Everyone knows about HIV. Everyone knows that it is incurable and deadly, and that the most common method of transmission for gay men is anal sex. And yet in the past two years, "barebacking"—having anal sex without a condom—has reemerged and to some extent been welcomed into gay men's sexual lexicon.

Rushing Roulette
Jamie, a 38-year old, HIV+ gay man in Monterey said that of the 60 sexual contacts he had in 1997, six didn't ask him to put on a condom before anal sex, and three didn't put one on before attempting to penetrate him until he requested them.

Gay men have been taught by HIV educators to assume that all potential sexual partners are HIV+, but the HIV status of a potential partner rarely comes up among gay men who are thinking of having sex.

The Paper conducted an informal survey of 20 sexually active gay men in Monterey. Of those surveyed, only one asked his partners about their HIV status, and then only if they "looked ill".

David is a 34 year old, HIV+ gay man living in Salinas, who like many HIV+ people looks completely healthy. "Being a sexually active male who is HIV+", said David, "I see quite a bit of responsible and irresponsible sexual behavior going on out there."

When The Paper polled 10 HIV+ gay men last year, half of those who responded said that they regularly tell their partners their HIV status before having sex with them. For those that don't disclose their sero-status, it becomes a question of shared responsibility versus their level of commitment to a potential relationship.

"The ascertainment of risk seems to be site-specific," said David, "Dating has its own set of norms, while another set seems to apply to baths, bookstores, and public sex in general."

Positive Attitudes
Barebacking isn't new to those already infected with the virus every time they have sex.

For David, it became a question of increased intimacy with his HIV+ partner. "The decision to go barebacking with my partner," said David, "has everything to do with my HIV status, as is my choice of sexual partner."

Continued on page 6
The Dakota Opens Gay Second Gay Bar Brings Style to Santa Cruz

After years of thumb-twiddling, Santa Cruz finally has its second gay bar. The Dakota (1209 Pacific St. in downtown Santa Cruz) opened in April. Owners Stefan Hanegan and Geoffrey Stout, both of Santa Cruz, renovated the former pawnshop into a sophisticated, San Francisco-style nightclub with a large bar, table seating, and a dancefloor.

How has the reaction been from the gay community? "90 positive," said a gay man at the bar the Saturday afternoon The Paper visited. Another patron, who has lived in Santa Cruz since the 70s said, "It's like what the Blue Lagoon was 20 years ago. A place where we can hear each other talk. Civilized."

DJs spin seven nights a week, the music changing accordingly. When asked to describe the bartender offered "dance music you can sing to."

The bar serves food from the Pearl Alley Bistro, located on the second floor of the same building. The appetizer menu is available at the bar, and the entire menu is available to go.

Contrary to rumors circulating that the Dakota would follow the Blue Lagoon and start catering to straight patrons, the owners are definite about what kind of bar they are running. "This is a gay bar," said Hanegan.

Top: Interior of the Dakota. The front door tells patrons that this is a "gay friendly establishment. All lifestyles respected."

The Dakota is one of the few bars in the area to allow smoking in the bar. Cover charge is $3. There is a coat check at the front of the bar and a handicapped accessible restroom at the back of the dancefloor. Low seating for wheelchair users is provided at the front of the bar.

Local News

PriMoCo Needs Your Help

Pride Committee Seeks Community Support

by Ricardo Burney

What is PriMoCo and what is its purpose? Pride of Monterey County is a non-profit, public benefit corporation and is not organized for any private gain or for any person. It is organized under the Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes. (Therefore, everything is done legally.) The specific purpose of PriMoCo is to organize and execute an annual celebration of the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered citizens of Monterey County.

With this in mind, PriMoCo needs help with the planning and organizing of Pride 98. The committee needs ideas, suggestions, and funds to make this a successful event. But most importantly, PriMoCo needs the support of the community!

Meetings for PriMoCo are held every other Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. SHARP! (No "Gay Standard Time" allowed.) The next scheduled meeting times are as follows: April 1, 15, 29, May 13, 27, and June 3, 17 (final meeting before Pride).

The location for the meetings change. For more information on PriMoCo, feel free to contact Brad at 408/655-2045.
A. merica Online (AOL) is well known as a virtual meeting ground for gay people. Now AOL users in Monterey County can mingle without using a keyboard thanks to Monterey’s newest gay social group.

The yet unnamed group had its first meeting February 18th. Nineteen men and women met at the Lighthouse Bar & Grill in Monterey to discuss common interests, mingle, and move beyond hardware handshake.

Those who arrived in time for the meeting that evening voted on the following agenda items:

1. When creating a member chatroom, AOL

Monterey's Gay Website Wins CW "Best of" Award

Monterey’s Gay Website (www.mbay.net/-wes/monterey/) was voted “Most Popular Website” by readers of the Coast Weekly magazine. The Paper congratulates itself and thanks everyone that voted for us.

Lesbians Rap Starts

The women’s program at the Monterey County AIDS Project is offering a space for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women to come together and talk. Topics will include what it means to be a woman today, the media’s portrayal of women, favorite flowers, tastes great vs. less filling. Begins March 26, 7-9 p.m. at MCAP’s Seaside office at 780 Hamilton. For more info call Jen at 408/772-8206.

Gay Movie Nights Begin in Salinas and Monterey Peninsula

Not into the bars but still want to meet people! Movie nights for gay men begin in March. The group meets six times a month at various locations in Monterey and Salinas. According to coordinator Craig Wenzl, the movies aren’t all about gay issues, and recommendations for future movie nights are welcome. Refreshments are provided. For more information contact Craig at 408/772-8202.

Gay Running Group Kicks Off the New Year

The local gay running group will begin meeting again this month. E-mail NoPain@aol.com

Monterey Bears Start Dinner Nite, Game Day

No hibernation this year for gay bears in Monterey. The Monterey Bay Bears have started two new activities every month. The first Tuesday will be "Dinner Night" where a group will get together at different local restaurants. The third Sunday will be "Game Day" from noon til "whenever". Regular group outback meetings will still be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Call Tex at 408/392-1492.

A.D. Sign A.W.O.L

The 21-year-old original sign for the After Dark in Monterey (pictured above) disappeared mysteriously from the nightclub’s back patio in February. The owners would like it returned, no questions asked. Anyone that has seen the sign should call the After Dark at 408/373-7629.

