Local Gays Play Santa for MoCo Kids Community Effort Rescues Christmas for HIV+ Kids

by Michael Rawave Contributing Writer

The gay community gave Santa a helping hand filling local children's stockings this Christmas. The Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey County, the 3 M Foundation of Monterey County, the Peninsula Professionals Network and individuals within the gay community donated over $1700 in cash and gifts for girls and boys affected by and infected with HIV.

Jonathan Martins and Brent Krider, who recently stepped down as the dual emperors of the Grande Cypress Empire (GCEMC), were the driving force behind the effort. GCEMC's Toy Soldier Ball on Dec. 2 raised over $150 in donations, but Martins and Krider then found out that the sponsor for the Monterey County AIDS Project's (MCAP) Christmas toy drive had pulled out unexpectedly.

Martins and Krider called on the members of PPN and the gay community to help make up the difference. One local man donated a 10-pound box of watercolor supplies, which the children had included on their list for Santa.

In nine days, the GCEMC raised an additional $450 in cash and collected over 110 toys and gifts. "They were up until 3 a.m. wrapping," said Martins, speaking of the friends and supporters of GCEMC who contributed their giftwrapping skills so that the presents would be ready for MCAP's Christmas party for those affected and infected by HIV.

"The kids were so excited," said Raphaela Eleuterio, MCAP's benefits coordinator, "almost as much as the adults." Fifteen children and 60 adults attended the party.

The 3 M Foundation held a winter fashion show Dec. 17 and raised $175, all of which was donated to the cause. "In keeping with the theme of our organization—magic, music & memory—it's imperative," said Diana McGuire-Jones, co-founder of 3M, "that we help the children today, so that they may experience and acquire fond memories in their lives."

The Empire held their second all-you-can-eat spaghetti feed and Toy Soldier Ball II show Dec. 21 at the Emperors of Monterey County, the Peninsula Professionals Network and individuals within the gay community donated over several hundred dollars to purchase specific gifts requested by the eight children who are HIV+ or have full-blown AIDS.

By 10 p.m., the GCEMC had exceeded their goal. "We want to applaud all of you," said Empress XVIII Amber Deolle to those in the audience before presenting the money to Eleuterio.

The men and women involved in spearheading this holiday project are modest about acknowledging their good deed. "We were just the catalysts," said Martins, "All the thanks should go to the community and PPN."

"Don't Ask, Do Tell?" Final Ruling on Military Policy Approaches

by Wes Kashiwagi Managing Editor

The U.S. government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy may soon be ruled unconstitutional on the basis that it restricts free speech.

A recent article in Air Force Times reported that Eugene Nickerson, a federal judge in Brooklyn NY, ruled in March of this year in a case involving six gay service members. Nickerson felt that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as it is currently being interpreted by the military, restricts the service people's freedom of speech.

The government are interpreting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" correctly. A third, concurrent hearing in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals may have affected the continuation of the policy as it relates to former Navy Lt. Paul Thomasson, who was discharged for revealing his sexual preference to his superiors. In a surprising move, the court said that neither gay activists nor the government are interpreting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" correctly.

According to the Air Force Times article, the Supreme Court may soon hear the Able and Thomasson cases if the lower courts come up with conflicting verdicts or both decide that the current policy is unconstitutional. In 1995, 597 service members were discharged for being gay or lesbian.
The Monterey County AIDS Project's annual Feast for AIDS was held December 10th at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Monterey. The sold out event is one of the biggest charity events benefiting MCAP. Co-chairpersons David Beckwith and Artie Early greeted the hundreds of men and women who came to support the event. Attendees enjoyed an eight-course dinner prepared by top local chefs, featuring exotic dishes paired with wines from the Penfolds, Lindemans and Seaview Australian wineries. The Doubletree generously donated use of the banquet facilities for the event. Entertainment included strolling carolers, a pianist, and a two singing duos. For more information on next year's feast call Bill Lutz at 394-4747.

Our Apologies
We would like to apologize to Terri Austin, PhD, for failing to run her ad in the Oct/Nov issue. We would also like to thank our readers for their patience regarding the delayed release of this issue. We have solved the problem. Barring any disasters, natural or do-it-yourself, our next issue will be out the first week in March.

We love to hear from you. Send us a note. -WK
Hartley New Co-owner of After Dark
Monterey Native Invests in Club's Future, Renovation Planned

by Maya Jabgoway
Contributing Writer

Kevin Hartley joins Weldon Webb as part owner of the popular After Dark nightclub in Monterey. Hartley, a well-known member of the local gay community, has been After Dark’s manager for the past three years.

"I'm working just as hard if not harder," said Hartley, commenting on his new business venture. Hartley, a Monterey native, started coming to the After Dark shortly after graduating from high school. Hartley is Webb's first partner since 1980, when Jim Prater and Bob Canon sold their interest in the bar.

Weldon Webb welcomes Kevin Hartley as his new partner in front of After Dark. Locals have applauded the reappearance of the club's name on Lighthouse Ave.

Prater and Canon were the original owners of the Clock Garden restaurant in downtown Monterey. Major improvements to the club are planned in the coming year. The current dance floor, formerly the portable dance floor from the former San Carlos Hotel, will be repaired and expanded. Cosmetic improvements to the facade and back patio have already begun, and the entire front bar will be remodeled. Hartley and Webb will also be trying out a karaoke night and a Western dance night.

Keeping the only gay bar in Monterey aloft hasn't been easy, especially after the closing of Fort Ord. Surrounding businesses have petitioned to have the club removed from the past, and Webb continues to field criticism from within the gay community: "People sometimes forget that this is a business," said Webb, referring to the unrealistic expectations and sometimes belligerent attitudes of some patrons.

After Dark will have been in continual operation for 20 years on March 8th of next year, making it one of the oldest gay clubs on the West Coast. Webb and Hartley have been leading contributors to the betterment of Monterey's gay community, including fundraising for area AIDS agencies and sponsorship of Monterey's first gay pride festival this past June.

Webb and Hartley are very happy with their new partnership. "I can't wait to have someone demand to see the owner," joked Webb. "I'll finally be able to point to someone else and say 'talk to him.'"

Logo Contest Entry Criteria & Deadline

A nyone can submit an entry for the contest. All entries must follow the guidelines below.

1. All entries will be submitted as clean, final versions (not a draft) on white paper. Entry must be no larger than 8x11 inches and no smaller than 3.5x3.5 inches.

2. Entries must be fairly simple so as to be legible when reduced. Logos may be reduced to as small as 3/4" square for such things as business cards and advertising.

3. Entries must not use more than one or two colors. Additional colors cost more to reproduce.

4. Entries must not contain sexually explicit graphics or references. Entries must also avoid text or references to AIDS or HIV disease.

5. Entries must contain no names or identifiers. Submissions will be assigned a number upon receipt and will be judged without reference to the artist.

