Commentary

Life After ‘The Day After’
By Peter Derksen

Transformations of human consciousness—personal or cultural—occur when the previously unthinkable becomes thinkable. While it may be optimistic, or at least premature, to attribute a civilization-wide consciousness-raising to ABC’s film, it was clear, both during the film and panel discussion afterward, that nothing less than that will do.

If someone could magically abolish nuclear weapons, that would alter the means, not the potential, for species suicide. Indeed, given the choice between chemical, biological or nuclear warfare, the latter might be the exit of choice for those of us who care not one whit for horror against another. Twisting with the means of warfare without dealing with the causes is a spectacular waste of time. And conventional ways of talking about these issues have not led to any satisfactory resolution of them.

Nor can they, given the context in which these discussions usually occur: the peculiar post-Renaissance concept of human beings as consisting of an ego, supposedly rational mind and sack of flesh. In no other way can I explain the present situation, where the power to eradicate the human race lies with two competing ideologies whose chief concern seems to be “who gets to do what with whose things.” We are not satisfied by social structures or strategies based on that concept of humanity, because deep inside we believe, or at least would like to, that there must be something more to us than just that.

Broadcasting the film removed one of society’s options for dealing with the present situation: the option of mass unconsciousness. In a way much more powerful than newspaper editorials or talking heads on the news, we have experienced an event none of us ever wants to see. We are obliged, by a very distinguished panel of experts, to rest assured that full-scale nuclear war will probably not take place because logically it is not in anybody’s best interest to start one. That is very cold comfort to me, with recent events in Lebanon as a reminder—as if there were not already enough examples in history—that one person’s logic and perceived self-interest may be quite different from another person’s.

Before rational humanism became the mode, people lived with the constant premonition of their own or society’s destruction by forces beyond their personal control. But when they form a human community, that becomes something more to us than just that.

Hall and Van Hightower Toe to Toe in Runoff

By Hollis Hood

Ballots cast in the Nov. 29 city council at-large position 4 runoff will determine the outcome in one of the hardest fought candidate campaigns the community has seen in some time, the one between Nikki Van Hightower and Anthony Hall.

Van Hightower, founder and director of the Houston Area Women’s Center, has consistently been a proponent of human rights and gay rights.

“Everyone should be treated fairly,” she said. “We need the best talent we can get, and that talent should not be judged on some extraneous personal characteristic.”

When asked if she supported an employment ordinance which included protection via sexual orientation, she said she wouldn’t be afraid to “draw fire.”

“I’ve always drawn fire,” she said, referring to her stance on human rights that has in the past been viewed by some as radical. “But I would not support an issue that had not been researched or that had no chance of passing.

“I believe elected leaders can make a difference in the lives of citizens and should feel a responsibility to enhancing the quality of life enjoyed by those persons,” she said.

Hightower mentioned that she can represent those concerns for quality of life, as evidenced by putting feet to opinions when she formed the Houston Area Women’s Center some years ago.

Van Hightower supported the convention center building, dubbed it “desirable,” and supported the Houston Housing Authority’s decision to raise Allen Parkway Village.

That place is uninhabitable. It’s supposedly helping, but it’s keeping the poor in a ghetto where they can be easily exploited—that’s not the way it should be. I would support smaller housing projects that would blend into the surrounding neighborhoods, she said.

As a resident of Montrose, the candidate said she supports bayou beautification, a greater emphasis on the arts and a commission to study solutions to Houston’s water woes.

Van Hightower has received numerous awards and honors, including the 1980 Hester House Humanitarian Award, and holds a doctorate in political science from New York University.

She is endorsed by virtually every city law enforcement organization, among others, and was also endorsed by the Gay Political Caucus.

Hall, on the other hand, received the endorsement of Mayor Kathy Whitmire and has been endorsed by numerous civic and business groups.

“I am avidly for equal rights and have been,” he said. “Government should not be in the business of regulating the individual’s rights, unless protected rights are being violated.”

Half has also received many honors and awards for distinguished service, including a listing in Who’s Who in Texas and the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Harris County Women’s Political Caucus for legislation on behalf of women.

He is an attorney and holds a degree from Marshall Law School.

Hall gave up his city council seat representing District D to run in the at-large race because he “wanted to become more involved with the livelihood of the city.”

He gained his former seat on a record of public service in the Texas legislature. He voted to repeal Texas Penal Code 21.06 there, and in Houston as councilman voted to repeal the cross-dressing ordinance in 1980. He is an active member of the Democratic Party and supported inclusion of the Gay Rights Plank in its 1980 national platform.

As the runoff date nears, Hightower has been marshalling Montrose backing. She carried it decisively on Nov. 2 with 66 percent, and is now trying to garner more of the vote outside the Montrose/University area.

Hall is trying to capture more support in Montrose, where he fared badly while keeping the citywide backing, apparently building some percentages.

So it’s anyone’s guess as to how the election might go.

Both Hall and Van Hightower carried only about a third of the vote citywide—hence the runoff—and the outcome of the runoff will appear to depend on how many of the presently uncommitted citywide citizenry either side can muster to cast a ballot on Nov. 29.
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Vice Conduct Sting Operations

By Robert Hyde

Houston Police Department vice officers made several visits into the Montrose area recently, and some members of the community are questioning their motives as to whether or not they were here because of community demand.

Ray Hill, gay activist and GFP board member, said a "general heat on the bookstores" began Wednesday, Nov. 16, when vice officers entered Asylum, Studs, the Ballpark and Mr. Peppers, and that several customers were arrested at the latter establishment.

Twenty vice officers, most dressed as decoys, also made news later in the week when they arrested 34 people along the lower end of Westheimer from early Saturday evening through the wee hours of Sunday morning.

HPD Sgt. McMullen, a vice officer, said that 34 people were arrested in the sting: 19 on charges of prostitution and 15 "street hustlers" on a hitchhiking charge. Hill said that half of those arrested were transients. One man arrested is a Jesus advocate who distributes "Jesus loves you" pamphlets along the streets. Hill said, and questioned whether or not the community wants these types of individuals taken in.

Whether all of the arrests were legitimate is questionable, but Hill said that the community can expect a "great deal more of the same."

St. McMullen said that the vice officers were responding to "complaints from the businesses and citizens in the area."

Gay Man's Execution Again Scheduled

By Chris Church/Site Scene

TALLAHASSEE--Florida authorities, in response to a second death warrant signed by Gov. Bob Graham, have scheduled the execution of condemned killer Robert A. Sullivan to take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 29.

Sullivan, who has spent a record 10 years on death row for the shooting of a Dade County restaurant manager, received a stay of execution from a federal court in 1979. He presently has an appeal pending in a Miami circuit court.

This may be true, since several civic organizations, i.e. the Greater Montrose Business Guild and the Avondale Association, have urged police over the past few months to "clean-up" prostitution on lower Westheimer.

Hill feels that the sting operations stem in part from publicity generated by local news media.

"News media reports are turning the cops on," Hill said, with a lot of anti-gay publicity.

Most of this recent adverse publicity stems from Ed Falk, who represents himself as a Montrose business man and is being featured by Channel 13 as a spokesman for the area in a current series on vice.

"Falk is a moral majority nut," Hill claims. "He has no legitimate ties to Montrose at all." He said that Falk is in Houston representing a Taiwanese firm specializing in the production of fasteners for light industry, such as nuts, bolts and screws.

Hill said that Falk was unknown at radio station KFPT when Hill managed the station as a war advocate and a John Bircher. He was later dismissed from the board of directors of the station, Hill said, because of his flagrant, anti-gay sentiments.

Hill said he has reported Falk’s stance on gay issues to Channel 13.

Dallas Benefit Nets $20,000 for Groups

By Joe Baker/Dallas Gay News

DALLAS—Two hundred and forty-eight gay men, lesbians and friends shared an evening of "Visions" last Saturday night to benefit the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National AIDS Lobby Project. More than $20,000 was raised.