Red Ribbon Status Report

The three-year-old Red Ribbon Benefit Shop which supports local AIDS organizations sent an open letter to the community to local organizations regarding its financial status and planned expansion. In 1997, Red Ribbon raised enough money to cover its rent and monthly expenses and startup costs.

According to executive director Laurie Loomis, the thrift shop donated "thousands of dollars" in office equipment to two local AIDS agencies, and gave clients a $1,000 in food gift certificates. The shop's year end financial statement is available to the public. Call Laurie Loomis at 408/647-7100 for a copy of the report.

Drag Show Benefits '98 Pride Festival

A fundraising drag show titled “Bernice’s Birthday” drew 150 people from the community February 21st at the After Dark nightclub to raise $220 for Pride of Monterey County- (POMOCA). The non-profit organization chases with organizing this year’s Monterey Pride events.

“You’ve heard of the Spice Girls?” asked host Bernice Labelle (aka Ricardo Barnes), “well, I’m ‘Cheetah Space.’” The enthusiastic audience watched performances revolving around the evening’s “boutique” theme.

The next show will be “From Broke to Broadway” April 19th at the After Dark nightclub in Monterey.
Guilty of Battery, Not Hate

by Wes Kashiwagi
Contributing Writer

SALINAS, CA—In a move that surprised many within the gay community, Judge John Phillips ruled January that the two men charged with beating a gay man in Monterey after asking him whether he was gay were not guilty of a hate crime.

Explaining his ruling, Judge Phillips said that the two men had been found guilty of assault with a weapon other than a firearm (fists) and a misdemeanor battery charge.

The sentencing hearing was held March 4th. The maximum sentence the two can receive is one year in jail, said District Attorney Dennis LaBarbara, who attributed it to both men's lack of a prior conviction; they would not have received a more severe punishment even if the trial had been held before a jury.

The victim, who still remains anonymous, said that he would take the case to civil court. His family and friends,

"They could have asked if he was Italian, a Jew, or a Dallas Cowboy fan," said Judge Phillips.

including his father who had served as a judge for 15 years, expressed disbelief in the judge's ruling.

Judge Phillips said that he based his ruling on the two men's drinking and drugged state the night of the attack, and that they had threatened other non-gay people before the attack. He also cited the number of character witnesses provided by the defense who all said that they had never seen the two defendants, Jason Soboleski or Johnathon Maxon, intoxicated or participate in a fight since early childhood.

Members of the gay community who grew up in the area said after the trial that they would work to produce witnesses that would testify that Soboleski has been involved in numerous physical attacks for the civil trial to counter the defendants character witnesses' testimony.

Maxon's parents apologized to the victim after the trial. Maxon himself asked supporters from the gay community to convey his apologies to the victim. Soboleski had no comment on advice from his lawyer. Soboleski's father commented to television news reporters that he feared the felony conviction might affect his son's chances of getting a college scholarship.

Finding Peace by Transgendering Illusions
A Personal Tale from a Local Transgender Woman

By Sarah Luiz
Contributing Writer

There are no easy ways or answers and the journey can be long and hard. When I was four my mom treated me just like any other little boy. This drove me wild with anger and sorrow. When my sister was born with uncontrollable epilepsy, life changed for me. Not that my parents didn't care about me, but I looked healthy. Looks seem to be so powerful and so deceitful.

Before long I lost sight of everything, numb to life and pain. Dreaming was the only important thing to me. The darker life got the brighter were my dreams. Someday I would have the last laugh. Because of my difference everyone made fun of me. It was as if I were a pincushion for all the pins. Finding out at 10 years old my mom and dad had only four years to live because of cancer didn't help.

Today looking back I think "wow"—all this in 15 years. Leaving my Catholic background and the threats of hell in search of truth and spirituality was unconscious yet there. I found the gay world, drugs, alcohol, music, costumes, sex, and a man-made sense of peace. Yet when alone behind closed doors nothing could stop the tears.

It was during this time that I started to see who the real fool was and that how I looked or acted didn't matter. At 18, I found dynamite—well, truth, the same thing. During this time my dysfunctional family really came unglued. On the outside we always looked in control. Illusions are what I was being taught with as a child. Like a bike with training wheels, they helped me cope. Telling my family I wanted a sex change was bad, but deep down I was sending them a message. I wasn't buying into all this nonsense anymore and saved myself.

Peace of mind. Each one of us has different ways to find this truth. I went to the "World Court System," which I believe to be the media. Whether I was ready or not the demons would be faced head on. Anything I didn't have before I was way off. I found from rich men, better drugs, more outlets to hide my pain. When I woke up and realized what I did, my sentence was set in stone. My penis was gone and my man-made identity driven by revenge was out of control. Sometimes getting your dreams answered isn't as grand as you think it could be.

Life seemed to be just one realisation after another. This was a hard one to swallow. "that my sex change didn't in fact make me happy." So many people were dying to rub this in my face; how could I come clean with this? Doing the right thing seemed to come in waves for me, so I went out and did what I had to in this media.

Not long after I was rewarded with love. Six weeks from our first date Matt and I were married. I was determined to be the best wife. Yet for so long I was shut down to love because of pain, and again how far I still was from peace. Two and half years later Matt couldn't take the games any longer and we separated. I was really hurt. After all we had a really nice house, our own business (a deli/cafe) a dog, and nice cats. Isn't that what they show in the movies?

"California here I come!" and now 9 months later, life is really different. I've been brave enough to find truth. Yet it took me to the age of 32—being a man to a man-made woman, gay to straight, single to married and separated, unknown to 8-1/2 years of world media, ugly to pretty, and 3,000 miles away from everyone—to finally give in. It's fun to hide and wallow in illusions, but you'll never find peace.

If you're interested in writing me, please do. Write Sarah Luiz c/o The Paper.

The Paper welcomes Sarah Luiz as our transgender columnist. Write to her about transgender issues or for a unique perspective on whatever is on your mind. It's a rare pretty opportunity.
Mtry. High Principal Rejects GTA Ad for School Paper

by John E. Brennan
Contributing Writer

GTA has sent payment and artwork to Monterey, Seaside, Carmel, and Pacific Grove High Schools for a business card-sized advertisement.

We expect to be well received by all the schools. This is our start at breaking the long-standing barriers between gay teens at our public school and GTA. We also intend on advertising in Salinas' public high schools yearbooks. All it takes is time and money. Yearbook ads range from $30-$50.

We had hoped to run ads in the school papers at Seaside High and Monterey High. Monterey High's newspaper has rejected our ad. The principal would not approve it. We have yet to hear from Seaside.

