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GENERATE
Strategic Marketing & Design

ON Magazine is designed by
generategroup.com

ON Magazine is published monthly by CUE Media, LLC 1346 The Alameda, Suite 7-106, San Jose, CA 95126-5006, Phone (408) 920-0728, Fax (408) 287-1119. ON Magazine is a free publication distributed primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area at more than 200 locations. Other locations include Palm Springs, Sacramento, Monterey, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz. A one-year subscription (12 issues) is \$16.95, and a two-year subscription (24 issues) is \$24.95, which covers the cost of mailing the magazine in a sealed opaque envelope. The opinions expressed in our articles are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of ON Magazine or its publishers. Writers, advertisers and those appearing in, or mentioned in, our magazine are not necessarily identified as being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. ON Magazine is not responsible for loss, damage or any other injury to unsolicited manuscripts, unsolicited artwork (including but not limited to drawings, photographs and transparencies), or another unsolicited material. Those submitting manuscripts should not send originals unless specifically requested to do so by CUE Media, LLC in writing. ON Magazine is not responsible for the return of submissions unless accompanied by a self-addressed, return envelope, postage prepaid. All materials are ©2007 CUE Media LLC. Reproduction in any form is prohibited without Publisher's written consent. Printed in the USA.

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FROM THE EDITOR

— Troy May

Relationships have been a cornerstone in my life. I had my first boyfriend when I was 16, during my sophomore year of high school. Having a boyfriend was a bold move, since I lived in small town in Kentucky — land of the Pentecostals and Southern Baptists.

His name was Mike, and he was a high school senior I met at a friend's party. We never labeled ourselves as boyfriends, but we were. The relationship lasted

about a year, before I met another country boy.

That could be why I've always been relationship-oriented, always having a boyfriend or partner throughout my adult life. Before I left one boyfriend, I already had someone else lined up. My boyfriends were long-term, meaning years, not weeks or months. Before my current relationship, I was with someone for 11 years, and before him, I was with a partner for three years.

Soon after I moved to San Jose from Ohio six years ago, I wassingle again. My partner didn't want to

leave Ohio, and I didn't want to stay. Being alone in a new place was a little depressing at first. It was the first time I had been alone.

It turned out to be time well spent.

After years of long-term relationships, I enjoyed being single. Once I decided to start dating, I met guys in bars. We would go out on a date, have sex, go out on another date a week later, have sex again, and so forth.

Eventually, I felt like most guys just wanted a weekend boyfriend for something to do and convenient sex.

One day at work, two women told me they met their husbands on Match.com, a dating website that also has a section for gay men and women. Soon after I posted my profile, I started meeting men from the site.

One man spent the entire date talking about his partner, who had died of cancer a year earlier. Another guy and I went to a play on our first date. By the time I got home, there was a message on my machine from him saying "I think I could love you." We never went out again.

I met another guy who dressed like John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever." It was 2002, and stiff polyester was out. But he was hot, he had a great body, and he was just out of the military, so I decided to overlook the cheap suit and go out on a second date.

In his living room, after a few hours of romance, he offered me some drugs. I gathered my things and left.

I had gone out to coffee, lunch or dinner with 36 men by then, and I was getting tired. Right when I decided to delete my profile from Match.com, I read one last response. This one was from a good-looking guy named John. He wasn't my type. I'm often attracted to smooth guys with a thick build who are around my height of 5 feet 9 inches.

John is 6 feet 3 inches tall, lean, and hairy. After a few e-mails and phone conversations, we decided to meet in the Castro for coffee. We met at 11 a.m., a good time because if I liked him, I could invite him to lunch. If we didn't connect, I scheduled a friend to call me at noon to get me out of the date.

We were together until 2 a.m. the next morning — and no, we didn't have sex.

We dated for eight months, and then moved in together. On our four-year anniversary, we exchanged rings and purchased a house. John is a wonderful man, and I'm fortunate to have him as my partner. One should never limit themselves to a "type."

The Internet is just one more venue to find romance. Like any dating routine, it takes scrutiny, patience and perseverance. **ON**

Troy May is the executive editor for ON Magazine. You can reach him at troy@outnowmag.com.

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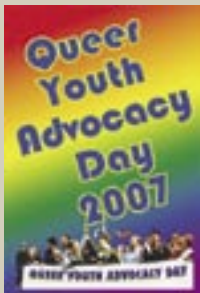
SURGERY GETS SAFER FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV

Triple-combination AIDS therapies are making it possible for people who are HIV+ to safely have surgeries they might not have had 10 years ago, Kaiser Permanente researchers recently reported.

The researchers compared post-surgery outcomes for people with and without HIV. The results were similar for both groups.

Lead researcher Michael A. Horberg said that over the last decade the use of three or more drugs at a time to control HIV has led to better health for people with the virus.

"What the results mean for patients who are HIV+ is if there is a need for elective or urgent surgery, in nearly all cases, HIV should not be a reason for holding off on having surgery," Horberg said.



GLBT YOUTH INVITED TO EDUCATE LAWMAKERS

Young people who are interested in policy advocacy, community, organizing, lobbying and safer schools are invited to lead lobbying visits on Queer Youth Advocacy Day, on March 26 in Sacramento.

Queer Youth Advocacy Day offers GLBT youth from across the state a chance to educate lawmakers on their needs, and what needs to be done to end harassment and discrimination in schools.

All leaders will receive an intensive, all-day training March 25. Leaders must spend March 24-26 in Sacramento. GSA Network will make no-cost arrangements for leaders who need assistance with travel and housing in Sacramento.

Apply at gsanetwork.org/qyad. The deadline is Feb. 12. Applicants will be notified via e-mail of the final selection by Feb. 21.

For more information, please contact Lai-San Seto, GSA Network's Advocacy Coordinator, at advocacy@gsanetwork.org or (415) 552-4229.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE BILL WOULD ALLOW STATE TO PURCHASE NEEDLES

After failing at previous attempts to alter the state's stance on needle exchange programs, Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, is trying again.

Assembly Bill 110, which he introduced in January, would clarify existing policy that allows public agencies to use state HIV prevention and education funds to assist authorized exchange programs. The legislation would also permit local agencies to buy sterile needles and syringes for authorized exchange programs.

"Studies have concluded that needle exchange programs suppress the spread of HIV, without contributing to increases in drug use," said Dana Van Gorder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, one of the bill's co-sponsors.

According to Laird's office, state department of health statistics suggest that sharing syringes causes up to 1,500 new HIV infections annually in California.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

See the all new events calendar on page 22.



TV SHOW ON GAY BLACK MEN TO BECOME MOVIE

"Noah's Arc," the hit TV series about four black gay friends in Los Angeles, will soon be a movie. Logo, the national gay TV channel, is planning

to have a film based on the show ready for 2008.

"'Noah's Arc' has one of the most intensely loyal fan bases in television," said Brian Graden, Logo's president, in a press release. "'Noah's Arc' has so many dimensions and possibilities, so advancing to the feature film format is an exciting

way to motivate our loyal fans and engage an even wider audience."

The movie will most likely pick up where the show's second season left off. The network is already considering sequels for the movie.

"Noah's Arc" premiered in October 2005. This will be Logo's first original theatrical film.

GAY ASIAN GROUP SHOWS PRIDE AT CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

— KEVIN DAVIS

Despite San Francisco's status as a gay Mecca, it can be hard to find your kindred tribe, the people that you feel most comfortable with.

One group that represents such solidarity, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, will display their collective pride March 3 at San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade.

GAPA's participation in the parade has received broad support from the straight community.

"Surprisingly we were accepted with open arms," said Donald Matsuda, a two-year co-chair and 13-year board member.

The group has participated in the parade almost every year since the early 1990s

"We've been wonderfully surprised by the reaction of the crowd," said Wilson Fang, GAPA spokesman.

Gay and bisexual Asian and Pacific Islander men were

seeking a collective identity when they formed GAPA in 1988. Similar groups had come and gone before GAPA, but it wasn't until the group's formation, 20 years after Stonewall, that gay Asian and Pacific Islanders had a political and social voice.

The group gives immigrants and American-born men a chance to empower themselves while addressing issues such as sexual identity, cultural bonds and family background.

Following their 14-foot GAPA banner, this year's float will most likely address marriage equality and family acceptance, said Fang.

As it is the biggest Chinese New Year Parade worldwide, (and a completely American invention, along with Miss Chinatown and her court), the parade is broadcast worldwide — even to mainland China, though the broadcast there is possibly censored.

For more information, visit gapa.org. **ON**

Kevin Davis is a freelance writer in San Francisco.



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ON BOOKS



Baby Remember My Name: An Anthology of New Queer Girl Writing

Edited by Michelle Tea

(Carroll and Graf Publishers, 249 pages, due out in February)

Looking at the cover photo of two girls kissing, it's easy to suspect "Baby Remember My Name" is a mere collection of mild erotica. It's not. The book is an invigorating, original collection of stories from writers you've probably never heard of but will want to know more about. Each one expresses herself in her own distinct, captivating way. A brief, comic look at roommates wasting away in front of reality TV is immediately followed by a poignant story about a young girl craving love while coping with poverty and a crack-addicted mother. The book might also leave you feeling a little wistful. Regardless of the details of your life, the stories here are likely to evoke memories of places you've been and people you've known.



