Women's Weekend Returns to Monterey
Annual Labor Day Fest Draws Thousands

The 3rd Annual Club Skirts Women’s Weekend is expected to once again draw thousands of women from across the country for mega pool parties, golf tournaments, comedy shows, and dance parties over the Labor Day weekend.

Referred to by some as "an innocent variant" of a circuit party, the Women's Weekend brings with it performers that the Central Coast wouldn't normally host, such as Jill Sobule ("I Kissed a Girl") and dance diva Tia ("Slip and Slide.")

"We're expecting the biggest weekend yet," said event producer Mariah Hanson. "The women love the weekend and the Monterey Bay Area. This year we are getting more calls from all over the country, so we are expecting a lot of out of state women as well as the California girls!"

Comediennes Karen Ripley from California, Michele Balan from New York, and headliner Karen Williams from Ohio perform on Friday. DJ Paige Hodel spins at "Marooned!", the huge dance party on Saturday night featuring state-of-the-art light and sound system.

"I think the locals really like the weekend," said Hanson. "We received nothing but glowing reports. They've given us a great welcome both years and we appreciate it."

For information call 888/5-SKIRTS.

Pride Revisited

The Labor Day Women's Weekend draws thousands of lesbians to the Monterey Hyatt Regency.
Letters

A Plea for Help

Greetings brothers and sisters of Monterey County. I come to you with an urgent plea and beg you give me just a few moments of precious time.

My name is Dave Erskine and many of you know me as the owner of Dave's Cycle Shop, in beautiful downtown Seaside. For almost 24 years I worked long hours to help my fellow motorcycle riders achieve the best prices and service.

Although it wasn't easy, I felt it was my duty and I did it happily, and with little remuneration other than a heart-feel thanks from many my loyal customers, over 3,000 regulars and 2,000 of "passer-bye" in all.

But as many of you know, the retail store came to a tragic end on December 10th, 1997 when a fire burned through the structure and destroyed over $34,000 in parts.

As if that weren't enough, the landlord, after promising that we would be back in operation by June, pulled some legal maneuvers while I was out of town and managed to have me evicted, even though she was being paid the rent and had sworn that she would lend us back after the store was remodeled. To add insult to injury, she later gave me what turned out to be a 36-hour notice to remove all the damaged parts, and then SCRAPED all of the motorcycles out back and remaining inventory within, dragging it to the Marina dump and disposing of it all, after I feverishly attempted to remove as much as I could in the brief time allotted. A loss of about $18,000.

So, with the loss of parts from the fire and landlady I was looking at $44,000 down the drain and a loss of retail revenues for the last 7 months of about $100,000, making a total of $144,000. And then, who should step in but the District Attorney? He had just received funding from the federal government to prosecute insurance fraud cases so without even a care, and I dare say not even a thought on his part, he said that he was thinking of filing fraud charges against me. It didn't matter that I was only insured for 25% of stock in inventory and it didn't matter that I HAD NOT EVEN FILED A CLAIM AS YET, it just mattered that he get his federal grant money so through the Seaside Police "grapevine" (an official who shall remain nameless) I learned that a warrant had been issued. It seemed that both were the same thing .

It is especially dear to my heart to help me out. It will assure me that those 24 years were not served in vain. I really do appreciate your reading this letter and hope that the cause appeals to you, I know it is especially dear to my heart, and that you will see it in your heart to help me out. It will make me feel especially good and will assure me that those 24 years were not served in vain.

A hearty thanks,

Dave Erskine

The Paper provides this space for commentary from the gay community. Views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of The Paper or its staff. The Paper welcomes your letters and comments. Please send them to The Paper, 787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940 or e-mail to wes@mbay.net.
Mariah T Presents

Club SKIRTS™
Vacations with a twist!

Labor Day In Monterey For Women
September 4-6th, 1998
The Hyatt Regency, Monterey CA

All Aboard Kick-Off Party
Friday, September 4th, 1998
w/DJ Page Hodel

Just For Laughs
Friday, September 4th, 1998
An unbelievable Laugh Fest
Doors open at 7:30 pm
Featuring Karen Williams, Michele Balan, and Karen Ripley!

Marooned?
Saturday, September 5
Our largest dance party with 1,500 women, our hot go-go's, national recording artist Tia & Mixtress Page Hodel

Sunday on the Green! T-dance and pool party!
Sunday, September 6
Featuring national recording artist Jill Sobule, Live on stage, singing her hits "I kissed a Girl & When my Ship comes in!

The Rescue Party
Presented by Absolut Vodka
Sunday, September 6
Our final blow out party
Special midnight performance by our hot go-go dancers.

Plus... sign up for our Annual Golf Tournament!

Call our hotline for ticket, mailing list & brochure info: 1-888-5-SKIRTS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.clubskirts.com

Rooms start at $135. Make your reservations early by calling the Hyatt directly at (408) 372-1234. Mention Club Skirts for our special rate!

BOARDING PASS
Order a boarding pass and save money!
Our boarding pass admits you into all our dance parties and the pool party for only $55 if ordered before August 15th, $60 after.

Send a check with SASE, post dated by August 15th to Mariah T Presents
584 Castro Street, Suite 206
San Francisco, CA 94114

___ Boarding Pass @$55
___ All Aboard II Dance & Comedy @$20
___ Marooned @ $22
___ The Rescue Party @ $20
Local News

Queer Beer Appears

Monterey residents can now sample the only alcoholic beverage produced specifically for the gay community. The After Dark nightclub in Monterey is one of the first five gay bars offering the “queer” pale ale, Q Beer.

The brainchild of former San Francisco marketing executive Phillip Feenster, Q Beer is brewed by the Queer Brewing Co. in San Francisco. Bottle labels are printed in the six colors of the pride rainbow.

The product was launched just prior to San Francisco’s Gay Pride festival in June of this year. It is currently available at markets, liquor stores, restaurants, and bars in San Francisco and has become the second best seller after Sierra Nevada Pale Ale in some locations.

