Be Proud Monterey!

1995 Monterey Pride & Homecoming Attracts Over 400 Local G/L/B/T Residents

by Diana McGuire-Jones
Contributing Writer

It was all fun and cheers as the First Official Monterey County Gay Pride and Homecoming Festival was being contemplated and organized only one month prior to the actual date. It took several meetings, phone calls and late night planning parties with the officers of the Monterey Pride Association (MPA), the Magic, Music & Memory Foundation (3M Foundation), several volunteers and the owner, management and staff of the After Dark to finally make this event come to life.

The attendance count was over 400. It was truly inspiring to see this many people in our community come out and support each other "TO BRING STRENGTH AND UNITY BACK INTO OUR COMMUNITY" which was the theme for this year's Pride Celebration. With so much happening in our community, the organizers thought it only appropriate to find a way to bring all the community back together as a whole. Having absolutely no idea how to do it, and choosing a theme to say it all for us was something we felt very strongly about.

It is so very important for all of us not to forget why we are here when we support the organizations that have sprung up over the decades. We are here to lend support emotionally, physically and spiritually to those in need. The organizations are here to lend a helping hand to those who have that very need we are assisting. When it is all over and done, is it really important who said what to who or how long it took to get a task accomplished? I think not. What is important is that we help these organizations to grow, thrive and continue to be established because one day, it is almost inevitable, that we may need the help of those who we have stumbled over in the years past.

This was the basis of getting MONTEREY PRIDE AND HOMECOMING started. What does Homecoming stand for? It stands for all of us coming home to a safe atmosphere where we can finally once and for all be comfortable with who we are, who we know, where we go, what we do, and the way in which we live comfortably in our every day lives. It stands for unity, diversity, community, and being one group of people who have a right to everything we have, everything we stand for. It gives us the right to make choices for ourselves and our loved ones, regardless of race, creed, religion, sex, color, beliefs, political ventures and it gives us the RIGHT TO BE ME AND BE FREE!

Pride Organizer Diana McGuire.

Pride 96 will prove to be an even grander event with the invocation of Monterey County's first Gay Pride Parade and outdoor celebration including Live entertainment, Dancing, Food, Games, Prizes, MPA's Community Pride Awards, and an enormous amount of fun. We hope to enlist the support of many different and diverse parts of the Monterey Peninsula and the County as a whole in building and displaying floats, dance groups, vocalists, instrumentalists, poets, the media, artists, enthusiasts, and much much more.

For more photos and information on how to get involved with next year's pride festival, see page 4.
MISSION STATEMENT

"To inform and give voice to the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered 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."

HOW TO REACH US

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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 racism, 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 challenge. 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Paper welcomes your input. However, we ask that you limit letters to the editor to 300 words or less.

WHAT TO SEND US

We like digital files, typewritten material, black and white drawings, and neatly handwritten items. Do not assume that we have the ability to edit your artwork. We will make every attempt to comply with your requests, but our resources are limited.

ACTION ALERT: Medicaid at Risk!

From Press Release

Congress will hear a Medicaid bill in mid-September or early October that would imperil the lives of our nation's poorest people. Medicaid provides basic health and long term care coverage for over 33 million low-income Americans including 40% of HIV-positive adults and 90% of HIV-positive children. The bill would cut $182 billion from projected Medicaid spending over the next seven years. This would be accomplished by limiting the rate at which federal payments to states would grow and converting Medicaid from an entitlement to a block grant. Under a block grant, states would receive lump sums of money, within the established growth cap, and have considerable discretion over the use of funds. Low-income individuals would no longer be legally entitled to medical assistance and states would no longer receive matching funds for all persons served.

The White House and Congress have heard very little from constituents about current plans for Medicaid that would lead to waiting lists for life saving health care, decreased state revenue, and lowered standards for care. These cuts do not occur in a vacuum, but in an environment of dehumanization and vilification of welfare recipients who are commonly stereotyped as lazy, irresponsible, fraudulent, and as bad parents. The g/l/b/t community cannot stand by as the health of our nation's poorest, both within and outside our community, is sacrificed to support tax cuts for our nation's richest.

We must act to preserve Medicaid for low-income Americans.

ACTION

Call, write or visit your senators and representative and tell them to protect Medicaid as an entitlement and to resist unrealistic funding caps. Many Congress Members will be in their home districts during the second half of August to meet with constituents. Call now to schedule a local appointment. To reach the Capitol Switchboard call 202-224-3121 or write US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 and US Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Call or write President Clinton and let him know that you expect him to fight for the health of our poorest citizens. Call 202-456-1414 or write President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, DC 20500.

Salinas AIDS Housing Opens

by Wes Kashiwagi
Co-managing Editor

John XXIII AIDS Ministry welcomed the community to an open house at Casa Esperanza, their new low-cost housing project for people with AIDS in Salinas. Father Tom Long, Board President Ted Elisee, and many members of the John XXIII board were on hand to welcome guests. The 3,900 sq. ft. house is in a quiet neighborhood near the courthouse. Six residents will share the 4 bedroom, 3 bath dwelling.

Men and women who have an AIDS diagnosis are encouraged to apply for the 5 openings at Esperanza. Applicants who qualify are asked to sign a covenant which asks that they live communally. In return, tenants are offered a safe, affordable, and comfortable home in which to live.

Volunteers from John XXIII and Habitat for Humanity restored the blue, two-story house. "It was a shambles," said Elisee, commenting on the state of the house before renovation began. More volunteers are needed to help maintain the garden, cook a meal once a week, or do housecleaning. Call John XXIII at 655-1737 for information.

The house was donated by the City of Salinas. Ownership of the property will be transferred to John XXIII after they have operated the house for 30 years. Funding comes from tenant rent and the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA), a federal housing program.

John XXIII already operates Casa Max in Seaside, and plans to add twelve 3-4 bedroom houses on Fort Ord. Even after the Fort Ord expansion, John XXIII can offer space to less than half of those with AIDS who have already applied for low-income housing locally.

Circulation: 2,000 copies to Monterey, Salinas, and surrounding communities.

Deadlines for the Oct/Nov 1995 issue

Sept. 15th

We Know We're Two Weeks Late. Get Over It Already.

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Local Women Attacked in San Jose Gay Bashing

On June 18, 1995 at 10 p.m., three friends and I were gay bashed in San Jose, CA. For those of you who are aware, that was the day of the San Francisco Pride march. We had spent the day celebrating the gay community in all its diversities: ethnic, religious, and political. It was a wonderful display of love and acceptance of everyone’s differences. Needless to say we had a great time and were exhausted by the end of it.

As we were driving back to Monterey, it was dinnertime and someone mentioned eating at a gay-friendly restaurant. We found the restaurant and I parallel parked my car half block away. Close to 10 p.m. we finished dinner and walked out to my car to go home. We were all still glowing from the day and were in the process of rehearsing a joke long dead but still laughable as we piled into my car. From this point on it starts to get a little blurry, so bear with me second by second.

I got into my car and started up the engine. There was a parked car in front and in back of me. The street was pretty large and very well lit. As the last of my friends jumped in and closed the door, a blue car came up on my left and stopped a little in front of me. My thought—“Oh, they want my parking spot.” Three young men got out of the car in dark clothing, each holding something out of view. The car doors were locked and checked. The three men were standing at the passenger side on the sidewalk no more than three feet from the car. Nancy (sitting up front) said, “Oh my god, Melissa, they’ve got crowbars, oh shit.” My thought—“This is a bad movie. This can’t be happening.” I slammed into reverse and backed up as much as possible. Popped into drive and cranked the wheel. I didn’t have enough space. Reversed again and the blue car backed up, completely locking me in. I said “I can’t get out, they’ve surrounded my car, what the fuck!” We were completely trapped and locked in.

At this point, it is impossible to try to put in words how I felt. I knew I was going to die. I was completely helpless. To get out of the car meant certain death. The driver of the other car had not gotten out and I’m sure he had a gun in case things went wrong. The initial panic turned into numbness and a hope my friends weren’t going to be killed also.

There was a momentary pause to see if we were going to get out of the car. When they realized we weren’t, they attacked. My windows started shattering and glass was flying everywhere. They were screaming “Gimme your fuckin’ money! Gimme your fuckin’ wallets!” BAMM! BAMM! BAMM! The first window to break was the passenger side, then the rear. The front window had would not shatter (even though they hit it 16 times, the cop counted). Then they were banging on my window quite a few times before it gave in and showered all over me. I was screaming “What the fuck, man!” over and over while thinking—“The audacity of them, who do they think they are? They don’t even know me.” Nancy kept screaming “Stop!” Just fucking stop! Leave us alone!” The two in the back were ducking from the swinging crowbar and one of them kept trying to give them here bag. “Here, take my bag, just take it! My wallet? My coat? Take it!” Then one of the gangsters was screaming at me in my face. I gave him my last $20 (all the money any of us had). Meanwhile one of them was trying to get Nancy’s door open from the inside to drag her out, even though she had already given them her wallet. Luckily the way my car is built, all he ended up doing was bending the handle. The guy on my side demanded my wallet. I looked at him right in the face and lied “I don’t have a fucking wallet!” The pounding on my windows, car and head lights kept going, it wasn’t stopping even though they already had everything. For a split second I thought that guy was going to smash me in the face with the crowbar after I yelled at him. He was raising his weapon to strike when one of them yelled that it was time to leave.