Touch Me There! A Hands-On Guide to Your Orgasmic Hot Spots

By Yvonne K. Fulbright

(Hunter House Publishers, 192 pages, due out in February)

"Touch Me There!" is a thoroughly detailed guide that offers very specific ideas for stimulating your partner. The book isn't as fun of a read as it might sound; probably out of necessity, it gets a bit technical. But you're likely to learn a lot. How many of us have ever thought of turning someone on by playing with his or her wrists or collarbone? "Touch Me There," which is due to be published this month, also clues you in on why the body's more popular pleasure spots offer the thrills that they're known for.



Under the Big Sky: What Heaven Hath Joined Together ... Let No Man Cut Asunder

By S. Bryan Gonzales

(Author House, 477 pages, available now.)

If you can get past the laughable title, the overwrought writing and the ridiculous plot, you might find yourself embarrassingly riveted by "Under the Big Sky." Embedded in this teenage soap opera is a sweet, sad story. Cash McCollum and Travis Hunter are the top high school athletes in their small Montana town — Cash is the top-ranked rodeo cowboy, and Travis is star of the football team. The two fall in love at first sight, but as their celebrity rises and they try to keep their love for each other a secret, their relationship starts to crumble. In spite of — or maybe because of — chintzy lines like "I see my world, Cash ... I see my entire world in you," you'll keep reading to see what happens next as the boys take turns messing up their relationship.

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ON DVD

Epic 'Brideshead Revisited' Remains Masterful Portrayal of Men's Love

Beautiful tale that was, for many, a first look at gay romance returns.

— DAVID ALEXANDER NAHMOD

For many gay men of a certain age, Granada Television's mammoth production of Evelyn Waugh's "Brideshead Revisited" was the first time they had ever seen gay romantic love eloquently portrayed on the screen.

Perhaps the most beautiful television production ever, "Brideshead Revisited" remains a masterpiece of epic storytelling, and the series is an important milestone in the presentation of gay romantic love. I can think of no better recommendation for your Valentine's Day viewing pleasure.

Waugh's novel, published in 1945, was a masterful tale of nostalgic longing. To war-weary Britons, the book was a welcome relief.

Waugh's protagonist, Charles Ryder, was loosely based on himself. Both were upper-middle class intellectuals, and both were fascinated by and envious of the seemingly charmed lives led by the super rich upper classes. Many of the early scenes at Oxford University were lifted from the author's own youthful memories of life there, as he had lived it during the 1920s.

There were several attempts to film "Brideshead Revisited." MGM owned the rights for years. But this sprawling story, which spans 25 years and several continents, could not be whittled down

to the running time of a single film without diminishing its emotional impact.

Upon its initial approval of the production, Granada agreed to six one-hour episodes. But after shooting commenced, it became clear that even six hours was not enough to properly tell this very special story.

When "Brideshead Revisited" finally aired, in 1981 in England and 1982 in the United States, it ran for an unheard of 12 and a half hours spread over 11 nights. The slow, almost dreamlike epic was a sensation.

As the story begins in 1922, young, quiet Charles Ryder (Jeremy Irons) is settling into life at Oxford. But when he meets loud, boisterous, and beautiful Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews) Ryder's life changes forever. The two quickly develop a deep friendship. Though it is unspoken, they are clearly in love. They spend many hours in each other's arms.

When Sebastian takes his "new friend" home, Charles is astonished. Home is an ancestral castle called Brideshead. Its size, scope and elegance would rival Buckingham Palace. Brideshead is a world that fascinates Charles, but repels Sebastian.

In the second episode, "Home and Abroad," the boys visit Sebastian's father, Lord Marchmain (Laurence

Olivier), and his Italian mistress (Stephane Audran). This beautiful episode, shot on location in Venice, shows the depth of the love that Charles and Sebastian have come to feel for each other. They ride in a gondola while enjoying wine and cheese. They walk along the beach arm in arm, feeling no shame in displaying the love that everyone around them can plainly see. It's beautiful and heartwarming.

But their love turns sour when Sebastian, feeling stifled by his family's deep Catholic faith and class consciousness, turns to alcohol. After Sebastian disappears from everyone's lives, Charles' affections turn to Sebastian's hauntingly beautiful sister Julia (Diana Quick).

Does Charles really love Julia, or is he in love with the Brideshead lifestyle? Or is he still in love with Sebastian, unable to let go? Has Charles turned to Julia in order to hold onto his lost past?

"Brideshead Revisited" follows Charles' involvement with the Flyte family over a period of decades. It's a beautiful, deeply emotional story, exquisitely shot at locations we can only dream about.

The cast becomes their roles. Irons and Andrews may be the most beautiful-looking gay couple in film history, and there isn't a false note in their scenes together. When we first meet Quick's Julia, we see a haughty, spoiled rich

girl, but we eventually learn that she, too, has been torn apart by her family's faith.

Kudos must also go to Olivier, Claire Bloom as the long-suffering but dignified Lady Marchmain, and gay actor Sir John Gielgud, who gives a wonderful performance as Edward Ryder, Charles' stuffy, highly eccentric father.

Acorn Media has re-released Brideshead Revisited in a lovely, four-disc box set to coincide with the series' 25th anniversary. All 11 episodes are presented complete, uncut, and in sequence. Print, sound, and color are as beautiful and as vibrant as when the series first aired.

The first episode features a commentary track with Jeremy Irons, Diana Quick and Nickolas Grace, who played Anthony Blanche, an openly gay, flamboyant queen seen in the Oxford scenes. The fourth episode features another commentary, with Anthony Andrews and producer Derek Granger. "Revisiting Brideshead" is a 50-minute retrospective documentary that puts the series, and the original novel, in their historic perspectives, and discusses the story's gay romantic aspects.

A companion booklet is also included, giving details on the production history of "Brideshead" and the career of author Evelyn Waugh. **ON**

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JASON & DEMARCO

A COUPLE'S
MESSAGE
OF LOVE IS
CATCHING ON

—DANIEL SEVERIN



Jason & deMarco provide a positive image and heartfelt music.

Does a group that's been around for five years qualify as an overnight success? In the case of openly gay Christian pop duo Jason and deMarco, the answer seems to be "Yes."

Partners for six years and musical collaborators for five, the guys recorded five albums and toured constantly. But it only took a few weeks of exposure on queer TV network Logo for Jason and deMarco's song "This is Love" to become the most popular video on the network's show "The Click." The show recently ranked "This is Love" as the best video of 2006.

The video for "This is Love" presents a positive image of gay people in love that resonates with viewers. It shows Jason and deMarco performing, hanging out, and being in love, a representation that is much needed in the GLBT community.

The duo wanted the video to live up to its title. "This is Love" shows that "it really is possible to find a partner to share your life with, cuddle on the couch and play on the beach with," deMarco said.

The connection between Jason and deMarco can clearly be seen in the video and is strongly reflected in their lyrics. It was an instant attraction that has lasted.

While the video makes gay love visible, in their songs Jason and deMarco explore universal experiences such as life and relationships, Jason said.

The couple performed at First Congregational Church of San Jose in November at a youth retreat with about 70 mostly straight kids.

"They are a couple of gay boys who affirm our values of being open and spiritual," said Wade Zick, director of youth ministries at the church. "They are upbeat about faith, love and peace."

The couple sang and gave testimony about their life together and their faith in God.

"The kids just loved them," Zick said.

Listeners of the duo's latest album "Till the End of Time" will detect both gay and spiritual influences in the catchy acoustic and beat-oriented tracks. In fact, both Jason and deMarco's

singing careers were kick-started by religion: Jason grew up singing in his Christian church, and deMarco at home constantly sang songs he had learned from his church's nuns.

Faith is a central aspect of the duo's work, but their music is not defined by it. "We don't want our music to be considered Christian music or political music," Jason said. "We want our music to be music that anyone can listen to and get something out of."

Jason and deMarco's music skillfully straddles the line between mainstream and religious, and the duo has been well received in both communities. Their earliest recordings included both religious standards and original songs. "Till the End of Time" comes from the heart and is great for lounging and dancing, deMarco said.

The community of faith has been very tolerant of Jason's sexuality and strongly supports the duo's music. "They feel they're succeeding by seeing us succeed," Jason said.

Jason and deMarco have always been open about their sexuality. On their spiritpop.com website, Jason has posted an inspiring message about how he has reconciled his sexuality and his religious beliefs. This honesty and integrity are both touching and necessary in our current political situation.

"The gay community's number one resister right now is the Christian right," Jason said. "As much as the gay community may not be comfortable with spirituality, it's something that has to be discussed. The only way our community is going to

truly see growth and freedom is if we confront our adversary."

By making and releasing music, Jason and deMarco are doing their part to combat homophobia in society. But as independent artists not on a major record label, their ability to reach a large audience is limited.

Still, they are attracting a healthy amount of attention. Jason and deMarco made the cover of *The Advocate* in 2004 when they released the CD "Spirit Pop."

The couple is constantly touring. They perform in churches regularly, and after such high-profile gigs as last year's Gay Games, Jason and deMarco's fans should soon fill large venues.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Jason and deMarco have released a CD/DVD set of "This is Love." Featuring the video, a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the video, and some remixes, "This is Love" provides a great introduction to the duo's music.

The crystal ball shows even greater success for Jason and deMarco in 2007. They have a new single coming out this summer, and a documentary about them is on its way to the film festival circuit.