“Everyone that has tried it has liked it,” said After Dark co-owner Weldon Webb (pictured left). “They say it has a taste somewhere between Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and Anchor Steam.”

Ten percent of sales from each $3 bottle of Q Beer are earmarked for local charities. The After Dark named the Monterey County AIDS Project as the beneficiary for its sales of the beer.

The After Dark is located at 214 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey.

The New Hands in Town

Massage therapist David Burke (pictured left) opened The Sugar Shack, a one-man massage studio in Seaside. Burke, a graduate of the Monterey Institute of Touch, specializes in Shiatsu, polarity, Swedish, Sports, and deep tissue massage.

Unlike some “massage therapists,” Burke noted, his services are intended only for healing bodywork and are strictly professional.

The Sugar Shack is located in a small renovated building behind the offices of the Monterey County AIDS Project at 780 Hamilton. Burke organized local massage therapists earlier this year to volunteer their services to people living with HIV.

You can contact Burke to schedule an appointment at 831/751-1004 during normal business hours.

Peninsula Home Design Center

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

Copy of this ad good for $25 on first visit!

TLC Dentistry
“for a smile you will love!”

Philip J. Lips, D.D.S.
Candidates Court Gay Vote

by Ken D. Dietz

Candidates running for office in local elections met with members of the Peninsula Professional Network (PPN) July 8th in Del Rey Oaks. Each candidate was given time to present their views on various issues, then fielded questions from PPN members.

Phil Chavez is a local Republican running against incumbent Fred Keeley for State Assembly. Chavez characterized himself as "standing up for the individual" against groups vying for politicos’ attention.

Chavez is for stronger drug enforcement, noting that heroin addiction in Santa Cruz is three times the national average. He is also for increasing school funding, and supports the creation of charter schools and the use of school vouchers.

Alan Styles, former mayor of Salinas, said that he views "constituents as partners." A 29-year resident of Salinas, Styles is a Democrat and is also strong on education. His concern is spread equally between local and non-gay issues, Styles voiced his concern over the lack of a visible gay community in Salinas. "I know we have a gay community in Salinas but we don’t hear from you”. Styles said that he would welcome input from representatives of the gay community also for a PPN member, said, "As a gay man, I’m proud to be working for Fred.” Shallcross mentioned that Keeley has a strong record of supporting gay issues, having lead the Santa Cruz boycott of Colorado after the passing of anti-gay Proposition 2 and supported establishing domestic partnership benefits for Santa Cruz County employees. Keeley is also one of the few candidates to mention his gay supporters regularly at non-gay political events.

Although most of the questions dealt with non-gay issues, Styles voiced his concern over the lack of a visible gay community in Salinas. "I know we have a gay community in Salinas but we don’t hear from you”. Styles said that he would welcome input from representatives of the gay community.

Asian Antique Store Opens in Carmel

Michael Wolf and Robert Evans opened Vermillion in Carmel. The store offers a wide selection of Asian antiques and art objects, as well as classes in the Chinese art of Feng Shui.

Vermillion is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. You can call Wolf or Evans at 831-620-1905 or send e-mail to vermilion@tias.com. WK
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
San Francisco Pride

by Larry

June was the month of peace, love, and pride. Monterey's pride weekend (June 18th-21st) was a great success. The kick-off party was held at the After Dark on Thursday with DJ Deno & David Harness working the turntables. The club was packed and the music was off the hook.

Saturday's after the parade was awesome. DJ Jaw was there to spin some slammin' old school tracks. The festival went on without a hitch...well, except for Miss Berntie Labelle's sprained ankle (hope you feel better Miss Labelle).

Afterwards we shifted over to the After Dark for the 1st Annual White Party. The club opened at 6 p.m. and went to 2 a.m. DJ's Marsha, Larry, Steve Kaos & Jeff B kept the crowd pumping all night long. Sunday Miss Berntie showed us that no matter what the show must go on. Even with a nasty sprained ankle she worked a packed house with a pride drag show extraordinaire.

The weekend of San Francisco's pride festival (June 26th-28th) was the bomb! So many things went on. Radio station KMLE hostted the 1st annual pride cruise on the bay. DJs Booker T from London, Neon Leon from Germany, and San Francisco house legends Pete Avila and David Harness rocked the boat spinning the hottest house music. An after party was held at the End Up.

On the 27th the Pink Saturday festival was held on the Castro. That night, Club Universe held their annual pride party. The club was standing room only with wall to wall muscle boys, fierce house music, and live performances by Joi Cardwell and Ultra Naté.

Sunday's parade was unbelievable. Yours truly was there representing Monterey on the KMLE/Yo Mama's House float. At the end of the parade, a dance stage was hosted by KMLE, with DJs Robert, Mancias, Neon Leon, David Harness and Pete Avila. Foxy Brown, host of Yo Mama's House, emceed the festivities which included live acts by Michelle Weeks, Joi Cardwell, and Ultra Naté, and a fireworks display that almost caused a "Michael Jackson Pepsi" catastrophe. We all escaped unburned and at 5 p.m. the party shifted to the End Up with a live performance by Billie Ray Martin. Many party people pranced off to Pleasure Dome till the wee hours of Monday morning. For those of you who were able to attend the festivities, you know it was unforgettable!

Pride Top 10
1. Music Sounds Better - Stardust
2. Heaven - Danny Tenaglia
3. Freedom - Sabrina Johnston
4. Sunday Morning - Backroom Congregation
5. Nobody Else - Ce Ce Peniston
6. The Horn Song - The Don
7. In My Life - Jose Nunez 8/Octavia
8. We Do Deep - Jacky
9. Music Is The Answer - Danny Tenaglia
10. Take Me Up - Ralph Rosario 8/Donna Blakely
Monterey Pride

Center Row (above):
The Pride Booth
John XXIII AIDS Ministry
YWCA
Monterey Bay Bears Club
Monterey County AIDS Project
Democratic Party
Gay Christians
Gay Teen Alliance

Young pride marchers
Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter (right)
Fiances Kenneth Allen and George Miranda sharing a hug
**July**

**Fri., 24**
Free Pool Night at the LB&G  
Every Friday at the Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 281 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, 373-4408.

