

COMING UP!

September, 1981

Largest Lesbian/Gay Circulation in the Bay Area

FREE

Rhinoceros Bids adieu to Goodman

by Penni Kimmel

When a Rhinoceros moves, it doesn't just go lumbering off into the sunrise trailing U-Hauls full of fallen proscenium arches, struck sets and clotted pancake, with its actors gallumphing behind. Not at all. Theatre Rhinoceros, one of the world's few gay theaters, puts on a four-night farewell performance/party for its performance- and party-loving patrons.

September 3, 4, 5 and 6, San Francisco's theater-goers can enjoy the last of the current run, *Dinosaurs*, followed by revue highlights of the past 2 1/2 years' fifteen shows, washed down with comestibles and imbibables. Not to mention food and wine. Only then will the Theatre Rhinoceros trundle south on Van Ness to 2926-16th Street, its new home at the Redstone Building.

The present run features the World Premiere of three one-acts by local playwright, C.D. Arnold. Arnold's plays are a fitting close to this season and the weary Geary building; they deal with coping with the past and coming to terms with dreams.

In *A Night in the Blue Moon*, Pablo (Charles Solomon) forces a recreation of an adolescent romance on his first love, Arthur (Joel Jason), at their high school reunion — a poignantly funny look at how old memories can stretch into the present and snap into different perspectives. There are surprises, surprisingly without contrivances.

The moody *Dinosaurs*, featuring Christian

(continued on page 7)



Members of the Foggy City Squares strut down Market Street in this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, part of the Country/Western Invasion, see story page 7.

Photo: Kim Corsaro 1981

Womyn fight back Take Back The Night

by Regina Gabriellé

Rape. Violence against womyn. I've had to think about it for a long time. All of my worst fears and paranoia have taken turns swirling inside of me: turning my stomach upside down, making my head and heart ache, sending a burning fury through my soul.

Last year at this time I spent quietly in the country of Michigan recovering and recollecting myself after being attacked by a man who was going to rape me. I was lucky. I fought back and got away. I scared him when I began to fight back. But not every womyn is as fortunate as I was. And just because I got away last year doesn't mean there isn't some other man out there who won't try to do the same thing. That is a reality that frightens me to no end.

So much of my energy, as with most womyn, is spent at trying to cope with the feelings of fear, paranoia, and vulnerability that rape brings. When the night falls, you can bet that more than one womyn thinks twice about the unwanted dangers out there to which she can become victim. When a womyn is in the hands of a would-be rapist, she is alone, with just herself to rely on.

In a world where half the population is womyn, it is totally absurd that we cannot feel safe walking in the streets at night and sometimes even the day.

And while womyn are not safe in the streets, we are also not safe in our homes. A few months following my experience in Michigan, I was confronted by a strange man in my home after taking my morning shower! I survived that experience with my hysterical screams which frightened him out the door. I no longer feel totally safe in my home. Imagine the powerlessness and vulnerability that can evoke in someone.

At times, it can seem a hopeless situation. I am a student who takes many night classes. As womyn alone on campus, we are encour-

aged to rely on a campus escort service to get safely to our transportation home. Yet it was a campus security guard who raped and murdered a female student in the spring of '77.

Last November following that year's Take Back the Night march, one of my instructors came to class with a scarf wrapped around her forehead. It helped to hide bruises from a beating she suffered at the march from a police officer.

When womyn unite together to march in the

(continued on page 7)

Carpool to Women's Fest

The Second Annual Women's Music & Cultural Festival happens again in Yosemite this year, September 10-13. Our article on page 7 has complete details about this year's celebration. Festival organizers have said they do not have the time or resources to organize carpooling, so *Coming Up!* has arranged with the San Francisco Women's Building and I.C.I. Woman's Place in Oakland to establish centers for women to network to get to the festival safely.

If you need a ride to the festival and have no transportation or are short on funds, please do not hitch, but drop by either the Women's Building drop-in room for women (3rd floor) or the information bulletin at Woman's Place Bookstore where special spaces have been set aside for carpooling. (Please note: drop by! — staff at both locations will not be able to handle phone calls from women needing ride info). Women without transportation can also take the names of other women needing rides, so if there is a surplus of women without transportation, we can call each other up and arrange to travel together.

If you have a vehicle going to the festival and have any extra space, please be sure to stop by and list your name for those women without rides. Let's cram our cars so everyone gets there O.K.!

This is a last-minute attempt to fill a very important need in our community and by no means completely adequate (for instance, how are women going to get from bus stations to the festival site?) *Coming Up!* urges festival organizers to consider the safety of women getting to the festival a top priority next year and to create a special staff position to organize networks of transportation that will insure a space for all women to travel to this very special celebration of our culture in safety.

September is Hispanic American month. Sept. 13-19 is National Hispanic Heritage Week.

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Gay Latino/ Latina Alliance

by Monica Lozano

Castro Street. Polk Street. The bars. San Francisco. The "Gay Mecca." Many of us came to San Francisco hoping to find a place where we could be openly gay and a part of the community. But, even here in San Francisco we still didn't fit in because it wasn't our community.

We felt alienated, oppressed. Going to the bars, they asked us for three pieces of picture I.D. Because we looked different — we were darker. Talked different — in Spanish. Sometimes only because we dressed different. And inside the bars we didn't hear our own music. No *rancheras*, *salsa*, *norteñas*, *mambo* or *samba*. Instead disco, country, folk. The lifestyles weren't ours, the culture wasn't ours.

We were Latinos, and even though we were gay, the gay community didn't fill our needs. What we needed was something for us, and that's when we came together to form an organization by and for Latinos. We chose the name GALA, The Gay Latino/a Alliance, and the organization was born six years ago in 1975.

GALA was created with the goals of promoting a high sense of self, of building an awareness of the social, political and cultural realities of Latinos/as and to provide support to those suffering the effects of racial, economic and sexual oppression.

But GALA wasn't and isn't solely a support group, though that is an important part of the organization. For us, it is also important that we remain with our people, our *gente*, and work in our own Latin community. We have found it necessary to go out into the community and to work side-by-side with other Latinos. But openly, as gay Latinos.

We want to be respected within our community as gay people. And we feel the best way of getting that respect is to show that we have not abandoned our *gente*, that we are very much involved with them.

In the last six years we have worked on many community issues and with many groups. We have worked with the Inez Garcia Defense, the United Farmworkers, the Mission Neighborhood Center, the Mission Cultural Center. Through solidarity work here in San Francisco, we've supported the revolutionary movements of Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador. We've worked with *El Tecolote*, Latinos for Affirmative Action and many other groups. We co-sponsored with the Third World Gay Caucus, Third World Gay Day and have been involved in the First National Third World Gay Conference and the First National Conference of Gay and Lesbian Latinos.

So, throughout the years GALA has shown itself to be a valuable part of the Latin community in San Francisco. The respect we desired has come to us. Our self-image as gays and Latinos has been validated. Destructive stereotypes born of ignorance have been deflated.

All of our activities are geared towards integrating as much as possible of our goals. We are a co-sexual organization and operate as a collective. We hold social functions, usually dances, on the average of once a month. These give people a chance to come together in a non-bar setting, and dance to Latin music. The money made from these dances is usually channelled back into the



Members of Teatro Esperanza of Santa Barbara in *The Octopus*, an allegorical fable about the far-reaching tentacles of capitalism. One of the many events featured during Teatro Festival.

San Francisco hosts 11th International Chicano Latino Teatro Festival

The 11th International Chicano/Latino Teatro Festival takes place in San Francisco for ten days, September 11-20. This year's Festival is hosted by two resident theatre companies of the Mission District — Teatro Latino and Teatro Gusto.

Teatro Campesino hosted the 1st Annual Chicano Theatre Festival in the spring of 1970 in Fresno, California. Fifteen theatre groups from all over the U.S. attended to begin an annual tradition that has grown into an international event.

Today a coalition of fifty-plus theatre companies throughout the U.S. and Mexico are represented by *Teatros Nacionales de Aztlan, Inc.* (TENAZ), working collectively in *teatros*, the *trabajadores de la cultura* (cultural workers) of TENAZ have committed themselves to expressing the hopes, frustrations, dreams and demands of the nation's second largest ethnic group.

After ten years, TENAZ survives as a coalition of artists concerned with the culture and

community. And they are usually a lot of fun!

In fact, we are planning dances for September 12, October 31 and December 3, 1981. The September and December dances will be held at the American Indian Center, 225 Valencia Street. The location for October 31 will be announced later. We encourage anyone interested in GALA to contact us, or come to a dance and see for yourself. The role that GALA has in this community is greatly needed, and we are always open to new energies and ideas.

For more information contact: GALA, c/o 185 San Carlos St., San Francisco, CA 94110 or call 431-8874.

Monica Lozano is GALA's treasurer.

conditions of the Chicano/Mexicano in the United States and is recognized as a vociferous and active arm of the current Chicano Cultural Renaissance.

San Francisco is long overdue to host this international event, and the 1981 Festival promises to reflect the uniqueness and diversities of the city and provide a forum for discussion. In addition to the nightly theatre showcases open to the public, daily workshops and discussion groups will be held for members of visiting theatre companies — dealing with a variety of topics such as Latin American Teatro In & Out of the U.S.; Third World & Ethnic Theatre; Alternative, Community & Labor Theatre; Issues of Women in Teatro; and Gay and Lesbian Theatre.

A special production of *Reunion*, a play about a gay Latino who brings his lover home to meet his family, recently produced at Mission Cultural Center, will be presented for Festival participants to spark discussion of roles and sexuality in Teatro.

Community networking is an integral focus of the 1981 Festival. The dates for the event coincide with National Hispanic Heritage Week, and will begin with street theatre performances at the Third Annual 24th Street Fair. An on-going photo exhibit on *Teatros de TENAZ* will be presented during the Festival. Cultural and media centers throughout the Mission are involved in Festival preparations and coverage, and The San Francisco Mime Troupe will co-sponsor a Day of Teatro in Dolores Park to close the Festival.

The complete schedule of nightly Latino/Chicano Teatro from around the world follows. For more detailed information on the programs offered, contact the Mission Cultural Center at 821-1155.

Fri, Sept 11 — 8pm: *Liz Estrada*, Teatro Latino of San Francisco.

Sat, Sept 12 — 8pm: *Ue Ue Co y Atle* (The Old Coyote), Teatro Urbano of Los Angeles. 10pm: *Cucara y Macara*, Compania De Teatro Infanteria

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Astrological Forecast

For the month of September, 1981

by George Hurd

The Autumnal Equinox takes place on Tuesday, September 22, at 8:06pm, symbolizing a balance between polarities — between night and day, yin and yang, self and others. It is a point in the annual dance between the day and night forces when there is a marked pause, a suspension in the play, similar to the hush that colors sunrises and sunsets. "In that incredibly brief moment of stillness and silence, the whole can express its wholeness... in a synthesis of being which transcends the qualities produced by the... preponderance of either the Day or Night forces. Nature is transcended; Spirit is revealed." (Dane Rudhyar, *The Pulse of Life*.)

The equinox presents us with a unique opportunity to transcend all apparent polarities, transcend a dualistic reality and experience a oneness, an essential unity that demonstrates that we are indeed co-creators of our universe.