Jason and deMarco's music is also available on the Internet at both iTunes and MySpace. For more information about the duo, visit their website at jasonanddemarco.com. **ON**

Daniel Severin is a freelance writer in San Jose

Donna Sachet



PHOTO: STEVEN UNDERHILL

A Smiling Spirit
❁ Wrapped in Red

— TROY MAY

Last spring Donna Sachet received a phone call from a friend who moved home to Mobile, Ala. from San Francisco.

"Donna, will you come and help us with our pride celebration?" he asked. Without hesitation, she said, "Sure, I'll be there."

Donna, the honorary first lady of the Castro, has worked as a tireless fundraiser for 15 years. And when a friend called from across the country asking for help with the second annual pride event in Mobile, she delivered.

Donna isn't a stranger to the South. She lived there as a young man and graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. with a degree in liberal arts. Donna radiates old-fashioned Southern charm.

She left the South years ago for a retail career in New York City, and in 1990 she moved to San Francisco. For many years, she has lived in friendly environments where drag's glamour is celebrated, not shunned.

Over the years, she has been honored with many awards, such as the 2005 Bob Cramer Humanitarian Award, Sainthood from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in 2004 and Cable Car Entertainer of the Year 1996. She's also gotten accolades from a variety of politicians.

Donna has been involved with charity fundraising and supported gay rights for years, always being welcomed with open arms from gay and straight audiences. But her trip to Mobile was eye opening.

"There were as many protestors as marchers," Donna said. "People were yelling and throwing things. It helped bring me back to Earth." At that point, Donna was reminded that many gay people in this country are still struggling for basic rights.

The pride parade wound a figure eight around downtown Mobile's central square. Once they finished the parade at the square, protestors were still yelling at the marchers.

"We were about to start the celebration in the square, and we stopped, and just started to sing the national anthem," Donna said.

The protestors went silent. "They didn't know what to do. It's our national anthem, too," she said.

Protestors walked away and the pride celebration continued in peace. "It was a powerful moment," Donna said.

Donna came out in the South. She went to her first gay bar in Nashville, where she saw drag for the first time.

"I remember those drag queens were larger than life with their big hair and all that makeup." Drag intrigued Donna, but it was years before she had the courage to manifest her inner woman.

Since retiring from the retail industry, Donna has escalated her career as an entertainer. One of her early experiences on stage was at a drag bar named the Mother Lode on Polk Street in San Francisco, which is now closed.

"I was number 82," she said. When her number was called, she jumped up on stage to do a Mariah Carey song, leaving her purse on the seat.

"It was a disaster. I think the crowd was expecting something a little more high energy." To top it off, "I went back to my seat and my purse was stolen."

She complained to the bar manager, who showed no concern for her stolen purse.

"Luckily, I had some tips to pay for a bus ride home," she said.

She went on to perform around the city, using her own voice and pleasant wit to entertain diverse audiences. Many nonprofit organizations have asked her to emcee, and she rarely turns anyone down.

Nonprofit work is in her blood. She was working at the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City when AIDS had just started to explode in the gay community. "I licked envelopes," she said.

She has moved up from licking envelopes to entertaining thousands who often write checks to support GLBT causes, such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation,

where she is co-chair of the annual media awards event.

"Donna is a shining example of volunteerism," said John Marez, co-chair of the San Francisco GLAAD media awards. "She is an incredible role model. If there were hundreds of Donnas, nonprofits would be in great shape."

Last fall, she was a guest entertainer on RSVP vacations, a gay cruise line. In May, she is scheduled to entertain on the first-ever all-gay transatlantic crossing, when RSVP travels from New York City to Southampton, England on the historic Queen Mary II.

California Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, is Donna's good friend. "She is one of the preeminent fundraisers in this community," he said.

"She isn't about any kind of gender or category, she is a powerful spirit and spreads good will," he said. "The spirit

just happens to wear a lot of red Chanel.

"She helps put a smile on people's face, that's her magic," Leno said. **ON**

Troy May is the executive editor of ON Magazine. You can reach him at troy@outnowmag.com.



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Kitty Rose

— DANIEL SEVERIN

Kitty Rose formed her first group when she was 12. "I was that geeky girl who would bring her guitar to school and play at lunch time," she said.

Unlike many musicians, Kitty doesn't pretend to be someone she's not. The country singer is a real cowgirl from Texas currently living on a ranch in the North Bay. And she's always been open about being a lesbian.

Kitty says music is in her blood. She's played music professionally for nearly 30 years, and she's as excited about performing now as she's ever been.

The singer will perform Feb. 17 at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center to celebrate the re-release of her CD "Live at the Ryman."

Kitty's music is rooted in the classic country sound of the Grand Ole Opry and such legendary performers as Patsy Cline, George Jones and Hank Williams.

The LGBT Center has a "great performance space" that Kitty will use to give her fans a musical experience like that of the Opry shows, complete with dancers,

a live band, and the Twilight Vixen Revue.

The "Live at the Ryman" concert commemorates Kitty's Nashville debut. It was recorded in the legendary theatre where the Opry was broadcast on radio from 1943 to 1974.

While not everyone may see a link between country music and the GLBT community, Kitty presents herself honestly on the stage.

"I believe that because of my sexual orientation I have had more opportunities than other artists," Kitty said.

Her music appeals to a niche audience that recognizes passion and talent over a performer's image. Between the many resources available in the Bay Area and the connectivity of the Internet, Kitty feels constantly supported.

"When you project that you are secure in who you are and play good music, it connects with people," no matter where you are playing, Kitty said.

Kitty has made plenty of recordings in the past 30 years, in genres including Americana, country, and rock. Last year she

released a "Greatest Hits" CD that represents all eras of her career.

The "Greatest Hits" CD received good reviews, airplay on many radio stations, and increased Rose's music industry profile. Kitty also won Outmusic's award for Best Debut Female artist of 2005, which she found both ironic and flattering.

Rather than dwell on the past or worry about becoming a big star, Kitty focuses on promoting her upcoming shows.

"The live shows are everything to me," Rose said. "Recordings make the performances possible."

Kitty's music may be grounded in the country style of the past, but her career takes full advantage of modern technology.

With online digital distribution, listeners can download Rose's songs from her website (or iTunes or Napster), and she gets paid directly for her material. In the past, artists had to rely on royalty checks to see the profits from their work.

Rose's website, kittyrose.com, and MySpace page, myspace.com/kittyrose4country, link her directly to fans and listeners. Her visibility has even made her

a role model to emerging artists who wonder if being out will affect their success.

She tells such performers, "If you're good, people will accept you." If you believe in your music and yourself, audiences will as well, she says.

Kitty points to her own busy schedule as evidence of this. She has tour dates scheduled from February through July that will take her across the United States. Rose will be playing in clubs, at the South By Southwest music industry convention, and at as many pride festivals as she can squeeze in.

"Live at the Ryman," will be released Feb. 13, right in time for Valentine's Day. It can be purchased online or at her San Francisco show Feb. 17. **ON**



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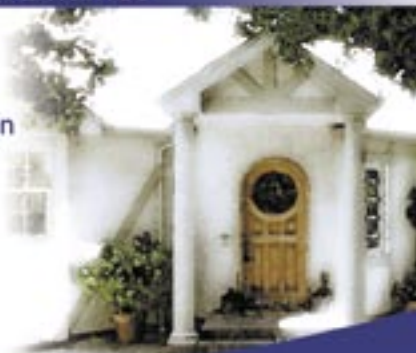
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AIDS COALITION HEAD TAKES SF JOB

Silicon Valley group undecided
on how to replace him.

— MATTHEW S. BAJKO

One of Silicon Valley's biggest AIDS organizations is undergoing leadership changes as the staff plans the group's next fundraisers.

Paul Boneberg, AIDS Coalition Silicon Valley executive director, has accepted the job of part-time executive director of the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco. Boneberg said he would continue working with the coalition while the group decides how to replace him.

The AIDS coalition board is debating whether to return to a full-time executive director position due to the organization's recent growth. Its budget grew by 44 percent in 2006, to \$360,000. Teresa O'Neill, who was elected board chair of the non-profit coalition in January, said the board expects to see even more growth in 2007. The last time the group had a full-time executive director was in 2004.

She said the board is reluctant to see Boneberg leave.

"(Boneberg) has made great contributions since he joined us in May 2005," she said. "We have some interesting plans for the next year or so, and Paul will

help get us started," she said in an e-mail.

Planning is already underway for the coalition's Unmask the Mysteries gala, to be held May 19 at the Triton Museum, and its annual Walk for AIDS, which is scheduled for Oct. 21. O'Neill said the fact that Boneberg is staying on for now will allow the group to delay staffing decisions until the next board meeting. This allows them to focus on activities such as Unmask the Mysteries.

Boneberg, 53, took the historical society job because his partner bought a home in Vallejo and Boneberg moved there last year. He said he no longer wants to commute to the South Bay. He started his new, \$42,000-a-year job Jan. 2 and will work in San Francisco three days a week, while the other two will be spent in San Jose.

The coalition is also undergoing some other changes. Replacing O'Neill as board secretary this year is Judy Whittier, director of community resources for the Bill Wilson Center. Regina Hayes will continue to serve as vice chair and Bruce Swanson is assuming the role of secretary. **ON**

Matthew S. Bajko is the assistant editor of the Bay Area Reporter.

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ON THE OSCARS

Predictions on the oscar winners and losers.

