

**Gay Men's Meeting**
- Mondays, 8 p.m., Little House in the Park, Pacific Grove, Central & Forest.

**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.

The name of this rag is still in contention. 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

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The Paper: Ask for it By Name