We drove back up in front of the restaurant. The cops had already been phoned and no one in my car was hurt (I’m so grateful). Everyone was so kind and supportive and went out of their way to help us. We filled out a full police report but no one got the license plate number or could identify anyone in a line up. The cop said that he has seen robberies recently but not like this. Evidently that same car had been driving around earlier calling the men and women going to and from the restaurant “dykes” and “fags.” It wasn’t the $20 they were after, and I’m positive of that.

This is no longer something that happens on the news to someone else. It happened to me, and I was convinced I was going to die. For a lot of people, that is what happens, only because of the person they love.

This has only made me stronger. I will never be ashamed of who I am. NEVER. Gay bashing is on the rise and is growing to huge proportions. I am a living, breathing human being and I at least deserve respect for that.

Please remember every time you hear someone speaking badly about gays/lesbians/bisexuals, they are spreading ignorance that says it’s okay to be bigoted, to hate, to bash, and to kill. Let’s all try to evolve together as one people, one species. Pass the word. Let’s stop the stupidity.

Love and let love.

Tom Tanner
Certified Massage Practitioner
753-0149

Plastic Condom Update: Studies Cont.

Wes Kashiwagi
Co-Managing Editor

Studies testing the safety of the Avanti condom, the first polyurethane condom to come to market, have still not been completed, according to Schmid Laboratories of Sarasota, Florida. You can contact Schmid for information by calling (941) 365-1600 and asking for consumer information, or by writing to them at P.O. Box 4703, Sarasota FL 34236. (Editor’s Note: the 941 area code is correct.)

While HIV cannot penetrate polyurethane, polyurethane condoms do not clings or retain their shape as well as latex condoms. This could allow the polyurethane condom to slip off during anal intercourse, thus exposing both partners to HIV.

Tom Tanner
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More Updates on the Avanti Condom to Come
Macy's Benefit Shopping Day Helps Local Charities

Celebrate giving and help support John XXIII AIDS Ministry through the purchase of tickets to Macy's Benefit Shopping Day. Tickets are $10.00 each and entitle you to discounts on purchases as well as a fun filled day of shopping, fashion presentations, light refreshments, special entertainment for the entire family, plus an opportunity to win a $1,000 shopping spree at Macy's.

For each pre-sold ticket redeemed at the door, Macy's will donate an additional $3.00 to John XXIII. That means for your $10.00 donation, John XXIII could receive up to $13.00! Also, funds collected from the sale of tickets at the door will be split among the participating agencies.

Each ticket will entitle the purchaser to a 20% discount on purchases of women's, men's and children's apparel and/or fashions, jewelry, domestics, cosmetics, fragrances and/or gift items. The discounts are on top of any existing sales!

This is a great opportunity to shop for yourself, someone else, and/or to get an early jump on your holiday gift list. At the same time you'll be helping John XXIII AIDS Ministry with its important work in the community.

Let family, friends and loved ones know that the event will take place on Wednesday, August 23rd, from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM at Macy's Monterey in the Del Monte Shopping Center. For ticket information, call John XXIII AIDS Ministry at 655-1737, or have tickets sent to you by mailing your check/money order payable to John XXIII AIDS Ministry to: John XXIII AIDS Ministry, PO Box 1931, Monterey, CA 93942.

"Average" According to Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports magazine ran an exhaustive condom review in their May 1995 issue. However, the magazine failed to explain what the proportions of the "average" penis model they used in testing. Readers could not tell if a condom would be too snug or too loose. The Paper received a letter from Consumer Reports Reader Service Dept. stating that the average penis is between 3-1/2 and 4-1/4 inches in circumference, and 4-3/4 to 8 inches in length. Curvature was not mentioned in the letter. -WK

'96 Pride Fest Planning Begins

by Diana McGuire
Contributing Writer

With all the enthusiasm, dedication and support still fresh, it's time once again to get a headstart on the next year's festivities.

The Monterey Pride Association and the 3 M Foundation of Monterey County are getting a headstart on Monterey's 2nd Pride weekend to be held on June 8 & 9 of 1996.

We will be holding a public meeting to hear the ideas that you, the community, have to offer.

Because it is such a large event and yet still at the beginning levels, we can use all the ideas and support we can get in order to make this a weekend full of PRIDE for all. Some of the area's committee members will be focusing on such things as: security, commemorative items, marketing, outdoor dancing, parade logistics, festival logistics, advertising, licensing, food and catering, entertainment, office work, outreach, fundraising, business programming, raffles, G/L/B/T youth, and the rowdie rooters.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these areas, PLEASE be at the Pride of Monterey meeting on Sunday Aug. 20, 1995. The meeting will be held at 7:30p.m. at The Peacock Bar and Grill on Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey.

This is your chance for input into the future Pride Festivities in Monterey County.
Santa Cruz Pride Parade

Hundreds of queer Santa Cruzians gathered for the 10th annual Gay Pride Parade down Pacific St. in Santa Cruz. Afterward, onlookers joined with the marchers and made their way to San Lorenzo Park for a sunny afternoon of singing, activism, and sharing. (photos: Barbara Burke)

Out to lunch

A lot of people have been blowing me off lately, just because I'm going out with Brad. Thanks for sticking by me, Jan -- that means a lot to me.

Hey, Yoshi, don't mention it. After all, it's nice to finally have another bisexual around.

Bisexuals are weak-willed, wishy-washy wannabes. They either don't know who they are or they're too spineless to admit it!

I, on the other hand, know exactly who I am and what I want -- I am a lesbian, and right now, what I want just happens to be a man.

Yeah, sure, Yoshi. I get it. I understand now. You're right -- you're not bisexual.

....you're heterosexual!

The Paper Needs Your Articles on Local Issues
Local Stories

John XXIII

by Tom Melville
Contribution Writer

Before joining John XXIII (23rd) AIDS Ministry as its office manager, I like many others, had heard of it, but never really took the time to find out what it was all about. I suppose I just thought of it as "...that other AIDS place that does good work; I think it's named after a dead Pope."

And evidently, confusion about the agency continues. I frequently open mail addressed to "St. John's AIDS Ministry", "John's 8th Ministry", "John's 23rd dineries", etc., etc.

But since mid-March my knowledge of his organization has grown as has my understanding and appreciation of the valuable work it does for this community. There's more to this other AIDS place than the legacy of a deceased Bishop of Rome.

The agency is named after Pope John XXIII, whose Papacy lasted a very short time (1958-63). During this brief period its legacy of a deceased Bishop of Rome.

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The agency is named after Pope John XXIII, whose Papacy lasted a very short time (1958-63). During this brief period however, he earned the love and respect of millions through his demonstrated compassion and humanitarian efforts. A truly liberal pontiff, he is still revered today by those who believe in what he stood for: unconditional love, respect, and compassion for your fellow human being.

Though named in honor of him, John XXIII AIDS Ministry is non-denomination- al and welcomes all faiths. The mission of the agency is to provide spiritual and practical outreach to people infected and/or affected with HIV/AIDS. The Ministry is a non-profit, public benefit organization which was founded in June 1988 by Father Alan Syslo and Michael Pollock, who succumbed to AIDS in 1989.

Michael Center, named in memory of Michael Pollock, is where our administrative offices are located. It's actually a second story apartment with a beautiful view of Monterey Bay from the back rooms which are used as offices. The kitchen, dining room, and living room (complete with bay window and working fireplace) provide a comfortable setting for group meetings, gatherings, counseling and referrals.

The agency also sponsors form a sense of community among the residents.

The Ministry has two focuses - spiritual outreach and housing. Other aspects of HIV/AIDS issues are handled by the Monterey County AIDS Project, MCAP. Our programs complement one another and we enjoy a close working relationship with the staff and volunteers. John XXIII's spiritual outreach extends to Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties. Outreach is accomplished through a variety of ways.

The primary type is through home, hospice, and hospital visits to those who are living with HIV/AIDS or who are affected by the disease in some way. The agency also sponsors semi-annual retreats, one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. These are offered free of charge to persons living with HIV/AIDS and the focus is on how to live with a positive outlook and deal with the emotional impact of the disease. Another form of outreach are support groups. Moms for Moms meets twice monthly to discuss the issues dealing with an HIV-infected child or grieving the loss of a son or daughter to AIDS.

An AA support group is also available for people who are living clean and sober and are affected by HIV/AIDS. Weekly gatherings at Michael Center are modeled after a 12-step meeting except that issues of HIV/AIDS, which impact living clean and sober, can also be discussed. No matter how the outreach is accomplished, the goal is to create safe, compassionate, and caring situations whereby the individual infected and/or affected by the disease will realize options for personal empowerment and growth.

As a compliment to its outreach, John XXIII also strives to provide an affordable, quality living environment for those with the disease in Monterey County who often must try to survive on meager disability income. The majority of funding for this effort is received through HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) under the Ryan White Act. One way this goal is attained is through housing assistance. This takes the form of paying a person's PG&E bill, water bill, helping with rent, security deposits, etc. The other way is by providing housing. John XXIII presently operates two homes. Casa Max, the home in Seaside, opened in 1991. The other home, called Casa Esperanza, is in Salinas and celebrated its opening with a Open House this past June. These homes are not just nice places to eat and sleep however. The Ministry tries hard to achieve a family-like setting in order to form a sense of community among the residents. In this way each individual can feel supported and nurtured. Again, as with the outreach efforts, the hope is that in this situation, residents will realize options for personal empowerment and growth.