The Dallas Dinner Committee's second annual black-tie dinner at the Fairmont Hotel attracted 100 more people than last year's affair.

Attending the $150 per person dinner were gay rights leaders from throughout Texas and the country and several elected officials, but most of the guests were "just plain gay folks" who were committed to advancing the cause of human rights.

The evening was entitled "Visions." Helping guests to share their visions were keynote speakers U.S. Congressman Bill Green (R-N.Y.) and Virginia Apuzio, executive director of the National Gay Task Force.

"The cause of gay rights is not a 'them versus us' situation," Green said in his address. "Gay rights is human rights. A government that permits discrimination of gay men and lesbians endangers the human rights of all."

Green, one of the earliest supporters of gay rights and presently one of the staunchest and most effective supporters of AIDS funding legislation, told his audience that both lobbying and educating are important in furthering the cause of gay rights.

He said elected officials and the public have a lot to learn, but stressed that "America is learning." "We are talking about a human rights matter, and that is how it should be presented. I know there is still a lot of misunderstanding and prejudice, but we can succeed."

Green, who repeatedly used the pronoun "we" and "us" when discussing the fight for gay rights, called the Human Rights Campaign Fund one of the more powerful political action committees in the country.

He urged gay men and women not to ignore the Republican Party in their struggle.

"Progressive Republicans are rebuilding," he said. "There are candidates who deserve your support and contributions. Let them know you are prepared to help. Just be sure you help them.

Green said human rights legislation—gay rights—should be supported by both progressives and conservatives in all the political parties.

"This should be an issue especially dear to conservatives who believe in less government interference," he said. "Government has no business legislating in anyone's bedroom."

Apuzio told guests that it was an act of courage for them to attend the fund-raising dinner, and noted a lot of them were at different steps in their personal involvement for gay rights.

Dallas Benefit Nets $20,000 for Groups

Holiday Party Season

Well, it's holiday party season now. After the turkey, it's time to try and sort out all the season's invitations.

The Voice will be having its annual "Christmas Party and Public Spectacle" in mid-December. And you're invited. Watch this space next week.

Houston's KS/AI's Foundation received an honorable mention in the Nov. 24 issue of The Advocate for its AIDS Play Safe Week of Sept. 18-25.

The magazine stated, "the Houston venture goes a long way toward thawing the paralysis of fear that has seized too many men. Playing safe with sex gives people something to look forward to other than deadly panic. And it reinforces what is positive about AIDS, if such a thought can be entertained for a moment. That is, that gay men still have much to be grateful for, much to celebrate—above all, their affection for each other."

Rice University strikes back, demanding equal time from St. Thomas, which has been monopolizing this space. So, here we go. On Dec. 2, the Choirs will have a Christmas concert; on Dec. 3, sopranos Jeanette Lombard and pianist Mary Norris will perform; Dec. 3 will also have a concertscheduled—the Campanella Quartet at 2:30 and violinist Sergiu Luca with pianist Anne Epperson; on Dec. 6, the New World Strings Quartet will perform, and on Dec. 8, there will be a "Messiah Sing-Along" (at St. Paul's Methodist Church with full orchestra and scores available) at the door. For more information, contact Roslyn Ruelathian at 527-4933.

And then the University of St. Thomas will present a Wind Ensemble on Wed., Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. For information on this concert, call 522-7911, ext. 240.

Douglas Bone is the new owner of the Exile Bookstore. He says that things over there kinda got them mixed up last week. Sorry. But the important news is that the Joker's back on the walls at the club, thanks to Frank.

Mary's is having it's "sometimes annual" Mr. and Miss Mary's Contest Dec. 1 (Thursday, a week after Thanksgiving), on the patio. Pickles is handling the whole affair... The Officer's Club is starting a new Thursday tradition... at least through December... for 2 beer and well drinks 5pm-2am...

Baja's will have a splendid Thanksgiving Smorgasbord starting 6pm Turkey Day.

NOW, to help fill up this space, we give you a listing of some unforgettable events that happened in years past... These... are coming up.

Nov. 26: King Tut's tomb was opened today in Egypt in 1922.

Nov. 28: Rita Mae Brown is 39 years old today. She's the author of The Rubyfruit Jungle. Another author, William Shakespeare, married Anne Hathaway today in 1562.

Nov. 29: Admiral Byrd flew over the South Pole today in 1929.

Nov. 30: It's Mark Twain's (Samuel Clemens) birthday. Twain was born in 1835. Also on this day, Oscar Wilde died in 1900.

Here's something to stick in the back of your mind. You'll never know when you'll need it.

Richard Cornish was the first man to be convicted of a "homosexual offense" in America. He was executed in 1824.
Special Thanksgiving Smorgasbord
Thursday, Nov. 24, 6pm
All you can eat—$14.95

Luncheon Buffet
Monday & Tuesday
Nov. 28 & 29

Dinner Buffet
Monday, Nov. 28

Baja's has facilities for private luncheon meetings on weekdays & facilities for private parties during the holiday season.

Baja's will be closed until 4pm Thanksgiving Day

TLC Wishes You & Yours A Happy Healthy Holiday Season!
One Last Time: The Infamous Rascal’s Encounter Between Greanias and the GPC

By Robert Hyde

Kent Spear, aide to councilman George Greanias and a representative of Houston’s gay community, tried to clarify an incident that occurred on Tuesday, which enraged both the councilman and Gay Political Caucus President Larry Bagneris on the Saturday preceding the election Tuesday during the GPC bar tour—an event which alarmed some members of the community who are still confused over exactly what went on (see VOICE issues of Nov. 11 and 18).

While it has been reported by some that a heated exchange took place between the president of the GPC and the councilman (an exchange which they feel was deprivative of the community), Spear said that the meeting was low key and was only the result of a minor misunderstanding between Bagneris and Greanias.

The seeds of the incident were planted when the GPC endorsed candidate Nikki Van Hightower in the Position 4 at-large race over Anthony Hall, who is supported by many members of the community, as well as by Mayor Kathy Whitmire.

Spear said that Greanias, following an established City Council procedure, chose not to endorse Hightower over Hightower. In addition, the councilman declined a place on both Mayor Whitmire’s and the GPC’s bar tours.

Furthermore, and because the community had “backed” over the endorsements, Spear said, Greanias felt awkward when asked by Bagneris to participate in GPC and the GPC’s bar tour—an event which has been the only elected official invited to participate on the tour, supposedly due to a four-person restriction imposed by the GPC, Spear said.

However, Greanias did agree at the last minute to accompany the GPC if candidate Hightower was not present. Spear said that the councilman would not have felt comfortable with the candidate, since this would have meant a virtual endorsement.

Greanias also clarified with Bagneris prior to the tour that while on the tour he would not address the GPC bloc vote issue. Spear said that it was agreed that Greanias would meet the tour at Rascal’s and that Hightower would have left the tour by that time.

Dale Beverly, spokesman for the GPC since Bagneris was not available for comment, said that Hightower was ignorant of the arrangements made with Greanias.

Hightower also was expected to drop out of the tour early, Beverly said, because she had a problem with cigarette smoke in the bars. But since the smoke had been light that night, Beverly said that she decided to stay.

However, also said that Greanias was late arriving at Rascal’s, and his tardiness prevented the GPC from notifying him of Hightower’s presence.

“We tried to warn him off before hand,” Beverly said, “but he was running late.” Consequently, a confrontation did result between Greanias and Bagneris.

Spear said that Bagneris told Greanias that “Nikki would like to stay on the tour.” Greanias felt that a “promise had not been fulfilled,” Spear reported, and that the councilman had been “caught in a very embarrassing bind.”

As to the language used in the confrontation, this is still a matter of conjecture. As to the importance of this incident to the community...