Aries: Looks like summer play's over for now — responsibility looms and work calls — September is a time to take care of business. Apart from a few rather confusing days around mid-month, things tend to go smoothly. It's generally a good time to deepen your connections with those significant others.

Taurus: Connections with other's at work and at play take on a special intensity early in the month, and you may be dealing with insecurities that have been lying beneath the surface. This can lead to a deepening of these relationships, if dealt with honestly. The middle of the month finds you swept up in romantic idealism as "s/he" appears.

Gemini: Wanting to spend a lot of time with others and yet feeling a need to spend more time at home could lead you to holding court. You could become host/ess of the month. This could get a little out of hand around mid-month, as some of your guests may just want to move in.

Cancer: The full moon on the 13th highlights

Teatra Veracruzano.

Sun, Sept 13 — 8pm: *Nosotros Los Que Movemos El Mundo* (We the People that Move the World), Teatro Para Obreros from Venezuela. All day street performances at 24th Street Fair: *Archie Goes to El Salvador*, Teatro Raíces of Oxnard; *A Emiliano Zapata* (To Emiliano Zapata), Teatro Taller Tecolote of Mexico; *Las Cinco Palabras* (The Five Words), Paso de Oso of Mexico; International Mime Theater of Colombia, Teatro Con Ganas of Houston; and Leonardo Kosta, puppeteer from Ecuador.

Mon, Sept 14 — 8pm: *Voz de la Mujer* (Voice of the Woman), Valentina Productions of San Jose; and *Aguilas de Rojos Dias* (Eagles of the Red Days), Teatro Taller Tecolote.

Tues, Sept 15 — 8pm: *De Compras* (Going Shopping), The Bear Republic Theater of Santa Cruz.

Wed, Sept 16 — 8pm: *La Carpa* (The Circus Tent), Teatro Zero of Cuernavaca.

Thurs, Sept 17 — 8pm: An Evening with the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Fri, Sept 18 — 8pm: *The Octopus*, Teatro Esperanza of Santa Barbara.

Sat, Sept 19 — 8pm: *Lo Que Dejo La Tempestad* (What the Storm Left), Teatro La Mama of Columbia; and *The Leash*, Teatro Gusto of San Francisco.

Sun, Sept 20 — (at Dolores Park): noon: theatre for kids and music; 2pm: *Fact Wino Meets the Moral Majority*, San Francisco Mime Troupe; 3pm: More theater and surprise.

Tickets for each show are \$4, or \$10 for any 3 performances. All performance are at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, SF (one block from 24th Street BART station), except where noted. Tickets are available at Mission Cultural Center, La Raza Graphics, 3174-16th St (863-5820) and Galeria De La Raza/Studio 24, 2851-24th St (826-8009). For reservations call 282-0170.

Special thanks to Rodrigo Reyes, of Mission Cultural Center and Teatro Gusto, for providing us with the information for this article.

your month as your every-day activities get set aside for a few days. Messages take on hidden meanings of cosmic import; your sensitivity is enhanced, so be careful to maintain some sense of proportion. In comparison, the rest of the month appears rather mundane.

Leo: "The king is in his counting house" — taking inventory of personal assets, material goods and other resources. Being aware of a mid-month tendency to over-extend could save you some late-month adjusting, as the full moon confuses the issues. Reviewing how you use what you have leads to some minor changes toward the end of September.

Virgo: A subjective appreciation of your own personality and power provides a bit of uncharacteristic chutzpah, moving you from the sidelines to stage-center. It's your month to celebrate yourself. The light of the full moon could find you breathless in the arms of another.

Libra: "September Meditations" might be an appropriate theme song for this month's inner focus, as messages from unconscious levels surface. Quiet time for reflection is called for, especially leading up to the full moon. Honesty in dealing with your deeper motivations provides a release from a long-time restrictive behavior pattern.

Scorpio: Decisions you make this month will set the tone for the coming year's activities, so take advantage of the time to plan ahead. Any commitment of resources under the full moon's influence could prove unrealistic and frustrating; this includes a commitment of your time and energies to the appearance of a romantic relationship.

Sagittarius: A gradual increase in responsibilities at work puts you to a test of your real abilities and commitment. Any less-than-honest pretensions are exposed under the soft brightness of the full moon. Though such responsibilities preoccupy you most of the month, as October approaches your social life picks' up and relationship plans begin to develop.

Capricorn: Trying something new this month to break out of habitual patterns stimulates you intellectually and broadens your awareness of the world and its variety of viewpoints and lifestyles. Your normal routine is challenged with opportunities to be a bit more daring in moving into unfamiliar areas.

Aquarius: The influence of another person on your plans becomes marked as your expectations of support are not met, though they may appear to be. This experience triggers a deep emotional response that challenges your characteristic detachment and leads you to new ways of dealing with the others in your life.

Pisces: Involvement with your "others" preoccupies you this month. You could easily lose yourself in the play of these interactions at mid-month. September is a time for increased involvement with others and can be used to discover more about yourself in relationships. Outside opinions provide the necessary perspective.

The full moon is on Sunday, September 13, 8:09pm, in Pisces. The new moon, in Libra, is on Sunday, September 27, at 9:08pm.

COMING UP!
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Calendar Listings
Performers, clubs, individuals or groups who want to list events in the calendar should mail notices to us so that they reach us before the 18th of the month preceding publication. We can not take listings by phone. Listings are free.

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Celebrate Our 2nd Anniversary
Friday, September 11th
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Michael Greer benefits Gay Rights Advocates

Gay Rights Advocates, the non-profit, public-interest law firm is about to raise some money to further its pursuit of justice for us all.

The nationally known firm has been in the forefront of the battle for an end to unjust immigration laws, prejudicial military codes, unfair child custody laws, and other examples of discrimination against lesbians and gay men. And it all costs money, lots of money. Therefore, on Wednesday, September 2nd, famed comic and singer Michael Greer will do a benefit performance for Gay Rights Advocates at San Francisco's Plush Room in the Hotel York, 940 Sutter Street.

Greer is an accomplished performer who has been described as "a supreme impressionist without drag." In one of his routines he dons a wig and picture frame to become Leonardo Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and proceeds to dish the people that have come to view him.

Greer is also a serious and talented singer who has added some great songs to his act.

The show starts at 8 p.m. but is preceded by cocktails at 7 p.m. (no host bar). A ten dollar donation is requested, and tickets can be ordered by phoning Gay Rights Advocates at 863-9156 or by mailing your check for ten dollars to them at 540 Castro Street, San Francisco, 94114.

On Stage...September

The Cradle Will Rock recreates the drama directed by Orson Welles in the '30s that brought riots to the theatre. Marc Blitzstein directs this musical play that depicts a labor struggle in a small town. 9/4-6, Fri & Sat 8:30pm, Sun 2:30pm. \$7.50. Victorian Theatre, 2961-16th St, SF. Info: 863-7576.

Surface Tension, an original play by Nightfire, is performed in a swimming pool that becomes the site of an exploration of incidents between a young guy and an older woman, a shark and a victim. 9/4 - SF Boy's Club, 1950 Page St, SF 9pm, \$4; 9/20 - Treasure Island Naval Base Pool, Ave M, Treasure Island, 8pm, \$4; 9/26 & 27 - Strawberry Canyon Pool, University of Calif., Centennial Dr, Berkeley, 9pm, \$5.

Piano Bar, a play by Doris Willens and Rob Prentiss is a tuneful exchange of love & philosophy during happy hour in a Manhattan piano bar. A musical first for The Bare Stage. At Trinity Center, 2320 Dana St, Berkeley, 9/7-10/25, Thurs-Sun. Complete ticket info: 849-1675.

The Finest Hour takes us on a nostalgic journey thru World War II years, bringing to life the magic of the era's top entertainers: The Andrews Sisters to Kate Smith, Humphrey Bogart to Lauren Bacall, Marlene Dietrich to Tommy Dorsey. Opens 9/1, runs Tues-Sun all month. Alcazar Theatre, 850 Geary, San Francisco. Senior & Student rush available. Complete ticket info: 775-7100.

Katos Rota Gallery Theatre uses theatrical masks throughout their performance of the classical Greek play **Antigone**. 9/4 & 5, 7 & 9pm. \$2.50. At Casa El Salvador Cultural Center, 988 Valencia, SF. Info: 641-5364.

Rats of the Air, a performance collage of dance, theater, and music is an allegory about pigeons - those soft-cooing city creatures, lice-infested, messy little scavengers, who have the gift of flight. At Centospace, 2840 Mariposa, SF 9/4 & 5, 8:30pm, \$4.50.

Plutonium Players featuring the Moral Monopoly and Ladies Against Women open a season of free shows in the parks with **To Sell the Truth**, a satirical review of the state of the planet and the news media that brings us the "facts." 9/6 - Live Oak Park, Shattuck & Berryman, Berk; 9/7 - Ho Chi Minh Park, Derby & Hilllegass, Berk; 9/13 - Precita Park, Precita & Folsom, SF; 9/19 & 20 - Golden Gate Park near Conservatory, JFK Drive, SF; 9/26 & 27 - Dolores Park, Dolores & 18th St, SF; All shows 2pm.

Social-political-ecological commentary, music and frenzied dance make up **Bob Carroll's Latest Hits**, a one-man show at the Eureka Theatre, 2299 Market, SF Thurs-Sun 9/10-19. 8pm, \$4.50.

The Nabe Theater Group features Marcia Haufrecht's play **Welfare**. A young high school girl is driven by her mother's terminal illness and an

eviction notice to seek help at the Welfare Office. 9/3-10/3; Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHarro St, SF. Info: 821-7516.

The Bendini Theater Project brings us **You Can't Take It With You**, the classic Kaufman & Hart comedy in a new production concept with a Black Vanderhof family. Continues thru 9/13 with performances 8pm Fri & Sat and 7:30pm on Sun. 3944 Balboa & 41st Ave, SF. Res: 221-0070.

Pretzels is a musical comedy revue with Unicorn Stage Company that satirizes real life situations from cosmetology and urban housewives to pre-teenage young men on the make. Written by Jane Curtin of "Saturday Night Live" fame, Fred Grandy ("Love Boat") and Judy Kahan ("Mary Hartman Mary Hartman"). 9/11-10/18, Fri & Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm. Central YMCA Theater, 220 Golden Gate, SF. Reservations: 648-9186.

Just Above Sealevel, an environmental theater troupe brings **Adventures Underground** to the Bay Area. It's a theatrical excursion based on *Alice in Wonderland* with a twist: the audience is Alice. Familiar settings transform as Alice is guided through the park encountering Wonderland in the forms of puppets, actors, sculpture, dance & music. At Golden Gate Park, McLaren Lodge, SF 9/4 6pm; 9/5-7 1 & 5:30pm. Advance tick: Old Wives' Tales, City Box Office (392-4400) & Modern Times Books. The disabled can call 758-3379 to make special arrangements. All shows \$6.

It's My Party, a super comedy dance revue that satirizes fads in American pop culture to the music of the '50s, '60s and today's new wave, with the Rhythm Methods. On-going: Thurs, 8:30pm (\$7); Fri & Sat, 8 & 11pm (\$8). Old Venetian Bakery Theater, North Beach, next to Northpoint Movie Theater, SF.

