Will Oral Sex Save Us?

by Wes Kashiwagi
Contributing Writer

The entrance to Blow Buddies is a non-descript storefront off of a busy San Francisco thoroughfare. True to its name, the sex club caters to gay men in search of anonymous oral sex, and according to men from Monterey who frequent the popular sex club, including those who are HIV+, condoms are provided but in most cases go unused.

As the gay community enters its second decade living with the specter of HIV, one tenet of safer sex education is being re-examined and, in some cities, stigmatized as ineffective or even harmful to efforts being made to rid the community of the virus.

Unchanging Attitudes
HIV infection is not about gray areas. If you become infected, you will probably die. Oral sex has been proven to be a method of transmitting HIV.

In a random sampling by The Paper of 10 sexually active gay men ages 24-45, all but one knew that the only 100% risk-free sex was abstinence. Of those asked, only one reported using condoms during oral sex and then inconsistently. This reflects the findings of a 1995 study of gay men ages 18-24 in New York City which reported that 91% of those engaging in receptive oral sex never use a condom.

The New York study illustrates the discord between knowing what is safe and practicing what is unsafe, which is why some educators are changing their safer sex messages to reflect what gay are doing versus what they should do.

In the meantime, gay men who want to make an informed decision about oral sex must wade through existing research studies that can seem contradictory.

Transmission Data: Lesser of Two Evils
HIV infection via oral sex is possible. The Multi-centered AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) has tracked over 2,500 gay men since the beginning of the epidemic. They have reported 1 case of transmission via oral sex. The subject in question was unable to have any sort of anal penetration due to an injury.

The risk appears higher in a compendium of three San Francisco studies by epidemiologist Michael Samuel, which followed 1,393 HIV-gay men for five years. 7.2% of those who reported that they hadn’t engaged in any risky behaviors other than receptive oral sex, tested HIV+ by the end of the study. However, Dr. Larry Kingsley of the MACS study has said in earlier interviews, gay men may be underreporting anal sex encounters because of the social stigma which has developed because of safer sex messages.

The Fish or the River?
HIV has been detected in 52 percent of pre-cum samples, compared with 30 percent of semen samples. In the San Francisco studies reviewed by Michaels, those who took ejaculate in their mouths did not have a higher rate of infection than those that stopped before their partners ejaculated.

However, data was presented at the 1993 Conference on AIDS which showed that no break in the anal or oral mucosal wall was necessary; HIV is pulled in by cells lining the mucous membranes which send the virus into the lymph nodes.

Despite the differences in their findings, researchers and educators generally agree that receptive oral sex without a condom is much less risky when compared to receptive anal sex without a condom. [Editor’s Note: The Paper is working on finding information on the relative risk between protected anal sex and unprotected oral sex. These findings should be in the next issue.]

Some Say “Jo”
If you were a citizen of Canada or Germany, you would seem moot. Canada and Germany have stopped recommending that people use a condom.

MCAP’s Stance
The Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP) is the largest provider of HIV education in the region. Their stance on unprotected oral sex is what many residents use in determining what is safer sex and what isn’t.

MCAP’s Education Team is evaluating whether to promote unprotected oral sex as a safer alternative to anal sex. However, weighing the risk involved in providing information that is open to interpretation has proven a stumbling block.

I think people will read ‘safer sex’ and interpret it as ‘safe sex’
-Joy Rubey, Executive Director, MCAP

“I think people will read ‘safer sex’ and interpret it as ‘safe sex,’” said Joy Rubey, MCAP’s Executive Director. Rubey went on explain the difficulties MCAP faces in condensing the data available on oral sex into an easily understood message without diluting the important information.

MCAP is also aware of the dangers of restricting certain sexual practices in the gay community. “It’s hard to take a piece of one’s identity away and replace it with something that doesn’t offer the same sort of satisfaction,” said Rubey. “We run the risk of shutting people completely off and them not coming back.”

Rubey pointed out that MCAP’s role is to provide information which they can use to make decisions about risk, not to recommend a specific behavior. In the meantime, here is MCAP’s stance on oral sex:

While unprotected oral intercourse is not without risk, it has shown to be considerably less risky than unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse. To reduce risk even further, do not allow semen in your mouth, avoid brushing or flossing before oral sex, and do not engage in oral sex if you have cuts, sores, or bleeding gums. To further reduce risk, it is recommended that people use a condom.

Women’s Bar Opens in Monterey!

Title XI, a new sports bar for women will open this Saturday, March 2nd in Monterey.

Dawn and Snookie will be serving drinks at the grand opening on Saturday, which starts at 5 p.m.; owner Cathy De Marra says most people will show up at 7 p.m.

The bar, formerly Manly’s Place, features two pool tables and plenty of room to mingle. The bar takes its name from the anti-discrimination law.

Title XI is at 281 Lighthouse Ave. in New Monterey across the street from the After Dark. Call 373-4488 for information.
Locals News

Monterey's Gay Homepage
Debuts on the Internet!

Visit us at http://members.aol.com/stickyrice/mtrygay.html

Monterey's gay community staked its claim on the Internet when the Monterey Gay Webpage debuted on January 8th. Over 600 visitors visited in its first month, most from the central coast, some from as far away as Idaho Falls and the Yucatan peninsula.

The Bay Area Reporter ran a story in January on Monterey's gay website as an example of how gay businesses are using the Internet to provide better service for their customers.

The website provides general information about the gay community as well as a complete list of local resources. Visitors can refer to a map showing the locations of Francisco's and After Dark. Gay and gay-friendly advertisers from The Paper are provided with a free listing and e-mail link.

The homepage was conceived of and produced by The Paper as a community service. Time-sensitive information is updated every other week and news stories are added to either a page featuring social and political news or one on HIV/AIDS research.

Also featured are links to other sites on the web including those mentioned in the current issue of The Paper. Because we use America Online as our server, we can't directly provide what the Web has come under fire for, namely smutty pictures.

For more info, contact Wes at 655-3756 or e-mail him at stickyrice@ao.com.

Free Class Show You How to Work the Internet
Don't know the difference been UNIX and snack mix? MOBILE, the Monterey Bay Internet Enthusiasts, provides free monthly seminars on e-mail, creating a webpage, and other features of the Internet.

Meetings are on the third Friday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Forest Grove School, 1065 Congress Ave, in Pacific Grove (near Country Club Gate). The friendly crowd is a mix of students, middle-aged folks (like myself), and a surprising number of seniors.

This is not a gay organization by any means, but a useful resource for the general public. The group offers an advanced users group which starts at 8:30 p.m. Separate Mac and PC users groups also meet during the month.

A Camera, A Winston, An Attitude
Some of you may know me as a regular at the After Dark (the chain-smoking Japanese guy with the bad disposition). Since moving here in 1990, I've seen our community take great strides towards catching up with the rest of the region, which is why I decided to stick around a while longer.

However, like all things in life, nothing is forever. There is still a strong possibility I will leave Monterey later this year to chase my 'real' career in multimedia software design. Until then, enjoy having a paper of your very own.

And start writing already!

Republications Not As Anti-Gay as Believed Says Gay GOP group

Almost half of the Republicans in Congress are neutral on issues affecting homosexuals, according to a study reported on in the Washington Post. According to an analysis by the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay Republicans who unsuccessfully tried to contribute to Senator Dole's presidential campaign last year.

"There is a wide spectrum of views on gay and lesbian issues," within the Republican Party, said Richard Tafel, the group's executive director. "The Republican Party is not a monolith on gay and lesbian issues."

The study looked at the votes, statements, hiring practices and other actions of 52 Senate Republicans and the 235 House Republicans, scoring them on a scale from 0 to 100. The lawmakers were placed in eight categories, ranging from "Leader" to "Antagonistic."