6. Entries must be accompanied by a cover letter indicating the following: Name of the artist, contact address, phone number. Any information about the logo that would like expressed may be contained in the letter. The letter will be assigned the same number as the entry and will be kept separate until after the judging.

7. All entries become property of the Man-to-Man Outreach program. Submission of the entry serves as transfer of ownership to Man-to-Man. Logos may be reproduced or modified as desired by program leaders without further permission of the artist.

8. Entries must be appropriate for the media where they will be seen. The winning logo will be used on letterhead, envelopes, business cards, announcements, flyers, posters, T-shirts, hats, stickers, underwear, condom cases, and anywhere else we can think of.

9. Artists may submit more than one entry. Each entry must be submitted separately following the above guidelines.

10. Entries are due no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1996. Submissions may be dropped off on weekdays (10-5) at either MCAP office (780 Hamilton Ave. - Seaside; 10 Sherwood Drive #4 - Salinas) or be mailed to: Logo Contest, Man-to-Man Program, PO Box 2081, Monterey, CA 93942-2081.
GLAAD Demands CBS Act on Wright-LPGA Incident

New York, NY — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) commends Sports Illustrated (December 4th issue) for its article “Living with a Lie” that re-examines the incident last May in which CBS’ golf announcer Ben Wright inappropriately made sexist and homophobic remarks about lesbians “hurting women’s golf” and claimed that women’s breasts were a handicap to women golfers.

The incident occurred when Valerie Helmbreck, a newspaper reporter from The Wilmington (Delaware) News Journal, wrote an article about Wright’s remarks. The Wright-LPGA incident immediately sparked national attention. At that time, CBS Sports president David Kenin defended Wright on the basis of his claims that he had been misquoted and did nothing to reprimand Wright for his actions.

Although Jenkins thought Wright might have been joking, Ken Doig, a tour caddy and part-time CBS employee since 1977, told Michael Bamberger, a reporter for Sports Illustrated, that he clearly heard Wright tell Helmbreck that “lesbians in the sport hurt women’s golf...It’s not reticent, it’s paraded. There’s a defiance in parading. There’s a defiance in lesbians in the sport.”

GLAAD strongly urges people to call CBS Sports president David Kenin and Executive Producer for Golf at CBS Frank Chirkinian. The main number for CBS Sports is (212) 975-4321.

Christian Pro-Gay Article Hotly Debated in The Herald

Monterey County’s largest daily newspaper has become a forum for the debate over Christianity and homosexuality. Rev. Carl Hansen’s pro-gay stance in his Dec. 2 column has angered locals who object to his interpretations. Rev. Hansen, an Episcopal minister in Carmel, asked that Christians accept gays and lesbian women and cited Bible passages to illustrate his point.

While the ensuing debate on the op-ed page of The Herald has been generally well-mannered, a dissenting letter on Dec. 21 labeled Hansen as a contributor to society’s “moral decay” and compared homosexuality to pedophilia. Some within the gay community are upset that The Herald would print something so potentially damaging. “I wonder if they [The Herald] would have printed a letter that called a Black person [a racial slur].”, asked a P.G. resident who phoned The Paper, “Somehow I doubt it.”

Supporters of Rev. Hansen’s position have responded to the attacks. A letter from a Monterey man, also in the Dec. 21 issue, asked those citing 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (a passage often used to condemn homosexual acts) if they were willing to heed the surrounding passages, one of which clearly states that widowed or abandoned women may never remarry.

Send letters to the editors of The Herald by writing to Letter Box, The Herald, P.O. Box 271, Monterey, CA 93942, e-mail: herald@ix.netcom.com and include “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line. Fax number is (408) 372-8401.

Local Stories

The Imperial Court of Fire & Magic

by Amber Dee-Ole

Empress XVIII of the Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey County

Greetings to one and all. I am the newly elected Empress of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, Empress XVIII Amber Dee-Ole. Thanks to those of you who attended Coronation 95 to see the dual Emperors XVII, Brent and Jonathan, step down. Congratulations to both the dual Emperors and the G.C.E.M. on a fabulous year.

We are now beginning the 18th Reign and anticipating a very exciting year. During the upcoming year, I plan on uniting the various communities in the area and helping those in need. One of the ways that we will achieve this is by organizing more socialized types of events such as The Spaghetti Feed. We will also be having various shows with different themes and activities.

I would like to thank the community at large for their past support and look forward to working with you in the future. One of the ways to help accomplish helping the less fortunate is by donating auction items, money, volunteer time, old clothing or costumes, raffle prizes such as stuffed animals, etc. Any item that can be used to raise one more dollar for our community is one more dollar that can help our community.

For more information about The Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey Bay, or to join the organization, please call Empress XVIII Amber Dee-Ole at (408) 633-6481. Hope to see you in the near future.

With understanding comes love,
Empress XVIII Amber Dee-Ole...

...And, A Special Thank You

The 17th Reign is finally over for The Grande Cypress Empire of Monterey County, Inc. The dual Emperors Brent and Jonathan are no longer the reigning monarchs of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Are we sad? Heck no!

Both of us are happy to hand over the reigns to someone else. We did our time reigning and appreciate others who have and will take on so much responsibility. We have met many people both in our own community and other communities.

We both would like to thank all who attended Coronation at the Monterey County Fairgrounds. We would also like to thank our community for supporting The Grande Cypress Empire and ourselves. Without your support, we would be nothing and we would not be able to help others in need.

The Grande Cypress Empire has worked hard during the 17th Reign. People may not have seen as much of us as we would have liked. We apologize for not doing more in Monterey Bay more often, but we worked hard to find different entertainers and live singers for upcoming shows. Granny and Her Walkers, our own local talent, will be making appearances at different shows throughout the 18th Reign.

The 17th Reign has raised and helped disburse over $64,600.00. $14,600.00 was through fundraising events and the rest was through an in-kind donation the G.C.E.M. helped disburse. The books of the G.C.E.M. will be published in the next issue of The Paper. We are waiting for some final bills to come in and then the books will be closed on the 17th Reign.

With heart-felt gratitude, we would like to thank each and every one involved with The Grande Cypress Empire. To all who donated time or auction items, and most of all, to all who attended and supported The Grande Cypress Empire and ourselves, we give our deepest appreciation.

With love comes unity and without unity we have nothing.

Special thanks from The Dual Emperors Brent and Jonathan
Oregon Lesbian “Execution Murder” Update: A Hate Crime? from New Release

Washington, D.C., Dec. 19, 1995...New developments in the case and jail house statements by the confessed killer of two lesbian activists in Oregon have raised the level of concern about the cause of the murders, which have been reported in the press as a “botched robbery.”

In a letter to U.S. Attorney Janet Reno today, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) executive director Melinda Paras cited recent statements made by Robert James Acremant, who has been apprehended and has confessed to killing Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill of Medford, Oregon. "Mr. Acremant's reported comments of antigay sentiments in the past and threats in the past, according to local police, based presumably on the visibility both women had as open lesbians active in ongoing fights in Oregon to counter anti-gay ballot measures. Medford is one of the local communities where a city-wide antigay initiative was passed. The previous threats have not been connected to Acremant.