**Gay Teen Alliance Meeting**  
For gay, bisexual, and questioning men and women under 25 years old. Confidential and safe. Call Craig Ward at 831/772-7202. Meetings every 2nd and 4th Friday. Social events.

**Lesbian Night at Franco's**  
Every 2nd and 4th Friday. 10639 Merritt St., Castroville (near the Wells Fargo). 633-2090.

**Sun., 25**
Dancing at Franco's  
The only gay club between Monterey and Santa Cruz and one of the hottest dancefloors on the Central Coast. Known as the place to do on a Thursday night. At the After Dark nightclub in Monterey, 214 Lighthouse Ave., 373-3928. Dance floor opens at 10 p.m. ($3 cover after 10).

**Beer Bust at the LB&G**  
Every Sunday. The recent place in Monterey to relax on a Sunday afternoon. Pool tables and a bigscreen TV. Starts around 6:30 p.m.

**Mon., 27**
Gay Coffee Chat at Morgan's  
At Morgan's Coffee and Tea, 498 Washington Ave., Monterey. A very friendly group get together outside of a bar atmosphere. Starts around 6:30 p.m.

**Augest**

**Sun., 2**
John XXIII Benefit Brunch in Carmel  
A fabulous brunch at Il Fornaio restaurant, Monte Verde and Ocean Ave. At 1 p.m. $20 per person. Call John XXIII AIDS Ministry at 831/655-1737 for tickets and information.

**Mon., 3**
Gay Coffee Chat  
At Morgan's in Monterey. See listing under July 27th.

**Wed., 12**
PPN Meeting  
Join the largest gay organization on the Central Coast for informative presentations and refreshments at the homes of other members. Monthly newsletter and social/educational evenings with speakers for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. Second Wednesday of every month. Call Del or Donn at 659-2446 for exact time and location.

**Thu., 13**
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous in P.G.  
Call 373-3713 for location. Starts at 8 p.m.

**Mon., 10**
Gay Coffee Chat  
At Morgan's in Monterey. See listing under July 27th.

**Tues., 11**
Gay Volleyball  
Every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at Carmel Beach (at the volleyball courts near the parking lot at the foot of Ocean Ave. For more information, contact Brian at squallt@comcast.net or call 831/394-5407.

**Gay Movie Night in Salinas**  
At the office of the Monterey County AIDS Project, 12 E. Coblin. Call Craig Ward at 772-8202 for movie title and information.

**Wed., 12**
PPN Meeting  
Join the largest gay organization on the Central Coast for informative presentations and refreshments at the homes of other members. Monthly newsletter and social/educational evenings with speakers for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. Second Wednesday of every month. Call Del or Donn at 659-2446 for exact time and location.

**Thu., 13**
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous in P.G.  
Call 373-3713 for location. Starts at 8 p.m.

**Fri., 14**
Monteey Bay Bears  
One of the most active gay social organizations in Monterey County and growing every month. Open to all. Potluck meetings are at 7 p.m. in Seaside. Call Bruce or Tex at 659/392-1482. MontereyBayBear@usa.net

**Lesbian Night at Franco's**  
Every 2nd and 4th Friday. 10639 Merritt St., Castroville (near the Wells Fargo). 633-2090.

**Gay Teen Alliance Meeting**  
For gay, bisexual, and questioning men and women under 25 years old. Confidential and safe. Call Craig Ward at 831/772-7202. Meetings every 2nd and 4th Friday. Social events.

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**Summer Rentals**

**The Wedding Banquet**  
Dir: Ang Lee, 1994  
A fluffy but enjoyable Taiwanese comedy of manners about two gay lovers, a starring artist, filial piety, and Chinese wedding rituals. Though many of the cultural references are left intentionally unexplained and some of the English dialogue is unintelligible, the storyline is straightforward enough to remain engaging. Gay content is limited to a few chase kisses between the male leads, but the gay references are right on target. Acting is stodgy but passable and the script goes easy on the maudlin sentimentalities, the MSG of your cinema.

**Freaks**  
Dir: Tod Browning, 1932  
Freaks is one of the most disturbing movies I saw as a teenager. Many of the actors in this thinly woven tale of deceit and revenge are physically deformed: the pinhead girl, the man whose body ends at the navel and walks on his hands, the amnrous girl who drinks from a glass using her toes. These actors, all cast as freaks, show attractions in a traveling circus, are pitted against a beautiful but treacherous acrobat. If this sounds like camp, it is. But, if by the finale you aren't shanting "One of Us! One of Us! Gobble gobble gobble gobble" you have no heart.

**Johnny Mnemonic**  
Dir: Robert Longo, 1995  
If you're following Keena Reeves' soft-boiled oeuvre, you won't want to miss this cyber-fairy tale. Otherwise, it's a snoozer. Set in the near future where data is transported via the brains of electronically augmented couriers, the film is disjointed and the actors unconvincing. A more capable director such as Paul Verhoeven would have done wonders with this script.

**Alien Resurrection**  
Dir: Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 1999  
The last and perhaps final re-incarnation of Sigourney Weaver's Ripley, butcher alien-killer in outer space. The storyline is once again built on the "let's breed them that aliens to do our biddin'" and captures some of the original's paranoia and Saturday matinee scary movie jitters. On a subtext level, however, this is squarely in line with the James Cameron version, which means what you see on the screen is all you have to talk about afterward over coffee. Ripley's revelations show off Weaver's command of her limited acting range, particularly the scene where uncovers her less successful predecessor. **VVV**

**Chasing Amy**  
Dir: Kevin Smith, 1997  
Gen-X love story. Boy draws comics, girl draws comics, boy wants girl, girl wants boy, boy talks compulsively. I don't know when my peers decided that we were the bon vivants of the 90s, but, boy, we need practice. Indie pomo script is gay-friendly in the extreme, but prone to endless absurdist banter (yaah). Still, so something...
Tue, 18
Gay Volleyball
See listing for July 28. Thursday schedule subject to change, so call before showing up.