The Ratings Game

Sen. Robert F. Bennett (Utah) was not rated because he missed key votes on amendments to the Ryan White AIDS funding bill, the group's main basis for rating senators. Rep. Tom Campbell (Calif.) was not rated because he did not take office until December.

145 lawmakers - 18 in the Senate and 127 in the House - were deemed "Nonsupportive," "Hostile" or "Antagonistic." The group found 143 lawmakers - 34 senators and 109 House members - were at least "Tolerant," which the group labeled "the neutral ground." The lawmakers "have not shown a propensity to go on the attack against the gay and lesbian community" but did not always voting in support of issues of concern to them.

Pro and Cons

Three GOP lawmakers received perfect scores, Sens. John H. Chafee (R.I.) and James M. Jeffords (Vt.) and Rep. Steve Gunderson (Wis.). Gunderson is the only openly gay Republican in Congress.

Two were given scores of zero: Sen. Jesse Helms (N.C.) and Rep. Robert K. Dornan (Calif.).

Of the GOP presidential candidates in Congress beside Dornan, Sen. Richard G. Lugar (Ind.) received a 75, putting him in the "Supportive" category; Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (Kan.), 63, "Cooperative.

State-level Republicans have lead anti-gay bills in more than 16 states.
State News

CA Senate to Vote on Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

Letters needed to sway vote of Senate Judiciary

by Anna Diplisis
Contribution Writer

O n the very eve of Hawaii’s groundbreaking decision to legalize gay marriage, conservative Republican members of California’s legislature are halfway towards passing a law that would ban same-sex unions in California. If AB1982 passes the Senate Judiciary Committee sometime within the next 2-4 weeks (as of March 2nd), legal same-sex marriages and civil unions in California may be considered a thing of the past.

The List of Senators

Charles Colderson (Chair on both) Los Angeles County: Bell Gardens, Norwalk, Huntington Beach, Whittier

Henry Mello (on Family Law Subcommittees) Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties

Cathie Wright (on both) Los Angeles / Ventura: Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard

Ray Haynes Riverside/San Diego counties: Corona, Hemet, Riverside, San City

Bill Lockerby Alameda / Santa Clara counties: Fremont, Hayward, San Jose

Senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee

Please put special emphasis on the three Senators who make up the subcommittee on Family Law (which includes our own Henry Mello), plus the Senators whose votes are essential to keep the bill from passing in a vote of the full committee. The following list gives their counties and major cities within their districts.

Where & How to Send Your Letters

Address all letters to their Capitol offices:
The Honorable [name of Senator] State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator [last name], Vote NO on AB 1982, etc.

Other News

Famous Economist Comes Out

After 25 years as a respected economist and co-editor of the leading textbook of British economic history, Donald McCloskey is now Ms. Deirdre McCloskey. In his book, “The Rhetoric of Economics,” he chastised fellow economists for submerging human behavior in mathematical formulas. As co-editor of the leading textbook of British economics, which holds that existing theory is too much based on the male competitive urge, McCloskey went out of his way to foster the emerging field of feminist economics. McCloskey has written and edited 200 articles and 20 books, which he claims are society’s least intrusive way to raise, and helping to build families that provide a caring, stable home with a mother and a father. Linking the benefits, burdens, and obligations of marriage to only male-female couples is society’s least intrusive way of aiding couples that, by the nature of their opposite genders, objectively manifest the possibility of procreation.

(b) The statutory definition of marriage as between a man and a woman serves the compelling state interest of aiding couples to foster the best family conditions under which children may possibly be created and raised, and helping to build families that provide a caring, stable home with a mother and a father. Linking the benefits, burdens, and obligations of marriage to only male-female couples is society’s least intrusive way of aiding couples that, by the nature of their opposite genders, objectively manifest the possibility of procreation.

(c) The male-female relationship is the most practical basis for the conferring of marriage benefits, despite occasional cases of heterosexual infertility or personal choice to not have children. (d) Although it is not the intention of the Legislature to prohibit religious ceremonies solemnizing same-sex relationships, nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any of the benefits, burdens, or obligations of marriage under the laws of California to same-gender couples.

 sacrifice statements like this,” Johnson added.

HIV Infection and Risky Sex High Among Young Gay Men

Researchers are finding high rates of HIV infection and risky sexual behavior among young gay and bisexual men, according to investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in an article reported by the San Jose Mercury News. 5% to 9% of men between the ages of 15 and 22 were already infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The survey found, for example, that 38% of the men studied said they had unprotected anal intercourse within the previous six months. These are the preliminary results based on interviews and blood tests of 1,781 young men. The CDC survey is being conducted in six urban areas: the three in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Dallas and Miami. Baltimore will shortly be added.

What AB3227 Will Do

The following is a copy of the bill now heading towards the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

SECTION 1. Section 300.5 is added to the Family Code, to read: 300.5. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) California’s marriage laws were originally, and are presently, intended to apply only to male-female couples, not same-gender couples. This determination is one of policy. Any change in these laws must come from either the Legislature or by constitutional amendment, not the judiciary.

(b) The statutory definition of marriage as between a man and a woman serves the compelling state interest of aiding couples to foster the best family conditions under which children may possibly be created and raised, and helping to build families that provide a caring, stable home with a mother and a father. Linking the benefits, burdens, and obligations of marriage to only male-female couples is society’s least intrusive way of aiding couples that, by the nature of their opposite genders, objectively manifest the possibility of procreation.

(c) The male-female relationship is the most practical basis for the conferring of marriage benefits, despite occasional cases of heterosexual infertility or personal choice to not have children. (d) Although it is not the intention of the Legislature to prohibit religious ceremonies solemnizing same-sex relationships, nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any of the benefits, burdens, or obligations of marriage under the laws of California to same-gender couples.

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- Chronic Illness

Tent M. Austin, Ph.D.
Consultant
"Oral Sex" (continued from page 1)

for several years considered unprotected oral sex safer sex, but include a warning about not ejaculating in your partner's mouth.

AIDS education organizations in Boston and Pittsburgh recently changed their safer sex message to follow the Canadian and German examples. A 1995 poster campaign launched by the AIDS Action Committee in Boston flatly states that "Oral Sex Is Safer Sex" (see photo). Faced with climbing infection rates, many other HIV/AIDS organizations are discussing the risks involved in changing the safer sex message, including the Monterey County AIDS Project (MCAP) (see sidebar "MCAP's Stance").

Is Any Risk Too Much Risk?

For many HIV/AIDS researchers and educators, any risk is too much risk. In contrast to Boston and Pittsburgh's oral sex campaigns, Nevada's AIDS Project does not condone any unprotected sex.

The Stop AIDS Project of San Francisco offers more "sex-positive" information, and also points out reasons why oral sex may be safer: the role of saliva in neutralizing the virus, and the relative ease with which someone can get semen out of their mouth versus their anus. STOP AIDS S.F. isn't squeamish about employing more graphic language: "The length and intensity of the sexual act may affect transmission. If his dick is pounding against the back of your throat, your tissues may become irritated, becoming more permeable and increasing the likelihood of infection." Justin Larson, MCAP's Man to Man Coordinator, is leaning towards adopting a similar approach.

The Final Word

Oral sex is risky sex, as is any type of insertive sex. Whether educators are willing to alter their safer sex campaigns to reflect the findings of research trials remains to be seen. Data on the connection between specific sex acts and HIV transmission are now available to those willing to do the research and believe what they read. In the words of STOP AIDS Education Director, Dan Wohleifer, "If ten minutes, or ten hours after sucking dick, you're biting your fingernails and tossing and turning in bed, you may want to stop to consider what you're doing.''

