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.

Unsafe at Any Speed

There's nothing new about gay men having unprotected sex. Statistics from a 1997 study by the Centers for Disease Control shows that genital herpes have doubled among whites in their 20s; one in five over the age of 12 is infected. Gonorrhea, genital warts, and the host of other sexual transmitted diseases remain commonplace in the gay community, even among those that consider themselves scrupulous when it comes to practicing safe sex.

Craig Wend is the coordinator of the Man-to-Man Program, Monterey County's HIV outreach program for gay men. Wend noted that local gay men have started to ask about barebacking after reading noted authors such as Michaelangelo Signorile and Larry Kramer condemn the activism of Sex Panic, a group that advocates a return to the sexual freedom of the 1970s despite the risk.

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 sex 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. One-night stands aren't warned; dates are.

"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 in the HIV+ community. 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."

Domestic Partnership Beneficiaries

A Monterey Couple's Experiences

A n hour away by car but five years ahead in offering domestic partnership benefits, Silicon Valley companies have lead the way in bringing equal benefits to the domestic partners of their employees in same-sex relationships.

Among those to benefit from this recent shift in corporate thinking are Susan Perrin and her partner of 14 years, Beth Cunningham, who have been Monterey residents for over a decade. Susan's job at Novell entitles her to cover Beth under her insurance policy, the same coverage

Attackers of Gay Man Sentenced

The two men convicted of severely beating a gay man in Monterey were given 3-year suspended sentence by Superior Court Judge John Phillips March 4th. According to an electronic news release from Matthew Friday, both Johnathan Maxon and Jason Soboleski will spend 90 days in county jail, although they may be able to leave to work during the day through a furlough program. After the 90 days are served, they will be under house detention.

The two men will also have to attend a mandatory alcohol-treatment program, do volunteer work with a local AIDS agency, and enroll in diversity awareness training. The two men may not consume alcohol for the length of their sentence.

Deputy District Attorney Dennis LaBarbera told The Paper in an earlier interview that the maximum sentence the two men could have received was a year in jail because they had no prior convictions as adults.

Soboleski and Maxon were scheduled to report to jail one week after sentencing.

See related story on page 4
The Dakota Opens Gay Second Gay Bar Brings Style to Santa Cruz

Afer 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 wheelchairs is provided at the front of the bar.

Local News

PriMoCo Needs Your Help

Pride Committee Seeks Community Support

by Ricardo Burney

Contributing Writer

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.
Amercia 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 handshaking.

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

1. When creating a member chat-room, AOL

   users should try to use "GAYMONTEREY" Standardizing the name makes it easier to find. A Java-based chatroom is available on Monterey's Gay Website for non-AOL users.

2. The group should be open to anyone who can send and receive e-mail, including those using other Internet Service Providers such as MBAT or Netcom.

3. The e-mail list will be limited to those living within Monterey County.

4. The format of the meetings will remain the same until it is more established, i.e., sign-in, mingle, break for a short meeting, mingle some more.

In the end, most of those who arrived in time for the meeting were from Salinas.

Organizer Wes Kashiwagi decided to try starting the group after exchanging messages with locals in an AOL chatroom. "I think it will be a great addition to the community," said Kashiwagi, especially since it isn't limited by geography, the major stumbling block for county-wide organizations. Plus I've always wanted to see what an entire room full of men with swimmer's builds, 10" penises, and bubble butts looks like," he said, laughing.

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lighthouse Bar & Grill in Monterey. E-mail wes@bmay or "stickyprize" for America Online users.

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 potluck meetings will still be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Call Tex at 408/392-1482.

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 408/737-7825.

Red Ribbon Status Report

The three-year old Red Ribbon Benefit Shop which supports local AIDS organizations sent out 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 night club to raise $280 for Pride of Monterey County (POMCo). The non-profit organization channeled with organizing this year's Monterey Pride events.

"You've heard of the Spice Girls?" asked host Bernice Labelle (aka Ricardo Burnet), "well, I'm 'Cheeta Spice.'" The enthusiastic audience watched performances revolving around the evening's 'bachelorette' theme.

The next show will be "From Brothel to Broadway," April 19th at the After Dark nightclub in Monterey.