Wed, 19
Gay Movie Night in Seaside
7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the office of the Monterey County AIDS Project, 280 Hamilton in Seaside. Call Craig Wenzl at 772-8202 for movie title and information.

Mon, 24
Gay Coffee Chat
At Morgan's in Monterey. See listing under July 27th.

Tue, 25
Gay Volleyball
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.

Fri, 28
Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay, bisexual, and questioning men and women under 25 years old. Call Craig Wenzl at 831/772-7202. Meetings every 2nd and 4th Friday. Social events.

Mon, 31
Gay Coffee Chat
At Morgan's in Monterey. See listing under July 27th.

September

Wed, 2
Gay Movie Night in Seaside
7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the office of the Monterey County AIDS Project, 12 E. Gabilan. Call Craig Wenzl at 772-8202 for movie title and information.

Fri-Sun, 4-6
Club Skirts Women's Weekend
The third annual gathering at the Monterey Hyatt Hotel. Comedy shows, dances, golf tournaments, and pool parties make this the biggest gay event on the Central Coast. Conundrums Karen Ripley, Michele Bala, and Karen Williams perform Friday, followed by a dance with go-go girls. Saturday is the golf tournament on the Del Monte golf course, and a dance (1st by Page Hotel and featuring dance duo Tai ("Slip and Slide"). Singer Jill Sobule ("I Kissed a Girl") will perform on Sunday. For a brochure, call 1-800/55-KRFITS. To reserve a room, call the Hyatt at 831/372-1314 and mention Club Skirts.

Mon, 7
The Paper Deadline
Send in your articles, letters, rants and raves, calendar events, etc. Ad placement deadlines now coincide with the article deadlines with ad materials due the following week. We are still particularly interested in lesbian-themed new articles, anything involving community activities, and the ever-popular news section. Call 831/655-7756 or e-mail wes@mbay.net for info. Please leave a detailed message.

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.

Tue, 8
Gay Volleyball
See listing for July 28.

Gay Movie Night in Salinas
At the office of the Monterey County AIDS Project, 12 E. Gabilan. Call Craig Wenzl at 772-8202 for movie title and information.

Wed, 9
PPN Meeting
Join the largest gay organization on the Central Coast for informative presentations and refreshments at the homes of other members. Second Wednesday of every month. Call Del: 659-2446 for time and location.

Fri, 101
Monterey Bay Bears
One of the most active gay social organization in Monterey County and growing every month. Open to all. Periodic meetings are in Seaside. Call Bruce or Tex at (408) 392-1482. E-mail MontereyBayBears@aol.net.

Gay Teen Alliance Meeting
For gay, bisexual, and questioning men and women under 25 years old. Confidential and safe. Call Craig Wenzl at 831/772-7202. Meetings every 2nd and 4th Friday. Social events.

Lesbian Night at Franco's
Gay, lesbian, and bisexual speakers bureau monthly business meeting. 133 Mission St., Ste. 100 in San Lorenzo Valley. To have Triangle Speakers speak to your organization call 408/425-3227. Contact Cynthia Dudley at 408/429-6529.

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, 15
Bears Dine Out
The Monterey Bay Bears "Dinner Night" is the first Tuesday of every month. Call Tex at 408/392-1482.

Gay Volleyball
See listing for July 28. Thursday schedule subject to change, so call before showing up.

Wed, 16
Gay Movie Night in Seaside
7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the office of the Monterey County AIDS Project, 280 Hamilton in Seaside. Call Craig Wenzl at 772-8202 for movie title and information.

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 hyperlink.

Companies Offer Domestic Partnership Benefits
- CTB/McGraw-Hill (Monterey)
- Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (Monterey)
- EDS (Monterey)
- Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital (Salinas)
- Sony Disc Manufacturing (Monterey)
- Starlight International, Inc. (Monterey)
- Watsonville Community Hospital (Watsonville, in negotiation)
- TCI (Monterey)

Does your company offer domestic partnership benefits? We want to know. Send your information to The Paper at 787 Laine St. #5, Monterey, CA 93940. 655-3756, wes@mbay.net

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

ReligiousServices
E C Monterey
A Pre-Gay & Lesbian Inter-denominational Christian Fellowship meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 p.m. for fun, sharing and study. All welcome. Call 648-1804

Lavender Road Metropolitan Community Church
Services held Sunday, 10 a.m. at Mariposa Hall, 802 Lighthouse Ave in Monterey. In Santa Cruz, Grace United Methodist Church, 2042 Sequoia Ave. at 5 p.m. Call Rev. John Harff at 408/590-8423. Box 1794, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. bmcc@geocities.com

Integrity (Gay Episcopalian)
An updated listing of local Episcopalian churches that are gay-friendly is now available. Call 484-2398.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church
The Relationship Project
How to find the partner of your dreams...

by Michael Capristo
Contributing Writer

Let me start by saying that I am currently in the process of searching for a fulfilling relationship myself. I do not profess to be a relationship expert or anything close to it. I do, however, think that after speaking to numerous people in our community on this subject that I have a few observations I would like to share.

For those of you who are perfectly happy being single, this article is definitely not for you. Okay, enough with the disclaimer!

The 5-second Rule

I recently spoke with several people in a leisurely Sunday evening (you know who you are). Naturally the topic of “relationships” became a subject of the conversation.

A very dear friend made a comment to the effect that he could determine the suitability of a life partner within about five seconds of meeting. Although this was said in jest, there is a ring of truthfulness in the concept.

Most of us have a preconceived idea of what Mr. or Ms. Right will be like. When you meet new people you apply this “test” to determine if this individual is even possible acceptable. Furthermore, many of us make this determination even before we meet people (i.e. “Oh, my god, that hideous hair…” or “Those clothes are a definite don’t…”). Maybe we should keep in mind that hair can be cut, a wardrobe can be changed, and yes, honey, money definitely does not make the man (or woman, as the case may be).

