

# COMING UP!

December, 1981

Largest Lesbian/Gay Circulation in the Bay Area

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Sarah Tomateo, ace face-painter joins singer-songwriter Kate Wolf, the Dancing Dill Pickles, the Screaming Meemiés, plus many other entertainers and over 300 skilled artisans at the 11th Annual KPFA Holiday Crafts Fair Dec 5th & 6th and 12th & 13th from 10am-6pm at the Pauley Ballroom in the Student Union Bldg at UC Berkeley. And on this side of the Bay there's the Winter Women's Art & Crafts Fair '81 — exquisite, affordable handcrafted gifts, scrumptious foods and joyous entertainment, December 5th & 6th, same time. There's more info inside on our centerfold calendar.

## KEEP COMING UP! COMING OUT!

In the 25 months of *Coming Up!*'s operation, the community has seen massive changes take place in the paper. What began as a four page calendar of events has grown into a 12-page community resource, with a distribution of 23,000 copies.

In addition to three full pages of calendar listings, *Coming Up!* covers events and issues that reach out to very facet of the gay and lesbian communities from Gay Rodeo to the Women's Music Festival, from Poppers to the Family Protection Act, from Cabaret to lesbian-feminist theatre, and much much more.

To serve the entire community, we had to grow — and we had to grow quickly so we could arrive at a size that would pay for ourselves. In fact, our last several issues have covered expenses, but it costs us a lot to make the expansion, and now those debts have caught up with us.

We owe almost ten thousand dollars in expansion costs, although this is a lot of money for us as a not-for-profit corporation, we know that it's a drop in the bucket when we consider the tens of thousands of you who read us each month. That's why we're staking our future on your support.

We're asking you to take a chance in the First Great *Coming Up!* Raffle, our first major fundraiser. The Grand Prize is a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, roundtrip airfare and accommodations included — plus there are hundreds of other prizes. A donation of \$1 per ticket is requested, or \$10 for 12 tickets. Although you don't have to be there to win the raffle, your attendance at our *Coming Up!* Benefit Party Friday, December 4th, from 7pm-1am, will also help us retire our debt. For only a \$5 donation you'll see a preview performance of a new musical revue *A Fine Romance*, featuring the songs of Jerome Kern, hear the jazz sounds of *Swingshift*, laugh as Tom

Ammiano comes out as a stand-up comic; and be able to play BINGO with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Plus, you'll be there for the drawing for the Raffle, culminating in the Grand Prize Drawing at the stroke of midnight. You can buy raffle tickets at our office, 2120 Market St, Room 104 in San Francisco, at our table at 18th & Castro, or mail us a check and we'll send you some tickets (our zip's 94114).

If you read *Coming Up!*, you know that the paper is a free community service, and in the end must be saved by the community. If you can afford a donation, large or small, it would be greatly appreciated — possibly 25¢, 50¢, or even more for every issue you've read, enjoyed, and hung up in your kitchen. Each raffle ticket purchased is one more dollar into the pot. A large attendance at the benefit could keep us in business.

So please, if you can, help keep *Coming Up!* coming out.

## A network for Gay writers

Gay Writers Network of the Bay Area (GAWNOBA) is forming in San Francisco to support and promote gay poets, playwrights, and prose writers. Their goal is to create an effective writers' organization, which will help further support, reflect, define, and contribute to the blossoming cultures of the gay communities. Tentative plans for the organization include workshops, meetings, readings, a newsletter, and the possible creation of a gay literary journal.

The needs and concerns of the individual writer will be addressed during formation of the Network, and the group will need input. They also need a regular meeting space.

More specific plans and goals will be developed as the Network forms. The Gay Writers Network is tentatively planned to meet the needs of gay male writers, but not necessarily exclusively, since there are lesbian-writers organizations already in existence.

Writers interested in joining and constructing the organization can call Eric Allyn at (415) 864-3971 or write Eric Allyn, Gay Writers Network, 1433 Haight Street #, San Francisco, CA 94117.

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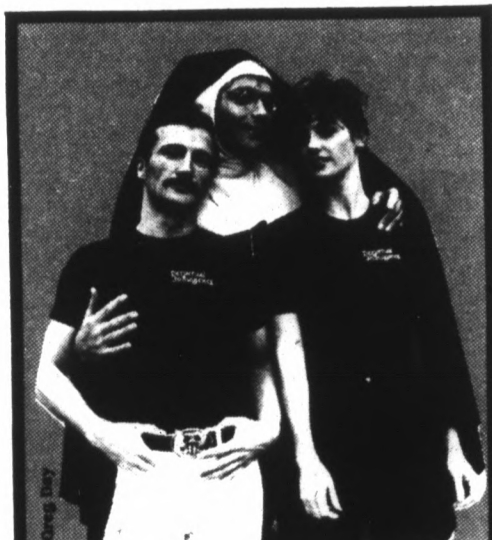
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# Ten years of Modern Times

by the Modern Times Collective

Modern Times Bookstore celebrates its tenth birthday December 13th at Valencia Rose, a new cabaret in the Mission, with cake, champagne, live music — and growing pains.

The store, generally considered the country's leading left/feminist bookstore, recently moved to a large and beautiful space on Valencia Street, between 20th and 21st Streets. With the move, we've begun an exciting series of cultural events, including bookparties, films, readings and gallery showings. Things are intellectually charged, hopeful and exciting.

Our plans to celebrate a decade of operation bring to mind thoughts of what the decade's been like. We first opened our doors in the era of the anti-war movement, the New Left, and the burgeoning women's and gay movements. We end our first ten years in a very different, difficult and challenging time. Inflation, budget cuts, growing militarism and increasing political reaction are affecting us all.

At Modern Times, it's always been our commitment to present all the information that a diverse — and often divided — left might find useful, interesting or inspiring. As we enter the Reagan era we want to keep doing this — and more. We think that at this time it's critical that we, and folks like us, keep open the channels of information to all who are interested, from gay socialists to disaffected Democrats.

But nobody lives by politics alone, and Modern Times' stock reflects this. Leftist and feminists, like everybody else, need sensitive, well-written, exciting books which fit no one category. They need books that tell you what to do when your back goes out, books on how to cook a good meal, and books just to curl up with. Even a clientele entranced by political economy should have access to matters of general interest and speculation, from the origin of matter to the theory of sexual desire.

You won't find *Winning Through Intimidation* at Modern Times, nor gothic novels with languishing heroines and aristocratic heroes, nor much about tax-shelters and money market funds. But our store is filled with carefully-chosen, interesting, engaging books that would be of interest to many more people than committed political activists.

What we are doing at Modern Times is innovative and unique. We are trying to expand the typical boundaries of a left bookstore. We deeply believe in the vitality and importance of progressive thought and culture in our society, and we are committed to making this culture available to leftists and non-leftists alike. At a time when the Right is on the attack, we think that many people have a lot more in common with Modern Times than they might suppose. Loving to read and to think is a good start.

Making ends meet in a community bookstore is always difficult. One of the ways we get financial support is through our Memberships. Friends of the store buy a \$15.00 or \$25.00 membership, and in return get a 10% discount on all the stock we carry. It's nice to think that we can raise needed capital and be able to return that favor to our community.

The Birthday Party on Dec. 13th begins at 7:30. We'll have Swingshift, a hot new women's jazz band, Judy Grahn, Casselberry & Dupree and other special guests. Join us. In difficult times, it's nice to have something to celebrate.



Lou Rudolph with his work — images captured live of new wave audiences, performers, and music at 544 Natoma Performance Gallery. Main calendar listing for Dec. 11th has details.

# DRINKING: a gay way of life

By Arthur Evans

© by Arthur Evans 1981. All Rights Reserved. This is the second and final installment on the impact of Gay big business on the quality of Gay life.

Next to the popper industry, the second biggest money-maker in the Gay business world is the network of bars and baths. Among straights, bars are just one way among many for meeting social needs. Among Gays, however, bars have become the dominant means of socializing and meeting sexual partners.

The reasons for this dominance are clear. A long history of straight bigotry has driven us out of families, churches, labor unions, and other open avenues of making friends and lovers. For decades we have been forced to flee to the one place where we could meet each other in relative safety — the local Gay bar. As a result, the bar has played a historical role in Gay life that is unparalleled by its straight counterpart.

Until recently many Gay bars were owned by straights. In large cities, especially on the East Coast, the most popular were run, directly or indirectly, by the Mafia. The gangsters who controlled these bars had absolutely no concern whatsoever for the quality of Gay life. Their only goal was to make as much money as possible. By the 1950's, they had cultivated into a fine art a set of tricks to make their customers become heavy drinkers.

For example, they deliberately avoided having any ventilation system, so that the bar would fill up with hot air and cigarette smoke, making people thirsty. In addition, they kept the music so loud that it was uncomfortable to initiate a conversation. The patrons, having come to the bar to cruise, and now having each other in sight, were nevertheless inhibited by the loud noise from talking to each other. To relieve the tension and deal with the environment, they would buy more drinks.

As closing time approached (desperate hour), the volume and tempo of the music would soar, as the cash registers rang away. Most Mafia bars in the 50's were, in fact, run-down, dimly lit, filthy fire-traps, reflecting both the arrogant contempt of their owners and the lack of self-esteem of their patrons.

With the coming of Gay liberation, the influence of the Mafia declined. On the West Coast

in particular, a large number of Gay-owned, legitimately run bars sprang up. But the new owners — whether unthinkingly or from the same profit motive — tended to continue the same contrived environment. As a result, to this day — twelve years after the Stonewall Riots that began the modern Gay liberation movement — many independently run Gay bars in San Francisco are indistinguishable in atmosphere from the Mafia-run bars of New York City in the 1950's.

In view of this historical development, we shouldn't be surprised to find a high rate of Gay alcoholism. And, indeed, those who have read the existing medical literature as well as those who actually treat patients agree: Gay alcoholism has become a real problem.

Gina White, in a recent survey of social needs, cites a 1980 overview of research by Zigrang that concludes: "... three out of every ten homosexuals are likely to experience significant difficulties as a result of alcohol abuse." According to Roy Grey, the business manager of Acceptance House (a Gay alcoholic recovery program) "about 20% of all Gay people are alcoholics, compared to a national average of 10%." Carol Migden, the executive director of Operation Concern (a Gay mental health service), claims "Drinking problems are pervasive and almost taken for granted by our clients," adding that Gay alcoholism is "a paramount problem that probably will increase."

Of course, the bars can't be blamed for all of the problem, since Gay men are also under great personal stress from a hostile straight world, and San Francisco is traditionally a drinking city. Nonetheless, the special role of bars in our lives and the contrived environments of these bars are added factors.

Do the bar owners feel any sense of concern because of these factors? Not much, judging by the behavior of the Tavern Guild, an association of more than 100 of San Francisco's 200 Gay bars. I asked Roy Gray how much money the Tavern Guild had contributed to Acceptance House's alcoholic recovery program. He couldn't remember ever receiving a contribution of any significance. I checked this with Jim Bonko, the Tavern Guild's administrator, and he said he could find no record of

# 'The Christmas Present' A gift for the city's disabled

The San Francisco Grocery Express, working with the Independent Living Project, Easter Seals, and Goodwill Industries, invites individuals and members of San Francisco's corporate community to co-sponsor a Christmas Present to lower-income persons with physical disabilities.

The present — a week's supply of nutritious foods delivered to the door — is a capstone to the International Year of the Disabled.

"We've received strong support for the project, and not just because of the holiday season," says Charlotte Mailliard, Honorary Chair of "The Christmas Present". "People also feel it's time to focus public awareness on the many every-day activities — like grocery shopping — for which our existing facilities are inadequate to the needs of the disabled."

A nutritionist working with The Grocery Express has designed a package of food that meets a person's basic dietary requirements

for a week. For every \$40 raised, a package will be sent to a lower-income resident sponsored by the Independent Living Project, Easter Seals, or Goodwill Industries. The Grocery Express will assemble and deliver the food package, which will arrive with a holiday message.

"The Christmas Present" offers several opportunities to members of the community," says John Coghlan of The Grocery Express. "It offers the opportunity to further awareness of the special needs of people with disabilities; the opportunity to go on record in the community as being "in supporting those who most need it; and the opportunity to participate in a project grounded in the spirit of the season."

If you want to help send a Christmas Present, you can contact Charlotte Mailliard at 641-5460. Contributions should be mailed by December 15 to: The Christmas Present, c/o SFGE, 1650 Evans, San Francisco 94124.

the Guild ever having given them any money.

Operation Concern, on the other hand, has received some money from the Tavern Guild. Ed Scott, president of the Guild, told me they hold benefits from time to time and give all the proceeds to Operation Concern. Nonetheless, the money given hasn't been very much, according to Carol Migden. She characterized the amount of support as "minimal" from the Guild, both when Operation Concern was a part of the Tavern Guild Foundation, and after it became an independently incorporated facility. She says certain individuals within the Tavern Guild (such as Bob Ross, publisher of B.A.R.) have been very helpful, but that the over-all pattern was poor.

Carol Migden also notes that most bar owners have no health plans for their employees. As a result, a financial strain falls on Operation Concern when they come there for professional services.

Ed Scott says that although "the good Gay bars" have health plans, many do not. When I asked him whether the Guild tries to persuade its members to have such plans, he responded, "We can't tell the owners how to run their businesses."

The bar owners are also complacent about fire and safety conditions in their businesses. In 1976 a committee of Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) conducted a fire and health inspection of 17 bars, mostly in the Folsom area. The members of the committee (Randy Alfred, David Goldman, and Chris Pery) filled out a written form for each bar, noting such things as number and placement of fire extinguishers, accessibility of fire exits, sanitation in bathrooms, level of sound, etc.

Here are some of the observations recorded for various bars: "One [fire] extinguisher located in locked storeroom; bartender does not have a key"; "no apparent rear exit — no


exit signs"; "no apparent ventilation to exterior." In public testimony before the Human Rights Commission, David Goldman stated that several of the bars inspected were "in flagrant violation of minimal standards of the fire and health codes." Unfortunately, BAGL soon disappeared from the scene, and the matter was dropped. But in some bars, fire and safety problems remain to this day.

When I raised this concern with Ed Scott, he responded: "To my knowledge it's not a problem. The Fire and Health Departments do a good job." But when I pressed him whether the Guild had ever actually inspected its member bars for fire and safety requirements, he replied "no," adding, "observance of fire and health standards is not part of the requirement for membership in the Tavern Guild."

The network of bars and baths has given rise to a distinct type of lifestyle that has affected the quality of life far beyond the questions of alcoholism, fire safety, and even discrimination. Though difficult to measure in quantitative terms, these other effects — psychological, and to an extent spiritual — are far-reaching and devastating.

They are nowhere more evident than on Castro Street, the heartland of the Gay-bar lifestyle. During the last five years, Castro Street has changed from being a genuine neighborhood for Gays of widely varying lifestyles, fantasies, personal appearances, and social classes. Increasingly, it has become a bar zone where unsmiling men with overdeveloped bodies stand around, get drunk, snort poppers, and give each other attitude. And in the wake of this bar culture has come an increasing amount of loneliness and alienation, which the bar owners seem totally oblivious to.

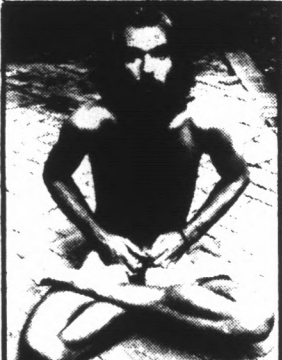
I mentioned to Ed Scott the growing num- (continued on page 8)



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Coming Up! features news and photographs of many events that are not necessarily gay- or lesbian-identified, which we feel are of interest to the gay and lesbian communities, and recognizes the important community work that many straight-identified groups are doing that would be of interest to the widely diverse gay and lesbian communities. Coming Up! also recognizes that many straight-identified people attend or participate in gay- or lesbian-identified events. Therefore, publication of the names, photographs, or likenesses of any person, organization, event or business in Coming Up! cannot be taken as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, organization, event or business.

**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 20th of the month preceding publication. We can not take listings by phone. Listings are free.

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# Nuclear Freeze Time is running out

by Sue Zemel

A character in one of anti-war activist Grace Paley's short stories remarks: "The kids! The kids! Though terrible troubles hang over them such as the absolute end of the known world quickly by detonation or slowly through an easygoing destruction of natural resources, they are still, even now, optimistic, humorous, and brave. In fact, they intend enormous changes at the last minute."

But time is running out. The United States and the Soviet Union have embarked on the most massive nuclear arms buildup in history. As the U.S. government continues to slash essential social services, it will pour over \$150 billion this year alone into building new bombers and first strike nuclear weapons.

At present, the U.S. has a stockpile of 30,000 nuclear warheads, equivalent to 615,000 times the force of the bomb dropped at Hiroshima. With this stockpile our country can destroy every major Soviet city 40 times over. The Soviet Union, in its turn, can destroy every major American city 17 times over with its arsenal of 20,000 weapons. The U.S. and U.S.S.R.'s stockpiles, together, contain the equivalent of 12 tons of TNT for every man, woman, and child in the world.

A major national campaign is currently underway to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race. The end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons is seen as an essential first step toward reducing the risk of nuclear war.

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign is based on a proposal for a bilateral freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles, and delivery systems. The Campaign has garnered support from a wide array of citizens and community groups across the country.

According to a recent Gallup poll, 72% of the American public favors an "agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. not to build any more nuclear weapons in the future." And an initiative calling for a bilateral freeze has already been passed by the voters of Western Massachusetts, and by state legislatures in Massachusetts, New York, and Oregon — together that represents 13% of the U.S. population.

In California, a group called Californians for Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze has formed. In order to build public support for a bilateral freeze, and put pressure on public officials, the group is placing an initiative on the state ballot in November of 1982. To accomplish this, they must first collect 350,000 valid voter signatures between December of 1981 and April of 1982.

To kickoff this statewide effort, hundreds of petition parties involving thousands of people will take place during the first two weeks of December. People will host potlucks, wine and cheese parties, Hannukkah and Winter Solstice celebrations, and a slew of events to gather signatures and develop resources for the Freeze Campaign.

"We urge people to organize gatherings of all sizes, and to recruit their friends, co-workers, and cohorts to help invite guests and make party plans," a staffer at the local Freeze office, located at 944 Market Street told *Coming Up!* Individuals as well as organizations within the gay/lesbian community can

participate in this campaign by holding and attending petition parties. For further information contact the Freeze office at 981-9423.

"If we are going to address the nuclear crisis, it's going to have to come from the people," says Supervisor Harry Britt. Noting that the well-attended protests in Europe have forced Ronald Reagan to revise his plans for a "limited nuclear war," Britt suggests that a similar message must come from the grassroots of America.

"The strategy around bigger and better bombs is a perverse strategy of rich white men," Britt continues. "I think gay people recognize perversity in power relationships. It's what we've been struggling with all our lives."

Eric Bear, a gay man active in the anti-nuke movement feels: "The survival of the planet is

(continued on page 8)

# Art Auction to benefit Other Ways

Artworks by award-winning American and European artists including such masters as Picasso, Miro, Dali, and Chagall will be featured at a Holiday Art Auction, Reception and Exhibition, Saturday, December 5, 7pm, at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 117 Diamond Street, 2 blocks west of Castro in San Francisco.

The event is hosted by Other Ways, a non-profit social alternative for gay men with local chapters in San Francisco and San Jose.

A donation of \$4 includes a chance on a door prize (a work of fine art), a complimentary drink, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, an art catalog, and gives you the opportunity to buy one or more exciting works of art at substantial savings.

Oils, lithographs, watercolors, etchings, serigraphs, and other media will be on display as ready-to-hang works of art, custom framed to complement each piece individually. Don't miss it, call 861-1000 for reservations.



*Synch Touch* — the language of the body is the spectacle of the screen — and *Pools* — underwater photography of the Julia Morgan swimming pool at Hearst Castle. Two new films by Barbara Hammer, plus many favorites from the last three years show at the SF Art Institute December 10. Our centerfold calendar has details.

# Latino Gays: Coming Out and Coming Home

by Rodrigo Reyes

## Homosexual.

The word alone elicits responses that range from nervous giggles to physical violence. For Latina lesbians and Latino gays, growing up and maintaining an existence in Latino communities has been a painful process, often endured in silence and isolation.

"The love that dares not speak its name," as the Victorians called it, dares even less to speak it *en español*.

But even in *la comunidad*, times have changed. A group of gay and lesbian San Franciscans, deciding to organize for their right to a place in their community, formed GALA, The Gay Latino(a) Alliance in November of 1975.

In GALA's six years of existence it has managed to earn the respect of San Francisco's Latino community. Several GALA members sit on the boards of community agencies and others work side-by-side with their heterosexual *vecinos*, serving the community in which they feel they rightfully belong.

GALA was one of the first Latino organizations to come aid of Inez Garcia, a young Latina mother accused of murdering one of two men who raped her. Inez was eventually acquitted. The group has also worked with the United Farm Workers of America, the Sandinista Liberation Front, Comité de Salvadoreños Progresistas, and as translators, fund-raisers and contributors to *El Tecolote*, San Francisco's bilingual community newspaper. On occasion, GALA has also acted as a liaison between the Latino community and the city's large, predominantly white gay community, when such issues as housing speculation and anti-gay violence created friction between the two groups.

GALA feels that working on community issues as openly gay people is the best way to struggle for gay rights. The task of establishing and maintaining communication with non-gay Latinos, according to Roberto, a GALA

member, "is very important because the pain of isolation from family and community is probably one of the worst aspects of gay oppression."

Margarita Genera, a non-gay community activist and former Head Start teacher, says, "until I knew of GALA and met some of its members, I had the idea that homosexuals were concerned solely with their own cause. But GALA members have shown themselves to be concerned with things that affect the entire community. Not only are they concerned, but they get actively involved in trying to make changes."

"For me," says Jesus, a founding member of GALA, "working in the community is important because it allows me to be seen as an individual and not as a stereotype created by ignorance."

GALA's membership has always been co-sexual, unlike most gay organizations. Diana, also one of the original founders, thinks this is important. "Our *raza*," she says, "has been divided for too long, and if we do not work together we'll never succeed in the struggle for our liberation, for the liberation of all of us."

"Of course," she points out, "the oppression of lesbians is different from that experienced by Latino gay men; we are women, we are lesbians, and we are Latinas, so we get it from three directions. But if we do not work with our natural allies, our *brothers de corazón y de raza*, who are we going to work with?" Another member, Rita, feels that working within the organization fills several needs in her life. "GALA has given me the opportunity to build solidarity with other gay women, to give and receive support from them and to serve my community. It has also been rewarding to work as a GALA member with non-gay women and to see them discover that as a Latina, a working woman and a single parent, I am not all that different from them."

In the past, the only options open to gay Latinos have been to stay in the closet, to risk ostracism by family and friends, ridicule,

taunts and physical abuse; or to leave the community.

Leaving the community, the most common option, usually means migrating to the large urban areas and entering their gay communities. For many Latino gays, this has been like going from the frying pan into the fire. While it gives Latinos the freedom to be openly gay without harassment, many complain that it also brings racism and cultural alienation.