GTA Summer Job Program

GTA hopes to start a Summer Job Program to allow GLBT youth to work for GLBT employers. GTA participants will be able to review a binder with job listings. The program is not an employment agency, but allows GLBT youth to add potential employers to a job search list. GTA will not speak to the suitability of an applicant for a position. Let us know if you have a position.

Support GTA

Checks for donations to GTA should be made out to "GTA c/o MCAP" and sent to: GTA, c/o MCAP, 12 E. Gabilan, Salinas, CA 93901. For more information, call 408/772-8202 or send us email at info@gtamonterey.org
Helping others comes naturally.

Pebble Beach Company naturalist Roxayne Spruance uses nature to help students learn basic reading and science skills.

For Roxayne Spruance, volunteering means spending nights with sea otters at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. And working afternoons helping local schools.

Roxayne gets a valuable reward every time a child’s eyes light up with the joy of discovery. And for the students, schoolwork gets a lot more interesting.

Roxayne is one of many Pebble Beach Company employees who actively volunteer in Monterey County.

Each finds satisfaction protecting the environment or improving the life of a child, adult, or family in need.

You can make a positive difference in someone’s life today. To learn more, call The Volunteer Center of Monterey County at (800) 776-9176.

The person you help most could be yourself!

One World.
And we’re all in it together.

Pebble Beach Company

Domestic Partnership Benefits
Continued from page 1

that has been enjoyed by married heterosexual couples for decades.

When Beth decided to stop working to study law full-time, she and Susan knew that they would have to depend on DPB to cover Beth’s medical needs. It also meant for Susan that she would have to come out as a lesbian at work.

Signing On As a Spouse

A Monterey Couple

Explore the Ins & Outings
of Domestic Partnership

“When Susan’s company first offered DPB, we had to discuss it,” said Beth. “I asked her, ‘Do you really want to formally add to your personal record that you’re a lesbian; do you want to be out at work—not just to the guy in the cubicle next to you but to someone in another state at corporate headquarters?’ Susan’s reply was that the economic benefit was so great, of course she would come out if I could have

my teeth fixed,” said Beth, laughing.

For others, however, having health insurance can be a matter of life or death. For those with a life-threatening disease, the level of treatment afforded to those with medical insurance has been shown to extend patients’ lives and improve their chances for survival. “The whole AIDS issue aside,” said Beth, “not having health insurance in this country can often be a death sentence. I haven’t had any life-threaten-

ing diseases, but the reality of the situation is something we discussed.”

DPB By the Bay

DPB is still new to Monterey County and was almost unheard of three years ago, as Beth’s first visit to her dentist’s office demonstrated. “Your first time to a dentist, they give you a form to fill out. On the form they want to know your insurance.” Beth said that there isn’t a line for DPB on medical forms, only “dependent” or “spouse.” “I asked myself,” said Beth, “am I a ‘spouse.’ Well...yeah.” And she continued filling out the form.

After the receptionist began reviewing the form, she called Beth back because of an apparent error. The receptionist politely said that Beth must have missed the form, and Beth replied that, no, she was a domestic partner. A few days later, she received a call from the same receptionist telling her that the insurance company had rejected the form because the dependent listed on the application was older than the insured party, and Beth explained her relationship with Susan once again. So began Beth’s three years of coming out to medical receptionists in town.

Signing On the Dotted Line

Novell required Beth and Susan to complete a notarized statement saying that they had been in a monogamous relationship for more than a year, that they lived together, and that they were responsible for each other’s debts. Under the agreement, Beth can continue her coverage for six months if her relationship with Susan should end, during which time Susan cannot add another domestic partner to her policy.

The necessity of stating her sexual orientation to strangers has made coming out a snap for Beth. “I consider myself a pretty private person. Prior to getting benefits, I don’t know if I would be talking to you right now or letting you use my name.”

Susan agrees: “It really made me feel that the company was behind me and that they supported me, that they were really committed to diversity. Of all of my experiences, domestic partnership benefits gave me the feeling that the company was going to support me in my life.”

Companies in Monterey County now offering domestic partnership benefits include CTB/McGraw-Hill, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, EDS, and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital.

If you know of a local company offering domestic partnership benefits, send the information to The Paper at 787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940. We will continue to list companies offering DPB.
Getting Domestic Partners Benefits At Your Workplace

by John Laird
Contributing Writer

If you’ve been wondering how to work for domestic partners benefits at your own job, here is a very basic primer. By definition, these benefits would give an employee’s unmarried partner the same health, vision, and dental coverage as your co-workers get for their married partners. They are of tangible financial benefit to any gay man or lesbian in a committed relationship.

Step One: Research thoroughly the benefits system of your employer.

In presenting your own proposal, you will want to make sure it is reasonable given what your employer now provides to employees.

What benefits does your employer now offer to legally married employees? Are vision and dental care included, as well as health care? Are dependents covered in addition to the employee? What level of coverage is provided? How much does it cost the employer? Is there a "third party provider" that your employer uses for coverage — such as Blue Cross or a health maintenance organization (HMO)?

Step Two: Know the process by which your benefits are extended to you.

You will want this information to make sure that your proposal meets the timely and consistent with your employer’s process. Are decisions on benefits at the sole discretion of the management? Is there a particular time of the year that salaries and benefits are changed? Is there representation and benefits governed by a negotiated contract with management?

Step Three: Ascertain who else at your workplace might be interested in this issue.

You will want to build support for a proposal among those at your job who are supportive. Are there any other employees in the same situation as you? Have you heard of a human resources manager or a top official of your employer that has expressed any kind of interest in this issue? If represented by a union, are they advocating for domestic partners benefits and are your union representatives knowledgeable?

Step Four: Know if there are any major employers in your area that offer domestic partners benefits.

You will want this information to help convince your employer that this is doable and other local employers do it. Over 13% of employers nationally have signed on. In Northern California that includes Apple, IBM, Genentech, Microsoft, Bank of America and the San Francisco 49ers.

Step Five: Learn how other employers have offered domestic partners benefits.

When you submit a proposal, you will want to be able to suggest a process and you most likely can borrow one from existing programs.

Most public agencies offer domestic partners benefits by having their enrolling employee sign a confidential affidavit with about ten basic points, including: that you are mutually responsible economically for each other, that you are both over eighteen, that you are not related by blood, that you have not been in a similar relationship with someone for at least six months, and that you understand the consequences of fraud in signing the affidavit.

