

Impact

GULF SOUTH GAY NEWS

VOL. 12, NO. 24

NOVEMBER 18—DECEMBER 8, 1988



ALIX DOBKIN TO APPEAR AT CHARLENE'S

Ladyslipper recording artist and lesbian performer Alix Dobkin will be appearing at Charlene's, 940 Elysian Fields Avenue, on Sunday, November 20 at 6 p.m. There will be a welcoming champagne party the day before, Saturday, November 19, at 7 p.m. Ms. Dobkin's musical style defies easy categorization: she claims influences as diverse as Pete Seeger and Burl Ives, Rodgers and Hammerstein and the Red Army Chorus.

This is her own account of her career: "Born in NYC on 16 August 1940, Sun-Mars, Pluto-Mercury in Leo, Capricorn rising and moon in the last two degrees of Aquarius.

"Became a professional part-time folksinger in Philadelphia while in college getting my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Tyler School of Fine Arts of Temple University. I graduated in 1962, moved to NYC and became a professional full-time folksinger, working steadily on the folk circuit of the northeast and midwest in the 1960's. My home base was Greenwich Village and the Gaslight Cafe, rich, creative musical environments, the birthplace of folk-rock on the east coast.

"Married in 1965 to the manager of the Gaslight Cafe and moved to Miami where we built the Gaslight South and ran it for a year. Top folk artists played there, including Odetta, Ian and Sylvia, Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Paxton and Simon & Garfunkel.

"In 1968 moved back to NYC where I played at Village clubs and signed a publishing contract for which I received a terrific advance.

"My baby, Adrian was born in 1970. Shortly afterwards I began writing and singing music specifically for women.

"In 1973 Kay Gardner and I produced the groundbreaking album, *Lavender Jane Loves Women*. I made *Living with Lesbians* in 1976, my second record, and *Xxalix* in 1980. In 1986, *These Women/ Never Been Better* was released. All of my albums are distributed by Ladyslipper Music along with Alix Dobkin's *Adventures in Women's Music (More Than Just A Songbook)*."

Admission to Ms. Dobkin's performance is \$5.

GAY PRIDE ANNOUNCES ITS DONATIONS

New Orleans Gay Pride, Inc. recently made presentations of checks totalling \$2,700.00 to the following organizations to help them continue their work in the community: United Services for AIDS, The Names Project, *Just For The Record*, Buzzy's Boys and Girls, The Darrell Hamby Memorial Food Bank, New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, Park and Parkway Commission.

The Financial Statement for Gay Pride Weekend, June 26 and 27, 1988, prepared October 14, 1988 is as follows:

Opening Balance	\$3,469.60
Income Revenues	20,917.57
Total Expenses	18,728.40
Balance	\$5,658.77

Breakdown: Revenues

Park Activity	\$2,970.00
Merchandise	14,766.00
Program Ads	2,900.00
Donations	281.57
Total Revenues	\$20,917.57

Breakdown: Expenses

Park Activity	\$14,795.46
Merchandise	3,932.94
Total Expenses	\$18,728.40

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JEWEL-LIKE GENEROSITY

Jewel's Tavern, 1207 Decatur, has begun a *Really Useful Cocktail Hour*. What this actually is is a rebate of sorts: Jewel's describes it as "an ambitious attempt to return money back to our local community." What the R.U. Cocktail Hour will do is, from Monday through Saturday from 4 until 8 p.m., rebate 25% of all monies collected for drinks (any kind of drink) to Community Relief for People with AIDS, a local organization which last year alone distributed \$71,000 to those in need. The bar says it will continue this until "as long as we're able. We're committed!"

KNIGHTS MOVE TO PHOENIX - BUT NOT ARIZONA

In conjunction with their monthly club night, the Knights d'Orleans have announced the hanging of their colors at the Phoenix, corner North Rampart and Elysian Fields, this coming November 18 from 9 p.m. until midnight. In addition to the hanging of their colors, the Knights will be sponsoring a \$3 beer bust (\$2 for leathermen) with a 50/50 raffle, assorted prizes, and a champagne toast at 10:30 p.m. The Knights wish to invite the entire community to join with them in celebrating their new home bar, and extend their appreciation to the Phoenix for their warm welcome.

HYSELL TO PRESENT 'NUTCRACKER'

Ballet Hysell will open this year's holiday season with its production extravaganza of *The Nutcracker*, music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, choreography and decor by Harvey Hysell. Over 130 adults and children appear in the lavish Hysell version of this Christmas classic. All of the cast, including the principal dancers, have been trained in, or were originally from, the New Orleans area.

Dancing the role of the Prince is Charles Scheyd of New Orleans. Mr. Scheyd began with the Hysell as a student and went on to the Houston Ballet School, the Deutsche Oper Berlin Ballet Company, and is currently working in New York, in television and off-Broadway productions.

Corinne Neenan, formerly of the Boston Ballet, will dance the Sugar Plum Fairy. She currently studies with the Ballet Hysell. Tyann Clement will recreate the role of the Snow Queen, originally performed by Russian ballerina Galina Panov in 1976 as guest star with the Hysell. Ms. Clement has studied with Hysell for six years and recently danced the Black Swan *pas de deux* in the company's June performance.

Noel Robicheaux will return to his native New Orleans to dance the Snow Prince and the lead Spanish dancer in the second act. Noel began his dancing career with Hysell and is currently an apprentice with the famous Dance Theatre of Harlem. Uncle Drosslemeyer will be played by Sidney Pampo, Jr., who was a featured dancer with the Hysell for several years; he is the owner of the Up-town and Riverbend Sidney's News-stands.

Other featured performers are Barak Humphrey, Kimberly Matulich, Deanna Doty, Christopher Miscenich, Mireille Hassenboehler, Cliff Farrish, Anita Howell, Elizabeth McKee, Susan May, Carey Mackie, Michael Clair, Rachel

Fanning and Erin Healin.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, December 2 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 3 at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. Location is the auditorium of Building 1 at Delgado Community College, 615 City Park Avenue. Tickets are \$4 for students and senior citizens, and \$8 for adults. Information at 895-3113.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS NEWS

Here are some of the more interesting bits of news garnered from a recent issue of the *D.A.I.R. Update* (Documentation of AIDS Issues and Research Foundation, Inc.).

Africa: In Tanzania, married men are twice as likely as their wives to have AIDS, according to a government Health and Social Welfare Ministry survey released recently. The survey included 3,225 people with AIDS and found that married men made up 30% of the total while married women made up 12%. Widowers were least likely to be infected, accounting for only 1%.

"Even if the transmission of the virus was stopped right now, hundreds of thousands of Ugandans will die of AIDS by the year 2000," writes Dr. Richard Goodgame, a US missionary and medical consultant at a teaching hospital at Kampala. Just since February, cases have increased by 45% to some 4,001 (according to the government, Goodgame says it is more like 4,500).