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AIDS May Be Foreseen in Eyes

By monitoring eye changes in high-risk patients, ophthalmologists may be AIDS able to detect early stages of AIDS, reports UP.

Dr. Alan G. Palestine, a researcher at the National Eye Institute, says four conditions may be found in victims’ eyes which could indicate a presence of AIDS: retinal cotton wool spots, fluffy spots on the retina, common to high blood pressure patients and people with diabetes; cytomegalovirus retinitis, a retina virus, which can lead to loss of sight; Kaposi’s sarcoma of the eyelid and conjunctiva, which can interfere with lid functioning; and cranial nerve palsy (paralysis), which can cause double vision.

“AIDS should be suspected in patients with these symptoms,” said Palestine, if the patients fall into one of the high-risk groups, although the symptoms can be related to other diseases as well.

Commentary: Life after the ‘The Day After’

By Robert Hyde

Furthermore, and because the syndromes as opportunities to serve our own and other people’s higher purposes, rather than as remorselessly predictable melodramas. We can create groups and social institutions that empower people rather than suppress them. We can live as if we have a contribution to make to the world, or if we expect the world to make a contribution to us.

I submit that ‘The Day After’ is the logical conclusion of the latter mentality. Being unconscious is a luxury we can no longer afford.
AIDS Update: No Longer Gay White Man's Disease

By Dion B. Sanders
Via Gay Press Association Wire Service

SAN FRANCISCO—Shattering a widely-held belief that AIDS is a “white gay man’s disease,” recently-unpublished data compiled by the national Center for Disease Control in Atlanta show that more than a third of all AIDS patients in the United States are from racial and ethnic minorities.

Moreover, a doctor’s report published in a leading medical journal says that while a significant percentage of black and Hispanic AIDS patients—not counting Haitians—are intravenous drug users, an equally-significant percentage of them are upront gays.

In a telephone interview from Atlanta, Dr. Richard Selik, director of AIDS information at the CDC, reported that as of Oct. 19, out of a total of 2513 AIDS cases nationwide, only 57.5 percent are white.

Blacks (including Haitians), Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans make up a combined 42.9 percent, Selik said, with the remaining 2.2 percent of undetermined ethnic origin.

For months, news media reports have repeatedly stated that AIDS patients are primarily gay men, IV drug users, Haitians and homosexuals receiving blood transfusions. Gay men account for 71 percent of all AIDS cases nationwide.

The belief that AIDS is a “white gay man’s disease” stems from a long-held perception of the gay community by the general public—especially by minority communities—as being exclusively white, despite the emergence of gay and lesbian people of color into the public eye in recent months.

In San Francisco, this perception has led to charges by some minority community leaders that public funds being appropriated for AIDS are being taken away from existing health programs for the poor—a disproportionate percentage of whom are black and Hispanic, according to local press reports.

As of Oct. 19, there have been 1048 deaths, for a mortality rate of 41.7 percent nationally, Selik reported.

Providing a breakdown of nationwide AIDS figures by ethnic group, Selik reported that blacks make up 21.1 percent “with the figure rising to 25.8 percent when Haitians are included.

“Haitians make up 14.1 percent, with Asians and Native Americans combined comprising approximately 1 percent,” Selik said.

“The remaining 3.2 percent of AIDS patients are of undetermined ethnic origin,” he reported.

AIDS CASES IN THE U.S. BY RACIAL/ETHNIC ORIGIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1456</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black (Non-Haitian)</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ethnic Origin</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2513</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proportion of blacks and Hispanics among people with AIDS is striking in that it is nearly double the proportion of blacks and Hispanics in the U.S. population as a whole.

Even more striking is the fact that as of Oct. 15, there have been only eight cases of AIDS reported nationally among Asians and only three among Native Americans.

No nationwide city-by-city ethnic breakdown was available from the CDC, but according to figures compiled by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, out of a total of 286 cases in the Greater Bay Area as of Oct. 18, 90.3 percent are white, 4.9 percent are black, 3.5 percent are Hispanic, and a fraction of 1 percent are Asian or Native American.

In sharp contrast, 50 percent of AIDS cases reported in Philadelphia as early as last July are black, according to that city’s health department, prompting the creation of an AIDS education program aimed specifically at black gays in that city.

Philadelphia, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. all have sizeable black populations, with blacks an overwhelming majority in the nation’s capital.

Asked what percentage of the non-white AIDS cases are gay and what percentage are IV drug users, Selik quoted figures from an article by Dr. Harold Jaffe published in the Aug. ‘83 issue of the Journal of Infectious Diseases (Vol. 148, p. 339).

The article, based on CDC reports of 2000 AIDS cases nationally as of last July, reported that among non-Haitian blacks who had AIDS, 17 percent were reported as IV drug users, 46 percent were IV drug users, and 57 percent were of undetermined risk factors.

(A similar breakdown of Haitian AIDS patients by the Jaffe article has been rendered unreliable because of recent news reports disclosing that many such Haitians were gay, but were unwilling to admit it, because of severe taboos against homosexuality in Haitian society, Selik said.)

Among Hispanic AIDS patients, the Jaffe article reported that 11 percent were upront gays, 33 percent were IV drug users, and 55 percent were of unknown risk factors.

The Jaffe article contained no report on Native Americans and Asians with AIDS, because there were no reported cases among them at the time the article was published, Selik noted.

Nor did the article contain information on the number of AIDS patients who were women.

In the San Francisco area, only three cases of AIDS among IV drug users have been reported so far, according to Pat Norman, coordinator of lesbian/gay health services for the city.

Two are white; the third is black.

Norman noted that whereas 71 percent of AIDS cases nationally are gay, the figure rises to 90 percent in the San Francisco area, as there are “only a handful of Haitians,” living here.

Locally, there have been 56 deaths, for a mortality rate of approximately 35 percent.

Norman attributed the disparity of the national and local mortality rates to the near-absence of IV and Haitian AIDS cases here.

Selik reported that the percentage ethnic breakdown “has been fairly constant for more than a year.” Asked why the ethnic data had not previously been published by either the gay or the mainstream media up to now, Selik responded, “Perhaps they (editors) for some reason thought that it wasn’t newsworthy.”
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Another Gay Mayor

By Dion B. Sanders
Via GPA in SACRAMENTO, Calif.--In a unanimous vote, the city council Nov. 15 elected John Laird mayor, in place of the first openly gay mayor in its history.

The 53-year-old Laird, an administrator for the Santa Cruz County affirmative action program, had been vice mayor for a year.

In Santa Cruz each year, the city council elects its own president in a rotating basis. Following tradition, it was Laird's turn to be chosen.

The 7-0 vote marked the first time in six years that the council had elected a mayor unanimously.

Council member Mardi Wormboudt was elected by a 4-3 vote to succeed Laird as vice mayor.

Laird was ecstatic over his election.

Gay Events Get Noted in the Non-Gay Press

By Jim Kepner
Via Gay Press Association Wire Service

In a scattering of local newspapers, which saw pro-gay candidates elected in several cities (and homophobe Kathy Macdonald defeated in New Orleans), the major story last week was SANTA CRUZ, Calif. In a unanimous vote, the city council Nov. 15 elected John Laird mayor, in place of the first openly gay mayor in its history.

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By Jim Kepner
Via Gay Press Association Wire Service

In a scattering of local newspapers, which saw pro-gay candidates elected in several cities (and homophobe Kathy Macdonald defeated in New Orleans), the major story last week was SANTA CRUZ, Calif. In a unanimous vote, the city council Nov. 15 elected John Laird mayor, in place of the first openly gay mayor in its history.

The 53-year-old Laird, an administrator for the Santa Cruz County affirmative action program, had been vice mayor for a year.

In Santa Cruz each year, the city council elects its own president in a rotating basis. Following tradition, it was Laird's turn to be chosen.