For more information on oral sex, contact the Monterey County AIDS Project: (408) 394-4747 - Seaside, (408) 772-8204 - Salinas, e-mail: mcap@prunedale.com

Oral Sex is Safer Sex

Oral sex is much less risky than anal sex. Unprotected anal sex is responsible for almost all HIV transmission between gay men. If we all agree to use condoms when we have anal sex, we could end this epidemic.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE ORAL SEX EVEN SAFER:
- Don't let anyone cum in your mouth.
- Avoid brushing or flossing before oral sex.
- If you have cuts, sores, or bleeding gums, wash till they heal or use condoms.
- Learn how to avoid other STIs.

A Boston gay HIV education outreach group's clearly worded message.

Politics

Locals Lobby for State Bill Protecting Gay Youth

by Maya Jabgower
Contributing Writer

Three representatives from Salinas and Monterey joined a group of six youths and three adults from Santa Cruz to represent the central coast at Youth Lobby Day in Sacramento to meet with their assemblymen and senators to promote the passage of two pro-gay rights bills, SB101 and AB1001. SB101 (Hughes, D-Los Angeles) would have added 5th & 6th graders to the list of students receiving safer sex education. AB1001 (Kuehl, D-Santa Monica) was the "Dignity for All Students Act" which would have added sexual orientation to the existing state anti-discrimination education code.

A Bright Kickoff

350 gay youth and supporters of the two bills, some of whom flew in from as far away as Los Angeles, kicked off the morning by meeting with Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl and LIFE Lobby staff to discuss the ins and outs of lobbying. "Anger doesn't accomplish much," said Kuehl explaining the importance of lobbying versus violent protest, "We get them in other ways by getting our bills through." Kuehl drew an analogy between government and the Wizard of Oz elected officials, said Kuehl, are like the little man behind the curtain who pushed the legislation and spun the wheel, but only pretended to have great power.

LIFE lobbyist Robert Rios took the direct approach when dealing with students on lobbying tactics: "We want them to know that we exist, we want them to know what we want. If you meet with a staff member instead of your representative it may not be an insult if it is act appropriately."

Young Activists

Boy Boy, a group of young activists also from S.F., launched a simultaneous campaign against Senate minority leader, who was quoted in the L.A. Times saying that gays "should be held accountable" for AIDS, and that the state's anti-sodomy laws should be reinstated. Boy Boy responded by releasing hundreds of red heart shaped balloons throughout the capital building, each carrying a leaflet telling of Hurt's campaign of hate.
The Mad Hatter's Ball

By Scott Steinman

The weather left something to be desired by the entertainers as they scurried around getting dressed and preparing the lineup for the Mad Hatters Ball (part 2) presented by the Magic, Music & Memory Foundation of Monterey County.

This benefit, the second of its kind since the inception of the 3M foundation in 1993, brought out 52 paid admissions and lots of excitement all around for the various guests, volunteers, and even the Birthday Girl who celebrated the beginnings of another year of life with her first ever DRAG SHOW. She was serenaded by the audience in an ever so lovely rendition of Happy Birthday and joked around with by Amanda Boinkwith of the DRAG-ONS from Salinas.

Even with the rain pouring from the heavens, this evenings charity benefit had a large group of entertainers, which included the newly crowned Miss Gay Monterey County California 1996 & her counterpart Ms. Gay Monterey County California 1996. For those of you who are not privy to the differences between the MESS and MS titles, let me briefly summarize it for you. The Miss title is for the DRAG QUEENS, whereas the MS title is for the anatomically correct female. (Notice how reluctant I was not to label the women as “DYKES” or “LESBIANS”, we’re not to into getting the crap kicked out of us for referring to you as the wrong stereotypical names and labels. HEY, LETS DO A “LESBIANS”, we’ re not into getting STRONGLY ABOUT YOUR OWN PERSONAL LABEL, WHY NOT WRITE IN AND LET US KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE AND WHY YOU LABEL YOURSELF IN THE PARTICULAR WAY THAT YOU DO AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED ENOUGH FEEDBACK, WE’LL COMPILE THE INFORMATION AND PUBLISH IT ANONYMOUSLY IN AN ISSUE OF THE PAPER.) (P.s. HEY GUYS, YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LABELING GAME, WRITE TO US AND TELL US THE SAME.)

We were very pleased with the outcome of the show and amazed at how many of you stayed and kicked out at 2 am on a Sunday. Don’t you people have jobs? (JUST KIDDING.) The evening was a full and vibrant one which concluded with the hat contest with the winner taking home a cash prize of $25. Although only 6 hats were entered, the Grand Cypress Empire had the largest group showing with 3 hats. The winner was the 18th Elected Empress of the Fire and Ice Court of the Grand Cypress Empire of Monterey County, Inc. Congratulations Miss Amber Dee Ole. Love that Glowing Eye!!!

A big thanks goes out to Wes Kashiwagi, publisher and editor of The Paper, for showing up to speak about what The Paper does, how often it will be coming out, and who to contact for information on advertising.

Without our volunteers, you the public, and the exquisite entertainers who put in countless hours into sequining costumes, brushing out kinks out of Anita Richman. Oh vice versa.

Ellen Degeneres, David Schwimmer & Cybill Shepherd Among Presenters at 7th Annual GLAAD Media Awards

from Press Release

Los Angeles, CA—February 26, 1996—Ellen Degeneres, Paul Reiser, David Schwimmer and Cybill Shepherd will be among the presenters at the 7th Annual GLAAD Media Awards to be held on Sunday, March 10 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City.

Others on hand to give out awards to recipients such as Boy George, Margarette Cammermeyer and Sid Sheinberg include: Dan Butler (“Frasier”), Tony Curtis, Arsenio Hall, Jessica Hecht (“Friends” & “The Single Guy”), David Hyde Pierce (“Frasier”), Garry Marshall, Jane Sibbett (“Friends”), Lily Tomlin and Ming-Na Wen (“the Single Guy”), among others.

Awards will be given for Outstanding Studio Film, Television Series, Television Film, Film Documentary, Album, Song, and Theatre.

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Does Being Gay Mean Sacrificing Your Ability to Comprehend Irony?
Puerto Vallarta Goes Pink

Playground to the Stars, So Close But Yet So Far

by Dan Presser
Contributing Writer

There's a reason Liz Taylor and Richard Burton loved Puerto Vallarta—it's hot, hot, hot. And I'm not talking weather, baby. Puerto Vallarta is turning pink and everything's aglow!

There are gay cruises, bars, restaurants, jungle horseback riding treks, beaches, SCUBA diving, hotels and villas. It's just like home, only better because you're in wonderful, exotic Mexico.

Down Mexico Way

Where is this new glory spot? About 1500 miles due south of here on Mexico's beautiful West Coast. North of Puerto Vallarta its somewhat flat, south its mountainous jungle. Interesting contrasts within a short drive of your hotel.

What's the best time to go? The least expensive time to visit Puerto Vallarta is from the end of Spring Break until mid-November. Summer is typical for its geographical location, hot and humid. High season is during the winder months, when all the snow birds have had it with freezing weather and flock to delightful Puerto Vallarta.

Puerto Vallarta is turning pink and everything's aglow!

What's to do there?

Plenty. The swimming and diving are very good. There's a spot on the south side called Los Arcos that's a good diving place. A bunch of rocks zoom out of the water forming a big arch. Beneath in the clear water you can swim with abundant schools of colorful fish.

Swimming is super fun if you take the all day cruise on a 40 foot All Day Gay Cruise. The highlight of your cruise is a trip to Las Animas Beach where you can nude sun bathe or swim until you're a prune. The day included lunch, drinks and snorkeling. If you want more there's always the Gay Sunset Cruise. It's an all you can eat and drink affair, lasting about three hours, if you're man enough!

Nightlife de Joto

The town is alive with sizzling gay bars. Paco Paco has moved to Ignacio Vallarta # 278. It's one of the best apres beach spots for after-hour cocktails. The Party Pad at Venstiano Carranza # 568 welcomes guests for an after-hour swim, piano bar and dancing. On Sunday's they have a fantastic Brunch. D'Santo's on the corner of Guerro & Miramar near the old bridge packs them in with drag shows and male Chippendale strippers.