Step Six: Know your rights.

This should give you some comfort in raising the issue. The State of California has regulations that you cannot be fired from your job for being gay or lesbian. If you believe that raising this issue is, or will, jeopardize your job — and you can document a change in attitude due to your raising the issue — you are protected.

Step Seven: Know the arguments for domestic partners benefits, as you will want to present them when you present a proposal.

Basic arguments are: companies that do not offer domestic partners benefits are compensating their employees differently based on their employee’s private legal status. That is not fair.

There is no public relations price to be paid for offering domestic partners benefits, as the Southern Baptists are in the process of proving. State-wide polls show that a majority of Californians support domestic partners benefits.

Domestic partners benefits are good business. Any business that is not offering domestic partners benefits is not being competitive, and risks losing some of its best employees to other concerns.

Many myths about domestic partners benefits are just that. There is not a disproportionate cost in covering the partners of employees.

Step Eight: Develop a specific proposal — and plan for implementing that proposal — using everything you learned in the first seven steps.

At the time your employer might make a decision on benefits, you should present a specific proposal that organizes allies at your workplace and specifically proposes benefits consistent with the current plan. You should know how it will work and be ready to answer the employee’s questions, making the arguments on why this is beneficial and not a rip-off.

If you work for a public agency, the process will be different. The odds are you are represented by a union that negotiates regularly with elected officials that head the government unit. In that case you should follow most of these steps, but there are key variables. You should organize within your union to get this as part of the union proposal, you should get gay-friendly groups to make sure that candidates for office commit to this as they are running, and you should work to add benefits.

The climate is favorable for domestic partners benefits. Sometimes it is a long process to get approved. You should get going right away. I’ll help in any way I can.

John Laird, a former Mayor of Santa Cruz, was instrumental in obtaining domestic partners benefits for City, County, and transit system employees ten years ago. You may contact John Laird c/o The Paper’s mailing address on page 2.

The climate is favorable for domestic partners benefits. Sometimes it is a long process to get approved.

Worst Business to Receive a $100 Gift Certificate From

The Paper • Mar/Apr 1998

Feature Story

Sunday's

BEER BUST

Domestic

TAP BEER
$1.25 pint
$5.00 pitcher

STARTS @ 2PM
MUSIC, VIDEOS & FOOD

LIGHTHOUSE Bar & Grill
281 Lighthouse Ave. Monterey, CA 93940
408/373-4488

Mon-Fri 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sat-Sun 2 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Clipped from the Bay Area Reporter
March

Wed, 18
Gay AOL Nite in Monterey
The newest social group in town. 7:30 p.m. At the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4488.

Gay Movie Night in Monterey
Don't like the bars but still want to meet new people? Join your gay peers at a casual gathering at the Monterey County AIDS Project's Seaside office (760 Hamilton). Call Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Sat, 21
Women's Dance in Carmel
Dance with the woman of your dreams at the American Legion Hall in Carmel. at Dolores & 8th Ave. in Carmel 7:30pm to Midnight., Cover $5.00 - all proceeds to benefit L.G.B . Pride of Monterey County For more information call (408) 899-7917

Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay women and men 25 years old and under, the Gay Teen Alliance offers a safe environment to chat, meet your peers, and discuss gay issues. 7-9 p.m. Contact Craig Wenzl, 772-8202.

Dancing at Franco's
The only gay danceclub between Monterey and Santa Cruz. Join your gay sisters and brothers from North County on one of the hottest dancefloors on the Central Coast. Cover $5.10639 Merritt St., Castroville (near the Wells Fargo Bank). 633-2090.

Sun, 22
Beer Bust at the LB&G
Every Sunday. The place in Monterey to relax on a Sunday afternoon. Pool tables and a huge TV for everything from football to "Ellen". From 2 p.m. to closing. At the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4488.

April

Wed, 1
Gay Otter Support Group
Oters considering coming out of Davy Jones' Locker will meet for mutual support and hammering clams open with small rocks. Mutual grooming follows. Meet at the Gay Community Center... whops! E-mail april@fools.com for time and location.

Gay Movie Night in Monterey
Don't like the bars but still want to meet new people? Join your gay peers at a casual gathering at the Monterey County AIDS Project's Seaside office, 760 Hamilton in Seaside. Call Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Gay Pride Meeting
Have a say in planning the 1998 Gay Pride Festival. 7:30 p.m. Call Bred for location. 655-2045

Mon, 6
Gay Coffee Chat at Morgan's
Every Monday. An informal gathering of local lesbians and gays at Morgan's Coffee and Tea, 498 Washington in Monterey. A very friendly group to get together outside of a bar atmosphere. Starts around 7 p.m.

Gay Movie Night in Salinas
Don't like the bars but still want to meet new people? Join your gay peers at a casual gathering at the Monterey County AIDS Project's Salinas office (12 E. Gabilan). Call Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Thu, 26
Women's Gathering at MCAP
In the crazy realm of reality, sometimes we need to take a breather ... The women's program at the Monterey County AIDS Project is offering a space space for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women to come together and talk ... What it means to be a woman today, the media's portrayal of women, favorite flowers, names great vs. less-filling ... Anything goes! 7-9 p.m. at MCAP's Seaside office. For more info call Jen @ 772-7206

Fri, 27
Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay women and men 25 years old and under, the Gay Teen Alliance offers a safe environment to chat, meet your peers, and discuss gay issues. 7-9 p.m. Contact Craig Wenzl, 772-8202.

Billy's New Playmate
T

The latest addition to the list of gay playthings is Carlos, the "New York" Latino version of the popular Billy doll. With a hairy chest and a goatee, Carlos balances out Billy's vacant boyishness (due to a distant relation to Ken?).

Carlos and Billy are in a long-term relationship, according to their creators, and although they consider themselves life partners Carlos is still available for $49.95 at assorted retail outlets, or visit www.billyworld.com on the Web.

Women's Dance in Carmel
March 21st
Another great dance event for women AND a benefit for 1998's gay pride festival. The next Women's Dance is the kick-off for a series of lesbian events, including mixers at local restaurants. Have an interesting evening at the American Legion Hall at Dolores & 8th Ave. in Carmel from 7:30pm to mid-night. Cover charge is $5.00. For more information call (408) 899-7917

Life as it is Known
This pond is my life
The stone of knowing
Falls through the depths of my soul
The ripples effect
The lives flowing through mine and changes the surface of life as it is known

- Steven C. Keller

by John E. Brennan
Film!
The Sweet Hereafter: Atom Agvany's most together film to date. His individualized characters are always fun to watch. Great use of digital effects in a normal-budget film. Lots of snow. That's Canada for you.