The government-run Ugandan newspaper *New Vision* says a cult centering on the Virgin Mary and connected with AIDS was emerging in the southwestern part of the country, which has a high infection rate. A girl named Speciosa Mukantana claims to have seen an apparition of the Virgin Mary on Mbuye Hill last year; the B.V.M. told her that the end of the world was imminent and that God had sent AIDS as a punishment; She also told the girl that Mbuye Hill should become a shrine like Lourdes.

Asia: A.S. Paintal, head of the Indian government's Council for Medical Research has called for a legally enforced ban on sex between Indians and foreigners to control AIDS. "It is only from foreigners that we get this disease. So I advised the government to outlaw sexual contacts between Indians and foreigners. [Since all of those who have tested positive in India were foreigners or were Indians who had sexual contact with foreigners] it is therefore quite logical to prevent our people from having sex with the foreigners." Paintal recommended a three-month jail term and a 20,000 rupee (\$1500 US) fine for violators of the proposed legislation.

Although the Ministry of Law said such a law would violate the right to privacy, Paintal replied with truly Indian logic: "We do have laws banning hashish and people still do take the drug. But if we catch nine offenders and let one get away, that will be enough of a deterrent."

Europe: A Polish insurance company is offering what it says is the world's first insurance against AIDS to those who can prove they do not have the disease; offered by the Westa insurance cooperative in Lodz, Poles must produce a certificate proving they do not carry HIV. Policy holders who later contract AIDS can claim a mon-

thly payment or a lump sum. The caseload in Poland is tiny thus far: 72 cases, three deaths.

The city of Stockholm has canceled plans to lock up PWA's in a deserted mansion on the island of Adelsö, 12 miles to the west of the city. The city council rejected the idea as unnecessary for medical reasons, but pressure from residents of Adelsö, an affluent suburb, probably had as much to do with the plan's abandonment. Swedish law does permit 'restraint and isolation' of people with infectious diseases if courts assume that it is likely that the patient would deliberately infect others.

Cuba: The country's National Department of Epidemiology reports that "the spread of the HIV virus among the Cuban population is very slow thanks to a national program of early detection and isolation [of carriers]." Nearly 20% of Cuba's population of 10,000,000 has been tested, "possibly the highest percentage worldwide." Testing shows 230 people infected of whom 34 have died. Officials claim Cuba is better off than most countries because of few IV drug users, prostitutes, homosexuals and because of better government-subsidized health care. The same report predicted that the country would have 300 people with HIV incarcerated by the end of the year, of whom about 50 would have developed AIDS.

A REAL LIFE CAGNEY & LACEY?

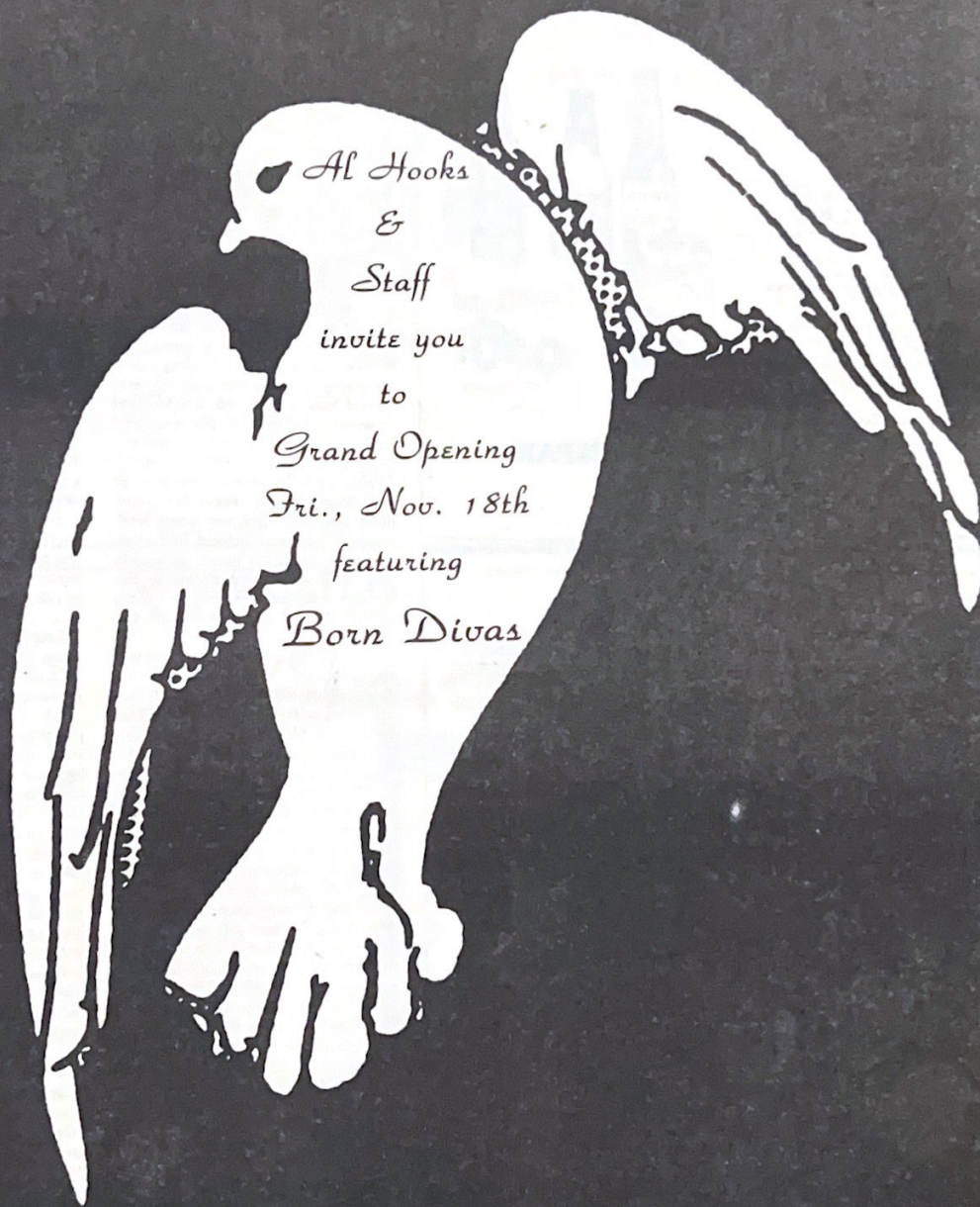
In Bhopal, India (that lovely town that Union Carbide practically had to buy a few years ago after killing off nearly everyone in it), press coverage and scores of protest letters have resulted in the reinstatement of two policewomen who were dismissed from the force after they got married to each other. Bhopal's Inspector General, who reinstated the women, generously remarked that "Speaking personally, I must state that I feel there is nothing immoral in such liaisons." His largesse was limited to the verbal: he ordered the women to have thorough physical examinations to ensure that there was nothing 'abnormal' about them.