One of the most lovely gay villas in Puerto Vallarta is 11,000 square foot Casa Panoramica majestically perched on the side of the Sierra Madre mountains. Even though it's in the mountains, it's only a short five minutes from beaches, restaurants and shopping. Clients we have sent there have raved about the place. Other lodging spots are Quenta del Sol, Villa Feliz, Casa Pilitas and the Hotel Vallarta Cora.

Two lovely lesbian owned villas are the Jungle Nancy Villa and the Casa Tortuga. Liz and Richard knew a good thing when they saw it. Now it's your turn.

Puerto Vallarta is turning pink and everything's aglow!

The Fine Folks at Four Winds

by Barbara Burke & Jerry Attrick
Contributing Writers

Gay travel can be a bane or a blast depending on your travel agent. Four Winds Travel in Carmel's Barnyard shopping center is one of the best at accommodating the special needs of lesbian women and gay men with Wanderlust.

FourWinds is a full-service travel agency that specializes in niche markets, among them gay and lesbian cruises and eco-tourism, which blends ecology with a really great getaway. Having a gay-friendly travel agent means never having to explain why you and your same-sex traveling buddy don't want or need twin beds.

Dan Presser, owner of FourWinds, is the only local member of the International Gay Travel Association (IGTA), whose goal is to make travel easier and more accessible for gays and lesbian women. Presser also relies on his contacts in the industry, including those working for Olivia, RSVP, and others.

Presser was recently joined by Pamela Coy, a CSU San Jose certified travel consultant. Coy is the minister at the Hilltop United Methodist Church in Seaside (it never hurts to have God on your side while traveling) and is also co-chair of the Ventana chapter of the Sierra Club.

"I like to help people enjoy the beauty of this planet," said Coy, who said she sees travel as a "healing, enlightening, growth-producing experience."

You can reach Dan & Pam at 622-0800. Their URL is http://www.ourconcepts.com/4winds/FourWinds.html

The Political Climate

The Presidential Race

by John Laird
Contributing Writer

We are a few weeks away from the first presidential primary in New Hampshire, where eight Republicans are fighting each other for the GOP nomination. President Clinton is unopposed for renomination, only the second president in twenty-eight years to seek re-election without a major challenger from his own party.

For lesbians and gay men going to the polls this year, the choices are clear. Bill Clinton is the best of any Republican or Democratic candidate on our issues. The election of virtually any Republican as President would be a major setback.

The unanswered question is whether gay voters driven by the Houston GOP “family values” convention in 1992 to vote overwhelmingly for Clinton/Gore will be able to get past the unhappiness created by the sloppy handling of the gays in the military issue early in Clinton’s presidency. This dynamic could change when Clinton’s record is weighed against the Republican field.

First, a bit about the different electoral process this year. California has had the 1996 race to the White House in a way, but not the way intended by our state legislature. Traditionally when California chooses presidential convention delegates the first Tuesday of June, the race has long since been decided. This year the primary was moved up March 26 so that we could have a say while the was still undecided.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is currently legal in 41 states. Men and women in those states may be fired from their jobs solely because of their sexual orientation, even when it has no bearing on their job performance. Those who face this kind of job discrimination have no legal recourse in either our state or federal courts. This is wrong.

—President Bill Clinton in an October 9, 1999 Congressional Record

The unintended consequence was that most other states moved their primaries up as well to stay ahead of the Golden State. Even though California voters will go to the polls ten weeks earlier, there is still a good chance the race will be over when they do.

Primaries are bunched together so that every week there are major primaries beginning with the New Hampshire primary in late February. There will be “regional” primaries in places like New England and the South, which will tick off every Tuesday before getting to California on March 26.

This has placed an even greater emphasis on the role of money in the auction-like electoral process. There will be no time to raise big bucks for these big weekly multi-state battles once they begin. That puts Clinton, Dole, Gramm and GOP newcomer Steve Forbes (son of the late Malcolm Forbes, the poster boy of Michaelangelo Signorile’s cult campaign a few years back) as the candidates who have raised enough money to be competitive in the early going.

Only Pat Buchanan, who had raised considerably less but who has dedicated supporters and high name recognition from a 1992 primary challenge to George Bush, could overcome the financial disadvantage to rise from the pack.

In terms of the Republicans, it is a statement that the best candidates on lesbian and gay issues have already dropped out of the race. Senator Arlen Specter supported outlawing gay job bias and full funding for Ryan White, while Gov. Pete Wilson — anathema to most lesbian and gay activists in California — looked good compared to the other candidates because he eventually signed a gay civil rights bill.

You can get elected by proclaiming you are a sodomite and engage in anal all the time.

—Dr. C. H. Philpott

Of the active GOP candidates — Dole, Alexander, Forbes, Buchanan, Dornan, Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, and conservative activist Alan Keyes — no one supports outlawing gay job bias as the federal level.

Only Dole, Gramm, and Lugar support full funding for the Ryan White Care Act.

Forbes and Lugar support the “don’t ask, don’t tell” military policy. Gramm supports returning to a full ban on gays and lesbians in the military, and Dole, Alexander, Buchanan, Dornan, and Keyes oppose the lifting of the military ban.

For the four GOP candidates in Congress on the Human Rights Campaign Fund gave the following ratings on their 1993 voting records, with 100% being the best on the votes rated that year: Dole, Lugar, 20%, and Gramm and Dornan, 0%.

And, of course, the major fracas involving gay issues in the presidential campaign thus far involved Senator Dole. He returned a campaign contribution from the Log Cabin Clubs — the Republican lesbian and gay organizational umbrella. It was an action Dole later indicated he regretted. His campaign has reportedly asked local Log Cabin Clubs for their support.

All in all, there is not too much to hope for from the Republican field.

On the Democratic side, Bill Clinton and Al Gore have a far superior record. But that record has not always meshed with the high expectations created during the 1992 campaign.

Clinton has a number of firsts to his credit as president. He has been the first to meet with openly lesbian and gay administration officials requiring Senate confirmation (remember Jesse Helms calling Roberta Achtenberg “that damn lesbian?”). He is the first to call a White House conference on AIDS. Al Gore was the first Vice President to host a gay-related function in his official residence.

Clinton also has been the first president to name a staff liaison to the lesbian and gay community. Last year he appointed former Santa Cruz resident (and a former City Traffic Commissioner, the first openly gay city traffic commissioner in national office) Marsha Scott to that position.

But Clinton also badly mishandled the gays in the military issue in his first days as President. He lost control of the issue early and probably made the courts the only hope for change in this policy in the foreseeable future. His administration didn’t actively participate in the appeal of Colorado’s homophobic Measure 2 at the federal level. And he didn’t mention the words “gay” and “lesbian” in public for quite awhile after the military controversy.

Slowly but surely, he has worked his way back from those disasters. He has consistently funded up for AIDS services in an era of budget reduction. He has endorsed civil rights protections and recognized gay and lesbian elected officials. He is head and shoulders above any Republican on our issue.

It puts a bit of pressure on gay voters in a classic basis of a standard for Clinton. Do we vote on the basis of a standard of protection? Not voting for Clinton is in essence placing the Republican candidate a vote closer to victory. And rejecting a candidate who has endorsed civil rights protections in a field of neanderthals sends a signal that we are not a constituency that can be won without an absolute and total commitment on all issues at all times.

President Clinton: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice President Albert Gore: vice-president@whitehouse.gov
Newt Gingrich (R-GA): georgiag@hr.house.gov

E-Mail Congress!