Titanic: Titanic is a nearly perfect film. Not to be missed. Don't wait to rent it. Dress warmly. Kate is great.

Jackie Brown: The latest from Tarantino is very strong. He may be able to make films after all. It only has 5 murders.

Zero Effect: An effective, offbeat update of Sherlock Holmes, but don't let that scare you off. Strong freshman effort from Jake Kasdan. Bill pulls off most of the quirksiness with aplomb. Ben still is cute!

Rent!
Not to be missed. A dull, predictable film featuring the incredibly cute Andy Garcia. Don't be fooled by the catchy title.

Das Boot (1981): I could not tell where they added 60 minutes of footage in the Director's Cut. Intended to be the greatest WWII submarine film. Das Boot's special effects were not special. Features lots of Nazis in cramped quarters, but no love scenes. So-so.


CD
dig your own hole/The Chemical Brothers (1997?): Great music including some vocals from Beth Orton.
Homogenic/Bjork (1997): Bjork keeps on getting less and less mainstream, but more and more interesting. I don't know how to classify it, but I like it.
Fri, 10
Monterey Bay Bears
One of the most active gay social organization in Monterey County and growing every month. Open to all. Potluck meetings are in Seaside. Call Price or Ted at (408) 922-1462, MontereyBayBears@usa.net

Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay women and men 25 years old and under, the Gay Teen Alliance offers a safe environment to chat, meet your peers, and discuss gay issues. 7-9 p.m. Contact Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Wed, 15
Gay AOL Nite in Monterey
The newest social group in town goes off-line. 7:30 p.m. At the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4488. E-mail stickyrice on AOL or wes@mbay.net

Fri, 24
Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay women and men 25 years old and under, the Gay Teen Alliance offers a safe environment to chat, meet your peers, and discuss gay issues. 7-9 p.m. Contact Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Sun, 19
Monterey Bay Bears at Play
The Monterey Bay Bears "Game Day" is every third Sunday from noon til "whenever". Call Ted at 408/392-1462.

From Brothel to Broadway
The next step in drag benefits for 1998's Pride Festival. Doors at 8, show at 9 p.m. at 815, $3 cover. At the After Dark nightclub, 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-7828.

Mon, 20
"The Women" at John XXIII Annual Dream Theater Event
The cast of "The Women" will be shown at the home of John XXIII AIDS Ministry 7:00 p.m. Dream Theater, Monterey. $10.00 at the door.

Tues, 21
Gay Movie Night in Salinas
Don't like the bars but still want to meet new people? Join your peers at a casual gathering at the Monterey County AIDS Project's Salinas office (12 E. Gabilan). Call Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

Free Pool Night at the Lighthouse
At the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4488.

Sat, 25
Dancing at Franco's Norma Jean
The only gay nightclub and restaurant between Monterey and Santa Cruz. Join your gay sisters and brothers from North County on one of the hottest dancefloors on the Central Coast. Cover $5. 10300 Mission St., Capitola (near the Wells Fargo Bank). 633-2090.

Tues, 28
Monterey PFLAG Monthly Meeting
Parents' and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month in Carmel. Call (408) 655-FLAG for info on meetings and speakers. Santa Cruz Chapter 662-4780.

Queer Radio
Radio Q/Talk of the Bay
Monday, 6:30 p.m. Interview and news for the gay community and beyond. KUSP 88.9 FM

Religious Services
E C Monterey
A Pro-Gay & Lesbian Inter-denominational Christian Fellowship meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 p.m. for fun, sharing and study. All welcome. For more information call Joantha Muse 464-3580. Cort Fenske, 761-9900.

Lavender Road Metropolitan Community Church
Services held Sunday, 10 a.m. at Mariposa Hall, 801 - Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey. In Santa Cruz, Grace United Methodist Church, 1024 Soquel Ave. at 5 p.m. Call Rev Joan Hart at 408-495-8442. P.O. Box 1764, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, jmuse@pionois.com

Integrity (Gay Episcopallians)
An updated listing of local Episcopallian churches that are gay-friendly is now available. Call 408-336-526 for a copy.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Fri, 8
Monterey Bay Bears
One of the most active gay social organization in Monterey County and growing every month. Open to all. Potluck meetings are in Seaside. Call Bruce or Ted at (408) 392-1462. E-mail MontereyBayBear@usa.net

Wed, 13
PPN Meeting
Join the largest gay organization on the Central Coast for informative speakers and refreshments at the homes of other members. Call Del or Donn at 659-2446 for time and location.

Sat, 18 & 19
A Gay Evening in May
The biggest annual gay event in Santa Cruz is directed this year by local Michael Pina. Call the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium ticket office for tickets and showtimes. Show proceeds benefit 11 Santa Cruz community agencies. For information call Jonathan Muse 464-3300. Curt Fenske, 761-9900.

If you would like your events publicized in the next issue, please send them to The Paper by May 2nd. Listings will also appear on Monterey's Gay Website, so include your e-mail address or website URL if you want a link.

The Paper is happy to note that you can do something with your peers almost every day of the week now.
After Dark
Open 7 days and nights a week!
Dancing Thursday thru Saturday Nights!

Join us Friday Night March 13th, to shake your Shamrock off to the Deep House Sounds of D.J.'s "Deno, Marsha & Larry"

Smoking allowed on our deck and large patio.

214 Lighthouse Ave • Monterey • 373-7828
VISA - MASTERCARD - ATM
Mon-Fri from 4:30pm • Sat-Sun from 8:30pm

Locals were treated to pasta and Puccini at John XXIII AIDS Ministry's recent fundraiser. The event filled the Loose Noodle restaurant (538 Lighthouse Ave.), which is downstairs from John XXIII's offices, donated the dinners, wines, and desserts.

Before dinner and the performance, Executive director Katherine Theoni thanks those in attendance for remaining on the "front lines" of the fight against the HIV epidemic.

The Monterey Opera Institute of California led by founder Else Rotchford performed selections from La Boheme, Phantom of the Opera, Showboat, and German traditional songs, rounding out the evening with a sing-along of sorts. For a schedule of their performances, call 408/393-9142 or write P.O. Box 222938, Carmel, CA 93922.