Newspaper reports also included that the suspect's family said that Acremant was desperate for money and that he intended to rob, not kill, the victims, and that the murders took place after the robbery went wrong. But it has also been reported that money and credit cards were left behind at the murder scene, raising serious questions about the suspect's claim that the robbery was the initial motive. Since then the killer has also stated he plans to sell his story of the murders to the "highest bidder."

Company Blocks Internet Gay Resources from News Release

Massachusetts-based Microsystems Software Inc. has created software that blocks gay and lesbian resource Web pages. The blocking is done by a software program, "Cyber Patrol." As more legislation aimed at controlling the Internet comes into place, software companies have been creating software to keep children away from sexually explicit Web sites.

Web resources being blocked include the San Jose gay and lesbian paper OutNOW!; gay and lesbian community center sites in San Jose and New York; resource guides from gay student groups at UC Berkeley and Stanford; a performing arts center in San Francisco, a weekly guide to broadcast programs with gay themes or characters; lesbian and gay employee groups; and as the site for the 1998 Gay Games.

To voice your concern, write Microsystems Software, Inc., 600 Worcester Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701, cyberinfo@microsys.com or call (508) 879-9000. The Cyber Patrol web page is located at http://www.cyberpatrol.com.

First Lesbian Credit Union Chartered from News Release

Triangle Interests Federal Credit Union, a credit union for lesbian women, received a chart from the National Credit Union Administration and will begin operations in January. The credit union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative which will be owned by its members. The function of the credit union will be to serve the lesbian community by providing member based savings and loan programs. All deposits are federally insured by the federal government up to $100,000. TIFCU programs will be used to strengthen the economic resources of the lesbian community, with particular emphasis placed on education, retirement planning and loans for lesbian owned businesses. The credit union is one of a number of projects of Triangle Interests, a Philadelphia based national nonprofit lesbian membership association which sponsors educational programs, networking opportunities, and the facilitation of economic programs to strengthen the quality of life of the lesbian community.

Questions by C.H.

I want to ask - if you don't mind my asking - How you like to take your coffee? Do you like it straight? Perhaps a little sugar? Would you take some cream if I offered? I want to ask - if it's not too much trouble - Would you rub my back? Massage my neck? I apologize if my notions are too bold. 'I want to ask - but only if you're willing - Would you rub my back? Massage my neck? Where only the most forbidden fruits harden? If I plant the seed, will you let it grow? I wonder if you'll ever know Just how sweet ambrosia can be For these pleasures never did she taste Aphrodite. I need to know - but only if you let me beg. Can I be your lamb, and you my shepherd? Let me confess my desires in a whisper. I want to know your fantasies and frustration, But only if you answer my deepest questions.

The Paper continues its search for a new managing editor. The perfect person will have some newspaper production and editorial experience, and a fair understanding of layout and printing. A connection with the gay community is essential, as is patience and a sense of humor. Call Wes at 655-3756 for more information.

Oregon lesbian - Updating: A Hate Crime? from New Release

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CA Youth Lobby Day in Sac’to Jan 3rd

by Christopher Kryzan

LIFE: California’s lesbian, gay and AIDS Lobby and Institute has, since its inception in 1986, been concerned with the lack of representation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community in California’s State Legislature. Recently, a LIFE sponsored bill: AB 1001 (Dignity for All Students Act), a measure which would have provided statewide protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation in California’s public schools, failed in the Assembly Education Committee.

Fight from the Right
LIFE Lobby is now increasingly concerned with the lack of representation for LGBTQ youth in Sacramento. As the religious right and other conservative forces in Sacramento (and beyond) view our adult community as a menace, they view our youth and their issues as nonexistent. Unfortunately, statistics prove this myth to be false.

“Non-existent” gay and lesbian youth comprise 30% of all youth suicides annually. At LIFE, we are horrified by this statistic, we have made a commitment to educate, empower, care for, and cultivate leadership, our youth.

On January 3, 1996, we invite all LGBTQ and concerned straight youth to come to Sacramento. We will teach our youth about the legislative process and civil rights. We will also spend the day lobbying with these new participants.

Together, we will show California’s State Legislature and the nation that queer youth are not invisible. Together, we will fight for basic human rights for our youth. We believe the opportunity to live and learn in a nondiscriminatory environment is a basic human right. If you agree, please join us in Sacramento for this exciting day, volunteer in your region, or make a donation to sponsor a youth to attend.

For more information or to volunteer please contact us! Ellen McCormick, Assistant Legislative Advocate Rene Hodges, Administrative Coordinator 926 J Street, Suite 522 Sacramento, CA 95814 ph: (916) 444-0424 fax: (916) 444-3059.

Agenda (locations TBA)
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. ........ Check In
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. .......... Legislative Briefing
11:00 - 11:30 a.m. .......... Assembly Visit
11:45 - 12:30 p.m. .......... Rally
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. .......... Lunch
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. .......... Legislative Visits
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. .......... Reception

Pro-Life Gays Support Partial Abortion Ban

from News Release

The Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL) extends its solid support to the ban on partial birth abortions now pending before the United States Senate. To outlaw this hideous practice - which even the most zealous advocates of abortion rights are loathe even to describe publicly - is to make everyone painfully aware of the humanity of all the victims of abortion.

Our support of all unborn children is informed by our own life experiences. As lesbians and gays, we have felt the damage wrought by those who say we are people without human rights. This same offense is inflicted on the unborn, with lethal consequences: 4400 deaths each day.

Saving Unborn Gays & Lesbians

We expect and trust that after children are saved from these gruesome late term abortions, Americans will extend protection to other unborn lives at risk, such as the handicapped and women (who are frequently aborted in East Asia). Preborn gays and lesbians, whose homosexuality will soon be genetically indicated, will be among the most vulnerable.

We are resolved that lesbians and gays must not be added to the ranks of abortion victims. As with all others, they must be protected.

PLAGAL Information

The Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians was organized in 1990 to advance the pro-life cause among lesbians and gays. Philip Arcidi, of Concord, Massachusetts, is the current President.

Contact the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays & Lesbians at P.O. Box 33292, Washington, D.C. 20033, (202) 223-6697. Internet: plagal@aol.com. For further information: Philip Arcidi, 747 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742. (508) 369-0700.
Travel & Leisure

Slip Away to Greece

Take Five

by Dan Presser
Contributing Writer

This writer has just returned from Greece, the playground of the gods—as well as boys and girls. Ah, Greece, the cradle of western civilization, the place where gods mingled with mortals and mortals mingled with men. Any holiday to Greece should start with a sightseeing tour of Athens. Musts are the Acropolis and the National Archaeological Museum of Greece where you can admire the beauty of the human body crafted by sculptors thousands of years ago. In the evening sip a glass of ouzo or retsina at any of Athens’ many tavernas. Stroll through the Plaka, a marvelous bazaar full of interesting shops, tasty restaurants, lively music and extremely sensuous dancing. Take your time, save the moment, have dinner, because Athens doesn’t wake up until after midnight! Alexander’s in the Kolonaki area is the place to cruise in Athens.