— PETER CANAVESE

The 79th Academy Awards will be handed out on Feb 25, 2007, with the ceremony broadcast on Oscar's longtime home: ABC. It's a dicey, highly subjective process for any body to choose top artistic achievements, but the Oscars manage to do so every year, like clockwork, with confident aplomb. Speaking of dicey things, here are my predictions of the winners in the top ten categories.

In the animated feature film category, the race will most likely go to popular Pixar's zippy "Cars" (over "Happy Feet" and "Monster House"). With some of the most original screenplays ("Brick," "Half Nelson," "United 93") shut out, the category is a bit of a toss-up, but chances are Michael Arndt will be recognized for the offbeat "Little Miss Sunshine" (but don't count out the complex "Babel" and tricky "The Queen"). Adapted screenplay should be a horse race between William Monahan's script for "The Departed" and Todd Field and Tom Perotta's adaptation of Perrotta's novel "Little Children," but I'll give the edge to Monahan.

"Pan's Labyrinth" will most likely be the runaway winner of Best Foreign-Language Film, and here's hoping long-overdue Martin Scorsese finally collects the gold for "The Departed." A possible spoiler: Paul Greengrass for "United 93," which didn't get a Best Picture nod (in a familiar quirk of the Director category,

"Little Miss Sunshine" is in the top five for Best Picture, but its directors weren't nominated). As for Best Picture, with "Dreamgirls" rather shockingly out of the running, it's anyone's guess where the Academy's sympathies lie here. "Babel" took home a Golden Globe for Best Drama, but I suspect the old-fashioned gangster flick "The Departed" will edge out an offbeat pack.

In the acting categories, Jack Nicholson ("The Departed") was surprisingly snubbed for the always hotly-contested Supporting Actor prize; Eddie Murphy ("Dreamgirls") has the edge of his Golden Globe win, but Haley has more critic's nods and a great story of "fallen child star makes good." I'll go with Haley ("Little Children"). For Supporting Actress, "Dreamgirls" Jennifer Hudson most likely won't be denied. Best Actress is clear-cut: "Queen" Helen Mirren can't lose. Best Actor may surprise all of us, but—"Venus" Peter O'Toole notwithstanding—it wouldn't be wise to bet against Forest Whitaker, who has collected a Golden Globe and the lion's share of critics' prizes for his work in "The Last King of Scotland."

So cozy up with some popcorn and booze, and enjoy all the glamour and envy, the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat. **ON**

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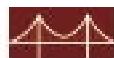
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LIVE WITH PEACE OF MIND

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS UNSAFE WORLD FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH

— Seth Hemmelgarn

Montica Levy gets nervous walking or taking public transportation alone at night, and she's afraid of being run over in crosswalks. Despite her self-confidence, the Palo Alto high school senior fears for her life.

"I know people hate transgender people," Montica said.

"Most people think the Bay Area is progressive, but there's a startling lack of understanding," said Shannon Turk, director of Outlet, a Mountain View-based group that works to educate people on GLBT issues.

Transgender people are often teased and abused, and sometimes even killed.

The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) recently found that 50 transgender people under the age of 30 were murdered between 1995 and 2005 nationwide. The FBI doesn't track gender-based hate crimes but if they did, the number of murders would rank second only to race-based murders, the group recently reported. There were 54 race-based murders nationwide between 1996 and 2005.

Taneika Taylor, one of the report's authors, suspects there is even more violence against transgender people, but she believes the cases are underreported. Others have

long said race-based crimes are underreported, too. And the Bay Area isn't as tolerant as some might think.

The murder of Gwen Araujo, who was 17 when she was beaten and strangled to death in 2002, is probably the most well-known transgender murder case. But her murder was only one of four such cases in the Bay Area during GenderPAC's reporting period.

Some transgender people have to deal with violence and harassment every day, Turk said. Sometimes, it escalates to murder.

"When you see exactly how widespread" violence against transgender people is "it's quite sobering," said Kevin Jennings of the report. Jennings is founder and executive director of the national Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network.

Life can be hard enough for gays, lesbians and bisexuals, but Jennings said transgender people are more likely to be harassed than gay people.

Also, gay people and transgender adults aren't always supportive of transgender youth, said Turk.

The GenderPAC report makes several recommendations on what police, community groups, the news media and

school officials can do to help ensure a safer environment for transgender people.

The California Legislature recently banned use of the "panic defense." The defense in the Araujo case tried to reduce the punishment for her death by arguing she'd been killed due to the shock of discovering she was biologically male. At least two of Araujo's assailants are reported to have had sexual relations with her.

Turk said the panic defense is a sign of intolerance.

"Until we strip away the stereotypes of the LGBT community I worry the larger community isn't in a place where they see the panic defense as wrong," she said.

With her long hair and small frame, Montica's appearance is very feminine. But because she fears losing her job if her employer finds out she's transgender, she keeps the make-up to a minimum and leaves her high-heel boots at home when she goes to work.

"Gender-based violence is the result of very rigid codes of masculinity and femininity our society have begun to enforce. The only way to stem the tide of violence is to change the code," Taylor said.

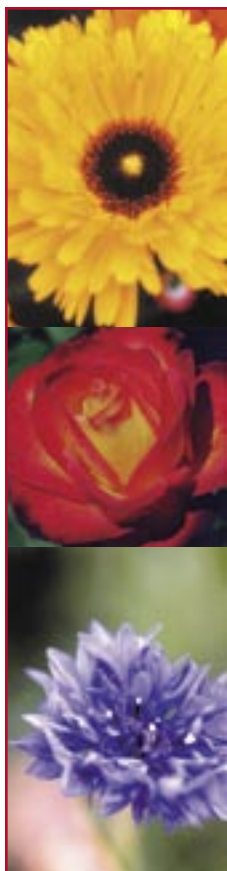
Levy has tried to get her mother to stop calling her by her male birth name and use the pronoun "she" instead of "he," but her mother refuses.

Many parents still don't accept their transgender children and some even kick their kids out of the house, and parents' involvement is essential to increasing understanding. Chris Daley, director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco, notes the involvement of Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen Araujo's mother, has been crucial to encouraging justice for transgender youth.

TOP FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING TRANSGENDER SAFETY

1. Police must recognize and investigate gender-based assaults as hate crimes.
2. Educators need to respond firmly to gender-based bullying and harassment.
3. The media should report on the epidemic of gender-based violence.
4. Legislators must ratify laws and policies that track gender-based hate.
5. Young people, along with advocacy organizations, have to reach out and educate local youth on gender and violence.

From the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition report "50 under 30."

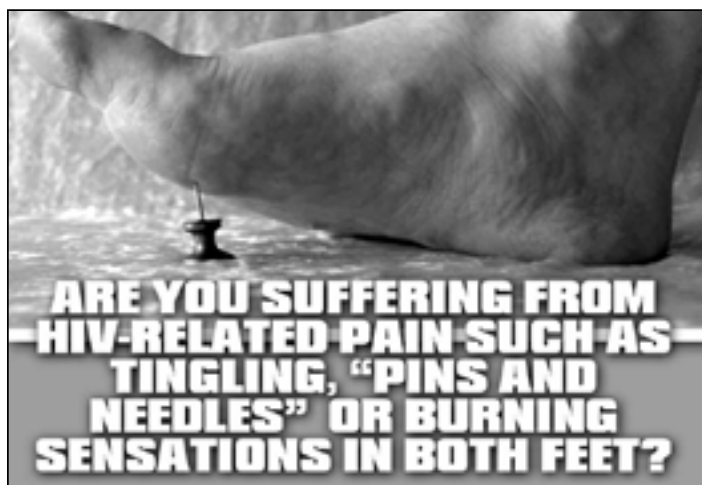


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Despite what is still too often a hostile environment in the Bay Area, many feel there are signs of hope.

As more transgender youth come out, the process may become safer for others. Turk said that six years ago, it was very uncommon for transgender youth under 21 to be out, "but that idea's been blown out of the water," she said. More youth are exploring their gender identity even in elementary school, and more kids are saying, "I want to be able to go to school as who I am," Turk said. School is where a lot of harassment takes place, and legislation is in the works to make California safer for all kids, including transgender students.

Daley says the center sees about one to two people under 18 each month. "In the beginning it was nowhere near that," he said.

To see GenderPAC's report, visit 50under30.org. **ON**

ONLINE
PHOTOS

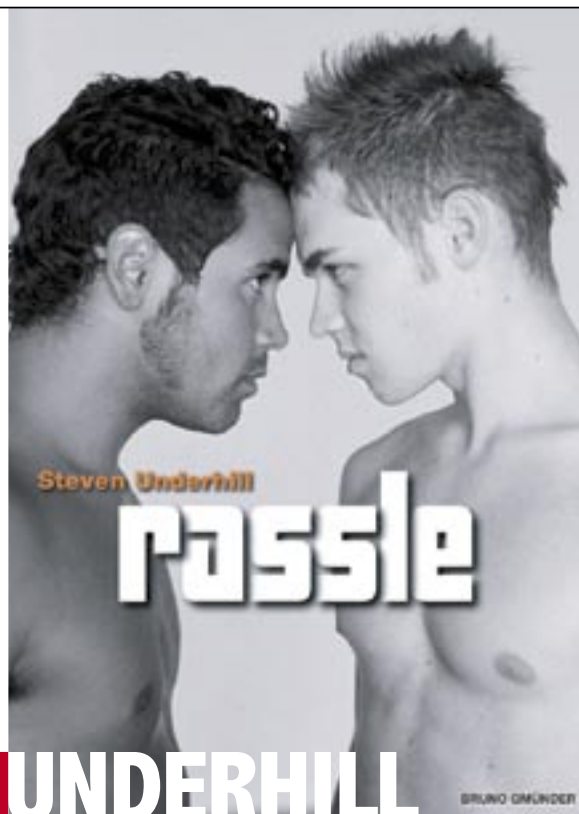
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IT'S NOT ALWAYS GAYS WHO BREAK RELATIONSHIP BARRIERS

Two men plus one woman add up to a relationship.