The Lesbian Alliance

The Newsletter is a form for a visible lesbian community which is social, supportive and encouraging action, freedom of expression and connection for Monterey County. For additional information on events and subscription call 648-4338.

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The Paper: It's Not Like Any Other Free Rag

Changes at John XIII AIDS Ministry

As John XXIII AIDS Ministry begins this fiscal year 1995-96, the organization faces major personnel changes. Tom Long recently resigned as Executive Director of the agency. August 7th he begins his new position as HIV Educator at the Monterey County Department of Health.

Long is replacing Wes Davis, who has left the Health Department to work with the Red Cross in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tom Melville will serve as the interim Executive Director of John XXIII. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new positions.
Gay Teen Support Groups Forming

by Justin Larson
MCAP Man-to-Man Coordinator

Just like their heterosexual counterparts, gay teens are faced with difficulties as they mature in our society. In the midst of all the puberty issues, they ask questions about themselves and how they compare to their peers. Am I ugly? Am I normal? To big or small? Too late or early? Why do I get aroused when I shower after gym? In short: Am I normal?

To Be or Not To Be?

Every teen wants to be "normal" and be accepted. But what happens when your "normal" is different from that of your best friend? What happens when society says that your "normal" is wrong and that you can't be accepted? To stay healthy, teens may feel like they must choose to either 1) conform to the "normal" established by society or 2) become isolated and unaccepted. It is the presentation of these two choices which forces many gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens to make that unfortunate third choice — escape. Whether that escape is through substance use, physically running away, or even death, gay and lesbian teens continue to choose Door #3 with devastating results.

Recognizing that self-esteem is a significant factor in risk reduction programs, more education and prevention programs are focusing efforts on teenagers. Locally, AIDS education providers also believe that creating a positive, environmentally safe, gay, lesbian, and bisexual awareness, gay, lesbian, and bisexual teenagers will contribute to a healthier community and may lead to a decrease in high risk behaviors in this group.

The Man-to-Man Outreach Program is reviving the gay and lesbian teen support program begun last year. Geared mainly for youth age 14 to 18, the group will meet on the first and third Friday of each month, alternating between rap groups and activities as determined by the group itself. Though the one of the goals is an increase in awareness and decrease in risky behaviors, the atmosphere will be social and supportive in nature.

Teens will be able to discuss with mentors and peers such issues as coming out, sexual practices, discrimination, violence, older partners, rape, family, and eating. Activities may range from watching movies and eating pizza to going bowling. All activities will be facilitated by two adults who will work to provide a forum for sharing and a place to take problems. Facilitators will have referrals and resources available to assist teens in resolving issues that may come up.

We Need You!

As the program grows, we will need community support in several ways. Primarily, we need help in getting the information about the program to interested teenagers. Though we have some teens already identified, the program will be more successful with a larger group. Schools, churches, medical service providers, service agencies, and even neighbors need to be aware of this resource for teens who have identified themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, or those who are questioning their sexual identity.

The program also is accepting applications for program mentors. These are volunteers who facilitate the group activities and provide positive role models for the participants. Mentors may be male or female of any age, thought it is preferable they be over 25 years old. Job descriptions are available through MCAP.

MCAP is also pursuing a program to provide gay and lesbian sensitivity training to peer educators in established high school peer education programs. Presenters are needed to work with this program as well. For further information on teen programs or other outreach activities, contact Justin Larson, Man-to-Man Outreach Coordinator, at the Salinas MCAP Office (772-8200).

MCAP Update

Ellen Mills joined the Monterey County AIDS Project team as the new Client Services Director.

Ellen has worked as a volunteer in Client Services since April. She moved to Monterey from Orange County where she worked as the Coordinator of Volunteers at a Southern California Hospice and was a companion/advocate volunteer with the Orange County AIDS Service Foundation for 5 years.

Pam Bonsper, Client Services Director for the past year, is leaving MCAP to complete her MFCC. Clients, volunteers and staff members will miss her gentle spirit, ongoing support and dedication.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:

As a community paper we feel it is important to include obituary listings as a regular section of The Paper. Submit obituary or memorial announcements to: The Paper, P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93940.
Reflections

by Jane Wynn
Contributing Writer

In June of 1972, I was 22 years old and was on my bicycle traveling through Lincoln Park in Chicago, when I saw in the distance a large crowd of people all hooting and hollering in the sunshine. I stopped and got off my bike and watched while leaning against a tree. I saw signs with the word Stonewall and signs with the words Gay Pride. The mood was celebratory and the atmosphere festive. I saw women holding hands and men holding hands. I saw men dressed as women and women dressed as men. While all this was going on before me, I was off to the side clanging to that tree wondering what it would be like to be with them; to be part of a group I hardly knew anything about. Yet I knew somehow I belonged. How could we make friends with them? When could I march too? It's been 23 years since I held up that tree in Lincoln Park and 23 Junes have come and gone. Much has changed in my life and in all our lives since then. But this June in San Francisco, I wasn't clanging to a tree and wondering who they were, or who I was; I was holding my lover's hand and smiling for who we have become.

As I watched the parade come down Market Street, I remembered Albuquerque, New Mexico in June of 1976, just four years after Chicago, when about 50 of us met at the gay bar and then car pooled up Central Avenue to venture back down Central in the middle of the day in the dry, blazing heat. We carried make-shift signs and chanted while out of the corner of our eyes we saw men in pick ups with shot guns sitting securely on the racks. My knees knocked all the way down that hot street in New Mexico, but one of the first organized gay pride marches in Albuquerque went off without a hitch.

As the PFLAG contingent went by this year in San Francisco, it seemed bigger than ever. Mothers, fathers, friends, sisters, brothers, grandparents, strollers, backpacks. Tears came to my eyes when I thought about my friends who have not yet told their parents and the estrangement they feel. To see this contingent is to see such happiness, such love. And always I remember on my 30th birthday telling my father who his daughter was, after having told my brother years before but not having the chance to tell my mother before she died.

As the West Hollywood cheer-leaders passed by this year, I recalled the Los Angeles parade in June of 1983. My second march, and for this one I was with Great Outdoors, a Gay and Lesbian hiking group. I had been sober almost two years as I carried the banner of Great Outdoors down Santa Monica Blvd. Gone were the men in pick up trucks with their rifles, but present were a small band of religious fanatics who were drowned out by shouts of pride.

And then again the Los Angeles Parade in 1985. This time I road in style, sharing a convertible with Tom Proctor, my friend and running coach in West Hollywood. Tom is gone now, but each year West Hollywood remembers him with the Tom Proctor 5 and 10K run each Fall.

And as the AIDS groups went quietly by this year, I recalled in 1991 when I marched with the MCAF group in San Francisco. It was this parade I remember the most. Albuquerque was small, Los Angeles was large, but marching in the San Francisco parade was overwhelming. Wave after wave of shouts and cheers. A never ending sea of men and women and applause. To watch is one thing. To be in the parade is another.

Somehow as I write this today it all seems so bittersweet, for I found out that Jim Ritter died the evening of the parade. There I was coming home after a weekend of being in love, while Jim was taking his last breath back home in Monterey. I remember watching "And the Band Played On" at John Castello's house not so many years ago and sitting next to Jim and holding his hand the entire time. I met Jim when I first became involved with MCAF back in the late 1980s.

Things change. Nothing ever stays the same. And what we marched for 23 years ago we are still marching for now. Equal protection. Equal rights. For to be who we are in a democratic society. Great strides are made and great setbacks too. Just when I think a break through can be made, secret service agents wear rubber gloves. But we're still here and we won't go away. Parades. People. Pride.

40 lesbians listening to various women share their poetry and stories. For the first time since my move I truly felt connected to the Monterey lesbian community.

The Lesbian Alliance mission statement reads as follows: "The Newsletter is a forum for a visible lesbian community which is social, supportive and empowering, encouraging action, freedom of expression and connection for Monterey County. I think they definitely fulfill this mission. To be who we are in an invisible lesbian community."

For additional information on events, subscriptions and the mailing list, please call the Lesbian Alliance Phone Line: 648-4338. To submit articles or business listings, please write to Lesbian Alliance, P.O. Box 4572, Salinas, CA 93912 or fax information to 626-8523.

Lesbian Alliance Offers Social Outlet

by Barbara Burke
Co-managing Editor

When I first moved to Monterey from San Diego in April 1994, I knew only two people in the area and they were both married and straight. Although their support was invaluable, I couldn't find any evidence of a gay community in Monterey (and I didn't know how to get to Santa Cruz). This went on for two months. I had met no one and was feeling very lonely and isolated. I finally came out to one co-worker who handed me a copy of the Lesbian Alliance Newsletter. Not only did it prove to me that there was a lesbian community in Monterey County, but it showed me exactly how to connect with these women. Their calendar listed local events (like Storytelling evenings, dinners at local restaurants, movie matinees, bike rides, etc.) with phone numbers to call for information. And the Lesbian Alliance business listings showed local lesbian owned businesses that I called the Lesbian Alliance Phone Line and talked to a wonderful, very warm and welcoming woman who told me of a number of business and social meetings I could attend and immediately put me on their mailing list to guarantee I would continue to receive the newsletter. I went to a Storytelling Evening and found myself with 35-
Travel & Arts

Western Stage '95 Season Offers Comedy/Drama

The Western Stage season continues with the world premiere of "Cannery Row," on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the publication of John Steinbeck's novel, in an original staging by the company, under the direction of Tom Humphrey, adapted by J.R. Hall. Performances on the main stage of the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center, 156 Homestead, Salinas are July 29, August 3, 4, 5 at 8:00 p.m. with reserved seating. Performances at the Forest Theater, located at Mountain View and Santa Rita, Carmel, are August 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 at 8:00 p.m. The Forest Theater is an outdoor theater and seats are unreserved; patrons should dress warmly and may come early with a picnic. All tickets are $14.00.