Liberation night - Paris, 1945 - a young, beautiful boy is mysteriously murdered in **Victims of War** by multi-award winner George Walker. At Magic Theatre, Bldg D, Ft Mason, SF. Wed-Sun thru Sept 20. 8:30pm; \$8.50/\$6.50 students & srs. Reservations: 441-8822.

San Francisco Mime Troupe celebrates its 19th season of free shows in the parks with **Factwino Meets the Moral Majority**. The Spirit of Information enters Earth's universe and meets a wino who is upset that people don't question the rising tide of conservatism - so she gives him *The Power* to make people question. Shows 9/5, 6 & 7 - Golden Gate Park, JFK Drive, behind De Young Museum; 9/12 & 13 - Ho Chi Minh Park, Hilllegass & Derby, Berkeley; 9/19 & 20 - Dolores Park, 18th & Dolores, SF. All shows 2pm.

Theater

'One Mo' Time' at the Curran

One Mo' Time, the Black vaudeville musical playing at the Curran Theater will transport you back to the French Quarter of old New Orleans. The play gives us an inside look at what happens onstage and offstage with a group of vaudeville artists billed as "The Big Bertha Touring Company." The musical centers around their struggle to survive as entertainers, their fights with the white theater owner, the loophole mending in their contracts, and of course, their incredible talent being given away for a mere pittance.

The best scenes and best comedy happen with the actors in their dressing rooms. After the opening stage act, Ma Reed (Jackee Harry) comes backstage and comments to her fellow actors about the audience: "Dem people's as lively as Sunday morning in a whorehouse, and you sure know how tired dem folks are!"

All the women in this show are strong, and this brings a special power to the play. Big Bertha, played by Sandra Reeves-Phillips, wields her power as a strong Black woman. At one point in the show she literally picks up the white theater owner and shakes him into keeping his part of the contract. Big Bertha belts out her material with a combination of Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin. Her low notes and heavy Louis Armstrong inflections bring her songs home with a style and energy that lifts us off our seats. Phillips, who played Momma in *Raisin in the Sun*, executes her best number, "What It Takes To Bring You Back, Ya Momma Always Keeps Right Here" with sexual gyrations on the HERE that are reminiscent of Etta James. The grace of this big woman moving, tap dancing, kicking high & swooping low is very powerful indeed.

Jackee Harry (Ma Reed) has the funniest lines, and she delivers them with zest. Deborah Burrell as Thelma doesn't have as many clever lines as Phillips or Harry, but her dancing and acting are more than enough to make up for her "sighted character."

A highlight of the show is the cast together doing "Wait Til You See My Baby Do the Charleston." Alan Weeks shines as the male lead, with charm that wraps you into his role and lets you know why he has credits like "The Wiz" and "Ain't Misbehavin'."

For an evening of strong women's roles, ole time dixieland music and many hearty laughs catch *One Mo' Time*.

One Mo' Time plays until September 19, Tuesday through Sunday at the Curran Theater, 445 Geary, SF. Call 673-4400 for showtimes and reservations.

'Are You Now...' at People's Theatre

The People's Theatre is presenting Illustrated Stage Company's production of *Are You Now or Have You Ever* Bent by award-winning playwright Eric Bentley.

This drama involves the terror of McCarthyism and blacklisting. It recreates the tense scenes from the House Un-American Activities Committee investigations of show biz personalities between 1947 and 1958. Questions of constitutional law and artistic freedom, individual choice and civil liberties are pitted



One Mo' Time's Big Bertha (Sandra Reeves-Phillips)

against a devastating abuse of Congressional power.

The historical background of this play is enough to make you call for a ticket, as would any period so intensely focused with emotion. Yet all my emotions were forced to sit through 3 hours of testimony, much of which was dry, and which generated the same level of interest for me that I felt when I viewed the 1980 Republican Convention.

The actual testimony of such industry figures as Lillian Hellman, Ella Kazan, Paul Robeson and Sterling Hayden are key draws for this play. However, the entire one-and-a-half hour first act is concentrated on Larry Parks, one of the first witnesses called up for the hearings. Since many of us have never heard of Larry Parks, perhaps this testifies to the power of blacklisting!

But the problem here is that Kevin Reilly (Larry Parks) has so much of the show to carry with such boring testimony. Reilly has many strong points, and his eventual breakdown under interrogation is convincing, but for an hour and a half neither he nor his script can carry the high intensity this play deserves.

By the second act I was ready to be hit with Arthur Miller and Lillian Hellman's testimony, but they were presented briefly and with so little emotion, my expectations fell.

Instead, Abe Burrows (Jim McCann) lightens the play with his "anti-Communist comedy routine." He jabs at communists as being unable to take a joke and as a real "serious bunch of guys."

The play picks up again when Paul Robeson, skillfully played by Bennett Guillory, comes on with the gusto and emotion of a Black man fighting for his entire people. He is asked: "Mr. Robeson, did you state to the Soviet Union press that in Russia you felt like a real man?" Racism enters the arena, and we are drawn into the play in a way that we weren't at the beginning.

Suffice it to say that the real drama of the blacklisting campaign lies only partially in the

testimony. Though the testimony is actual, much of it needs to be edited. There are no scenes speaking of the suicides, the hospitalizations, the ruin of the witnesses, so we are put in the court room and left there much like a stenographer, taking it all in with some high points of testimonial emotion, but primarily as an exercise in U.S. history.

I would like to compliment set designer Alan Curreri who has brought the '50s to life on stage with the old style TV cameras, flag backdrops, the old-fashioned mikes for each witness - everything is perfect. Also, compliments to director Steve Dobbins, who handled the large cast with finesse. He has placed & synced them just right with the testimony and lighting, down to the journalists flashing pictures of the stars before their interrogations.

Dare I even suggest it, myself a small time journalist from San Francisco, but Mr. Bentley should have seen *Sacco and Vanzetti*, an historical piece with actual testimony, but with the personal suffering and experience of the people brought to the forefront.

Are You Now or Have You Ever Bent continues Thursday through Sunday at 8:30pm through September 20. People's Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg B, San Francisco. Reservations: 495-8566.

4 4 1. 5 4 0 7
1028 GEARY/polk
SF 94109
PREVIEWS

FINAL PRODUCTION AT THE GOODMAN BUILDING

Theatre Rhinoceros PRESENTS 3 PLAYS BY C.D. ARNO **DINOSAURS** DIRECTED BY J. KEVIN HANLON
LAST FOUR PERFORMANCES SEPTEMBER 3-6 THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 8:30 RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SHOW
THE GOODMAN BUILDING 1115 GEARY AT VAN NESS SAN FRANCISCO
RESERVATIONS: 776-1848

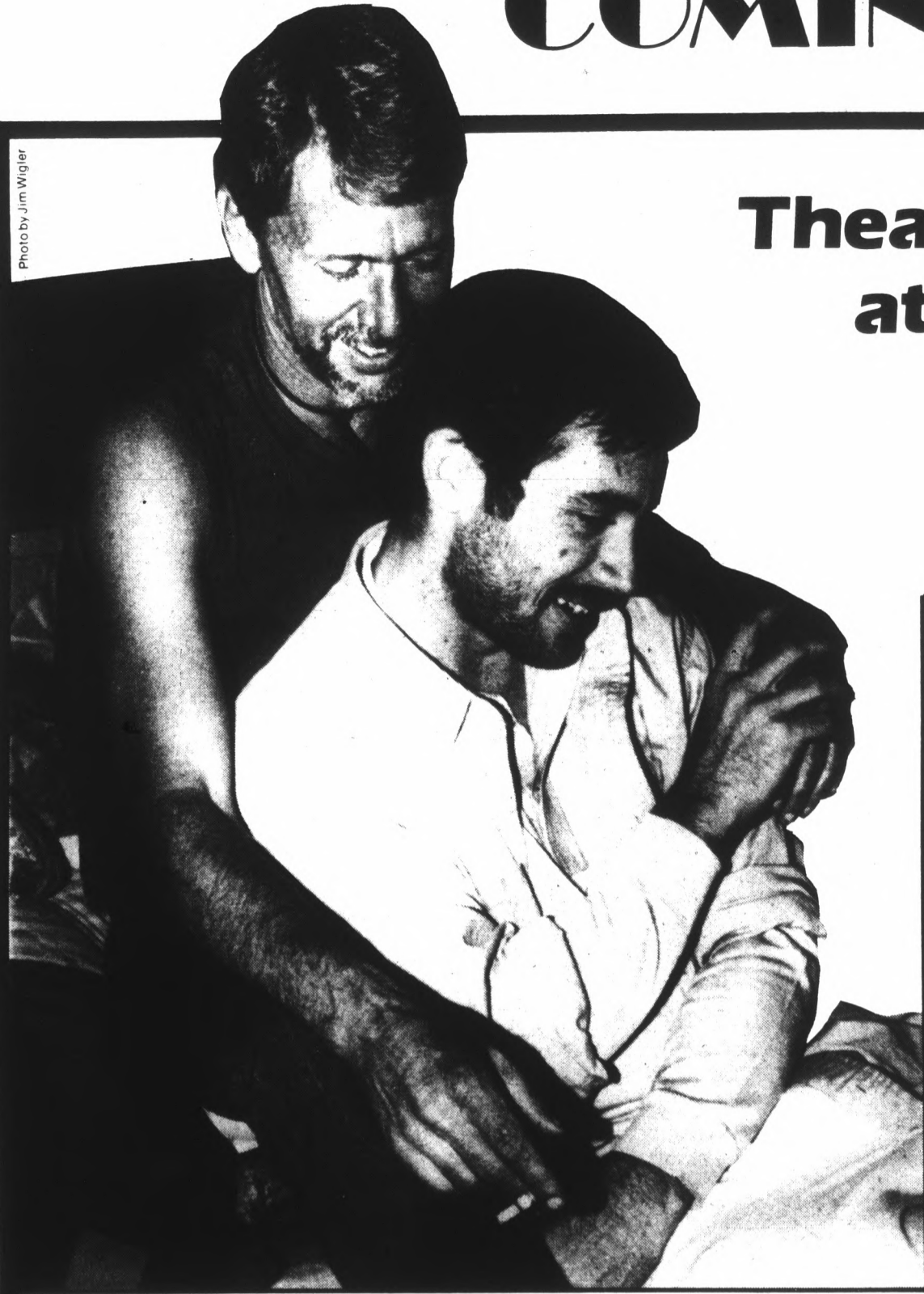
1981-1982 CONCERT SEASON (Our Fourth Year)
Chrysanthemum RAGTIME BAND
ORIGINAL RAGTIME TUNES & TURN OF THE CENTURY GEMS
September 12 • California Admission Day 9:30 & 11pm • Hotel Utah • 4th & Bryant, SF

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Free, confidential V.D. testing, treatment, counseling and referral by and for Gay men SUNDAY 7:30-9:30pm DROP-IN
EAST BAY MEN'S CENTER 2700 Bancroft, Berkeley 94704 845-4823
H.E.R.O. (Hayward Equal Rights Organization) P.O. Box 445 Hayward, CA 94543
MCC CHURCH, Rev. Jeff Pulling 4986 Fairfax Ave. Oakland (415) 533-4848
NATIONAL GAY SERVICE COMMISSION Larry Paradis, Esq. East Bay Regional Rep 1144B Regent St. Alameda 94501 (415) 522-2757

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COUNSELING Every Monday 2-8pm
V.D. TESTING 7-10pm
September 14th & 28th

DLGRO (Oakland Lesbian and Gay Rights Organization)
PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley 94701 841-6224
Singers Sought! Temescal Gay Men's Chorus now forming in the East Bay area. Charles Baker, 654-0604, evenings.
SWITCHBOARD 841-6224



Theatre Rhino's Last Act at the Goodman Bldg.