— MATTHEW S. BAJKO

What do you get when you mix one woman, two men and a variety of sexual orientations? You get Guy Gayle, Lori Selke and Steven Schwartz in a three-way relationship.

This Valentine's Day, Guy and Lori have a romantic evening planned that will hopefully result in a pregnancy. That same night, Steven, Lori's husband of 11 years, hopes to have a night on his own. He and his wife will likely celebrate another evening.

"Lori and I are not terribly romantic," said Steven, a bisexual whose sexual attraction leans more toward men. Lori is also bisexual.

If it were not for soccer, the threesome may never have come to be. Three and a half years ago, a mutual friend thought Guy and Steven would bond over their shared love of the sport and introduced them. They hit it off, and started to hang out together.

Then, Guy fell in love with Lori and formed a strong bond with Steven, whom he now considers his best friend. Last March Guy, who is straight, gave up his Fremont apartment and moved into Steven and Lori's two-bedroom flat in Oakland.

"I could tell her being with Guy was making her happy, which made me happy," said Steven. Plus the situation comes with its own benefits for him. "I am a solitary person. I need time by myself," he said.

Juggling the emotions, conflicting schedules and needs of three people isn't easy, all three admit.

"It did take time. We are constantly in a negotiating process," said Steven. Lori rotates between the two men's rooms. Each has one designated night per week with her, while the other nights fluctuate.

The threesome is not merely redefining the confines of a loving unit, but breaking down the traditional notions of what a family is. The triad is in the vanguard of a new polyamorous movement becoming popular in the Bay Area. Gay men have been known to embrace open relationships and in recent years, it appears more straight couples have also begun to explore playing on their own or together.

The Power Exchange, a sex club in San Francisco, limited its gay nights to Sundays and opened a special floor just for bisexual couples.

"It is so much more open here," said Guy, 38. He left an open

marriage in Ohio to move to San Francisco in 1997.

Steven, Lori and Guy's relationship is based on emotional attachments more than it's based on sexual desires. Guy considers Lori his primary lover but also plays with other sex partners.

Steven and Lori met 18 years ago on their first day at the University of Chicago and soon fell in love.

The couple moved to San Francisco a decade ago. During most of their courtship they had other sex partners or boyfriends and girlfriends. Since they met Guy, Steven has not dated other men but has "done a fair amount of tricking." While attracted sexually to men, he doesn't see leaving Lori as an option.

"Sex I can get without a relationship. Why should I abandon something that means so much to me when I don't need to?" said Steven, 36, who works with computer systems.

Lori, 36, also occasionally plays with other people, both male and female, but can't imagine ever leaving Steven. "We have grown up together. We have been together so long and gone through so many changes with each other. We can weather anything," she said. "We are so

comfortable, nothing would ever come between us."

In the past, Steven at times feared he would lose Lori to another person, but he doesn't worry now. "After 18 years together I am fairly sure the chances of her running off and leaving me alone are remarkably slim," he said.

Guy said, "What is important in my case is sharing time with the other two people, with Lori, who is my partner, and spending time with Steven. He is a part of this relationship. At this point it is important we all know what is going on and are not hiding anything."

Open and honest communication is necessary. "People really need to know themselves and be willing to talk about themselves honestly," said Steven.

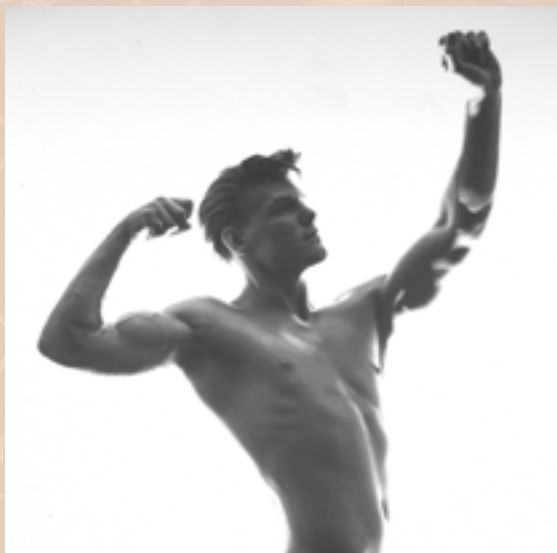
Lori considers Steven and Guy equal partners in creating a family.

"It is more than just sex. It is about companionship," said Lori. "Soon it will be about the parenting. Two people are not enough to raise a kid today." Guy said even without a child it already "feels more like a family unit." **ON**

Matthew S. Bajko is the assistant editor of the Bay Area Reporter.

ON THE CALENDAR

February 2007



ART & EXHIBITS

BEEFCAKE: PHYSIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY OF DAVE MARTIN

Dave Martin Collection
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SUBURBAN ESCAPE: THE ART OF CALIFORNIA SPRAWL

San Jose Museum of Art
110 South Market Street
San Jose, CA
408-271-6840
sjmusart.org
Currently Through Mar 4

STATEWIDE WATERCOLOR ALEXANDER GIRARD COMPETITION & EXHIBITION 2007

Triton Museum of Art
1505 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, California
408-247-3754
tritonmuseum.org
Currently Through Mar 25

CODEX INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

UC Berkeley Pauley Ballroom
codexfoundation.org
Feb 14 & 15

CLUBS/NIGHTLIFE

ORGY

DJ Alexander
525 Harrison and 1st, SF
guspresents.com
Feb 3, 10PM

CLUB PAPI SAN JOSE

DJ. Carlos + DJ 4Play
+ DJ Chili D.
The Back Bar Nightclub
418 S. Market St.
Downtown SJ
clubpapi.com
Feb 10, 9PM

WIN A DATE BACHELOR & BACHELORETTE AUCTION

Splash
65 Post St, Downtown SJ
splashsj.com
Feb 13, 8PM

ADONIS

DJ Brett Henrichsen
525 Howard and 1st, SF
Presidnets Day Weekend
guspresents.com
Feb 17, 10PM

FRESH

5 Year Anniversary T-dance
DJ Phil B
Ruby Skye
420 Mason Street and
Geary, SF
freshsf.com
Feb 18 6PM—12PM

SANCTUARY

DJs John Le Page + Ted Eiel
525 Harrison and 1st, SF
Presidnets Day Weekend
guspresents.com
Feb 18, 10PM

INDUSTRY

DJ Tracy Young
119 Utah St at 15th, SF
industrysf.com
Feb 24,

REVOLUTION

T-Dance for POZ Men
DJ Robbie Martin
4th Sunday of Every Month
1151 Folsum Street, SF
positiveforce-sf.org
Feb 25, 3PM—7PM

COMEDY

KEVIN POLLAK

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Feb 1—3, Times Varie

KAREN RONTOWSKI

Rooster T Feathers
Sunnyvale, CA
roostertfeathers.com
Feb 1—3, Times Varie

HOWIE MANDEL

MontBleu Resort Casino
& Spa
Lake Tahoe, NV
ticketmaster.com
Feb 3, 8PM

MICKEY JOSEPH

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Feb 4, 7PM

CRAIG SHOEMAKER

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Feb 8—11, Times Varie

S. F. COMEDY SHOWCASE

Punch Line Comedy Club
San Francisco
ticketmaster.com
Feb 11, 8PM

SANDRA BERNHARD

Bimbo's 365 Club
San Francisco, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 14 & 15, 8PM

MARK CURRY

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Feb 14, 8PM

JAMIE FOXX

Save Mart Center
Fresno, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 15, 8PM

BILL COSBY

Silver Legacy Casino
Reno, NV
ticketmaster.com
Feb 17, 7PM & 9:30PM

GEORGE LOPEZ

Paramount Theatre-Oakland
Oakland, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 18, 7pm

DAVE ATTELL

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Feb 23- 25, Times Varie

ARNEZ J

San Jose Improv
San Jose, CA
improv.com
Mar 1-4, Times Varie

GEORGE CARLIN

Silver Legacy Casino
Reno, NV
ticketmaster.com
Mar 3, 8PM



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Feb 13, 7PM Movie Starts

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ticketmaster.com
Feb 3, 8PM

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Sacramento, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 9, 8PM

GWEN STEFANI

Save Mart Center
Fresno, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 10, 7:30PM

PETULA CLARK

Herbst Theatre
San Francisco, CA
cityboxoffice.com
Feb 17, 8PM

SHAWN COLVIN

MontBleu Resort Casino
& Spa, Lake Tahoe, NV
ticketmaster.com
Feb 17, 8PM

VAN MORRISON

Marin Veterans' Memorial
Auditorium At Marin Center
San Rafael, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 23, 7:30PM

THE WHO

Save Mart Center
Fresno, CA
ticketmaster.com
Feb 25, 7:30PM

THE TEMPTATIONS

Cache Creek Casino Resort
Brooks, CA
ticketmaster.com
Mar 2, 9PM

CONNIE FRANCIS

The Castro Theatre
San Francisco, CA
ticketweb.com
Mar 3, 8PM

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Feb 24- Mar 4
War Memorial Opera House
sfballet.org
(415) 865 2000