Take Five

Bali—It’s Warm, Lovely, Exciting and Gay!

by Dan Presser
Contribution Writer

But where is it? Bali is an island in the middle of an archipelago of over 13,000 islands which make up the Republic of Indonesia. The provincial capital is Denpasar, it's not exactly a mecca for gay visitors to this lovely island except for Puputan Square. The common, surrounded by government buildings, is a friendly social scene for local gay men who gather there starting about 11 pm nightly.

Are there other gay places on this tropical island? You bet. Kuta-Legian is near Denpasar and only a ten minute drive from the International Airport. It's packed with Australians looking for nonstop shopping, nightlife and drinking. There's lots of surfer action on Kuta Beach, but gay action centers on a small strip of beach and night spots in Seminyak. Gays dominate the Seminyak beach beginning at the Jalan Dhyana Pura access road, near the Bali Imperial Hotel, extending north to Pura Petitenget temple. There are sections of beach that invite nude bathing. The hot Indonesian sun is easily deflected by a cool drink and a hot massage from any of the hot spots.

Another spot the Goa crowd goes to is the Double Six Club. The Double Six is a great dancing place on the beach in Seminyak near Jalan Dhyana Pura. In Indonesia, as the night gets later, the crowd gets gayer. It might help to stay on California time!

How do I get there? There are a couple of ways. All of them involve stopping along the way. You can use that to your advantage and see either Hawaii, Hong Kong or Singapore on route. Call your local travel agent or Nrabu International Gay Travel Association. Specializing in gay travel packages. FourWinds Travel your one stop business or leisure travel headquarters. 408-622-0800 fourwinds@redshift.com

The Monterey Peninsula's first and only member of the International Gay Travel Agents Association

Welcome Jerry Abernathy as a full service leisure agent

Jerry has worked for travel agencies in New York and Atlanta. He is looking forward to being an active member of the Peninsula's gay family.

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The Barnyard • Carmel
**On The Air: Local Weekly Radio**

**Mondays:** 7:00 p.m. Closet Free Radio. Local gay and 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. KZSC, 86.1 FM.

1:00 p.m. Women's Radio Collective! Music and requests. KAZU, 90.3 FM.

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**Community Calendar**

**Helms Almost Serenaded by Gay Men's Chorus**

From Press Release

As part of TV Nation's "Love Night" theme, the irreverent television program assembled a chorus of gay men to travel to the nation's capital to serenade Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) outside his Virginia home and Senate Office.

The chorus sang "What the World Needs Now (Is Love Sweet Love)", outside Helms' Senate office as staffers peered through the blinds and Capitol police stood by. The group later performed "On the Street Where You Live" outside Sen. Helms' home. (According to a TV Nation producer, the group tired of singing the other song.) Unfortunately, Sen. Helms missed the choral performance. The singers, however, were greeted by Mrs. Helms, who said, "The songs were very nice, very pretty." Mrs. Helms suggested that the chorus go to the Senate floor, adding, "Maybe they'd all like to hear you."

This segment was broadcast on Friday, August 11 (8-9:00 PM ET/PT) on FOX. Because of a football game in New York City, it was broadcast in the Big Apple on Saturday, August 12th at 6pm EST.

Another segment on the show has a chorus line of dancers kick up their heels to "Stop in the Name of Love" outside the Aryan Nation's Congress in Idaho.

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**DJ Deno's Top 10**

1. Let the Rhythm Move (Romanthony)
2. Love Changeover (Michael Watford)
3. Get Up Off Of Me (Dajae)
4. Space Cowboy (Jamiroquai)
5. House Anthem (K.O.T.)
6. Surrender Your Love (Nightcrawlers)
7. Shelter Me (Musk Men with Sade)
8. The Bomb (Bucketheads)
9. Freek-n-You (Jodeci)
10. Everybody Be Somebody (Ruffneck)

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**Marilyn Contest at Franco's Always a Hit**

Hundreds of local residents and visitors flocked to Franco's in Castroville for their Annual Marilyn Monroe Lookalike Contest.

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**Adding It Up**

by Al Kielwasser

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Care for a little transphobia with your tequila? That's the theme of a recent, high-profile print advertisement appearing in various magazines. The ad is one of several new campaigns selling a mixed bag of queer messages — messages that are especially sensitive to "consumer comments." A full-page ad for Sauza "Commemorativo" Tequila features a full-length photograph of an attractive, bikini-clad woman. Across her breasts, the text reads: "She's a he." Beneath the photo, the ad explains: "Life is harsh. Your tequila shouldn't be." Transgendered people do not make life "harsh" — transphobic people do. This company would not (one hopes) even consider using the same advertisement appearing in various "Condé Nast" television programs.

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**The John Tesh Sphincter Clench**

Of his role in the new film Jeffrey (which is based on the stage play about a gay man who falls in love just as he is swearing off intimacy), actor Steven Weber declares: "If anybody is uptight about this movie, I think they have a problem." Ironically, Weber took that stand on "Entertainment Tonight" ("ET"), where host John Tesh has been more than a little uptight about gays lately. On the August 2 broadcast of "ET," Tesh introduced a segment on Jeffrey by noting: "Steven Weber is constantly looking for love on the NBC series 'Wings,' and he finds it in the new movie Jeffrey. Pausing gravely, Tesh then intoned: "But you're in for a shock when you see who's on the other end of Steven's big movie kiss." "ET" showed the kiss in slow-motion (though it was unclear if the effect was intended to heighten or dampen the "shock"). Only a few weeks ago, Tesh offered equally-sensationalistic commentary for a segment dispelling the "dirty rumors" about Keanu Reeves' sexual orientation. Unfortunately, these "ET" segments dance around the subject of homophobia. The Jeffrey segment never explored why a simple same-sex kiss is shocking stuff. Tesh could have said that Jeffrey's audiences will be "in for an education." And a MUCH-NEEDED education at that. Fortunately, "ET" did allow Weber himself to celebrate Jeffrey as a film that "opts for love and living." Viewing the chance to play a gay man as a professional opportunity, Weber said: "I'm just an average hetero idiot, and I was an interesting excursion into trying something different." He concluded: "A kiss is really just a kiss." Send constructive criticism to John Tesh, "Entertainment Tonight," 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038, 213-956-4900, fax 213-956-4954; Support for Jeffrey should be directed to Len White, CEO, Orion Pictures, 1888 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067, tel. 310-282-0550.

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**Community Church**

"A Christian Church Affirming Gay and Lesbian People"

Rev. Jean Hart, Pastor
P.O. Box 1764
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
408 335-9466

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**The Paper**

Editorial Meeting is September 15th at MCAP's Seaside Office
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**AUGUST**

**Wed, 23rd**

Macy's Benefit Shopping Day
Shop without guilt! A benefit for local charities and a great sale all in one. Del Monte Shopping Center, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., $10 admission. Huge discounts at Macy's. Call John XXIII for more information at 655-1737.

**Fri, 25th**

Walk for AIDS Poster Party
Call John XXIII for more information. 655-1737.

**Sat, 26th**

People's Choice Awards
Grand Cypress Empire at the American Legion Hall in Carmel, Door open at 7:00 p.m., show from 9 to 11:30. There will be an auction. $10 donation. Call for information: 899-0731 (Marvin) or 633-6481 (Jonathan).

**MON, 28th**

PFLAG Meeting
Unitarian Church, 400 Aguajito Rd. in Carmel, 7 p.m. Elections and Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum will speak.

**Wed, 30th**

All Day Retreat at Flander's Mansion
Experience the sense of summer! Call now and reserve your space. Another in MCAP’s Centered Living Workshops for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Call Carrie at 375-5918 for more information.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Sat, 9th**

Leather & Lace Show
Grande Cypress Empire at the American Legion Hall in Carmel, Door open at 7:00 p.m., show from 9 to 11:30. $10 donation. Call for information: 899-0731 (Marvin) or 633-6481 (Jonathan).

**Sun, 10th**

Anything Goes
The 3 M Foundation presents a wild evening where anything can happen. Call the After Dark for more info 375-7928.

**Sat, 16th**

MCAP Volunteer Picnic
Toro Park, Badger Flats area. Food, fun, entertainment. Call MCAP for more information.

**OCTOBER**

**Fri, 13th**

Out of Town Show
Grand Cypress Empire at the After Dark (214 Lighthouse Ave.) Begins at 8:00 p.m. $5 donation. Call for information: 899-0731 (Marvin) or 633-6481 (Jonathan).

**Sat, 14th**

Walk for AIDS
You can make a difference. The annual Walk for AIDS is a chance to raise money for local HIV/AIDS organizations, get some exercise and meet some new faces. Call 394-4747 for more information on how you can participate. Corporate teams welcome!

**NOVEMBER**

**Sun, 19th**

3M Pageant
At the After Dark. Watch for announcements for more information.