The 7-0 vote marked the first time in six years that the council had elected a mayor unanimously.

Council member Mardi Wormboudt was elected by a 4-3 vote to succeed Laird as vice mayor.

Laird was ecstatic over his election.
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MONTROSE VOICE / NOV. 25, 1983

MONDAY NIGHT
FOOTBALL, 8pm
Of Seducing a Married Man and Gay Discrimination

By Randy Alfred

COMING OUT: We've all heard scores, or even hundreds, of coming-out stories to be sure, but this one's a little different. Dorr Legg, gay rights pioneer and founder and dean of Los Angeles' One Institute, told this tale of his self-discovery to the Second National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Aging in San Francisco early this summer.

"I grew up in a very academic setting and had access from the time I was five to an immense university bookstore, which I roamed through at random and discovered many, many interesting phrases. Reports, I have to note here, on mythology and speculation of the wildest sort, but it was fun to read about.

"So, by the time I was a late teenager, presumably before World War II, I had read all of the books and found them pretty fascinating. But where were the people?

"My family was spending the winter in Florida, and I had quite a bit of spare time. And going back and forth to the library—I was still reading things—I noticed that this little park that I passed through on the way in beautiful little Orlando seemed to have a special atmosphere about it that I thought, 'Now, there is something going on here, and I shall find out.'

"'So, on a fateful evening, I noted a gentleman sitting on the benches, and I stopped beside one of them, who was a man in his middle 40s, probably, and I was a late teenager. And I twisted, and I turned, and I thought, 'I can't. I must. I have to,'"

"And I turned to him and I said, 'Are you a homosexual?'

"And he, after a shocked silence, said, 'Why do you ask?'

"I said, 'Because I want to know.' He shyly admitted that that might, indeed, be true, and he laughed a little bit nervously, because he thought this is really a new approach. And I said, 'I want you to show me.'

"He said, 'You mean that you have never had an experience?'

"I said, 'No, I haven't, and I want you to show me.'

"'Oh, no,' he said. 'Not I. I'm a married man' and so on.

"Well, although I had read many, many books, I did also know that there were certain techniques of, shall we say, human approach that would be effective in a case like that. And so I managed to break down his resistance, and he did indeed give me my first lesson in what the particular approach to the world was about."

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EARLYBIRDS: Legg went on to tell his enthralled audience of the "remarkably free interracial experience or atmosphere" of Los Angeles in the late 1940s. He said he and others incorporated the Knights of the Clock ("a nonsense name") as an organization of black and white men who lived together and black and white women who lived together.

"Since the group also included the parents and families of some couples, Legg said it should be regarded as the precursor, by some quarter-century, of both Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and Black and White Men Together.

DISCRIMINATING: San Francisco's chapter of BWMT conducted several surveys of visible employees in the city's gay and lesbian bars. They found an alarming lack of ethnic-minority bartenders and other employees, except in the several establishments which catered specifically to Third World clientele. One could quibble (and many have) with the particular methodology of the on-site survey or the exact percentages involved, but I believe it

is incontrovertible that some discrimination is going on here. In fact, the city's taverns generally seem to be near lily-white in employment. I don't think this problem is limited to gay bars. Just last year, a major hotel had to settle a race-bias lawsuit involving alleged bias in hiring practices at the hotel bar.

When BWMT brought its complaint to the Human Rights Commission, then one might have expected the HRC to look into the specific charges—racial discrimination in gay bars—or to consider racial discrimination in bars generally.

But, no-o-o! Acting on a recommendation from its Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee, the HRC instead widened the investigation to "employment and hiring practices of lesbian/gay businesses." Doesn't this unfairly point a finger at our community? Admittedly, racial bias and discrimination exist within the lesbian/gay community, but is there any reason to believe it is either more prevalent or more virulent amongst us in the city at large?

"We do not believe that to be the case," answers Richard Sevilla, a Human Rights Commissioner and member of the Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee. "We've been discussing the issue for years. It just so happened we had a complaint on bars. Since we felt the issue was not limited to the bars alone, it would be unfair to look only at the bars."

Will the HRC hearings be the first of many, with others to look into racial discrimination in other sectors of the city's economy? 'I don't know what other kinds of actions or hearings on discrimination this will produce," Sevilla answers. "You hold hearings to find out what actions are needed. You don't know what they will produce beforehand.'

Might that not leave the impression that our community is especially privileged? "We felt that risk was worth setting an example," Sevilla says. "We can set an example for the rest of the city, that our community is willing to deal with its racism."

Alfred's column originates at the "Sentinel," a San Francisco gay newspaper. ©1983 Randy Alfred, all rights reserved.
Number's 'Zap Clap' Was Exciting, Emotional Evening

By Billie Duncan

Danny Villa and a glittering cast of dozens took to the stage at the Zap Clap Review Monday and Tuesday evening for an astoundingly wonderful and joyous show. Zap Clap is an impressive effort by some entertainers and some just plain people to raise money for the Montrose Clinic and KS-AIDS Foundation.

As with any show that is put together from a variety of acts for a limited engagement, there was a glitch or two, but the energy in the room was positive that no one really seemed to care, least of all the performers who went out there and had a rollickingly good time.

You see, I was back in the wings waiting to go on stage with my guitar to make my own, funny impression of an incomparable team of Montgomery, Plant & Stritch had gotten the dates of the show confused and were out able to work Monday. So, when Danny saw me there to cover the story, he asked if I could get my guitar and fill in.

I did. Of course, it would just be too tacky to comment on my own performance, so go ask someone there how I was.

Next in line was a very clever and tastefully done act that featured Craig McGinty as Loretta Lynn and Buddy Thompson as Patsy Cline.

The entrances of the two performers were timed with film clips from Coal Miner's Daughter and both singing and Buddy had done their homework on the look and style of the women whom they were impersonating.

Almost immediately after, the Montrose Country Cloggers stomped to life with some of their famous country clogging. With their toes a-tappin' and their heels a-smakin', they charmed the smiling crowd.

Closing out the first act was a real rouser. The crew from Miss Charlotte's Dance Hall & Saloon performed to good chunk of their own concept of the The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. It was well-done high wire act with glitz and glamour as a whole bevy of mouschached beauties in satin and garters.

Some of the men were quite good dressed as men, also, and could get arrested if there was a law against impersonating Aggies.

Intermission was party time, and when the curtain went up for the second act, the crowd was in an even better mood than they were for the first.

And keeping them in a good mood was Richard Smith as Maude Findley, a role that he does to a tee. Richard was virtually perfect, right down to the accent and how he knows when to start moving his lips for all that talking, I'll never know.

Speaking of talkin', Richard joined Danny Villa as co-host of the show, and they both did excellent jobs—smooth, humorous and too much jabber.

As the strains of 'And Then There's Maude' played, the sound of cluckety-clacking became apparent. The Montrose Country Cloggers were back for more romping and stomping. They were great.

The next act was a personal favorite and a very welcome surprise with the crowd. Joe "Lola" Gomez came out swinging, strutting, prancing and striding in a pink sequined gown with shoes that unfortunately were much too large for moi. Joe was representing the Ripcord, and it was obvious that none of the audience support on Monday was from the Ripcord's management and clientele.

With the crowd worked up for more excitement, Rich Campbell (an E.J.'s regular, along with Richard "Maude" Smith) as Cayte Myth took center stage. Rich did a stunning performance of miming a medley of Kate Smith's greatest hits, while dressed in a flowing white glitter gown.

At the finale's "God Bless America," Rich spun around, loosening some clasps, and the gown collapsed into a spectacular red, white and blue creation. It was an electrifying moment.

Who could top something like that? The answer was simple—Danny Villa.

Danny sang "I Am What I Am," from La Cenge, and he was, as always, superb.