See 9/3 & Story Page 1

sunday

6
 "But Keep Your Pants On" — talk about caucus activities past, present & future at Unitarian Univ. Gay Caucus, SF 9:30am.
Gay Panthers — "dangerous rebels" — speaks at G40+, a social group for gay men over 40. 2pm, 1668 Bush St, SF. Info: 552-1997.
To Sell The Truth — free satire in the park with Plutonium Players, Moral Monopoly & Ladies Against Women. 2pm, Live Oak Park, Shattuck & Berryman, Berkeley. For complete Sept schedule see **On Stage**, p. 3.
"The Fabric of Our Lives" — reception for multi-media exhibit by Bay Area Women artists & celebration of opening of Vida Gallery at SF Women's Bldg, 3-6pm.
Chevere — all women's salsa band at El Rio Garden Cabaret, 3158A Mission, SF 4-8pm.
Metropolitan Community Church of the East Bay worships Sundays, 6pm, Oakland.
Country & Western with the Rounders at Rainbow Cattle Company, 199 Valencia, SF 6pm.
The Gay Life with Randy Alfred every Sunday, 11pm on KSNM FM 95. See **Alternative Airwaves**, page 7 for complete schedule this month.

Full moon at 8:09pm in Pisces. **13**

Sing Gay Paeans with the Gay Pagans of Tayu Fellowship at Unitarian Univ. Gay Caucus, SF 9:30am.
Run with FrontRunners — noncompetitive running for lesbians & gay men — every Sunday, 10am. Call 821-0202 for details.
Don't sit home alone! Have Sunday Brunch with OPTIONS for Women Over Forty. \$2. 11am-1pm. SF Women's Bldg. For women of all ages.
Golden Gate Metropolitan Comm Church worships every Sun 11am, Rm 200, Calif Hall, 625 Polk, SF.
Gay Latino/Latina Alliance (GALA) potluck brunch mtg 2nd Sun ea month. Info: 431-8874.
Hedzoleh Soudry — East African Dance Music at El Rio, 3158A Mission, SF 4-8pm in the Garden Cabaret.
Madame Butterfly starring the incomparable Jose. 6pm at The Pines, 1093 Pines/Jones, SF. No Cover. Info: 885-9871.
Shit-kicking music with Stir Crazy at Rainbow Cattle Company, 199 Valencia, SF 6pm.
Gay Men's Rap Group, Sundays 7:30pm. Pacific Ctr, Berk.

20

Working Women Unite! — Union WAGE talks about facing hard times in the '80s at its day-long convention. 37-A 29th St, SF 9:30am sign-up. Potluck lunch; free.
Ride with Dykes on Bikes — meet 11am at Pacific Center, Berkeley.
G40+ — social group for gay men over 40 — regular monthly get-together. 2pm, 1668 Bush St, SF. Info: 552-1997.
Tropical Nights spins their magic at "your dive" El Rio, 3158A Mission, SF. In the garden cabaret, 4-8pm, 9/20 & 27.
Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade committee mtg, 5pm, SF Women's Bldg.
Sapphic Touch — book party celebrates the release of this journal of lesbian erotica. Casselberry-Dupree plus music to dance. Upstairs at Amelias, 647 Valencia, SF 7-11pm, free.
SWAPO of Namibia & Free Namibia — 2 films + speakers & cultural works. 7:30-11pm, SF Women's Bldg. Benefits South West African People's Org.
Weston McGown at Fanny's Cabaret every Sun in Sept. 4230-18th St, SF.

New moon in Libra, 9:08pm. **27**

September 27, 1964 — The US premier of *Un Chant D'Amour*, a gay film by Jean Genet, draws 450 moviegoers to Mimes Troupe Theater in the Mission, but is halted when SF cops seize the film as "obscene."

Join the women of G.O.A! — swim & BBQ at Lake Temescal, 10-6pm. Details: 641-4020.
"Gin & The Supertronics" with Tom Constan-ten — original & traditional ragtime, folk & "old-timey" music at Community Music Ctr, 544 Capp St, SF 4pm, free.
Feminist Tour of North Beach porn district with WAVPM, 5pm, \$3. 630 Sansome St, SF.
Choral Majority, Alternative Measurers (Bay Area's First Feminist Beauty Shop Quartet & Ghost Riders) plus a Gay Country Western Band entertain us with anti-moral majority music. 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. Sign. RCC: 648-4961.
"Twenty-two on the Red" — Casino night benefit for Golden Gate Business Assoc. Foundation — gaming for prizes, live music, swing era dancing. 8pm-1am. \$15 adv thru Gramophone/\$18 door. Galleria, 101 Kansas, SF.

monday

7
Great Outdoors Adventures women's organizational mtg. 7:30pm, 1618 Castro St, SF. Plan future events for women of GOA!
Carpool to Women's Music Festival — sign up at SF Women's Bldg. or ICI Woman's Place, Oakland. Page 1 story has details.
Special Labor Day/Golden Gate Bridge run with the FrontRunners — noncompetitive running for lesbians & gay men. Call 821-0202 for complete info.
Lesbian Only Space — Lesbian separatists gather to create a space in the East Bay due to open by Spring Equinox. Mtgs alternate Mondays. Info: 534-5007.
Labor Day C&W with Bourbon Cowboy at Rainbow Cattle Co., 199 Valencia, SF.
See What I Say — a Holly Near sign-interpreted concert plus interviews with Near, interpreter, deaf people. 10:30pm, KQEC32.

14

September 14, 1876 — Jeanne Bonnet, who organized San Francisco prostitutes into an all-woman gang, is murdered by angry pimps while in bed with her lover, Blanche Buneau.
Terri Cowick sings at Trinity Place every Mon in Sept. 5:30-8:30pm, 25 Trinity Place, SF \$1
African Movement with Marian Olikier — everyone & all levels welcome. 6-7pm, \$3.50/class. SF Women's Bldg.
Graphics Class for women with Women's Press Project — intro to a 4-month layout, paste-up & design class. 7pm, \$5-10 SS. 532 Valencia, SF. Info & RCC: 431-6210.
Identity: Lesbian & Gay Christian Scientists monthly mtg. 7:30pm, 115 Farnum, SF. Info: 668-5187 (Tamara).
Alice B. Tokias Memorial Democratic Club gen'l membership mtg, 7:30pm. SF Women's Bldg.
Tede Matthews & Gabrielle Daniels read poetry at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia, SF 8pm, donations for poets requested.
11th Int'l Chicano/Latino Teatro Festival — 10 days of teatro from around the world at Mission Cultural Ctr, SF. Call 821-1155 or see story page 2 for details. Runs Sept. 11-20.

21

SF Lesbian Chorus rehearses Mon nites, all women welcome 7-10pm, SF Women's Bldg.
Applied Meditation for Intuitive Problem Solving — learn to make changes in your life thru meditation. 7pm, 349 Church, SF SS, WA. RCC: 861-6838.
"The Judiciary & Civil Rights" — Judge Ira Brown speaks at Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights gen'l mtg. 7pm Kimball's Restaurant, Grove & Franklin, SF. Free.
Gay Men's Open Rap, Mondays 7:45 pm at Pacific Ctr, Berk.
Sufi Dancing: Dance of Universal Peace. Mondays 8-10pm SF Women's Bldg. \$1.50.
Substance abuse counseling for gay men & lesbians. 18th Street Services, 4131-18th St, SF. Info: 863-8111.



Mischief Mime from New York See 9/18 & 19

Photo by Connie Saitonstall

28

On-going Karate Classes for women at the Dojo — Mon & Wed nites & Sat a.m. Call 835-5943 for complete info.
Samois: contact this lesbian-feminist S/M support group for info on next orientation mtg. Write PO Box 2364, Berk. 94702.
T'ai Chi Chuan, ongoing instruction. New students welcome. 5:30-7pm, \$25/4wks. SF Women's Bldg.
Rose Mitchell & Blackberry — poetry reading at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia, SF 8pm, donations requested for poets.

29

Support Group for Women with alcohol related problems. OPTIONS office, SF Women's Bldg, 5-6:30pm every Tues, free.
Married Gay Men's Rap Group, Tuesdays, 7:30pm at Pacific Ctr, Berk.
Ovular III & Blatant Image — feminist photography, slides & talk. 7pm, \$2. For women. ICI Woman's Place, Oakland. RCC by 9/27.
Maitri — Buddhist gay men, lesbians & friends meet every Tues, 7:30pm, 47 Hartford, SF.
Gay Latino/Latina Alliance (GALA) gen'l mtg last Tues ea month. Info: 431-8874.

tuesday

1
Job Listing for Women over 40 — Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm at OPTIONS office, SF Women's Bldg. Job Counseling by appt: 431-6944.
Start your September masticating with food-sexual Comedienne Carol Roberts at Fanny's Cabaret (across the street from Cala Foods), 4230-18th St, SF 9:30 & 11pm, \$3 cover.
Michael Greer returns to the Plush Room! Tues-Thurs & Sun, 8 & 10pm; Fri & Sat, 9:30 & 11pm thru 9/13; \$7. Hotel York, 940 Sutter, SF.
The Finest Hour — a splashy musical comedy & dance revue of the '40s at the Alcazar Theater, SF. Complete info: 775-7104.
Mainstream Exiles organizing mtg to plan future activities for lesbian & gay male cultural workers. Call 826-3788 for info.
Self Defense for Lesbians — sign up now for classes starting this week in Berkeley with Defend Ourselves. All ages & physical abilities encouraged to call. \$5 fee, but no one turned away for lack of funds. Complete info: 653-2362.