If you are truly hoping to find a life partner, is it really wise to use this type of criteria? Can you realistically make such a profound judgment about someone you have only known for five seconds? I think not.

Fulfillment or Functionality?

I’m not professing that anyone alters their standards for a partner. However, the question does come to mind, are you looking for fulfillment or functionality? Does he have the perfect pecs? Does she have flawless legs? The right car? The perfect home, job, walk, voice, dog, cat—and the list goes on. Let’s face it, how functional do you think it’s going to be in fifty years anyway? Even if you do marry Mr. Perfect people DO judge the book by its cover, consciously or unconsciously. Of this, we have all been guilty.

Be a good catch. Realize your strong suits as well as your weaknesses. If you have no taste in clothes, consult with a friend who does. Offer to buy them lunch if they will take you shopping and help you put together a look that shows off your better qualities. If people can’t get past the way you look, chances are the probably won’t take the time to get to know the real you.

Remember, just because you aren’t flippantly dismissing people for foolish reasons anymore doesn’t mean everyone else isn’t either! After all, do you really want to spend the rest of your life with someone who can’t see past the superficial?

When you do meet someone, don’t try to impress them with the car you drove or the amount of your last paycheck. You want them to like you for you, not what you have. Make a list of your good and bad qualities. Emphasize your better attributes and try to overcome your poor ones.

During conversations, ask intelligent questions. Have you had the opportunity to travel? How to you spend your free time? Do you like to cook? Find out about their hobbies and interests, and tell them about yours.

Does this sound like an interview? Well, it is. After all, we are only talking about the rest of your life! Getting to know people is exactly how you’ll know if this is a person you would like to know more about and spend a little more time with.

And Ye Shall Receive

Once you’ve met someone, don’t be afraid to ask them out. Rejection is probably one of the biggest fears we have concerning dating. It is, however, a necessary evil. Again, this is a numbers game. The more people you ask out, the more dates you end up with. Not everyone will decline, but don’t expect everyone to accept either.

Rejection is a fact of life for everyone. The more quickly you recover from rejection, the better off you are. If your new friend insists on going dutch, it is considered rude.

The question does come to mind, are you looking for fulfillment or functionality?

Why Do Birds Suddenly Appear...

The “love at first sight” syndrome is an easy trap to fall into as well. Practically everyone knows someone who just happened to make eye contact with their life partner in the pasta section of the supermarket and it was as if an atomic bomb went off. And, as the story goes, they spent the next fifty years in peaceful bliss adoring one another. Blah, blah, blah, yeah, whatever girlfriend.

All I know is that most of us have a much better chance at winning the lottery without buying a ticket. The majority of lasting relationships didn’t start off with a bang (no pun intended), but rather a slow simmer and slowly developed into a raging inferno.

Slut or Prude?

Sex...the double-edged sword (again, no pun intended). If you have sex on the first date, you are a slut. By the same token, if you don’t you’re a prude.

Sex is the most intimate of acts. If you are having sex, just to have sex, see it for what it is. A one night stand is one thing, the rest of your life is another. Know the difference.

If you are seeking a life companion, sex is a great way to express exactly how you feel about your partner. Sex is not, however, a very good way to start a lasting relationship. If you do meet someone with whom you have great “chemistry,” get to know them first.

Remember, the first few dates set the tone for the duration of your relationship. If these dates are based on sex, then your relationship is likely to be based on not much more. Knowledge, respect and true affection take a little time to develop, and sex can be INCREDIBLE when you can express these things to your partner. Some things are worth the wait.

There is someone out there for everyone, you just have to know how to go about looking. Don’t be surprised if you suddenly find them in the last place you thought possible! Just remember, go out there with a positive attitude…dress to impress and flirt your ass off…ask them out…and, most importantly, don’t drop your drink when they say yes!”
Fashion Highlights
Summer '98
by Marsha K. Olson
Fashion Columnist

Summer is finally here! And, it's time to take a vacation, visit friends, family, or just hit the road. You may have had a trip in mind that you've planned all year or you've decided to take a spur of the moment trip out of town. Or perhaps you're thinking about leaving the country to see the sights of Europe, Asia, or to head Down Under. You will need basic essentials to pack, plus "must haves" in hand for day to night. Depending on your destination, it's always safe to bring cool and warm items—ybu never know... one day it will be scorching, the next may be a monsoon. Here's a fashion list of items you may want to haul along on your trip.

1. survival kit (moisturizer, toiletries, sunscreen, makeup)
2. khakis
3. cargo pants/shorts
4. scarf, bandanna
5. jersey tees (tank tops)
6. sarongs/exotic to solid print
7. one nice 2-piece suit
8. walking/running shoes
9. slip-ons/heels for night out on the town
10. pullover cashmere sweater (black/white)
11. light parka/windbreaker
12. sturdy backpack that goes with wardrobe
13. socks, socks, socks
14. sunglasses
15. handbag that goes with entire wardrobe
16. water
17. black satin slip dress
18. coordinates tops/bottoms, mini skirts, slacks
19. camera
20. swimsuit, swim trunks

When you decide on what to bring, depending on the location, you'll be able to minimize your belonging, so that you don't end up with 50 bags of nonsense that you may not use. Happy traveling!

YEEEEEEhhhhhhhhhhhh
When Chaps Are More Than a Fashion Statement

The Golden State Gay Rodeo Association (GSGRA) 1998 Bay Area Regional Gay Rodeo drew hundreds of spectators and participants to the Santa Clara Fairgrounds in San Jose June 6th and 7th.

The competition included standard rodeo events, such as bareback bronco riding, and camp events which nonetheless test the skills of the cowboys (pictured left) and cowgirls.