The rest of the cast joined Danny for the finale of the show, "We Are What We Are." It was an emotional and rousing ending to a very enjoyable presentation.

Duncan's Quick Notes

By Billie Duncan

Story was a fascination with seeing the development of talent. Every now and then, a club springs up that allows itself to be a talent ground for new acts.

The Ale House on West Alabama is that kind of club. Of course, they book some established bands, but they also give the developing groups a chance to get some stage experience.

Gaining much-needed experience last weekend was a group called the Inanimate Objects. They are made up of four young men: Joe Webber on guitar, Ollie Stevens on bass, Ron Obvious on drums and lid Harmonia as lead singer.

Ollie explained how they became a group. "We were cleaning up a lady's yard and the idea just came to us." Ollie is by far the best member of the band. He has a good grasp of how to hold the music together with his bass work and a terrific sense of good ol' knock-kneed logic.

Joe plays simplistic guitar, and I was told that Ron was having an off-night.

That leaves Id.

Id is better when he sticks to screaming, gyration and shouting lyrics. He should never try to hold a note too long. He can't.

They do have some interesting originals. I especially liked "Tent City." To be fair to the band, they were filling in for another group that cancelled, and they didn't have time to get the word out to their following that they were playing that night, so the room was less than crowded.

Certainly if I hear that they are playing somewhere, I will try to drop by to listen to them again.

Another band I look forward to hearing again is going to be playing at the Ale House on Saturday (October 21). They are a very talented and musically adept and lyrically intriguing Noodles.

Some Montroseans will remember lead singer Chris Kincade as the young man who played Max in Best at Stages. A story on what has been up to since he starred in Best will appear in the VOICE in the near future.

One other band of note that graced the Ale House stage recently was Blue Wave. Assistant manager Angela Mullan pointed out, "They're a gay band. I'd like to see them get a fair chance."

She said that they would be back soon.

Montrose Live

The opening act of Zap Clap Review applies baby oil before the show.

I suppose now would be a good time to admit that there was a mistake in this space last week. Alexandra Haas and Michael Bailey did not end their stint at Rascal's last Saturday. They will do that this Saturday.

I'm sorry I made the error, but I'm delighted that they are still playing at Rascal's. They are really sensational.

And talking about sensational, fans of Maryanne Mahoney will be ecstatic to hear that she has reformulated Mata Hari and is now back on stage at Bacchus.

Maryanne Mahoney has to be one of the most electrifying performers in the Montrose. She is appearing on Wednesdays at the club on Lovett.

Another event that's occurring on Wednesdays is Roxie Starr's Talent Star Search and the Outlaws. Roxie (Jimmy Emerson) stressed that this is not an amateur contest. It is a talent contest.

"I'm trying to get dancers, singers, comedians, doo-wop artists—anything," he said. "Now, I'm trying to discourage drag, but I want to be different from everyone else in town."

There is no piano at the Outlaws, but Jimmy said that he can get one over there if someone needs it.

Jimmy then went on to tell a little story about what had happened at the Cops Sunday night. It seems that a lot of people had seen the Day After on television earlier, or at least heard about it. Mr. Tiffany Jones apparently thought that that was a perfect springboard for a band that would be more than a twinge of decidedly black humor.

Jimmy explained that the lights flickered at the Copa, and a voice came over the sound system saying that there was a nuclear attack. The lights then came up on stage on Mr. Tiffany in a tattered sequin gown. Mr. Tiffany then launched into—you can guess?—"There's Got to be a Morning After."

Jimmy was a bit disappointed. He explained, "I thought she'd do 'I Will Survive.'"

He also observed that the audience was split in their reactions to the number. "Half the audience loved it. The other half went off."

I guess that some people just don't think that the destruction of the world is all that humorous.

But onto the living. Hickory will be playing this weekend at Miss Charlotte's. Said Jerry Vann, "They were here three, four weeks ago. They're so personable on stage and the crowd really enjoyed them, so when we got the chance, we got them back again."

The club is still trying to re-book the Bunkhouse Band.

Credit should go to Miss Charlotte's for their entry in the Zap Clap Review II. After the show on Monday, the entire cast and some loyal footloose troopers trotted off to Miss Charlotte's for drinks, dancing and an impromptu encore of parts of the show.

Then everyone marched over to the Ripcord for more merriment. Some of the Ripcord regulars were astounded to see real women in the bar, including Zap Clap dancers Jan Branham and Lisa Wilkins.

But if anyone minded, he was much too much of a gentleman to say anything.
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Musical Ideas

Flawlessly

By Peter Derksen

"Heavenly length," a phrase first used by Robert Schumann on hearing Schubert's Ninth Symphony, applies equally well to the Mahler Eighth Symphony. Cecily von Tausend's treatment of this problem was...
Bless, Oh Lord, These Gifts

By Peter Harrison

So far as I can tell, we Americans were the first people in the world to set aside a national holiday for giving thanks for the benefits we have received. Perhaps that's because we're so amply supplied with things that no one else has.

I was thinking about that the other day, when I realized that even the Russians have refrigerators and indoor plumbing, two things that would confound the supremacist ideas of Richard Nixon and Earl Butz. It only takes a little thought, though, to come up with a myriad of gifts that we Americans should give thanks for in this year of grace.

Here's a list of the people and groups I want to remember this Thanksgiving Day. Sometimes shoving down a turkey on the table makes recalling them all the more appropriate. I will fold my hands, bow my head, and pray:

"Dear Lord, thanks for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. You have given us the miraculous gift of Hollywood, that never-never land where even a lowly B-grade movie star can rise above all else to become President of the United States, thereby giving us a view of the future. In years to come, we can expect Tab Hunter in that exalted position of guiding our destiny, to be followed by such luminaries as the Fonz or perhaps Donny Osmond.

"You have graciously given our President with a sense of humor. Not only can he see the humor of the position of women and their value in taking us away from our caveman perspective, but his wit is subtle. He has named a secretary of the interior whose zany charm included stripping the country of its interior, and a director of environmental protection who refused to protect the environment.

"He has given us a surgeon general who disregards the health of 10 percent of our population, and a secretary of agriculture who lets starving people see pictures of mountains of surplus cheese, in the belief that their hunger pangs will be thus assuaged without having to eat the real thing.

"He has mercifully named John Gavin to be ambassador to Mexico, thereby saving us the embarrassment of having to watch that bad actor on television shows. Allow, oh Lord, our President to see the merit of sending Bob Hope on an official mission to Zambia before that wizened comic can again bring it all home and save a Christmas special.

"And Lord, thank you for NBC, which has brought Freddie Silverman to network TV in an effort to show us again what the lowest common denominator of entertainment is. And thank you for allowing that same network to give us Mr. Smith. We had existed so long without an ape that talks.

"And thank you, Lord, for the people of the U.S., a million of whom called that ape on a toll-charge number to hear him read a promo for his show. We worried about the health of Ma Bell, and those calls made her a half-million dollars richer.

"Lord, we are most pleased with our First Lady, who, as the secretary of agriculture works to get rid of food stamps, joins in to take away the people's sinful depe and drugs. Help her, we pray, to get rid of the high-fashion monkey on her back.

"We are humble in the examples you have given us of those stricken with great infirmities who prevail. Thank you for Howard Cosell, who has learned to speak—incessantly—with his foot in his mouth, and for Elizabeth Taylor, who continues to look for a husband, even though she puts on 50 pounds after each marriage.

"Thank you for the gay sense of style that allows us fags to worry more about what color handkerchief to wear in our pockets than if the bar we're going to visit is going to be raided and makes our leaders happier with a Gay Pride celebration attended by eight people in three-piece suits than 10,000 in drag.

"Thank you for the invaluable example of all the Semites—Arabs and Jews—who's fratricidal fighting makes our family quarrels seem less threatening.