The women, Urmilla Srivastava and Leela Namdeo, were married according to traditional Hindu ritual in front of family and friends, reportedly because the marriage ceremony made the relationship easier to take for Srivastava's family where Namdeo had assumed the traditional role of daughter-in-law.

After the women were dismissed from their jobs, human and gay rights groups from Delhi and Bombay mounted publicity and letter-writing campaigns; after reports in the gay press around the world, more letters arrived in protest of the women's dismissal from their jobs.

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Impact

Charlene's Column

by Charlene Schneider

Well, I'm sure we all agree on one thing, "It is over, and thank you very much but we don't want to hear anything about an election for ten years." Yet, already Jesse Jackson and Edwin Edwards are starting to stir, I don't really mind, I guess, if they do it quietly...very quietly.

As you know, my team lost but to be perfectly honest, I don't feel devastated by this loss, but even my Republican friends must admit there is something disgusting about a gloating Buchanan, Novak, Robertson and Hatch, not to mention that Schlafly girl!

But I plan on joining hands with our new President, in fact my letters to my Senators and Congressmen are already in the mail! I expect them to respect Mr. Bush's non-mandate: I want crime eliminated, I want criminals to stay behind bars, I want the environment cleaned up, I want drugs off our streets, I want a strong defense, I want peace in the world, I want day care and health insurance raised at least to that level of third world countries. But read my lips: don't you dare raise my taxes! Mark Green, the political humorist, had a funny line in one of his recent shows. He said, "Bush says he is not going to raise any new taxes, and he's not, he's going to raise the old ones," and that's just about it!

Honestly though, I just don't feel that old devastation, maybe it's because of the candidates and their campaigns. You may disagree but Rev. Jerry Falwell set the pace of Mr. Bush's campaign with the comic book he distributed at the Republican Convention and then steadily declined into a campaign of distortion and lies. But I also have to question the fact that my candidate was not savvy enough to take them on right away and answer the allegations with the hard facts, it also seems to me that my candidate had the impression he could do it all by himself! When you run as a candidate on "the people's side," which is what so many people were looking for, you have to do it before you are down 14 points in the polls. What is going to happen to this country financially is going to happen anyway, and to be perfectly honest, if the bottom falls out as predicted, I'd rather it be their man and not mine!

My reason for hope is the fact that again the majority in Washington will be Democratic which means it will be harder to get another Bork on the Supreme Court. But believe me, the religious right is not real enthused about Mr. Bush. Quayle was their man but they're afraid Bush will go further to the center (as he once was) and agree that although he is against abortion, he feels that it is a woman's choice. These kinds of appointments to the Supreme Court would just devastate Dale Evans and Pat Robertson.

But as they were speaking, there are perhaps some things you missed during the non-issue campaign:

The B-1 bomber has been grounded. The Bradley Tank is being reinvestigated and tested. SDI funding was cut in half. The Veterans Administration has been upgraded to a cabinet-level position.

If these issues sound familiar, they should, they were part of the Democratic platform for which Dukakis was so vehemently attacked.

Today the federal government recalled farmers' loans, just a week after the election, and the SuperCollider was awarded to the state of Texas... politics...of course, then you have to wonder who would have gotten it if the Democrats had won the White House? 52 of 56 Stealth Bombers have been delivered to our government and released for duty, but we haven't seen one fly, all we get is a picture and a bad one at that! We do know that three of them have crashed and that each one costs billions. During the announcement of this open secret, word was received that while on maneuvers two planes ran into each other. It makes you wonder, what kind of planes were they?

Regardless, this is a wonderful country we live in, and agree or not, my hope is that all of our energies are united in making this the kind of country that lives up to Liberty and Justice for All.

★ ★ ★

Like water dripping on heads...but I'm going to remind you, save those toys because December is upon us and our expectations run high this year.

As all of you know, the toys are distributed at the City Council chamber but we don't restrict ourselves to toys, we'll take canned foods (these will be split between Lazarus House and the Darell Hamby Food Bank), diapers, baby food, items for the sick and elderly.

And I am proud to announce that John at Van Gogh's Ear called me and now you won't have to go out of the Quarter to drop off the items. He had kindly donated the shop as a drop-off point. It was wonderful getting help without having to ask—because I was going to. Any other business place out there that would like to help, hey, we would love it.

★ ★ ★

It was just announced that the Supreme Court will reconsider Roe v. Wade. If you aren't thinking, "God! What's next?!" you haven't been paying attention.



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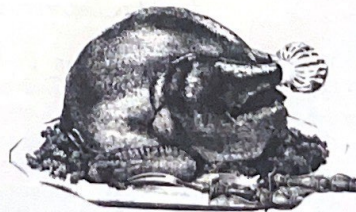
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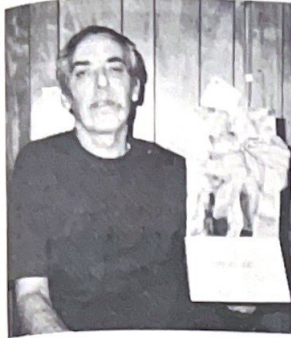
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MACKENZIE SUCKLES A REAL HONEY



Located at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Royal Streets, across the street from Gary (Hair-Color-of-the-Month-Club) Clay's 2601 is the newest restaurant in town, Honeysuckle A Cafe. Ya can't miss it, especially if you have an eye for simple good taste in food and decor.

Owner Bill MacKenzie has not laid an egg in his creation of the newest and most in of Bywater-border eateries. Although he is keeping Melba Carondelet off the premises until the official report on her liposuction comes back or she goes on the Oprah Winfrey Diet, the rest of the community can enjoy one of the best and most attractive little neighborhood restaurants in the area, and one of the only ones between Elysian Fields and Poland Avenue—a culinary wasteland...till now.

Cruising down Royal Street one can see the extensive "from the ground up" renovations. Through the Royal Street window, a warm and inviting hand-crafted, wood-toned bar with eight stools is visible and via the Franklin Avenue window, tables, high ceiling with six ceiling fans and wood parquet floors. The whole effect is clean, tasteful and charming. Judged by the crowds of diners in evidence since the recent opening, the key word seems to be *inviting*. But let's hear all about it from Bill MacKenzie himself.

Q Mr. MacKenzie, what made you decide to open a cafe at that mythical site?