To send e-mail to every emailable member of the US Senate and House of Representatives, send email thusly:

To: SenateMailbot.com
CC: HouseMailbot.com

Rules:
1. Only one e-mail every 72 hours.
2. Nothing longer than 5,000 characters per email
3. Nothing abusive/obscene is permitted

NOTE: I do NOT sponsor this site and these are NOT my rules, but I have used it and it works well! It will take your email and send it to every member of Congress who has an email address. You will get a lot of (automated) acknowledgments from Congress.

President Clinton: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice President Albert Gore: vice-president@whitehouse.gov
Newt Gingrich (R-GA): georgiag@hr.house.gov

TV Station Axes Prez Campaign Ads, Manipulates Election

Ads featured men kissing

from Press Release

Manchester, NH - Television commercials produced by HIV+ Democratic presidential candidate Steve Michael have been censored by Manchester’s ABC affiliate WMUR. Michael’s AIDS Care Campaign purchased airtime for two commercials, “Kissing Doesn’t Kill” and “The Point is Saving Lives.”

The station refused to show the commercials at the times reserved, including “Handcuff” and a Sunday morning religious show, claiming the ads were too controversial. The two sixty second spots have been airing between the hours of 1AM-4AM.

Why All the Hubbub?

Under FCC regulations, broadcast outlets cannot censor the commercials of candidates for federal office. The federal laws were designed to prevent a dominant broadcast outlet from manipulating the outcome of a federal election.

“Kissing Doesn’t Kill” features two gay men kissing with a voice over explaining the importance of using latex condoms and water-based lubricants during oral and vaginal intercourse.

“The Point is Saving Lives” provides a demonstration by New Hampshire AIDS activist Dan Rundquist on how to clean syringes with bleach to prevent HIV transmission.

These ads provide important life-saving information, states Michael. “It is outrageous that WMUR’s program director is manipulating the public airwaves and interfering in a federal election.”

Other stations said they would consider showing the ads if WMUR accepted the ads, took our money, and accepted our schedule.

Blatant Discrimination

Anti-abortion activists have run congressional campaign ads promoting graphic TV ads featuring aborted fetuses that could not be censored.

“Chainsaw” ads for heterosexual 1-900 sex lines, the Handcuff episode run footage of a naked actor. Yet they censor responsible safe sex and clean needle information,” ads Michael.

VOTE in the Upcoming Primary - March 26th
March

3rd, Sunday
Karaoke Night at the After Dark
“The most fun I’ve ever had in this town” was how one local described Monterey’s gay karaoke night. At After Dark, 8 p.m., to midnight or so, 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-7828.

Montgomery Pride Association Meeting
Help plan this year’s gay pride festival and parade. John XLI, office, 589 Lighthouse Ave., New Monterey. Call Wes at 655-3756 for more info.

8th, Friday
Music and Dance of Ball
Traditional and contemporary works presented by Gamelan Sekar Jaya, the Bay Area’s 35-member Balinese gamelan orchestra, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Friday, March 8, at 8 pm. Ticket info: 415-903-6000.

10th, Sunday
Green with Envy
A night to impersonate your favorite star or drag queen, 7 p.m., about 9:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Parenthood of Monterey. At the After Dark, 214 Lighthouse Ave. For more information, call Delores at 648-4338.

13th, Wednesday
PPN Meeting
The Peninsula Professionals Network, a social group for lesbian women and gay men, has meetings feature speakers and presentations on gay-related issues. A very friendly bunch. Call Del or Donn for more information on how to join at 655-2446.

16th, Saturday
Women’s Dance for Women’s History Month
At the American Legion Hall in Carmel. Delores near Sth. Dancing to DJ, beer and wine served. Call Paula Evans for more info 648-4338.

25th, Monday
MCAP Academy Awards Benefit
“Carnival” is this year’s theme for MCAP’s glitziest annual fundraiser. (See ad back page) For more information, call Bill Lutz at MCAP, 394-3756.

April

6th, Saturday
Closet Call
“Monterey Goes Country” is the theme of the show by the Grande Cypress Empire. Dooms open at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. At the American Legion Hall, Delores near 8th, Carmel 633-6481.

7th, Sunday
$4.98 Show
A fun and funky fashion show by the ever clever Grande Cypress Empire. Last year’s was too much fun. Place and time to be announced, call 633-6481 for information.

May

3rd, Friday
Women’s Night at Norma Jeans
Every Friday at Norma’s Norma Jean. Very friendly. 10639 Merritt St., in downtown Castroville, 633-2090.

4th, Sunday
Queens, Queens, Queens

Saturday, May 11th
Dog Walk Joins the Human Race
Leve it to gay people to start a new tradition. For the first time, dog-owners will be joined by their four-footed pals on the 6.2 mile Human Race fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds will benefit MCAP. Call Terri Austin at 649-6283 for more information.

June

7th, 8th, & 9th
Monterey’s Gay Pride Festival
Watch for details in the next issue.

Miss Freddie Celebrates Her Ten Year Anniversary as Miss Gay Monterey

Know of an Event in May or June? Tell Us About It by April 15th! - (We’re sure you won’t forget the date.)
**Reviews**

**FAST 6**

by John E. Brennan

**Contributing Writer**

**FILM**

*Leaving Las Vegas:* Wow! A new take on life. An inspirational film about personal choice and acceptance of those around you. Not to be missed. (It’s not as depressing as it sounds.)

*White Squall:* The previews of young men stripped to the waist on a large sailboat in the tropics are scintillating! However, this is really three films in one, none of them very interesting. Can be missed.

*Screamers:* The sound of the audience fleeing the theater.

*Mr. Holland’s Opus:* A depressing film about a life of sacrifice with a little icing on a beater as the reward.

*City of Lost Children:* Not to be missed. The same French people who made *Delicatessen.*

**CDs**


*Laid/James* (1993): I think these boys are gay! Music on the edge of being lugubrious. Kind of folky in a modern way. Produced by Brian Eno, so that says something.


**Local Event**

**Red & White Ball a Hit**

The annual Red & White Ball attracted scores of locals and visitors to Carmel February 10th. This year, the Grande Cypress Empire filled in as host for the fundraiser.

Guests were invited to join in the Valentine’s Day spirit by showing up in red and white outfits, and sending anonymous love-grams to potential sweethearts. Entertainment from the Empire rounded out the evening, which raised a total of $800 was raised for the Monterey County AIDS Project.

**Int’l Transgender Independence Weekend at TRANSGEN ’96 in Houston**

More coverage than ever before!

- legal and rights work being done in countries other than the U.S.
- legal and rights interests of transgender persons other than transsexuals — including heterosexual crossdressers and gay drags.
- expanded coverage of legal and rights issues of transgendered men, female-to-male crossdressers, and masculine appearing women.
- legal and rights interests of transgendered people of color.

More outside conference activities!

- variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment nearby, with shuttle service to some (prior coordination).
- wine & cheese get-togethers with local transgender organizations.

**Featured Keynote Speaker**

Mary Coombs, Professor of Law, will draw parallels between the feminist and transgender movements on deconstruction of cultural models of gender roles and stereotypes.

For information write: ICTLEP, Inc., P.O. Drawer 35477, Houston, TX 77235-5477

For more information, call our 24-hour fax/answering machine at 713-777-8452, or E-mail ICTLEP@aol.com.
Local News

M2M Toy Box Filled with Surprises
by Justin Larson
Contributing Writer

When selecting a vibrator, what should you watch for? How do you use a penis pump? What sex toys can you get at the grocery or drug store? What is a ball-stretcher and why would you want to use it? How can you determine the best size of dildo for you?

All of these questions and more are answered at Man-to-Man’s newest addition, the Toy Box party. This house party of sex toys is our own private Fuckerworks, where men can see different toys, ask questions, and make decisions about what they’d like to try, or what they definitely don’t!

“Spellbinding” wrote Wes Kashiwagi

How can you determine the best size of dildo for you?