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Supportive Psychotherapy Groups

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**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 would have taken any excuse to attack someone that night. "They could have asked if he was Italian, a Jew, or a Dallas Cowboy fan," said Phillips. The two men were 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 men can receive is felony probation and up to a year in jail, said 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, 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 drunken 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 support 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.

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**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 a cleft palate my parents didn't care about me, but I looked healthy. Looks seem to be so powerful and 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 pin cushion 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 breed to be 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 this I soon found! From rich men, better drugs, and 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 the 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 saw 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 so. Write Sarah Luiz c/o The Paper.

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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 pretty rare opportunity.
GAY TEEN ALLIANCE UPDATE

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 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 ran 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.

GTA (Gay Teen Alliance) has ambitious plans for growth in 1998. Our meetings for youth have been getting larger, typically attracting 20 youth. We now have a Salinas meeting and more volunteers.

GTA's website (www.gtamonterey.org) averages about 120 hits a week. The site has brought at least one youth to our meetings.

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

Flooding Affects Central Coast and Central Valley: The rains and resulting mudslides in January and February closed down Carmel Valley Road. Central Valley rivers overflowed their banks and flooded low-lying residential areas. The annual Artichoke Festival in Castroville was cancelled for the first time in the history of the event.

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
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The Restaurant

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Oak Fired California Grill
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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.

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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 work 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-

DPB By the Bay

DPB is still new to Monterey County and was almost unheard of three years ago, at 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 "dependents" 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 misread 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 bad news, especially at this time of year, is that Beth's health coverage is not tax-deductible as are Susan's. Since each company handles DPB differently, those interested in enrolling should contact their human resources department about their company's 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 CTR/McGraw-Hill, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, EDS, and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital.
THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

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? Does your employer now provide to "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 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? Are there 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.

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 information to help convince your employer that this is doable and other local employers do it. Over 13% of employers nationwide 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 compenstating their employees differently based on their employee's private legal status. That is not fair.

There is not a 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 partner 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 employer's questions, making the arguments on why this is beneficial and not a risk.

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 at 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.

Good News From Alaska!

A lower court in Alaska has decided that Alaska must present compelling state interest arguments to justify continuing to discriminate by denying marriage licenses to same-gender couples according to Tom Ramsey of the Marriage Project Hawaii (friendstomph@msn.com).

Hawaii's Supreme Court ordered a similar argument for Hawaii back in 1993, and those arguments were attempted by the State in September 1996—and totally rejected by Judge Kevin Chang in Honolulu Circuit Court in December 1996. The news from Hawaii: not a peep out of the Supreme Court as to when they will rule on the state's appeal to them of Judge Kevin Chang's decision.

Worst Business to Receive a $100 Gift Certificate From

Clipped from the Bay Area Reporter

Sunday's
BEER BUST
Domestic
TAP BEER
$1.25 pint
$5.00 pitcher
Starts @ 2PM
Musical, 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.
The Paper • Mar/Apr 1998
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. E-mail stickyrice on AOL or wes@mbay.net Updates will be posted on Monterey's Gay Website.

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 (790 Hamilton). Call Craig Wed for info, 772-8202.

Fri, 20
Free Pool Night at the Lighthouse
At the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4488.

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

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, taxes great vs. less-filling ... Anything goes! 7-9 p.m. at MCAP's Seaside office. For more info call Jen @ 772-8206

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.

Mon, 23
Academy Awards Night
The After Dark and Lighthouse Bar & Grill open their doors to the cheers and jeers for the Oscar winners.

MCAP Academy Awards Benefit
The Monterey County AIDS Project holds its annual fundraiser. For ticket reservations and/or benefit drawing tickets call 628-265-6104. Acacdawards@aol.com

Gay Coffee Chat at Morgan's
Every Monday. 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.

Tues, 24
Monterey PFLAG 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.

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 Wed for info, 772-8202.

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 Wed, 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.

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 Wed, 772-8202.

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Aprill

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, 1920 Ch Hoàng. E-mail aprill@aol.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, 281 Hamilton in Seaside. Call Craig Wed for info, 772-8202.

Gay Pride Meeting
Have a say in planning the 1998 Gay Pride Festival. 7:30 p.m. Call Brad 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 Wed for info, 772-8202.