A trip to Greece is not complete without a cruise to the wonderful Greek Islands. The dry winds of the Aegean cool off sizzling Hellenic summer days. These constant breezes are a welcomed contrast to sweaty sightseeing on the mainland.

Each island in the Cyclades group looks like the other: white washed houses, crystal clear seas, wonderful beaches. Just as they are alike, they are also dissimilar. Each island has its own personality, feeling and way of life.

The majority of people who visit the islands aboard a cruise ship get to see a couple of islands, although most of them stay in port a half day or so. Galileo Cruises visit seven islands, allowing you plenty of time to explore the beauty of each. One day discover your own private bay in Naxos and enjoy the blue Aegean. In the evening have a romantic dinner at a cozy little taverna in Tinos, or enjoy a perfect martini watching a breathtaking young man march by as the sun majestically sets in Paros or go club hopping all night in Mykonos. Galileo Cruises offers several exclusively gay cruises. They can be reached at 1-800-447-5667 or through your local IGTA travel agent.

One of the best beaches on any of the islands is Super Paradise Beach on Mykonos. There are two ways to get there: by far the easiest way is by boat. The other is over land. I rented a motorcycle and found the going very tough. The roads are not well marked and often you run out of them. If you love to dirt bike then this route is for you. The most dangerous part of biking to Super Paradise Beach is descending the steep hills above the beach. Your bike can run away from you. Another exciting beach on Mykonos is Elia...if the rocks on that beach could talk.

Two bars are worth checking out: Portes and Pierro’s. Portes is a fun place with lots of doors. It’s a great place to escape out one door and come in another. On Santorini check out Franco’s Bar.

Of all the fun things I did in Greece, finding the cave in which Zeus, according to Greek mythology, was born. The birthplace of Zeus is in a cave in a mountain just outside the hamlet of Pahro on the island of Crete.

We rented a car and passed every turn we were supposed to make. Greek road signs are not easy to read at 50 kph. It took us four hours to find the place and only 1-1/2 hours to get back! Everybody stops at the ruins of the Palace of Knossos on Crete. Forget it! Sir Arthur Evans stole everything from the 3,000 year old site about a century ago. There’s more of Knossos in London then there is on Crete. I give Knossos two thumbs down! The rest of Crete is double thumbs up.

If you’re looking for excitement, adventure and fun, Greece is the place to go.

You can reach the worldly Dan Presser at FourWinds Travel in Carmel. e-mail: fourwinds@redshift.com. Point your browser to http://www.traveldiscounts.com/FourWinds/

Gay Pittsburgh: Icy but Inviting

The sooty cloak has been swept away from this Rust Belt jewel. Sitting at the confluence of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers, Pittsburgh is nestled between rolling hills much of which is open parkland. It’s very much an East Coast town in scope, although since there is no gay ghetto, you’ll do some driving. Luckily this helps the diverse attractions available to travelers make up for it. There are two theater companies offering original gay-themed plays, an annual gay film festival, and a dozen social organizations. The Andy Warhol Museum (pictured top) houses 7 stories of Campbell’s Soup cans, films, and memorabilia.

Pittsburgh is a meat and potatoes town when it comes to dining, and the emphasis seems to be on grilled meats and generous portions rather than the usual yuppieified, arugula-infested cuisine, which was a welcome change. There are more than 16 bars & clubs sprinkled throughout the metropolitan area. Yuppies (241 E. Main St.) in Mt. Pleasant (left) is a double-wide trailer cum gay bar measuring perhaps 30’ square, but the men are friendly and drinks are $1.50. Eckert’s (1241 Western Ave.) is a converted Victorian mansion near the river. -WK

The Paper recommends The Pittsburgh Eagle(1740 Eckert St.) a two-story converted bank building and Jazz’s (1241 Western Ave.) a converted Victorian mansion near the river. -WK


I Saw Mommy Outting Santa Claus
**Community Calendar**

**On The Air: Local 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
- **Wednesdays:** 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, 88.1 FM

**December**

**Sun, 31st**

**New Year's Eve**

At the After Dark
Backlot opens at 8 p.m.; front at 9 p.m. Call for more information. After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey 373-7828.

At Franco's
Call for more information. 10639 Merritt St., Castroville. 633-2090

First Night Monterey
4 p.m. to midnight in downtown Monterey. Call 373-4778 for information.

**January**

**Sat, 6th**

**MCAP Food Drive**

At the Pacific Grove Nob Hill on Lighthouse. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 394-4747 to volunteer.

**Wed, 10th**

**PPN Meeting**

The Peninsula Professional's Network is a social group for Central Coast gays and lesbians. Gatherings on the 2nd Weds. of the month at private homes. Call 659-2446 for info.

**MCAP Diversity Meeting**

An advisory committee group bringing HIV education to underserved communities. This week: South County outreach. 6 p.m. MCAP's Salinas office, 10 Sherwood Dr. #5. 394-4747 for info/directions.

**Mon, 15th**

**"Mad Hatter's Ball"**

The 3M Foundation puts on its first show of the new year. Doors open at 8 p.m.; show at 8:30. $2 donation. At the After Dark 214 Lighthouse Ave., New Monterey, 373-7828.

**Wed, 17th**

**GCEMC Benefit Spaghetti Feed**

A great, new monthly tradition. 6:30 p.m. in the Backlot of the After Dark. Regular, spicy and veggie sauces. $5 donation. 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey 373-7828.

**February**

**Sat, 10th**

**Red and White Ball**

"Queen of Hearts"
The Peninsula Professional Network's biggest annual event. Entertainment provided by the Grande Cypress Empire. At the American Legion Hall, 8th & Dolores in Carmel. Door open at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Call 659-2446 for more info.

**Sun, 11th**

"Hearts on Fire"

3M Foundation puts on a lovingly show. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 8:30. $2 donation. Call the After Dark (214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-7828) for more info.

**Fri, 16th**

**S.F. Int'l Bear Rendezvous '96**

In S.F. February 16 thru 19, 1996. See page 9 for details.

**Fri, 16th**

**The Paper's next Deadline**

Articles, photos, you name it. Call Wes at 655-3756 for details.

**Wed, 21st**

**GCEMC Benefit Spaghetti Feed**

A new tradition. 6:30 p.m. at the After Dark. Regular, spicy and veggie sauces. $5 donation. 214 Lighthouse, Monterey 373-7828.

**Lesbian Pool Tournament Organizing Now!**

A pool tournament for women and mixed teams is looking for shooters from expert to novice. For more information, call Flanders at 655-3224.