A My bookkeeper. He said that we had a steal. I went to look at it. I really didn't need another business, but the price was right. I had offers to sell without even opening the doors, but I made the fatal mistake of telling good friend Peter Thomas, who claimed I fucked him when I sold him the Crepe Shoppe, which is now Petunia's. He wanted half of it, so I sold him half and he said OK, let's make it \$20,000 and you get ten and I get ten. But when the car went through the window...

Q Car went through what window? What does that mean?

A On a Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. We all claimed it was Shiveley, you know, Petunia Pussywither, because we had let him go...like on Saturday, and the car crash happened on a Sunday morning [laughter]. Who else could we suspect? Like the little guy who ran the truck into Laffite's, You know, the one who had diplomatic immunity. [More laughter.]

Q Why the name Honeysuckle?

A Well, we had all kinds of names. Leon Impastato, the architect, suggested that because we saw a banana boat

down Franklin Avenue on the river, and the whole effect looked soooo southern, and we thought we should name it something simple and southern...It has nothing to do with Honeysuckle Rose. It's just Honeysuckle A Cafe. Has nothing to do with the character, Honeysuckle Rose from Hawaii, who hands out at my other place, the Round Up. She sells snatch, I sell food. [Explosions of laughter.] Jim Shiveley is now our official Food Consultant. She's proven she can do it and we are all behind her. No one knows the food business better than Petunia Shiveley Pussywither.

Q Describe the decor, what you did to the place.

A Leon Impastato was in between the two, that is, Tom Wood's new place, Good Friends, and Honeysuckle. I didn't want a place that was Tom Woodsy, but I wanted a place that was classy and in good taste, but not overstuffed and too formal. Just a neighborhood place that was neat and clean, and served food at neighborhood prices. Leon was the architect and gets credit for the decor. He raised the ceilings and arranged for the original moulding and wood bar, bar stools, tables, the whole warm ambience. Peter Thomas and I are the owners and only us. Miss Shiveley is the Food Consultant. We put her in the kitchen where she belongs and does her best. In a way we almost have a Petunia's In Exile at Honeysuckle.

Q What kind of food will you be serving?

A Neighborhood, price-wise and variety-wise. We came up with a simple menu. Breakfast that starts at \$1.75 and the highest-priced item for dinner is a filet mignon for \$9.95. We will have a blackboard that offers daily specials for \$3.95. We intend to offer seasonal items, fresh and cooked to the specs of Petunia Pussywither. We intend to keep her



away from 2601. She got her diploma and graduated as Food Consultant and she's one of the best in the business—a good woman with a good heart. Joan MacKenzie Crawford will keep her on the wagon. There's going to be a lot of pork on the menu. After all, we just have to cook one of her buns and we can feed Napoleon's army for a week. [Great giggles.] Unless Melba Carondelet dies in the kitchen, then we could feed an entire continent with pork for a month. [Howling shrieks of mirth.] We're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Q How would you describe the clientele?

A We have a very mixed, neighborhood clientele.

Q How's the bar?

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wild ruckus in the background. Around the corner, yelling "sooey! sooey!" and leading fifteen squealing Yorkshire piglets was Melba Carondelet, in swineherd drag a la grecque. Battering on the door, she yelled above the noises of the herd, "Here's yuh fresh pork! If ah'm gonna eat here I don't expect yuh to run outta chops!" As I sped off, I could Jim Shiveley trying to calm the diners and lock the door, simultaneously.

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Patrick Shannon

I left soon after this interview and headed to Honeysuckle A Cafe, and, greeted warmly by Peter Thomas (sitting at the bar with the irrepressible Joan Float) and La Pussywith, sat at a table and partook of a small, delicious soup of house salad, gumbo, fried mushrooms, country fried steak with cream potatoes and white gravy, and a small salver of dessert, consisting of cheese cake, black forest cake, a sinful dark chocolate cake and pecan pie, much of it, La Shiveley informed me, made by a dear little old lady in Chalmette named Tootie.

Staggering out to the car, I saw Miss Clay dash out of 2601 with a giant ball of fluff. I thought at first it was either Petunia Pussywith in a shag piglet costume or Miss Clay's old split ends brought to life. But no, it was Miss Clay's constant companion, Mange. A huge, charming dog. As I stopped to stroke the beast, I heard a

SMITHSONIAN TO ACQUIRE NAMES PROJECT PANELS

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will acquire several commemorative panels collected by the Names Project for its AIDS Memorial Quilt. The acquisition will take place over a period of time in an effort to document the diversity of those who have died from AIDS. The quilt panels will be added to the collections of the Division of Medical Sciences, which has an ongoing interest in issues related to the history of public health in the United States. Museum Director Roger G. Kennedy in speaking about this acquisition, said, "The AIDS Memorial Quilt is significant not only as a symbol of those who have died, but also as one aspect of the country's response to that loss."

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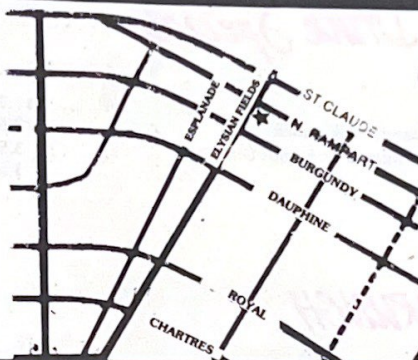


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Impact

LIFE ON THE WICKED STAGE

By Ed Real

The diversity of recent openings on the city's stages makes one long for more frequent publication: how does one find a common thread on which to hand commentary about such widely works as *Elvis*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Salome*, the female version of *The Odd Couple* and *King Lear*? Just seeing them all in a limited period of time staggers the mind.

At least three of the aforementioned works do fall easily into a single category: mercenary exploitation. Regardless of the quality of the productions, their creators' motives are questionable. *Elvis*: A Musical Celebration is just one more commercial rip-off the kind of folks who would buy black velvet portraits of the rockabilly king or canned air supposedly taken from the tires of one of his Cadillacs. *The Odd Couple*, while genuinely hilarious and one of the prolific playwright's best, has been the most overworked of Neil Simon's plays. It has been on Broadway twice, a movie, two television series (black and white), and a perennial favorite of community and dinner theatres. But schlockmeister Simon, ever ready to get a little more mileage out of a proven commodity, has recast the comedy for females (personally, I've never seen any reason to seek out novelty by trying anything with women). More objectionable is Simon's exploitation of the audience with *Biloxi Blues*. In *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, the old hit-maker finally won some literary respect as well as popularity. If the adventures of Eugene Jerome is what it takes, he seems to have reasoned, let's give them some more. Unfortunately, the subsequent plays in the BB trilogy serve only as a form of character assassination.