Bears Dine Out
The Monterey Bay Bears "Dinner Night" is the first Tuesday of every month. The group will visit a different local restaurant every month. Call Tex at 408/392-1482.

Wed, 7
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 Wed for info, 772-8202.

Bears Dine Out
The Monterey Bay Bears "Dinner Night" is the first Tuesday of every month. The group will visit a different local restaurant every month. Call Tex at 408/392-1482.

Wed, 8
PPN Meeting
Join the largest gay organization on the Central Coast for

Gay's New Playmate
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.

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 ame and changes the surface of life as it is known
-Soren C. Keller

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 midnight. Cover charge is $5.00. For more information call (408) 899-7917
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 Bruce or Tex at (408) 392-1482, MontereyBayBear@aol.com.

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.

From Brothel to Broadway
The next stop in drag benefits for 1998's Pride Festival. Doors at 8, stars (on time) at 9:15. $3 cover. At the After Dark nightclub, 214 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-7828.

Wed, 15
Gay AOL Nite in Monterey
The newest social group in town goes off-line. 7:30 p.m. Contact Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

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 Salinas office (12 E. Gabilan). Call Craig Wenzl for info, 772-8202.

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, 772-8202.

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 danceclubs on the Central Coast. Cover $5. 1030 Mission St., Capitola (near the Wells Fargo Bank). 635-2090.

Monterey PFLAG Monthly Meeting
Parent's 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.

Sun, 19
Monterey Bay Bears at Play
The Monterey Bay Bears "Game Day" is every third Sunday from noon till "whenever". Call Tex at 408/392-1482.

Local Directs "A Gay Evening in May"
May 17th & 18th
The biggest annual gay fundraiser in Santa Cruz is direct ed this year by local Michael Pina. "One of our goals," said Pina, "is to have a lighter and lighthearted show. My influence will be hopefully add humor to the show and light-hearted air." Call the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium ticket office for tickets and showtimes. Proceeds benefit 11 Santa Cruz community agencies. For information call Joanntha Muse 464-3850. Curt Fentke, 761-9902.

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

The Paper's Top 10
Hellollooo Disco Dollys! Even with El Nino's blowin' through the Central Coast, the music has not missed a beat. A few events have piqued our musical interests in teh past two months. One of the most exciting events was the "Welcome to the Universe" CD release party at Club Universe. The disc was produced by the After Dark's own El Jay! David Harness in association with Universe Sounds and Twisted America. The party was on! The CD was fierce! Congratulations, David. We're proud of you, Boo.

Larry's Top 10
1. SOUL TO BARE - Jodi Cardwell
2. HORNY - Mouse T.
3. MIGHTY REAL - Byron Stingly
4. DON'T GIVE UP - Michelle Weeks
5. GET MOVIN' - Blue Train
6. SPICE UP YOUR LIFE (Muck Cuba Libre Mix) - Spice Girls
7. HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH - Boris Dlugosch
8. BEST PART OF ME - Cookie
9. OFF THE HOOK - Jodi Watley
10. FOUND A CURE - Ultra Nate
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 Roachford 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 22938, Carmel, CA 93922.

A New Year • A New Attitude

Peninsula Home Design Center

1021 Broadway in Seaside

408/393-8500

Open Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 11-5

South Cone Trading Company

Kitchens • Windows • Carpet • Tile • Window Treatments • Home Furnishings • And More
Men Meet Men: A New Social Group

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 gay bar? Well, imagine going to a place where a couple of hundred single and available men also want to meet someone 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 Reinolds, 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 Reinolds to bring a similar event to Monterey or Santa Cruz.

What follows is The Paper's interview with Jim Reinolds, 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. I've met one couple in my life who met through a gay bar. It was kind of a freak occurrence, but-you feel obligated to tell the kind of person we're looking for, but at the same time, I think people are increasingly isolated from each other.

So I think people can watch people walking down the streets, see people on TV or the movies, or read the personal ads and notice that there's this tremendous variety of people who seem appealing on paper, but the problem is that our neighborhoods and social institutions aren't really set up to facilitate a lot of different kinds of people meeting and offering an easy and comfortable way of getting to know others. That's what Men Meet Men offers: exposure to a lot of different kinds of people through a process that's easy because it's comfortable, without being too awkward or silly for most people.