**Coming Soon!**

**Question of the Month**

**Local Nightclubs**

- **After Dark**
  214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey
  Dancing, full bar. 373-7828
- **Franco's Norma Jean**
  10639 Merritt St., Castroville
  Dancing, full bar. 633-2090

**On Dancer, On Prancer, On Macy's, On Visa**
Local Bear Club Forms!

Bears of Monterey County

Local, informal, regular Joe get togethers/activities for bears, cubs, and the men who appreciate bear ethos/eros/attitude/aptitude. Don’t hibernate this winter - come play in our den! Please contact Jim: 394.6118/394.6296/e-mail: MoCoBear2@aol.com.

More Bear News

Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) Presents International Bear Rendezvous '96 in S.F. February 16 thru 19, 1996.

Cost: $69 ($59 for BOSF members) if postmarked by December 31, 1995. $89 thereafter. Price includes a commemorative Rendezvous '96 T-shirt and pin. For information, e-mail http://www.q.com/bosf/ or send regular mail to Bears of San Francisco, 2215 Market Street #266, San Francisco, CA. 94114.

The host hotel is the Ramada San Francisco Hotel, 1231 Market Street (Market & 8th Streets), San Francisco, CA. Special room rates for Rendezvous are: $62 for Single and $72 for 2-4 people (plus tax). Call: 1-800-227-4747 for hotel information and reservations. You must mention "BEAR RENDEZVOUS" to get the special rates, which are guaranteed until Feb. 2, 1996.

Pete’s Tours is the official travel representative for Bear Rendezvous '96. They will be offering convention rate discounts from around the country. Call (415) 621-2915 or 1 (800) 585-PETE; or write: Pete’s Tours, 4408 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Bearish Worldwide Web Sites

Point your browsers to the following sites for more info on things bear. Woof!

Bears of San Francisco
http://www.q.com/bosf/
Hosts for Bear Rendezvous '96. Some nice links to other bear sites.

Lone Star Saloon
http://www.slip.net/~lonestar/
A cool site with plenty of links, including one to the KPIX video camera atop the Fairmont Hotel for real-time San Francisco weather updates. Info on most bear events in The City.

Bear Club Information
http://www.skepsis.com:80/gblo/bears/CLUBS/
A comprehensive guide to bear clubs around country and the globe.

The Hairway to Steven
http://web.idirect.com/~daboy/kelso.html
A digital shrine to Colt’s most popular calendar man, Steve Kelso. (nudity)

The Hairy Chest Page
http://www.creative.net/~bcp/
New and improved. Also includes the Moustache Page, and fur-ther links. (nudity)

Valley Bears, Sacramento
http://www.sna.com/ValleyBears/
New page with info on what’s up in the Central Valley.

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Pet Psyc
Companion Animal Counseling & Educational Services
P.O. Box 2711 • Monterey, CA 93942

Pet-Assisted Therapy
Death/Loss of Pet
Non-Physiological Behavior Problems
Fear of Specific Animals
Veterinary Referrals
Animal Care Education

Terri M. Austin, Ph.D.
(408) 649-6283
(408) 625-5573

Happy 10th Anniversary to Miss Freddie, Miss Gay Monterey 1985
**Anticipation**

**by L.H.**

I see you
Our eyes meet like
Old friends on the street
You're talking, but I can't hear what you're saying
Stroking, plucking, playing
Lush inviting adagios are what we are doing tonight
Like the sweet-salty taste of your body
My tongue is the drum stick and your nipples are the drums
Percussion is in order
Your luscious body is my instrument
Vibrating, resonating, a crescendo
Consumed by the rhythm I hear
That only I can play to perfection
I hear the beat in my blood-filled temples
Suite of Surrender, Sacrifice, Sublime
Of your sweet sensual sirens
The sweat on our bodies is a paste
Buried
An avalanche set off by the crescendo
This Suite of Sumptuous Lovemaking
Memories; I feel my body aching
Encore!!!

**Disclaimers**

*This article is not intended to be a substitute for consulting with a physician. It is merely intended to educate and inform interested parties about health care concerns that affect the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community. Always consult your physician or health care provider for illness.*

**Future topics**

- Artificial Insemination: professional vs. the turkey baster
- The "forgotten" sexually transmitted diseases, and what they mean to you.
- And much more!
- Most importantly, answers to readers questions about your health care concerns, or issues.

Please send your anonymous inquiries to:

"ASK A NURSE"
c/o Tom Sanguino R.N.
P.O. Box 215
Seaside, CA 93955

Or call 800-688-4472, Box #9183 and leave a confidential voice mail message.

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**Bits & Pieces**

**Rough Sex, Big Penises, & Rectal Bleeding**

**Ask A Nurse**

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**DISCLAIMER**—This article is not intended to be a substitute for consulting with a Physician. It is merely intended to educate and inform interested parties about health care concerns that affect the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community. Always consult your physician or health care provider for illness.

**Nurse Tom was asked the following:**

I had anal sex with my boyfriend with me on the bottom, and it got pretty rough. He has a pretty big penis, and I think something tore. Since then I started to notice blood mixed in with my stools. Should I be concerned?

Thank you for your question, and I will attempt to address a couple of issues that came to mind when I read it.

Anal sex is one of the riskiest of all sexual practices, either with homosexual, or heterosexual couples, with regard to transmission of HIV.

In order to decrease the risk of anal sex, it is highly recommended that the active partner wear a condom to decrease the risk of transmission of HIV, AND other sexually transmitted diseases to the passive partner.

**Jifty Lube**

It is also recommended that COPIOUS amounts of a WATER-BASED lubricant, (such as K-Y, WET, and other commercially available products) be used with latex condoms, as this decreases the amount of friction exerted on the condom, which in turn decreases the risk of "condom failure", or in plain English, a ripped condom. (I hesitate to reiterate, but will any way, don't ever mix latex condoms, and petroleum-based lubricants, such as Vaseline, certain types of hand lotions, or even motor oil, as they will melt latex, and/or cause some pretty messy accidents.)

Another reason to use COPIOUS amounts of these lubricants is to sufficiently lubricate the anus and rectum to reduce the amount of trauma caused by the penis, finger, dildo, or other implements of stimulation.

The rationale for this, is that if you've been having sex, with a penis sheathed with a condom, and have only used 2 or 3 drips of KY, by the time you're done, that condom will probably have the same effect as sand paper on the very delicate mucous membranes that line the inside of your lower bowel.

If you should by accident experience "condom failure", there is a greater potential for absorbing HIV, or other STI's through a dry, raw, irritated anus than through a well lubricated, softened and non-abrased anus.

**Lead Balloons**

If you are intent on using small amounts of lubricants, it is highly suggested that you have your partner "double condom", so that if the outer condom breaks, there will still be some protection from the inner condom... Unfortunately, the decrease in sensation your partner will experience wearing two condoms will probably go over like a proverbial lead balloon!

If you are involved in a prolonged bout of vigorous anal sex, take a break, once, twice, or perhaps even thrice.

- If you wake up with a Physician. It is merely interested parties about health care concerns that affect the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered communities.
- There are also a myriad of medical conditions which can cause blood in the stool, such as ulcerative colitis, and even cancer of the colon, which are conditions which would not be associated with anal sex.