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Coastal Rep Theatre
coastalrep.com
(650) 576-9382
Feb 2—Feb 24

RUMORS

Pittsburg Community
Theatre
pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org
Feb 2—17

ROBERT MOSES' KIN DANCE COMPANY

San Francisco's Jewish
Community Center
3200 California Street
robertmoseskin.org
Feb 8—18

HEDDA GABLER

American
Conservatory Theater
Directed by Mark Lamos
act-sf.com
(415) 749-2228
Feb 9—Mar 11

BLACK CHOREOGRAPHERS FESTIVAL

Malonga Casquelourd
Center for the Arts
1428 Alice Street (Oakland)
ODC Theater
3153 17th Street (SF)
bcfhereandnow.com
Feb 9—18

BIG DEATH & LITTLE DEATH

crowdedfire.org
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Feb 9—Mar 4

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bindlestiffstudio.org
(415) 255-0440
Feb 9—Feb 24

UNDERPANTS

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Theater Company
broadwaywest.org
(510) 683-9218
Jan 12—Feb 10

SAN JOSE BALLET

Valentine Potpourri
Center of Performing Arts
balletsanjose.org
(408) 288-2820
Feb 15—18

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Yerba Buena Center
for the Arts Theatre
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Third, SF
nicolepaiement.com
February 16 & 17

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UNITY

FIRST LESBIAN GOLF TOUR SET FOR SPRING

— Seth Hemmelgarn



The first-ever lesbian golf tour is being launched this month, offering players of all skill levels a chance to compete and have some fun.

Ellie Schafer is vice president of public relations and marketing of foreUS, the group organizing the tour. She said many people are surprised this is the first lesbian golf tour ever, but it's really true.

"The timing is right," Schafer said. "I think the country's ready."

She said the group wants to encourage more lesbians to participate in golf, "play, have fun... and just enjoy it."

The first tournament will be March 25-26 at the Doral Desert Princess Golf Resort in Palm Springs. That will be followed by San Francisco Aug. 11-12 and a national championship in Las Vegas Oct. 20-21. More tournaments are planned for courses across the United States in coming years.

Schafer said the response has been even better than she'd anticipated, both from players and businesses. "People get very excited" when they talk about the tour, and the number of visitors to the group's website skyrocketed when the tour was announced, she said. ESPN Magazine is planning a story on the tour, Schafer said.

About 300 players are expected to participate this first year. The cost for playing in any of the tournaments on the tour will be based on green fees from the golf courses, Schafer said.

The group is encouraging a diverse mix of players — straight women are welcome to participate. Players will be matched with others at their skill level.

Schafer said players' ages would probably range from 30 to 60, although all are welcome.

She thinks the tour will be fun not just for the players, but also their friends and families. The group is planning to work with gay resorts to make sure all involved have a good time in future years.

The group is considering broadcasting tournaments on the Internet. The prize will be a trophy and "the prestige of winning a national championship," Schafer said.

Planning for the tour started five years ago. Schafer said the group picked places that were likely to be gay-friendly, and all the courses they've worked with have been eager to help.

To sign up for the tour, or for more information, go to foreus.com. **ON**

Seth Hemmelgarn is assistant editor of ON Magazine. He can be reached at seth@outnowmag.com

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Breathing heavy. Pumping hard. Dripping sweat. It doesn't just happen at the gym; you can experience all this in your bedroom. Now there's another great reason to exercise — better sex! Sexual function is affected by general health, and the more you improve your health by working out, the better your sex life can be. Shaping up will naturally improve your lovemaking. Getting turned on? Here are a few tips for getting even hotter.

INCREASE THE SWEAT, MAXIMIZE THE LOVE

— Sergio Novoa

Breathing heavy. Pumping hard. Dripping sweat. It doesn't just happen at the gym; you can experience all this in your bedroom. Now there's another great reason to exercise — better sex! Sexual function is affected by general health, and the more you improve your health by working out, the better your sex life can be. Shaping up will naturally improve your lovemaking. Getting turned on? Here are a few tips for getting even hotter.

FEEL BETTER, PERFORM BETTER

We all feel better after a good workout. Furthermore, we feel confident when we transform our bodies to where we want them. All this pays off in the bedroom, allowing you to explore positions and techniques you would have not tried before.

CARDIO ENDURANCE

Yes, cardio burns fat, but another great benefit is improving your overall endurance — it's about lasting longer. Cardio strengthens the cardiovascular system and improves circulation, which is key to lasting longer and sexual function. Those extra 10 minutes on the treadmill goes a long way in the bedroom.

PELVIC EXERCISES (KEGEL)

Kegel exercises help improve sexual pleasure. The more engaged your core muscles, the more you can recruit them when having sex. The muscles you use to stop urinating midstream are the same muscles that contract

when you orgasm. So learn to build control over them and prolong orgasm by doing Kegels.

Start by doing a short clench — again, think of stopping pee flow — relax, and then try to do a long clench for about 10 to 15 seconds. Repeat 10 times, at least three times a day. The more you do, the better control you will have. The best part is you can do them anywhere.

STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY

We all want to look good naked, so we lift weights and do cardio. But stretching is just as important. Stretching improves muscle tone, increases blood flow and, most importantly, improves agility. Don't get me wrong, having a strong back allows you to lift your partner and put him or her in fun, interesting positions. But stretching helps open the door to even more sexual positions.

WORK OUT TOGETHER

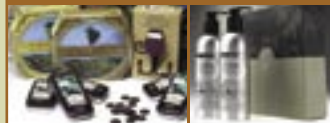
These are just some of the added benefits to working out. You can also make it exciting by working out with your partner. Getting each other nice and sweaty can lead to a longer, more interesting lovemaking session. So get to the gym and start having better sex.

I have to go work out now ... see you next month. **ON**

Sergio Novoa is a personal trainer and fitness instructor in San Francisco.



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Bill Lister actively supports our community through his contributions to Gay Pride, Billy DeFrank Center, The Gardner Children Ctr., Habitat for Humanity, AeroFund Christmas Charity, and GLAAD.

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ENJOY SEX AND ENHANCE THE FUN SAFELY

Get the scoop on ED drugs, lesbian STDs and pumps.

— HOWARD L. RICE, M.D.



IS VIAGRA SAFE FOR RECREATIONAL USE?

Erectile Dysfunction (or ED) can affect men of all ages but is more common as we get older. A variety of medical conditions can contribute to ED, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and low testosterone.

ED drugs like Viagra, Levitra, and Cialis work as vasodilators to help improve blood flow to the penis, but can also have side effects such as headache, flushing and nausea.

By and large these medications are safe in the absence of cardiovascular disease, but they need to be used wisely. Certain other medications, especially protease inhibitors used to treat HIV, will interact and increase the risk of side effects.

Nitrate medications (including inhaled "poppers") must be

avoided because of risk of low blood pressure, fainting or even death.

Studies show that many gay men are using ED drugs recreationally. Sometimes, they're using them with club drugs such as ecstasy or methamphetamine. This is leading to higher rates of unsafe sex and STDs, including HIV infection.

If you find the need to enhance your sex life artificially, remember to protect yourself and your partner by committing to safer sex. But above all, use common sense: "If it's not broke, don't fix it!"

ARE LESBIANS AT RISK FOR STDs?

Lesbian women are at risk for many of the same STDs as heterosexual women. Lesbian women can transmit STDs to each other through skin-to-skin contact, mucosa contact, vaginal fluids, menstrual blood, or by sharing sex toys.

Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) is associated with sexual activity and happens when normal bacteria in the vagina get out of balance. Sometimes, BV causes

no symptoms, but over half of affected women have a vaginal discharge with a fishy odor or vaginal itching.

Trichomoniasis is caused by a parasite and can be transmitted by damp towels, wet clothing, or through sexual contact. Signs include yellow, green, or gray vaginal discharge (often foamy) with a strong odor.

Other STDs include herpes, chlamydia and gonorrhea. Syphilis is rare in lesbians.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the most prevalent STD and is associated with genital warts and abnormal changes on the cervix that can lead to cancer. HPV can be transmitted by lesbian sexual activity, so it is important that all lesbians get regular PAP testing, even if they have never had sex with men.

DO PENIS PUMPS REALLY WORK?

Penis pumps, or vacuum pumps, are devices designed to help men achieve an erection. They most often consist of a hollow cylinder connected to a tube and pumping mechanism. The vacuum created forces blood to flow into the penis and, when

used correctly, almost always results in an erection.

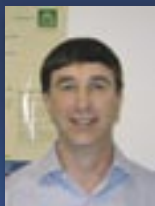
Many claims about penis pumps are inaccurate. The biggest myth is that regular use can enlarge your penis permanently.

These devices have fallen out of favor with the advent of Viagra and other ED drugs, but they remain a relatively safe, and much less invasive way to get and maintain an erection.

The major drawback to vacuum devices seems to be the inconvenience, and the impact they have on sex play. However, some penis pumps can be harmful. If a penis pump can generate a strong vacuum and does not have a release valve, you can over pump and cause tissue damage. Penis pumps may cause bruising or pain. If either occur you should stop using the pump and talk to your doctor. **ON**

Dr. Rice is an internal medicine physician with a specialty in infectious disease. His practice is located in Mountain View. Send all your health questions to drrice@outnowmag.com.