Jack Davis, of Good Vibrations, is unemployed. No one fired me. I’m healthy—I’m a 30-ox.

Local News with Surprises by Justin Larson

The Lesbian Alliance

“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.”

for additional information on events and subscriptions call 648-4338

PO BOX 4572
SALINAS, CA 93912

Gaywatch

Personal Perspective

Anything is Possible
By Jane Wynn
Contributing Writer

I am 46 years old and will soon be unemployed. No one fired me and I will not be laid off. I will be unemployed of my own choosing. Although I love the law, being a sole practitioner was not for me and so, as of January 31, 1996 I will be changing jobs.

Most of my friends tell me I should look at this period of my life as “challenging”, “exciting”, “a chance for growth!” The ones who are saying this bring their paychecks to the bank on the 15th and the 30th of each month. Yes, if I was 26 and not 46 I probably would kick back for a bit, take a trip, hang out. Well, when I was 26 it was 1976 and times were different. Now I have a profession and it is 1996 and I am almost 50 years old!

So, I thought I would write down a few job possibilities that await me if only in my fantasies. The names have been changed to protect me from lawsuits.

Fantasy # 1

The Herald, February 1996: Jane Wynn, former sole practitioner attorney, is the big winner in the super lotto drawing! After closing her office last month, and about to stand in line at the Employment Development Department on Webster when it opened on Monday morning, she decided to take a short trip to her neighborhood market and, with a borrowed dollar, purchased a ticket just before drawing time on Saturday night.

Ms. Wynn announced to her many friends and neighbors that she is now not closing her office but, thanks to her winning 100 thousand dollars every month for the rest of her life, she will continue to practice law and give free legal advice to those who qualify. To qualify for free advice, one must “really, really have a legal problem” said Ms. Wynn and “not just want to come in and see a rich woman”. Ms. Wynn also announced she is looking for a qualified legal secretary. She anticipates a large turnout for interviews.

Fantasy # 2

The Herald, February 1997: Jane Wynn, former attorney and struggling mystery writer living in Pacific Grove, announced today that her first novel, “Sensual and Sensitivity” was sold to Randall House publishing for six figures. Jane, a resident of the Peninsula for over 10 years, closed her law practice last year after winning the lottery, to pursue her first love of writing. The book, on the New York Times best seller list for the last year, is the story of a 46 year old female brain surgeon, who, although a workaholic, finds true love with a 25 year old young nurse named Sherry Amesberg. The book was well received in the gay and lesbian community – “Spellbinding” wrote The Advocate: “A novel which combined the purely erotic with the luxury of madness” wrote Vanitie Fair.

On the Peninsula, Jane plans to enjoy the fruits of her celebrity. Leaving her one room lovely house, Jane and her lover of two years have just leased a bid on a large 15 room mansion overlooking the ocean, where they will live with a few friends and 30 cats. At the PPN meeting where Jane spoke last month and autographed copies of her book, 50 local women had to be turned away ...

“Jane spoke last month and autographed copies of her book... 500 local women had to be turned away...”

Fantasy # 3

The Herald, February 1999: Jane Wynn, celebrity author of Pacific Grove, lotto winner and former attorney, and Joanie Foster Productions have picked the Dream Theatre to hold the gala event of the Hollywood season, the premiere showing of Ms. Wynn’s “Sensual and Sensitivity”. Well received as a cable film and called it “boffo”! Ms. Wynn successfully sued Joanie Foster Productions for negligence and breach of contract in that her acting debut as Myra Shamesberg landed mostly on the cutting room floor.

The rumor that there will soon be a line of clothes called “Myra” is completely unfounded a confidential source tells us. Other reliable sources state that Wynn feels she needs more of a challenge and has therefore entered politics. Ms. Majors, the Wynn campaign spokeswoman and former Clinton aide, announced that raising money should be no problem, even though Ms. Wynn still gets 100 thousand dollars each month for life from the lottery, her film “Sensual and Sensitivity” won most of the awards at the Oscars in 1999 and she has the complete backing of the gay and lesbian communities from coast to coast. The following persons have publicly announced that they will do door to door campaigning for the Wynn for Governor ticket: Glenn Closed, Margaret Camelmeley, Angela David, K.D. Wang, Martina and Babie the talking pig.

Fantasy # 4

The Herald, February 2000. Well known former attorney, lotto winner, mystery writer, film producer and actress Jane Wynn of Pacific Grove, San Francisco and London announced today that she will be throwing her hat into the ring to run for governor on the democratic ticket against Michael Puffington.

Ms. Wynn, a celebrity on the Peninsula since her first novel was published, 1997, announced her decision through her campaign chairwoman Dee Dee Majors. Ms. Wynn, closed her law practice in January of 1996 after winning the lottery and wrote one mystery novel which was turned into a multi billion dollar film. In addition, Ms. Wynn successfully sued Joanie Foster Productions for negligence and breach of contract in that her acting debut as Myra Shamesberg landed mostly on the cutting room floor.

Fantasy # 5

Anything is possible.

Jane Wynn lives in Pacific Grove. She is a regular contributor to The Paper.

Submit your articles, poems, recipes and such by April 15th.
Bear Stuff

The Bear Code:

The Official Unofficial Guide

by Bob Donahue & Jeff Stoner

From the Internet

Because "Bears" mean so many things to different people, because bears come in all shapes and sizes and have different sexual proclivities, because classified ad prices are SOOOOO expensive, we (while eating lunch at a Boulder, Colorado, Wendy's on Thanksgiving weekend, 1989) came up with this incredibly-scientific system to describe bears and bear-like men. Since we both have interests in astronomy, we are well-versed in star and galaxy classification systems, which use prototypes to set the standards for describing things. Rather than just saying something is of "Type I" or "Type II" (etc.), it is better to use natural features to describe an object, in particular as a continuum of a range of features. Such is the case with bears.

The Classification Scheme

The most obvious characteristic of a bear is understandably his facial fur. So, that is the most logical place to begin. Using a capital "B" to denote "BEAR," we have added a sub-class characterizing "beard type" which combines a bear's beard's length, thickness, and overall "keptness," numbered from 0 to 9 and defined in the following way:

0 (Little/no beard) Such a beard is the absolute minimum that could ever be classified as a beard. And yes, we are of the opinion that the beardless can still find company among the ursine!

1 (Very slight beard) This is the kind of beard that people have who want to have a beard, but can't grow one. Or someone who is constantly at the 1-week phase.

2 (Slight beard) A beard kept VERY short at all times, or thinned out.

3 (Mostly full) A beard that is full except for a few noticeable bald spots, or kept trimmed.

4 (Full beard) A full beard generally kept trimmed, but not generally bushy. May have a few bald spots on inspection. Usually full and roundish beards fall into this category.

5 (Very full) A full beard, not trimmed. May be slightly bushy but very full.

6 (Longish bushy beards) A full beard slightly bushy with longish fur. This beard is not trimmed and does come away from the chin.

7 (Very Long Beards) These beards are usually very bushy and haven't seen clippers for a very long time.

8 (Belt-buckle-grazing long beards) The prototype is ZZ Top. Need we say more?

Classifiers for Bears

W

While beards can be an observable trait of bears, there are other things that different people think about in terms of "what makes a bear," and things that people like in their bears. So, bearing in mind that I (pun intended) there are other criteria that can/should optionally follow the "B" designation.

N.B. It is not necessary to have a "grade" for each of these traits. For each there is a "neutral" value, which basically describes someone who is "average" or "unknown" within that trait. These "neutral" values are given below, but would not be reported--treat them as either "default" or "assumed".

-g - The Grope Factor

This is the amount one likes to be touched or pawed etc.