"Thank you for the invention of the term 'advisors,' which allows us to get into more trouble more places faster than ever.

"Thank you for the Russians, whose ungodly behavior serves as a great smoke-screen hiding our own injustices.

"Thank you for the institution of Your Own Son's crucifixion, which gives a model for born-again Christians to use on those who don't agree with them.

"And finally, Lord, thank you for Jerry Falwell. With Anita Bryant busy selling Your sunglasses, his loud voice is the only one that seems strong enough to unify the gay movement.

"For all these many gifts, Lord, we thank You. And Lord, by the way, you couldn't be quite so generous in 1984."

Harrison lives in New Jersey. His column appears here and in other gay publications.

Salary War at NY Times?

The big news at the New York Times is staff salaries, reports Variety. Some anonymous prankster posted a list of who makes what on the paper's bulletin board. Management tore it down, but not before reporters got the real scoop. The highest paid drama critic Frank Rich at $1200 per week. This may not get rave reviews from film critic Janet Maslin—she makes nearly $300 a week less.

Salary

NY War

Times?

at

The big news at the New York Times is staff salaries, reports Variety. Some anonymous prankster posted a list of who makes what on the paper's bulletin board. Management tore it down, but not before reporters got the real scoop. The highest paid drama critic Frank Rich at $1200 per week. This may not get rave reviews from film critic Janet Maslin—she makes nearly $300 a week less.

Salary

NY War

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Gay Press Association
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Enclosed is my $25 registration fee for the Southern Regional Conference.

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'Gay Eagle Gets AIDS from ERA'

By Deborah Bell

The latest brochure from the Eagle Forum (Phyllis Schlafly's group) reads like jive material. Trying to make a connection between the Equal Rights Amendment, Gay Rights and AIDS, you would think all homosexuals (or ERA supporters) are lurking about like crazed vampires, waiting to prey upon "innocent" (read here "heterosexual") victims, wanting to infect them with AIDS. This is homophobia in its most insidious form. It would be very funny if this was not an organized attack.

The cover picture in purple is of a closet. An octagon shape (stop sign) is in the center with wording in the form of a cross, the word "gay" is vertical with the "A" larger than the other letters, and ERAIDS makes up the crossbar.

The ERA-GAY-AIDS connection asks: "Why do homosexuals and lesbians support ERA?" Answer: "Because it will probably put their entire "gay rights" agenda into the Constitution."

The word used in ERA is "sex"—not "women." Of course, it is not pointed out how stupid the ERA would then read by replacing the word sex with women: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of women."

Give me the 19th amendment which provided women the right to vote, also uses the word "sex." Does this mean we have the right to copulate in the voting booth?

It goes on to cite, as an example of "proof" of this connection, that NOW testified against a proposed state ERA in Wisconsin because of the addition of a clause that forbid the use of a Wisconsin ERA for "sexual preference." The brochure says this proves that the leading pro-ERA organizations admit the ERA—"gay rights" connection because of the "gay rights" and "abortion funding" connections.

The interesting thing about this brochure is not that it speaks out against the Equal Rights Amendment, but rather urges readers to write to their Senators and Congressman to add a clause of specific language which would prevent Congress or federal courts to use or construe "gay rights" within the meaning of "sex."

Misconstruing the facts does not seem to concern Schlafly in making her argument. Does the Eagle Forum actually want women to be equal under the law? It looks that way, as long as they don't love each other.

One of the big fears seems to be that ERA would give gays the right to marry. I don't know why they are so worried about that.

The brochure continues with threatening questions about what would happen if the ERA puts "Sex Equality" into the Constitution, such as:

-Could we legally protect ourselves against AIDS and other diseases carried by gays?

-Would police, paramedics, dentists, health personnel and morticians be permitted to take adequate precautions to defend themselves against AIDS and other gay diseases?

-Would cities be forced to rent or give the use of public facilities to large gatherings of gays, such as "gay pride" demonstrations and the gay rodeo in Reno (which attracted 55,000 gays)?

This brochure both confuses the facts and twists the truth. Time and time again, in all the hearings and debate over the years, it has been established that the ERA would only apply to laws concerning "opposite sex." Not same. Gay rights, like the laws concerning abortion, most probably are already established in the Constitution under the right to privacy.

AIDS is a horrible disease, and gay men are among the high-risk groups, but no one wants to either get or give this disease.

For a copy of this brochure, if you don't mind being on their mailing list, write directly to Eagle Forum, Alton, Ill. 62002.

The implication of this brochure is more than insulting. It is "maddening." I hope it makes you as angry as it makes me. We must counter this attack. The Eagle Forum is a right-wing organization which supports Reagan and his administration. Nineteen eighty-four is the year to press for civil rights for gays. We must be involved in the campaigns and work at being delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

The ERA has been passed out of a House committee, and a vote is expected by the full House before Thanksgiving. It should pass there and go to the Republican controlled Senate. Write today to your representative and Senators Bentsen and Tower in support of the ERA.
Perhaps Tomorrow, While You’re at Work...

By Jeff Bray

Anger. I sit and listen as politicians discuss
cool tones how to avoid destruc-
tion. Their heavy eye lids reveal dull eyes with
faceless vision. They try to give
encouragement, but their stooped
shoulders and tired, prematurely aged
faces reveal confusion on a subject that
simply cannot be confused.

Fear. I see on television a view of uni-
maginable destruction. Buildings fold in
and explode. Trees are sucked away in
flames. People disappear in a flash.

Think of it. It is late morning in Hous-
ton. Tensions have been building for
decades, and over the last few days, the
news has been very disturbing. People dis-
cuss the situation in restaurants and bars.
You every so-often adjust your watch. Your fellow
workers in a rather ho-hum way, fantasi-
zizing on what to do should “it” really
happen. It is a subject of excitement—
something to make the day go faster.

Suddenly, the world turns upside down.
Warnings flash on the news, and people
become uneasy. Some workers pack away
derivs and go home. “for the day.” You
hesitate in your office, wondering whether
you should go home or stay. Your parents
are a thousand miles away. They are proba-
ably worried. The phone lines are tied up
for local calls, and long distance calls are
no longer possible.

As lunch time comes, you make a date
with your usual lunch partner and go out
to the streets. The streets have a strange
feeling of tension. People seem to be on
dge, deep in conversation with others,
or walking briskly with purpose.

You feel a deep rooted fear. It is a fear
from your childhood that has been
with you all your life. But the towers
glow reassuringly and the big live oak
trees rustle in the cool autumn air around
the stem looking city hall. There have
been crises before, and nothing has ever
happened.

You go to a downtown restaurant to eat,
and find the crowd jittery. It is
a feeling of electric excite-
ment; like before a big parade, or a major
storm.

As you bite into your chicken fried steak,
there is a sudden rustling noise. People
around you lean over, trying to
rush out the door. They are shouting all at
tonce, and cannot be understood, but even
the cashiers are saying “leaves,” taking
the radio with her.

People you begin to move. The
restaurant becomes chaotic as patrons rush
for the exits. Your friend is lost in the con-
fusion and you begin to push, trying to
get out for an unknown reason. Screams
and shouts fill the streets. Someone yells,
“This is it! This is really it!” Faces rush
past with looks of panic stricken upon them.

Until now, you have been confused, but
suddenly there is a deep whining noise. It
grows into a high pitched wail that comes
from everywhere, bouncing off the steel
glass and towers above, and echoing down
the canyons of downtown and beyond.

You know that it is not the first Friday
of the month, and the sirens are real.

You realize now that the impossible has
happened, and that there is very little
time. You find a pitch in a tall building,
where people brush and screaming and
running in total confusion and panic. You
think of your family back home—of the
missile attacking them. You father is
probably trying to get home to your
mother. Your sister is probably trying to
get home the same. You mother is probably running frantically around the
house.