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JAY BAKKER'S REVOLUTION

Unique, pro-gay ministry documented on Sundance Channel's 'One Punk Under God.'

— DAVID ALEXANDER NAHMOD

To look at Jay Bakker, you'd never think he was a preacher. The intense, chain-smoking young man, covered in tattoos, might look more at home in a downtown club than a house of worship.

But Bakker, who once had a serious drug problem, now preaches the gospel. His unique ministry, aptly titled *Revolution*, seeks to offer God's love to those whom mainstream churches would reject.

Services often incorporate performance art, and the ministry is particularly strong in its outreach to GLBT people. Though Bakker is straight, he supports gay marriage. Many of his congregants have followed suit.

Revolution's flyers, posted around the neighborhoods in Atlanta, GA, where his ministry began, and Brooklyn NY, where he's now located, cut to the chase: "As Christians, we're sorry for being self-righteous judgmental bastards!!"

"Some say that I'm leading people straight to Hell," said Bakker. "I'm just trying to love people."

Bakker has been given the opportunity to spread his message to untold millions. Noted gay documentary

filmmakers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, whose film "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" allowed us to peek inside the life of Bakker's famous mom, have now focused their cameras on the prodigal son.

Bailey and Barbato's six-part documentary series, "One Punk Under God," follows the very public pro-gay stand that *Revolution* has taken.

Bakker is seen speaking and attending services at Open Door, a gay-affirming evangelical church. Afterward, he has coffee with Jennifer and Tracy, two transgender members of Open Door. He asks a lot of questions and listens to their stories. Bakker is particularly appalled to hear that Tracy was asked not to return to her hometown church.

Before leaving, Bakker attends a lesbian commitment ceremony and is moved to tears.

Bakker studies his Scripture. He learns that prior to 1949, there was no mention of homosexuality in the King James Bible. *Revolution* MUST take a pro-gay stand, he decides.

In the film, Bakker is warned that this might cost his fledgling ministry its financing, but he is undeterred. He must do what he thinks is right.

Revolution paid a heavy financial price for its courageous platform. But Bakker stood firm. New donors are found. Revolution survives and thrives.

I asked Bakker why he thought the right wing is so obsessed with homosexuality. "I think it's scary to them," he said in an e-mail. "Because it's different. There is a fear that it will undermine the strength of the kinds of lives they wish to lead."

Revolution's business manager, Marc Brown, also appears in "One Punk Under God." At first, he was unsure how he felt about the gay issue. Brown also turned to Scripture for his answers, and found that the seven passages used to condemn homosexuality had been grossly misinterpreted.

"It really sucks that this has become such a divisive issue in the Church," Brown told me. "Christians should be able to love and respect one another while not necessarily coming to terms on all things."

"The goal of Revolution is to mimic the actions of Christ, who loved all people unconditionally," Brown continued. "Therefore we love all people unconditionally. It's as simple as that."

I asked Bakker if he was getting any feedback from the GLBT community.

"Yes, I've been asked to speak at a number of gay-friendly churches" he said. "As for donations, I couldn't say. People don't write 'I'm gay' on their checks!"

"One Punk Under God" beautifully documents Revolution's struggle and triumph dealing with this issue. But the superlative series also covers much more.

We see the love and support in Bakker's relationship with his wife, Amanda, and his strained but loving relationship with his dad, televangelist Jim Bakker. The once disgraced head of the PTL club has owned up to his past mistakes and is back on the airwaves. Though father and son have differing views on a number of topics, they respect each other. When Jim visits Revolution, you can see the pride in his eyes.

Most movingly, "One Punk Under God" documents what will most likely be among the final meetings between Bakker and his Mom.

Now highly regarded as the first pro-gay voice in the Conservative Christian movement, Tammy Faye is in the fourth stage of a long battle with colon cancer. Bakker struggles to come to terms with the inevitable as he and his mother offer each other as much love and support as they can.

When Tammy Faye becomes too ill, Bakker asks that the cameras be turned off.

"One Punk Under God" is a fascinating look inside the life of a very unique young man. It airs Wednesday evenings on the Sundance Channel. Check local listings for times in your area, as different cable/satellite systems may carry varying time zone feeds for the channel.

A DVD release is also in the works.

To support the work of Revolution, or to ask Jay Bakker to speak at your Church, please visit revolutionnyc.com. **ON**



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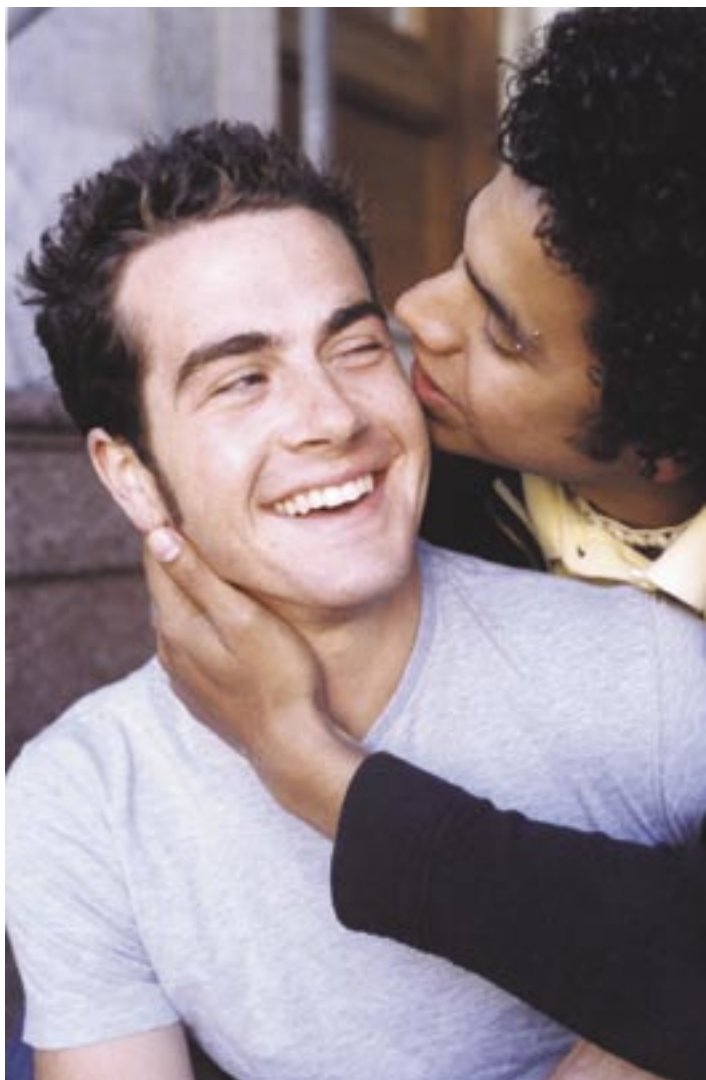
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Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love. Couples often plan a romantic dinner, give one another gifts, watch a movie and end the evening making love. As a man who is in a long-term relationship, and who is deep into the leather scene, I have experienced a variety of ways to enhance the sexual experience. Here are 10 tips to make sure the "love making" sizzles with breath-taking pleasure.

1. COMMUNICATE

Communicating with your sex partner is very important. This is the only way to discover what triggers the best sexual response from one another.

2. BE PREPARED

There is nothing worse than getting all hot and bothered and not being prepared to play. So make sure you have everything you may need: lube, condoms,

candles, toys, adult films, etc. And make sure you are clean inside and out. Bad hygiene can be a big turn-off.

3. TRY IT, YOU MAY LIKE IT.

Don't limit yourself. For years, I locked myself into a box of sexual limitations. Once I learned to let go, I discovered a new world of pleasure. So be safe, but keep an open mind with sex. Things like spanking, practicing bondage,

REFRESH YOUR SEX LIFE WITH THESE EASY STEPS

— David Carranza

using toys, sucking toes, and licking your partner's entire body can be surprisingly fun and enjoyable.

4. TOUCH

Sure, getting down to the nitty gritty is a lot of fun. But don't forget that your body is full of erotic zones that will heighten your sexual experience immensely. An erotic massage can be very relaxing, as well as stimulating.

Imagine—you're naked and your date is lying naked on your bed, face down. Rub your hands together with some massage lotion to get them warm, lay them on your partner's body and slowly massage. The key is to work every part of the body, spending time on the erotic zones, such as the neck, butt and inner thighs. Don't forget the feet and toes.

5. KISS

The kiss is one of the most erotic and intimate acts. When you kiss, don't rush the experience. Let your lips touch softly, as your tongue teases your partner. The tongue is a muscle, so keep it under control. Slowly lick inside your partner's bottom lip, and enjoy the soft wetness. Feel their breath. Stay in tune with your partner, read their moves, relax and don't force it.

6. SHARE YOUR FANTASIES

A sure way to spice up sex is to add some fantasy play. We all have fantasies. Share them with your partner and plan a night where you act them out. It might just

take wearing leather, some light bondage or a little spanking. Role playing, outdoor sex, a sling, rough sex or a variety of scenes — such as the pizza delivery boy bringing a little something extra—can be erotic.

7. LET GO

Being uptight about sex or ashamed of your body is a downer. So be comfortable with sex, and with yourself. Let go of your inhibitions. This could take work, and a lot of therapy, but it's worth it. Sex is as natural as breathing, eating and sleeping.