What sets your group apart from personal ads, dating services, or going to a gay bar?

I've met one couple in my life who met through a personal ad. My own experiences with them, ten years ago, was that you can put a lot of energy into meeting someone for coffee, let's say, then you get there and within the first 30 seconds you know you have absolutely no interest in this person, but you feel obligated to sit there and listen to him talk and then come up with some polite way of indicating that you never want to see the person again. Not exactly a lot of fun! I don't know about a dating service. I guess the idea is you throw a party or event to make anything at all the first time; and now I have a mailing list of over 200 people around the Bay Area, and I'm getting phone calls and e-mails every day from people who want to know about the next ones. We are able to donate about $50 to ARIS, the primary Santa Clara County AIDS organization. It's not going to double their budget, but we hope it can be the start of a long and regular stream of revenue into organizations that support people in our communities.

We'll probably do two very close together in time around the end of May. I'm not sure exactly where—could be anywhere from Monterey to Marin, to the East Bay. I'm seriously considering either Monterey or Santa Cruz for the next go-around. If it's not going to double their budget, but we hope it can be the start of a long and regular stream of revenue into organizations that support people in our communities.

Do you have plans to offer similar events in other parts of the state such as Monterey?

Yes, I started putting this idea into motion about six weeks before it took place with nothing more than a couple of friends who would help distribute flyers and devote a few hours of time and talent, a boyfriend who can put up a webpage, and credit cards with a few hundred dollars left on them.

We brought over 170 guys into a hot and crowded room in the middle of nowhere in Redwood City, with an inadequate sound system and plenty of organizational glitches—and the vast majority had a great time. It only been 5 days and I've already heard several stories of people who have hooked up as a result of the event.

Do you think it has garnered so much interest?

You can get into detailed analyses about the options available for gay men to meet each other, 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 or another. It seems to me like the kind of person I'm interested in is probably not spending all of his evenings hanging out in bars, and if he is at a dance club, he's probably dancing and hanging out with friends, and unless you're super broad-minded and socially skilled, I think it's hard for the average person to walk up to someone and introduce themselves in a natural way at a bar.

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We had 96 matches—cases where two people each indicated that they were interested in meeting or talking again after the evening, and all this despite the fact that I had only the slightest idea of what I was doing. It's natural to do it again. I only came out a few hundred dollars ahead, but business people whose opinions I respect tell me it's unusual for this kind of venture to make anything at all the first time; and now I have a mailing list of over 200 people around the Bay Area, and I'm getting phone calls and e-mails every day from people who want to know about the next ones. We are able to donate about $50 to ARIS, the primary Santa Clara County AIDS organization. It's not going to double their budget, but we hope it can be the start of a long and regular stream of revenue into organizations that support people in our communities.

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Do you have plans to offer similar events in other parts of the state such as Monterey?
MCAP Massage Training Workshop
April 24-25th
FREE to all Certified Massage Practitioners & Therapists who would like to work with those living with HIV. Sponsored by the Monterey County AIDS Project.
Open your heart and give the gift of touch.
Register by e-mail: LightHands@webtv.net
or call: MCAP at 394-4747 Space is limited.

THEY ARE AT IT AGAIN!!!!
Girls dance with other girls dance!!!

American Legion Hall
at Dolores & 8th Ave. in Carmel
7:30pm to Midnight
Cover $5.00-all proceeds to benefit
L.G.B. Pride of Monterey County

Saturday 21st of March

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 responsibility some HIV+ gay men have adopted towards 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.

Wenzl 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 safe...a lot of people have had sex with someone that they trusted but who later turned up positive."

Closeted 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 they tend to understated 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."

Fear of condemnation for practicing unsafe sex from friends and the overwhelming fear of being infected with the virus must be 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 spectre 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 408/777-8202. An extensive list of links to HIV/AIDS-related websites is available from Monterey's Gay Website (www.mhay.net/~wes/monterey/). Updated HIV information is also available in The Paper.
by Chris Griffin Being Alive

On the last day of the Conference Dr. Scott Hammer of the Harvard Medical School presented an excellent overview, entitled "Next Gen HIV Drugs," which he summarized what we can expect to see emerging from the new drug development pipeline in the near and distant future.