Throughout the city, people get in their
cars and try to escape, totally jamming the
already crowded freeways. Screams and
screeches run through the streets to designated shelters, or to find loved ones. Housewives grab
to their children. Schools are scenes of havoc as teachers abandon stu-
dents and leave for home or try to herd the
screening youngsters into shelters that

“Fireball Sale at the Galleria” by Jeff Bray have long been outdated.

Offices empty; elevators fill with frantic
passengers; vehicles collide and crash, turning the streets into destruction derby
scenery. People are moved down as
cars careen off into building and sidewalks.

In the panic, people do irrational things. Your
or to find loved ones. Housewives
grovel and find the crowd jittery.

There is a blinding flash to the sou-
theast. The earth shakes and the air is rent
with a deafening roar as Pasadena and
Texas City go up in a brilliant blue-white
bulb of superheated radioactive plasma.

Instantly, the ship channel evaporates. atomic heat softens them. They begin to

happen. It

keeps saying, “If we make it through the
next ten or fifteen years . . .” I don’t feel
related. The audience bristles with unanswered questions. Time is up; and a feminine hygiene commercial comes on.

Our homes are still there, our friends begin
to leave, everything is back to normal. The
moon is full and beautiful. The towers
gleam around us. Tomorrow is another
day.

But the vision of the fireball lingers. In
sleep, the fears from childhood—a lifetime
of anxiety—haunt us. The moon is gone,
the towers are gone, we are gone. The issue
is unanswered, unsolved, but the images
of the awful consequences are there. Gay
or straight, black or white, communist or
capitalist—how ironic that the most unify-
ing force in the world is also our greatest
threat.

Think of it. Tensions are high. You will be
at your office downtown tomorrow . . .

Bray is a graphics artist at the MONT-
ROSE VOICE.

----------------------------------------------------------

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COUPON
‘The Right Stuff’ is a Hunk of a Movie

By Steve Warren

Visa Cyn Press Association Wire Service

"Sounds dangerous," says Scott Glenn as Alan Shepard. "Count me in."

When did last hear dialogue like that for a movie? Well, "The Right Stuff" is a safe bet.

The Right Stuff wallows in nostalgia for such old-movie heroism, pokes gentle fun at it and sheds a modern concept of heroism before it’s through.

Test pilot Chuck Yeager (Sam Shepard) approaches the X-1 on horseback and circles it warily. The next day, despite some broken eaves, his plane climbs in, his wife (Barbara Hershey) says "Put a hole in the sky!" and he becomes the first person to break the sound barrier.

Yeager, who never became an astronaut, is the perfect point of departure from which, just wish that someone who can’t remember when space travel wasn’t routine. He follows the U.S. attempts to close the "space gap" after Russia sent Sputnik up in 1957. His mildly mocking manner toward the politicians is balanced by an admiration for the astronauts which does not lose sight of their humanness. This extends to toilet humor and a scene in which two of them have a masturbation race to the anthem of their respective services.

Notable among the actors are Dennis Quaid (as Gordon Cooper), who finally goes beyond the good ol’ boy shit to give a performance with depth, and Scott Glenn, whose biopic — I’m not into muscles, but this man doesn’t need a shirt, he needs a two-car garage! Ed Harris is good as John Glenn, whose language makes Pat Boone sound profligate.

The Right Stuff contains the right songs and the right TV clips (e.g., Bill Dana as Jose Jimenez the Astronaut) to keep us pinpointed in time through the 16-year span. It takes the right approach to create heroes for a country that’s hungry for them but doesn’t want to take them too seriously.

Writer-director Philip Kaufman has a lot on his mind in The Right Stuff, and he gets all of it on the screen in a film more impressive for its logistics than any other single aspect. It takes three-and-one-fourth hours to tell the story, and I’d be lying if I said it seemed shorter; but I can’t think of anything that should be cut.

Working from Tom Wolfe’s revisionist history which took a fresh walk on the old astro turf, Kaufman begins in 1947 with Yeager’s historic flight to give perspective to those who can’t remember when space travel wasn’t routine. He follows the U.S. attempts to close the “space gap” after Russia sent Sputnik up in 1957. His mildly mocking manner toward the politicians is balanced by an admiration for the astronauts which does not lose sight of their humanness. This extends to toilet humor and a scene in which two of them have a masturbation race to the anthem of their respective services.

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GPC Bloc Vote
Essential for Community Accomplishments

From Lee Harrington

This race will provide the perfect example of the bottom-line benefits derived from bloc voting. Certainly, people have the right to vote for whomsoever they choose. The concept of bloc voting calls on all the good and well-heeled to stand up and give up that right for a greater purpose.

It makes no difference whether all the candidates are equal or not, and here's why.

Friendship with, and statements of support for, one's friends are very nice things to have, but in the final analysis, politicians must be treated like politicians. The only time that the very best of them every time is not emotion, is not prayer, is not even money. It's votes. Every time.

All of us concerned are best served to make sure we have a say in the process. Then, once that has taken its course, we are best served to unite in one bloc vote. When people talk up a preference for a greater purpose, it is a personal sacrifice, so those of us involved in the GPC need to make certain we serve the gay community in the best way possible.

Their efforts to move the very best of them every time is not emotion, is not prayer, is not even money. It's votes. Every time.

In a recent study, it was found that the GPC could have opted for a dual endorsement, with a majority and minority recommendation. With a dual endorsement, the GPC could seek to educate the gay community, involving everyone in the decision-making by presenting both sides and encouraging everyone to exercise their own judgement. Instead of the bickering conflict that turns off gay voters, encouraging all members of the gay community to make up their own minds in difficult political races can only increase both gay political involvement and community unity. Furthermore, with a dual endorsement the GPC would have increased its political influence.

Instead, the GPC opted for only one endorsement. The results of their choice have been terribly destructive. By dividing the community into a "life and death" race, they have alienated many political friends and damaged their future ability to lobby effectively.

In order to raise Nikkii, the GPC began to tear down Anthony. Despite the fact that Anthony Hall has been a friend for more than 10 years—voting against 21.06 in 1973 in the state legislature, working to secure gay participation in the Democratic party, and supporting us whenever we have sought his support—he has been accused of being a "sellout." Because he has deferred to the leadership of the gay community (instead of proceeding on his own without regard to the wishes of the gay leadership), he has been accused of having to be coerced into taking his pro-gay rights stands. Such accusations are unfair, deceptive and hypocritical.

In addition to making an enemy of Hall, the GPC has begun to bully and intimidate both Mayor Whitmire and Councilman Greanias because they opposed Hall. Because they support Hall and because the GPC wants Nikkii, the GPC has staged confrontations to split Whitmire and Greanias in a bad light in order to paint Nikkii as the savior whose leadership is needed to counter the Whitmire-Greanias Hall coalition. Once again, the GPC has allowed their electoral goal to cloud their reasoning and provoke irrational behavior.

In closing, I would like to summarize why I support Anthony Hall and why I encourage other gay people to support his election. First, I would like to say that I have nothing against Nikkii. I think she is an eloquent advocate of our issues and would make an excellent addition to the City Council—but not at the expense of losing Anthony Hall. Idealism is important, but so is loyalty. Anthony Hall has been our friend, he is an experienced and effective member of the City Council and he has the support of our other friends like Kathy Whitmire and George Greanias—on such, he deserves our continued support.

Leland Called on Carpet for Reagan
Impachment Suggestion

From D.B. Carter

To: Rep. Mickey Leland

Your recent statements and actions about impeaching the President of the United States have enraged me so much that only your resignation as my representative could properly show me that you have truly repented. I am sure a recall petition is currently being drafted.

I have supported you by contributing money to organizations that promote you, attending rallies for you, by voting for you, and by talking others into backing you. Naturally, my embarrassment as your representative trying to impeach President Ronald Reagan after I have lent my name, effort and money to you is more than I can express in words.