8

Primalism: mixed-media inventions & paintings by gay artist Lee Balan. Soma Gallery, 2795 16th St, SF. Wed-Sat 12-5 pm, Fri til 8pm. Thru 9/23.
Journal Writing for Women — focus on creative writing skills — with Lisa Orta thru Community College Women's Ctr. 7-9pm every Tues, free. 31 Gough St, Room 62, SF.
Women's Music Festival Sound/Slide Show — Theresa Haynie & Diana Duff with sights & sounds of '80 West Coast & '77 Michigan Festivals. ICI Woman's Place, Oakland. 7pm, \$2. RCC by 9/6. For women only.
Talent Contest Extravaganza II Auditions by appointment for show at Ollies. Info: 821-0404 after 3. Cash prizes!
Bob Fosse's Dancin' at the Warfield Theatre. Tues-Sun thru 9/26. Info: 864-0815.
Gay Men's Open Rap, Tuesdays at Pacific Ctr, Berk. 7:30pm.
Lesbian Drop-in Rap, ea Tues at Pacific Ctr, Berk. 7:30pm.
There is a Woman in this Town — women's public affairs radio every Tues, 8:30pm, KPFA 94FM. **Alternative Airwaves** has complete schedule for the month on page

15

Lynda Bergren helps you unwind after a long day's work — Trinity Place Cabaret, 25 Trinity, SF 5:30-8:30pm, \$1 cover.
Pro-choice Task Force of the ACLU meets 7pm, ACLU offices, 1663 Mission, SF.
Offset Press Class for women — intro to 4-month Women's Press Project class on how to run an offset press. 7pm, \$5-10 SS. 532 Valencia, SF. Info & CC: 431-6210.
Gentrification and Law & Order — slides & talk with Prairie Fire at ICI Woman's Place, Oakland. 7pm, free. RCC by 9/13. For women only.
Working Class Support Group for Lesbians. 7:30pm, 2130 Hayes, SF. Info & RCC: 731-1220 (Donna) — days.
El Salvador — The People in Arms: premiere East Bay Showing plus talks by African Peoples Socialist Party & Casa El Salvador. 8pm, \$2.50. La Pena, Berkeley.
Elayne Boosler — super stand-up comedy from TV & talk show personality at The Plush Room, Hotel York, 940 Sutter, SF \$7. Tues-Thurs & Sun 8 & 10pm, Fri & Sat 9:30 & 11pm thru 9/27.
Women's Drug & Alcohol Group Tuesdays at Pacific Ctr, Berk. Advance notice required: 841-6224.
Radio Free Women, 9:30pm, every Tues on KALX, 90.7FM.

22

Autumnal Equinox, 8:06pm.
"Faire '81 — Two Days of Community Action" on the main lawn of SF State Univ. Progressive political, environmental & social groups plus rallies & entertainment. Today & tmw, 10am-3pm.
Talent Contest Extravaganza II Auditions by appointment. Info: 821-0404 (after 3).
Women's jazz for lunch! Swingshift gives a free concert in the plaza behind State Compensation Bldg, Market & 9th at noon.
Older Women's League meeting, 5:30pm in OPTIONS office, SF Women's Bldg. Brown-bag supper. Open to all women!
Blood Sisters — reading with author Valerie Miner. 7pm, free. For women only. ICI Woman's Place, Oakland. RCC by 9/19.
Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club gen'l mtg, 7pm. SF Women's Bldg.
Monitor training for Take Back the Night — 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg.
Lesbian Clinic — gynecological & general med clinic run by & for lesbians at Berkeley Women's Health Collective. Every Tues eve. Call 843-6194 for appt.

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Adventures Underground



with Just Above Sealevel Sept. 4

Monday 21 & 28 Terri Cowick

Tuesdays Lynda Bergren

Wednesdays David Reign



Thursdays (downstairs)—Country & Western Day with The Rounders Beer 75¢ all day—dancing 5:30-8:30. Special lunch menu upstairs.

SPECIAL EVENT Monday 14 at 5:30—CORNERSTONE BENEFIT Entertainment at 6:30 starring Sharon McKnight as MC with guest appearances by Terry Hutchinson, Val Diamond, Teresa Leonard, Lori Shannon, Jane Dornacker & George Quick. Dancing at 8pm downstairs. \$5.00 donation at door.

SEPTEMBER CABARET 5:30-8:30PM Closed Labor Day September 7

TRINITY PLACE

\$1.00 cover charge 25 Trinity Place near Sutter & Montgomery Telephone 433-4922

SEPTEMBER COMING UP!



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 — Mon-Fri, SF Women's...
2 David Reign sings pop & Broadway at Trinity Place, 25 Trinity, SF. 5:30-8:30pm, \$1
3 Women's Personal Problem Solving Group for all women over forty, 1-3pm every Thurs, SF Women's Bldg. Info & reg: 431-6405.
4 6th Annual SF Internat'l Stand-Up Comedy Competition at the Warfield, SF BASS, Ticketron.
5 Solidarity — Gay/Lesbian Liberation Conference. Workshops on Family Protection Act, labor organizing, Palo Alto Gay Rights initiative & more. 10am-5pm, 766 Valencia, SF. Free & open to all.

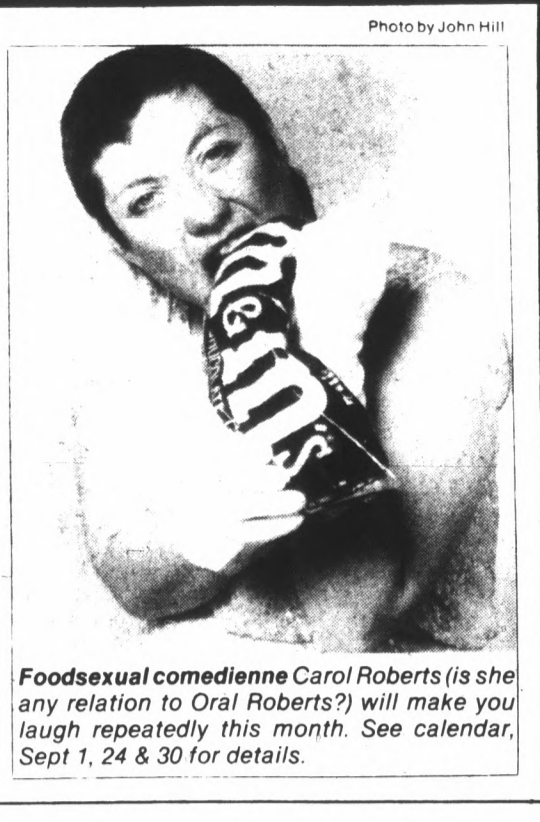


Photo by John Hill

12 Address Directory
 Artemis Cafe, 23rd & Valencia (1199 Valencia), San Francisco. 821-0232. WA.
 The Bacchanal, 1369 Solano Ave., Albany. 527-1314. Feminist bar. WA.
 Berkeley Women's Center, 2955 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 548-4343.
 Eighteenth Street Services, 4131-18th Street, San Francisco. 863-8111.
 Gay Community Center of Marin (now forming). Contact Gay Information Line: 457-1311.
 I.C.I. Woman's Place Bookstore, 4015 Broadway, Oakland. 547-9920. Call to reserve childcare for events. WA.
 La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley. 849-2568. WA.
 Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco. 863-4434.
 Metropolitan Community Church — East Bay, 4986 Fairfax Ave., Oakland. 533-4848. WA.
 Old Wive's Tales, 1009 Valencia St., San Francisco. 821-4675. Call to reserve childcare for events. WA.
 Ollie's, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 654-6017. WA.
 Operation Concern, 2485 Clay Street, San Francisco. 563-0202.
 Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 548-8283. WA.
 Unitarian Universalists Gay Caucus, First Unitarian Church, Franklin/Geary, San Francisco. 776-4580.
 Women's Building of the Bay Area, 3543-18th St., San Francisco. 431-1180. WA.

8 Women's letter writing nite & soup kitchen — 7pm, ICI Women's Place, Oakland. RCC by 9/7. Bring \$\$ for postage or donation.
9 Great Outdoors Adventures Coffeehouse features guest speakers, meetings, slide-shows. 7:30-10pm, 1618 Castro, SF \$2 don. Other Sept coffeehouses: 9/14, 22 & 30.
10 Community Music Center registration for fall session today & tmw, 2-6pm & Saturday 10am-2pm. Instruction in voice & instruments plus programs in Latin & Chinese music. 544 Capp St, SF. Info: 647-6015.

15 Christopher Beck & Co. 9/12
16 Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets — a new film by Allie Light & Irving Saraf. The poets speak after the film. York Theatre, 2728-24th St, SF. WA. Advance: Old Wive's Tales, Modern Times, ICI Women's Place, Benefits Women's Bldg, Women's Writers Union & Radical Women.
17 Country & Western nite with the Rounders every Thurs in Sept at Trinity Place, 25 Trinity, SF. 5:30-8:30pm, \$1 cover.
18 Big Sur Camping with Great Outdoors Adventures. Today thru Sun. Res: 641-4020.
19 Fun Runs with FrontRunners every Saturday at Stow Lake Boat House, Golden Gate Park, 10am. Complete info: 346-0303.
20 Bay Area Women's Philharmonic auditions — chair available for women in every section. Complete info: 525-4178. Today thru Sun.
21 The Wager — a menacing comedy with Bedini Theatre Project. 7pm Fri & Sat, 7:30 Sun thru 10/11. Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama, SF. Complete info: 221-0070.
22 Applied Meditation Support Group — energy circles & intuitive problem solving. Every Fri. 2:30-5pm for women, 5:30-7pm open drop in. Details: 861-6838.
23 Works on paper & canvas by Brian Longe on exhibit at Pro Arts Gallery thru 10/9. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. 1214 Webster St, Oakland.
24 Take Back the Night monitor training. 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. 9/22 & 24.
25 "Oh goddess, if I have to be a role model, please make me out of silly putty." Reading by Barbara Starkey. 7:30pm, free. Old Wive's Tales, SF. RCC: 821-4675.
26 Chevere! • Sept 4 • 6 • 26

22 Community Action — State Univ. Pr. & social. Today.
23 Works on paper & canvas by Brian Longe on exhibit at Pro Arts Gallery thru 10/9. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. 1214 Webster St, Oakland.
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26 Chevere! • Sept 4 • 6 • 26

29 with alcohol relat- NS office, SF every Tues, free group. Tuesdays.
30 Bisexual Women's Rap Group, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berk.
31 Carol Roberts will make you laugh at Sutro Baths, 9:30 & 11:30pm, 1015 Folsom, SF \$2

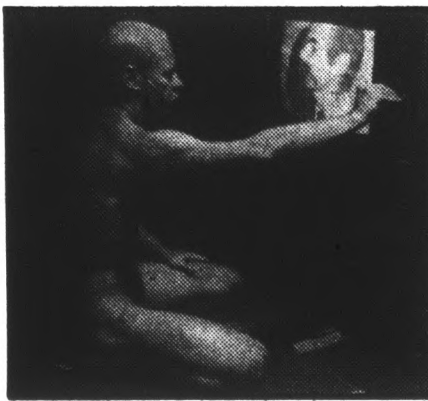
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SHABBAT SERVICES
Services are held every
Friday night, 8:15 p.m. at the
Jewish Community Center,
3200 California Street,
San Francisco

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Rosh Hashanah:
Monday, September 28, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, September 29, 10 a.m.
(Shofar Service)

Yom Kippur:
Wednesday, October 7, 8 p.m.
(Kol Nidre)
Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m.
Thursday, October 8, 4:30 p.m.
(Yizkor & Ne'ilah)

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Letters

Directory Appreciated

On behalf of 18th St. Services and personally, I want to thank you for including 18th St. Services in the Lesbian/Gay Bay Area Mental Health Directory, which I have clipped out for my personal and professional reference.

Also, I wish to continue my own private counseling ad on your front page...

I am impressed with the quality of your publication and will continue to advertise in it.

Respectfully,
Virgil E. Hall, Jr.
Coordinator of Men's Services

Police Review a Sham

News is out that all is not well with the SFPD — reports say that the department's Internal Affairs Bureau has covered up police misconduct. In response, some liberal politicians are pushing for some form of citizen monitoring of police conduct. But will this stop police violence and brutality, or will real change result?

Police brutality isn't a new issue. In the last 5 years, US police have killed over 2,000 Third World people. Police are, in fact, an occupying army in Third World communities. That's why revolutionary Black and Latino movements fight police terror as a part of a whole struggle to free themselves from US imperialism.