Eugene does not develop in *Biloxi Blues*. One almost feels that the author was afraid to tamper with his charmingly naive, likeable teenager, and as Eugene grows older—experiencing sex, love and conflict in the world at large—he essentially remains a naive, passive teenager and thus a rather irritating character (the problem grows worse in *Broadway Bound*). To sidestep this problem, Simon gives us yet another alter-ego in the form of Arnold Epstein, also a Jewish recruit, but more intellectual and less

passive—here is a character who makes decisions and acts on them. I think *Biloxi Blues* would be a stronger play if Simon had found some way to combine these two characters. Instead, we get a central character who merely reacts (mildly) to a series of incidents around him, and those incidents are essentially gratuitous since they don't grow out of any central action. The tough drill sergeant goes bonkers for no apparent reason; a relatively minor character is suddenly discovered to be homosexual and court-martialed; Epstein and others are victims of apparently random injustice—all the while our hero takes notes and draws often incorrect conclusions.

While I really detest the play itself, the production Le Petit has mounted of *Biloxi Blues* is one of the finest I have seen at the theatre. The entire cast is excellent, and under the direction of Elizabeth Barron, it has achieved an entertaining reading of the material. I enjoyed this staging far more than the touring company which passed through a couple of seasons back. Douglas Leal is an appealing Eugene, seemingly striving to give the character more growth than Simon gave him. Ron Williams, in a considerable change of pace, invests the demented sergeant with some human dimensions (it is interesting to note that Simon has oddly enough made this crazy somewhat tolerant of gays which is completely out of character). Larry Hesdorffer is quite good as the troubled and troubling Epstein; Kim Landon has an effective cameo as a Biloxi hooker and the supporting roles are all well conceived and executed. The setting by Bruce Manuel is a fine evocation in chain link of the drabness and sterility of army life. Thus the production itself is a truly admirable achievement, turning an overlong and poorly written play into entertaining theatre.

Simon is usually a lot more likable when he doesn't aim for depth, and *The Odd Couple* has about as much depth as a floor tile. I've been avoiding this too-frequently produced property for years, but I was lured to the Bayou Dinner Theatre's female version by the presence of that fine comedienne, Janet Shea, in

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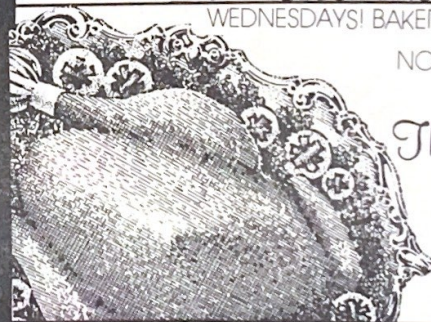
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the role of the slovenly Olive. Not only did Ms. Shea live up to expectations, but her co-star Cindee Shaffer proved to be a perfect foil as the compulsively neat Florence. The two are a joy to watch together (in their second pairing of the season), so artfully timed are their reactions to each other. And when Rob Cunningham and Charles (Rabbi) Williams join them as the Spanish Costazuela brothers, the hilarity increases exponentially. I seldom laugh hard in the theatre, but this foursome ranks right up there with such ticklers as the Marx Brothers. Dana Cusimano, Mary Klein, Nita Beecher and Sandi Broussard complete the excellent cast for this strongest outing yet at the Bayou, which has been deftly directed by Stocker Fontellieu.

Performance cannot always cover up the shortcomings of a theatrical work; sometimes a show's faulty concept covers up the performers. Such was the case with *Elvis: A Musical Celebration* which opened the Saenger's season. I felt like I was watching MTV on a giant screen as one meaningless image replaced another *ad nauseam* in a barrage of visual gimmickry clearly designed for people whose attention span is about three seconds. I can only imagine the effective use of the techniques employed here, I've certainly never seen them. I'm still wondering what Elvis had to do with the A bomb and the Andrews Sisters.

And no, I'm not being snobbish about the subject and his music (after all, I was a teenage Mississippian during his meteoric rise to fame). It's just that this show had no attitude or insight into the life or career of this charismatic entertainer. I don't know if the impersonators were charismatic or not, since there was so much visual junk hiding their efforts.

It was not concept which made it difficult to judge the performance of Richard Strauss' *Salome* at the New Orleans Opera; it was the audience. This study of obsessive-compulsive behavior is in one act for a reason: the emotional effect depends entirely on the uninterrupted, undeviating attention to the theatrical object. This is impossible when audience members are still making their entrances up to an hour into the performance, accompanied by loud conversations among themselves and with equally guilty ushers. I hope those who came to the opera solely to be seen during intermission got their comeuppance when they discovered there was none. Some patrons near me gave up in despair and left because they couldn't appreciate the work under such conditions.

In spite of such distractions, the production seemed to be an adequate one musically, if not dramatically. Ideally one hopes to see *Salome* progress from wantonly curious teenager, to maturity when aroused by Jokanaan, to weary and spent hag after her grisly triumph. Marilyn Zschau's, while often singing effectively, dramatically progresses from step one to two, then back again.

Mignon Dunn was a stellar Herodias, James Johnson a strong sound and presence as Jokanaan, but Paul Crook's Herod was distinguished more by the evocation of eccentricity in his acting than by vocal tone. The lurid colors of David Gano's setting seemed appropriate to the focus of David Morelock's staging, and Miro Belmaric had the full sounding orchestra firmly under control.

Continuing this weekend, to be reviewed in our next issue, is *King Lear*, as staged by Thomas Atkins for the fifth annual Louisiana Shakespeare festival. Audley Keck stars as Lear, with a supporting cast of such familiar players as Cassie Steck, Elaine Partnow, Jim Stacy

and Hamilton Armstrong. Since the demanding work has not been presented locally for nearly fifty years, it offers a rare opportunity for local playgoers.



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PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING: YEAR-END TAX TIPS

by David W. Schwarz

Remember when its adherents proclaimed that, if passed, the 1986 Tax Reform Act would mean a simpler return for individual taxpayers? Well, on the surface, the 1988 return fulfills the promise. Prior to reform there were eleven different brackets, and anywhere from 11 to 50% of taxable income went to Uncle Sam. But this year's return will provide just two brackets, at 15% and 28%.

Simpler right? Yet there's a tricky 5% surcharge that gets tacked on to taxable income above specifically defined levels—so you can end up in a 33% bracket. A major goal of year-end tax planning is to avoid the surcharge or at least reduce its bite. Here are some moves that can help if you act before December 31.

Pay off your personal debt. In 1988 only 40% of interest paid on such personal credit as credit cards, car loans and student loans is deductible (it was 65% on 1987 and will be 20% in 1989). If you can't eliminate all of your debt with a line of credit or a loan at an interest rate that is lower than what your credit cards offer.