"It was nice at first," says Tony, originally from San Antonio, Texas. "Nobody hassled me and I felt I was able to breathe for the first time. But after a while I realized that I missed my family, my friends and my music. Hardly any bars, except for *Esta Noche*, who does it regularly, plays Latin music." Leona, a young Latina, adds with a touch of bitterness, "A lot of white gays think about us the same way they do about Mexican food. It's nice once in a while, but they wouldn't want it every day. In fact, they seem to have this thing about food, calling us 'beans' or 'beaners' and Asians 'rice.'"

GALA has made several efforts to deal with the realities of gay Latinos' lives by organizing social functions and providing supportive social services. The organization regularly sponsors dances as an alternative to the bar scene, providing a non-exploitative and culturally supportive environment. It also serves as a source of information and referral to its members and the community. Support groups are periodically organized to provide an *abrazo* or an open ear to those who need them.

Though GALA is the oldest active organization for gay Latinos, (and outside of M.C.C., the oldest active gay organization) it is by no means the only one. In New York City, *El comité de homosexuales latinoamericanos* (COHLA) has been active since 1977. In Boston, *El comité latino de lesbianas y homosexuales* was formed in early 1979, and Miami has Latinos for Human Rights. GALA chapters are forming in Austin, Texas, and Sacramento, Calif.

In October of 1979, a Third World Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men, held in Washington, D.C., gave delegates for GALA,

COHLA and other gay Latino organizations the opportunity to meet representatives from Mexico's *Frente de acción revolucionaria* (FHAR) and the Costa Rican *Movimiento de liberación homosexual* as well as delegates from gay Asian, Indian and Black organizations. A *Coalición de Organizaciones de Lesbianas y Homosexuales Latinoamericanas* was formed at the conference; its main goals are to facilitate communication among member organizations and to coordinate organizing efforts. FHAR organized an *encuentro* on an international scale in December, 1980.

Though ignorance about homosexuality is still very prevalent in U.S. Latino communities, organizations such as GALA are helping to reduce the lack of communication and knowledge about Latina lesbians and gays. Asked to comment on GALA, Juan González, staff coordinator of *El Tecolote*, replied, "In a real political sense, GALA is an organization that involves itself in community concerns as well as tying their organizing efforts to breaking down taboos and stereotypes. There has been a genuine attempt to focus on the homosexual question without creating friction or tensions, but rather, more understanding."

GALA, The Gay Latino/a Alliance will celebrate their 6th Anniversary with an extravaganza affair on Saturday, Dec 5, at the American Indian Center. The theme "A Night in Havana" calls for appropriate dress — 40's formal — so come prepared. There will be music by Orquesta Batachanga, the Bay Area's best salsa band, plus complimentary food & a special surprise performance. Doors open at 8:30pm, & the music starts at 9pm. The Center is at 225 Valencia St. If you want more info about the party or GALA, call 626-5495.

RODRIGO REYES is a founding member of the Gay Latino Alliance and has been active in it for the last six years. He has also been active in Latino theatre, having founded Teatro Gusto in 1978, and has served as a director on several community boards of directors. Until recently, he worked as Executive Director of the Mission Cultural Center. (This article originally appeared in *Nuestro*, a national magazine for Latinos.)

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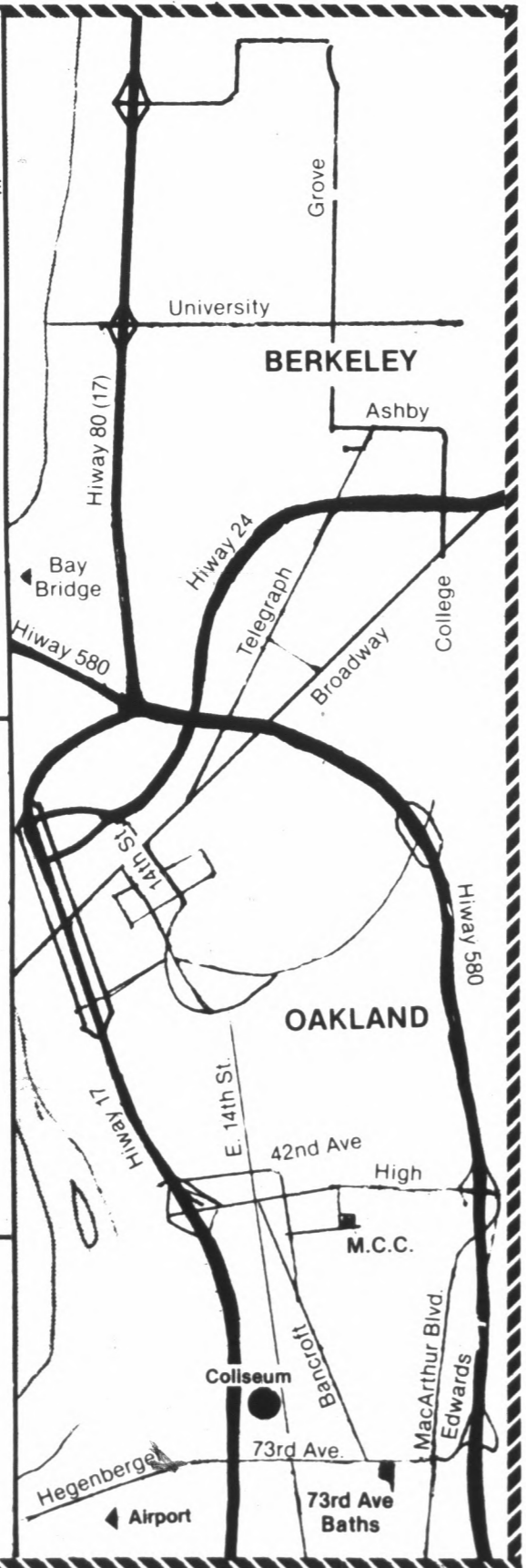
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Merrymakers at last year's Exotic-Erotic New Year's Eve Ball. This year promises to be bigger & better. See New Year's Eve listings on main calendar for details on this & other end-of-year parties.

Photo by Dave Patrick

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But hear me when I call to you softly through the flutes and chimes. Listen when I ask gently but hopefully that you remember—

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That the child  
The baby with the halo  
Who lies in the yellow hay in all the rich heavy paintings.  
Sleeping calmly in the presence of jeweled and bewildered royalty.

Grew into a young man who lived a strange and glorious life. Who said once (In that time forgotten. That faded time between the cradle and the cross). "All men are brothers," and another time. "Thou shalt not kill." And he knew that he would not. Could not. For any reason. Kill his brother.

—Joan Baez

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### Love in a Chemical Dump

Thank you, Arthur Evans, for once again speaking up against a too-common practice of damaging gay health and well-being by replacing passion with poppers.

Arthur, I have grown to trust your concern for and dedication to a community of healthy and vital lesbians and gay men. Know how many of us gain support and strength from your work.

I met one man who vends poppers from his store who claimed to have sent many popular brands to Stanford Medical Labs for analysis, only to discover such goodies as HCL and Sulfur Dioxide in a base of kerosene, plus impurities, in many of those "deodorizers." Dear brothers and sisters, you'd might as well make love in a chemical dump, rather than shoving this stuff up your nostrils. Does our internalized oppression know no end? Poppers and compulsive sex are hardly an alternative to alcoholism.

On to happier things... thank you, *Coming Up!* for so quickly expanding into a lesbian/gay monthly I can rely upon.

Jason Serinus

### A Gay Change

When I arrived in San Francisco nine years ago, the focus of gay activity was shifting from the inner city scene on Polk St. to the quiet neighborhood on Castro St. Gays mixed evenly with the old-time residents and there were children, women and older people around. Many men still wore long hair and agrogyny, the essence of combining female and male aspects, was a new territory being explored. Gay men especially, wore bright eclectic clothes to express a feeling of individuality.

Political, cultural and social groups explored alternatives to a society of conspicuous consumption and conformity. We redefined ourselves within a system which oppressed not only gays but all of its people. This process involved gay men both in claiming our rightful place but also in creating a way for everyone to be treated with dignity and fulfillment.

Not ten years ago we were not only glad to be gay, but also quite content to be different from the men who had scarred us with guilt and feelings of inadequacy. In rap groups and consciousness-raising sessions we learned to open up and express ourselves honestly and compassionately. We faced our problems, broke them down, and found a better understanding of ourselves and others. We envisioned a new world where room existed for each individual to be unique within the whole of society like the magic of snowflakes, each different and yet a part of a greater pattern.

But as time passed, some groups lost sight of their goals and folded while others disbanded after fulfilling a sacred need. Just as the flower children of the 60's turned inward with frustration, so the gay rebels of the early 70's felt the disillusionment of changes which didn't come overnight. In the Castro this change was reflected as family businesses closed and gay bars, boutiques and restaurants opened. If we couldn't change the world then we'd better grab what we could from the system. Real estate seminars replaced political action, rents were raised and expectations were lowered.

Being gay shifted from a spirit of responsiveness to change to a calculated attitude of reaction. Social activities dominated political ones and seeking the truth took a back seat to seeking material gains.

By the time Anita Bryant and the Dade County Debacle arrived in 1977, there were a lot more gay businesses and very few alternatives. A new surge of gay activists sprang from the closets of upwardly-mobile professionals. Predominantly affluent, white, gay men with a stake in the system, they sought only to protect their piece of the pie, not to change the world. Gay rights became a one-focus issue as these respectable good gay citizens stole the spotlight from "less desirable media types" (read dirty radicals espousing revolution). Advertising gay people as just the same as everyone else except for what they did in bed, they pretty well silenced other voices.

We have been co-opted, bought and sold by our own people. Now the Castro is just a step away from being a shopping mall rather than a neighborhood. Diehard gay activists from Stonewall days are told that they are Puritans and no fun because they insist on reminding us that the system in which we desperately seek acceptance is essentially rotten and is dying out like the dinosaurs.

For the capitol of the gay world to be without a viable community center is a shame compounded by the fact that most gay men would rather go somewhere and spend money than to create a place where they could just be together. Just as the general populace has bought the short-term profits of the nuclear industry choosing to ignore the long-term dangers, gay men cram their senses full of stimulation as if each day were their last. There is a difference between living one day at a time and living your whole life in one day.

Violence against gays would be horror enough but we insist upon turning our anger, guilt and frustration onto each other. In the hardcore clone cruising lurks the painful psychic violence that comes from being rejected by your own people. Tricks and numbers are not human beings but objects for immediate gratification. Freedom is not license and when we squeeze ourselves into tight-lipped, stiff roles, we are worse than the fathers we fled because we know better.

Privilege is a smokescreen, the carrot on the stick to a donkey. The cold hard fact is that no amount of game-playing will ever make us acceptable to non-gays. Even as a Jew living in the San Francisco of 1981, I cannot forget that in the Europe of the 40's I would have been shipped off to a concentration camp regardless of how unreligious I might be. In my gut I know that intolerance is death.

What happened in Germany can happen here, is happening here. Our enemies are well-organized and well-financed. They will gladly take our money in their businesses, add them to their own and build the gas chambers of our futures.

If we don't dare to be different, to stop and say "No more!", then we will die with this age of mass consumption and objectification. When push comes to shove even the most sympathetic non-gays will turn against us to save themselves. We have the potential to create an alternative for everyone to explore. Even the smallest instance of pleasure between anonymous strangers is still a moment of pleasure shared, a time away from death and pain. We are different because we love ourselves and the reflection of ourselves we find in each other.

Change starts today, it starts with you. Let's treat each other as family because that's what we are. Clear away the shit instead of throwing it onto someone else. It is enough to be rejected from the outside, let's not torture each other with the pain of rejection from our own.

In love, hope and pride,  
David L. Cawley

### Arthur Evans: Gay Leader?

Arthur Evans is another 'gay leader' hand picked by the gay business establishment. If Arthur Evans is gay, and I have my doubts, I believe he is more our enemy than our friend; or at least his type of politics are.

What other gay 'leader' has gained so much publicity by slandering his fellows. Arthur was the first person to make popular the name 'clone,' an act for which he became known to the gay community through the auspices of the gay press. This of course is exactly the kind of leader the gay community needs. Arthur is committed to the kind of politics which can only divide and anger us. Gays have to put up with enough ridicule from outside the community but to have such ridicule imposed upon us by our peers is nothing short of outrageous.

In his latest political statements Arthur has taken the very positions on poppers and liquor and drugs in general that for years has been the by-line for that other supposed gay leader, The Right Rev. Ray Broshers. But now since such bullshit comes from the lips of the 'Red Queen' we are supposed to believe it.

The very sexual nature of our culture, gay culture, that is, is based upon the use of these sexual stimulants. The suppression of these stimulants has been the main goal of all our worst enemies. And it should be no surprise that the politics of such suppression come from both the far right and the far left.

The only people who are really hurt by such drugs are those emotionally unbalanced people who can not control anything they do. Like fat people their emotional imbalance keeps them from exercising any restraint in their lives. But just because a few act without regard for their bodies is not reason to deprive the majority of us of our food and drugs.

Sincerely,  
Steve Perkins

### Harmless Poppers

Your latest columnist, Arthur Evans, seems to suffer from delusions he's a Ralph Nader of sorts. Now he's saying his "hair stood on end" when he glommed into some bad reports on poppers, a subject explored in depth in a long feature article in *Christopher Street* not long ago. Their verdict? Virtually harmless. Did Evans' kind at once also quit coffee? "It causes cancer."

The more I read of Arthur Evans and his "hair-raising" exploits to save gay humanity from gay exploiters — his next to last target was terrible Jon Sims, "militaristic dictator" of our gay band — the more I'm reminded of an adde-pated, frustrated old maid who keeps imagining a rapist under her bed. It's not Evans' hair that needs raising, though I won't let on what probably does.

Merrill Levy

PS. On the positive side, was the piece by Arthur Lazere, whose name, however, was consistently misspelled. Especially apropos was his warning against using gay rights as a mere vehicle for promoting Marxist-Leninist class wars.

[Ed. Note: Our apologies to Arthur Lazere for our consistent misspelling of his name.]

### Gay Business = Gay Clout?

Arthur Lazere's article, "Gay business: Small, powerful and growing" in the November issue of *Coming Up!* consisted of a string of myths and misconceptions about the nature of business and the supposed potential for small gay businesses to improve all of our lives.

Lazere claims that "the business community gives us economic clout." Which "us" is he talking about? The business community gives the business community clout, not the rest of us. This was clearly demonstrated last month when the National Association of Business Councils, the "lesbian and gay chamber of commerce" of which Lazere is President-Elect, applauded Rep. Paul McCloskey at its convention. McCloskey told the group that he supports the provision of the Moral Majority-backed Family Protection Act which denies federal funding to any group or individual which advocates or suggests homosexuality "as a life style." This provision would also have the effect, according to the Congressional Research Service, of denying Social Security, welfare, or federal student assistance to any openly gay person, besides denying federal funds to public schools which present homosexuality in a non-judgemental way. But McCloskey is a Republican who supports legislation favorable to business, so the NABC invited him as keynote speaker at its convention and applauded his speech. This kind of "clout" we can do without!

Lazere also argues that small businesses run by "ethical" people are good for the community because they must "hustle for a buck... fight bankruptcy by filling real needs" and that employees of small businesses "feel a sense of belonging." In my experience and the experiences of friends who have worked for small businesses, these businesses fight bankruptcy by paying very low wages and few or no benefits. This is not because the owners are any less ethical than any other businesspeople. It is simply that, as I'm sure Lazere would agree, the typical business pays no higher wages than it has to. This is not a question of personal ethics; it is a basic principle of the free enterprise system. Since small businesses are often not unionized, the employees are not able to pressure the employer to pay out more of his or her profits as wages. Employees who want to feel a "sense of belonging" should try belonging to a union, run for their benefit rather than their employer's.

Finally, Lazere warns against those members of the gay community who link gay rights to "other essentially non-related agendas." I assume he refers to those who link gay rights to the rights of women, people of color, the working class, and other oppressed groups. Yet Lazere himself states that the factor which unifies the gay and lesbian community is "concern for our human rights (and by extension, the human rights of others)" [emphasis mine]. We cannot be concerned with the human rights of ourselves or others without examining the systems that oppress all of us. Why do people get so upset when certain individuals choose not to live in the traditional heterosexual nuclear family structure? Could it be because that structure reinforces the subordinate position of women, and because the notion that the nuclear family is not biologically or divinely ordained is threatening to male supremacy? If so, how can gay men view feminism as a "non-related agenda"?

Lazere acknowledges that lesbians and gay men exist in all racial, religious, and economic groups. Gays and lesbians who are members of other oppressed groups (and this, of course, includes all lesbians) do not stand to gain much by working only for gay rights, if they are not fighting other types of oppression as well. The new Right is a danger to racial, religious, and sexual minority groups in this country as well

as to all women and the working class. Gays and lesbians have the greatest chance for success in ending our particular subjugation if we unite with all the people who are fighting our common enemy. They include people whose interests are not being served by mostly white, mostly male property owners. We must find our "clout" in a larger movement to end all oppression, rather than in a business community whose ultimate loyalty is to its own profits.

Dana Bergen

### Feedback from New York

Please convey my thanks to Arthur Evans for his hard-hitting piece "Poppers: an ugly side of gay business." I intend to mail copies of it to friends throughout the country, alerting them to the suspect role of poppers as a cause of the KS cancer form as well as PCP pneumonia. It's about time that the gay press blows the whistle on the sleazy industry that markets these products.

With best regards,  
L. E. Shepard  
New York, New York

### Feedback from Arkansas

Feedback all the way from Fayetteville, Arkansas here — a copy of your November issue turned up at our local Women's Health Center and I grabbed it right away. I read everything I can about people's communities.

I'm very impressed. I appreciated your article on poppers though I'm not quite sure what they are, because I think it's important to encourage good health and not just jump on the bandwagon of whatever is "far out" and "in" in the gay communities. We all have reasons for our addictions; I criticize myself first, but I consider it in all our best interests to encourage each other to take care of our bodies and plan to live in them for a long, long time.

Your theater coverage and community news is inspiring. The gay community is not nearly as active here — but we survive.

The thing that impressed me the most was the last thing I read — the kitchen group statement after the Yosemite Festival interview.

You know, in all the years I have been reading feminist, lesbian, leftist, political publications this is the first time I have seen any individual cop to an ism in print, in context, admitting it like it is, and not trying to cover it up or blame someone else. I hope this honest admission is being acknowledged in the SF gay community. What was said to Robin Tyler should never be said by one human being to another, no less two lesbian feminists in a woman's cultural festival.

I felt China was very sincere in admitting her mistake and most important — SHE NEVER DEFENDED IT. This is a qualitative difference than any other political struggle I have ever seen because usually the person making the racial statement blames the person insulted.

I have never seen a white woman cop to being racist to a woman of color, but I have seen a lot of serious discussions entertained on WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WOMAN OF COLOR.

Which is not to say that I will defend anything China says because she is a sister of color but the obvious change in the situation, what sticks out to me is that somebody copped to the ism. And the first one to do it was a woman of color.

How many men admit, in print, individual, deliberate acts of violence and oppression towards women? How many non-gay people admit violence and hostility towards gays? No, they label us and call us hostile and difficult.

Correct me if I'm wrong — this is the first time I've heard a womyn cop in the heat of battle, or so soon after.

Please print my address with this letter. Rosa Maria is an old friend of mine and I'd like to hear from her.

Hiya, honey, heard you went on stage and started a little action in Yosemite; I published my book and I've been missing you for y-e-a-r-s.

Love,  
Jana Maria Paz  
11 W. South St.  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

### Fantastic Coverage

I just wanted to say that I think your coverage of the West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival was fantastic! I've newly arrived here from Michigan and shall use your articles to let the folks back there know what happened, and what's still happening.

Judy Waters

### Torie Osborne: Thoughts on Yosemite

First, I want to congratulate Kim Corsaro and Regina Gabrielle for their hard and thorough work in researching and writing the two articles covering the political events and controversies during and after the West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival. Hard work often goes much under-appreciated, so I want to express to both of them my own appreciation of their work.

Second, I'd like to clarify a few points in the whole controversy. I have lots more to say, but these things seem crucial at this point in time. Much of the controversy at the Festival revolved around the Day of Solidarity with Latin America. I certainly have re-evaluated the whole day in light of the criticisms, but since I was largely responsible for its conceptualization, I think it's important for people to know the political intent around that day. It was not meant to be the definitive program around all issues relating to racism internally and internationally in the movement, it was meant for outreach educational work around international issues. Events like music festivals draw lots of women who know very little about US imperialism and revolutionary struggles in 3rd World countries, and that day was about trying to educate those women around those issues, focusing on 3 key countries in the international situation.

Part of building a movement has to be reaching new women, so we placed the workshops & music down by the lake on purpose, in the spirit of outreach, of bringing the education to where women we wanted to reach might not make the effort to schlep over to the workshop stage.

To imply that the Festival was racist and tokenistic in creating a day that attempted to educate women about several Latin American countries is, I believe, misplaced criticism. It negates the political organizing and work that those workshop leaders & performers accomplished — I have spoken to many women whose lives were affected strongly by what they heard and felt that day. As far as I'm concerned, as an organizer, if only 30 women's consciousness and commitment were changed by those workshops, that day was not a

# Letters

failure, and there were in fact many more. I'm not saying that racism within the women's movement is not important, just that the Day tried to focus on external situations and problems. Because our focus was the latter, shouldn't lead to criticisms because we didn't address the former in the day's program. There were four major festival workshops & 4 informal workshops directly addressing racism, classism & how to fight it.

Also, to set the record straight, 15 of 65 paid coordinators, 1/3 of workshop leaders, and 2 of 3 paid day stage acts were women of color; and 8 of 18 main stage acts included women of color. I also need to address the statement by China & Shahara, Food Coordinators, in *Now Coming Up!*, because it's important for the sake of real struggle over real issues that untruths not be perpetuated. One important point keeps coming up as the absolute proof of Robin Tyler's personal racism — that she called China a "nigger bitch." Immediately after the Monday confrontation between Robin & China, I had a brief, very intense interaction with China, witnessed by a childcare coordinator, in which China expressed two things very clearly to me: first, her tremendous regret at having allowed her anger at Robin to result in anti-Semitic remarks. She also told me very clearly that Robin had NOT called her a "nigger bitch." I need to clarify this now because I believe accusations toward Robin & the Festival, fed by my own silence on this issue, have now snow-balled to a dangerous degree. There are enough other valid issues to deal with.

I also believe in retrospect that the statement by China and Shahara, which I helped them formulate at a time when emotions were high and clarity impossible for me, tells only part of the whole story, a complicated interaction in which both sides were at fault.

I personally care for China & Shahara and have enormous pain that everything has become so split and confused that closure on this year's working relationship, mutual evaluation and struggle, and building toward any possible future working relationships seem difficult now.

Finally, I am extremely sad, as someone who has spent the majority of the past 2 1/2 years in a workaholic frenzy on festivals that this Festival's very positive successes have gotten little public acknowledgment. There were many things that the hundreds of women who worked deserve strokes for, but I want to acknowledge loudly, proudly, and strongly, for now: the incredible effort and energy that the Childcare Committee put out to create Camp Tell-Me-A-Riddle — that camp was a model childcare program, quite possibly the best ever in the women's movement. That's no mean feat, and the credit goes to the coordinators, their staff & community support group, and the mothers & 200 children who made it happen, along with the festival staff that funded & oversaw it. In all this endless criticism I feel people have lost perspective and not given enough credit to the many women who created this & other incredible successes.