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**GIRLFRIENDS**

by Twisted Sister

I n July 1994 a new lesbian magazine hit the newstands: “Girlfriends”. Because of budget constraints the marketing for this new magazine hasn’t been very extensive; actually it’s mostly been word of mouth. I heard about it some time in February of this year. (That took a while! I must be losing my touch!) Of course, what caught my interest was that it had a centerfold. I was picturing a lesbian “Penthouse”: a magazine full of lesbian erotica and naked lesbians. It took me a while to find a copy, but finally I bought one at Monterey Coffeehouse Bookstore on Alvarado Street. (They have a great selection of gay and lesbian magazines in the back of the store on the magazine rack next to the coffee bar.) I was a little disappointed that it was so small, but, as we know, lots of great things start out small... But the centerfold pictures were fabulous.

“Under Construction” featured naked construction dykes! I loved the woman who was wearing practically nothing but her hard hat (appropriately placed). Now that’s a lesbian concerned with safe sex! The May/June issue did it to me too. Talk about fantasies: a lesbian on a Harley wearing nothing but the rainbow flag! YEAH!!!

But beyond the pictures is a very entertaining magazine. “Girlfriend’s” articles run the gamut of topics, from implied lesbianism in the O.J. trial to Susie Bright’s discussion of Jimi Hendrix from a very detailed travelogue of Northampton, MA to the Fringe Life article, “There’s Perverts in Cleveland”... from “Top Shelf Reviews” of lesbian fiction and non-fiction to “Bottom Shelf Reviews” of lesbian erotica and sex toys. This magazine is fun! There are also articles on fashion (lesbo style), health (“Peddling Prozac”), and being a teenage lesbian mother. They’ve even included the PETA ad: “We’d rather be naked than wear fur” with that great shot of Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher naked. (Tell me that’s not a fantasy come true!)

As you can tell, I give a definite thumbs up to “Girlfriends”. Pick one up and look it over. This is one sexy, entertaining and fun magazine; well worth the $18 special Gay Pride subscription price. You can also call the “Girlfriends” editorial staff at 1-800-GIRLFND. (You’d better believe Nikkie and her Harley will be keeping this Twisted Sister company for a long time)

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**BOARD MEETINGS**

**August 21st**

MCAP Board, 6 p.m. at the York School near Ryan Ranch.

**August 24th**

John XXIII Board, 6:30 p.m. at the Michael Center on Lighthouse, Monterey.

**September 11th**

Ryan White Consortium, 6 p.m.

**September 18th**

MCAP Board, 6 p.m. at the Michael Center on Lighthouse, Monterey.

**September 20th**

Monterey County AIDS Advisory Committee
MCAP G/L/B/T Advisory Committee
September 28th
John XXIII Board, 6:30 p.m. at the Michael Center on Lighthouse, Monterey.

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**Call Wes at 655-3756 or Barbara at 647-8906 for Details.**
Untitled

by Dennis Alexander
Contributing Writer

Nothing. Try it again, Longley thought. He knew it was time for a change of spark plugs, but, if that were fully the case, at least it would try to kick over. Maybe it was just a fluke. He turned the key back to the off position and took a deep breath, hoping for a small miracle before turning it again.

Again, nothing. "Damn! Damn! Damn!" he screamed. He glanced at his watch. Great! Why now? He had to be all the way underneath.

"God damn it!" he screamed at the engine. Suddenly self-conscious, he became acutely aware that he was losing his cool public persona. He looked around to make sure that there was no one that might recognize him. He thought for a moment and knew the first thing he had to do was call the secretary to the School Board to let them know that he would be late.

Longley didn’t see a pay phone anywhere, so he started into a slow trot to the high school a block and a half away, where he knew there was a pay phone. Although he was an avid twice-a-week tennis player, the combination of the jog and nerves right now made him pant and sweat more than he thought necessary. He stopped, took a deep breath and wiped his brow, knowing that this was another quarter and dropped it in the phone.

"Hello, Claudia. It’s Martin. Are they about ready to start? Well, do you think that it’s at all possible for them to push the foreign language issue and the block schedules up on the agenda?" He looked down the street for a tow truck as he talked, though he knew full well that it could not get there this quickly.

"Because my car died and I’m waiting for a tow... Yes, I’ve thought about that but I think it’s probably better for me to go with the car. Well, I’ll get there somehow... Don’t worry about that... Good... Well, if they can rearrange things a little, I can still get there in time for my talk. Good...Right...Thanks, I owe you one. Oh, uh Claudia—how many parents are there? Really? That’s good. I figured that this one would set a record. Okay, I’ll see you in a little while. Bye.

Longley walked at a normal pace back to his car in the lot, trying to figure out a way to get to the meeting. He knew that the drivers of the towing service were supposed to drop stranded motorists off with their cars, though that wasn’t going to help him right now.

When he rounded the corner of the drug store that faced the parking lot, he was surprised but pleased to see a powerfully built yellow and black tow truck with the neatly stenciled letters “Nowicki’s Towing” painted on the sides. Longley jogged across the street to his car.

"Hi there. I wasn’t expecting you so quickly."

Longley startled the young man, who rose from his kneel at the front fender of the BMW where he was hooking up the tow. "Oh, I’m sorry, sir. I thought you might have left. They told me that you were on your way to a meeting."

No, no, don’t worry about that. I’m glad you’re here so early."

"Oh, well... good. So, uh, what seems to be the problem, sir?"

"Not exactly. When I turned the key—nothing. Sounds to me like it could be the starter."

His tone had calmed some since he was on the phone.

"Yeah, actually that’s just a symptom for any number of things. Was it doing this before or was this the first time?"

"First time."

"Hmm. Could you pop the hood, sir? Hope you don’t mind if I take a quick look underneath."

Longley reached under the front dashboard for the latch, a little curious that this young man was looking deeper into the problem than just hooking up and towing. When he came back around, the young man already had his head under the hood.

"Have you checked the wires? Sometimes there’s just a loose connection with the battery, which won’t give you anything."

"No, I haven’t checked them yet."

"Well, doesn’t really matter. These ones seem to be making some pretty good contact. I’m going to spray the choke real quick to see if it’s just gunked up. I’d rather not bring it in and have the mechanic tell you it was something more detailed than we could have taken care of right here."

Longley again glanced at his watch as the driver went back to his truck to get the choke and carburetor cleaner. He wanted just to get going so that maybe he could still make it on time, but he could hardly argue with the young man’s logic.

"Alright,” the young man said, “give it a try now.”

Longley quickly jumped behind the wheel, praying it was as simple as that. He again took a breath before turning the key. Again, nothing. Damn, he thought to himself. Why can’t we just get going? He jumped out of the car to confirm what he had thought originally.

"Starter?"

"Yeah, unfortunately, I think it’s the starter. I’ll get the tow on."

After the car was up on the rear of the tow truck and Longley had climbed into the passenger’s side, the young man asked him if he had a particular mechanic that he liked. Longley explained that all his maintenance checks were done at the dealer up in the City so he knew no mechanic in this area.

"If I can make a suggestion, sir, I know a guy who has a shop not far from here who works with higher priced cars. In fact, I’m pretty sure that BMWs and Mercedes are his specialties. He’s lower priced than a dealership and he used to run the automotive program at the junior college. He’s real good."

Longley was starting to see that this man was a bit more customer service oriented, which was appreciated but still wasn’t helping him get to where he had to be. He glanced at his watch again. A little over fifteen minutes left. Although it wouldn’t look good to walk in late, he had good reason. This was beside the point, though, since the main thing was to get in front of those parents and the rest of the Board.

"Where do you need to go, sir?"

Longley looked at him curiously, wondering why he needed to know that.

"Well, I have a meeting that is completely on the other side of town."

"Actually, that’s where I’m heading myself in a little while. Can I give you a lift?"

Longley was pleased by this young man’s offer, though at this point the best thing to do was to get home and get his wife’s car. “Thanks, but I think I’ll just try to go home first to get the other car.”

"Where do you live?" the driver asked.

"On Oakwood Road, over towards the mall."

"Oakwood...Oakwood," he muttered softly to himself. "Is that the same street that the Best Western is on?"

"We’re only about a mile from the Best Western."

"Well, you know," the driver said with another quarter and dropped it in the phone.

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enthusiasm, "the shop I told you about isn't even five minutes from there. This is my last call before I'm off, so I can give you a ride home first so you can get your car and then I'll drop off your BMW at the garage."

"You sure that's okay?" Longley asked incredulously.

"It's no problem. I've got no more calls. Besides," he laughed, "I'm a firm believer in going the extra step to help out a customer. Longley could still make it on time. He looked at the young man sitting on the seat next to him and had to ask himself if, in a year from now, he would, in a funny way, have this man to thank that he was the new school superintendent.

"By the way, my name's Martin. Martin Longley."

"Pleased to meet you, Mr. Longley. I'm Jon," he said as he extended his hand, which Longley promptly accepted as he couldn't help notice a deep, long pinkish scar that ran along the young man's inner forearm and wrist. From the depth of it, it looked as if he had burned himself on some electrical equipment, battery acid, or even an extremely hot radiator.

"So how long have you been the Lone Ranger of the road, Jon," Longley asked.

The young man looked over and smiled at the compliment. "Oh, about two years now, though I'll be leaving before too long to get back to school full time."

"Oh, yeah? What are you studying?"

"I'm getting my degree in Civil Engineering, but I think I'll go on to graduate school to study Construction Management. I guess I've driven over the road. Longley asked.

"Where were the results of this particular class they were discussing, anyway? Tolerance and Diversity? He knew it sounded progressive on paper, but the only tolerance issues this community really cared about were racial ones, which were pretty well taken care of themselves with the sports leagues and community recreation center that the city and United Way had put together.