Maximize deductions. Before December 31, you should consider paying all local real estate taxes owed from 1988. Also pay an estimated last-quarter income tax owed the state or city. Paying early gives you a 1988 deduction.

Aggregate deductible expenses. This tried-and-true tax management technique takes on more importance now, because you have to reach specific levels before you can deduct

certain expenses. Grouping unreimbursed employee business expenses, tax preparation and income production needs in one year may help you come out ahead.

Beware of the "kiddie tax." If you are a parent, you used to be able to invest for a child, and any earnings would be taxed at the child's rate. No more. Children under age 14 who have unearned income of more than \$1,000 are taxed at the parents' marginal rate (not the child's rate). But children 14 and older are taxed at their own rates. Parents who want to invest for young children may want to consider investments such as growth mutual funds that pay small dividends or municipal bond funds with nontaxable income.

Offset capital gains against capital losses. Beginning in 1988, net capital gains will be taxed at the same rates as ordinary income, so keeping a close eye on your portfolio as the year winds down can pay off next April 15. For example, if you have a net capital gain for the year, the IRS will tax it at your ordinary income tax rate—33% or 28%. Can you avoid it? Yes, it's still possible to offset capital gains 100% against capital losses. Each year you can use up to \$3,000 of capital losses (after the offset against capital gains) to offset ordinary income, with infinite carryforward.

Use passive losses to offset passive income. You can deduct passive losses against passive income from the same or another passive investment. For example, if you expect that your oil and gas limited partnership will generate passive losses in 1988, consider investing now in a passive income-producing product to offset your passive losses.

Know your tax liability. Long before April 15, 1989, you should determine what you'll owe the IRS, given your current financial situation. By looking at your financial situation and consulting your tax adviser or accountant before year end, you'll still have some time to take steps to help reduce that liability.

DRAG ON DAYTIME TV?

A recent Los Angeles Times release in the *Picayune*, headlined "Santa Barbara gets more offbeat" revealed that the NBC daytime soap will use its ace in the hole for sweeps month—"male cross dressing!" Says the article: "On November 14, the producers will put women's clothes on brawny gangster Bunny Tagliatti, played by Joe Marinelli. The heterosexual thug will begin 'dressing up' as a disguise, find that he likes it and eventually take his compulsion to a shrink...Marinelli, dress size 12, said he is 'thrilled' about his new character: 'It's the role of a lifetime—both comic and serious. I never thought I'd wear women's clothing, even on Halloween.' Santa Barbara costume designer Richard Bloore said that the actor 'will be wearing evening attire with bugle beads and gold lame and daytime wear with ruffles. Pretty much off-the-rack stuff, upscale Mr. Frank and Nordstroms.' Walking in heels has not been a problem, Marinelli added, 'but the panty hose is a little difficult to get on.'"

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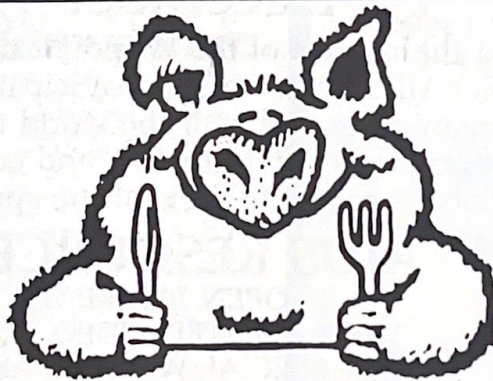


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PLANETARY IMPACT

by Laurence of New Orleans

Is there a happy harvest of planets in store for us? You bet your gblets! We'll have plenty to be thankful for the next couple of weeks, pilgrim. That usually bothersome 'turkey,' Saturn, won't be giving you 'the bird' for once, while bountiful Jupiter bestows his blessing on a full moon in fun-loving Gemini on the eve of Thanksgiving. Hopes will run high. Gains and prosperity could put you in the gravy.

You can also expect some sugar and spice to tickle your 'wish bone.' Sweet potato Venus gives pleasure to the celebration, and cranberry red Mars (now closest to the earth) adds tartness and zest to living before the month is through. You will feel peppy and strong.

There is only one catch to all of this. The stars now incline you to overdo everything: eating, spending too much or pushing your luck. But avoid too much of a good thing, and this time will be as easy as pumpkin pie!

Happy Birthday Sagittarius!

Archers who are aiming at the heart of anyone special will hit their mark right now, as well as in the coming year generally. You could hit the bullseye in a business merger too.

Capricorn: You'll get lots done if you take control at home or in your private life. But short of burning the candle at both ends, be sure to socialize also, as you will have great fun!

Aquarius: You'll be buzzing around all over the place, making friends (and vice versa), but just remember, a rolling stone gathers no moss. A close relationship is possible, maybe at

work.

Pisces: The more you put into your work, the more rewarding it will be financially. Yet you may be too distracted by enjoyable affairs at home. (You can get into enjoyable affairs if you travel too.)

Aries: "Over the hills and through the woods to grandma's house" or anywhere you damn please! You'll be on the move, covering all kinds of interesting territory, some of it beneath the covers.

Taurus: You can have sincere, romantic affection if you want it, but something earthier or more forbidden may appeal to you instead. Your appetite for sex and money will be strong.

Gemini: It's no time to be shy (not that you are!) You'll get along beautifully with everybody and spread yourself even thinner than usual. Relations at work may be lighthearted too.

Cancer: These are good days to mix business with pleasure, or at least go out after work. Your dating scene should be fine, which you will appreciate even more after a job well done.

Leo: Far away places may beckon you for love and recreation, or else you'll be lured by strange faces and new bodies. Your home will seem especially relaxing to you afterward.

Virgo: Peace of mind, financial security, and recognition are all within your reach. Give thanks for what you have, even if it's only wishful thinking: a few bucks in your purse and cruising you!

Libra: Any messages you need to put across will be heard loud and clear. This is an excellent time to improve your mind in some way, even

grow spiritually. Buy anything pretty.

Scorpio: If you are at all friendly, others will be attracted to you this month. Physical and financial strength can be yours. Guard your belongings and try to finalize business deals.

The Best Sign

Sagittarians were born lucky. They never have to worry about tomorrow because even when they don't plan ahead, they always end up with more than most people start out with! Jupiter aids their material good fortune, so they are seldom in want for anything for very long. It seems that everything they need just automatically comes their way.

Even when they take chances at gambling, they usually win. If you were born under Sagittarius and are poor and unlucky, see what you're missing?

The ancient zodiacal symbol for these creatures is the centaur, half-man, half-horse (wow!) This is because they like to romp around freely. They often like horses, which is especially true of horses born under this sign.