These new weapons in the anti-HIV arsenal will include drugs in all three of the familiar antiretroviral classes—protease inhibitors (PIs), and both nucleoside and nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs and NNRTIs). Some of these drugs will become FDA-approved and sold as single therapeutic entities, and others are already available through various clinical trials (the PI amprenavir, the NRTIs abacavir and adefovir, and the NNRTI efavirenz). Others are in the earlier stages of development, still undergoing preclinical laboratory appraisals, and safety tests in animals and in humans.

Dr. Hammer also described some compounds, under investigation but will far from practice, that are already familiar (abacavir, indinavir, ritonavir, and delavirdine), as well as some that are not (amprenavir, Kivex, and tipranavir), and drugs that target "zinc fingers": just some of the irregular strategies scientists hope to interfere with and interfere in its role in salvage therapy (treating people whose viral load is rebounding despite the use of HAART) is currently being evaluated.

New Protease Inhibitors With Novel Mechanisms

ABT-378 (Abbot Labs). This promises to be one of the most powerful protease inhibitors yet to be developed so far. At this time it has been tested only in vitro (in test tube) and in rats; in these tests it has proven to be ten times more potent than ritonavir (Norvir). Abbot says it has a synergistic effect when used with ritonavir. Resistance profiles suggest that people with extensive exposure to previous PIs should not be sensitive to ABT-378, and people previously treated with saquinavir should remain wholly sensitive.

PAU-140890 (Pharmacia & Upjohn), Bristol Myers 326022, Park-Davis 178390. These three drugs aim to disrupt the HIV replication process in a way different from the protease inhibitors. They are already family friendly (saquinavir, indinavir, ritonavir, and delavirdine, as well as amprenavir and ABT-378). Because of their different mechanisms of action they may prove highly effective against PIs-resistant strains of HIV.

Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs)

Abacavir (formerly 1952389, Glaxo Wellcome). Now in Phase III clinical trials, this nucleoside analog is synergistic with other RTIs in vitro, and is the only NRTI that equals AZT's ability to penetrate the central nervous system. Treatment guidelines require its use in combination with AZT or ddI, but resistance to JTC is likely.

Amprenavir is up to three times more active than AZT, and AZT 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 bone pain, 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 aggravated life-threatening reactions, including one death.

Abacavir is now available through an expanded access program. Further expanded trials of abacavir, in combination with other antiretrovirals including protease inhibitors, are under way. Adefovir (previously PMEA, brand name Previ, 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 vivo. It is in studies, adequate with HIV compared to other protease inhibitors, with the Fortovase, which is as potent as the other available PIs. Fortovase is now FDA-approved and available from U.S. pharmacies.

Amprenavir (formerly known as 141W94, Glaxo Wellcome). Like other PIs, amprenavir is an analog of the basic, highly effective and HIV-specific molecular structure of saquinavir, altered to achieve greater availability in the body and to less resistance, the amprenavir sphere of saquinavir plus better avoid viral resistance. Several reports at the Conference dealt with amprenavir in combination with other antiretrovirals, but it is unclear how amprenavir in combination with other nucleosides, or with other NRTIs and saquinavir produced impressive decreases in viroin (viral activity). Another study showed that amprenavir is a more potent inhibitor of HIV than did, though it was used as part of a well-designed combination study. Interestingly, amprenavir in combination with the NRTI abacavir resulted in a synergistic effect when used with ritonavir. Resistance profiles suggest that people with extensive exposure to previous PIs should not be sensitive to ABT-378, and people previously treated with saquinavir should remain wholly sensitive.

FDC

This molecule analog, now in Phase I/II clinical trials, resembles JTC 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, and d4T, and other drugs similar to the "peptide-class" of PIs with which we are already familiar (Saquinavir, Kivex, and tipranavir), 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 conversant in his community guidelines and the patient's previous antiretroviral use," Exceptions to Gilead's current FTC and viroin load requirements will be favorably considered. For information on the Adefovir Expanded Access Program call 800.gilead.5.

State AIDS Lobby Day, April 20th

alifornians active in the fight against HIV including those living with the virus will gather at the State Capitol for the Steps of 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.