Law suits, grand juries, review boards and special investigations have never stopped police terror. Oakland has a civilian review board, but the city is still infamous for its brutal police and murders of Third World people.

Callously using our concern about escalating anti-gay attacks, violence & crime, Feinstein & Chief Murphy have launched a "War on Crime" (read: War on Third World communities). SFPD continues, unchecked, to beat and arrest Latino youth on Mission Street. A massive police crackdown in Hayes Valley has been launched, where police shot & killed a Black man a few months ago. In the name of protecting wayward tourists and posh operators, the mayor threatens to fence off Black housing projects in a style reminiscent of prison compounds.

The police can't be "reformed" any more than the KKK can be reformed! The government, judicial system, and police are all part of the same system that cuts funds for school lunches and social services while it funds the bloody right wing junta in El Salvador. The police department's job is to protect this system.

A civilian review mechanism creates the illusion that the problem with police is a few sadists and blinds us to questioning their basic role in society. It draws people into sanctioning the police's systematic, routine violence against colonized people.

We have to organize to confront the police, to expose and challenge the genocidal role they play in Third World communities. We can't stand for the climate being built here in "enlightened" San Francisco — where a white man can shoot a Black youth for getting on the back door of the bus and be allowed to walk away as if nothing happened.

We have to reject phony solutions like a civilian review board that only try to make this bloody system look good. The way to do this is to take a clear stand with colonized people in this country who are fighting against US imperialism and for national liberation.

Sincerely,
Prairie Fire Organizing Committee
561-9040

In Defense of Who We Are: UNBOUND FEET THREE

The former collective known as Unbound Feet is embroiled in a political struggle. The issues are over whether or not Unbound Feet, and what this movement organization has meant, will continue. Kitty Tsui, Nellie Wong, and Merle Woo are continuing on with the principles and the work that was articulated in our original Statement of Purpose, maintaining that our writing is a political act and that politics and art cannot be divided. By politics we mean multi-issue feminism — fighting racism, sexism, class oppression and heterosexism; though we create stories, poems, and dramatic pieces as part of our work, we must take stands as political Asian American women.

Kitty Tsui, Nellie Wong, and Merle Woo are working together as Unbound Feet Three. Our opposition: Nancy Hom, Genny Lim, and Canyon Sam — did not want to continue as Unbound Feet. They have united, not around a principled, affirmative program, but with the aim of dissolving the group, silencing us and trying to stop us from using the name.

At our final performance as Unbound Feet last February, we issued a statement criticizing our sponsor, Asian American Studies at University of California, Berkeley, for reneging on our contract. Since then, the opposition has said they had not wanted to issue the statement because they felt we would jeopardize our unity in the Asian community. But false unity cannot be bought at the expense of criticism: we were treated in a condescending and sexist way in addition to having the contract reneged on by AAS. The opposition resisted taking a stand on this issue. This disagreement split the group. They red-baited all of us because two are socialist feminists, accusing us of "party-building" and using Unbound Feet for our own political ends.

We are now battling over the name. Without our knowledge, the opposition used over \$250 from our joint checking account to incorporate themselves. Furthermore, they took over \$2400 from our joint savings account and are holding it until we give up the name. The name Unbound Feet is central to our struggle. It symbolizes the freedom we seek from our oppression as women, as Asian Americans, as workers and as lesbians. We are feminists who act and speak out from a multi-issue base. Unbound Feet is not a product to be discontinued but an ongoing political and creative entity born from the movements that shape and support us.

Our name and organization — Unbound Feet Three: Kitty Tsui, Nellie Wong, Merle Woo — does not confuse the public with the former organization of six members; it does indicate Unbound Feet Three's purpose to continue to write, perform, and act on the political principles to which we are committed.

UNBOUND FEET THREE
Kitty Tsui, Nellie Wong, Merle Woo

Please write letters of support.
For a copy of our analysis, "The Struggle of Unbound Feet," send a stamped, addressed envelope to Unbound Feet Three, P.O. Box 1993, Oakland, CA 94604.

Community Resource

I have read every issue of *Coming Up!* since it first appeared with enjoyment and appreciation for the services it offers San Francisco's gay community.

The four services which I find most valuable as a member of that community are:

(1) I can see nearly every significant cultural, political, and social event for an entire month ahead, with places, prices, times, addresses, and phone numbers — all on one page! The help this provides in managing an unwieldy social calendar, or in filling in an unexpectedly free night with something besides a trip to a bar, is unrivaled.

(2) Providing that we can get our act together by your mid-month deadline, several organizations I have been a member of have made their widest-read advertising through your free pages for events we have sponsored. I understand how your listings have rapidly become accepted as the most comprehensive in the Bay Area. In fact, I am unaware of a comparable listing of events for a gay readership in any city in the nation, through which I travel frequently.

(3) Your inclusion of various directories for gay bookstores, public health agencies, social centers, and the like is a special resource of value to the community — especially since they appear every month, many of them. This means that they are as accessible as your current edition, which I keep within arm's reach all month... Even I as a long-time resident was surprised to learn, for example, how many regular radio broadcast with a gay or feminist viewpoint you have listed this month...

(4) The retrieval of our history, and the recording of our contributions to the world are matters very close to my heart. Your running almanac of red-letter gay dates, printed beside the current events, is more than a pleasant embellishment to me... Maybe you could tell readers what your source is for this excellent feature...

I know this is too lengthy a letter to print, but it says what I wanted to say. Everything except "Thank You!" and my best wishes for many years of publication.

Sincerely,
John Hayley Randall

Ed. Note: Our history listings are provided every month by Allan Berube of the Lesbian/Gay History Project.

Letter Info

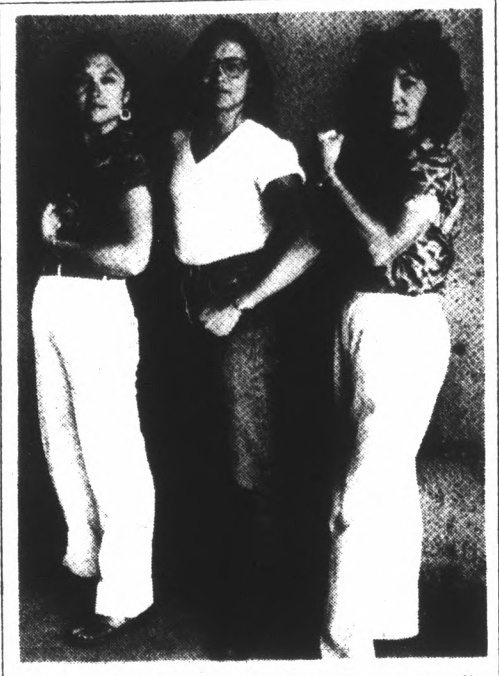
If you'd like to write to us, please try to send a typed, double-spaced letter if possible. Keep it as short and concise as you can since we publish letters space permitting and reserve the right to edit for length. All letters must be signed, but we will withhold your name if you wish.

Mail your letters to *Coming Up!*, 2120 Market Street, Room 104, San Francisco, 94114, Attention: Letters. Our deadline is the 18th of the month preceding publication. Make us happy, fill our mailbox.

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Our apologies to Cathy Cade for not crediting the above photo of Unbound Feet III to her in *Coming Up!*, August.

In Defense of the Name: UNBOUND FEET

We, Nancy Hom, Genny Lim and Canyon Sam, former members of the Chinese American women writers' collective, Unbound Feet, would like to clarify our position on the subject of Unbound Feet, in response to the recent vicious public attacks on us by Nellie Wong, Merle Woo and Kitty Tsui, three other former members of the group.

In the past year and a half, we wrote and performed our work in many Bay Area and statewide locations. Our bookings averaged one performance a month. As Unbound Feet developed a sizable following, Nellie Wong, Merle Woo and Kitty Tsui wanted to use the group as a vehicle for their personal politics, rather than respect the diversity of the group. Because of the resulting irreconcilable differences, the group dissolved. The issue of the name (which was conceived in 1978 by Nancy Hom) continues to be the real point of dispute. It is our feeling that since we were evenly split, use of the title by either parties would be unfair and would misrepresent the other half. Therefore, we proposed that in the event of a dissolution, no one party should be entitled to use the name. In addition, we took legal steps to insure that no third party could appropriate the name.

Their contention that the three of us want the name stricken from Asian American and women's history is absurd. We are proud of our work as Unbound Feet and have no problems with any of us saying that we were formerly of Unbound Feet. We also have no problems with the three of them continuing to work together under a different name. However, for them to capitalize on the name and reputation of Unbound Feet, which all six of us have earned, is opportunistic.

The use of the name by either side creates confusion and ambiguity. Nellie, Merle and Kitty have continually used the name to publicly attack individuals and organizations. As many of our supporters are unaware of the split, we have been incorrectly associated with their high-handed tactics. We have also been mistakenly introduced as members of Unbound Feet by people unaware of the group's dissolution.

The accusation that we have taken their monies is a deception. The Unbound Feet treasury has been held in trust in an authorized bank since the dispute began and will be liquidated at the time of settlement. Both these facts have been acknowledged to mutual satisfaction by the legal counsels representing both sides.

Statements made by us during this dispute have been deliberately taken out of context and distorted in an attempt to discredit us before our supporters. Allegations that we are sexist, homophobic, and establishmentarian are libelous, sensationalistic and self-serving.

We want this dispute to end. While we appreciate the public's support of Asian American writing, we want, however, to caution the public against supporting the group Unbound Feet Three. Until the issue of the name is legally settled, lending credibility to their use of the name will only delay that settlement and serve to intensify the divisions among us as women and third world people. Their insistence on using the name without our authorization is unethical and unconscionable. As a political act, it's regressive and counter-revolutionary as it succeeds in only factionalizing sisters and members of the left.

We continue to work in our communities as writers, artists and activists. We can be reached at 827 Pacific Avenue #3, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Hom, Genny Lim and Canyon Sam

A Special Thanks

You deserve lots of community support for the excellent thrust of your periodical. The monthly calendar, of course, is invaluable. It gets marked up and posted on my living room wall as soon as it gets into my hands.

The articles you feature show positive sensitivity to feminist and progressive political issues as they affect our community.

I especially like the July issue with that top-notch article by Randy Stallings on the 4th of July "What America Means to Me." His insight and scope were breathtaking. Perhaps you could entice Randy Stallings to submit a monthly column. He is just magnificent.

John Kyper's "Mexico: A Movement Under the Gun" gave a clear picture of what the gay movement has to put up with in that country. It reminded me of where we were in this country in the thirties, only they are under much more violent repression, and deserve our support, both spiritually and financially.

And finally, the back page poem, "I, Boudica," by Judy Grahn, is a beautiful paean to the lore and tradition of feminist strength. I felt that I would love to share this epic with my daughter.

Sincerely,
Bob Basker

Photo Kim Corsaro 1981



Join the Force behind the Star. Or you could join the Task Force on the Moral Majority, Community United Against Violence, (864-8331) or Women Against Right Wing Attacks (527-5502) to defend our right to be. The above photo of demonstrator Laraine Kofman being forcefully arrested was taken at the August 22 Union Square confrontation between lesbians/gays and the Christians.