Finally, a few thoughts on the Oct 25th community meeting. According to Andrea Canaan's proposed agenda, that meeting was to be part of a process the purpose of which was to "(1) fact-find & document what happened; (2) validate the valuable & incredibly moving experience the festival was for everyone there, and (3) foster a long-term, year-long commitment to, through communication with the festival planners, make the festival more accountable & reflective of women of color and class issues next year."

What in fact happened had little, if anything, to do with those goals. The structure was fragmented, with everyone split up into groups around class and race divisions. Several of those groups focused on drawing up additional lists of allegations, without checking out facts, rather than clarifying existing criticisms. Robin, who was not allowed at the meeting, was incredibly trashed, and no forum was created for her or other organizers to respond to criticism.

The general atmosphere was divisive, alienating and negative. Many women held a general mistrust toward women who had worked on the Festival, who were at the meeting out of solidarity with the issues. These workers were treated as guilty by association with the Festival, rather than seen as resources for a potential "alternative" festival — their skills went unacknowledged or devalued. Discussion about an alternative festival was largely unfocused and often idealistic. I personally came to the meeting open to the idea of working on an alternative festival and left feeling that the energy was so unconstructive that it was an impossibility. I felt that the positive aspects of what had happened politically in Yosemite had disintegrated into a spiral of negativity and disunity.

There's no question that the festival or festivals that happen next year will be different as a result of the criticisms of this year, and in particular inspired by the vision of a multi-racial, multi-cultural festival that was actualized briefly out of the struggles at Yosemite. I know I've changed; my own vision has broadened. I hope to see future meetings focus back on a principled process of separating fact from fiction, of building on the skills and resources of women who have done the actual work and who are open to growth and change. Scapegoating and guilt by association are unhealthy and have no part in a principled process of political & personal change. Let's move beyond the negative energy and really deal with all the issues.

Torie Osborn

### The Festival: A View From a Worker

During set-up on the land at Yosemite each day seems like a full week. To go to the bathroom is to miss bulletin boards put up, a truck unloaded, a stage built and three internal fights (as well as three internal affairs). Mesmerized by the simplicity of a woman pounding a nail, for 20 hours, because the stage needs to be built in 10. "Someone check out the back roads"; "We need the 'slow; children playing' signs put up"; They were, yesterday. "Thank you" (Did I really have time for thank yous)? The screech of tires, three men wrapped around a boulder in the center of camp. "No one's hurt? The kids were just walking along that road a few minutes before..." Nervous standing on edge. Change the main gate system, the cops won't let us stop people on the road. Run to town to fill the oxygen tank. Childcare needs three more shovels (or was that 30)? The stage isn't level? What if Meg falls off? Signs posted, stakes up, systems ready (pray). "They're arriving! The 4000 women are arriving!" "One more day, please, one more day..."

I rarely looked up from my clipboard. I kept hoping my list of "things to do" would suddenly all be crossed off. We didn't see you arriving until parking called "150 spaces left!" — it was only Thurs. afternoon. We already had our share of bear problems (she heard scratching, we had to check her cabin and surrounding area — What bear would be awake at 3 a.m.?) Then the water problems, what was it called? The Yosemite shits? (Sally shit for us all). And the men! Cars and Trucks and Guns. We didn't mean to raise dust with our trucks but we had to keep them off. And you all weren't even there yet, or were you? I didn't see you through my

clipboard, someone said you made it though.

I haven't eaten since the festival began. We had to unload a truck of dry ice, my hand got stuck, I caught a cold. It's late Friday, I have to eat... but... two police cars in the center of camp to "protect" us, the homophobic bastards, did they think they would get a peek of a naked woman after the sun left and the cold came? Everyone's at the concert, I'll stick around though. They leave. I need a sandwich. "Code One backstage" Oh shit, medical emergency. Did I see four thousand women on my way backstage with stretcher and medics and doctors and security? STOP! She's in the parking lot! No she's at the medical cabin! Back across camp. "How is she? What's wrong with her?" Stabilized, in the ambulance, with a city nurse to a city hospital with a police escort. "Good job, medical". Can I rest now? Can I get something to eat? "Code three stage area". Shit! "Security, what's wrong? Ask her to come here, her friends too." Let's talk to her, "please don't get drunk"... Finally to central, check-in, check-out. For the women on duty it's a cold all-nighter, no sleeping bags or bodies to keep them warm. The kitchen's locked! "Where's the fucking key?" It's past one, for me sleep is more important now than tracking down food. Across camp with a new friend to keep me warm tonight (hm, each day is a week, I've known her for 6 weeks then.) We're stopped... Did you hear the concert tonight? Great music! (I guess the stage got up o.k.) A little further I'm told of a meeting at the hot dog stand tomorrow. (Vegetarian uprising?) Women talking and meeting. But, I had to make sure the lifeguards were o.k., and medical had everything it needed and the open-mic had enough plastic if it rained, "Did you say the hotdog stand? Why?... She's gone. I'm sorry, I didn't want anyone to drown or not be able to get medical attention or get electrocuted or..."

The first day of cleanup a woman cries at the sight of her carpentry being dismantled for storage. "But I just finished driving that nail yesterday" — still hot from the friction of breaking through fresh lumber. It can't be over yet! I'm still unloading a box of supplies that just came yesterday that didn't get on the right truck because I couldn't pick it up between phone calls and problems and tears.

Yes, we cried. We cried from the exhaustion of working and sweating on something that was less than perfect. How could it be less than perfect? We laughed, too. Did you hear the dream about the truck load of bears driving 50 mph through camp flicking big butts? And what about the special task force assigned to keeping the cows and coyotes away from the stage in the middle of the night? Oh, yes, and the emergency supply run list; work gloves, day-glow tape, nails and two pairs of children's sneakers — size 4.

We cried some more. We cried because of the beauty of sweating life into an event that was nothing short of amazing. We cried because it seemed no one noticed but us...

In Struggle,  
Marj Plumb  
Asst. Director  
West Coast Women's Music Festival

### Feedback from Oregon

I read with interest your article about the West Coast Women's Music Festival. Many of my friends have copies of it, and in fact it is on several bulletin boards here at work. (Starflower Co. is a wholesale natural foods company run by mostly lesbians — in fact one of our truckers brought the article back with her from one of our bay runs)...

Special praise to Regina Gabrielle and Kim Corsaro for such an informative and accurate article. I was there for much of the progressive goings on, and really appreciated such a thorough follow-up. La lucha continua...

Sincerely,

Laurely

Plumb

### Thanks, Coming Up!

Here's \$10 for 12 raffle tickets. We're glad to support you in this small way. Your paper has consistently been well done, attractive, and informative, and we've been delighted to watch it grow from its original size to the current November issue. We appreciate especially the editorial slant that has allowed *Coming Up!* to be relevant and important for lesbians, as well as for gay men. The November article on the Yosemite Music Festival was especially well done. Much appreciated was the attempt to show how various rumors had begun and to correct past misquotes.

Thanks also for continuing to print in the calendar the information about the talks I give at the library.

Keep up the good work, and best of luck.

Jan Zobel and  
The People's Yellow Pages

### ICI — A Woman's Place Responds to Advocate

An open letter to the *Advocate*. We are workers at I.C.I. — A Woman's Place, a feminist bookstore and information center in Oakland. We were surprised and puzzled to see I.C.I. — A Woman's Place evaluated in your *Gay Visitors Guide to San Francisco* as "less friendly than the women at Old Wives Tales, and the selection and presentation of their books appear to be dictated by a rigid notion of what's politically correct," according to the writer of your Lesbian section, identified only as "a lesbian." We would like to question this characterization of A Woman's Place.

First of all, it seems strange to describe our book selection as determined rigidly. To our knowledge, we are the largest feminist bookstore in the world, with over 10,000 titles, most of them feminist and alternative books. This means we carry almost every title by, for, and of interest to women that you will find in any women's bookstore, plus a few thousand. If we don't have a book about women, it is usually because the book is on order, out of print, or we haven't heard of it yet.

There are exceptions, of course. We are a political bookstore, and do not carry books which in our evaluation do much more harm than good to the efforts towards liberation of women and other oppressed people. It's not often that we actually refuse a book because of its politics; we prefer to carry a book to which we have objections, and attach a card to the shelf giving a brief criticism, so that people who come to A Woman's Place can make their own evaluations and can talk with us. Consciousness-raising is very important to us.

As for the implication that we're unfriendly — we'd like "a lesbian" to explain further. I.C.I. — A Woman's Place is collectively operated on a not-for-profit basis by six women, all of whom make an effort to relate to people with courtesy and respect towards all concerned. This is not easy, as anyone who does retail sales work will tell you, but most people have given us positive feedback on our efforts, both in selling books, and maintaining a lounge, library, and information center for women.

We ask that "a lesbian" or anyone who feels

critical of the selection and service at I.C.I. — A Woman's Place contact us and discuss their criticisms with us. We ask that the next edition of your *Guide* will replace this hostile description with a fairer one, with a description of our services as complete as the other descriptions in the *Guide*. In the meantime, we hope no one will be discouraged from going to I.C.I. — A Woman's Place by the *Advocate's Guide*.

The women of I.C.I. — A Woman's Place

### Pacific Center Thanks

For as long as I can remember *Coming Up!* has published faithfully in their calendar our list of groups here at Pacific Center for Human Growth as well as periodically featuring us in your articles. During the past months, we have been very grateful to you during our struggle to retain our funding from Alameda County. Our extensive lobbying has paid off, I am happy to report, as the Alameda County Supervisors have voted to continue our funding at full level for fiscal year ending June 30. This victory is due in no small measure to the help of your newspaper in publishing our press releases and to your readers for acting when action was crucial.

We at Pacific Center are now working diligently to become more independent of the capricious winds of politics and governmental agencies. To do this endeavor, we will continue to need the help of the lesbian and gay community. The Pacific Center is a vital contributor to the lives of lesbians and gays throughout the Bay Area. Not only are we a mental health agency, we are also a community center for hundreds of lesbians and gays. We invite people from the entire Bay Area to participate in our weekly rap groups. Give us a try — I think you'll see that we offer a special, supportive atmosphere where people can meet.

Again, let me express my thanks to you and the hope that we will continue to support each other in the future.

Best wishes,  
Charles Evans  
Staff Members  
Pacific Ctr for Human Growth

P.S. Pacific Center is having a "Victory Party" on December 4 at 7:30pm as a get together and fundraiser. Good food, drinks, and spirits provided. Sliding scale \$2-\$5.

### A Public Forum For Unbound Feet

We are writing to challenge the letter in your November issue titled "Unbound Feet: A Response". It is a dangerous letter because the accusations presented are both misleading and distorted.

It is dangerous in these times to attack a multi-issue group which is taking a stand for principled feminism. In the face of right-wing repression, we need to work together to defeat "the enemy", but where do we start to "create visions of a new, just, loving society" if not from a place of democracy by initiating criticism/self-criticism in our groups and communities? In our published analysis, we openly criticized Genny Lim, Nancy Hom, and Canyon Sam because of political differences. The letter writers are not addressing the issues that provoked the split.

They say "the name should not remain the property of either side". Unbound Feet Three has every right to use the name because we are carrying on the art and politics that the name signifies — the ongoing, active liberation of all women. Unbound Feet is not separate from the movements that give it life. Those who oppose Unbound Feet Three see the name as a commodity as if it could be bought, sold, or destroyed.

Interestingly enough, the letter writers make no mention of the \$2,4000 from the Unbound Feet joint savings account held by Lim, Hom, and Sam, or the \$250 spent from the joint checking account, money which the six of us earned together.

They are leftbaiting the three of us by consistently accusing us of "party building". The Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women, socialist feminist organizations, have a long, exemplary history in the Third World, gay and lesbian, women's and worker's movements. Two of us, Nellie Wong and Merle Woo, belong to FSP and RW. Kitty Tsui is an independent. Unbound Feet Three is not a "front" for these groups, and for the letter writers to suggest so, shows a lack of respect for the history and work of our organization. Unbound Feet Three believes in the multi-issue politics for which we stand, and that is why we openly support our ideas.

They claim that we are using "quotes out of context" and "outright lies", but they cite no examples to substantiate these accusations. The letter then suggests that people "check out the truth instead of hateful half-truths" when not one of the signatories has approached Kitty, Nellie or Merle to investigate.

We want an open democratic discussion around the Unbound Feet struggle because we are concerned that the community be given both points of view. Therefore, we challenge Genny Lim, Nancy Hom, and Canyon Sam to a moderated community debate in January, 1982. In order to facilitate the discussion we need a written response from Lim, Hom, and Sam to P.O. Box #1993, Oakland, CA 94604, by December 10, 1981.

Unbound Feet Three:  
Kitty Tsui, Nellie Wong, Merle Woo

### Many "Unbound Feet"

For the past couple of years I have been very moved by and grateful for the work of *Unbound Feet* (6). Many of us still need the work which they, as groups or individuals, are capable of producing. The continuance of this work is primary to me, as a progressive white woman.

Since I've been asked to take a position, I'll state that I think that many people should be able to use the wonderfully Asian-feminist symbol of "Unbound Feet".

I would be happy to see, for example, performances by *Unbound Feet Inc.*: Nancy Hom, Jenny Lim, and Canyon Sam and by *Unbound Feet III*: Kitty Tsui, Merle Woo, and Nellie Wong. Or a one-

### 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.



The Nazis and the KKK are alive and well and functioning in the Bay Area... "Enemies of Freedom?" — An Inquiry into Issues Posed by the KKK, Nazis, Moral Majority, and New Right"; a symposium with Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute that will, over the course of a weekend explore the history and impact of current right-wing trends as well as a viable community response. Workshop discussions will provide a space for the audience to discuss their own experiences & talk with people who are involved in different aspects of fighting the Right: feminists fighting the Human Life Amendment; gay people fighting the Family Protection Act; trade unionists fighting union-busting; Black, Chicano & Jewish activists fighting the KKK and Nazis; or peace activists fighting the war build-up. Speakers on different topics include Deidre English, Herbert Aptheker, Kris Welch, Enola Maxwell, Buster Gonzales, and many more. Plus, Amber Hollibaugh will speak on how the Right is still able to isolate sexual and racial minorities from each other by playing on political and sexual differences. The symposium takes place at Historic Finn Hall, 1819 Tenth St, Berkeley. Cost is \$5 each day, and childcare is available with advance notice. Pictured above: "Sister Barbara" of the National Socialist American Workers Party (a neo-Nazi Group) at San Francisco City Hall.

woman show by Merle Woo, "formerly of Unbound Feet". In the future there might be an "Unbound Feet Asian and Pacific Women's Union"; an "Unbound Feet Asian and Pacific Women's Caucus of the Modern Language Association"; and "Unbound Feet Brigade", etc.

I can't take a stand regarding Kitty, Merle and Nellie saying Nancy, Jenny and Canyon are red-baiting them. Both sides have been inflammatory and defensive and there's much that I am not privy to. So many of us have experienced some left groups or individuals getting impatient and not respecting the process of others with whom they are working that it is hard to believe that a certain amount of criticism of Unbound Feet III is not appropriate here. (I say this as a person who feels strong support for the statement criticizing the Asian-American Studies program at U.C. Berkeley which precipitated this split.)

I have also experienced some left groups and

individuals very quickly and self-righteously claiming they are being red-baited whenever they are criticized. These experiences make it hard to take a stand without being a member of the dispute.

I try to remember that the ones who are hurt are the six who have shared so much with each other in the past and must maneuver in their various communities in the future.

I would like to encourage people to support these six women and their work by letting them know you look forward to attending their performances, viewing their exhibits and reading their books.

Signed,  
Anonymous was a woman.

(Name withheld because there has been, in my opinion, too much thought-out lining up behind names.)

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### WE SUPPORT UNBOUND FEET THREE

We are a group of concerned community people, including women and men; lesbians, gays and straight people; artists, activists and radicals; professionals, workers and students. We are writing to support Unbound Feet Three's right to use the name and their right to express their political ideas without being leftbaited.

We support Unbound Feet Three in their struggle with this letter and our names.

- |                    |                    |                   |                    |                 |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Keiko Kubo         | Vicky Genarao      | Yolanda Alaniz    | Eddie Uyekawa      | C.D. McIntosh   |
| Sandy Tong         | Socorro Corpuz     | Willcyce Kim      | Leslie Jow         | Susan Ritala    |
| Pat Hirose         | Ngoc Ngo           | L. A. Hyder       | Annie Fong         | Anne Froberg    |
| Dennis Jow         | Anny J. Hiramane   | Carol Perkins     | Phyllis Schrodter  | Patience Henry  |
| Dorinda Moreno     | Mariano Gonzalez   | Kathleen Bucklew  | Phyllis Takemoto   | James T. Smith  |
| Margaret Krouskoff | Emily Woo Yamasaki | R. Fastman        | Natalie Velsouy    | Karen Brodine   |
| Edgar Poma         | Kirk Lew           | Yohimbe           | Cynthia Josephs    | Constance Scott |
| Teresa Riley       | Dave Kakishiba     | Mary Innes        | Meryl Sunshine     | Sukey Durham    |
| Sandy Tong         | Phyllis Rothblatt  | Angela Johnson    | Manny Sunshine     | Judy Fendell    |
| Sarah A. James     | Nancy Reiko Kato   | Phyllis Lopez     | Marilyn Joyce Fong | Tom Boot        |
| Smokey Leung       | Jeff Adachi        | Karen Wintman     | Nina Wong          | Windy Weather   |
| Barbara S. Bull    | Margaret Miller    | Hanna Banah       | Fred Lau           | Ramona Gonzales |
| Celinda Cantu      | Leora Goren        | Chula Smith       | Eddie Kim          | Daryl B. Look   |
| Roy Harai          | Edward Sancr       | Bella Bat Deborah | Pamara Griffith    | Teri Chin       |
| Anna Jovel         | Roanne Hindin      | Rivka Polatnick   | Deb Morris         |                 |
| Laura Ide          |                    |                   |                    |                 |

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# COMING UP!

# DECEMBER

## Every Woman Who Has Ever Loved a Woman: Stand Up and Call Her Name

a celebration of black womanhood

See Dec. 13 • benefits Pacific Center

## Coming Up! Benefit Party

See Dec. 4 listing

for all the glorious details.

Golden Gate Performing Arts presents:

### Now Sing Again With Hearts Aglow

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- THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS  
— DICK KRAMER, Conductor
- THE SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN & GAY MEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS  
— ROBIN KAY, Conductor

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## sunday

6

**Sexuality & Identity for Jewish Lesbians** — an experiential workshop with Meryl Lieberman McNew & Laura Pilnick of the Helicon Collective. 10am-5pm. \$20-\$35 SS. Res: 654-23168.

**Armistead Maupin** is the featured guest of G40+, a social group for gays over 40. 1668 Bush St. SF 2pm.

**Celebrate the Opening of West Coast Lesbian Collections**. 3-6pm, 66 Hamilton Place, Oakland. Food, entertainment, tours of collections. For women only. Info: 465-8080.

**Leslie Scalapino** talks on "Speeding Up In Narrating: Elements of Technique" at 544 Natoma, SF 3pm, \$3.

**Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media** Action Meeting to build nat'l letterwriting network to end abusive images of women. 4:30pm, 2910 Fulton St. #4, Berk.

**Potluck for women** new to the Bay Area. 6:30pm, Berkeley Women's Center.

**Coming to Power** — a bookwarming with Samois to celebrate this new book on lesbian S&M. Erotic readings begin at 8pm. Amelia's, 647 Valencia, SF.

**Holiday Auction** — Christmas Bargains Galore — a benefit for the SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus. 7:30pm, I-Beam, 1748 Haight. SF Free admission with this notice.

**Romantic Love vs. Reproductive Rights** — a forum with *Mother Jones* editor Deirdre English on the return of the "feminine mystique" & a feminist response to issues of love, sex & reproductive rights. 8pm, \$2. La Pena, Berk.

**An Evening of Women's Music**: traditional, original, political & spiritual by Martine Habib, Holly Tannen, and Linda Hirschorn with Tay. 8pm, \$4. Ollie's, Oakland.

**Die Mannerstimmen** — a Chamber Chorus of Men's Voices sings "Songs to Mary". 8pm, \$6. Mission Dolores Basilica, 16th & Dolores, SF.

13

Modern Times Bookstore celebrates their 10th birthday at the New Valencia Rose Cabaret, 766 Valencia, SF Story page 2 has more info.

**Joy to the World!** a cantata/communion worship in song by the Golden Gate MCC Choir. 10:30am, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

**Taxi Zum Klo** — a film benefit for *Fruit Punch*: Gay Men's Radio on KPFA-FM. High Noon services hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence plus music by The Choral Majority. Northside Theatre, 1828 Euclid, Berkeley. Noon, \$4.

**Lesbian Co-counselors** — a workshop for experienced co-counselors to affirm our pride & work on holiday feelings. 9am-6pm, \$20. Call Melissa (282-0327) by 12/7.

**Rita S. Losch** reads poetry & discusses poetics, 2pm, Noe Books & News, 2233 Market, SF.

**Gayle Marie** sings nice songs for nice people at Ollie's of Oakland. 3-6pm, for free.

**El Rio's 4th Annual Christmas Party**. 4-8pm. Bring an ornament for the tree! Eggnog on the house. 3158A Mission, SF.

**SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee** gen'l mtg — vote on theme. 5-7pm, SF Women's Bldg.

**Jose's Goodbye to San Francisco** — recreation of the Old Black Cat. Many, many stars at the Pine's, 1093 Pine, SF 4:30pm.

**For Every Woman Who Has Ever Loved a Woman** — *Stand Up and Call Her Name* — Lambert Van Buuren, poets Rose Mitchell & Andrea Canaan, flautist Fundi, and powerful blues & gospel sounds with *Somethin' Special* — A Celebration of Black Womanhood to benefit Pacific Center. 6-10pm, \$5-\$10 SS. Ollie's, Oakland.

**The New Anti-Feminism** — a forum with Barbara Ehrenreich (editor of Ms.) analyzes the new "right's" attack on feminism. 8pm, \$2. La Pena.

**Alive!** call's it jazz at Erle's Solano Club, 1403 Solano, Albany. 9:30pm, \$5.

20

**Daniel Curzon/Richard Hall**: "The Gay Short Story" — a rare chance to hear two of our finest writers read & discuss their short fiction. 9:30am, Unitarian Univ Gay Caucus.

**Post-Party Brunch** with Black & White Men Together at Duste's Corner Zoo, Noe/Market, SF \$6. 11am-4pm. Info & Res: 821-9220.

**G40+ Gala** — celebrate 8 yrs of this great group for gays over 40! It's a holiday party, cabaret, founder's day & new year's party all in one. 2pm, 1668 Bush St. SF.

**Robert Gluck** on "Some Thoughts on Sade: The Pleasure of Manipulating Images & Codes" — the dynamics (sexual, power) between writer & audience, and more. 3pm, \$3. 544 Natoma, SF.

**Fundi** — soft, sensual, original piano & vocals, and flighly flute. 3-6pm at Ollie's, Oakland.

**Shaman Art: Dolls & Healing Shields** — opening reception with artist Karen Vogel at Laughing Goddess Grotto, Oakland. 4-8pm.