**The Straight Poop**

One of my favorite "blood in the stool" stories, is from when I was an Emergency Room nurse, and I had a woman rush herself into the E.R., and demand to be seen by a physician, because she was hemorrhaging from her rectum.

I spoke with her, and asked the usual questions, had there been any trauma, any illness, any pain, any new foods, at which point, she told me that she had eaten a large number of pickled beets earlier in the day, and that they were so good, she had really pigged out on them.

Well, there we had our answer...

**Red Menace**

You also mention that you have noticed blood in your stool, and it was my assumption that this was immediately following, or within the next couple of days following this episode of vigorous anal sex.

Blood in the stool is a problem that can be caused by many different factors.

One of these factors can be hemorrhoids, which are veins either inside, or outside the anus, which can become irritated, swollen, and often bleed when they are traumatized.

There are also what are referred to as fissures, which are basically folds of skin inside of the anus and/or rectum, which are easily torn, and will bleed.

**Big Penis Trauma**

You also mention that your boyfriend's penis is "pretty big". Insertion of any large item into your anus, can be pretty traumatic, especially if things get a little rough. This type of trauma can also cause a tear, which can also cause blood to be expelled with the stool.

There are also a myriad of medical conditions which can cause blood in the stool, such as ulcerative colitis, and even cancer of the colon, which are conditions which would not be associated with anal sex.

Please send your anonymous inquiries to: "ASK A NURSE" c/o Tom Sanguino R.N., P.O. Box 215, Seaside, CA 93955. Or call 800-688-4472, Box #9183 and leave a confidential voice mail message.
The Best Roast Potatoes

A Tribute to Helen

by Jane Wynn
Contributing Writer

As I begin to write this, my friend Helen is at Hospice. She has been there for about a month, although it could be shorter or longer, as I have lost track of the days. By the time this is printed my friend Helen will be gone.

I met Helen about 9 or 10 years ago at a PPN meeting. Back then, there were not many women at the meetings, so I assume that was because Bronxians were far superior. Helen from the Bronx and Jane from Queens. I often wondered why it was that New York accent still shines and her eyes get really bright when she sees me. She still wants to know what is going on with me. The only thing that is different is now she kisses me on the lips. There is an intimacy in death that exists nowhere else.

If Helen knew I was writing about her, she would be shy and shocked. But I wanted to share Helen. I love her and I will miss her terribly. She was a gift to my life. Thank you, Helen.

Contributing Writer
HIV- Rights

Commentary

by Jim Wheeler
Contributing Writer

I am a 34-year old HIV- gay man. And the latest mumblings about the lives of gay men like men within the Monterey County AIDS world (trouble is, you see, there are many more negative gay men than testing positive all the time) is why we’re doing it, and how to stop it. How bad is it? Well, Monterey County is at Level II of the epidemic; San Francisco is Level I; the comparison chills.

Having been sexually active (read “at risk”) for 15 years, I believe that the simplistic solution to AIDS—“You have a responsibility to keep yourselves negative and help positive gay men cope, try to find a cure, try to find treatments, etc.”—is a big reason we’re still testing positive. We obviously have to help people who are HIV+ cope, but we need to do more helping negatives cope with staying negative. It’s not as simple as saying, “You must always wear a condom.” There are deep-seated psychological reasons why we’re having unsafe sex.

Now, I know a lot of men whose friends are all positive; most of mine are. But we have to talk to about our perspective on unsafe sex, about being negative. We feel we should stay quiet about being HIV-, that it bothers HIV+ people. Yet, a negative person is responsible for himself; that is everyone’s first and foremost responsibility. But we’re all brothers; we all have a responsibility to one another.

Sometimes I want to yell, “Positive people have a responsibility, too!” I think positive people have to take responsibility and not assume that a negative person will demand we wear a condom.

The reluctance to address the duties of those who are positive is the fear of stigmatizing HIV+ people, of making them feel that they are “vectors of disease.” Singling out HIV- people is also seen as divisive. To think that it’s not already separated is crazy and, even if it is divisive to an extent, it must happen if we are to save lives. It’s unconsciously that, at the expense of being divisive, we let people die. It’s the kind of thing that would help HIV+ men deal with being negative.

We’re in denial. We’re in denial about our sexual practices, unsure about safer sex. We’re demoralized. We feel shitty about a million things. About our bodies, about homophobia in general, about the fact that our friends are dying, and that we can’t talk to anybody about it who understands it from our perspective. Or we’re feeling immune to HIV. For whatever reasons, we’re in denial. It’s easy to have unsafe sex, easy to fall into the trap that bad-fashioned sex is more intimate, more real, better. All these things play into it.

Thus, the direct challenge for gay men in Monterey County is our own serocconversion. Stop and think for a minute: Doctors and scientists tell us there will be no cure for AIDS in our lifetimes, REGARDLESS of our status; the nation’s moved to the Right and budget cuts threaten existing services; groups like ACT UP break up; fractured responses aggravate the tension between negative and positive gay men; gay political and sexual culture is becoming the AIDS culture. Why wouldn’t we think AIDS is inevitable? And if we’re going to die by the time we’re 40, why not become a raging steroid muscle hunk on crystal, the best fuck in town? Why live in fear of the inevitable instead of enjoying the time we do have?

It’s time to understand us. We seronegatives are, after all, the ones who seroconvert.

A Little History

Our ideas about being HIV- were formed at the start of the epidemic. Armed with negative test results, we were in opposition to, and the expense of, gay men testing positive. We were known as HIV- men, defined through our dying friends.

Out to eliminate discrimination and reactionary policies towards AIDS and HIV+, we kept our test results private. To reveal our HIV status was insensitive and politically suspect. It’s also been complicit in maintaining the split between negatives and positives.

HIV- and negative gay men combined in the 1980’s to fight the politics and practices that were killing us. A side effect has been that gay men are seen as innately diseased. This “Spectacle of AIDS,” which equates all gay men—regardless of HIV status—with AIDS, led to today’s situation.

In the beginning, AIDS volunteering was the accumulation of good karma, the hope for the kindness of strangers when it was our turn to be sick. The “prodigal son” gay men striving to redeem themselves as moral and righteous before their inevitable collapse—probably played a role, too. We negative gay men entered the AIDS culture primarily as caregivers or members of ACT UP.

Now, ACT UP said AIDS wasn’t inevitable, but negotiable and preventable. Trouble was, negative gay men rarely spoke about their status, subscribing instead to the ethos that “We are all HIV+.” Such politics, while creating a united front for treatment and to fight discrimination and abjection, distorted our experiences as negative gay men. (HIV- men, regardless of our politics, are not HIV+.) Also at this time came the shift of PWA from victim to hero and the funny idea that HIV- men have access to certain claims of truth unavailable to the uninfected. The bravery of the PWA was introduced to empower PWAs.

In the 90’s, negative gay men are AIDS widowers or partners in what are known as “serodiscordant relationships.” We are marked in direct relation to someone who is positive or dead.