The GSGRA holds weekly bingo games in San Jose to raise money for this and other events. For information, call the Rodeo Hotline at 415/561-9228 or mrgsgra@bigfoot.com. Website: users.aol.com/gsgra/bac98.htm

Wendy Bucklew
Lesbian Singer Releases Third CD, Tours Country

A cclaimed performer Wendy Bucklew released her third CD, "Asleep in the Swing" June 9th. The 11-song recording reveals her strength as a songwriter and performer.

Bucklew's blues-tinged acoustic style is reminiscent of Bonnie Raitt, especially on tracks like "Jealous Type" and "I Want," which she delivers with a raw, self-assured edge.

Bucklew has been heralded by Indigo Girl Amy Ray. "She possesses many rare qualities of a world of singer-songwriters," said Ray. "Her music gets better and better, listen after listen."

Bucklew has been involved in every aspect of her new CD, the cover of which features her own artwork.

For ordering information, call your local music store or Allegro Entertainment at 800/288-2007. You can also visit their website at www.allegro-music.com/alle

Bucklew's vocals. Bucklew is involved in every aspect of her new CD, the cover of which features her own artwork.

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San Diego

G
ay life centers around Hillcrest, San Diego's version of the Castro. Like its counterpart to the north, there are a number of shops, clubs, and restaurants to wile away a perfect Southern California summer day. The weather in July is temperate with warm, breezy days and cool nights.

San Diego's 24th Annual Pride Festival "Unity Through Diversity" was held July 24-26, although San Diego isn't known as a particularly liberal city. In Hillcrest, however, there are among friends. Several gay bars dot the neighborhood, along with larger hotels. For a more varied selection of accommodations, try Hotel Circle located approximately 20 minutes south by car.

Clubs

Alibi—(University Ave.) Not a gay bar per se but by far the coolest place to go to shoot pool.

The Gauntlet—(4216 Santa Monica Blvd., 664-889) My old hangout for no good reason. Similar in feel to the Detour but have cooled off.

The Detour—(4100 Sunset Blvd., 664-889) The only dance club near Sunset Junction. Formerly Bagu's, now the little sister of Le Bar on Hyperion Ave. Tiny dancefloor. Mostly Latino. Friendly if you make the effort. No smoking. Pulled from a hall.

Faultline—(4216 Melrose Ave., 664-889) Bears, cubs, and a cliquey but pretty 20-somethings crowd.

Flicks—(1017 29th St., 297-2056) San Diego's version of the Castro.

Le Bar—(3082 La Brea Ave., 296-0889) Bears, cubs, and crowd for happy hour.

The Detour—(4100 Sunset Blvd., 664-889) I often hang out for no good reason. Similar in feel to Bagu's, now the little sister of Le Bar on Hyperion Ave. Tiny dancefloor. Mostly Latino. Friendly if you make the effort. No smoking. Pulled from a hall.

Silver Lake

Silver Lake is typically L.A. The first time I drove through the area, I locked my doors and swore I would never return. A year later, I was there almost every day. The hills are lovely valleys dotted with mansions; hidden at street level are funky cafes and art stores. Silver Lake's namesake reservoir is wrapped in barbed wire, but it is still quite pretty at sunset.

Silver Lake was the in spot for bands and the art crowd a few years ago. It is still home to the Sunset Junction Festival, named after the intersection of Santa Monica and Sunset where most of the gay bars are located. Take the Pico St. and Castro St. fairs and mix in a Cinco de Mayo parade and you have Sunset Junction: young Latino couples pushing strollers pass leather men parading in riot gear and leashes while slumming. West Hollywood muscles snacking on roast corn—they all converge in late August for the festivities, which typically features the city's soon-to-be hottest underground bands.

Hotels in Silver lake are better left to the imagination. The large hotels off of Wilshire west of MacArthur Park, such as the Radisson Whaline (within walking distance of the ever hip Wilshire Theater at 3355 Wilshire Blvd.) are affordable—$120/night—and try extremely hard to appear cosmopolitan. As I stumbled through the lobby in my leather, not an eyebrow was raised.

The Bars

The Gauntlet B—(4219 Santa Monica Blvd., 669-9473) The leatheruniform bar in Silver lake.

Cuffs—(1941 Hyperion Ave., 660-2649) The only bar I've been to where at least two patrons were having sex when I walked through the door. Brighter than I remember (it was once lit by a single red light bulb over the bar), this tiny club is full of the tough and the merely tough-looking. From architects to plumbers, Cuffs draws a strange mix of men. After hours til 4 with a $3 cover. If you want a gorp or perhaps more, this is your bar. If you're smoking, you're probably missing out on something.
Dubuque is a small, picturesque city in the midwestern United States. Known for its Victorian mansions, riverfront, and community events, Dubuque offers a unique blend of history and modern amenities. The city is home to a vibrant gay community, with more than 350 bars and nightclubs. The Gay Omega Man, a film set in Dubuque, has contributed to the city's reputation as a gay-friendly destination.

### Wandering the Streets of Dubuque

Dubuque is known for its unique charm and community events. The Omega Man, a film set in Dubuque, has contributed to the city's reputation as a gay-friendly destination. The city's streets are filled with interesting buildings and historical landmarks, making it a great place to explore.

### The Quiet Life

In Dubuque, everyone either works for John Deere, the pig farmer, or McGraw-Hill, the publishing company. The city is also home to the Galena & Black Hawk Paddlewheelers, a popular local attraction. The city's Tyler Street Bridge is a popular landmark, and the Dubuque Streetcar is a fun way to explore the city.

### Staying Put

Community-minded locals have preserved many of Victoria's mansions downtown in Trolley Square, home to antique stores and B&Bs. The Redstone Inn offers large nicely decorated rooms, and the Galena & Black Hawk Paddlewheelers offer a unique riverfront experience. The city's Riverfront Park is a great place to relax and enjoy the views.

### The Omega Man

The Omega Man, a film set in Dubuque, has contributed to the city's reputation as a gay-friendly destination. The city's streets are filled with interesting buildings and historical landmarks, making it a great place to explore.