**Now Sing Again With Hearts Aglow** — SF Gay Men's Chorus and the SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus in concert at Nourse Aud., Hayes at Franklin (next to Davies Hall). 7:30pm, \$8 loge, \$6 gen. Tix: 864-0326.

**"Winter Solstice Dance"** — celebrate the return of light. Kissing Dance at midnight. Spons by the Coven of the Laughing Goddess. 8pm, Ollies, Oakland. Info: 653-4169.

27

**Sound Off!** on your favorite topic — an open meeting at Unitarian Univ Gay Caucus. 9:30am.

**Tommy Utah** — song-writer, performer & sometimes comic. 3-6pm at Ollie's, Oakland. Free.

**Party at Sutro Baths** with Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee. 6-8pm admission benefits the Parade, party till midnight.

**One-Eyed Jack** plays C&W at Rainbow Cattle Co, 199 Valencia, SF 9pm-1am.

## monday

7

**Advent/Christmas Stained Glass Show** — a group show at Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez, SF. Mon-Sat, 1-5pm thru 1/3.

**Solidarity** — Gay/Lesbian Liberation mtg. 7:30-10pm, 766 Valencia, SF. Open to all.

**Cabaret and Isadora: The Biggest Dancer in the World** double-bill at the Roxie Cinema, 16th & Valencia, SF. Box office: 863-1087.

**Fight the blues with Jazz** — Swingshift shows you how with Latin jazz & more. 9pm, free. Major Pond's, 2801 California, SF.

14

**Casselberry & Dupree** and Luisah Teish plus Annette Aguilayr — powerful poetry/prose/performance — 12:30pm, free. Barbary Coast, SF State St/Union Bldg. 19th & Holloway.

**A New Circle** of lesbian working-class women forming under midwifery of Keyvn. Come together for support & magical empowerment. Details: 564-7066 (Keyvn).

**Alice B. Toklas Memorial Demo Club** gen'l mtg. 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. Nominate officers for 1982 & hear Charles Lamb, Pres of Local 2, speak.

**The Decline of Western Civilization** — a searing look at the world of punk music. Electric Theatre, 980 Market, SF. 980 Market, SF Today & tmw. Info: 673-7373.

## SHAMAN ART:

Dolls &  
Healing Shields  
DEC. 20

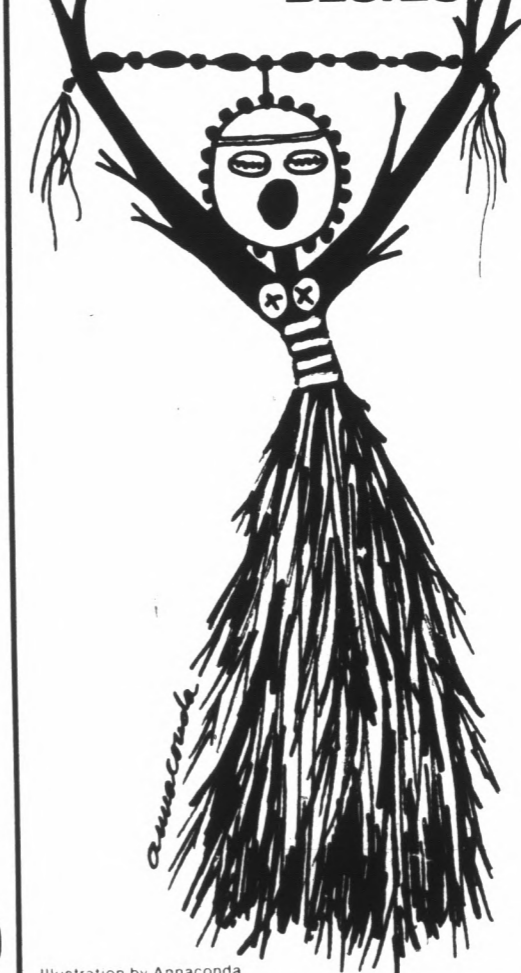


Illustration by Annaconda

Phone the  
Gay Events Tape  
861-1100

for weekly updates  
on community happenings

21

**A Solstice Celebration** — join Reclaiming & friends for sunrise at Red Rock. Gather as a tribe to welcome the new sun arising from her dark womb of winter. Roosevelt/Museum Way (above 15th & Castro, SF). Celebrate our variety & renew ourselves & our earth.

**Winter Solstice Ritual** — last public ritual with Coven of the Laughing Goddesses until mid-summer. Meet at the Laughing Goddess Grotto, 4418 Telegraph, Oakland, 6pm. Call 653-4169 for important info.

**Solidarity** — Gay/Lesbian Liberation mtg. 7:30-10pm, 766 Valencia, SF. Open to all.

**GOA Coffeehouse** — find out more about this gay social alternative. 7:30pm, 12/3 has details.

28

**Mildred Pierce and Harriet Craig** — Joan Crawford is a mommie dearest & a zealous housewife. Roxie Cinema, SF. Box Office: 863-1087.

## tuesday

1

**Mothering From a Feminist Perspective** — a panel on "Ways to Mother" moderated by lesbian mother Cheryl Jones. 7:30pm, \$4-7 SS. RCC. Berkeley Women's Center.

**Theater Class for Lesbians & Gay Men** taught by Gay Theatre Collective. 8-wk class on Mon. & Tues. nites forming now. Info: 282-9346.

**Seize Power Over Your Life** — a group for women to confront the usual issues of self esteem, work & love with neurolinguistic programming, rebirthing & yoga from a feminist perspective. Info: 237-7255 (Nancy Freedom).

**"Venetian Costhangers"** — acrylic paintings/pen & ink drawings by Manuela Jemma at Vida Gallery. 6-8pm opening reception, CC. Women's Bldg, SF. Show runs thru 12/20. Gallery hrs: Wed-Fri 2-7pm, Sat 12-5pm.

**Alberta Jackson & Touch** — high energy, hot women's music to dance, plus Caselberry & Dupree. 9-11pm, \$2. Amelia's, 17th & Valencia, SF.

8

**SF Commission on the Status of Women** monthly mtg. 4:30pm, SF Public Library, Larkin/McAllister, SF.

**WOMANBLOOD: Portraits of Women in Poetry & prose** — readings by local authors from this new anthology. For women only, 7pm, free. RCC by 12/6. A Woman's Place, Oakland.

**Xmas Tree & Chanuka Bush** Decorating Party & Potluck at Great Outdoor Adventures, 1618 Castro, SF. Bring an ornament & dessert to share. Eggnog & coffee on the house!

**Open Forum for the Latina Community of the Bay Area** — talk about the future of 3rd World Women's programming, and forming an outreach committee at SF Women's Bldg. Bilingual, CC. 7pm.

**Mothering From a Feminist Perspective** — Donna Hitchens speaks on Lesbians & the Law. 12/1 has details.

**Sing-it-yourself Messiah** with the SF Conservatory of Music at L.M. Davies Symphony Hall. 8pm. Tix: 431-5400.

**El Salvador: The People Will Win** — a film on the history of resistance in this country. 8pm, \$3. La Pena, Berkeley. Tonite & tmw.

**Damian** — Berkeley Stage Co's "Festival of Extraordinary People", opens tonite. 8pm, 1111 Addison St. Details: 548-4728.

**"Byron A Play"** a play by Gertrude Stein, with projection systems, special lights, word sculpture & movement at 544 Natoma, SF. Tues-Thur thru 12/17. 9pm, \$2.

**Frolic for Freedom Benefit** — San Francisco answers "Falwell Dearest" (who does it to EVERYONE's kids) with an Oral Majority Epic. 9pm-4am, \$8 at Trocadero Transfer, 520 Fourth. SF Funds to help defeat all 281 Moral Majority types in the US House who voted to repeal Wash. D.C. Consenting Adult Bill. Info: 621-7111.

15

**Couples Together Christmas Party** at Golden Gate. MCC, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF. 7:30pm.

**Mothering From a Feminist Perspective** — tonite Chris Cleary on "Resources for Mothers in the Bay Area". See 12/1 for complete info.

**"Serenade on the Hill"** — quality music to benefit Potrero Hill Community. 7pm, \$5. 655 DeHaro, SF. Res: 863-8350.

**Women's Poetry Writing Workshop** forming — share work, criticism & support. 7:30pm, 718 Arguello, SF. More info: Ann (752-0507) or Cheryl (221-7918).

**Quelantar Eduardo & Gaston Guzman** direct from Chile sing songs of the countryside. 8pm, \$4. La Pena, Berkeley.

**Chevere** — hot Latin & Brazilian jazz at Amelias, 647 Valencia, SF. 9:30pm, \$2.

**"December Madness Comedy"** with Carol Roberts & guest Jane Dornacker. 9:30pm, \$3. Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St, SF.

Winter Solstice, 2:52pm.

22

**The Dispossessed** — a film with a speaker about the Pit River tribe struggle for their land vs. PG&E. Plus music and arts & crafts for sale. 7:30pm, \$2. La Pena, Berkeley.

**Mothering from a Feminist Perspective** — Andrea Canaan speaks on Mother-Guilt. 12/1 listing has details.

**Paul Robeson** — a play in Berkeley Stage Co's "Festival of Extraordinary People". 8pm, 1111 Addison, Details: 548-4728.

**Comic Madness** with dynamic duo Carol Roberts, foodsexual, and Ruby Rodriguez at Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St, SF. 9:30pm, \$3.

29

**Harvey Milk Gay Demo Club** meets tonite, SF Women's Bldg, 7:30pm. Burgers & Beer at 6pm before the mtg!

**Mothering from a Feminist Perspective** — Sue Saperstein speaks on "Supermom Syndrome". 12/1 listing has details.

**Eraserhead, Alphabet & The Grandmother** — a triple bill of bizarre action & horrors. Roxie Cinema, 16th/Valencia, SF. Info: 863-1087.

**Survive the Holiday Season** laughin' with foodsexual comedian Carol Roberts and friend Jane Dornacker. 9:30pm, \$3. Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St, SF.

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# EMBER COMING UP!

G.A.U.

## Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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December 1 — A panel discussion on the...  
 December 2, 1978 — The Bakery Cafe on Castro Street closes when its workers go on strike for benefits and an established wage policy providing for raises. It is sold five days later.  
 Save the Cable Cars! A benefit concert with Journey, plus special guest 8pm at the Cow Palace. Ticket available thru BASS.  
 Dianic Feminary "The Body Glorious — Massage Basics" with Donna Mailousky & Janet Roslund. 7:30 pm, \$3. Info: 653-4169.  
 Abusive Images of Women in Mass Media & Pornography — a slide show & talk with Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media. 7:30pm, \$1-\$3 SS. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Rue De L'Amour by the master of farce, Georges Feydeau, opens 8pm tonight at SF Repertory, 4147-19th St., & continues Thurs-Sun thru 1/3. \$4-\$7. On Stage, page 00 has complete details on this & other theatre.  
 The Nuclear Freeze — learn about this effort in an informal lecture/discussion. 8pm, free. The Network Coffeehouse, 1329-7th Ave. SF. Our story page 3 has complete details on the Freeze.  
 Metal Sculpture by Michale Carey at Pro Arts Gallery, all month, 1214 Webster, Oakland. Tues-Fri, 10-5pm.  
 Men's faerie network forming — develop a community of men to combine politics & spirituality & learn to use magic in our daily lives. Rituals, magic, healing services, & more. Info: Richard (648-5237) or Shawn (849-1187).  
 In Celebration of their Third Anniversary the Atherton Hotel presents the art of Joni Eisen, Karen Hamilton, Gordon Jameson & Lorraine King, Elizabeth Raybee & Dan Scannell. 685 Ellis St. SF Thru 12/13. Info: 474-5720.  
 Women in Transition — a 2-wk workshop with Gay Sultero & Beverly Jordan. Tonight & 12/16, 7:30 pm, \$35. (\$25 pre-reg by 12/7). RCC. Berkeley Women's Ctr.  
 Epics in poor taste — Divine in Pink Flamingos and Female Trouble. Electric Theatre, 980 Market, SF. Info: 673-7373. Today & tmw.  
 El Salvador: The People Will Win. 12/8 has details.  
 A Christmas Celebration & Dinner for the Chorus — the Grand Ballroom of the St Francis Hotel, SF will glow with holiday cheer & reverberate with the voices of the SF Gay Men's Chorus. 6:30pm, \$150 (tax deductible) to defray the deficit from the chorus' fantastic national tour. Host is Mayor Feinstein.  
 Ambisexuals — renowned interplanetary transvestite entertainer/personality, opens a new musical comedy drag revue. 9:30 & 11pm, \$2. Wed & Thurs thru 12/31. Previews, 1028 Geary, SF Wild, bizarre, crazy & fabulous!  
 Tear Gas/Self-Defense Course — 7:30-9pm, Bldg C, Ft Mason, SF \$25/\$12.50 srs & disabled. Reg & Info: 564-9140.  
 Gallery Artists — a group exhibition of recent works by 24 men and women artists at the Pace Price Gallery, 2159 Powell St. SF. The exhibit occupies both levels of the gallery. Tues-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 12-6pm.  
 Christmas Party at Stern Grove (Victorian Clubhouse) with Great Outdoor Adventures. A fire in the fireplace, lots of eggnog, coffee & live entertainment. Bring food & drink to share. Res required: 641-4020.  
 Ten Days that Shocked the World and Reed: Insurgent Mexico — two films at the Roxie to benefit Modern Times Bookstore. \$2.50. Time: 8:30-10:07.  
 Handel's Messiah Christmas Concert with the SF Symphony. 8pm, Davies Symphony Hall. Tix: 431-5400. Tonight thru Sat.  
 Country Joe MacDonald sings some new songs & takes requests for old favorites. Plus Donna Davis sings songs about mothers, children & growing up. 7:30pm, \$4 benefits Bananas Childcare & La Pena. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 An Evening with Samuel Beckett & the Real Molloy continues at the Intersection, 756 Union, SF Wed-Sat. Details: 982-2356.  
 The Worst Movie Ever Made — Plan 9 From Outer Space — Bela Lugosi's last flick, he died during production (possibly of shame). 7 & 9pm at the Roxie, 16th/Valencia, SF.  
 Pena International — lots of North & Latin American groups share an informal concert with the mikes open for all to sing along. 8:30pm, \$2.50 (includes a glass of wine!) La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Portraits of the Hand — the works of Imogen Cunningham, Paul Strand, Edward Weston & more showing the many human moods expressed by the hand. SF Museum of Modern Art, VanNess/McAllister. Thru 1/17.  
 The Distractions madcap musical revue For A Good Time Call at the Chi Chi Theatre Club, 440 Broadway, SF Info & Res: 392-6213.

December 2, 1978 — The Bakery Cafe on Castro Street closes when its workers go on strike for benefits and an established wage policy providing for raises. It is sold five days later.  
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December 3 — Goddess Faggots on the air! The Gay Atheists League meets middle America on "The Phil Donahue Show." 11am, KTVU Channel 2.  
 Sal Rosselli Champagne Celebration — music & hors d'oeuvres. Building Service Ctr, 240 Golden Gate Ave. SF. 5-7pm. Donation to retire campaign debt.  
 Call It Jazz — an album release celebration with Alive! at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, SF 7:30 & 10pm, \$6. Tix at Box Office.  
 All Minority March on Washington Committee being formed — vote on board members tonight. 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. Info: 441-6929.  
 Women in Revolution — a new video on Nicaraguan women, plus music & speakers on women in El Salvador. \$2. 7:30pm. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Coffee, tea, or? with Great Outdoor Adventures, 1618 Castro St. SF. Meet outdoorsy people & learn about upcoming events. 7:30pm, \$2. Info: 641-4020.  
 Tenants Rights Workshop for Women — learn about rights, repairs, deposits, evictions, harassment, leases, rent increases & more with the Housing Rights Outreach Project. Free, 7:30pm, for women. Old Wives Tales, SF.  
 Fugue in a Nursery — Harvey Fierstein's sequel to International Stud at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940-16th St #8, SF (Redstone Bldg). Thurs-Sun thru 12/20. Info: 552-4100.  
 The Diary of Anne Frank with Holy Names College Drama Workshop. 8pm, \$2/50c stdnts. McElroy Hall, 3500 Mountain Blvd, Oakland. Info: 436-0111.  
 Delta Carnival in Ruins — explore images drawn from the mythological concept of San Francisco. Today thru Sat, 8:30pm, \$5. Project Artaud, 401 Alabama, SF Res: 552-2742.  
 "Small Picture Show" — a holiday art exhibit features small, inexpensive items suitable for gifts. Thurs-Sun, 1-6pm thru 12/30. Endoge Gallery, 1159 Masonic, SF.  
 Options for Women Over Forty gen'l mtg — "Winter Solstice Play" by the Women Over Forty Theatre group. 6:30pm, 33 Gough, SF. Free, for women of all ages!  
 WOMANBLOOD: Portraits of Women in Poetry & Prose — readings by local authors from this new anthology. For women. 7:30pm, free. Old Wives Tales, SF.  
 Hot flat-pickin' & lively fiddlin' with Robin Flower & Friends, featuring Barbara Higbie. 8:30pm, \$4. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 New films by Barbara Hammer (in person!) — Sync Touch and Pools, plus many favorites from past years. 8pm, \$2.50. SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. Free coffee.  
 Fortune & Men's Eyes — a film on being gay in prison, plus The Killing of Sister George — an early lesbian drama. The Strand, SF. Phone: 552-5990.  
 Nevis Mountain Dew by Steve Carter at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 2940-16th St. SF. Thurs-Sun. Details: 864-5500.  
 The Nutcracker with the SF Ballet. Today thru 12/31 (except 12/25). At the Opera House, SF. Tix & time: 621-3838.  
 Women in Gear, Hallways, Heart Piece, Seven Years, Insides, Sappho, Women's Body Images, Dream Menagerie, and Face to Face — new films by women around the Bay Area. 7:30pm, \$2. Old Wives Tales, SF.  
 Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media action mtg — Write Back & Fight Back! 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg.  
 Sugarplums, Snickerdoodles & Gingerbread People — a messy sweet way to get into the holiday spirit by baking cookies. 8pm, \$1. The Network Coffeehouse, 1329-7th Ave. SF. Bring cookie cutters!  
 Teatro Unidad from San Jose does satirical theatre, plus Los Peludos plays music from Afro Cuban to traditional corridos. 8pm, \$3. La Pena, Berk.  
 Gay-themed cinema at the Strand, SF: A Very Natural Thing and This Special Friendship.  
 Christmas Eve, 1959 — The California Supreme Court rules bars may not be closed by authorities merely because they are "frequented by homosexuals."  
 A Christmas Special with Luciano Pavarotti at Notre Dame Cathedral. 10pm, KOED Channel 9.  
 Christmas Eve Service at Golden Gate MCC, 625 Polk (California Hall, SF) Come home to the real Christmas. And bring a friend. 7pm.  
 Christmas Celebration with choir & caroling. 8pm, followed by midnight communion service, 11:30pm, at MCC East Bay, Oakland.  
 Now Sing Again with Hearts Aglow — 12/20 has details.  
 New Years Eve!  
 Grand Fiesta! — dance to Conjunto Garibaldi — hot new Caribbean music, Salvadoran food & much, much more. 8:30pm-? \$5. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Alberta Jackson & Touch/Casselberry & Dupree for a New Year's Eve Dance at the Women's Bldg. SF 10pm-2am, \$10.  
 Rest of Duck's Breath and High Wire followed by 'New Year's Eve Party at One Act Theatre Co, 430 Mason, SF \$15 includes champagne, food & live music by Hot Links. Res: 431-6162.  
 Carnival Celebration in the Brazilian tradition with Chevere and disco at Ollie's of Oakland. Costume prizes & special headdress prize. Midnight champagne included. 10pm-2am, \$10.  
 Shit-kickin' foot-stompin' music with the John Gallagher Band to bring in the New Year at Rainbow Cattle Co., 199 Valencia, SF.  
 Exotic-Erotic New Year's Eve Ball. 4 Hot Bands at this masquerade evening — clothing optional! \$15 adv/\$20 dr. California Hall, 625 Polk, SF. Tix: 835-4342 & BASS.  
 Ring in the New Year at the White Swallow, 1750 Polk. Gala party — come early, stay late. No Cover.  
 Special New Year's Party at the Pines, 1093 Pine St. SF. By reservation only. Show, dancing, buffet. \$10 single/\$15 couple. Call 885-9871.  
 Gala New Year's Party. Cash drawing to follow midnight kissing. Amelia's, 647 Valencia, Call 552-7788.  
 Have a warm & friendly New Year's Eve — old friends meet & greet new friends. Maude's, 937 Cole, SF. No Cover.

December 4, 1967 — Ronald Reagan, speaking at Yale University, says homosexuality is "a tragic disease" that "should be illegal!"  
 Keep Coming Up! Coming Out — attend our Benefit Party, 7pm-1am at the new Valencia Rose Cabaret, 766 Valencia. See a preview performance of A Fine Romance, a gay musical revue featuring the songs of Jerome Kern; hear the sensational jazz creations of Swingshift; laugh as Tom Ammianno comes out as a stand-up comic; and play BINGO with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Plus: at midnight the Grand Prize Drawing in the First Great Coming Up! Raffle. All for the suggested donation of \$5. You can't beat it!  
 Feminist & Jewish Humanism — an open discussion with Lesbian & Gay Jewish Activists — how do Jewish ideals serve as a basis for feminist & lesbian/gay activism? 7:30pm, Complete info: 333-9218.  
 A Night of Gayety — laughter & music with Carol Roberts, Jane Dornacker & Joe Campiola, plus music by Sparkle at "The Thoroughfares," Student Union, SF State. 8pm, \$4/\$3 stdnts.  
 A Studio Warming — prints & drawings by Barbara Johnson, 7-10pm, 1420-45th St. Studio 45, Emeryville.  
 Orquesta Sabrosita — women's Latin dance band at Ollie's of Oakland. 10pm, \$4.  
 "Victory Party" for Pacific Center — good food, drinks & spirits provided. \$2-\$5 SS. 7:30pm.  
 'Holiday Spice' Ed Mock & Co. Dec. 5  
 Full moon in Gemini, 5:41pm.  
 Hotel of Follies — Angels of Light murder-mystery musical at Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida, SF. Fri-Sun thru 12/20. Info: 863-7213.  
 Christmas Present — a community celebration with music & dance. Fri-Sun thru 12/20. 8:30pm, \$6/\$5 srs & stdnts/\$3.50 kids. Bay Theatre Collective, 2320 Bancroft, Berk.  
 "Reindeer Romp" with Gay & Lesbian Campus Community of SF State. Beer, wine, music, entertainment, plus a special guest appearance by Santa Claus. 9pm-1am, \$3.50/\$2.50 stdnt. Student Union at SF. Info: 469-1952.  
 Woody Simmons sings her special blend of bluegrass, country, pop & jazz at La Pena, Berkeley. 9pm, \$2.50.  
 Performance Painting — Lou Rudolph paints live the performance of Rhythm Riot — immediate visualization of the new wave music & musicians. 9pm, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF. Paintings on display Wed-Sat, 1-5pm.  
 Chicago Blues Power — come an' dance, dance, dance! Ollie's, Oakland, 10pm, \$4.  
 Alberta Jackson & Touch play hot, high energy music to dance. 10pm-1:30am, \$3. A Little More, 15th & Potrero, SF.  
 Curt McDowell double-bill at the Roxie — Taboo: The Single and the LP and Thundercrack! Today & tmw. Box office: 863-1087.  
 Gala Opening! The new Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret officially opens today. Our page 11 story has all the dish.  
 The Wind Hags & friends invite us to celebrate the full moon, no matter what the weather. Call Gwenth/Rose (626-9238) by 12/9 for complete info.  
 Cable Car Caroling! a caravan of enthusiastic voices tour the city in motorized cable cars offering holiday cheer. Details: 474-0307.  
 Gay & Lesbian Campus Community Coffeehouse with Harry Britt, Newman Ctr, 50 Banbury Dr, nr SF State. 7:30pm. Info: 469-1952.  
 Assertively Gay but Apologetically Jewish? — a talk with Lesbian & Gay Jewish Activists. 7:30pm, info: 648-8285. No closets & no apologies!  
 Rock n' Soul with Avalon Boulevards at New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. Info: 775-6905.  
 Handel's Judas Maccabaeus, by SF Community Chorus at Mission Dolores Basillica, 16th & Dolores, SF 8pm, \$4/\$2 stdnts & srs/\$8 max for families.  
 The Nutcracker with the Oakland Ballet. Today thru 12/27 (except 12/21 & 25). Complete details: 465-6400.  
 Internalized Oppression — a forum with the SPIRIT collective — discuss, share experiences, & learn practical techniques for use in our daily lives. 8pm, \$2. SF Socialist School, 29-29th St. Info: 654-3015.  
 The White Swallow, 1750 Polk, shares the Christmas spirit, with a Xmas buffet. 2-5pm, no cover.  
 Join the Gang at the Pines, 1093 Pine St, for a sumptuous Christmas dinner. 5pm. Free.  
 Maude's 15th Annual Christmas Dinner. 973 Cole, 3:30pm. No cover.