Being HIV- Today

Negative men can speak if we preface our comments with a catalogue of the number of friends buried and friends ill (the AIDS fatalities, the more legitimate the voice) or if we try to account for the poor quality of the negative gay man’s life in the midst of AIDS. This starts in survival guilt, but goes further: life is hopeless, meaningless, empty. This is a falsification of negative gay men’s lives. Extremely depressing, these are not our only experiences with AIDS, just a few and allowed. It makes it tough to imagine a life worth living.

Two effects are obvious: the identification with the culture of AIDS and the fantasy of seroconversion. The HIV+ has been cut off from, by, and for HIV- gay men. The fantasy of seroconversion can be the source of a dynamic social relationship between us.

We must question the ways we understand our HIV- status. And one of the basics is the force of the negative/positive split. Being HIV- is not an oppression nor is it a privilege. But because we have avoided what it means, we have allowed the split to solidify. It doesn’t have to stay that way, though. The trend to establish small support groups for HIV- gay men, such as the one in Santa Cruz, will accomplish very little if the discussions of seronegativity do not include the history and experiences which created this situation in the first place.

We must challenge the logic of the past and our investment in the system. Gay men living with HIV have already shown to the world the promise of this practice by themselves defining what it means to be living with AIDS. It’s time now for HIV-gay men to intervene and decide what it means to be negative. The challenge set before us is to construct a world for all of us—HIV-, HIV- the untested, and PWAs—in which we can all thrive.

Information for this article was obtained from Michelleangelo Signorile (OUT Magazine), Andrew Sullivan, Gabriel Rotello (The Advocate), Walter Odets, and Sean Strub (POZ Magazine).

We welcome your responses to this and all editorials presented in The Paper. Please send your comments to the address on page 2 of this issue.

The Paper’s Next Deadline is January 15th

The support systems of by, and for HIV+ gay men have become the urban gay culture.

The Folsom Street Fair might more accurately be called the Folsom Street AIDS Fair.
Potent HIV Drug Approved

Roche's Protease Inhibitor Saquinavir Available to the Public

Tom Sanguino R.N.
Contributing Writer

It was announced December 7, 1995, that one of the most promising drugs in the anti-HIV drug arsenal has been approved for sale to the public.

The drug, Saquinavir, is in a new class of antiretroviral drugs, referred to as protease inhibitors, which has been shown to be a promising class of drugs to slow the progression of HIV disease.

Saquinavir, which is produced by the drug giant Hoffmann-LaRoche (Roche), had previously only been available for use by HIV infected people through drug studies, and most recently by a "lottery" system, whereby HIV infected individuals could have their physician submit their "patient number" to Roche if they fit the study criteria, and then wait for their number to be "drawn from a hat".

Saquinavir is one of many protease inhibitors which are currently being developed by drug companies, and have shown much promise in slowing down the progression of HIV disease, particularly when combined with other anti-HIV drugs, such as AZT, 3TC, and others.

How They Work

Protease inhibitors are a class of drug which blocks the action of an enzyme, referred to as protease, which breaks up large proteins produced by viral RNA, which then prevents viral replication.

Protease Inhibitors differ from the nucleoside analog drug family; these drugs (AZT, ddI, ddC, 3TC) interfere with the life cycle of the AIDS virus at a different point in the replication cycle.

The recommended dosage for Saquinavir has been placed at 600 milligrams three times daily, taken with food. It is further recommended that it be taken in combination with 1 or 2 other antiretrovirals from the nucleoside analog family.

Drug Interactions

There are at least 3 drugs which shouldn't be taken with Saquinavir:

1. Ketoconazole (Nizoral), which is classified as an antifungal agent. When taken with Saquinavir, it increases the blood levels of Saquinavir, which might seem to be a desirable effect, but when blood levels of Saquinavir are too high, the side effect profile tends to also rise.

2. Rifampin, (Rifadin, Rimactane), which is classified as an antitubercular, and as a broad spectrum antibiotic. When taken with Saquinavir, it appears to inhibit absorption of the Saquinavir, which means that you will not be getting the entire benefit of the drug.

3. Rifabutin, which is a drug utilized to prophylax against mycobacterium (MAC) infection. When this drug is mixed, it too appears to inhibit absorption of the Saquinavir.

Steep Pricing

Now for the bad news... Roche has announced that the average wholesale price for Saquinavir will be approximately $570.00 per month, or close to $7000.00 per year for this new drug.

Roche has established a drug reimbursement hotline, and claims that anyone who needs the drug will not be denied. They also claim that they will be attempting to assist individuals to seek funding through both public, and private means.

[Editor's Note: Contact your doctor regarding any interesting medications mentioned in The Paper.]

SID HIRSICHE

Sid Hiroshige, 51, died of AIDS this November. Sid was my good friend, confidante and advisor, the adopted gay uncle who was as comfortable in leather bars as Little Tokyo noodle houses.

Sid was a well-respected educator for the State of California, specializing in helping dropout mothers return to school. We met at an HIV+ support group in Silverlake, just a stone's throw from his home in Echo Park. Sid and I spent my late August sojourns to L.A. together, smoking Camels and munching gorillas while wandering through the muscles and moustaches at Sunset Junction.

Sid was a tall man with a boxer's build and a quiet demeanor. His family was from the Hiroshima province, but his skin was dark from a childhood idyll in Hawaii. We might have passed for father and son, except, as Sid would remind everyone, I was the one with the Joan Crawford saunter.

It's difficult to watch the death of a friend from afar or pay tribute when the phone call comes. Crying seems hopelessly inadequate somehow, and Sid and I had six years to prepare. For your sake, Sid, I'll leave the rest for later and carry on with just the happiness. -Wes Kashwagi
Gay Boy Guidance
A Dose of Gay Truisms for a Newly Out Friend
by Gus Bid
Special to The Paper
A friend of mine came out to me a few weeks ago. It was surprising news and a bit disappointing since my “gaydar” had failed me.

Gaydar—the innate ability to sense or locate other gay people—is but one of the cultural gems I’ve explained over the last several weeks.

Even though he has been having sex with men for some time, I thought his gay naivete was worth sharing.

Q: Where do old gay men go? Do they turn into butterflies or something?
A: Since our culture is based upon sex and thus sexual attractiveness, men over 40 often find themselves pariahs in the dance bars. Since this is the cultural climate they invented in the 70’s, I have a hard time finding pity for them. Being old doesn’t count for much, unless all that you have to offer them in return is just being young.

Q: How do I meet gay men if I don’t want to go to a bar?
A: You can take your chances at dirty bookstores, the men’s department of Macy’s or choral performances, but I prefer the bars. Men who go to gay bars are comfortable enough with their gayness to be seen walking in off of the street, and being comfortable with your sexuality is key to leading a healthy, happy life.