Peninsula Home Design Center
1021 Broadway in Seaside
408/393-8500
Open Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 11-5

A New Year
Brodly Serving All The Communities On The Peninsula
A New Attitude
Men Meet Men Meets Gay Singles Group May Come to Mty. Bay

Men Meet Men is a new social group that aims to provide a comfortable place for gay men to meet each other. Why is that different from going to a bar? Well, imagine going to a place where a couple of hundred single and available men also want to meet someone they have gathered. When you see the man you like, you can read exactly what they are looking for: no guessing games, no surprise lovers, no chance of "not being their type" after hours of courting in a loud, smoky environment. Sound interesting?

That's exactly what 170 South Bay gay men of every age, race, height, weight, and predilection had the opportunity to experience February 28th in Redwood City. Men Meet Men is the brainchild of Jim Reynolds, who The Paper interviewed via e-mail. We felt that his responses explained many of the inherent problems single gay men find themselves facing, and The Paper will work with Reynolds to bring a similar event to Monterey or Santa Cruz.

What follows is The Paper's interview with Jim Reynolds, founder of Men Meet Men.

What spurred your interest in starting Men Meet Men?

I've been thinking about producing events like Men Meet Men since I first heard of a similar event that took place in New York. I have a master's degree in developmental psychology and have a special interest in gay and lesbian parenting, so I subscribe to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

One gay dad occasionally sent messages lamenting how hard it was for him to find dates given that he had a young son at home. This went on for some time, then one day he posted a very enthusiastic message about "structured dating event" he attended at an email list for queer fathers. He wrote again later, happily relaying that four months later, he was still seeing someone he had met there.

For lesbians?

You can get into detailed analyses about the options available for gay men to meet each other, et cetera, but I think it's very simple: most human beings want close social contact, whether it's with friends, sex partners, life partners or some combination.

You can contact Jim Reynolds for information about the next Men Meet Men event. He can be reached at jim.reynolds@stanford.edu.

Announcements for future meetings will also appear in The Paper.

The Women

To benefit John XXIII AIDS Ministry

The Women
Monday, April 20th
7:00 p.m.
Dream Theater
301 Prescott Ave.
Monterey California
$10.00 at the door

Norma Shearer
Joan Crawford
Rosalind Russell
Mary Boland
Pauline Goddard
Phyllis Povah
Joan Fontaine
And more!
Continued from page 1

While David's views don't reflect those of all HIV+ gay men, his acceptance of the associated health risks—STD infection or reinfection with a different and potentially more lethal strain of HIV—shows the level of health risks—STD infection or reinfection among HIV+ gay men, his acceptance of the containing the spread of the virus.

David is one of many HIV+ gay men who believe that their HIV-status allows the choice to bareback with other HIV+ men. "It was like we had finally reached a level of trust in the relationship," said David, "I knew he accepted responsibility for his own actions. The decision itself seemed to take the relationship to the next level of commitment."

The (Latex) Walls of Troy

For HIV- gay men or inexperienced gay men, however, linking unprotected sex with increased intimacy can lead to disaster.

"Barebacking among HIV-men is akin to a sense of childish rebellion," said Jamie. "The attraction of danger and risk is sexy to some people who eroticize it. It's a morbid appeal."

Younger gay men are particularly susceptible. Since they often don't know anyone who is HIV+, they often ignore the potential danger because it remains foreign to them. "Younger people, people in their teens and twenties, don't realize how real the risk is." said Wenzl, who runs the Gay Teen Alliance (GTA). GTA is a social group for gay men and women under 25 years old. Part of the group's mission includes providing information on HIV.

David himself admits to having unsafe anal sex in his late teens and early twenties, which only stopped after his best friend tested HIV+. "I didn't realize it was 'real' so I only used a condom sometimes," said Wenzl. "But everything was safe sex after that."

"People want to give the impression that they do it...a lot of people have had sex with someone that they trusted but who later turned up positive."

Closed gay men often find themselves in a similar predicament. Unable to reveal their sexual preference, they often choose to have anonymous sex. Similarly, out gay men have returned to bathhouses and sex clubs because of the freedom it allows from personal responsibility. No questions, no excuses, no guilt.

Answers for the Unquestioning

For HIV- men barebacking is an uncomfortable topic to discuss. "A lot of people ask about anal sex, but don't say they're having unprotected anal sex," said Wenzl. "People want to give the impression that they safe, but the tend to understand their sexual activity. They have a reluctance to say so just because a lot of people have had sex with someone that they trusted but who later turned up positive."

Fears of condemnation for practicing unsafe sex from friends and the overwhelming fear of being infected with the virus are balanced with their need for intimacy at whatever cost. Jamie admitted that, despite the number of sex partners he has every year, one of his greatest fears is catching a venereal disease.

Wenzl explained that he often runs into this behavior during his outreach efforts in the gay community. According to Wenzl, there are "risk-takers" and "risk-seekers". A risk-taker is someone who wants sex and is willing to chance infection in order to get sex. A risk-seeker is someone who desires the thrill involved in risk itself, not necessarily the sex, for them, risking HIV infection becomes the ultimate thrill. Reports of barebacking parties in San Francisco where HIV- gay men intentionally attempt to become infected have appeared in the Bay Area gay media.

The Anal Idyll

While all of those interviewed for this article had their own opinions about barebacking, they did agree that within a closed relationship—one where both partners were monogamous—barebacking has a place.

"[Using a condom] in a monogamous relationship does remove some of the potential closeness," said Jamie. "I don't see a problem with it among two HIV- men in a monogamous relationship for more than a year."

Wenzl, who is himself in a monogamous relationship with his lover of just over a year, said that if both partners in a monogamous relationship decided to have unprotected anal sex, they should both get an HIV test and repeat the test after six months, the "window period" for HIV antibodies to appear. Still, Wenzl made it clear that he recommends that everyone use a condom for anal sex no matter what the circumstances.

Driven

While the spectrum of HIV in the gay community continues, gay men have not forgotten that sex can be the most satisfying expression of care and love.

While some within the gay community may preach abstinence, others like David see things differently: "Stifling such a powerful drive in all of us only serves to repress the need, which will undoubtedly be expressed through irresponsible or destructive behavior. I chose to abstain from sex for three years, so I'm speaking with knowledge of the other side of the coin. I won't hide from sex, or from life. Each is to be embraced with intention and open arms. Expressing any emotion, or need, responsibly is for me the goal of all gay men."