Animal Pixilation — learn to animate live objects. 1-4pm, \$35. Includes film & equip. Info: 658-6959 (Barbara Hammer).  
 The Fabulous Pauline, plus accompanist Jim Brown at the New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. 9:30-1:30am. No cover.  
 Gay Youth Community Coalition general mtg, noon-4pm, SF Public Library, Larkin/McAllister. Info: 552-6025.  
 Celebration! Winter Women's Art & Crafts Fair '81 — exquisite, affordable handcrafted gifts, scrumptious foods & joyous entertainment at SF Women's Bldg. Everyone welcome. 10am-6pm, today & tmw. 50c, kids under 12 free.  
 11th Annual KPFA Holiday Crafts Fair, 10am-6pm. A kaleidoscope of colors, activities, & artisans' wares. Pauley Ballroom, Stndt Union Bldg, UC Berkeley.  
 "Super" fundraiser for Harry Britt features actress Margo Kidder. \$25-\$35, 5:30-7:30pm. 79 Uranus St, SF.  
 Donor Insemination & Lesbian Parenting — a panel with Donna Hitchens followed by music with Sonoma County Women's Band. 6:30pm-midnite; music starts at 9pm. \$3.50-\$5 SS benefits Lesbian Mother/Donor Parental Case. RCC 48-hr notice: 654-8897. Ollie's, Oakland.  
 Holiday Art Auction spones by Other Ways (A Gay Social Alternative). 7pm, \$4. Story page 00 has details.  
 In French! with an English outline, Moliere's The Miser. Theatre de l'Alliance Francaise, 414 Rue Mason, SF, 8th floor. 7:30pm, \$6.50. Fri-Sun thru 12/13. Details: 781-8755.  
 The Best News in Town! a dance benefit features the hot salsa sounds of Tropical Nights. 8pm, \$5 dr/\$4 adv. Info: 654-6725. For People's Translation Service.  
 Evolutionary Studies — experience a billion years of motion, Oakland Theater of Dance, 4226 Park Blvd, Oakland. Today & 12/12, 8:30pm, tmw 7:30pm. Tix & info: 530-6611.  
 "Holiday Spice" — an evening of dance with Ed Mock Dance Company. Fri-Sun thru 12/27, 8:30pm. Victoria Theatre, 2961-16th St, SF. Special matinees for children & srs, plus ticket info: 863-7576.  
 "A Night in Havana" — Gay Latino/a Alliance Celebrates 6 years! Dance, food & special guests. 8:30pm-2am, American Indian Ctr, 225 Valencia, SF. Details: see story page 3 or call 626-5495.  
 Gayle Marie, singer songwriter, performs at The Artemis Cafe, SF 9pm, \$3.50.  
 West African & western music blend to dance with Joni Haastrap & the Afrikans. 9:30pm, \$4. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Tim Perkins & John Bischoff create high-tech music that allows the unexpected. 9pm, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF.  
 Tear Gas/Self-defense Course — 10am, SF Women's Bldg. \$25/\$12.50 srs & disabled.  
 Overcoming Shyness — a workshop for gay men with Ira Rudolph, PHD. 10am-5pm. Details: 474-7759.  
 Women Loving Women: Sexual Styles... In Celebration of Women's Intimacy... explore & develop the variety of sexual styles & behaviors open to women. A workshop with Trudie Willis Rogers at MCC, Oakland. 10am-5pm, \$35 pre-reg/\$40 door. Info: 436-8000.  
 "Mothers Living Separate From Their Children" a workshop with Diana Case. \$25 pre-reg by 12/10. \$35 door. 10am-5pm, Berkeley Women's Ctr.  
 Mystery Day Hike with GOA's Art Smith — he'll take you on a walk to who knows where. Call for details: 641-4020.  
 Recent Feminist Writings on Pornography — WAJPM gen'l mtg. 10am, SF Women's Bldg.  
 Handling Depression — a sharing group to explore depression, feelings & what to do. With Gloria Darrow. 11am-2pm, for all women over 40, OPTIONS Office, SF Women's Bldg. \$3-\$5 SS, but NO woman turned away for lack of \$\$.  
 Animal Rights Rally to protest exploitation of animals by the fur industry. Music, speakers & film. Union Square, SF. 11am-1:30pm. Info: 474-4020 (The Fund for Animals).  
 Playing Strategies in Women's Tennis — a clinic for all levels of ability with a tennis pro ranked in women's 35s in So. Cal. \$7, Noon. Info: 664-6987 (rain date tmw).  
 "Burying the Ghosts of Season's Past" — a potluck supper and Christmas workshop at Metropolitan Community Church of the East Bay, 6pm.  
 Avolaje — poetry & music accompanied by Hakika Ayodele, plus a set by blues-master J.C. Burris on harmonica & hambones. 9pm, \$4. La Pena, Berkeley.  
 Swingshift at Fillmore's, at Haight & Fillmore, SF. The jazz gets going at 9pm. \$2 cover. WA.  
 Mass Picketing all day at the Metro Theatre, Union & Webster, SF, to support striking theatre janitors. More info: 431-1522 or 775-2677.  
 The Christmas Surprise Box — a special show for kids by The People's Theatre Coalition & Make-A-Circus. Today thru 12/27 (except 12/25), 2pm, \$4.50/\$2.50 children. People's Theater, Ft Mason Ctr, Bldg B, SF. Res: 776-8999.  
 Turning It Over — Meg Christian & Chris Williamson in concert together again, plus the crew from Meg's latest album. \$8.50, 8pm, Berkeley Community Theater. Tix: BASS, CC, WA. Sign (ask BASS for seating). See story page 10 for interview with Meg.  
 Black & White Men Together — 2nd Annual Xmas Party, Starr King Room, 1st Unitarian Church, Franklin/Geary, SF 7pm-midnite, \$15. Info: 821-9220.  
 "Runway: The First Stage of the Exploration Into Flight" — lumenographer Debora Stoll creates a performance-environment synthesis of sound, light & sculptural elements. 9pm, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF.  
 Chevere — women's Latin & Brazilian jazz at La Pena, Berkeley. 9:30pm, \$3.50.  
 New Moon in Capricorn, 2:11am.  
 The Hire Wire Radio Choir and D'Alan Moss at One Act II, 432 Mason, SF Thurs-Sun thru 1/3. Info & Res: 421-6162.  
 By George! a musical revue of the rhapsodies & rhythms of the Gershwins & friends. 8pm Fri-Sun & 4pm Sun. Savoy Tivoli, 1438 Upper Grant, SF. Res: 362-7024.  
 Dangerous Curves — rhythm & reggae with this women's trio. 9:30pm, \$3.50 La Pena, Berk.



Virginia Woolfe, an etching by Barbara Johnson on display at Studio 45 in Emeryville. See Dec. 4 listing for details.

## 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.
- Laughing Goddes's Grotto (Susan B. Anthony Coven #1), 4118 Telegraph, Oakland. 653-4169, 444-7724.
- Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco. 863-4434.
- Metropolitan Community Church — East Bay, 4986 Fairfax Ave., Oakland. 533-4848. WA.
- Old Wives 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.

## Calendar Key

- WA: wheelchair access.
- CC: childcare available at event.
- RCC: call to reserve childcare for event.
- Sign: sign language interpreted.
- Res: reservations.
- SS: sliding scale.



## THIS CHRISTMAS VISIT Town Squire

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# Prison Poems

These poems come from prisoners at Pleasanton. Stuart wrote his poem just before his release from prison this fall. Mary is still in Pleasanton — her poem was written at the death of Martin Luther King

**Penology Used To Be A Science  
And Now It's A Crime**  
by Stuart Schwartz

An environment where  
Don't and can't are the guidelines  
Places that teach you  
Not to commit your crimes.

That is where they put us  
Those are the bars they build  
And this is where we sit 'til time  
Inexorably permits us to go.

No one makes us  
Do our crime  
No one makes our  
Poetry rhyme.

The buildings are pretty  
The landscape outstanding  
The food just fine  
And  
The entertainment is passable.

With any gift of intelligence  
We realized we erred at sentencing  
And that is just the beginning  
Of the path.

For this is jail.

And why do I even care how they run this  
prison?  
Staff doesn't affect me.  
They only work here.

I live here.  
They are locked in for life.  
I get out Labor Day.

They only work here.  
They don't care how they run this prison.  
Staff can't work on the outside.  
Their opportunities are limited.

Mine abound.  
For  
They are institutionalized.

While  
I am incarcerated.

**Where Are They?**  
by Mary E. Brunson

Where is my sister?  
Where is my brother?  
Ones who said we didn't care.  
Ones who said we didn't share.  
At one time their voices were clear.  
At one time their footsteps were near.  
Oh! they couldn't be very far.  
For divided they are.  
We've lost track of them as we pushed  
ahead.

Somewhere in the dark they're lost I'm  
afraid.

Within the presence of my very soul,  
I tried to convince them of our goal.  
But brainwashed they've gone astray.  
It's so sad they won't view the new day.  
Wait my sisters!  
Wait my brothers!

Those of us who are strong.  
Oh no! We've got to keep moving along.  
Can't let a few daunt our leader's dream.  
We're emerging as we see the sun's gleam.  
But where is my sister?  
Where is my brother?  
I pray our progress they could only see:  
Rising o'er our own who doubt our  
capability.

Unlending hope to the children  
And dishonoring the leader's omen  
Of on the mountain together.

Where is my sister?  
Where is my brother?



## Prison Pen Pals

*Coming Up!* is looking for ways to support lesbian and gay prisoners, and one thing we'd like to do is run penpal ads. Ron Endersby has started us off with a list of some people in prison he knows of that would like to write to people, and we'd be glad to hear from other prisoners who would like penpals. When you write to a prisoner, it's helpful to include a stamp with your letter.

*Coming Up!* also sends free subscriptions to prisoners so if you're a prisoner and would like to receive the paper, let us know. And we'd appreciate donations from the community outside to help pay the expense of these subscriptions (see the subscription form on page 3).

Margaret Fields  
1034 Bragg St  
Raleigh, NC 27620

Beverly Snoddy  
W13773 PTU 81  
Frontera, CA 97120

Michael Finn  
#15918, Box 607  
Carson City, NV 89702

Harry Cramer  
#087260, Camp H  
Angola, LA 70712

Mark Alan Hoge  
#297439 6-T, Route 3,  
Box 59  
Rosharon, TX 77583

There's a place for the Gay business establishment in our lives. We need the baths, bars, and network of stores that provide us with necessities and diversions. But that place should be a responsible one. Gay business owners should not sell products that may be a grave threat to our health. They should observe applicable laws concerning discrimination, fire hazards, and public safety. And above all, they should be sensitive as to how the general lifestyle they are pushing affects the quality of our lives.

Sad to say, many Gay businesses are not acting responsibly, and in fact are behaving just like the straight business establishment, which they now consciously ape. But just as we deserve to be treated with respect by the straight world, so we deserve to be treated with respect within our own community. It's a matter of Gay pride.

We won't get this respect unless we organize. Such has been the lesson in dealing with straight bigotry, as it has been the experience of American consumers in general dealing with big business. With this in mind, a new organization, Gay Renewal, is being formed to challenge the business interests that take us for granted and to raise a public discussion of the quality of Gay life. In the spirit of both Stonewall and Harvey Milk, this new group will leaflet, agitate, do street theater, educate, litigate, satirize, demonstrate, and confront. For the time has come to open wide the windows of Gay life.

*If you would like to help create an organization as outlined above, please send a note with your name and address to Arthur Evans, c/o Coming Up!, Room 104, 2120 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.*

# Astrological Forecast

## For the month of December, 1981

by George Hurd

Last month I talked about the formal aspects of the coming grand alignment of the planets in the fall of 1982-1984. To consider what to expect from such a concentration of energies, we need to explore the section of the zodiac so focused. The alignment will span late Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius and early Capricorn, signs that represent collective modes of being. Libra symbolizes the Other, relationships, Scorpio, the energies of relationships, shared resources; Sagittarius, the philosophy of relationships, the integration of the self with the other; and Capricorn, the structures of relationships, institutions and traditions.

The concentration of planetary energies — especially the inclusion of the transformative powers of the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto — symbolizes a period of dramatic change in the way we deal with others, as individuals and as collectives. Experiences and events during this period will challenge the very roots of our being together — social/cultural; economic; political; religious. Coming during the last two decades of this century, a time of revolutionary/evolutionary developments, this concentration will add considerable fuel to the transformation of the world as we know it.

We can expect circumstances to trigger a re-evaluation of the ways in which we relate; in the ways in which we share the resources of this planet; in the value systems that have led us to this crisis point; in the rules and regulations with which we dance this dance. Coming during the regressive phase of these last two decades, we can expect considerable resistance to this change — a last desperate attempt to hang on to the old ways of doing/being. As a species we seem to choose to add trauma to drama; the transition may not be an easy one.

**Aries:** The confusion and doubt that start the month give way to aggressive self-assertiveness later that could lead to some dramatic confrontations, especially at work. Your energy level also accelerates as the month progresses, peaking around Christmas. Monitoring your travels — and your tongue — frees you from unnecessary conflict.

**Taurus:** That emotional intensity that has been building for the last week or so climaxes during the first few days of December. Resistance to relationship changes that might appear to be forced on you could seriously alienate others. This tendency passes quickly and a lighter, self-indulging mood colors the rest of the month. Moderation could prove difficult and New Year's resolutions could be the result of too much...

**Gemini:** A comparatively quiet first week of the month is soon forgotten as the tempo builds later. Communication, a natural talent for you, becomes more of a challenge. Speaking in tongues toward the middle of December presents you as eloquent but difficult to understand. Your reaction to others' inability to comprehend is apt to be a bit caustic. Jot it all down and see if you can make sense out of it next month.

**Cancer:** Your sensitivity to others increases and your tendency toward self-sacrifice is activated. Your emotional reactions to others are heightened — as are your physical reactions to drugs and alcohol. All-in-all, though starting slowly, December proves to be a month of enhanced experiences that could lead you into a strong self-affirming reaction at home or with family at Christmas.

**Leo:** The middle of the month highlights December with romance coloring your days — and nights. Creative and pro-creative energies flow freely as you warm to everyone around you. Try not to let that verbal confrontation toward the end of the month interfere with what could well be a very pleasurable period for you.

**Virgo:** Your interest tends toward home-making this month with lots to talk about and some effort needed to be understood clearly. Arranging/rearranging your close environment brings out the best of your designing capabilities. Rash expenditures around the 18th could bring a strong reaction from others involved.

**Libra:** December starts with a bit of an image crisis, but those feelings of self-doubt and insecurity soon

pass and are replaced by a warm and gentle self-affirming self-awareness. Setting aside responsibilities and providing yourself with plenty of time for pleasures makes the holidays very special.

**Scorpio:** Feelings that have been stirring with characteristic intensity erupt early in December, effecting some changes in your daily routine. Though a lot of your attention is taken up by business/money matters, mis-communication possibilities require extra effort for clarity. It may be best to pass on that hunch later in the month.

**Sagittarius:** Buying Christmas presents for yourself seems quite appropriate — changes in your style require changes in your costumes and settings. It's an expansive month — watch for a minor tendency to over-do it. Extravagant plans for the holidays may require a more realistic re-think, though the tendency is to put away cost considerations and go for the gold.

**Capricorn:** The second week of the month provides the energy and the ability to really get things done — especially at work. Plans fall into place as year-end holidays approach. You find yourself easily able to clean up and close out all those loose ends, clearing your desk and your mind for the coming year. Watch out for a tendency to heavy out on New Year's Eve.

**Aquarius:** Take advantage on what borders on inspiration to lay plans for 1982. They may well include the further development of an existing relationship as bonds deepen. Though some of these plans may appear somewhat unrealistic to others, a decision to go for it during the coming year could prove them attainable. Take a second look at that impulsive urge to travel over the holidays.

**Pisces:** At work you are positively brilliant, sensitive to the needs of co-workers and supervisors, as well as those of the company. Your insights well help for everyone, though you may tend to leave yourself out of the planning. Some tendency toward self-reproach early in the month could set you up for self-exclusion later. Stay in touch with the important role you play here.

The full moon in Gemini is on Fri, the 11th at 5:41 pm, the new moon in Capricorn on Sat, Dec. 26th at 2:11 am. The Winter Solstice is on Tues, Dec. 22nd, at 2:52 pm.

## Nuclear Freeze

(continued from page 3)

not a gay or straight issue, per se. I am involved because I am a human being, more than because of a particular identity."

Eric, like many other gay men and lesbians in the Bay Area, has devoted much of his energy towards organizing against Diablo Canyon. While he observes that gay people are "very welcome" in the anti-nuke movement, he also notes that within the Abalone Alliance, the statewide coalition of anti-nuke groups, the number of gay organizers is proportionately low.

"There is a need for more openly gay organizers, so that the movement will have an identifiable gay presence," he says.

Lee, a lesbian from Oakland who did support work at the Diablo Blockade, agrees with Eric. "I attended an Abalone conference in Santa Barbara after the Blockade," she says, "and was shocked to see so few openly gay people in attendance."

Even less visible than gays and lesbians in the anti-nuke movement, are people of color, much less gay and lesbian people of color.

"Who is not concerned that the world is going to blow up?" says Betty, a black lesbian activist at San Francisco State University. "I have to be able to have a sense of tomorrow. But the anti-nuke movement schedules events that cost a lot of money, or that don't consider working people's schedules. A lot of us couldn't afford to take time off work to hang out at the Blockade for a week."

"I don't know if the racism and classism is intentional, but that certainly is possible, because they come in many subtle ways. But the effect is to make the movement inaccessible to working class white people, and people of color."

Lee agrees. "One of the most troubling things I noticed is that there wasn't a non-white, non-middle class presence at Diablo." Asked if she had any ideas about any affinity groups of people of color who were working in the anti-nuke movement, she says, "If I could think of somebody it would probably be one person. It's really frustrating."

Lee is interested in forming a lesbian affinity group in the East Bay, and would like to work with women of color to help them with information to start their own affinity group or to work with the group she's forming. She can be reached at 658-2698.

Neither Lee nor Eric have had any homophobia directed at them from people within the anti-nuke movement. "Mostly what I've felt is a lack of education," Lee explains. "If there were more lesbians out there, introducing themselves as lesbians, it would take care of some of the ignorance that still goes on."

## Drinking...

(continued from page 2)

ber of letters to the Gay press complaining of alienation, and asked him whether he thought the bars contribute to this alienation. He replied: "Where else would they go? Bars keep them off the streets and out of the tea rooms and give them feelings of security and safety."

The Gay-bar lifestyle (or clone lifestyle, as it has been called) has been deliberately fostered by bar owners and merchants. Just look at all the ads in the established Gay press for bars, gyms, clothing stores, glory holes, etc. The pictures of men in these ads all look the same — usually white and middle-class, holding butch poses, displaying overdeveloped bodies, and presumably interested in nothing else in life than constant cruising. Such ads sell more than the individual products they push. They also sell a lifestyle of conformity and mindless consumerism.

Bar owners and merchants have taken advantage of the huge number of Gay men who have flocked here as refugees from straight America. Many of these newcomers secretly feel guilt-ridden about being Gay and are ashamed and embarrassed by the feminine parts of their personalities. Because of long years of repression, they are desperate for a Gay environment — any Gay environment. So they become easy prey to business owners who claim that self-respect, manliness, and a Gay identity can be had by buying the same clothes, body type, and fantasies as everyone else. Hence the greed of the Gay business establishment and the insecurity (and even

self-hatred) of many Gay consumers feed off each other, and combine to lower the quality of our lives.

This deterioration is symbolized in a particularly vivid way for me by an address, 575 Castro Street. Once upon a time, that address was occupied by a small-time camera shop. Its owner was Harvey Milk, whom I knew as an outgoing, on-the-line Gay man who deeply cared about social justice. His store was unpretentious, and catered to local neighborhood needs. At times it was almost like a little community center.

Before Harvey was assassinated, his store was forced off the premises by scandalous rent increases. It was eventually replaced by a sleek new store, *Statements*, which is still there, and specializes in selling designer lamps to a monied clientele.

I went to *Statements* recently to ask the owner his views on how Gay business has affected the quality of Gay life. I recognized him from the time he had crossed our picket line while we were protesting discrimination at the Club Baths. He said he was too busy to talk to me (even though I was the only customer in the store). He also asked that I not print his name.

I milled around *Statements* thinking of the day I and many others accompanied Harvey Milk on his inaugural walk from that address to City Hall. And I looked at what was now being sold there. A small white chrome lamp (the "Balance 200"), consisting of a rod about 3' long, balanced on a pedestal about 1 1/2' high. Price: \$875.00. And a floorlamp about 5 1/2' high, made of 1/2" thick tubing, sticking up out of a small marble base. Price: \$1,250.00. In this chrome commercialism, then, the dream that Harvey Milk died for?

## A STATEMENT ON PHOTOGRAPHY

There has been some controversy over the photograph that I took that ran with the Women's Music Festival article in the October *Coming Up!* At the October 25 community meeting to talk about the festival and the November 13 women of color meeting to continue that discussion, some issues were raised around the photograph, the role of photography in the women's community in general, and especially how that relates to women of color.

The issues that came up were —  
(1) That one of the women in the picture spoke to me before publication and said she did not want her picture used.

(2) That the women in the festival picture were not asked for permission to use their picture for publication; and in general, photographers should get permission from anyone in a picture before the picture is published, especially in a gay publication or about a gay event, because people in the picture may not be out.