8. USE TOYS

Don't be afraid of toys in the bedroom. Toys can be many things; everything from feathers, whips, restraints, paddles, vibrators and dildos to board games.

9. EXPLORE

To discover what you like, you must explore. Our bodies react to many different stimuli, so open your mind and explore the body.

10. HAVE FUN

I have been in a relationship for 18 years and, yes, I know sometimes sex can seem like a chore. But if you truly love your partner, it's not a chore when you keep things exciting, fresh and new. So change it up and try different things. **ON**

David Carranza is the owner of Leather Masters in San Jose.

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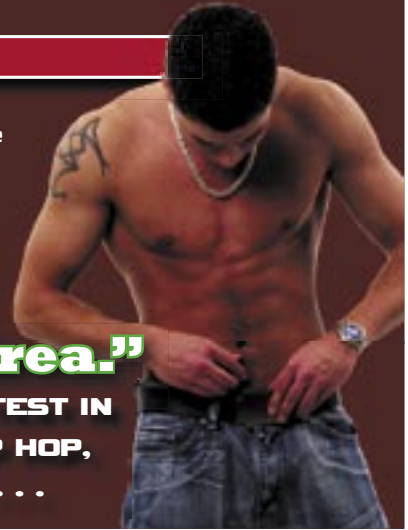
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LEFT AND BELOW: *CURIOSITY OF CHANCE*
BOTTOM: *LOVESTICK*

Bolnavicioase.”) Director Tudor Giurgiu juxtaposes two kinds of forbidden love—incest and Homosexuality—to question social norms and conventional suggestions of “sickness.” University students Christina (Maria Popistasu) and Alex (Ioana Barbu) must hide their love from school mates and family, especially a jealous brother. It’s a sociopolitical look at romantic consequences and the drama of first love.

A wry British drama that looks at parenthood from a distinct angle, Lisa Gornick’s “Tick Tock Lullaby” winds up the ol’ biological clock, an issue even more complex for a lesbian couple.

Bay Area audiences already have at least a passing familiarity with the tragic case of Gwen Araujo, a transgender teen murdered in Newark. Shelley Provost’s searching documentary “Trained in the Ways of Men” attempts to dig deeper, engaging questions of the nature of gender identity, the details of the case, and why Gwen’s story has struck

CINEQUEST-IONING

Investigating gender and sexuality at San Jose’s independent film festival.

— PETER CANAVESE

San Jose’s Cinequest Film Festival marks its seventeenth year with its latest run, from Feb. 28 to March 11. Cinequest rides the tension of celebrating independent cinema’s “mavericks” while also luring big-name star attractions to whom the festival organizers can present their Maverick Spirit Award (past recipients include gay icons Sir Ian McKellen, Gus Van Sant and John Schlesinger).

The best bets at Cinequest are usually the documentaries,

the foreign films and the tribute events, but the festival also annually highlights GLBT selections.

At this year’s fest, you’ll find “The Curiosity of Chance,” a teen comedy with a twist. Winner of the Jury Award at the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, this colorful comedy is described as “John Hughes spanked with a little John Waters.” Tad Hilgenbrink (star of “American Pie Presents Band Camp” and the upcoming comedy “Epic Movie”) plays Chance, an out high-schooler who rallies a motley



group of students to take down a homophobic bully. A celebration of both diversity and ‘80s style, “The Curiosity of Chance” looks back fondly on the days of neon and pastel, leg warmers and emo punk.

From Romania comes the lesbian drama “Love Sick” (“Legaturi



such powerful chords with so many people.

These films and more will generate discussion soon in downtown San Jose. For complete information about Cinequest or to order tickets, visit cinequest.org. **ON**

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

February

February's Photo of the Month was submitted by Steven Underhill from his new book, "Rassle." "Rassle" is a show down of guys blowing off steam and hints of foreplay. Everything is possible in Steven Underhill's new photo collection, his sixth with Bruno Gmünder. Scenes of playful wrestling matches between young men at home alternate with single portraits of the players. Along with duotone images there are also color photos of young, sexy and natural men.

ON Magazine encourages photographers and others to send in their photographs for the Photo of the Month. We are looking for men and women with sex appeal, gay or straight. To see all the photos, visit our website: outnowmag.com.

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— BETTY L. SULLIVAN

Sometimes you have to talk about an idea for months before it becomes reality. This was one of those times. Cynthia Katona and I got to talking one night at Mecca Ladies' Night about authors in our community who don't usually get to let others know about their books. Sometimes they do, but not often enough.

That conversation happened during the summer of 2006, but Cynthia was headed to Australia for a semester teaching at a university in Sydney. We had to put our conversation on hold.

Recently, however, our dreams and plans became reality when, on Wednesday Jan 31, the Betty's List Book Club held its first meeting at Rachel Herbert's new Duboce Park Café, located



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on the edge of the Castro neighborhood at the intersection of Sanchez and Duboce.

The new coffee shop-style venue is Rachel's second restaurant, the first being the popular Dolores Park Cafe, a key gathering point for SF Dyke March organizers.

Featured guest for the Book Club's launch event was well-known Bay Area author Jewelle Gomez. Author of seven books, including *The Gilda Stories*, Gomez lectures nationally and internationally, and serves as program officer for the Horizons Foundation.

WHY A BOOK CLUB?

The fact is, Betty's List subscribers are a reading bunch. Maybe that's one of the reasons why they enjoy our e-mail list, which produces no small amount of reading material as we convey messages about LGBT news and events. Our comprehensive e-mail announcements tell more than just basic details.

The book club's blog — bettylistbooks.blogspot.com — serves as a platform for dialogue with would-be book club members, where Cynthia has placed "Eleven Reasons to Make Reading an Important Part of Your Life." She invites everyone to submit their own reason — she's looking for one more to have an even dozen.

WHY DUBOCE PARK CAFÉ?

Rachel's restaurants are known for providing good food in an LGBT-friendly space that's well-lit and welcoming. What's more, we wanted to support this new woman-owned venture located in our home neighborhood. Plus, it's walking distance from Betty's List headquarters!

WHY HAVE CO-CHAIRS FOR THE BOOK CLUB?

We like to work in teams, and we love those who have particular expertise.

Cynthia, a professor of literature and English at Ohlone College in Fremont, is an author herself and very much a lover of books. Wanting to helping others start

book groups following Oprah's example, Cynthia's wrote her own book — "Book Savvy." The book was published in 1995 as a handbook for those who wish to explore the world of reading and even consider creating a book club.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The new Betty's List Book Club will meet the third Wednesday of each month, starting Feb. 21. The club is free, and all are welcome — men too! **ON**

Betty L. Sullivan runs bettylist.com, an e-mail and online information service for the Bay Area's GLBT community.



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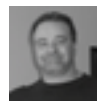
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ASK DAN

Advice on love and relationships

Q: I'm HIV negative, and just started dating a guy who is HIV positive. He wants to have sex, but I've avoided doing so because I'm afraid. I know all about safe sex, but this goes beyond fear of just catching HIV. I'm even scared to get in a relationship with someone positive. But I really like this guy. I'm not sure what to do.

Cautious, Palo Alto

A: Decide which sex acts are safe, and comfortable for you perform with him. Initiate an honest

conversation with this new guy. This is important so that both of you are clear about your limits. He may even have some of the same concerns. Clearly, this conversation would better serve both of you before you have sex since chemistry can override reason. You wouldn't want to do something you would later regret.

Further, it appears that you are afraid of losing someone you love to this disease. You may well know that for some, HIV

is turning into a "long-term" disease, which can be managed by ever-increasing medications. However, people still die from AIDS. Over the years, I've known some folks in relationships where one guy is positive and the other is negative. In these situations, I've never once heard regret for having loved and committed to the one who died. There is sadness in life with or without HIV, and there is joy. If you reject a potential loving relationship because you fear losing him, you may miss out on an incredible experience. You are just getting to know this guy, but clearly you like him. I would let your heart be the guide (which doesn't mean blind infatuation). If he turns out to be a kind, loving and decent man, and you're happy with him, ask yourself what would stop you from continuing to date.

Q; I love my girlfriend. We have lived together for three years, and enjoy a nice life. But lately she has really started to put on some extra pounds and it bothers me. How do I express my feelings without hurting her?
Out of Concern, San Jose

A: Ask yourself what bothers you about her weight gain. For example, are you finding yourself less physically attracted to her or does her weight represent a flawed character trait such as laziness or low self-esteem? If you

are less attracted, remember that you fell in love with a whole person, not a body. You don't indicate your age, but if you stay with someone long enough, gravity and age change bodies. When this occurs, traits such as kindness, humor, creativity, love and passion (and the many reasons you fell in love with her) take the front seat. However, weight gain can sometimes be physiologically based and may have a medical etiology. A doctor could rule out disorders including diabetes, depression, thyroid problems or hormone abnormalities. If none of this applies, then take an honest inventory of any judgments you have regarding your girlfriend's body. Is this causing you to respect her less? Our judgments are a mirror to our own insecurities. Before you talk to her, make sure you clearly understand the meaning you've attached to her weight gain. If you are concerned about her health you can gently communicate this let it go. We all know that nagging doesn't work. If handled with care, she will eventually hear your true concerns. **ON**

Dan Tindle is a licensed marriage and family therapist in San Jose. He has more than 16 years experience conducting individual, family, couples, and group psychotherapy. Send Dan your questions at dan@outnowmag.com.

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