For information on HIV, contact Craig Wenzl of the Man-to-Man Program at 408/772-8202. An extensive list of links to HIV/AIDS-related websites is available from Monterey's Gay Website (www.mbay.net/~wes/monterey/). Updated HIV information is also available in The Paper.
New HIV Drugs In the Pipeline

Many of these new drugs will play a crucial role in "salvage therapy" for HIV+ people who have failed on protease inhibitors.

Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs)

Abacavir (formerly 1992389, Glaxo Wellcome). Now in Phase III clinical trials, this nucleoside analog has exhibited synergy with other NRTIs in vitro, and is the only NRTI that equals AZT's ability to penetrate the central nervous system. Therefore, it is likely that in vivo resistance to AZT or ddI, but resistance to FTC is unlikely.

Abacavir is up to three times more active than AZT, and has resulted in significant viral load reductions of two logs. As noted in the pages of the Newsletter before, an adverse reaction to abacavir has been reported in 1% of patients, characterized by fever, nausea, vomiting and rash. These side effects do abate once the drug is discontinued, but attempts to go back on the drug have resulted in exaggerated life-threatening reactions, including one death.

Abacavir is now available through an expanded access program. Further expanded trials of abacavir, in combination with other NRTIs including protease inhibitor, are under way. Adelpho (formerly PMEA, brand name Prevec, Gilead Sciences). This nucleoside analog's mechanism is different from other NRTIs and therefore has the potential for being effective against HAART-resistant HIV. In 183 studies, adelpho has resulted in reduced viral loads of up to 2 logs, including herpes simplex type 1 and 2, CMV and hepatitis B. A major asset of this drug is that it needs to be taken only once a day.

A Phase III clinical trial is now underway, and Gilead has an expanded access program, available to people who have been failed by or are intolerant of combination therapy with at least two commercially available nucleosides and at least one protease inhibitor. In addition, the treating physician must be able to enroll eligible patients based on current treatment guidelines and the patient's previous antiretroviral use. Exceptions to Gilead's current CD4 and viral load requirements will be favorably considered. For information on the Adelpho Expanded Access Program call 800.278.1300.

Zinc Finger Inhibitors

HIV contains a structure called "zinc fingers" which cannot readily change by mutation; that is, the virus would find it difficult if not impossible to mutate around and form resistance to a drug that targeted these "zinc fingers." The hope is that a drug that attacks the virus at this crucial structure could permanently and completely disable the virus replication. Such a drug is now in early human testing.

T-20

This genetically engineered peptide is designed to target a specific step in the process by which HIV attaches to a cell in the course of infecting that cell. It has already been shown to substantially reduce viral load, and it is unlikely to have cross-resistance with our current batch of treatments. Therefore, T-20 may be highly effective in people who have failed with HAART. This drug may not be practical for anyone other than those with literally no other options; it will probably have to be given by continuous intravenous infusion. In clinical trial, it has been achieved via a small computerized pump with a flexible catheter, something used successfully in diabetes treatment.

Two more drugs have gained the attention of researchers. TMC (triclavir) has been shown to be an inhibitor of HIV, but exactly how it does that is still under examination. AMD-3102, being developed by a small biotechnology company with a flexible catheter, something used successfully in diabetes treatment.

FCT

This nucleoside analog, now in Phase I/II clinical trials, resembles FTC but is ten times more powerful in the test tube. It looks to have the same resistance profile as FTC, and researchers believe it will work synergistically with AZT, ddI, ddC, and, possibly, FTC.

Resistance studies reveal that efavirenz, like the other NNRTIs, should be used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs, that efavirenz in combination with other nucleosides or nucleotides, but efavirenz in combination with other nucleosides or nucleotides, produces more resistant strains of HIV resistant to NNRTIs and to indinavir. High viral load, but indinavir, has shown good effectiveness against strain resistant to the NNRTIs reviewed in the preceding section.

A small pilot study of seven patients over four weeks, resulting in a median 2.4-log decrease in viral load and an increase of CD4 of 114 copies/ml. A subset of these patients who were treated with indinavir and TNF-P2 proved disappointing, showing viral rebound within 3 months.

Most common side effects of this two-drug combination were diarrhea, nausea, headache and rash, not dissimilar to other PI side effects. It is unclear at this time whether efavirenz will indeed prove effective against PI-resistant viruses,

Protease Fauna

It's Not Your Imagination

small percentage of HIV+ people have developed unexpected fatty deposits below the backs of their necks and around their midsection. A study presented at the 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Chicago, March 3-5, 1997, the "Crystalline," raised more than the popular protease inhibitor Crystalline, isn't just people's imaginations.

These symptoms are sometimes accompanied by concurrent muscle wasting in the arms, chest and legs. Women are reporting these same symptoms, sometimes accompanied by breast enlargement and the growth of facial hair. Some, in fact, have been killed by these symptoms, while others have survived.

"A good guess would be that about 5 per cent of patients taking protease inhibitors develop these fatty deposits," said Dr. Richard Hengel, a senior fellow at Emory University in Atlanta, who noted that these are very concerning symptoms in people who are neither HIV+ nor taking protease inhibitors.

State AIDS Lobby Day, April 20th

Alifornians active in the fight against HIV include those living with the virus will gather at the steps of the Capital for AIDS Lobby Day on April 20th. A briefing will be held by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in San Jose on April 15th at the ARIS offices, 1550 The Alameda. The orientation includes an advocacy skills training and an update on current political issues. Call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at 415/467-3034 for more information.
Women For Women
GF, 28, Seeks Other Fun Seeking Women...
To respond, write to: P.O. Box 636, Soledad, CA 93960.

Men For Men
What Do You Say?
You, me, under the stars: Me: 26, playful, discreet, easy-going, gym-toned, into house, party, photo. You: Into same or not, 18-24, slim-to-medium build, artist, nurse, etc? To hang with. (Respond to #98MAR04)

Shamanistic Type
Interested in like-minded gays to explore... All is possible. Let's stop being the only ones mixing old with new. If you're clever enough with your new duds, you may want to try adding vintage pieces like leather jackets, capris pants, and cuffed trousers to cute vintage party outfits.