(3) That the picture was primarily of women of color, and it was a white woman's festival, attended primarily by white women, so the picture was not representative of the festival, and therefore racist. And, in general, pictures of women of color should not be used to represent events where white women are in charge and the majority of people there are white women.

(4) That photographs of women-only events should not appear in publications that are read by men, or where they can be seen by men.

I've thought about these issues, and these are some of the things I've come up with —

(1) My understanding with the woman I spoke to before publication was that she didn't want the picture used if she could be recognized without her clothes on. I'm sorry for the misunderstanding between us — I did not understand she didn't want the picture run under any circumstances. We screened out the part of her body that showed without clothes, so I thought it would be OK. I'm sorry that there was that miscommunication between us.

(2) The issue of permission for publishing photographs is a difficult one.

In patriarchal law, photographs fall into different categories. First are photos of private events. These photos can't be used for publication without permission. Second are photos of public events, which means anything that could be considered "news" and is of interest to the community. Legally, I can publish a photo from any public "news" event without permission from anybody. There's a third category, and that's private events that become of interest to the public. If an event starts out private, but something happens that

makes it of community interest, that event becomes "news" and is a legitimate public event, so that any photos from it can be used without permission.

Legally, the music festival would probably fall into the second category of a "news" event to start with, just because of what festivals mean to our community, but considering all that happened at Yosemite, there's no question that the festival became "news" and therefore, a public event.

That's what the law says, and what's "legal"; but I know that because I care about the people I photograph, and what their lives mean, I have to go further from that.

Whenever I take pictures, I'm very open about it — I usually walk right up to someone and take their picture, or I'm very obviously in the middle of things taking pictures. Because I'm real open I get lots of immediate feedback from people — some people don't have to say anything, but it's obvious they don't want their picture taken, so I don't take it. Other times, people will come up to me and ask me not to use a picture I've just taken because they're not out, or for some other reason, and those pictures never see the light of day.

But that's what I've always depended on — I put myself out there real openly, and trust that if people (who are at a public event) don't want to have their pictures used, they will let me know. It's impossible for me as one person at an event where there can be hundreds or thousands of people to ask every single person personally if it's OK before I take a picture.

I'm realizing, though, that that's not enough, and it's not going to always cover everybody. One thing that would help a lot would be for people who don't want pictures taken to wear prominent badges that say "don't take my picture." At the Women's Bohemian Club Action last month, the organizers made an announcement to the press and demonstrators that the badges were available, so women who didn't want their picture taken could identify themselves. It would be helpful if organizers of future events would take that into consideration, so that women would always have that available. Also, if people are planning to attend public events and don't want their pictures taken, they could cover themselves by coming prepared with a badge or sign that says they don't want their picture taken.

Additionally, *Coming Up!* will start to publish a disclaimer in the Staff Box every month that says that people that appear in pictures in the paper are not necessarily gay or lesbian. We've started that this month (see page 2).

It's very important to me as a photographer that I try not to do anything that hurts anybody with my photography. I hope that these added measures

will help insure that even more than what I've done in the past, I would very much like to hear from other women if they have other workable suggestions to deal with this at large public gatherings.

(3) The images of women of color have been used over and over again in publications in a tokenist and racist way to represent events that are mainly white. And of course, Yosemite was attended primarily by white women, and most of what went on there was for and by white women — but the whole point of the article Regina and I wrote was that for a time, a very large portion of the women at the festival went beyond that, and some very special cultural sharing happened between white women, women of color and Jewish women. That's what we talked about in the article, so it seemed obvious that we would run a picture that represented that special time — to celebrate it, and to remember that it happened. I'm sorry if the use of the pictured offended some women of color. That was never our intent.

(4) I thought about this one a lot — not running women-only events in publications read by men — and I just don't feel that I can agree with it. At first I thought, of course, if events are just for women, they are very special to us, and we can feel safe there because they are woman-only, and we don't have to worry about male energy ripping us off in any way. But I've gone around and around with that, and I just can't agree. I think that it's real important for us to have woman-only events where we can be just with each other, and share the joy and the strength we get from that. But I think that it's just as important that we share that experience with the rest of the world through spoken or written stories, or pictures that celebrate what we are doing as women. The government, FBI, or whoever, are going to know about us no matter what, anyway, and work to destroy that, but their job will be all the easier if we remain totally isolated and invisible. For me it's important that we be about sharing our culture with other people who aren't involved in it, so that we can learn from each other. And I feel that we need to have strong images of ourselves out there in non-racist, non-exploitive ways to celebrate our strength and validate our existence. I don't think we're ever going to get anywhere if we keep it all to ourselves.

This is how I'm feeling about things right now (and already I can think of a hundred other things that this statement doesn't address), but photography has never been openly discussed in the women's community before — I think there's lots of room for discussion and learning from each other around these issues.

— Kim Corsaro

**Give a Whistle!**  
**Get Help,**  
**Give Help**  
**FAST!**

# COMING UP!

# Weekly

## DECEMBER

### sunday

**Gay Men's Open Rap** at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley, 7:30pm.

**Champagne brunch** at Artemis Cafe, 11am-2pm.

**Run with the FrontRunners** — noncompetitive running for lesbians, gay men & sympathizers. 10am. Call 821-0202 for details on weekly runs.

**Dignity** — Catholic Gay men, lesbians & friends meet at 6pm for positive worship in the Liturgy of the Eucharist at St. John of God, Fifth Ave & Irving St, SF Sign.

**Metropolitan Community Church** of the East Bay workshops Sundays, 6pm, Oakland.

**Country & Western** in the afternoon at Rainbow Cattle Company, 199 Valencia, SF 5-9pm.

**Don't sit home alone!** Have Sunday Brunch with OPTIONS for Women Over Forty, \$2, 11am-1pm. SF Women's Bldg. Open to women of all ages!

**Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church** workshops 10:30am, room 404, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

**Women's Dance Jam** — dance & free play from 6-9pm. \$3 drop-in. Eight Street Studio, 2525-8th St, Berkeley, Info: 658-0636 (Sybil).

**Consciousness raising** and support group for women at the Berkeley Women's Center, 10am.

**Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Mormons** — a support/social group for current or ex-Mormons & friends. 8pm, info: 641-0791.

**David Kelsey & Pure Trash** at the New Bell Saloon. 8-1:30am. No cover.

**Rap Group for Gay Men** at Pacific Center, Berkeley, 7:45pm.

**New Wave** at the Stud, 1535 Folsom, SF. Info: 863-6623.

**Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise** — a great workout for all ages, levels of fitness. First class free. \$3/class, \$2.50/series card. Mon-Sat, 10-11am. Info & RCC: 621-0643. SF Women's Bldg.

**Amazon Kung Fu** — serious training for women in the art of Kajukenbo Kung Fu. Develop strength, confidence, good health & street sense. 1-3pm, \$30. SF Women's Bldg. Info: 428-2006.

**Job Counseling for Women Over Forty** — 10am-2pm by appointment only in OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg. Info: 431-6405.

**Job Listings for Women Over Forty** — updated regularly, available at the OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg, 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

**African Movement** taught by Marion Oliner — everyone & all levels welcome. \$3.50/class. 6-7pm, SF Women's Bldg. Info: 386-0935.

**Practical self-defense** for women based on jujitsu — classes at The Dojo for all ages & physical abilities. 6-8pm, \$30/month. Sign arrangements can be made, call for details & other info: 530-5043. 3718 MacArthur, Oakland.

**Lesbian Rap Group** — meet new friends and share old ones. Facilitated by Midgett. 7:30-9:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. RCC: 864-0876.

**Sufi Dancing** — Dance of Universal Peace, 8-10pm, \$1.50. SF Women's Bldg.

**Job Listings for Women Over 40** — every Mon thru Fri, 10am-5pm in the OPTIONS office, SF Women's Bldg.

**Lesbian Drop-in Rap**, 7:30pm at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Married Gay Men's Rap**, drop-in, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Women's Drug & Alcohol Group** — advance notice required: 841-6224 — Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Maltri** — Buddhist gay men, lesbians & friends meet 7:30pm, 47 Hartford, SF.

**Slides, discussions, poetry, prose & more** — weekly events for women at ICI Woman's Place in Oakland — check centerfold calendar for details on the evening.

**Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise**, 10-11am, 6-7pm. See Monday.

**Therapy referral** at the Berkeley Women's Ctr, 10-11am.

**Career/Life Planning** for all women over 40, 10am-noon. Call OPTIONS for Women Over Forty for complete info: 431-6944.

**Support Group for Women & Alcohol** for women of all ages at the OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg, 5-6:30pm.

**Bisexual mixed rap group** for both men & women interested in bisexuality, or partners of bisexual mates. 7:30pm, \$3. Bisexual Center, 1757 Hayes, SF. Info: 929-9299.

**The Anything Goes Chorus** — a group singing class — lots of fun & support, popular music sung in 2, 3 & 4 part harmony for all voices. 6:30-8:30pm, SF. Info: 654-8415. Closet singers come out!

**Foodsexual Comedian** Carol Roberts (w/surprise guests) at Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St, SF. 9:30pm, \$3. Break up your week breaking up with laughter! See centerfold calendar for more info.

**SF Gay Rap Drop-in**, 8pm, basement of First Congregational Church, Post & Mason, SF.

### monday

**Amazon Kung Fu in Oakland** — classes in Kajukenbo system at new studio, 5680 San Pablo. Info: 428-2006.

**Samois**: contact this lesbian-feminist S/M support group for info on next orientation meeting. Write PO Box 2364, Berk. 94702, or call Ruby, 552-8988.

**Irish Music & Dance** at the Stary Plough Irish Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley.

**Oakland Lesbian & Gay Rights Organization (OLGRO)** meets 2nd & 4th Mon ea month, 7:30pm at Ollie's in Oakland. Info: 547-5474.

**Lesbian Separatists** gather to create a lesbian-only space in the East Bay, due to open by Spring Equinox. Mtgs alternate Mondays. Info: 534-5007.

### tuesday

**Lesbian Clinic** — gynecological & general med clinic run by & for lesbians at Berkeley Women's Health Collective. Every Tues eve. Call 843-6194 for appt.

**Tuesday Evening Fun Runs**, 7pm with the FrontRunners — gay & lesbian running group. Info: 346-0303 (Jim). Noncompetitive and free!

**Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Groups** — beginners meeting 7:15-7:45pm, regular mtg 8-9:15pm. All Saints Church, 1350 Waller, SF. WA. Info: 982-4473.

**Woodworking & furniture making** class for beginning & experienced woodworkers. 6:30-9:30pm, free. WA. Complete info: 824-9716.

**Psychic Circle**, searching psychic technique. 7:30-10pm. Complete details: 648-4123 (Tasha).

### wednesday

**Lesbian Break-up Group** — a support group forming to talk about ending relationships, dealing with ex-lovers, being single & starting over. 5-6:30pm. Price, location & other info: 839-1097 (Karin).

**Disabled Lesbian Support Group** facilitated by Ricki Boden & Jill Lessing, 10am-noon, low SS, insurance OK, WA. Operation Concern, 2483 Clay, SF.

**Support Group for Black Women** of all ages who've survived rape, incest, batter — share resources & help solve problems. 7-10pm, free. East Bay. Call Black Women's Anti-violence Project, 652-0339.

**A Psychic Circle**, for women only. 5-7pm, call Tasha (648-4123) for details.

**David Kelsey sings solo** at The New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. 9:30-1:30am. No cover.

**SF Lesbians & Gay Men's Community Chorus** rehearses. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. 7-9:30pm, WA.

**Drop-in Graphics Clinic** for women working on graphics & paste-up for offset printing. \$10-\$15 SS, 7-10pm. Women's Press Project, 532 Valencia, SF. RCC by Weds morning: 431-6210.

**Bisexual Women's Open Rap**, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Gay Men's Substance Dependence Group** — advance notice required: 841-6224. Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Transvestites & Transsexuals Rap** — 1st & 3rd Wed ea month at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. 7:30pm.

**Women Over Forty Experimental Theater** at the OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg, 7pm.

**Comedy for lunch!** *The Marriage Proposal* (a romp by Anton Chekhov) plus *The Rehearsal* (a humorous, touching monologue by Benjamin Bradford). Every Wed & Thurs. \$3. Curtain 12:10, show ends 12:50. One Act Theatre, 430 Mason, SF.

**Mid-week Bible discussion** with Golden Gate MCC, 7:30pm, Rm 404, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

**Prayer & Communion Service** with MCC, SF. 7:30pm.

**Transsexual/Transvestite, MTF/FTM** mtgs at SF MCC, 8pm. Additional info: (408)734-3773. 2nd Wed each month.

**Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise**, 10-11am & 6-7pm. See Monday.

**Bisexual Mixed Rap Group** — see Tuesdays.

**Assertiveness Training** for women over forty. 10am to noon. OPTIONS office, SF Women's Bldg.

**Amazon Kung Fu**, 13pm. See Monday.

**Building Self-Confidence** for women over forty. 1-3pm, OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg.

**Menopause Counseling** — share concerns & info, learn about estrogen & alternatives. 3-5pm, Berkeley Women's Health Collective, 2908 Ellsworth. Info: 843-6194.

**Women's Contact Class** with Naomi Nim — improve structures & contact techniques in a trusting environment. Beginners & somewhat experienced. \$28/6 wks. \$4.50 drop-in. 5:30-7pm, SF Women's Bldg.

**SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus** now auditioning new members — sopranos, altos, tenors, basses. Weekly rehearsals, 7-9:30pm. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. Call Robin, 527-4462.

**Hatha Yoga classes** with self-healing methods by Rha Medeen. Learn asanas, deep & color breathing, sound vibrations & more. 7-8:30pm, \$5/class. 2859 Sacramento, SF. Info: 585-5090.

**Sound & Trance Dance Class** with Keriac, Dancentral Studio, 7:30-10pm. Info: 626-0756.

**Metropolitan Community Church** workshops in Berkeley, 7pm. Directions: 533-4848.

**Intuitive Problem Solving Support Group/Energy Circle** led by Margo Adair — pool psychic resources to combat isolation, energize realities & gain insights that help attain our goals. 7pm, SS. Location, special needs & res: 861-6838. For women only.

**Worship** with Metropolitan Community Church, East Bay, 7pm, 4986 Fairfax, Oakland.

**Metropolitan Community Church** midweek worship in Hayward, 7:30pm, 27621 East 12th St. Info: 533-4848.

**The Anything Goes Chorus** — 8-10pm, Berkeley. See Tuesdays.

### Alternative Airwaves

**Godless Faggots on the Air** KTVU Channel 2, 11am, Dec. 3  
The Gay Atheists League meets middle America on "The Phil Donahue Show."

**The Gay Life** with Randy Alfred KSNV 95TM, Sundays, 11pm  
Dec 6: "Night of Candles," — highlights of the 3rd annual George Moscone/Harvey Milk Memorial March.

Dec 13: "Tax Estate, and Personal Financial Planning for Lesbians and Gays," — a panel discussion from the 1st Nat'l Lesbian & Gay Business & Professional Convention.

Dec 20: "Lesbian Relationships: What Do We Know From Empirical Studies on Love, Power and Commitment," an address by Ann Peplau of UCLA to the Assoc. of Gay Psychologists.

Dec 27: "Poppers: Are they safe?" A talk with the Committee to Monitor the Long-Term Effects of Poppers.

**A World Wind** KPFA 94FM, Mondays, midnight  
International music, especially by women, and features on world events & cultures. With Max DASHU & Chana Wilson.

**Fruit Punch**, Gay Men's Radio KPFA 94FM, Wednesdays, 10pm  
Dec 2: **Rush to Judgment: Poppers and the Gay Community.** Hear Hank Wilson (Committee to Monitor the Cumulative Effects of Poppers) and W. Jay Freezer (Pres of Pharmex, manufacturer of Rush) debate on the air, and call in your comments at 848-4425.

Dec 9: **A Little Destiny for Our Own: Sarah Gilbert & Emily Dickinson.** A radio drama on the ways editors, critics & scholars have disregarded one of the deepest sources of Dickinson's creative imagination — her love for women.

Dec 16: A press conference with **Frank Ripplloh**, creator of *Taxi Zum Klo*, a film about life, loves & sexual encounters in modern Berlin.

Dec 23: **Sister Missionary Position's X-Mas Rated Holiday Special** — *Fruit Punch* & the Sisters, plus the Choral Majority carry on the spirit of good will. Cameo at the crib spots by Mark Bunyun, Dory Previn, Leon Russelton, The Men About Town, James Broughton, Rita Mae Brown, Charlie Murphy, & many more. Includes favorite fables from parochial school such as: "The Communist Conspiracy to X the Christ from Christmas."

Dec 30: **Fruitcake '81** — slices of the radio year just passed.

**Love Styles**, Cable Channel 6  
Wednesdays, 10pm; repeats Fri, 10:30pm  
Gay-Oriented talk show hosted by Jud Kohl.

**The Common Woman** KPFA 94FM, Wednesdays, midnight  
Music & features by and about women hosted by Pam Hoelscher.

**The Majority Report** KPFA 94FM, Thursdays, 8pm.  
A magazine of news & public affairs, presented by the Women's Dept.

Dec 10: **A Special focus on Reproductive Rights.** — look at what reproductive freedom means for all women as we talk to the people behind the pro and anti-choice movements. An update on the Human Life Amendment.

**Focus on Women in Music** KPFA 94FM, Saturdays, 10:30am-noon.  
Dec 5: The music of Martine Habib, Holly Tannen, Linda Hirschhorn and Tay. — **Eclectic music** from the spiritual to traditional ballads, to modern songs.

Dec 12: **Bay area composer Sandra Cotton**, on the Conference on Contemporary String Quartets by Women, her own music & and upcoming performance.

Dec 19: **Songs for the Winter Wind** — songs of folk & fantasy to play around a blazing fire at the end of the year.

Dec 26: **Special programming** of women's music.

**Women's Magazine** KPFA 94FM, Saturdays, noon-2pm.  
Dec 12: 12pm — **Women Who Kill**, author Ann Jones is interviewed about her landmark book that connects the changing role of women in society with their crimes; and a talk with **Kim Chernin**, author of *The Obsession: Reflections on the Tyranny of Slenderness*, on the meaning of body size in American culture today & yesterday. 1pm — **Yoga and Self Healing**: a talk with Vicki Noble, Shaman and Yoga teacher on the practice of yoga as a system for change.

Dec 12: Scientists, Scholars & Policy Makers were among the feminists who gathered on SF State Campus for "Women's Studies & the Politics of Interconnection" conference. Highlights from the panels & speeches.

Dec 19: 12pm — **Celebrate the Solstice**, a quick & lively look at the rites, writings & songs celebrating the shortest day of the year. 12:10pm — **Politics & Consciousness**: Margo Adair of the SPIRIT collective (Spirit & Politics Integrated in Revolutionary Transformation) on the interface of spirituality & political action. 1:20pm — **Liberation Theology in Argentina**: a conversation between Mary E. Hunt & Clare Fisher on the conditions of women in Argentina.

Dec 26: 12pm — **Bernice Reagan Speaks** — Reagan's workshop at the West Coast Music Festival dealt with the issues of racism at the Festival & the separateness of the Women's Movement. 1pm — **Lesbian Images in Literature** — a talk by Valerie Taylor with readings from recently published lesbian novels.

**Incestuous Assault Special** KPFA 94FM, Thursdays, 7pm.  
Produced by Santiago Casal and Rich Snowden. These programs are designed especially, but not exclusively, for male audiences.

Dec 3: **Incest: The Crime of Ordinary Men** — one of four girls and one of eleven boys is sexually assaulted before age 18. Since 95-99% of offenders are men, this is a difficult subject for men to talk about. Tonight offenders, women who were assaulted as children, and professionals answer the questions: Why do so many men commit incest? What do men need to do to stop this crime?

Dec 10: **Incest Survivors: The Interviews** — Women talk about the terror of being sexually assaulted as children & about their struggle for safety, healing, and strength. This program gives men a chance to hear the consequences of a crime committed almost entirely by men, & to think about ways to change what it means to be a man.

Dec 17: "Safe, Strong, and Free!" Empowering Children — Children need to know what to do when confronted by a bully, molester, a murderer, or what to do when a man who should be protecting them assaults them. The Child Assault Prevention Program in Ohio offers an inspiring & hopeful way for women & men to help children protect themselves against male violence.

### thursday

**Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance**, 10-11am, 6-7pm, see Monday.

**David Kelsey sings solo** at the New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. 9:30pm-1:30am. No cover.



Carol Roberts, crazed foodsexual, does "Comedy Nights", Tuesdays at Fanny's

**T'ai Chi Chuan** — longevity practices, group & individual instruction in this dance of life. \$25/4 wks. 5:30-7pm, SF Women's Bldg. Info: 456-0794.

**Therapy referral** at the Berkeley Women's Ctr. 5:30-7pm.

**Awareness Through Movement** — a class suitable for all ages, with Julie Casson. Wear loose clothing. 6-7pm, SF Women's Bldg.

**Psychic Circle for women** — share healing energy & develop psychic skills. Call Tasha, 861-6838 for details. 6:30-9pm.

**Cowboy Boots & Dancing Shoes** — country rules from 7pm to midnight with Skip Barret & The Foggy City Squares to teach you square dance steps. 12:30am-5am the mood goes city with live disco DJ's at Trocadero Transfer. Events Hotline: 495-0185.

**The Black Gay Cultural Society** presents: *Dionysia*, a cinema club featuring cinema & video art. \$2, 7:30pm. 925 Hayes, SF. Event info: 621-3190.

**Beginning Contact Improv** Class with Keriac at Dancentral Studio, 7:30-10pm. Info: 626-0756.

**Comedy for lunch** at One Act Theatre. See Wed for details.

**C&W in the financial district** — Country & Western dancing downstairs at Trinity Place, 5:30-8:30pm, 25 Trinity, SF.

**Choir practice** at SF's Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Details: 863-4434.

**Lesbian & Gay Assoc. Engineers & Scientists** meet 2nd & 4th Thurs monthly, 7:30pm. Location info: 285-1589.

**Drop-in Gay Support Group** for women & men, 7:30pm at Glide Memorial, 330 Ellis at Taylor (2nd floor, Rm 209), SF. Free.

**Slightly Older Lesbians (SOLs)** Group for women over 30. 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Black & White Men Together Rap** — 7:30-10pm, free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. WA.

**Friendship & Confidence** — a support/awareness group for gay men: explore personal issues in a supportive environment, practice learning to trust. SS. Student discount. Led by Bob Reps. Info: 863-6096.

**Self-defense for women** at the Dojo — Monday has details.

**Job Search Techniques** for women over 40. 9:30am-11:30am at OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Bldg. \$5-\$10.

**Shabbat Services** with Sha'ar Zahav, Jewish lesbian/gay congregation, Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California, SF. 8:15pm.

**C & C Men's Club** — a social club for chubbies & chasers meets 1st & 3rd Fri ea month at First Congregational Church, Post & Mason, SF. 8pm.

**Under 21 Lesbian Rap**, 4-6pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Intuitive Problem Solving Support Group/Energy Circle** with Margo Adair, for women only 2:30pm and open drop-in 5:30pm. See Wednesdays for detail.

**Women's Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting, 7-8pm. SF Women's Bldg.

**Leather Nights at Trocadero Transfer** — gleaming boots & glowing bodies to a torrid disco beat. 10pm-7am. \$3 with leather. Guests \$5/General \$7. Events hotline: 495-0185. 520-4th St, SF.