They don't like to cover up. That doesn't make them nudists. It just means they are so frank and candid, they have a hard time being secretive. Even when their fly is zipped, they are wide open. If there is one big fault with Sagittarius, it's his honesty. (They should try to be more like most people.) But everything else about them is absolutely perfect. They are adventuresome, daring, chivalrous, zealous, cavalier and real 'straight shooters.' An inspiration to all!

No wonder they're so cheerful, optimistic, happy and good-natured. Who in the hell wouldn't be with a horoscope reading like this?

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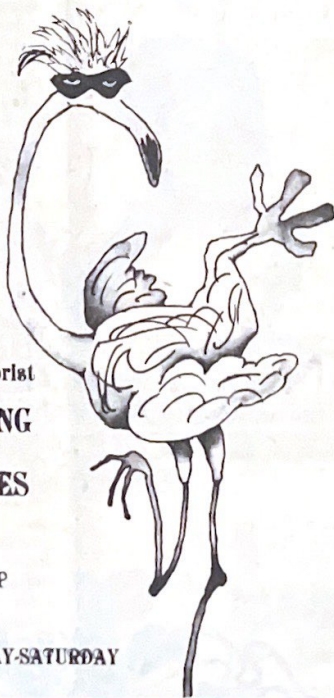
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JUST HOW MANY QUEERS ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

From a story in The News published by the Atlanta Gay Center.

A consensus has never been reached as to the number of gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals in the US; such numerical reckoning can have political consequences. When New York City recently drastically reduced the official estimate of the number of people infected with HIV, declaring that the number of gay men in the city was only 50% of what had previously been estimated, the city was able to justify spending even less money on AIDS prevention/education. Similar reasoning is encouraged by the Republican bureaucracy. Curiously, the New York City estimates were based on a door-to-door survey conducted in San Francisco indicating that there were only half as many gay men as previously estimated.

Getting an accurate count is difficult at best and impossible at worst. Defensiveness on the part of the gay, lesbian and bisexual population may distort the answers given to researchers. Most surveys are likely to underestimate the actual numbers. Such defensiveness is often justified. Paul Cameron, the professional homophobe who was expelled from the American Psychological Association for unethical distortion of research data in his attacks on gay people, conducted several sex surveys used to his homophobic ends. Even he found that at least 5.8% of those questioned admitted to being homosexual or bisexual!

The best presently existing data on the

incidence of homosexuality was generated during the late Thirties and early Forties by Alfred Kinsey and his research team. His study involved lengthy personal interviews which allowed the researcher to gain confidence of the interviewee. He and his team found that 4% of the men interviewed were exclusively homosexual throughout life and another 13% were more than incidentally homosexual for at least three years after the age of 16. Furthermore, 37% of all males had engaged in sex with another male to the point of orgasm. Kinsey found that the rate of homosexual behavior in women was about half that of men.

The problems with using Kinsey's data in the 1980's is twofold: first, the data was collected over forty years ago during a sexually repressive era; second, Kinsey's sampling techniques have been criticized. Most of the people he interviewed were white, middle-class, college educated and Midwestern. He was also accused of interviewing too many prisoners, a group well-known for homosexual behavior. Therefore, on the one hand, we may be underestimating the number of gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals because of the sexual revolution that came after Kinsey's study. On the other, we may be overestimating homosexual behavior among the white middle class by having too many prisoners in the sample. We still know little about sexual behavior in minority populations in general and homosexual behavior in specific.

To respond to the problems of the earlier studies, the Kinsey Institute launched a large random sampling of the general population's sexual behavior in 1970. The Kinsey Institute contracted



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the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to collect the information through personal interviews. NORC operates under the auspices of the University of Chicago.

The project quickly ran into trouble. In a test study of 300 interviews, it became clear that valid responses were not being given to the questions. According to Allen Klassen, one of the Kinsey's principle investigators, "...questioning of selected NORC field personnel reveals that, at best, they were uncomfortable with and, at worst, opposed to asking the sexual behavior questions." As a result, the NORC field personnel were to ask some general attitude questions about sexual behaviors and to give the individuals a questionnaire about their sexual behavior to be answered in private. Consequently, says Klassen, "a sizable number of people refused to answer some of these questions." On some questions, up to 47% refused. Therefore, the survey's value was limited, according to Dr. June Reinisch, the current director of the Kinsey Institute.

The results of the 1970 survey have not been published to date. Evidently there was a conflict over the report's authorship that has held up even the finding of a publisher for over ten years.

In spite of the problems noted with the 1970 sex survey, the University of Chicago and the Centers for Disease Control undertook a study using the same basic methodology of the earlier study to estimate the number of people at risk for AIDS as a result of multiple partners or at-risk behavior. Between February and April, 1988, NORC conducted the General Social Survey of opinion about significant social issues since 1972. The sampling was designed to get a representative cross section of the opinions of individuals 18 and older living in the US. As a part of the survey, the participants were given a one-page sexual partners questionnaire which was to be returned in a sealed envelope.

The questionnaire asked about the number of different sexual partners the participants had had during the preceding year and if these partners were male, female or both. Only 77.3% of the people returned the questionnaire. 21 1/2% of those returning the questionnaire denied having sex with anyone at all during the preceding year.

Of the 504 men indicating that they were sexually active during the preceding year, 2.8% (14 men) reported having exclusively male partners and another two men (0.8%) reported having both male and female sex. Six of the 16 men reporting having gay sex were currently married and another two had been previously been married. An additional 5.6% of 504 males indicating that they were sexually active during the preceding twelve months refused to answer the questions about the sex of their partners.

Of the 567 women reporting being sexually active during the preceding year, only one reported having only female partners. None reported having both male and female partners. 4% refused to indicate the sex of their partners during the preceding year.

Unsurprisingly, the validity of the 1988 study is questioned by its own authors for the same reasons that have plagued sex research even before Kinsey's studies. As a result, policy makers and researchers are still without an accurate estimate of sexual behavior in the US or numerical reckoning of gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals. In order to get accurate data, people have to be

willing to answer sensitive questions. NORC and CDC are conducting further studies with larger samples to "assess the validity of responses to sensitive questions about sexual activities..." The biggest obstacle to this is the unwillingness of the government to foot the bill for any sort of sexual research, much less the high cost large scale sex surveys collected through personal interviews by highly trained interviewers. Until such research is conducted, estimates of the number of gay, lesbian and bisexual people in this country are subject to "bashing" by bad research.