Moroccan women are having a moment. Designers aren't the only ones mixing old with new. If you're clever enough with your new duds, you may want to try adding vintage pieces like leather jackets, capris pants, and cuffed trousers to cute vintage party outfits. "Lounge" 50s appearance. Designers aren't the only ones mixing old with new. If you're clever enough with your new duds, you may want to try adding vintage pieces like leather jackets, capris pants, and cuffed trousers to cute vintage party outfits. "Lounge" 50s appearance. Designers aren't the only ones mixing old with new. If you're clever enough with your new duds, you may want to try adding vintage pieces like leather jackets, capris pants, and cuffed trousers to cute vintage party outfits.

Asian-European-American Professional man, 57*, 147#, 31, brown hair, trim cut, cute, witty, ISO honest, wholesome, masculine, interested in a look that takes you back to the 60s. For those of you who prefer the sunshine to another night standing around in a bar or packed dance club, the group is open to both men and women, although some events are designated for women only.

Out in the Great Outdoors
Looking for an adventurous getaway with a few friends, but all they want to do is sleep? Outside Sports could be your new best friend. The San Francisco company arranges a wide range of outdoor activities—kayaking on San Francisco Bay, biking through the wine country, rock climbing in Yosemite—for small groups of a dozen or so.

Less Planning, More Fun
Outside Sports takes care of the mundane aspects of enjoying the great outdoors, leaving more time for fun and adventure. All lodging, meals, camping fees, permits, and guides are provided, although you need to provide your own tent, sleeping bag, and transportation to the gathering point.

This spring's selection of adventures begins with a kayaking trip to the Sea of Cortez off of Baja California. For a less exotic experience, there are more than a dozen other events throughout Northern California.
Local Resources

Nightclubs & Bars

**Gays and Lesbians!**

M-F, 4:30 to 2, Sat-Sun, 8-2. 214 Lighthouse North Fremont in Monterey. 375-6116.

Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center

1328 Commerce Lane in Santa Cruz. A great resource for all of your queer needs and a nice way to meet some new faces. Publisher of "The Manhattan" monthly newsletter. Call 457-4605.

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 648-4605.

Men's Resources

Man to Man

Offering a variety of sex positive programs and events. Sponsor of Hot & Healthy safer sex parties, gay male outreach and education. Contact Craig Wood at 772-8202.

Gay Men's Health Coalition

Providing information on local HIV issues, references. 649-2555.

HIV/AIDS Resources

Monterey County AIDS Project Services for those with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers always welcome. 780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-4747; and 12 E. Gabilan St., Salinas, 772-8200. For volunteer information call 394-4747.

John XXIII AIDS Ministry

Rape Crisis Line, 375-4357; North County Crisis line, 633-5900, Office, 373-3955.

Bisexual Resources

Bisexual Support Group

Guided rap and discussion group. At the Billy DeFrank Center (see listing under "Community"), 293-2429.

Women's Bisexual Network

Of Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay Area 417-4576.

Nightclubs & Bars

Lighthouse Bar and Grill

Franco's Norma Jean

Monte Carlo Bar & Grill

Lighthouse Bar and Grill

Nightclubs & Bars

California Gay & Lesbian Association (CGLA)

Lesbian and Gay Political Organization. 899-2263.

Gay Teen Alli ance

For lesbians, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth under age 25. Call 393-3475 in Monterey, 772-8202 in Salinas. Or visit www.stu.monterey.edu

Integrity

Clay Episcopal group. 484-2326.

Lesbian Alliance

A local group offering a variety of social activities. Call 648-4338 for more information.

Metropolitan Community Church

Services held Sunday, 10 a.m. at Mariposa Hall, 1001 Lighthouse Ave in Monterey, In San Francisco, Grace United Methodist Church, 1024 Second Ave, at 5 p.m. Call Rev. Jenn Har at 408/659-9442. P.O. Box 1504, San Francisco, CA 94103. ioncc@juno.com

Monterey Bay Bears

Social group open to all in Monterey-Salinas area. Meetings are the 2nd Friday of the month. P.O. Box 3264, Monterey, CA 93942. 922-1452 or 666-0046. MontereyBayBear@msn.com

Monterey PFLAG

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meet the 4th Tuesday of every month in Carmel. Call (408) 655-2045 for info on meetings and speakers. Santa Cruz Chapter 662-4780.

The Paper

Monterey County gay newspaper. Call Wes at 655-3756, or write to 778 Laine St., #5, Monterey, 93940. E-mail wes@mbay.net http://www.mbay.net/~wes/monterey/

Peninsula Professionals Network

Peninsula Professionals Network social group for professionals men & women from the Central Coast. Meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Call Del or Donn at 595-2440.

Pride of Monterey County

Responsible for planning and organizing Monterey's annual gay pride festival and parade. 655-2045. P.O. Box 2604, Monterey, CA 93942.

HIV/AIDS Resources

Monterey County AIDS Project Services for those with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers always welcome. 780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-4747; and 12 E. Gabilan St., Salinas, 772-8200. For volunteer information call 394-4747.

John XXIII AIDS Ministry

HIV testing and other services for HIV+ folks. Michael Castan, 540 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 655-1737

Monterey County Health Dept.

HIV testing and other services. 755-4512.

Monterey County Needle Exchange

Protect yourself from HIV/hepatitis infection. Foxworth throughout Monterey County. 759. 1794. Confidential, discreet, free.

Red Ribbon Benefit Shop

Proceeds go to benefit locals with HIV/AIDS. 485 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey. To donate or for more information, 647-1100.

Peninsula HIV+ Support Group

For men and women. Group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Monterey County AIDS Project's office in Seaside, 780 Hamilton, 394-4747.

Salinas HIV+ Support Group

Group meets every two month in Salinas. Call the Monterey County AIDS Project's Salinas office for more information at 772-8200.

Family, Friends, & Partners

Meet the 2nd and 4th Sun. of the month in Salinas at 7 p.m. Tom Simpson for location and more info 655-4800.

Pet Support Program

MCPA pet-loss grief counseling & animal-assisted therapy for MCPA clients and their companion animals. Call Terri Austin at 649- 6283.

Salud Para La Gente

Comprehensive health services and education in Spanish and English in the Pajaro Valley. Call 763-3413 (voicemail).
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Limited Time Only!

Why you should buy directly from Van's Exclusive Low Price Guarantee:
- Factory trained personnel
- Non-commission sales staff
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Van's Mattress Gallery
844 Playa Avenue • Sand City • 393-2337 or 393-BEDS
Located between Costco & Marshalls in the Sand Dollar Shopping Center
Mon-Fri 10-7 • Sat 10-6 • Sun 10-5