**Marin Gay Rap** meets every other Fri, 7:30pm, 610 D St, San Rafael. Different subjects of topical interest. Dec. 4 & 18.

### saturday

**Under 21 Gay Men's Open Rap**, 1-4pm at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

**Live Country & Western bands** at Rainbow Cattle Co, 199 Valencia, SF. 9pm-1am.

**Menopause Rap Group** — share concerns, experiences & feelings & info. 2nd & 4th Sat, 12-2pm, Berkeley Women's Health Collective, 2908 Ellsworth. Info: 843-6194.

**Open lesbian rap** at the Berkeley Women's Ctr, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 2-4pm.

**GayCon rap group** for gay/lesbians ex-cons who want to learn how to survive in SF & talk with other ex-cons. 2-3pm, United States Mission, 1769 Oak St, SF. Info: 431-2675.

**WENDO: "Way of Women"** — exciting new school of self-defense for women. 2 day (10am-5pm) workshops Sat & Sun. Also daytime & eve classes available. SF or East Bay locations. Details & Res: 848-6752.

**Beginning Lunar Yoga** drop-in class for women. 4-6pm, \$6. 2571 Shattuck Ave, #9, Berkeley. Complete info: 845-3277 (Vicki Noble).

**Hand Tool Classes** for women. Call Debye Zito, 824-9716 for time & details. WA.

**Massage Class** — 10am-12:30pm. Call Tasha (648-4123) for details.

### friday

**Advanced lunar Yoga** for women only. 5-7pm, \$30/month. 2571 Shattuck Ave, Studio #9, Berkeley. Info: 845-3277 (Vicki Noble).

**Fridays at the Walkabout** — dance to the unusual sounds of the Mobsters, Tom Nunn & Chris Brown. 8:30pm, \$3.50. Party & refreshments follow. Info: 626-0756.

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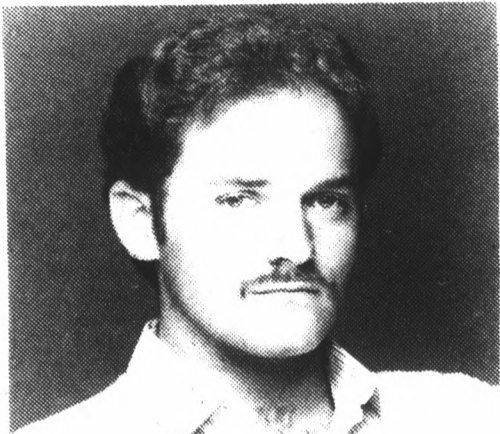
# Cabaret Checkerboard

by Gary Menger

It's a month for musical shows more than for single vocalists, in almost every cabaret in town... and every one of the shows has been justly well reviewed.

At the Plush Room, "Steppin' Out," a 30's/40's revue with a sprightly cast of six, continues six nights a week at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Reservations are advised.

Over in North Beach at Savoy Tivoli, the primarily Gershwin revue, "By George," shows on Friday thru Sunday at 8:00, with a Sunday matinee at 4:00, and features Richard Roemer, Lynn Eldredge, Craig Jessup and Deborah Akhet — it's probably the slickest of the shows in town; may it run forever. Also in North Beach: "Street Dreams" is showing at the Spaghetti Factory — it's a winner, dealing



Scott Phillips

with heavy topics but in an entertaining way.

"Our Affair with Astaire," a musical tribute to Fred Astaire's songs, has put Previews (on Geary near Polk) on the cabaret map. It runs Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, and it's a delightful show.

Opening at Fanny's on December 13, we'll have a revival of Kenneth Vega's "Berlin, 1932," with some new music and a largely new cast. This time around, Jae Ross, Judith Corber, George Quick and Sandra Rider are featured, and the show will play every Sunday and Monday thru January, at 9:30 p.m.

### ONE SHOT SPECIALS

"Full House," playing at Savoy Tivoli on Tuesday, December 15, and featuring an all-star lineup: Pam Brooks, Scott Phillips, Terri Cowick, Kevin Ross and Lynda Bergren, this will be an in-concert evening of the words and music of Bob Bendorff, and is not to be missed.

Two new houses (new in that they haven't till now presented cabaret) are Rooney's Bar/Restaurant (9th near Market) and Sutter's Mill (Kearny near Market). On Monday, December 7, Rooney's will present (and on Tuesday, December 8, Sutter's Mill will present...) Carol Roberts, introducing "The Men in Her Life," a showcase of popular male cabaret singers, with a whole different cast of guests

for each of the two nights. Special guest for both evenings will be Patty Wolfe.

Before leaving the topic of shows, watch for the grand opening of Valencia Rose, a new musical supper club on Valencia near 19th Street, which will be presenting "A Fine Romance," a musical revue of the music of Jerome Kern.

Finally, welcome and best wishes to Our Kabaret, at 131 Gough Street, (which is also Our Kitchen, serving great lunches, brunches, dinners daily, with Earl Galvin, harpist, playing over dinner). Cabaret shows will be presented Thursdays thru Saturdays, beginning December 3, and opening with Sean Salgado (a fantastic jazz singer; it's nice to know she's back in the City). Sean will be there all month and, from December 11 thru December 26, she'll share the bill with Pamela Brooks. What a double-header!

Keep an eye on the Hal & David Show, new from Los Angeles. With any luck, they'll decide to make San Francisco their home, and we'll be richer for it. They're appearing this month on Wednesdays at Trinity Place and on Fridays at Fanny's, will do a special show at the Pines & Company (corner of Pine & Jones) on Sunday afternoon, December 6, and will be part of Carol Roberts' guest lineup on the Tuesday, December 8 show at Sutter's Mill. Busy lads, they put on a great show.

Trinity Place, by the way, is just about the only place in town where you can catch cocktail-time entertainment on weekdays (5:30 to 8:30). This month, besides Hal and David on Wednesdays, they're featuring another newcomer to our City on Tuesdays: Nepata Mero, who does a gangbusters, high-energy jazz show, and is a must-see for fans of Faye Carol or Pilar DuRem. Cocktail time entertainment (on Sunday afternoons) also happens at Pines & Co. (mentioned above) — Hal & David will be on hand for the first Sunday, and Samantha Samuels, who is increasingly hard to catch up with these days, will do the third Sunday of the month (it is rumored that the fabled Jose is actually going to appear for a scheduled performance on the second Sunday, but call before you go!).

This month may be your last chance to see regularly scheduled Wednesday evening cabaret entertainment at Sutro Bath House, so go. On December 22, it's Patty Wolfe; on December 9, jazz singer Rachel Saal; and on December 16, the extraordinary talent of Justin Griffin (of whom I hope to be seeing a lot more soon).

The count isn't in yet for New Year's Eve — but at the moment I can't think of a better way to spend it than with either Samantha Samuels, over at Trinity Place, or with Terry Hutchison at Fanny's. If you choose either, call well ahead.

Best holiday wishes — and, if you're stuck for ideas for people on your gift list, take them to a show and share a memorable evening!

Gary Menger has written for Pacific Coast Times, Data Boy, Bay Area Reporter and Vector Magazine. He was the first manager of the Plush Room/Hotel York, and currently books and promotes several local cabarets. He is President of "Hats Off Productions," and is Publisher/Editor of "Sold Out — San Francisco's Cabaret Magazine."

## Meg and Cris

# In Concert Again: Turning it Over

by Adele Prandini

Well friends, it's time to drag your boots from the closet, be they Gucci or the army surplus variety, and go steppin' out. Olivia is proud to present Meg Christian, Chris Williamson and the Turning it Over band in concert at the Berkeley Community Theater on Saturday, December 19 at 8:00 p.m.

This is the first time in five years that Williamson and Christian have performed together. Certainly they have something to sing about — each has a new album coming out (forgive the expression). "Lumiere" is the name of the new Chris Williamson album which will be available to you in Feb. of 82. "Turning it Over" is the new release from Meg Christian which is already waiting for you at your local record stand.

Recently I was able to talk to Meg about her new album and the up and coming concert. "This concert is really a kind of reunion for me. The first time Chris and I played together was in March of 73. It was also the first time each of us played for a women's audience. It took place in the basement of the Women's Center in Washington D.C. It was a real coming together, a celebration, totally inspiring to me."

"Chris and I have always had a great deal of caring and mutual respect for each other and each other's music. I am really looking forward to playing together again. We'll be resurrecting some old songs and doing some new ones."

We talked a bit about women's culture in general. "Culture brings us together, involves us emotionally. We learn from it. Culture is a catalyst, it moves us, makes us feel what's going on inside. When you feel it in your guts that's when you make a change."

Certainly, the performing arts do fulfill a lot of needs for us. Women's music, dance and theatre provide us with rejuvenation and identification, not to mention the chance to look over the audience and see who's out with whom.

Seriously, I agree with Meg that we have to continue to build a community that can support its artists. Historically, artists have been both instigators of change and the messengers of new ideas. Truly, performance is a highly personal way of reaching people.

The words *change* and *growth* came up in our conversation time and time again — I think you'll sense both on her new album.

It speaks about responsibility: "Me turning your life over to you. I can't change anyone's life but my own." Her song echoes this feeling... "I'm just all I can handle at the moment..."

The idea of turning it over is something new for us. It's hard to admit that we can't do it all, at least not in a week. We can take a rest once in a while, take care of ourselves.

As I mentioned earlier, the up-coming concert also features Chris Williamson. Certainly, I don't have to acquaint you with the accomplishments of Chris's career. "Strange Paradise," "The Changer and the Changed" and "Live Dream" are already a part of your record collection. Despite little advertising, marginal press and almost no airplay, "The Changer and the Changed" has become one of the most successful albums ever produced by an independent label, selling nearly 100,000



Photo by Irene Young

copies. So let's name drop a little. Did you know that Chris has shared the stage with such notables as Lily Tomlin, Bonnie Raitt, Jose Feliciano, Harvey Mandell, Tracy Nelson, and the list goes on and on, but good taste prevents me from continuing. Chris has performed all over the country in just about every college and club you can think of. Her music has been featured in a number of films and documentaries.

With such dynamic talents as Chris Williamson and Meg Christian, plus the band from the Turning it Over album, this concert promises to be a highly entertaining evening of music.

Some of you may know that Olivia Records is nine years old this year — that means that next year, Olivia will celebrate her ten year anniversary! A momentous occasion indeed. On this special occasion, we will witness another reunion of Meg and Chris, this time, however, at the other end of the country. For this concert, you might want to drag a tuxedo from the closet, for it will take place at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Bravo!

If you can't make it to New York next year, you won't want to miss the Berkeley concert this year. The concert is wheelchair accessible and there is special seating for the hearing impaired upon inquiry at BASS. Free childcare is provided. You can get tickets at all BASS outlets or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Olivia Records, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, 94608.

Meg continues on the subject: "Rage takes a lot of energy, it's draining. How can we transform anger into something constructive?" I must admit it's comforting to find these thoughts admitted publicly in song. As a matter of fact, I think you'll find the entire album uplifting.

Meg runs the gamut of emotion in her songs. There's a wonderfully humorous song called *Gym II*. This number is all about picking yourself up and putting yourself into shape; it also speaks about muscle liberation. Those of you who have spent some time grunting and

groaning over barbells, will find this number an interesting treat. Also on this album, is a beautiful tribute to lovers, in the past tense. If you have an ex-lover that you are still absolutely mad for, this album would make a great Christmas present. And, you might want to circle the name of the song *Old Friend* on the album cover.

I talked to Meg a little about what she writes, where the lyrics come from. "Writing for me is intensely personal. Often women come up to me saying 'please write a song about this issue or that issue.' But I can't. I have to cover what is most vital in my life experience."

It occurred to me while listening to the album, that much of that experience is universal and certainly the songs speak for many of us. I also noted the change in that experience and how we perceive it. We're getting a little older and we're learning some things about living. Meg's album not only reflects a personal change for her but also reflects the changes for many within the feminists community.

"Turning it Over" took a year to make, not counting the time writing the songs, most of which are originals, with contributions from Julie Homi (*There's a Light*) and Linda Lewis (*For Mama*).

The list of artists contributing to the effort is impressive. Accompanying Meg on bass, keyboards and back-up vocals is Diane Lindsay. In the supporting vocals you'll also hear the voices of Chris Williamson and Vicki Randle. Wait, the list is not complete. There's the drums of Bernice Brooks, electric piano of Mary Watkins, Lori and Debbie (I have not last names) on horns, and a little help from their friends from the Bay Area String Ensemble. Quite a collection of talent, don't you think? Hold on, we're not through yet. Last, but certainly not least, there's Margie Admas on piano, Robin Flower with her mandolin and Marty Centa on steel guitar. O.K., now you may applaud.

## On Stage . . . December

**Byron A Play** a play by Gertrude Stein. Gertrude Stein said, "A landscape is such a natural arrangement for a battlefield or a play that one must write plays." A performance with projection systems, special lights, word sculpture & movement at 544 Natoma, SF. Tues-Thurs thru 12/17. 9pm. \$2.

Intersection Theatre presents **An Evening of Samuel Beckett and the Real Molloy** with John Molloy, one of the most talented Beckett actors on the Dublin scene. Featured are **From an Abandoned Work, The Stone Sucking Sequence from the Novel Molloy, That Time, and A Selection of John Molloy Type Characters**. 8pm. \$6. Wed-Sat thru 12/19. 756 Union St. SF. Res: 982-2356.

A secularly styled Yuletide celebration aimed at absolutely everyone is the theme of **Christmas Present** — the Bay Theatre Collective's first show of its '81-82 season. Fri-Sun thru 12/20 and 12/21-23. 8:30pm, \$6/\$5 stdnts & srs. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2320 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Res: 843-1801.

In the throes of her own death, Queen Elizabeth I is forced to reconcile herself with the end of her reign and the death of Mary Queen of Scots. This is the background of **Elizabeth Dead** by George W. S. Trow, brought to us by the Berkeley Stage Co. 1111 Addison St. Thru 12/15. Complete info: 548-4728.

The American premiere of **Living Quarters** by Brian Friel, a deeply moving portrayal of a family crisis in a modern Irish context, by the Irish Theatre Company of San Francisco. Gilt Theatre, Univ. of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton. Fri & Sat thru 12/12. \$6, 8pm. Res: 564-7542.

Berkeley Stage Company presents **"A Festival of Extraordinary People"** — three plays about larger than life people. **Damien**, by Aldyth Morris, deals with the work of Father Damien, priest to a leper colony. **Paul Robeson** by Phillip Hayes Dean traces Robeson's life in prose & music. **Letters Home** by Rose Leiman Goldemberg follows Sylvia Plath's life through her correspondence with her mother. For details on dates & showtimes thru Dec call 548-4728.

Last chance to catch Les Nickellette's **I'd Rather Be Doing Something Else — The Didi Glitz Story** for this season. People's Theater, Ft Mason, Bldg B, SF. Thurs-Sat thru Dec 12. 8pm. \$4. Res: 776-8999.

The Black Repertory Group New Arts Experiences Program presents **A Friend In Need** and **Man About Town**, two one-acts by Carey

Williams. Every Sunday this month, 8:30pm, 1719 Alcatraz Ave, Berkeley. Info & reservations: 652-2120.

Ambi Sextrous, renowned interplanetary transvestoid entertainer/personality, opens **Allen Glama**, a new musical comedy drag revue that plays with a subshow subtitled **"Born to be Cheap."** Absolutely wild costumes, fabulous musical arrangements, bizarre humor, crazy fun — and a real steal at only \$2 per show. Wed & Thurs thru December 31 (opens Dec 9). 9:30 & 11pm. Previews, 1028 Geary, SF.

Drama, music & dance combine to form the College Theatre's Christmas Offering. Included are Gian Carlo Menotti's opera **Amahl and the Night Visitors**, four original ballets by the Pacific Ballet Company and readings from **A Child's Christmas in Wales** by Scott Beach or John Brebner. Fri-Sat thru 12/19, 8pm; Sun 12/13 & 20, 3pm. \$3/\$2 stdnts. College Theatre, City College of SF, Phelan & Judson. Info: 293-3100.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents Shakespeare's **As You Like It**. Previews 12/3-6, runs 12/8-1/10. Time & price info: 845-4700. 2025 Addison St, Berkeley.

Comedy for Christmas — the One Act Theatre Company brings us their holiday special of two comedy shows: **"Some of the Best of Duck's Breath,"** an evening of screwball comedy, and **"The High Wire Radio Choir"** a band of comedians, plus **D'Alan Moss**, the City's hottest new stand up comic. Duck's Breath, Wed-Sun, 12/11-1/3, 8pm at Mainstage, 430 Mason, SF, and High Wire, Thurs-Sun, 12/12-1/3, 8pm at One Act II, 432 Mason, SF. Reservations: 421-6162.

The West Coast Premiere of **Nevis Mountain Dew** by Steve Carter in a production by the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre — a sensitive, moving play about the tensions that mount between a man entrapped in a respirator & his loving, but long-suffering family. Thurs-Sun thru 1/3. Showtimes & prices: 864-5500. The Redstone Bldg, 2940-16th St, SF.

**13 Rue de l'Amour** — a classic tale by George Feydeau of an amorous hunt where wild improbabilities and passion provide a delightfully zany evening of entertainment. SF Repertory Co, 4147-19th/Collingwood. Thurs-Sun thru 1/3. 8pm. \$4-\$7. Reservations: 864-3305.

Revels, music, Elizabethan food and drink & other delights are offered by the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival before each performance of their latest show: **Twelfth Night** — Shakespeare's most festive comedy. Previews 12/2 & 3; Runs Wed-Sat 8pm, Sat & Sun 2pm.

\$5-\$11. Veteran's Memorial, 1931 Center St, Berkeley. Res: 548-3422.

The Angels of Light's original murder-mystery-musical **Hotel of Follies** continues Fri-Sun thru 12/22. Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida St, SF. \$6/\$3 children. Res & info: 863-7213.



Ambi Sextrous at Previews

Open the Make-A-Circus **Christmas Surprise Box** and discover jugglers, acrobats, storytellers & other circus surprises. The People's Theater Coalition brings a special children's show for Christmas. 12/19 & 20, 23-27 2pm; \$4.50/\$2.50 kids. Ft Mason Ctr, Bldg B, SF.

Theatre de l'Alliance Francaise presents Moliere's classic tale of 17th century morals: **The Miser**. In French with English outline. Fri-Sun thru 12/13. \$6.50. 414 Mason St, 8th flr. SF. Reservations: 781-8755.

— compiled by Caroline MacKenzie



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF PHOENIX COLLEGE  
1202 WEST THOMAS ROAD · PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85013

October 16, 1981

Dear Gay and Lesbian Organization, We of Phoenix College have no similar organization at this time, and have no plans for the formation of such a group. The Associated Students of P.C. likewise have no desire to interact with the many perverse groups expected to attend your conference. Please do not contact us with any more invitations to disgusting seminars and militant organizational meetings. You have our best wishes for the failure of your conference and society's complete ostracism of your lifestyle.

Sincerely,  
*John M. Smith*  
John M. Smith, President  
Associated Students  
*Jodi M. Stovall*  
Jodi M. Stovall, Vice-President  
*Dave Rockwell*  
Dave Rockwell, Elections  
*Janet Pelzek*  
Janet Pelzek, Public Relations

*Christopher J. Kuplack*  
Christopher J. Kuplack, Secretary  
Associated Students  
*Wayne R. Teeters*  
Wayne R. Teeters, Treasurer  
*Shari Jensen*  
Shari Jensen, Social Events  
*Rosanne Dupras*  
Rosanne Dupras, Athletics

This word of encouragement to our community was received in response to a mailing from the Gay/Lesbian Campus Community at San Francisco State University. GLCC is hosting a January conference of gay & lesbian student groups from all over the Western U.S., so they sent an invitation to Phoenix College. The conference is designed to network existing gay & lesbian groups, and cover social, health, political and other issues of public concern. If you or your organization want to respond to the Phoenix College letter, GLCC encourages you to do so. The SF State Student Activities Office has already written, saying they found the letter "inappropriate and inhumane." If you're a student at State, and would like to work on the conference, contact GLCC in the Student Union Building. If you're at another campus, and there's no gay or lesbian group for you, GLCC will be glad to help you out with information on starting your own. They can be reached at 496-1952.

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From West Berlin to the West Coast

'Taxi' takes a long trip

by Penni Kimmel

Frank Ripplloh's Taxi Zum Klo has traveled a long way from West Berlin via Frameline (San Francisco's lesbian and gay film collective) to its West Coast premiere at the Castro Theatre to its present run at the Lumiere. Taxi to the Toilet — a literal, and therefore inherently inadequate, translation — somehow got past the external censors, but then notices in the New Yorker and Time and Atlantic magazines always seem to help gag Uncle Sam with his own chastity belt for a while. The liberal straight intelligentsia to the rescue! Come rally round the fag boys! (you can put a comma in there, if you feel you must.) There's no doubt about its popularity, either, according to box office receipts and full houses. Filling up the 1,300-seater Castro is no mean feat; gay films rarely do, "porn" flicks never do, and "limited engagements" no matter how good the press aren't usually stretched out into regular runs. Subtitles and all, this movie has to be something else.

Now, San Francisco's gay audiences are peculiar, if not downright queer, about sex on the silver screen. It has something to do with the fact that this is supposed to be a trend-setting city, a citadel of power and pride, the end of the all-lavender rainbow and the home of instant expertise in same-sex sex. It is, withal, the world's biggest closet at times. Taxi puts a big, fat tire between the closet door and its jamb and scares the gesundheit! out of a lot of people. About time, too.

Mary Poppins and her parrot-headed umbrella — now that's kinky! Frank Ripplloh acting his version of his own lifestyle? That's state-of-the-art. In a long piece one could fault, somewhat, the acting, script, production, directing, cinematography, editing, length, width or typestyle of the credits — one could create artificial controversy around a technical point or two, by why detract from the fun of the film.

Man (city mouse) meets man (country mouse), man and man settle down, lifestyles change as each other's sense of security, the outside world, both professional and social, impinges naturally on the idyll, and... Frank will get up out of his hospital bed, tucking in a long, long bedgown to run round the Teutonic wintyside in a hired cab looking for fast relief while Bernd slaves over a hot stove. It's a conflict of taste, and as moral as apple pie. Frank just happens to like his pie frequently and with different flavors of cream on top, occasionally cheesy, when and where the mood hits. Bernd, on the other hand is a conventional vanilla-on-moderate-wedge, strictly for dessert at the dinner table, to be consumed with the aid of the proper fork. They are very much in love.

What, then, is the shockingness of it all? Well, there are scenes in Taxi never before seen on the legitimate commercial screen. There's an actual avowed homosexual teacher teaching real live impressionable intelligent youngsters in an honest-to-goodness classroom. Frank and students don't love each other as much as Frank and Bernd do, but they rather respect each other more. Mein Gott, c'est extraordinaire! Then there's a grand, royal, high drag ball. And then there's a bedraggled queen in the school-



room, and the lesson for today, kiddies, is: stop talking about it and do it.