Hoedown in the City

Square dancing... the Nashville sound... Dolly Parton... Willie Nelson... mechanical bull riding... cowboy/cowgirl shirts, hats, boots, spurs, buckles, vests — what's going on?

It's country/western music and looks invading the bars and discos. It was always there and its aficionados bore the disdain of their rock and disco-loving friends, but now things have changed. C&W is in.

Why is it in? There's lots of reasons. The music itself has pretty universal appeal. It's listenable, ranging from hand-clapping, foot-stomping dance music to slow, tear-filled laments and ballads almost always dealing with the things people do to each other, have done to them or deal with in their everyday lives.

There's been a spate of movies about it and the people who perform it or are caught up in it: *Nashville*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, *Urban Cowboy*.

There are also the country/western superstars who have popularized the music currently and over the years, some of them transcending its stereotypes. People like Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Charley Pride, the aforementioned Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson, and others. There's also been pop, rock and folk artists who've acknowledged their debt to country/western by recording their own C&W albums and songs.

The music's down-to-earth themes are just right for a time of uncertainty and a resurgence of more conservative values in society.

But maybe there's a more simplistic and fundamental answer, since researchers have found that people drink more in bars that play country/western music.

Whatever the reasons, it's here — and below are listed some of the places to hear it and dance to it.

Clogging: Intermediate Workshop — For those who already know how to clog. Monday eves (\$35/10 wks), 7-8:30pm in SF Janice Hanzel or the Barbary Coast Cloggers instructs. Phone: 829-0846.

The Devil's Herd — All country, with live bands every nite, and free country dance lessons. Mainly boy-boy, but mixed. Live music Mon-Sat 9pm; Sun 8pm. (\$1 cover Mon-Thurs, \$2 Fri-Sun). Beginner lessons Sundays, 5-7pm (Charlie & Ron teach the 2-step, various schottisches, polka, Cotton-Eyed Joe, country swing & more). Advance class taught by Dustin: Wed, 7-9pm (fancy turns & glamorous foot-work). 853 Valencia, SF Phone: 285-7911.

Foggy City Squares — Gay square dance club (mostly men, but women very welcome) resumes Thursday nite classes for beginners & intermediates, September 17 at Trocadero Transfer. Intermediates at 7pm (\$15/10 wks); Beginners at 8:30pm (\$25/10 wks). Plus \$1 entry to Trocadero. Spirited class with good instruction (Skip and Brian). Advance registration advised. Phone: 441-4112 (Skip Barrett). Location: 520-4th Street, SF.

The Mint — Western tea-dancing every Sunday, 2-6pm, with The Western Electric band. Clogging, round-dancing & socializing. No cover. Gay men & women. 1942 Market St. SF Phone: 626-4726.

Rainbow Cattle Company — Live country band Saturdays (9pm-1) and Sundays (6-10pm). \$2 cover. Predominantly men's bar ("a high old time," says one cowboy). Clogging, round-dancing and "what-ever," on a small but lively dance floor. 199 Valencia (at Duboce), SF Phone: 861-9652.

Trinity Place — Country in the Financial District. Dancing every Thurs afternoon (5:30-8:30pm) with Randy & the Rounders. No cover. Mainly men, but mixed, says Trinity. Location: 25 Trinity Place (btwn Sutter & Bush; Kearny & Montgomery), SF Phone: 433-4922.

The Answer (Redwood City) — Plans to resume Sunday nite round-dancing this winter (probably early November). Lessons 7-8pm, live c&w band til

there be any grounds for networking between men and womyn to eliminate such violence. Perhaps, if this ever starts to happen, the fears and paranoia swirling inside of us will begin to ease.

Newcomer Denize Springer as the knowledgeable hick, Katie Day, spars nicely with the sophistication of Rhino veteran, Maggie Sutherland's Bernice. Laurel is strung up between past and future, and pulls them both off into her own reality. It's a pleasure. J. Kevin Hanlon directs the evening.

The bonus to the Arnold plays for the last four evenings includes sketches and scenes from The Rhinoceros' past hits. Unknown at press time, these will hopefully include parts of their first show, Doric Wilson's *West Street Gang*; November 1979's *Kennedy's Children* — the Robert Patrick play that was deservedly touted as a solid piece of ensemble acting; this year's opening run of Harvey Fierstone's *International Stud*, the best box office draw so far, or the second best audience-attractor of the year before, Wilson's *Perfect Relationship*. And others, and more.

Horn in on the fun, and follow the Rhinoceros as it trundles south to trod the treads to further theatrical success at its new location.

midnite. Mixed men & women. Free. 1640 Main St. Redwood City. Phone: 365-9444.

Clogging for Beginners — 10-week basic class for men & women taught by Janice Hanzel (director, Barbary Coast Cloggers). Appalachian-style mountain square dancing, with tentative start-up date of September 16 (SF location now being sought). \$45, plus \$10 hall-use fee. Possible limited enrollment. Hard-soled street shoes preferred. (No cowboy boots or tennis shoes). Phone: 829-0846.

Exhibition Teams

Barbary Coast Cloggers — Gay men's exhibition team available for parties, outings. Info & fee schedule from Business Manager Alan MacDonald (525-5491).

Foggy City Squares: Exhibition Dancers — Good energy ensemble of men & women square dancers, representing the most polished of the Foggy City Squares (listed separately). More info from Skip Barrett: 441-4112.

Alternative Airwaves

The Gay Life with Randy Alfred KFSN 95FM, Sundays, 11pm.
Sept 6: **Gay Atheist League** of America convention highlights, plus the intro of Tom Hayden's speech on progressives and the New Right.
Sept 13: **Tom Hayden's** speech on a progressive response to the New Right.
Sept 20: **Golden Gate Business Assoc.** panel on the pros & cons of coming out on the job.
Sept 27: Highlights of **Alice B. Toklas** Memorial Demo Club Awards dinner.

There is a Woman in This Town KPFA 94FM, Tuesdays, 8:30pm
Sept 1: **Topical features** and information from a feminist perspective.
Sept 8: **"Watering the Roots — How Strategy Grows."** Jean O'Leary (Bay Area Women Against Rape) and Sally Cooper (Ohio Women Against Rape) on the state of the anti-rape movement.
Sept 15: KPFA Women's Dept celebrates **National Hispanic Month**.
Sept 22: a look at the **Reproductive Rights Conference** in the Bay Area this month.
Sept 29: **Rosh Hashanah** — the spirit & traditions of this High Holiday perceived thru a feminist eye.

Radio Free Women KALX 90.7FM, Tuesdays, 9:30pm.
An hour of women's programming — music, interviews, politics plus a weekly calendar. Program ideas welcome, call 642-1111.

Fruit Punch, Gay Men's Radio KPFA, 94FM, Wednesdays, 10pm.
Sept 2: **Folkways Records: from Walls to Waitresses** — the music of Michael Cohen, Chris Tanner, Geoff Morgan, Willie Sordill & others as *Fruit Punch* begins a series tracing gay men's musical culture.
Sept 9: **Blackberri Finally** has released his album! Hear it tonite, along with music from kindred artists.
Sept 16: **Where Do We Go Tonight?** many young gays from the East Bay find their way to the Pacific Center to talk about the many pressures they feel from schools, parents & trolls.
Sept 23: **Folkways** — a musical potpourri of local lesbian & gay identified artists — Temescal Chorus, Gwen Avery, Sam & Carmel, Wilma, Bloodlips and Oifs.
Sept 30: **Catch the Fire of Good Fairy** Cultural Collective's vision thru Charlie Murphy's music plus an inside report from Seattle where fairies are at work building a healing men's culture in harmony with wimmin, children & the earth.

Women's News KPFA 94FM, Thursdays, 8-8:30pm
Programming by, for & about women.

Women's Magazine KPFA 94FM, Saturdays, 12-2pm.
Sept 5: *You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down* — **Alice Walker** reads from her book & is interviewed.
Sept 12: 12-1pm — a look at **TV commercials** and how they portray & affect women. 1-2pm: — **Flo Kennedy & Margo St. James** speak & are interviewed at the recent Bohemian Grove protests.
Sept 19: **Bay Area Women's Theatre** — Lillith, Theater Community Ctr, Armato, Sharpened Spoons, Asian American Theater, Nightfire, & Mischief Mime explore their art as feminists. Call-in at 848-4425.
Sept 26: Tonite women **Take Back the Night** in San Francisco march & rally. Hear organizers, speakers & other women involved in this struggle.

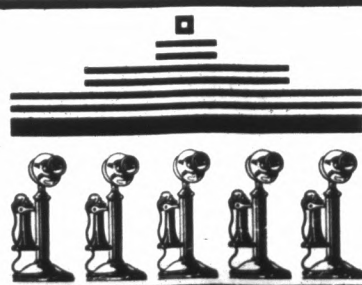
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"The Hat" — a selection from an exhibition of Diana Duff's photography at Laughing Goddess Grotto, 4118 Telegraph Avenue (next to Ollie's), Oakland. The show runs Mon-Sat, 4-9pm through Sept 19.

2nd Annual Celebration Women's Music and Culture

Four thousand women will converge on Camp Mather near Yosemite, California, for the Second Annual West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival on September 10-13.

This celebration of women's culture, politics, and spirituality will feature concerts by an array of performers that include Meg Christian, Dovidia Ishtatova and Henia Goodman, Holly Near, Robin Flower, Ferron, and Teresa Trull. Groups such as Alive!, Chevere!, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Interference, Something Special, and the Dyketones are also scheduled to perform, along with Mischief Mime, a women's theater troupe.

Throughout the four-day gathering crafts-women and vendors will display and sell their wares, as children and women swim in the nearby lake, play sports, and gather in circles to discuss everything from El Salvador to lesbian pulp novels.

Workshops facilitated by feminist writers and activists such as Flo Kennedy, Charlotte Bunch, Kate Millet, Margaret Sloan, Valerie Taylor, and Audre Lorde will take place in the woods, which transform into a sort of lesbian nation for the weekend.

In addition to providing a holistic, cultural experience — a trip into an unusual and visionary world created by, for, and about women — the festival is also a positive rallying point for political action.

"Racism, sexism, and homophobia are becoming national policy," observes Torie Osborn. "In a time like this it is especially important for women to take our power, create a mini-world, and to feel what it's like to be with other women."

"It's a show of strength," she concludes. "We hope this spiritual sense of solidarity will enable us to go back into our everyday lives

feeling replenished, and more able to fight back."

Fees for the entire four days, which include food and childcare (children must pre-register) are \$65 per person for camping. Tickets will be available at the San Francisco office, 1195 Valencia Street thru Sept 9. Starting Sept. 10 they will be sold at the Evergreen Lodge located directly outside Camp Mather. No reduced tickets will be available for women who are only able to attend for the weekend. Personal checks will not be accepted, so plan to bring cash or money orders. For further information call 641-4892. See our page 1 story for information on carpools to the festival.

— Sue Zemel

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Night

(continued from front page)

streets, protesting the degradation and humiliation inflicted upon us and are beaten by those who are supposed to protect us and insure our safety, it is only reinforcement that we cannot rely on laws and police to protect us.