"No, from the Midwest originally. My daughter and I have an apartment near the college, though." "You look too young to have a family."

"Thank's for saying so. Actually it's just me and her. I'm a single daddy."

Longley would have wanted to pray a little deeper since he silently applauded this man for being able to win custody, and raising the girl alone while attending classes. He himself was allowed to see his daughter for only several weeks a year after his divorce years ago. But they were now getting too close to Oakwood Road for that. Longley glanced at his watch and was relieved to see that he would probably make it on time. He looked at Jon again out of the corner of his eye, thinking about what a great speaker he would be for this district where the teen pregnancy rate was on a swift rise.

"Here we are, Mr. Longley. How far down is your house?"

"It's the block after the next one, on the right."

"The garage I'll drop your car off at is called Uomi Brothers. They're on Broadview.

As the truck approached the driveway, Longley told the young man how much he appreciated his help. Jon said he would leave the paperwork with the car and shook Longley's hand, which had a $5 bill stashed in it as a tip to the young man. The tow truck driver had told him to keep it, to buy him a beer next time they saw each other on the road. Longley smiled and said that he looked forward to that day.

He watched the truck drive off with his car in tow as he tried to remember the last time he had been treated so. He himself was allowed to see his daughter for only several weeks a year after his divorce years ago. But they were now getting too close to Oakwood Road for that. Longley glanced at his watch and was relieved to see that he would probably make it on time. He looked at Jon again out of the corner of his eye, thinking about what a great speaker he would be for this district where the teen pregnancy rate was on a swift rise.

"Here we are, Mr. Longley. How far say to him if he were to privately ask him if he also went to the sanctuary of his own bed or to the bathroom as a seventh grade, caring for himself while his mind filled with envious thoughts of a particular classmate who was apparently further along on his journey to manhood than himself. He wondered how many other perfectly healthy, normal pubescent boys were out there with the same thoughts he had had thirty years earlier, with the same embarrassing questions that this speaker could possibly address. He barely saw the light change as he eased is foot on the gas.

Longley parked his car and walked swiftly through the front door of the conference room. The meeting had started and it looked as if they had put the other items first to save the most important for last. Parents, administrators and teachers all saw him walk in but, by the welcoming looks on their faces, had apparently been told that he had run into trouble and would be late. He slid into his seat next to George McGowen, who had been his colleague on the Board for the last four years, and took out his notes and faxes from his briefcase to follow along as a teacher from one of the high schools talked about the advantages of keeping four foreign languages instead of cutting back to two.

"Quite a crowd tonight, George," he whispered to McGowen.

"Did you expect it to be different?"

"Tonight's the night, my man."

"It's all in your hands, Marty."

Longley took out his pen to jot a few notes down regarding what this teacher was saying, though his mind was confusedly on his own presentation. He tightened up this tie a little bit, feeling like an actor waiting in the wings as he glanced at the acting superintendent.

"George, has our guest speaker arrived yet?"

"I think that's him standing against the wall there," McGowen nodded.

Longley craned his neck a little to catch a glimpse of a young man in a blue uniform leaning against the hard wood wall. His back was somewhat turned to Longley so that all he could see on the man's fore- arm was a long, deep pinkish scar that looked as if he had once accidentally leaned on a burning radiator.

The Paper welcomes poems and short stories under 700 words in length.
Preparation is half the fun!

by Justin Larson
MCAP Man-to-Man Coordinator

Everyone seems to think that safe sex is a real drag. It seems to take so long. It gets in the way. It makes things more technical or clinical. You get self-conscious. There’s no spontaneity. In other words, it takes the fun out of it.

I used to think the same way until I heard some suggestions from a couple of friends of mine. Starting with their ideas, I’ve listed some ways to make things a little more spontaneous and a lot more enjoyable for everyone.

Dating without sex

Though some may find this old-fashioned, some people are learning that it’s quite fun to go out socially without the pressure of sex. These type of dates can be fun in traditional (dinner and a movie) and nontraditional (skydiving and washing your dog) ways. Also, dating as a group can relieve a lot of the pressure that pairing up creates.

Set a date

Out at the bar and meet that hot guy? Rather than run right home and jump between the sheets, make a date! That way the moment can be anticipated and last longer. If sex is to be a part of the date, start the seduction early and make dinner and music a part of the production. By the time you get to the bedroom, both of you will be very ready, and hopefully you will know more about what makes each other tick. This also lets you make sure proper supplies are where they should be. And if they turn you down or (gasp!) don’t show up? Well, did you really want to be with a loser like that anyway?

Prepare a trick bag

There was a time that being prepared for an encounter marked you as easy and perhaps a tramp. Now it shows you care. A handy pack can carry all the materials you need for lots of fun! In addition to condoms and lube, your kit can contain such things as clothes pins, massage oils (not for condoms), elasticized cord, latex strips, a handkerchief, or soft cotton rope. Make up a game and have one person each in and grab an item, then use that item on the other person. Can you make it through everything? Or just do a scene with one item each! You make the rules.

Buy some toys

Remember the first time you went to the adult bookstore or saw an ad in a porn magazine for "marital aids?" It’s funny, but gay people often feel a little uneasy about these items in comparison to those straight people do. So try catalog shopping, or go with a trusted friend. In any case, get something simple to try first and get used to handling it. Then, when you pull it out on your date, it won’t feel quite as awkward. Remember, your date can smell fear. If you’re afraid, they’ll know it and tense up. If you’re relaxed, they’ll loosen up and have a good time.

Attend a safer sex workshop

Not sure you’ll know what to do? Have a question but no answers? Having a mental block on ideas? Try attending one of the new Hot and Healthy Parties! We talk about first times, embarrassing times, how to talk to dates, how to use toys and supplies, and even how to say "no" to things. There are hands-on demonstrations and activities, and you’ll be able to talk to a variety of men about ways to have hot and healthy fun. To sign up for a party, call 772-8202.

Learn erotic massage

Sex doesn’t always have to be penetration. Try a more leisurely approach to intimacy by learning the techniques to make your partner swoon! Through classes or instructional videos, you can soon register your hands as weapons of ultimate pleasure. Once you get the hang of it, you can guide your partner in giving you the same pleasures.

Practice with a buddy

As embarrassing as this sounds, nobody’s perfect the first time. If you are really interested in learning how to practice safer techniques before you really need them, try asking a trusted individual if they might be your guinea pig. Or practice on each other. Though you can practice putting a condom on a dildo with your mouth, you get no feedback from rubber. Besides, if you both know it’s a practice session, there’s no pressure to get it right the first time, and you can try and try again! And again - and again!

Practice talking about sex

Try writing down every reason someone might refuse to use safer sex practices. Then write down some responses. Practice saying them to a mirror or to friends to find out which is most comfortable for you. Remember, if your answers are already decided, you don’t have to think about them under pressure!

And just a note - Don’t try to be perfect all at once. As with New Year’s resolutions, if you try to change everything in your life at once, you’ll give up in short order. Instead, pick one thing you want to do better and go from there. Each time, do a little better than the time before. By going one step at a time, you’ll soon be doing things the way you want to do them, without having to be self-conscious all the time.

Have any experiences in trying to get better at safer sex? Send your stories or suggestions to: Sexplinations, c/o The Paper, P.O. Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942.
The Being Alive Medical Update

presented by Mark Katz, MD
reported by Jim Stoecker

Long-Term Nonprogressors
We have been talking for some time about the group we call long-term nonprogressors. These are people who have been infected with HIV over ten years, yet show neither symptoms nor a drop in CD4 cells. The San Francisco City Clinic Cohort estimates that about 7% of those in their study infected between 1978 and 1983 fall into the category of long-term nonprogressors. Researchers have now looked at the data from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) for what the current trends tell us. This analysis estimates that 15% of those now infected by HIV will survive 20 years or more, given no change in current treatments. This seems to indicate that, all things being equal, we can expect the number of long-term nonprogressors to grow.

Difficulty of Early HIV Treatment
In a recent lecture, Paul Volberding, prominent San Francisco AIDS physician, explained why he thought that it was difficult for physicians to convince their patients to start HIV therapy early in the course of the disease.

If you graph the risk of death from HIV disease on one axis and the decline in CD4 count on the other, you see quite dramatically that until the count drops below 100, mortality hazard is practically zero. It is only after the CD4 count falls below 100 that the risk of dying from HIV disease starts to become a reality. It is thus only in late stage disease that the question of intervention becomes crucial. Up until that point, the patient is perhaps more concerned about what a therapy will do to the quality of his/her life. Intervention remains an option, rather than a necessity.

Status of Protease Inhibitors
The various protease inhibitors continue in development, with the promise of FDA approval being sought by one or two of them by the end of this year or early next year. As of today, the Roche protease inhibitor called saquinavir (brand name Invirase) is leading the pack. The optimal dosing is still uncertain and some resistance has been noted in early trials. Resistance is still thought to be less than that found with the Merck protease inhibitor. Roche will apply for FDA approval sometime in the fall of 1995. They may seek first approval for both monotherapy and for combination therapy with AZT and ddC (the combinations that have been studied). Roche has set up a highly compassionate use access program for people who are not eligible to enroll in ongoing clinical trials.