Also filmed — and well-filmed without being 10-Watt backlit and mirrored and scrimmed to death — are the following scenes: sucking, fucking, watersport, whipping, gentleness, romance, sarcasm, tiredness, illness, bowling, boredom, friendship, stubbornness, confusion and growth. If NASA showed its astronauts taking a shit once in a while, maybe the titillating mystery would go

out of it and we could get on with letting them show us one personal way to solve some of our problems.

Taxi Zum Klo is an uncompromisingly, exclusively gay film that does what no gay or straight film has done to date — explored the full range of one person's sensibilities at a crucial point in that person's life. It's show and tell time, for a change. Find it and get in line, with or without an umbrella; you'll probably wet yourself laughing, anyway.

Theater

'Nisei Bar & Grill' at Asian Theatre

by M.J. Lallo

The Asian American Theater presents Nisei Bar and Grill, a play concerned with the generation gap between the Nisei, first generation Japanese in America, and the sansei children of the Nisei, and the second generation.

The Nisei lived through World War II, and there's the conflict between the generations — the younger generation were born after the war and know nothing about the camps or the racial hatred that the Nisei endured.

This deep conflict makes for a real sizzler in any play, but the evening I saw it, the play was very slow moving. The entire play takes place at "Harry's Bar and Grill." Harry runs his philosophy into every drink and every olive. Ron Muriera skillfully plays the "Kid", a singer-songwriter, who composes his material by the bar telephone and then sings it to potential publishers for only a dime's investment.

Emily Cachapero turns in another excellent performance as Keiko, the hooker-waitress from another bar. Though she steals the show for the time she is on stage, which is all too brief, she also has been given lines that are so "het-hooker classical", one is sure the playwright stole them from some B movie.

Cachapero's character is pitted against Shirley, played by Mitzie Abe, who continually expounds on community action, and political problems. Her speeches are again too much like "an activist handbook."

So the play is uneven — some of the actors are excellent, some of their lines are not.

In the first act there are two anti-gay comments, both of which seem unnecessary. Shirley tries to make up for an insult directed at Keiko and puts her hand on Keiko's shoulder, only to be pushed abruptly aside and scorned, "Hey I ain't no dyke!" Her response is completely inappropriate in terms of what they're fighting about. And again, Judith Nihei, who plays Kimi a hairdresser, talks about Jimi Hendrick's hairdo, and how it makes men look like "homosexuals." In 1980, an older generation person of any descent that thinks Afro's are homosexual, is too far out for me to comprehend.

It could be poor writing by Garrett Hongo that makes these lines awkward, or it could be his stretch in irony to somehow encompass prejudice toward homosexuals cropping up in a minority group that is also oppressed.

The most important part of the play was the references made to the "camps" that the Japanese were relocated to during the War. And the most poignant line came from Sci-Fi (Ken Narasaki). Ken is a young writer trying to

make it big in his field, just like the Kid. He writes about the future and tries to link the past with the present. But he also has to be good ole american commercial when he says, "I'll write 'Son of the Camps'; it will be sci-fi, but it will also talk about the camps, this way it will reach more people."

So in the end will Harry sell out his people and his Bar and Grill? Will the older people he employs stand in the welfare line, or end up in sweat shops? There's some good political commentary here, definitely some good acting, and a terrific set.

'Fugue in a Nursery' with Theatre Rhinoceros

by Penni Kimmel

The season opener at Theatre Rhinoceros, Harvey Firestone's Fugue in a Nursery, is an ambitious construction in dialogue among its four assortedly paired grown-ups: the devilishly queenish Arnold; his ex-lover Ed, the debonair cone tripping on a bisexual trampoline with his neurotic fiancée, Laurel; and Arnold's baby-boy boyfriend, the sweet and street-wise Alan.

The quartet play clever counterpoint against the inherently disastrous situation — a weekend together in the country. Old unresolved relationships surface to add to the unstable new ones and a jolly bad time is had by all. Once again, in gay theater, emotional adversity is the nanny of wit. The verbal games ricochet off the walls, the alphabet block furniture, the toy telephones (Tom Williams' goresy-ish and cunning set design) to underscore the musical "fugue" theme of the title. The psychopathological fugue state is present, too, buffering the zip-zap conversations with its convenient amnesia: four people on a lost weekend, behaving in a seemingly rational manner while having no memory of what was really said or meant, or who was really done.

Martin Xero wraps himself comfortably around "Arnold" — a continuous, but never stock character in the Firestone trilogy — and the strengths as well as the vulnerabilities of living the torch-singing drag show life are admirably portrayed. Curt Crider's "Ed" is characteristically smug, Sheila Leichir's "Laurel" marvelously pitiable, a help to everyone but herself; and Robert Wendell has to be very talented indeed to rise above the pretty-boy hustler image of "Alan" to make him solidly worthwhile, adult and likeable. Director J. Kevin Hanlon has done it again.

Fugue in a Nursery plays through December 20th at the "NEW" Theatre Rhinoceros, the Redstone Bldg, 2926-16th St. at South Van Ness, Thurs.-Sun. at 8:30 p.m. Call for reservations: 861-5079.

The new Valencia Rose Has gala opening this month

A rose will bloom on Valencia Street this month when the Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret opens its doors. A former used furniture/antique store, the new Rose is the brainchild of gay activists Ron Lanza, Hank Wilson and Ward Smith, former chef at Hyde & Green.

"We got the idea last November," says Ron Lanza, "and finally acquired the building in February of this year. Our vision was of a place that combined good food with good music, a place where people feel welcome, a neighborhood cultural and community center."

Ron doesn't believe Valencia Rose will add to gentrification of the Mission. "We took a run-down, empty commercial property, rehabilitated it, including a long un-used upstairs apartment I now live in, and are turning it into a place that will provide good food and entertainment to our neighbors."

"Our neighbors will be our customers. The cafe will be open 7:30am to 2pm, — so, who's gonna come by for breakfast or lunch? No one outside the neighborhood."

He continues, "Our intent is to serve food at reasonable prices, non-processed foods, fresh vegetables, fish, and poultry. We'll have a menu of seafood, pasta, chicken, and vegetable dishes that will please any palate, with special surprises for our vegetarian friends. The restaurant will serve dinners and a la carte entrées from 5-11pm, and our bar (beer, wine & champagne) will be open all day."

Since the building is so large, two huge floors with big rooms including the down-

stairs cabaret area, there'll be space for ongoing classes and meetings.

This wonderful place didn't happen overnight, even though the City Planning Commission voted unanimously for it. It took months of hard labor, dealing with various city bureaucrats for licenses and permits, meeting inspections for plumbing, electricity, building codes, and borrowing heavily to pay for it all. But Ron feels it will all be worth it. He's especially excited by the cabaret's potential for discovering new talents in music, dance, comedy, and drama.

Assisting Valencia Rose in its hunt for new talent will be Allen Sawyer, manager of the Castro Theatre. Allen will be auditioning and booking acts, as well as creating and directing the Rose's first musical revue, A Fine Romance.

"I got the idea from a Frank Lesser revue that failed, it was a musical soap opera and just awful," says Allen, "so I thought I'd try to do a better one and decided to use the music of Jerome Kern for the show."

The revue went through two incarnations, both bad, one was titled Ear of Kern, but Allen fell in love with Jerome Kern's tunes in the process and A Fine Romance is the end product with a cast of three men and two women, a three-piece orchestra and the promise of a "wonderful show, full of surprises." If you're not familiar with Kern's music, Allen Sawyer thinks you'll be surprised at the songs you'll recognize and go away humming.

A Fine Romance will preview its first act at our very own Coming Up! Benefit Party, Friday night, December 4th, (details in our front page story) followed by a full scale public preview Thursday, December 11th.

The revue will open the night of December 12th as part of the Official Grand Opening Celebration of Valencia Rose. Sunday, the 13th, Modern Times Bookstore celebrates their 10th anniversary with a dynamite party.

Performances of A Fine Romance continue Thursday through Saturday at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm; tickets are \$5 or \$15 with dinner.

Monday nights will be "Gay Comedy Night" with Holy City Zoo or Other Cafe type format, that will bring us gay and lesbian comics of promise.

Jan and Daniel, acoustic guitar players and balladeers, will entertain you on Tuesday nights.

Wednesdays will see an open mic for would-be vocalists, and following A Fine Romance at 10pm on Thursday nights will be cabaret stylist, Scott Phillips.

After the revue on Fridays at 10pm, the vocal magic of Patty Wolf; but alas, the post revue entertainment for Saturday is to be announced.

There you have it! The first month's schedule at the new Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret, 766 Valencia Street, in San Francisco. There's valet parking available directly across the street and the whole shebang is completely wheelchair accessible. Call 552-1445 for complete information and reservations.

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Reservations: (415) 861-5079  
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# Memories of holidays past and present

We are all lesbian, gay and bi-sexual peoples, yet we come from widely diverse cultures and backgrounds, and celebrate many different holidays this time of year. Coming Up! has asked some members of our community to share their celebrations of holidays past and present — we hope you enjoy these stories as much as we have, and wish all of you a memorable and joyful holiday season of your own.



## Wheel of the Year

by Gweneth Rose

For the Pagan people who follow the Wheel of the Year, the turning of the seasons, Winter Solstice is the first sabbat, or holiday, of the year. The period between Samhain, or Halloween, and the Winter Solstice is the darkest time of the year; it is a time of introspection and incubation. According to my tradition, derived from the Faerie Wiccan tradition, the horned god, son and lover of the Goddess, has died at the Summer Solstice, has gone into the grain, and has been harvested. He is dead, and yet we know he is to be born again. For in the darkness, he grows within the womb of the Goddess, and we await his birth, the coming of the light, the turning again of the yearly wheel, at the Winter Solstice.

The story and the celebration of Winter Solstice varies among the different traditions. Many Dianic witches do not call the Divine Sun Child the sun king; instead the Child is the Goddess Lucina. But whether this child is male or female, she/he is the light and the hope which comes again to guide us through the year.

All Pagan festivals are celebrated with feasting, music and dance. Winter Solstice is usually a vigil on the longest night of the year. Celebrants gather to assist the Goddess in bringing the Light to birth. Since this holiday is symbolic of the intimate connection between death and birth, dark and light, celebrants can use this vigil to undergo symbolic death and birth themselves.

Several years ago I helped plan a ritual for Solstice in which we asked people to bring the celebration objects representing qualities or problems which they wished to be done with, and likewise to bring objects representing that which they wished to be born with the light.

We gathered together and cast a magical circle around us, invoking the spirits of earth, air, fire and water. We called upon the Mother Goddess and the Divine Child to join our circle and to be present in each one of us. One by one we

shared our feelings about what we wished to banish: "This padlock represents my fear. I want fear to die in me," one person would say, and the rest chanted, "Fear is dying, fear is lost to the night!"

We went round and round the circle, moving from the personal outward: "I want nuclear poison to be banished." "Nuclear poison is dying, is lost to the night!"

Our chants grew, we began to dance counterclockwise, and we raised a great cone of power with our sound and movement, and then we dropped to the floor, and went together into a deep trance where we underwent a symbolic death.

The work being done, the rest of the night was filled with feasting and joyous celebration, a birthday party for the light.

This year I again look forward to the long vigil with my circle on the night of December 20, when again I will explore the connection between death and life, dark and light, sitting and watching with the Goddess until just before dawn, reviewing my year and planning the year to come. Then, while it is still dark, my circle will join other circles high on a hilltop above the city, and we will join hands and sing together, chanting the sun up over the horizon, greeting the promise that comes with the birth of the Light.

Then a priestess, our midwife, began to guide us in the journey of birth, and we were each born again and brought back into the light. Together we shared our hopes for the coming year, showing each other the objects we had brought for this purpose. We chanted together about what was being born: "Hope is born, power is born, love is born, joy is born", and again raised power with singing and dancing, this time dancing clockwise.

## A Child's Christmas in Puerto Rico

by Aurora Levins Morales

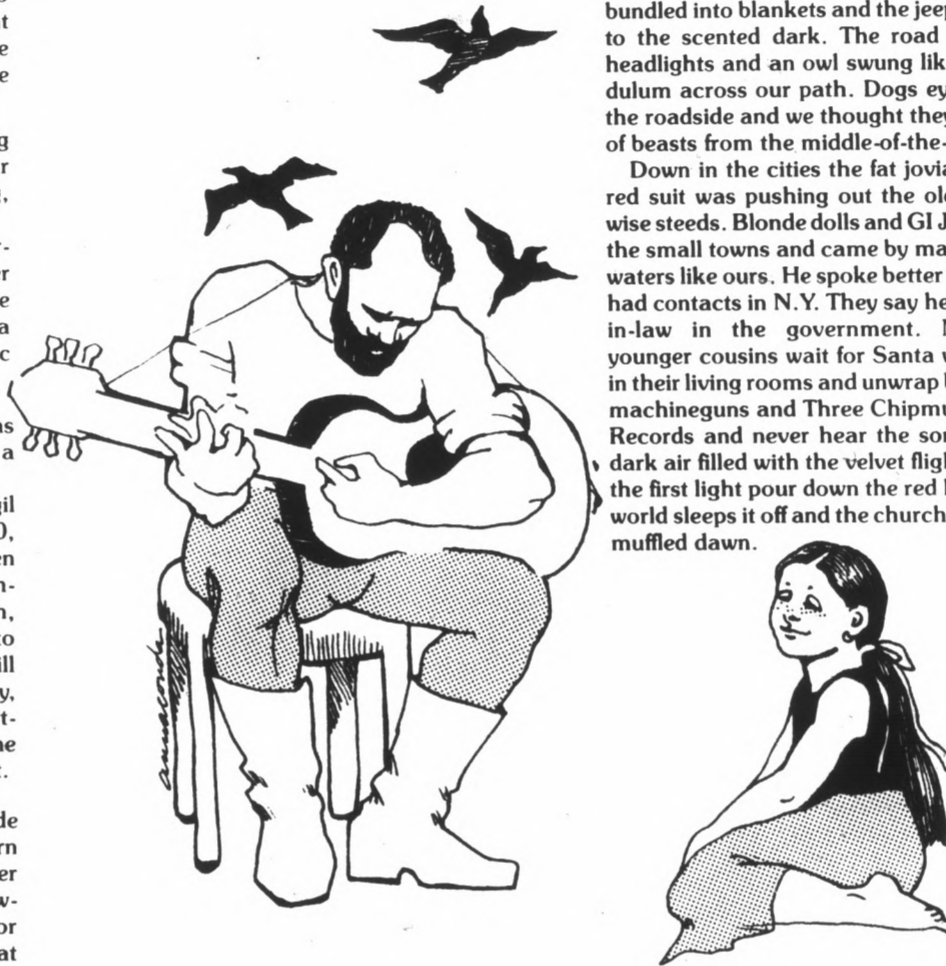
Christmas day was the least of it then, when I grew wild on the mountainsides of Indiera, ranging the coffee farms and filling my skirt with stolen tangerines. Gifts must wait for the Three Kings on their plodding camels to pass wearily through our corner of the world on their way to Bethlehem and stable their beasts at our little offerings of green grass and pine needles. Meanwhile it was the dry season and we sat outdoors, in the yellow light that spilled from the kitchen while Tito Cruz from across the road slipped down to the store where the old men drank their shots of Don Q from paper cups and fetched back Cheo's cousin from Sabana Grande. And he appeared, melting suddenly into the circle of light, "Get him a chair", yells my mother and pours him a little red glass of the best while he tunes his guitar. I remember verse after verse like dark birds rising from his quiet face with an echo of the Moorish troubadours in the high singing, of the Andalusian peasant and the black cane cutter from Angola all mixing, somewhere far away in his jibaro blood while nearby, just across the valley, dogs barked at the shadows of the coffee branches skittering in the moon.

But Noche Buena the noise rose from every corner and hollow of the mountains, from the green and red jeeps roaring up and down the roads and Lencho Perez arguing with his wife about the basting of the pig that his son had butchered that morning, that Tita and I had fed orange peels to all fall in the pen on the hill, careful always to walk on the uphill side to keep our shoes clean. All afternoon the pig turned in the pit, and the little boys fought for a chance at the crank, poking it to see if it was done, until Chinita la de Ada pulled on his ear and it came off in her hand. But now it was night and the pig was carved into heaps of garlic-pepper-and-oregano smelling slices, everyone diving for the bits of skin on them and the smell of arroz con dulce, in the oven and huge pots of rice and gandules.

Best of all Spanish turron and dulce de everything, quivering slabs of candied orange, mango, guava, coconut being sliced with cheese, until outside the bright house there was only soft light brushing the dark hills and the chickens' feathery shuffling under the orange tree while the pigeons on the porch hummed softly to themselves in their cage.

Late, late in the night sleepy children were bundled into blankets and the jeeps roared off into the scented dark. The road swayed in the headlights and an owl swung like a brown pendulum across our path. Dogs eyes lit up red at the roadside and we thought they were unheard of beasts from the middle-of-the-night.

Down in the cities the fat jovial gringo in the red suit was pushing out the old men on their wise steeds. Blonde dolls and GI Joes poured into the small towns and came by mail even to backwaters like ours. He spoke better English, and he had contacts in N.Y. They say he had a brother-in-law in the government. Nowadays my younger cousins wait for Santa with tinsel trees in their living rooms and unwrap Barbie dolls and machineguns and Three Chipmunks Christmas Records and never hear the song rise into the dark air filled with the velvet flight of bats or see the first light pour down the red hill while all the world sleeps off and the church bells ring in the muffled dawn.



## Light in the Darkness

By Guy Mannheimer

Hannukkah is an eight day Jewish festival of both historical and seasonal origins. The historical roots originate with the Jewish revolt led by Judah the Maccabee against the Syrian Greeks who occupied Israel about 2400 years ago. Confronted with superior numbers and power, the Jews, nevertheless, won. Their victory was an affirmation of their right to exist as Jews in the face of imperial edicts prohibiting them to follow the ways of Judaism.

A legend concerning lights was added to this historical event: when the triumphant Jews entered their Temple in Jerusalem after liberating it, they found it had been desecrated by the Syrian Greeks. So, first, they cleaned and prepared the Temple for Jewish worship. Then they searched for oil, because one of the necessary rituals was to maintain a constant light (the "eternal light") in the Temple. But they could find only one small flask of pure olive oil; enough to light the Temple menorah (candelabrum) for only one day. The legend tells that this amount of oil burned, miraculously, for eight days, enough time for new suitable oil to be prepared. Hannukkah, which in Hebrew means "dedication," is therefore partly a celebration of the Jewish victory over oppression and the rededication of the Temple and Jewish peoplehood.

The seasonal roots of Hannukkah predate the historical. The practice of a festival of lights comes from an old Jewish nature festival, a winter solstice celebration, in which light is the central motif. At the time of year when the nights are longest and coldest, Jewish men and women and their friends gather to share in the lighting of candles in a menorah (symbol of a tree bearing light) over a period of eight days, increasing by one the number of candles on each successive day of the festival. The winter sun is rekindled, the miracle and wonder of light created out of darkness is celebrated, inspiring hope, joy, and an affirmation of life.

Because the Jewish calendar is based primarily on the moon, the dates of holidays vary each year. This year, the first day of Hannukkah begins on Monday, December 21st and the first of the eight candles is lit on Sunday night, the 20th, right at the time of solstice.

As a queer Jew, I see Hannukkah addressing being queer and being a Jew.

Jewish men and women at the time of the Maccabees, throughout history and still today, have been pressured to be just like everyone else or to give up or downplay their separate identity or to disappear altogether. Jews have survived those pressures and attempts at destroying them for being different.

So, too, throughout history and up to this very day, have dykes and queers been pressured to go straight or to hide in closets and disappear entirely. Lesbians and gay men have survived those attempts to destroy us for being different.

The Jews who asserted themselves 2400 years ago at this time of year in a victory of the weak over the strong and the few over the many fought back to claim their right to express themselves as a people spiritually, culturally, and politically. Lesbians and Gay men have also fought back (most notably, in our time, at Stonewall in 1969 and at San Francisco City Hall in 1979) to claim our right to express ourselves spiritually, culturally (I included sexuality here), and politically.

Hannukkah, for me, then, is a rededication to my Gay and Jewish identities, a reaffirmation of my Gay and Jewish pride, struggled for and maintained in the face of oppression and great odds. So, paraphrasing a Jewish prayer, I can give thanks at Hannukkah for being alive and having been sustained and brought to this moment, for being a witness to light in the darkness.

SHALOM (PEACE)

## Black Community Christmas

by David Williams

For most Afro-Americans, Christmas is a time for children, and it occurs to me that the adult partying that starts before Christmas and stretches beyond New Year's Day, is but one small result of the hope that we have had to invest in each generation. Until I was thirty years old, Christmas remained primarily (though less so each year) a family affair. Since then, it has been for me a time of separation. I grew up in the shadow of the Empire State Building, and here I am on the edge of the Park Panhandle. So while my Christmas's remain mainly Black, it is of what I have given up that I wish to speak.

Somehow, the tensions between Santa Claus and the real world from which my relatives had to wrest our presents was always real, if imperfectly understood by us. Once we began to speak, my sister and I ceased to believe in Santa Claus. Old Folks who asked us "what did Santy bring you?" were regarded as complete lunatics. Who else but our parents had gotten us all that stuff?

A friend of mine who grew up here likes to say, that in his neighborhood, everybody knew that no white man dressed all in red carrying a huge bag of custom-made goodies would be flying down chimneys in the middle of the night.



We didn't have a fireplace until I was fifteen. When it came time for me to buy presents, I paid the cost in search and payment, but it was still a fun time for me because I like to buy presents. I had a teaching job in those days, and used to fly home without fail, even when I was in London.

My father believes that the Church is the real center of the Black community, although as children we felt punished if the twenty-fifth fell on a Sunday, which meant not merely an 11 o'clock service, but the added duty of Sunday School which began at 9:30. Most of the time Heaven spared us this interruption of gaiety, allowing "Christmas Sunday" to precede the great day. Children had to perform Christmas Pageants, the Church was full — although not as full as at Easter — and all the Carols and Spirituals were sung.

Sometimes on that day, my sister and I avoided the kiddy chatter after Sunday School, and went up early to the Sanctuary, where the Stewardesses were decking it out and the old folk without family who had been brought out in plenty of time were singing the old Christmas Spirituals a cappella in the ancient style. Then the church would fill, the Organ sound, the choir proceed down the aisle and the minister appear. Thank Heaven "Joy to the World" was always sung, and all four verses which I still know by heart, in the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Paterson, New Jersey. My Aunt Mildred sings in the choir of the Calvary Baptist Church, which always sang Mr. Handel's Messiah on Sunday evening, and I always revelled in it.

The big event was still Aunt Martha's Christmas dinner. As I grew the dining room became less and less crowded due to the natural course of things, but it was always festive. For me the dish that signified Christmas was sweet potato pie. I firmly believe that every black family has at least one person who can do the thing to near perfection — in our family it was Grandma Maggie.

The truth of Christmas Day for Black people is that it is, for and by us — although there are exceptions. I once asked to bring a Dutch friend of mine, who had been my host in Amsterdam, home to Christmas dinner. My mother suggested that everyone would be uncomfortable. My father was plainer: "David, we have one day of the year when we can relax, and put aside the burden of the white world we have to deal with, to be with our own." So off I went with my friend to Connecticut to spend Christmas with old friends. Alas, one can't have everything, and while I respected my father's feelings at the time, I now know how he felt.

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