### Dog Day Afternoon

In Dog Day Afternoon, a movie set in Dubuque, the main character, played by Al Pacino, is a gay man who plans to rob a bank to fund his gender reassignment surgery. The film's depiction of the city's vibrant gay community is a testament to its unique charm.

### Ask Sarah

Dear Sarah,

I have just read your amazing and courageous story in The Paper. When I realized that you are the Sarah Lute that I have looked up to for so long, I was shocked and delighted. I have always felt awkward and confused about my outside appearance and felt female inside. I tried so hard to play the roles people wanted "like the boys," but I was very sad when I did, and only happy when secretly dressing as girl. I thought I was a freak because of those feelings. Once I even dared tell a girl I was dating, only to be rejected without any form of compassion. Since then I've lived quietly in Monterey waiting for a sign. Then a few years ago I saw your article in the Enquirer. For the first time in my life, I didn't feel alone. Your story, struggle, and stay has inspired me to continue. May peace always be with you.

Sincerely,
A Girlfriend from Monterey

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### Dubuque Iowa has a Low Gay Content

Dubuque, Iowa has a low gay content, but large portions of midwestern charm. Left: The riverfront paddlewheelers and casino. Middle: A typical idyll in the Julian Dubuque Memorial Park. Bottom left: Galena, Illinois offers art galleries and good restaurants. Below: Greyhound racing offers fast action on a summer afternoon. Bottom: the clock tower is the center of Dubuque community events.

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**Write to Sara Luiz, c/o The Paper, 781 Laine St., #5, Monroe, CA 93940, wes@mbay.net. It's a rare opportunity indeed.**
The Bathroom Factor
by John Laird

Ever year at this time as Gay Pride passes by, I review the political and cultural progress gay men and lesbians have made during the past year. By all traditional measures we have really moved ahead in last twelve months. But by one little known indicator of progress for modern civil rights movements, we really moved onto the political radar screen. That indicator? The issue of bathrooms.

You probably are wondering what bathrooms have to do with political progress. Let me clear that up.

Until the 1960s, the United States, particularly in the South, was guilty of the worst kind of racial discrimination—separate and unequal public accommodations. There were drinking fountains for whites and separate ones for blacks. There were neighborhoods for whites and neighborhoods for blacks. And there were separate bathrooms for whites and blacks.

In those days this issue was not a joking matter. There were many stories of African American citizens whose major concern about long drives was not being able to find a bathroom they could use at any point during their travels.

When the struggle to change this reached the halls of Congress, what was one of the issues raised? You guessed it. People of different races would have to use the same bathrooms. This was really scary to those citizens who insisted they weren’t really racists, just gentled.

As the Equal Rights Amendment was pressed in the 1970s, the inequality of women in America was stark. Less than 2% of the members of Congress were women, women in the workforce were paid just over half of what men were, and there were countless laws in which the rights of women were subordinate to the rights of men.

Yet when opponents fought against equal rights laws, could they oppose such obvious injustice? No. Instead, they brought up the issue of bathrooms. Would equal rights mean that young boys and girls would have to share bathrooms? If the ERA passed, there would be women linebackers on professional sports teams, and where will they shower?

When opponents fought against equal rights laws, could they oppose such obvious injustice? No. Instead, they brought up the issue of bathrooms.

Women’s rights had arrived as a movement. Bathrooms had become the issue. Yet women have moved ahead in this country in the two decades since this debate, and all the fears about bathrooms—expressed to keep them in their place at the time—failed to materialize.

In the 1980s, the years leading up to the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities pointed out the separate but unequal availability of sidewalks, transit—and yes, bathrooms. TheADA was similar to the black civil rights movement. People with disabilities were afraid to go certain places because they would not be able to find a bathroom if they needed it.

Last year, many of us in Santa Cruz celebrated the achievements of long time activist Terry Brickley—a champion of people with disabilities. As his daughter addressed the crowd that day, she described attending political meetings with her father. “Couldn’t we ever go to a meeting where they didn’t talk about bathrooms?”, she asked plaintively. “Not another meeting about bathrooms! Everyone else’s father talks about other things.”

By the end of the decade, people with disabilities were being taken seriously politically—and you could tell that the Americans for Disabilities Act was about to be adopted. Why? Because bathrooms had become the issue.

As you read in my last column in this space, a gay couple suffered disparate treatment trying to rent a camping space in the North Coast of Santa Cruz County. They were told they were not a couple and would have to pay almost double the rate any other couple would pay for a similar camping space.

Superstar Mardi Wormhoudt and a number of community activists worked to find a legal remedy for this injustice. A non-discrimination ordinance has now been adopted by the Board of Supervisors, which is part of the political progress I would traditionally hail in my annual report on the advances we have made in the past year.

But as the draft ordinance was being kicked around on its way to adoption, what issue came up? Was it concern about disparate treatment? Was it empathy for people who suffer such kinds of public rejection? Was it a passion for justice? Nope. You guessed it. It was a concern about bathrooms. There were questions raised about just who would be able to use which bathroom if equal rights based on sexual orientation were enacted into law.

So while I usually tell you each Gay Pride where we have had certain electoral victories since we last met, how we have advanced in being characterized in the movies and television, which new novels and histories chronicle us in a positive light—and we have had all of those this last year—I wanted you to know our movement is finally being taken seriously by one of the best indicators those in the corridors of power have to offer.

We threaten bathrooms. We have arrived politically.

John Laird is a former mayor of Santa Cruz and is a regular contributor to The Paper.