Follow-up: Phase I ddI Study
In a recent Journal of Infectious Diseases (May 1995), researchers published their 5-year follow-up of the participants in the initial ddI studies. These Phase I trials began in 1988. Seventy-two participants with a median CD4 count of 50 and all with Butelostat receiving ddI. For all, the median survival from the start of ddI therapy was 28 months. For those who entered the study with comparatively high CD4 counts (100-300), there was an 80% survival rate.

More Protease Updates
The protease inhibitors manufactured by Merck now bear the name MK-639. In early studies, some participants have developed resistance not only to MK-639, but to other protease inhibitors as well.

This is what is known as cross-resistance and is a significant problem. At least six different Phase III trials of MK-639 are continuing and interim data on efficacy are due out by late 1995. Merck is saying now that they will seek FDA approval in early 1996. Meanwhile, no compassionate use program has been set up; the company claims that the complexity of the manufacturing process limits the amount of drug that can be made available.

Finally, studies of ABT-538, under development by Abbott Laboratories, are ongoing. Several Phase III trials are about to begin. Early reports indicate significant initial reduction in viral load.

As of today, it looks like a year from now we might have a potent combination available to use. For moderate to advanced cases of HIV disease, I would predict the use of two reverse transcriptase inhibitors (AZT, d4T, ddc, 3TC, d4T) and one or perhaps two protease inhibitors.

Mepron Reformulated
Mepron is a second line drug for the treatment of PCH. The first line drug remains Bactrim, if you can tolerate it. Studies have shown that Mepron is not as effective as Bactrim, but is better tolerated. The standard dosage of Mepron has been reduced to three pills, three times a day.

This article reprinted by permission from the Being Alive newsletter. To subscribe, write to Being Alive newsletter, 3626 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call (213) 667-3262, TDD: (213) 661-7837. Being Alive is an organization OF and FOR people with HIV/AIDS
Spokane County Coroner Blames Gays for Rape, Murder of 9-year Old Girl

August 11, 1995...Dr. Dexter Amend, Spokane County Coroner in Washington State, has invoked gays-and-child-molestation stereotypes by blaming the sexual abuse and murder of a nine-year-old girl on homosexuals because an autopsy showed the victim had been sexually molested, including sodomized.

"She's been sodomized over and over and sodomy is a homosexual act, it is," said Dr. Amend, an elected official. "To have everybody think homosexuality is OK is a bunch of baloney. I don't care what the political ramifications are on this. It's a horrible, unbelievable thing that this child went through and they (homosexuals) destroyed her life."

His comments have outraged local human rights commission members and gay and lesbian citizens in Spokane and nationwide, and have called into question Dr. Amend's ability to perform his job as a medical official. The controversy has also stirred up scrutiny of homophobia and AIDSphobia in the medical profession in general.

The body of young Rachel Carver was found near the Spokane River on June 15. The girl's disappearance and murder has shocked the local community. Police arrested her uncle, Jason Wickenhagen, who confessed to the killing. The autopsy indicated the girl had been beaten to death and repeatedly sexually assaulted. KXLY Television local news reported that court records show Rachel's father, uncle and her mother's boyfriend are all suspected of molesting her over the years.

Although there is no evidence whatsoever that Rachel Carver was ever abused by a homosexual, Dr. Amend took the opportunity of releasing his autopsy report to condemn gays and blame them for the spread of AIDS.

Dr. Amend's comments, as reported by KXLY and the Spokesman-Review, include: 'It's a crime that we don't expose the homosexual community, and it is not just a simple...aberrant sexual activity. It is significant when it takes in innocent minds like this Carver gal."

"I think it (homosexuality) is an aberrant sex activity that is promoted by the thoughts and sensations that are associated with the sex act that drive people to do...abnormal things and animalistic things and as a result bring about cancers and death on the part of the recipients and the active individuals."

Until now, nobody has ever blamed or linked the death of Rachel Carver to homosexuality or AIDS. In follow-up interviews in the Spokesman-Review and other local media, Dr. Amend said, "AIDS is a disease that comes from anal intercourse and homosexuals have anal intercourse. As a physician, my job is to try to control disease. It can't be normal considering the impact it has on the lifestyle and death of people with AIDS...the bottom line, it (AIDS) wouldn't have started if there wasn't homosexual activity that brought whatever causes AIDS...reactivity of sperm in the rectum or whatever," said Amend. There was no indication from the autopsy report whether Rachel Carver had HIV or AIDS, nor was there an explanation from Dr. Amend of why he was directly linking HIV to this murder case.

The Spokane Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has called for Dr. Amend's resignation, saying, 'Dr. Amend has scapegoated an entire group of people. His comments are personal in nature and devoid of fact.'
Lammy Awards Presented
Sister and Brother Sets Tone for Gay/Lesbian Book Awards

From press release
Inclusiveness is the theme of this year's Lambda Literary Award winners. Many of the books selected this year defy a break down into either gay male or lesbian, or, for that matter, into simple dichotomies of gay and straight.
The winner for Gay Biography/Autobiography, for instance, is My Own Country by Abraham Verghese, who is not a gay man, but rather a straight doctor who treated people with AIDS in rural Tennessee. Yet if Verghese's story is not that of a gay man, he relates with remarkable sympathy the lives of gay men returning home.
And in the course of his experience in the Tennessee clinic, Verghese comes to see himself as having much in common with the men he treats: a foreigner, he is an outsider to the culture just as they are; even the stigma of AIDS, he believes, comes to be associated with himself as he becomes known in the community for treating the disease.
Similarly, John Berendt's runaway best seller, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, sees gay men (and transvestites) as woven into the fabric of the whole society of Savannah, Georgia.

Union Fights Homophobia: Publishes Anti-discrimination Brochure

From Press Release
WASHINGTON, D.C.-The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is distributing a new brochure called "Don't Discriminate-Lesbian and Gay Workers Have Rights, Too," intended to help union members and workers fight homophobia in the workplace and in their unions.
Published by the union's Civil and Human Rights Department, the brochure is an outgrowth of a 1992 SEIU International Convention resolution which states in part that SEIU "firmly supports the rights of all individuals to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gay/lesbian/bisexual trade unionists have always been an integral part of organized labor. The issues that affect gay/lesbian/bisexual workers and their rights to employment, housing, public services, and health care affect all workers, and SEIU reafirms its position that nondiscrimination is a matter of right.

The resolution is part of SEIU's ongoing support for civil rights legislation, strong local union civil rights programs and participation in progressive social reform coalitions aimed at ridding society of economic, political and social discrimination.
As part of SEIU's mission to insure a fair, safe, and unbiased workplace, the brochure provides guidelines for its local unions and members to combat homophobic practices. For information and free copies of this brochure contact Wyatt Closs at SEIU Civil and Human Rights Department, (202) 896-3354.

1994 Lambda Literary Awards Recipients

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NGLTF Statement on Exec Order

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- August 4, 1995
-- The following statement is in response to the Executive Order that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation in the issuance of government security clearances. The order, being issued today by President Bill Clinton, marks the first time a Presidential order specifically bars discrimination based on sexual orientation. The order states that "The United States government does not discriminate on the basis of...sexual orientation in granting access to classified information." It goes on to state, "...No inference concerning the standards in this section may be raised solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the employee."
The following statement is attributable to Melinda Parus, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The President's action is an important step toward eradicating job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Past discrimination in granting security clearances was based on myths rather than facts, which is dangerous public policy. History has shown that gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals do not pose any security risk simply because of their sexual orientation and should not face arbitrary discrimination.
It is important for the federal workforce to end all codified employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, which polls show is an action most Americans support. The federal workplace and those companies that contract with the government contain literally millions of employees. Additionally, federal rules and regulations are often used as guidance for other policies in the state and local arenas and the private sector.
Never Say Never
Or, The Disease Worse Than HIV

by Wes Davis

(Yes I am the one who said he would never submit anything to "The Paper" again. Well, I have been known to make an error in judgement before and most likely will again.)

The Situation in Monterey County AIDS Programs As I See It

Many people work in this field for many different reasons. Over the last twelve years I have seen just about every motivation possible. They range from pure to corrupt. From selflessness to self-serving. I have known people who got involved because a loved one died, or felt compassion for those whom a society too quick to blame shunned, and then was too slow to care. I have seen and experienced those who use AIDS as a crusade for their own personal agenda, or who would use this disease as a means for self-grandiosity. And I have seen those who sacrifice everything, even their own lives, for the common good or to advance the fight against the real enemy, HIV.

In Monterey County we have not yet learned that not all people involved with HIV do so for the common good. We have allowed a band of self-serving egotistical bullies to infiltrate every organization in the name of the gay community. These same bullies use the disease as either a crutch to justify inappropriate behavior or as raison d’être for their brand of social terror. Until such time as the community (both gay and non-gay) takes back every organization in the name of the gay community, these same bullies use the disease as either a crutch to justify inappropriate behavior or as raison d’être for their brand of social terrorism. Only then will we not only continue, but will be exacerbated. In other cities and states where I have worked or lived, I have seen this same process. It can be changed, but like bad joke about how many psychiatrists it takes to change a light bulb, only if the community wants it to change. Monterey County is blessed with many good and caring people who work many hours for the good of the community. From outstanding people at the County Health Department such as John Snider, Julie Roseman and Heather Lamb, to Joy Rubey, David True and the entire Client Services Department at MCAP, to Fr. Tom Long at John XXIII AIDS Ministry. The HIV Advisory Board has some outstanding people too. They include Judy Tatelbaum, Joan Mortensen, Kathy Whilden, Jerry Wolfe, Norm Davis, Jerry Fielder, Kevin Phillips, Johanna Stocker and Steven Pearson. Overall, one would expect that Monterey County would be far ahead in its services. And it is. However, there are those bullies who seek out every board, every commission, every avenue for their hate. If you disagree with them, they vilify you. If you seek to openly discuss difficulties with them, they use covert measures. One in particular claims to practice "rigorous honesty" only to be one of the most duplicity of all the men I have ever known. (By the way, whenever someone repeatedly claims any attribute such as "rigorous honesty," you can bet they do not practice it.)