You must be unaware that the vast majority of your supporters in the black, Mexican-American and gay communities are pro-American and in support of our President's foreign policy actions in the recent weeks.

There may be organizations within the above groups that have officers that do not believe in the President's foreign policy, but like trade unions, the officers neither represent the attitudes of the membership nor can deliver the votes when a conflict exists ...

Some of these groups and/or their officers have very narrow special interests—which is fine—but to support an elected representative that can support their special interests and yet be totally out of phase with all other aspects of their members' beliefs is not correct ...

You were supported because of your knowledge of and work in the Civil Rights area, but not for your expertise in foreign affairs, of which you apparently have much to offer ...

A written and other well-publicized apology to the President and your supporters may calm the embarrassment you have caused.

(Editors note: Leland, the Montrose-area representative, and several other Congressmen, signed a letter calling for Pres. Reagan's impeachment over the Grenada invasion. Leland later said he had a misunderstanding of the letter and asked to have his name removed.)
Selected Events through 7 Days


FRIDAY: Committee for Public Health Awareness's "Sharing Group for the Worried Well." 7-9pm. Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett Blvd., Suite 203

SATURDAY: Montrose Tennis Club plays 10:30am-11:45am, MacGregor Park

SUNDAY: 5th Memorial Harvey M. McConnell March, San Francisco

MONDAY: AIDS victim support group meets 6:30pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett Blvd., Suite 203

MONDAY: MSA Bowling, 9pm at St. Bloum Bowl, 820 Braesman

TUESDAY: Montrose Symphonic Band meets at 7:30pm, Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30pm Dec 28

WEDNESDAY: Gay Political Caucus meets 10am-12pm, MSA, 2800 Braesman

THURSDAY: First day of Hanukah

THURSDAY: Wilde 'n Steam gay radio show 7:30pm on KPRR

THURSDAY: MSA Mixed Bowling League bowls, 9pm at Stadium Bowl, 820 Braesman

Selected Events in future Weeks

JANUARY 1: Week 1: Choice's Lesbian Mothers' Group meet 6:30pm Dec 3, 210 Fairview, apt. 1

JANUARY 1 WEEK 1: Lesbians & Gay People in Medicine meet 7:30pm Dec 5

JANUARY 1 WEEK 1: Lesbian/Gay Resource Service, Univ. of Houston, meets 2:30pm Dec 6, Spinthor Room, Univ. Center, Univ. Park

JANUARY 2 WEEKS: Citizens for Human Equality (CHE) meet Dec 17

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Houston Data Professionals meet 7:30pm Dec 13, East Room, Holiday Inn Central, 4640 South Main

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Greater Montrose Business Guild meet 7:30pm Dec 6, Liberty Bank community room, 1001 Westheimer

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Luthers Concerned meets Dec 13, Grace Lutheran, 4010 Broadway, 11:00am

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Choices meets 12:30pm Dec 18

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston Dec 18, 1st Unitarian Church, 2051 Fannin

JANUARY 3 WEEKS: Families & Friends of Gay Lesbians Meet Dec 18, Presbyterian Church behind 1st Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 5 WEEKS: Winter begins at 4:31am, Dec 22

JANUARY 4 WEEKS: Christmas, Dec 25
"My word! ... That one came just too close for comfort, if you ask me."

"Blast! This cinches it! ... If we ever find it again, I'm gonna bolt the sucker on!"

"I've had it, Doc! ... I've come all the way from Alabama with this danged thing on my knee!"

"Okay, this time Rex and Zeke will be the wolves, Fifi and Muffin will be the coyotes, and ... listen! ... Here comes the deer!"

"Little Beaver? Red Eagle? Where is everyone? Okay... Joke's over!"

"I've had it, Doc! ... I've come all the way from Alabama with this danged thing on my knee!"
MONTROSE CLASSIFIEDS

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Placing a Classified other than a Personals? Read this:

ANNOUNCEMENTS $1.00/word

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DOUWE LAY'S, MISC. $1.00/word

MODELS, ESCORTS, MASSEURS & SERVICES $1.00/word

TRAVEL $1.00/word

RATE: Up to 3 words in bold, $2. Additional regular words 30¢ each. Minimum charge, 50¢.

DEADLINE: 5:00pm Tuesday for Friday's newspaper.

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CHARGE YOUR AD: All classifieds must be paid in advance or you can charge your classified to MasterCard or Visa. We do not bill for classifieds.

PHONE IN YOUR AD: Only those who will be charging to MasterCard or Visa can phone in classifieds to (713) 529-8490 Monday or Tuesday, 9am to 5:30pm.

(free or 30¢/word)

(30¢/word)

(30¢/word)

bold headline at $2

blind Box at $3 per issue

Total

(free or 30¢/word) (up to 3 normal-size words in bold capitals)

CARPET CLEANING


PERSONALS OF HOUSTON

Dedicated to the professional man or woman with special lifestyle needs. Only $10 for 25 words or less will allow you to meet that special someone for the holidays. Soon to go national! 1969 S. Voss, Suite 270, Houston 77074. 728-3183.

Randy Alfred's Dateline S.F., twice a month only in the Voice

BUSINESS CARDS $13.10!


DEPARTMENTAL


ATTORNEY

Jerry Garrett, 4820 Montrose, Suite 11, 529-2657.

PATRICIA ANNE OXANE

Attorney at law, 526-1911.

DENNIS BRAS

Moving and Hauling, 529-4453 or 521-2832.

MONTROSE VOICE

521-2832

2025 Westheimer

November 25, 1983

TRAVEL

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

Complete travel arrangements. All services are free. 2025 Southwest Freeway, 529-9446.

TRAVEL

By Tycho

For Friday evening. November 25, 1983, through Friday evening, December 2, 1983.

ARIES—You're concerned with the finer and deeper points of relationships. This weekend, do the best you can and be the key word in the coming week. Your curiosity, we'll assign you a Blind Box Number. The answers to your ad will be sent to us and we will then confidentially forward the replies to you. Rate is $7 for each week the ad runs but replies will be forwarded as long as they come in.

ANSWERING A BLIND BOX NUMBER: Address your reply to the Blind Box Number, c/o Montrose Voice, 3317 Montrose #306, Houston, TX 77006. Enclose no money. Your letter will be forwarded unopened and confidentially to the advertiser.

CHARGE YOUR PERSONAL TO CREDIT CARD: All charges beyond the 15 word limit or Blind Box charges must be paid in advance OR you can charge to MasterCard or Visa. We do not bill for classifieds.

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NIKKI
FOR OUR
FUTURE

"Times they are a-changing"

It used to be enough to “vote right” when pushed. We were glad to have a handful of folks in politics who would talk with us, not hurt us—we didn’t ask for much more.

Now we can elect activists for gay rights—not just those who “vote right” when asked.

Nikki Van Hightower—our advocate in the past—will work as hard in the future for gay rights as any other issue facing the people of Houston.

Gay politics is moving into a new era. We want elected officials to be accountable—not just accessible.

Isn’t it time we ensured our future by electing a representative for all of us?

ELECT NIKKI VAN HIGHTOWER
CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE, POSITION 4
NOVEMBER 29

GPC Victory Celebration
Join our candidates in a community-wide celebration at the Copa, 2631 Richmond. Cover is $3.00 at the door; $2.00 for GPC members. Party starts at 8 p.m. on election day, November 29th, with televised election results.

GPC Victory Celebration

GAY BLOC VOTE

Election Information
For information concerning precinct and polling locations, or for a ride to the polls, please call the GPC office at 521-1000 or the Nikki Van Hightower Campaign at 526-1840.

Political advertisement paid for, drawn up, and/or financed by members of the Gay Caucus and the Nikki Van Hightower Campaign.

Fred Hoffmeier, Treasurer