Sequel to Before Stonewall
A sequel to the Emmy Award winning documentary Before Stonewall has started production. The film will chronicle the history of the gay community following the 1969 Stonewall riots. The production crew will travel the country and to the Gay Games in Amsterdam. “These are the images that have forever changed the way America and the world looks at its gay and lesbian citizens,” said executive producer John Scagliotti. The film is scheduled for release in June, 1999 to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.
With the atmosphere somewhere between the pessimism experienced in Berlin in 1993 (shortly after the release of the Concorde study results) and the "eradication" jubilation in Vancouver in 1996, the 12th World AIDS Conference, like the conference in which I was held, felt more like a meeting of those who took for granted and more nausea in those on indi­

To be clear, this study demonstrates the promise of non-protease-containing regimens, particularly with drugs that seem as potent as does efavirenz. However, most experts are not rushing to change patients from PI-containing regimens (Sustiva is not yet FDA approved, but should be within the next months).
The Height of Bad Taste

Rocketing to the top of the "what were they thinking" list is Chasing Andy, the pornographic version of the Andrew Cunanan serial murder story released by Tribble Pulse Productions. Little did we know from the FBI reports that the manhunt for Cunanan also involved an orgy in an artist's loft, mudwrestling, and a Santeria ritual (!). All of this adds up to a "scorching sexual thriller" whose title manages to degrade one of the few decent gay-themed comedies.

The Paper's Listening Room

Missy Misdemeanor Elliott

The woman partly responsible for the success of platinum groups like Jodeci, Aaliyah, and MC Lyte, it seems like Missy Misdemeanor Elliott was bound for stardom. Her songwriting skills are well-known in the rap/R&B arena and with her debut album "Supa Dupa Fly" she at last takes her rightful place on Elektra Records' thrown in for good measure. Standout tracks include "You, Me" and "The Rain," seen in years-an impressive first attempt to pro­vide its readers with accurate and timely information.

The Paper

Jennifer Shockey of the Monterey County AIDS Project was involved in need­le exchange; Shockey is her age, moving from a soulful to the Peninsula Professional Network, which we have been making a plural for the past five years by mistake. By far the most popular organi­zation on the central coast, PPIN still manages to mix informative programs and socializing with a sense of graciousness. You have my respect, Del and Donn.

MEN FOR MEN

GWM

ISO someone who wants to ride along to the Phoenix area at the end of 1998. Either one way or roundtrip. I'll be gone about 2 weeks. N/S. Help with expenses. Send name and phone to Rick R., P.O. Box 107, Marina, CA 93933, 765-4477.

What Do You Say?

You, me, under the stars? Me 26, playful, discreet, easy going, gym-toned, into house, thrift, photo. You? Same or not, 18-24, slim-to-medium-build, artistic, socializer? Hi! To hang with. (Respond to #98MAR01)

Shamanistic Type

Interested in like-minded guys to explore... All is possible. Let's do it! -- Sylvester B306, 5315 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel. (Respond to #98MAR03)

Asian/European-American

Professional man, 5'7", 147#, 31, brn, clean cut, cute, witty, ISO honest, wholesome, masculine kind of guy for casual dating and possible LTR. (Respond to #98MAR01)

Average, Typical, and Sane

Grad student in Monterey seeks happy & intelligent local guy for fun and friendship. E-mail: Daniel866@aol.com or write P.O. Box 492, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

GWF Young 40s

Seeking friendship for hiking, dancing, movies, living the good life (no smokers); race not important spiritual. (Respond to #98JUL01)

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 OR WOMEN

Bi-WM

Secure, 28, seeks G&Bi for friendship & fun. (Respond to #98MAR02)

Roommates

Furnished room for rent. Located in quiet gated Monterey community with views. Looking for mature, responsible and drug-free person. Ideal roomate 539-3574.

WOMEN FOR MEN

Need a Place

Ideal Roommate

F looking for studio or 1 bedroom or house share with Private entry preferred. Part-time resident. Please call 831-957-5700.

Young professional male

relocating to Monterey area in August seeks furnished room to rent through December. Athletic, clean-cut non-smok­er with references available. Scott 559-590-5419 or e-mail: scott.morse75@sunquest.net.

Have a Place

Watsonville

Apt in Watsonville for rent now. Pay rent of $300.00 per month or $500.00 per month, 3 beds available. Incl. all utilities. Some utilities. Phone: 559-959-7016.

Sea Side

For rent June 1, Big studio apt. in house. Nice area. Incl. utilities, private entrance, 9 beds, living room, kitchen. $1500.00 deposit. E-mail: fish10@yc.com.

Aromas

"I wish to Readers of The Paper"

Charming, possibly cottage near downtown Monterey. Country setting feature landscaping and views, 1 bedroom, 1 bath with sunny office or second bedroom. Full laundry and adjacent orchard on three acres of land. $800.00 plus util. Also available is a housekeeper for a 4 bedroom house on the same property. Call Barby at 778-2028.

New Monterey

Room in great 4brm house, $450 a month, 1 tv screen, and includes utilities. Excellent deal! & view. Must be reliable and responsible. Call Jorge or Michael 408/964-6447.
 classified ads

Gay and Lesbian!

Gay and Lesbian Social Group

is looking for another community group to share the cost of a booth ($75) in S.E. Gay Gay Day in June. We are comedy writers, rock music junkies, etc. We sponsor workshops.

Dancing in the heart of Santa Cruz. Dancing Thurs thru Sun, patio, full bar. Open Sats. 10639 Soquel Ave. Soquel Ave. at s.p.m. Call Rev. Jean Hart at 780 Hamilton, Seaside, 394-7878.

Monterey County AIDS Project's Salinas Office. Proceeds go to benefit locals with HIV/AIDS. At least 3% of the heterosexual male population in the United States. The Paper cannot fulfill your subscription without the following information. It will be kept strictly confidential. Subscription requests not accompanied by payment will be thrown away.

Bay Area Resources

BAYMEC

LGBTQ gay & gay political organization. 899-2263.

Gay Women's Resource Center

Gay Women's cancer advocacy, resources and education. 899-1550.

Lesbian Alliance

A local group offering a variety of social activities. Call 646-4333 for more information.

Monterey County Community Church

Services held Sunday, 10 a.m. at Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Ave in Monterey. In Santa Cruz, Grace United Methodist Church, 1224 Soquel Ave. at 1 p.m. Call Rev. Ray Hart at 871-3549. 842-6824. P.O. Box 1764, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Grande Cypress Empire

A non-profit fundraising organization benefitting local gay and AIDS agencies. 899-1550.

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