Zinc Finger Inhibitors

HIV contains a structure called "zinc finger" which cannot readily change its nature; that is, the virus would find it difficult to mutate to evade the drug. AMD-3100, being developed by Foscarnet, is seen as a potential weapon against the virus's chemokine receptor. AMD-3100 relies on the benefits of being able to block the cell's immune response.

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MARSHA ON FASHION

Spring! Spring! Spring!

Yes, spring is here once again and it's definitely a great time for fashion.

With all the spring collections pouring out onto the runways, there's a variety of influences from the 1950's and modern functional chic.

As far as the 50s goes, look for capri pants inspired by bombshell sirens to the tall, dark, and handsome rebel with classics like jean jackets and cuffed trousers to cute vintage party outfits.

You will want to explore fashion picks with comfort to sporty street wear and influences from Asia. Don't forget colors! The pastel, grays and handsome rebel with classics like jean jackets 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, ladies threads.

The clean cut look is also a plus if you're interested in a look that take you back to the 50s appearance. Designers aren't the only ones mixing old with new. If you're clever with your new duds, you may want to try adding vintage pieces like leather jackets, ladies threads.

Here's the top 10 for spring:
1. Chic clasp suits
2. Cashmere sweaters
3. Extra long cuffed trousers
4. Capri pants
5. Bermuda shorts
6. Unique chokers
7. Pastels!
9. Shoes, Mules, slides, African, 50s inspired wingtips
10. Intricate beading, embroidery (bags to garments)

Responding to a Personal Ad

The Paper will not be held liable for what transpires on meetings arranged through the service. If you're not properly tioned to an ad, do you at your own risk.

Put the sealed envelope with your response to an another stamped envelope and mail it to The Paper. Responses received with postage due will be thrown away.

Out in the Great Outdoors

Looking for an adventurous getaway with a few friends, but all they want to do is their hair? Outside Sports could be your new best friend. The San Francisco company arranges a wide range of outdoor activities—kayaking on San Francisco Bay, hiking 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.

Birds of a Feather

The owners of Outside Sports describe their trips as those where you will “find yourself in contact with people, including the hikeleaders. Call John Brennan, 408/649-5646, jcbrennan@mbay.net for information call 408/393-2578.

Personal

Women For Women

GF, 28, Seeks Other Fun Seeking Women...
To spend time with. Let's have coffee, network with others, and enjoy Monterey. Respond 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, thrill, photo? You: Into same or not. 18-24, slim-to-medium-build, artist, nay, be! You: To hang with. (Respond to #88MAR04)

Shamanistic Type
Interested in like-minded guys to explore... All is possible. Let's "kiss". Response to (e.g. #20MAR01) on a blank stamped envelope and enclose your response. This is the envelope we will forward.

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Gay Sierra Club Hikes

Garland Park Hike

GLS Lost Coast Adventure

Roommates

Need a Place

28 year old GWM looking for room for rent, with Kitch priv. Will pay up to $470, including utilities. Student. Great References. 408/394-9407 or 899-1030.

Have a Place

Marina
Male roommate to share 2 bdr. Marina apt. Good location. $375 includes all utilities. Smoke OK. Call Tony 894-9146.

North Salinas

Room for rent in a 2bed/1bath apt. $350 a month, $320 deposit, some utilities. Must be financially responsible. Call Greg at 408/443-0442.

Monterey

Room in 1950's house with all the comfort of home. Non-smoker preferred. $450, all utilities paid. 408/646-2723.

CRF. 45 seeks housemate. Must be employed, mature, responsible, quiet, considerate and love animals. No drugs, smoke. Lovely area, view incl W/O, fireplace, utilities except phone. $430/mo. 408/387-5339.

New Monterey

Room in great room house. $550 a month, 1/1 utilities and deposit. Excellent deck & view. Must be reliable and responsible. Call Jorge or Michael. 408/648-0125.

Del Rey Oaks

Room available for rent in three-bedroom Del Rey Oaks house. Quiet neighborhood, easy access to Highway 68 and 1, plenty of parking. Currently occupied by two CRF. 26 and 31. Rent is $450/month plus 1/3 utilities. For more information call 408/391-2578.

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