Many claim to be in recovery, yet exhibit behavior that defies the "program" they claim to be living. I have yet to see what good this group has accomplished in the two years I have been here. I have, on the other hand, experienced the evil that they have forced on this area. I have been the recipient of crank calls at my home, had threatening letters sent, and had to answer to false accusations or deliberate misquotes by this group. As a former County employee, I can tell you that this group's shenanigans have cast a shadow of doubt on all of our efforts at the State level.

So what is the answer? The community must challenge this group of thugs wherever they see them. Do not allow someone to speak for you unless you have elected them or are in agreement with them. The disease that is worse than HIV is apathy. The world and indeed this county is changing. If you think because you live in your little section of paradise that this will not affect you, think again. It will. So, like the light bulb, are you willing to change, or only grow dimmer until there is no light left?

ACT UPset

by Militia Etheridge

Analogy #1: You're thirsty. Do you...

a) go to the kitchen and pour yourself a glass of water
b) complain that no one invited you to the kitchen so you didn't know water was available
c) blow up the kitchen

Political correctness is fast becoming the gay community's petulant child. In a imperfect world, adherence to such noble tenets only serves to promote their abuse by the more nefarious among us: it fosters indecision and anxiety within the ranks of local visionaries (and those who would follow them) while clearing a space at the table for demagogic clowns. Frankly, I'm tired of the circus.

Apply this construct to any hot topic in Monterey, and you will see how activism has been usurped by decisions-by-committee and shameless grandstanding. We find ourselves cowed by these so-called "activists" who know that the more you repeat a lie, the more people will believe it. Slather yourself in pathos, and you double your audience.

I see these people for what the really are, the manicured queens we could once plicate with a verbal pat on the head. In our rush to be ultra-inclusive and consensual in the Deborah Tannen "what are you really saying" sense we find ourselves hamstrung by these self-proclaimed "victims" rather than encouraged and motivated by the work of lay activists. You can always spot a professional victim by weighing their celebrity against the time they spend hoarding pity.

It's a dangerous fad. It dilutes legitimate pleas for assistance from the disenfranchised while encouraging dependence and passivity among those with a talent for leadership. If incessant whining garners more attention than action, why not just bitch your way to glory?

If you assume the role of social architect, it sometimes pays to judge the merits of your actions on the proximity of the real world to your agenda, not on your talent for beating others into obedience.

AIDS activism, rest its soul, changed America forever. It showed us that grassroots activism continues to be a legitimate way by which to drive sweeping change. We justify ACT-UPs tactics by tallying the lives they prolonged. Monterey's penchant for cheapening the principles of activism will turn to rancor when we check for progress and find only stagnation and death.

Militia Etheridge is a pseudonym of a local gay activist. Ms. Etheridge asked the Editors that it be known she is a man and only used this name because he thought it was funny.
Positions Available

**Needed:** A house cleaner a handyman and a body therapist. Downtown Santa Cruz. Day (408) 423-1155.

**Roommates**

Professional GWF seeks responsible, employed, quiet and considerate gay M or F to house share. N/5 N/D. Room with bath, W/D. fireplace, great area/ view. Must love dogs. $400/month. 373-5393 eves.

**The Real World**

Young GWM in New Mry seeks clean, responsible roommate in 2 bdrm. apt. Balcony, ocean views, priv. w/d, pkg, & storage. $600/mo+ util. 1st/last. Relaxed environment. Glenn, 649-4566.

**Women’s Resources**

Lezian Therapy Group
For Lesbians coming out, becoming empowered, wanting healthy relationships with self and others. Weekly, fee charged. Call 649-6405.

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 Rape Crisis line, 633-5900; Office, 373-3955.

**Women’s Crisis Center**
757-1001

**Transvestite Groups**

Flowering at The Blue Rose
So many who are really girls! Longing, frustration. Blue Rose offers help to those really wanting to come out. No meetings. B.R. parties at safe locations. Do you have a cozy home? Lessons on how to become a transvestite. B.R. is actively bi, gay, erotic. Ages 30-60. Non-dressers can be fun too! Central Bay. Call Gayle 685-2309.

**Transgender Groups**

Transgender Support Groups
Meets in Carmel, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Starting Sept. 5th. Call Terri Austin at (408) 649-6283 (408) 625-5573.

**HIV/AIDS Resources**

Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP)
780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-4747; and 10 Sherwood Dr. Ste. 5, Salinas, 772-8200.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Advisory Committee of MCAP
Meets the second Friday of each month, call 647-8035 for more information.

Diversity Committee of MCAP
An ad hoc committee to promote minority access to HIV/AIDS services throughout Monterey County. For meeting information contact Wes at 655-3756.

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

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

**Family, Friends, and Partners Support Group**
Meets the 1st & 3rd Sun. of the month in Salinas at 7 p.m. Call MCAP for location, and information 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.

**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 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

Monterey County Health Department
755-4312

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.

Peninsula Professionals Network (PPN)
A social group for professional men and women from the Central Coast. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Call 659-2446 for information.

**Salud Para La Gente**
Health services and education in Spanish and English for the Pajaro Valley. Call 763-3413 (voicemail) for information.

**Transgender Support Group**
462-3663

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**Next Deadline is Friday, September 15th!**
THE PROMISE KEEPERS ARE COMING TO YOUR TOWN!

Founded by former Colorado University's head football coach, Bill McCartney—a noted active supporter of Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2—Promise Keepers is an evangelical men's organization whose stated purpose is to unite men to become "Godly influences in their world". Promise Keepers exploits the very real need that some men have to be connected to family and community by fostering anti-woman and anti-gay sentiment. This summer and fall, the Promise Keepers is on a stadium tour, with most venues sold out. They will be at the Thunderdome in Tampa, St. Petersburg, FL on August 4 and 5; at the Oakland Coliseum in Oakland, CA on September 29 and 30; and at the Texas Stadium in Dallas, TX on October 27 and 28.

ACTION:
Be ready to expose the gap between Promise Keepers' rhetoric and reality when they come to your town. Write op-eds, hold a press conference, stage a community rally for unity. Contact Karen Bullock-Jordan in the NGLTF Field Department at extension 3206 for Promise Keeper background information packets.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ON THE SHOPPING BLOCK

Efforts are underway by Right Wing leaders, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Traditional Values Head Lou Sheldon, and Representative Charles Canady (R-FL) to weaken the wall separating church and state to allow for school sponsored prayer and other forms of government-sponsored religious expression. These measures would perform radical surgery on the First Amendment which has never been amended in over 200 years, coercing religious expression and disparaging the rights of religious minorities. Hearings by the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to quash religious freedom are anticipated for this September. This effort by the Religious Right is clearly consistent with its goal of undermining individual rights, particularly for minorities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

ACTION:
Solicit your clergy members and other people of faith to sign the Statement in Support of Religious Liberty. This petition campaign is being sponsored by the Coalition to Preserve Religious Liberty. For a copy of the statement and for more information call the Coalition at (202) 544-4226.

TO TEACH OR NOT TO TEACH HOMOPHOBIA

California is preparing NOW to accept new health textbooks for use in the state's public schools, grades K-12. These decisions should be made according to guidelines detailed in the Health Framework for California Public Schools. For the first time ever, this Framework requires that instruction regarding sexual orientation "should affirm the dignity of all individuals." It is still unlikely that the state policy makers will follow the Framework's mandate. California could continue to purchase textbooks that censor or distort lesbian, gay and bisexual lives.

The new health textbooks adopted in California will probably be in use for 5 to 10 years. Because California publishes a major share of all textbooks published, the books used in this state often determine what books are available for use by other states. As Activist Alert goes to press, public hearings are being held by the California Curriculum Development Commission. The Commission will then recommend specific textbooks to the State Board of Education for adoption. In September, the State Board of Education will cast a final vote based on the Commission's recommendations.

ACTION:
Demand that textbooks used in our public schools include fair and factual information about lesbian, gay and bisexual subjects. Remind the Board members to vote for facts, not fears. Write to: Marion McDowell, President and All Members, State Board of Education, 721 Capitol Mall, PO. Box 944272, Sacramento, CA 94244-2720. For more information contact GLAAD/Project 21, Suite 200, 1360 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103, tel. 415-861-4893, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad21@aol.com.

YOUR CHANCE TO CREATE CHANGE!

The early bird registration deadline for the Creating Change conference is approaching fast. After September 1, rates for the conference and the institutes go up. This year's conference will be in Detroit, MI. Plenary speakers include Urvashi Vaid, Rev. Elias Farajaje-Jones, Harry Britt and Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin.

Got a workshop idea for the conference? Workshop proposals are still being reviewed and considered for inclusion in the 1995 program.

ACTION:
If you already have a brochure, send in your registration before September 1st in order to receive the early bird registration rate. If you need to receive a brochure call (202) 332-6483 ext. 3229. Send workshop proposals by August 15th to Sue Hyde, Director of Creating Change, NGLTF, 1151 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge MA 02138.