-g+ Love to grope/ paw/ touch etc. Will attack without warning. Giving hugs to hot otherwise unknown bears on the street in open day-light

-g- Likes to be touched most of the time

-g- Generally outgoing with urine affection, a little more personal about all these things

- (none) Average amount of receptivity to being touched

-g (none) Doesn't like people to invade his personal aura / tact.

You touch my body, I break your face!

-K - The Kinky Factor

For those who dance.

-k+ Likes just about EVERYTHING... we mean "EVERYTHING!!!"

-k0 pick and choose according to whims of the situation, or open-minded, open-minded. Might choose SOME things on the "menu" (none) kinky neutral k- has definite ABSOLUTELY dislikes

-k- totally vanilla

-S - The Sex (okay, Slut) Factor

In some people bear codes, "s" might really mean "x" (since "x" was originally in the earlier versions...)

-strictly monogamous/ relationship oriented. No outside affairs, or in some cases, sex ONLY in relationships

-relationship oriented. Prefers a format sort of relationship over playing around, however he looks at the word relationship is not defined here.

-relationship neutral s neutral to relationships / monogamy.

-strictly polyamory, prefers very open relationships only.

-m - The Muscle Factor

For those who like meat on them bones. (N.B. "semi-official" -- may be dropped w/ V20)

-m+ Arnold Schwarzenegger is that you?
m- definitely works out or is a hand-
n some definition /blue collar

(muscle neutral)

-e - The Endowment Factor

Sometimes a size queen's gotta do what a size queen's gotta do. (N.B. "semi" -- may be dropped w/ V20)

e+ gets complete respect even from straight men
e0 gets respect, but not noteworthy

(e-) endowment neutral

B - The Behr Factor

For bears (men without beards but bears). You might also put a parenthesized number for the "B" designation to give an idea of whether the person would look like with a beard.

-bh behr (moustache no beard)
b- definite BEHR (moustache no beard)
b+ no beard OR moustache (very rare)

But still cave dwelling

Additional Punctuation

The following aren't graded, they are just flags attached to the overall classification:

v for variable, said trait is not very rigid, may change with time or with individual / interaction (e.g. someone who are generally REAL daddies, may turn into REAL cub occasionally, etc.)

? for traits where there is no HARD information available and the value is completely guessed at: e.g. a picture of a hot bear that LOOKS like a rugged outdoorsman, but in reality could be a 3-piece suit bear.

< for traits which are observed but uncertain, e.g. a guy who is wearing lots of clothes, so you can't be SURE he's an 1x, but his forarms REALLY suggest that he is hence +.

+ for cases where the trait is so close to a prototype as possible, or an exemplary case of a specific trait... eg. the penultimate ++.

() for indicating "cross-overs" or ranges. A guy who goes from k to k++ depending on the situation (ie mostly "k") could use k	house edge}

You can make the punctuation as detailed as desired, although the best ones to read are the ones which are the most clear and simple to understand. NOTE: None of the classification materials in any way suggests a ranking or value judgement, in terms of what constitutes a "better" bear. Every person has their own favorite type!

Some Specific Examples

The authors:

Bob Donahue B6 f 1 w 9 w v k+ k+

Jeff Stoner B6 f w w v k k-

Notables from Bobby, Willford Brimley: B8 + w+ d+ k+

Hackaaw Jim Duggan: B6 w+ k+ k+

Cory: B6 shelly

Lylia Aleda: B3 re k+ 1- t- m+ e+ Dan Blocker: B6 w m+ d+ f+ r- t-

Santa Claus B6 d+ f+ w+ k- k-

Enjoy!! From half of the states required to make the "Four Corners" exist...

Added note

We're still working on this. Some bears have asked us to extend the system to include beard parameters like thickness, length, kemptness, etc. so inevitably "V20.5" will be done, I have run across a bear or two that for me defined "good classification", mostly because of the bear. So... we'll see. Have fun!
Computer Column

WWWWhat?

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

Just when you have an idea of what the Internet is, you find out about "The Web". The Web is short for the World Wide Web (which is long for WWW).

WWWWhat Does It All Mean?
The Web gets its name from the interconnectedness of the information's ability to be inter-connected, like a spider web. Visitors can access the Web using several tools. The most common is a Web browser which are evolving so fast that they're hardly worth talking about. Besides, they are fairly dull. As long as they look well, who cares?

When visiting the Web, one actually visits "sites". Sometimes people make references to "pointing" to a site. That's just the same as addressing a letter (see Web Address sidebar).

Each site has a "homepage". A homepage introduces you to the place you are visiting and from there, you can decide what other information you want to access. Subsequent pages contain additional information. More on that later.

Who Has Web Sites?
Businesses and individuals can have Web sites. A business might choose to advertise its services, products or features on the Web. A website can be used for gathering information. More on that later.

A Link is an Interesting Thing
A home page has links to subsequent pages. Some of these pages have been created by the same author, but an author can also choose to make a link to a related but foreign page.

Let's say you create a home page with one of your headings being "shoes" because you are that type of person. If a visitor to your home page clicks on your Shoe heading, they trigger the link to your Shoe Page and you are taken there.

The links are endless. You could create a local link to your treatise, which would be just another page at your site. But the freeform poem could be from someone's home page in Minnesota, the Marco's inventory in some on-line testimony in the Philippines, and the Warhol sketch at the on-line site of The Andy Warhol Museum.

Web Addresses
First Internet addresses, now Web addresses? No. In the last column, I discussed e-mail addresses. Web addresses have many common features as an Internet e-mail address, and then some extra stuff.

In the Advocate's web address, http://www.adovocate.com, the familiar domain advocate.com is the location of the Advocate, which is a company.

http:// is a UNIX command (UNIX is a type of computer operating system, like Windows). If you must know, "http" is an acronym for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. That's nothing you need to worry about.

And of course, "www" in the address refers to the site being on the Web. Addresses can get more specific, but, in contrast to e-mail addresses which pick up specific information on the left side of the address, Web addresses append it onto the right end of the address. http://www.

Visit Monterey's Gay Homepage - http://members.aol.com/stickyrice/mtrygay.html
The Being Alive Medical Update:

November 27th, 1995 and January 22, 1996

Presented by Mark Katz, MD, reported by Jim Stoecker

Primary HIV Infection and Treatment with AZT

We refer to the period right after a person is first infected with HIV as "primary HIV infection." This period can sometimes be marked by severe flu-like symptoms and the appearance of a rash. Some researchers believe that antiviral therapy at the time of primary HIV infection may slow or even halt disease progression.

A report in the New England Journal of Medicine (August 17, 1995) seems to confirm this possibility. Researchers identified 77 people with primary HIV infection. Half of the study subjects received 250mg of AZT twice a day and the other half received a placebo. In a mean follow up of 15 months, researchers found that T-cell counts were up an average of 9 per month for those on AZT.

Dapsone vs. Aerosolized Pentamidine for PCP Prophylaxis

As we have stated numerous times in the past, the best prophylactic drug for preventing PCP is Bactrim/Septax. The problem is that many people cannot tolerate Bactrim. Thus, another dapsone or aerosolized pentamidine has been used as secondary prophylaxis.

A French study in the Journal of Infectious Diseases (September 1995) compared dapsone to aerosolized pentamidine in terms of survival benefit. Over 100 patients who were either taking monthly aerosolized pentamidine or a daily dose of 50 mg of dapsone were included in the study. Researchers estimated that the mortality rate for those on aerosolized pentamidine was 24% while the mortality rate for those on dapsone was over double that at 57%.

Nutrition

Pass the Cheese, Please!

by Gwen Porter, RD Nutrition Support Specialist

Many individuals with HIV disease are affected by lactose intolerance. This is caused by the body's inability to digest and absorb lactose - the sugar found in milk and many dairy products. Because the process of cheese making significantly decreases its lactose content, many people can tolerate small amounts of cheese without problematic symptoms.