Q: I don’t like one-night stands. Do you think I’ll find a relationship at a bar?
A: As in all things, you get what you deserve. I have friends who will always be single, and I have friends whose “relationships” are no more intimate than what I share with my mailman. Be sure to define your terms before slipping a ring on his finger.

Many gay men mistakenly assume that moving in with the first like-minded boob whom they meet is true love, but that’s never been a requirement. You aren’t very “gay” in the handsomely polished, cosmopolitan sense, but that’s never been a requirement, you bitch. There are men that look just like you, and men that look better, like me. It’s true that gay men will either cruise you or snub you based upon how you present yourself, but unless you’re willing to maintain that facade indefinitely, stick with the real you. It’s difficult explaining why you would rather inhale a gallon of Ben & Jerry’s than pump iron the next morning.

Q: Why do all gay relationships fail?
A: Most of the 40+ crowd I know are in relationships or married to their houses; most of their socializing is done at dinner parties or piano bars.

Q: Why do all gay relationships fail?
A: As in all things, you get what you deserve. I have friends whose “relationships” are no more intimate than what I share with my mailman. Be sure to define your terms before slipping a ring on his finger.

Many gay men mistakenly assume that moving in with the first like-minded boob whom they meet is true love, but that’s never been a requirement. You aren’t very “gay” in the handsomely polished, cosmopolitan sense, but that’s never been a requirement, you bitch. There are men that look just like you, and men that look better, like me. It’s true

If he says no, you’ll have to consider what you’ve learned about him and how much of it you believe, i.e., if you don’t know much beyond his first name and the color of his jeans, you’ve probably been sizing up something other than his veracity.

Most men will stretch the truth a bit. Men that look better, like me. It’s true

Regardless of whether he lives with his parents or your parents, whether you pump iron the next morning, whether you have a child of your own. But then I’m not happy being single, and I have friends that he told me his status without my asking first.

The most important thing to remember is that by becoming a part of the gay community and enjoying the freedoms that it now affords, you have a responsibility to keep it alive and growing. Now let’s go dance.

Gus Bid is a gay man living in New Monterey. He welcomes your comments.
HIV/AIDS Resources

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

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender-ed Advisory Committee of MCAP
Meets the 2nd Fri. of each month, call 647-8033.

Diversity Committee of MCAP
An ad hoc committee to promote minority access to HIV/AIDS services throughout Monterey County. For meeting info call Deborah at 393-1888.

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
Supported by the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP). Group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. at MCAP in Seaside. Call MCAP at 394-4747.

Family, Friends, & Partners Group
Meets the 1st & 3rd Sun. of the month in Salinas at 7 p.m. Call MCAP for location and more info 394-4747.

John XXIII AIDS Ministry
Housing and other services. Michael Center, 580 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 653-1737

Moms for Moms
Support group for moms of people with AIDS. Meets the 2nd & 4th Weds. of every month in Monterey. Call 655-1777 or Jeanne Steinbach at 642-3663.

Transgender Support Group
Meets in Carmel, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at MCAP in Seaside. Call 655-1777 or Jeanne Steinbach at 642-3663.

Women’s Resources

WomenCARE
Women’s cancer advocacy, resources and education, 457-CARE

Lesbian Therapy Group
For Lesbians coming out, becoming empowered, wanting healthy relationships with self and others. Weekly, fee charged. Call 648-4405.

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

Monterey Rape Crisis Center
Rape Crisis Line, 375-4357; North County Crisis line, 635-5900; Office, 373-3955.

Slightly Older Lesbians
459-0607

Women’s Bisexual Network
of Santa Cruz and the Greater Monterey Bay Area 427-4556

Transgender Resources

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.

Transgender Support Group
462-3663
The Back Page

National Condom Week Approaches

by Justin Larson
Man-to-Man Coordinator

The nationally recognized Safer Sex Campaign known as National Condom Week will soon be visible in Monterey County, highlighted by a variety of activities. In addition to the regular outreach activities at the After Dark and Franco's, Man-to-Man will co-sponsor a variety of fun and entertaining events.

Promoted by the Condom Resource Center in Berkeley, National Condom Week has been successfully implemented in communities, both large and small, throughout the country. Though the word condom is in the name, the purpose of the week is to promote responsible decision-making in a safe and enjoyable way.

Some communities have their mayors make an official declaration, others host workshops and conferences, others promote contests on college campuses. Smaller towns have run poster campaigns and passed out free condoms to target groups, especially young people. Churches talk about responsibility in relationships, politicians talk about social responsibility, and media personalities remind people to take care of themselves and each other. But rather than dwelling on the heavy topics of the current health issues, National Condom Week strives to promote its message in a positive and exciting way.

As Man-to-Man volunteers take on the first official National Condom Week for Monterey County, there have been lots of ideas about what to do. Because of limited resources this year, M2M is gearing up with ideas for Monterey’s National condom Week:

In addition to these events, expect to see changes in the outreach tables! You’ll have to check every week to see what we’ve come up with to tickle your fancy. And bring us your hard questions. If we can’t answer them right then, we’ll find out for you and have the answer for you as soon as we can!

SATURDAY, FEB. 10 - Red and White Ball
Hosted by Grande Cypress Empire and Peninsula Professional Network members, Man-to-Man will kick off National Condom Week this Saturday! Take part in what promises to be a successful annual event, and find out a bit of what Man-to-Man has in store for the rest of the week!

SUNDAY, FEB. 11 - Toy Box
A new program added as a spin-off to our successful Hot & Healthy workshops. Toys and accessories for fun times will be shown in a private home setting, so you can see what’s out there for you and your partner(s). Working in cooperation with Good Vibrations of San Francisco, this promises to be a gay man’s ultimate Tupperware party! Space will be limited for this first event, but as hosts and dates become available, so will opportunities for all of you to come do some shopping - or just browsing. Call Man-to-Man at 772-8202 to reserve a space and get details.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13 - National Condom Week Booth
Set at the Monterey Farmer’s Market, this outreach booth will provide information, ideas, support, and condoms to shoppers. Here’s a chance to haul your friends down to get both bargains and some good ideas and information. Farmer’s Market runs from 4:00 until 7:00 on Alvarado Street.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13 - Man-to-Man Logo Contest Judging
As a result of our search for a logo to identify the outreach program, Man-to-Man has sponsored a logo contest. [See story page 3 for details.] The prizes are first rate!

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 - Hot and Healthy. Here it is again!
A chance for men in Monterey County to meet each other and learn how to spice up their sex life in a fun, safe, and entertaining workshop prepared just for them! Though we call it a workshop, it’s full of discoveries and a social atmosphere reigns. Come see where your fantasies lead. Write ads to find that Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now! Flyers with times & locations will be available at the outreach table or call 772-8202.

Top 10 Worst Things for a Gay Man to See in a Porno Tape

10. Your ex
9. Public mascara runs
8. Callouses in unusual places
7. Chocolate sauce, no sundaes
6. Lassie
5. Jeff Stryker, again
4. Toe tags
3. Santa, again
2. Actors preparing to speak
1. A woman

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