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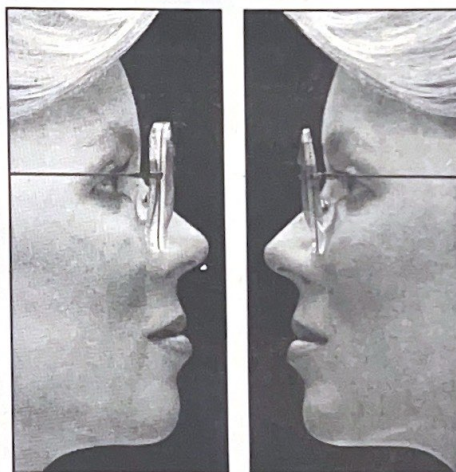
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ILLINOIS ACTIVISTS 'TOSS' GOVERNOR OUT OF CLOSET

Chanting "Out of the bars and into the streets" and "Two four six eight, what makes you think your governor's straight?" 250 angry AIDS activists marched to the Chicago mansion of Illinois governor James Thompson on 26 September. The candlelit demonstration was in protest of Illinois House Bill 4005, the so-called 'secret AIDS testing' measure signed by Thompson on September 2. Arriving at the mansion in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, the protestors chanted, "Hey, Big Jim, come out of the closet!" Lights were on in the mansion but only a grey and white cat appeared, in an open upstairs window. Yelling, "Shame! shame! shame!" the crowd sailed paper airplanes of protest letters into the governor's yard.

At a pre-march meeting, Tim Drake of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force had told activists, "We're tired of being abused by closet cases in the state government." Paul Adams of Chicago for AIDS Rights added, "We want Thompson to remember his roots—to remember from whence he came. We don't want him to hurt the people that he's been a part of—that he belongs to." Adams carried a poster of a gay leatherman with a caption reading, "Remember Me, Big Jim?" A reporter for the mainstream media commented that it is "common knowledge in the newsroom" that Thompson, who is married and has a young daughter, is a homosexual.

State Senator Ellis Levin also addressed the pre-march gathering, calling H.B.4005 "the single most repressive piece of legislation to ever bear the governor's signature... You could not possibly concoct a measure more likely to spread AIDS or to keep people from going to the doctor." The 'secret AIDS testing' portion of H.B. 4005 was tacked on as an amendment by conservative state senator Penny Pullen during the final two days of the state's most recent legislative session. It allows doctors to test for HIV without prior knowledge or consent of the patient. The ACLU is now looking for clients to challenge the law in court; the proposition has been vehemently opposed by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Health Department, and by various gay and AIDS groups in the state.

The only support for the bill came in the form of lobbying from the Illinois State Medical Society which was—surprise—a contributor to Governor Thompson's campaign war chest to the tune of \$115,000. Illinois AIDS activists declared September 26, Who Owns Jim Thompson Day?

The idea of "tossing out of the closet" homosexual public figures who work against the interests of gay and AIDS rights movements was given an unofficial green light at last February's 'war conference' of gay and lesbian leaders. Activists in Dallas promptly "tossed out" far-right extremist-cum-publicist Phyllis Schlafly's son who they said out to them during the 1984 Republican convention. Shortly thereafter, New York activist Andy Humm "retossed" Brooklyn Catholic Archbishop Magavero in an interview with the Chicago newspaper, *Outlines*.

ELECTION POSTMORTEM: THE CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 102, the state initiative which would have required the reporting of AIDS-virus exposure and contact tracing of sexual partners, was defeated on November 8 by a larger than expected margin. Proposition 96, however, which requires AIDS testing for persons charged with certain sex offenses or assaults on peace officers, firefighters or emergency medical personnel, was approved overwhelmingly by California voters.

Prop. 96, sponsored by Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block was opposed by most healthcare authorities in the state, as well as by all but one of California's daily newspapers. Law enforcement activists, however, had presented the measure as a means to protect public workers. The proposition erroneously suggests that such actions as spitting or biting spread HIV, a belief widely disproven by AIDS experts.

Proposition 102, a draconian measure which was widely perceived as a punitive measure against homosexuals, a waste of money, and a danger to AIDS research, had been leading in the polls until recently, at one point by an overwhelming margin.

Some opponents of Prop. 102 suggested that Governor George Deukmejian's recent endorsement of the initiative actually ended up having the opposite effect by raising the public consciousness about the measure. Three of Deukmejian's own AIDS advisors resigned in protest of the governor's decision to support Prop. 102 against their advice.

ELECTION POSTMORTEM: "NOT REPUBLICAN HEROES"

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt didn't care for George Bush's taking of her grandfather's name in political vain. Nor did Harry Truman's relatives, for that matter.

Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Olive Truman, widow of Harry's cousin, held a news conference the weekend before the election, to denounce Bush for saying the former president would be Republicans if they were still alive. "These are Democratic heroes," Roosevelt said. "They are not Republican heroes. The Republicans don't have any of their own, I guess."

Truman's daughter, Margaret Truman Daniel, also sounded off, saying, "It [Bush's statement] was stupid. I'm furious. Dad would be all for Governor Dukakis and Senator Bentsen."

ELECTION POSTMORTEM: LINDA ELLERBEE ON THOSE POLLS

CNN commentator and general TV gadfly Linda Ellerbee says that exit polls, which allow the networks to declare a presidential winner before the West Coast polls have closed, have taken all of the suspense out of Election Day. Her suggestion on livening the process up:

"You vote, you walk out, you are approached by somebody who asks if you'll tell them how you voted. You say yes, smile, and then lie your head off—from one end of the ballot to the other, from sea to shining sea. Imagine what will happen if television calls the wrong winner. Maybe we can't teach TV manners, but we can, my fellow Americans, teach them a little humility."



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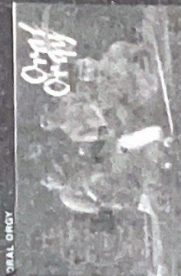
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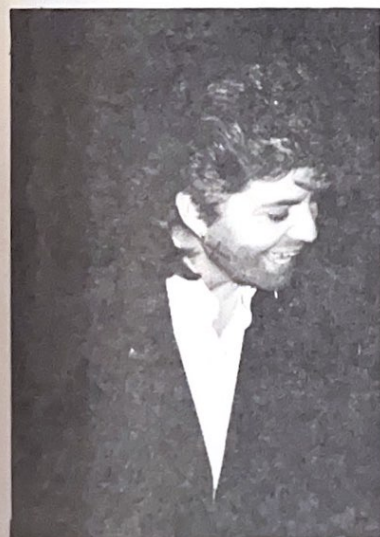
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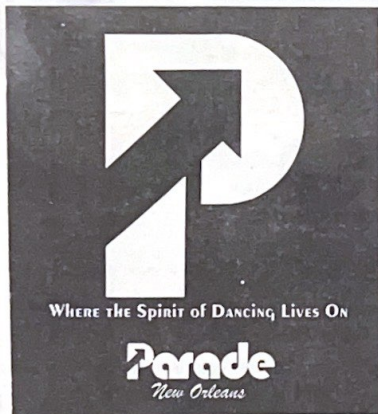
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