As a cheese consumer you will substantially reduce your risk of food-borne illness by following these guidelines:

1. Avoid soft cheeses that are imported wooden boards and Camembert. These cheeses may be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum that inhibits the stomach fighting organisms that inhibit the growth of germs. There is ongoing debate on this issue, with no consensus as of yet.

You can make either cutting boards that do not attempt to salvage Swiss or Monterey Jack. They have visible, natural holes. When in doubt, throw it out.

4. Refrigerate all cheeses. Even grated Parmesan is at risk, despite its low moisture content that prevents spoilage. Refrigeration inhibits bacterial growth; so don't take a chance.

It should be noted that in the U.S. the standard prophylactic dosage of dapsone is twice that used in the French study; i.e. 100 mg per day. This dosage is generally supplemented with a weekly dosage of 75 mg of pyrimethamine. Thus, the conclusions of this study might not hold if done with an American study group. Nonetheless, the study once again points up the superiority of Bactrim for PCP prophylaxis and the value of pursuing a desensitization regimen should there be an initial adverse reaction to the use of Bactrim.

Being Alive is an organization of and for people with HIV/AIDS. The Being Alive newsletter is available for $24/year, free to those who can't pay. Call (213) 667-3262 or write 3626 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026. Being Alive is a remarkable non-profit organization.

Lifespan of refrigerated, opened cheeses:

Hard cheese - up to 6 months
Soft cheese - up to 7 days
Cottage cheese - up to 3 days

Guards against food-borne illness is crucial if you are HIV+. The initial media regularly bombards us with new and often conflicting foods safety information. How are we to decipher what it is we should be doing in our own kitchens to keep ourselves well?

The Cutting Board

Controversy

Wood or plastic, which one should you use?

Some recent research has shown that wooden cutting boards harbor fewer germs than those made of plastic, even when unwashed.

Apparently, wood contains a natural germ-fighting organism that inhibits the growth of germs. There is ongoing debate on this issue, with no consensus as of yet.

You can make either cutting boards as safe as possible by always cleaning the board using the following methods:

1. Use hot, soapy water and scrub well with a brush or sponge
2. Rinse well with clean running hot water
3. Air dry before putting away

It's even better to get in the habit of cleaning the board with a diluted bleach solution: 2 tablespoons bleach to 1 gallon water.
Just in Time for (Chinese) New Year

Year’s Eve at the After Dark in Monterey. A few of the celebrants at this year’s fete.

In the past seven months I feel that I have grown mentally and emotionally by becoming an HIV Peer Educator. I have learned to change my whole lifestyle and behavior patterns. I have been sick but in the last year I still keep trucking on. I am going to go home and make quality time for my 20-year-old son. Re has been my support system as well as the women here that are also HIV-positive. I have recently been told that my HIV has progressed and that I now have AIDS. I believe that with the education I now have I can outrun this disease for another 10 to 15 years.

If you have HIV, you need to develop strength plus take care of your hygiene even more. I feel that when it is God’s time for me to leave—then I’ll do so then and not until. I look forward to going out there and finally, after 40 years, prove to myself, my family and the community that I can offer my love and help.

Be strong and you can do whatever you set out to do.

-Jackie Burrell, Salinas

Personal View
Gone Dating
by William Milissors
Contributing Writer

If there is anything I love almost as much as being in a relationship, it is being asked for advice about relationships. It’s a time to ponder how you approach intimacy, dating, sex, and no sex in an age of evolution (for the better, I think) more.

Love American Style

A friend of mine called me up with the following problem: Bob was on a hiking trip and he met this man, Bob, the man he had been waiting for all of his life (or at least the past year).

As is the case with most of these stories, Bob is intelligent, funny, responsible, got a great body, and likes mountain climbing as much as Rob. Bob is also HIV+

Bob revealed this to Rob before they had been intimate. Then Bob said that he was going away on a trip for a week, and that Bob should make use of the time to think about whether he wanted to continue the relationship now that sex and spilt and sweat and condoms and in other words risk had entered the picture.

I got a call from Rob the next day.

Playing my role as Gay Pundit, I told Rob that his decision had already been made, and that if he flipped a coin to decide, he would know which side he wanted to come up. This may sound like fortune cookie philosophy, but it worked for him.

I tend to make decisions based on what is obvious. In other words, when it comes to dating I generally act on my instincts—no second guessing, no lengthy abstract discussions over double cappuccinos at Plumes. This is more banal than short run, but less painful and self-destructive than finding yourself stuck in a bad relationship.

People need to decide what it is they desire, i.e., it’s perfectly okay to want a man with a 10” penis as much as a man with a sparkling wit, just don’t expect Mr. Ed to excel in pillowtalk afterward.

Obvious, but Painful

Certainly one of the toughest lessons I’ve learned is that no matter how hard you try, you will never fix the one flaw in an otherwise perfect boyfriend. You either love it or leave it. In Rob’s case, this wasn’t an option.

The greatest resource available to gay men is the freedom to discuss personal woes with other men, something our straight brothers sadly do without. Gay men see things a bit clearer because of this, but they often refuse to accept what is obvious to those around them.

Letters to the Editor

Personal Growth & HIV

Hi, my name is Jackie Burrell and was diagnosed with the virus in 1989. I was in Avenal Prison a five-month violation. I thought I would be cool and get doing did I know I would wake up in the hospital. When I came out of my stupor, I had two 115’s for Assault with Intent to do Bodily Harm on a Correctional Officer. I do not, to this day, remember any of this altercation.

In the past seven months I feel that I have grown mentally and emotionally by becoming an HIV Peer Educator. I have learned to change my whole lifestyle and behavior patterns. I have been sick but in the past year I still keep trucking on. I am going to go home and make quality time for my 20-year-old son. Re has been my support system as well as the women here that are also HIV-positive. I have recently been told that my HIV has progressed and that I now have AIDS. I believe that with the education I now have I can outrun this disease for another 10 to 15 years.

If you have HIV, you need to develop strength plus take care of your hygiene even more. I feel that when it is God’s time for me to leave—then I’ll do so then and not until. I look forward to going out there and finally, after 40 years, prove to myself, my family and the community that I can offer my love and help.

Be strong and you can do whatever you set out to do.

-Jackie Burrell, Salinas

NB: The Paper invites your letters. Please send them to: Letters to the Editor, The Paper, 787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940. You can also e-mail them to wes. Please try to keep them under 150 words.

Personal Ads

Men Seeking Men

Handsome Muscular Male
40 art class life model and massage student looking for warm, gentle, loving, any-age man who really appreciated the male physique. I am open minded and un inhibited. P.O. Box 22201, Carmel, CA 93922.

Me: Good looking G/M wants partner into safer sex. You: Blond or brunette, tall or short as long as you know how to have a good, hot time and stay safe. Imagination is our only limit. If you are new to safer sex, I’ll show you. Reply soon!! (#02026)

I’m in my 50’s.
I enjoy bowling, the outdoors, long drives, gardening, yard work. I am very artistic and creative. Looking for a friend, a buddy and a lover. (#020301)

3 Easy Steps to Writing Personal Ad Responses

1. Write the number of the ad you want to respond to (e.g. #02019) on a stamped envelope & enclose your response. This is the envelope we’ll forward.

2. Put the envelope with your response in another stamped envelope and mail it to: The Paper. Responses received with postage due can’t be accepted.

3. Wait for a response. Make a date (even if it’s a public place like a coffee shop) We love to have secrets too! We’ll cover the wedding if it works out.

Please note: The Paper cannot be held responsible for what responses or meeting arrangements through the service. If you respond at all you do so at your own risk.

The Paper

Are you a women / bisexual / transgender / single? Send in your personal ad today!
1. Sorry, I only date men.

Many thanks to Michael, Dino, and the hundreds of obnoxious gay men who can’t take a hint.