Violence against womyn occurs in many forms other than rape. Battery, incest, child abuse, medical violence, psychiatric violence, verbal assault, violence against lesbians, sexual harassment, police harassment . . . the list goes on. It is important that womyn realize that my experiences in Michigan, in my home, and the experiences of my instructor and sister student, are not uncommon. Every day, every where, every form of violence against womyn occurs in increasing degrees.

When as womyn we realize the fear inside of us is not an isolated one, we can focus on a strategy that will strengthen us. United, our fear and anger becomes the power we need to defend ourselves.

On September 26, Bay Area womyn will march on the streets of San Francisco in the annual Take Back the Night march. This march is a powerful statement made by all womyn. It is one night when we can gather as womyn of color, womyn of all ages, working class womyn, disabled womyn, lesbians and straight womyn in unison to protest all acts of violence against us.

Yet, it is not enough that womyn unite one day of the year. After the march, we go home alone. We will always live with the fear of rape. That is the reality.

As womyn, we have to network and unite with other womyn the year round for our safety. We have to share our fears and learn our strengths alone and together, and we have to be prepared to defend ourselves. We must always be ready to fight back.

But it has to go even further than that. It is not enough that womyn take back the night if the world is full of rapists. It is men who rape and commit other acts of violence against womyn, and it is men who must take responsibility for their actions. There must be a movement of men willing to say they will no longer tolerate the inhumane acts of other men, and who will devote their energy and strength to working with other men to stem the increasing tide of violence against womyn.

Only when men own their responsibility will

Rhinoceros

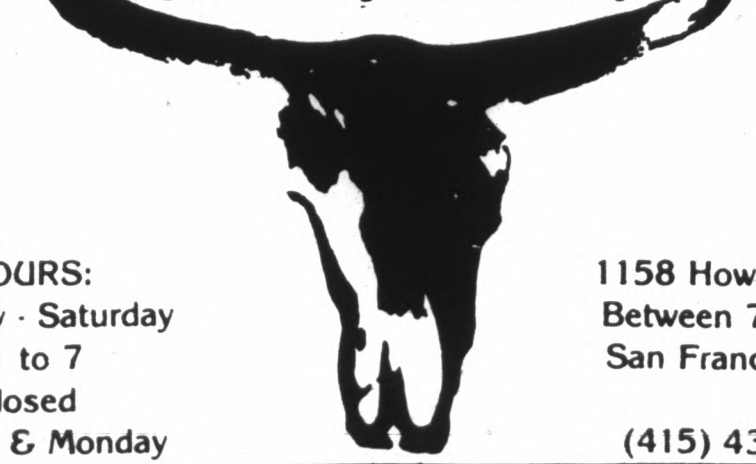
(continued from front page)

Haren and Timo Butters as Christian and Johnny Pole, explores another kind of attachment to the past, as the aging hustler, Johnny, and his street-queen refuge, withdraw from unpleasant realities, old and new. This is an unusually literate piece, for it evokes pity, a compassionate kind of horror, and a classic look at the Tenderloin behind the garbage behind the glitter.

The middle play, saved for last in this review, is a tug-o-war for Laurel. *The Blonde in 20-B*. One of the few (4) lesbian plays ever put on by Theatre Rhinoceros, it is by all counts one of the smoothest and most memorable of productions. Kate Flatland's Laurel is a simply stunning performance. While *Blonde* is not the strongest vehicle ever seen on San Francisco "little" stages, it is steered and paced with such Rolls Royce expertise by Ms. Flatland that getting there is nearly all the fun.

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Calendar listings for Sept 8 & 22

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desire

by Ruby Libra

I.
so you're in love with my tongue.
you know there are worse things to be and besides
i like it.

II.
listen jamie, i know you're going to think this is funny but when i get to san francisco i'm going to be celibate.
because i'm in heat too much. all the time. like in michigan, at the music festival. i swore i wasn't going to mess around any more than i had to. already connie was there. anna was coming from san diego, marsha from wisconsin. maybe clemency and i would be sleeping together but we weren't sure. anyway, all this dealing and musical tents after long nature walks in just four short festival days was really starting to feel like too much. so i figured why take anymore on? then i get to the music festival early and though there's plenty of work to do there's also a lot of time to hang out. i mean, what pushes a woman's buttons more than dark nights and sweet fire? hmmm-mmm. right. i couldn't help it. o.k. i didn't want to. i mean she's a nice woman. kind of wild. she likes ritual and brings out the artist in me. we talked about it. we both like to sleep around, didn't want to get married just wanted to make love, so why not? you know by the time marsha and anna got there, i was glad to be the "other woman" . . . the one everybody wants when their main muse isn't around but the one they hardly have time for when she is.

i gotta figure some things out. my sexuality is running rampant or something. there's this other woman. i've known her for a long time. i love her a lot and we're real good friends. now suddenly whenever i'm around her i get the feeling that i want to . . . you know, be with her. scares me shitless because i'm almost 31 and she's not yet 17. i think i must be losing my mind. i say to myself: ruby, what's the matter with you? why does everything that feels good to you get turned into sexual energy? what's the matter, ruby. you a slave to your clit? afraid of getting old? what? jamie, can you help me figure it out? is it venus in scorpio? saturn cycle perhaps? seems like in the past year, especially the past six months, the flood gates got opened and i can't close them. i mean, i don't want to but i need to figure out what makes holding women and putting my mouth on their cunts and shoulders and ears and feeling their motion feel so good. what makes me want to do it? to say it's mere lesbian lust is to over-simplify it. i know that it's heart stuff. soul stuff. but i'm going to get a terrible reputation.

i think about it. dream about it. i'm talking to this woman the other day, jamie. we're kinda arguing/kinda discussing separatism as a class issue. i'm listening to her talk, watching her mouth move. i mean, i'm hearing what she's saying but i'm losing interest very quickly — and you know how i love to talk about separatism. but all i want to do is stop this blah blah and put my face in her neck. she could have kept on talking if she wanted to, i just wanted to hide there for a while. block out bright light. loud noise. i would have said, "excuse me, please go on" as i wrapped my arms around her and snuggled in closer to bury my face in those soft hairs just below her ears. but i was afraid i'd make her nervous. i mean, i hardly know her. but you know what i was afraid of the most? i was afraid that putting my face in her neck would feel too good. too soothing. that i would want to go on. i would want to rub my nose across her skin. smell her. stroke her sides with my hands, press my body into hers. dance her across the floor. kiss her. what if i got so out of control that i tried to kiss her? why do i get so hooked into sensation and desire when i'm around or just think about women. jamies, does that ever happen to you?

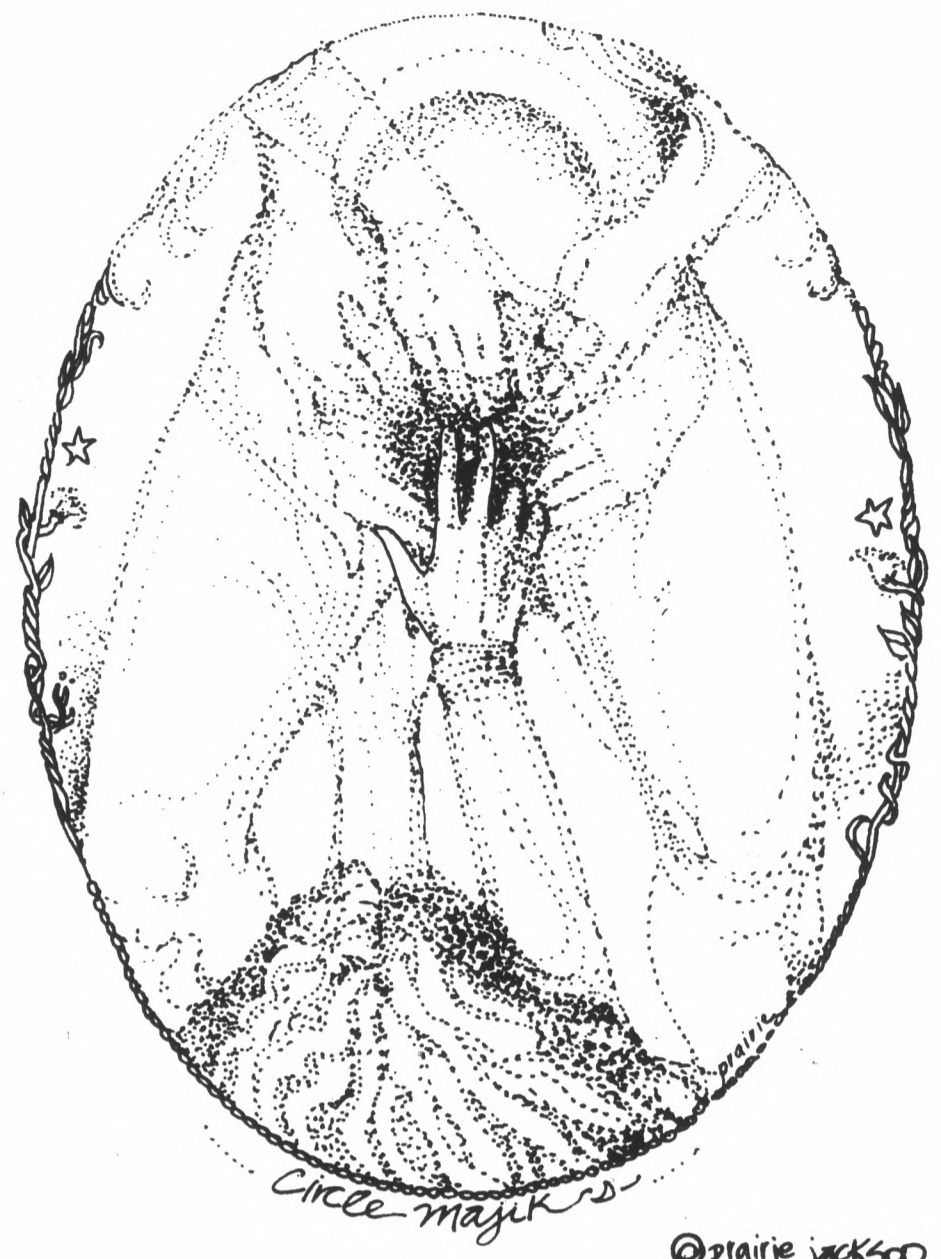
III.
with bare feet we move through night, over earth.
earth traveled by ghosts of both
the living the dead.

as we move over each other
the echoes of others passing sighs beside us.
soft gurglings and low moans tease us on and you
send thick red blood oozing slowly at first then
churning like mad water through my wide open
veins

wide open mouth pulls you in
right here into me like a woman gone crazy
gone crazy and lusty and soft wanting
to lay down on your belly and die
just die there with only dreams
left lying on my skin.

my own ghost she would roar like ages past
she would roar like dens of lions aflame
roar and bellow and murmur beside you

soft eager serpent she would move
over and around you like any creature
taking her own sweet time



sliding with senses alive through distance
past hard shell over silence
into singing and breath

she would scream powerful hushed currents over
you like a woman of demons

turning them loose.

Ruby Libra is a writer and grill cook, living & working in San Francisco. desire and "circle majik" appear in Sapphic Touch, Vol. 1., a journal of lesbian erotica edited by Jeanine Karen and Sue Skope. Celebrate Sapphic's coming out at a book party at Amelia's. Our centerfold calendar for Sept. 20 has details.

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