

1988–89 Clippings

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

November 30, 1988

Physician Brad Truax dead at 42
Leader in fight on AIDS dies of the disease

By Cheryl Clark; Staff Writer

Section: LOCAL
Edition: 1,4,5,6,2,3
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Index Terms:

DEATHS
DISEASE
GOVERNMENT
HEALTH
HOMOSEXUALS
LAW
LEADERS
MEDICINE
POLITICS
OBIT

Correction: Correction

A. Brad Truax service planned Dec. 10 |
Due to an editing error, a Nov. 30 story about the death of Dr. A. Brad Truax incorrectly reported the date of a memorial service. The service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Unitarian Church in Hillcrest. Dr. Truax died Nov. 29 at Mercy Hospital. He was a local leader in the fight against AIDS and was the first chairman of the county's Regional AIDS Task Force. He had been a physician in private practice in San Diego since 1978. The Union regrets the error. (Union, 881201, B-4)

Article Text:

Dr. A. Brad Truax, the first chairman of the county's Regional AIDS Task Force, died last night at Mercy Hospital of the disease, which he had diagnosed in himself 17 months ago.

Truax, 42, a physician in private practice, was a leader in the drive to obtain funding and laws to protect people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome and to prevent the spread of the disease.

He also was active in Democratic politics and had been a member of the San Diego County Human Relations Commission since 1985. As a flight surgeon in the Navy, Truax had specialized in aviation and underwater diving medicine. He was honorably discharged in 1977 for homosexuality, a dismissal he said prompted his involvement in human rights issues.

In 1978 he became one of the few openly homosexual physicians in San Diego. A resident of Mission Hills, Truax shared a medical practice in Hillcrest.

"He very much wanted to be remembered as an advocate for human rights, not just for gay people,"

said Bridget Wilson, a friend and nurse who worked for him.

"He saw himself as part of a much bigger process, in which people would really learn to be good to one another," Wilson said. Truax was appointed to the Mayor's Task Force on AIDS in 1983. Three years later that group became the county task force on AIDS, an advisory panel for the county Board of Supervisors. With Truax as chairman, it undertook a regional approach to dealing with the disease.

Terry Cunningham, director of the AIDS Assistance Fund, said Truax helped shape the county's strategy for fighting AIDS and alerted public and health officials to the extent of the task.

A "person of strong convictions," Truax was the kind of charismatic leader San Diego needed when few people cared about AIDS, said Marguerite Jackson, who succeeded him as task force leader last June. Even as his health worsened, Truax struggled to attend the task force's monthly meetings, said Jackson, the head of UCSD Medical Center's epidemiology unit.

Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy said Truax' greatest legacy "may be the example he set for others following the onset of his own illness; his tireless dedication was extraordinary."

Truax dealt with many controversial issues regarding AIDS. He told the Board of Supervisors and the City Council last spring that gay bathhouses in San Diego should be closed, incurring the wrath of some gay activists who saw closure as an infringement of civil rights.

Truax, who had frequented such bathhouses in the late 1970s and early 1980s, testified at the hearings even though the symptoms of Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer associated with AIDS, marred his face. He said he saw the issue as one related to health, and his presence was strongly persuasive in the passage of ordinances designed to limit bathhouse activity that could spread the disease.

Truax was a 1980 delegate to the Democratic National Convention and a member of the party's state Central Committee from 1980 to 1984. In 1981 he became president of the largely gay San Diego Democratic Club. Doug Scott, who also has AIDS and succeeded Truax as the club's president in 1985, said Truax showed the gay community "that if we did our homework, we had the ability like any other group to make a dent."

San Diego Assemblywoman Lucy Killea, a Democrat who knew Truax through his involvement in politics, said he was one of a few people in San Diego taken seriously by the non-gay community.

"He was always well prepared, dedicated and persistent, and made a lot of people aware of issues affecting the gay community," she said. San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos said if Truax hadn't been gay, "He probably would have been elected to office in his own right, and done a lot of good. As it was, he worked hard so that the barriers he faced would fall down for the next generation."

In an interview with The San Diego Union in October 1987, Truax made his illness public for the first time.

He said he had struggled with the decision, fearing he would lose some of his public clout on AIDS issues. He worried that he would no longer be seen as a political activist or as a doctor, but simply as a person with AIDS, "just another gay man."

In making his disclosure, Truax said he hoped it would prompt people who knew him to make an effort to learn more about the disease. And he thought it might inspire others to make changes necessary "to protect themselves and adopt a compassionate concern for those with the disease."

Truax volunteered for several experimental drug protocols in hope that he could help find better treatments for AIDS.

Dr. David McWhirter, county mental health director and a friend, called Truax "a very credible and

Reinventing Medical Research

Impure Science AIDS, Activism and the Politics of Knowledge

By Steven Epstein
Univ. of Calif. Press. 360 pp. \$29.95.

BY BRUCE MIRKEN

The several noteworthy books that have looked at the interactions of AIDS activists, doctors and researchers all have had something of an axe to grind. Bruce Nussbaum's *Good Intentions* was a brilliant and scathing critique of both government and the pharmaceutical industry during the early years of AIDS drug development. Elinor Burkett was equally scathing towards just about everyone in her recent tome, *The Gravest Show on Earth*, but not nearly as well informed as Nussbaum. Jonathan Kwitny's *Acceptable Risks* was gripping but excessively sycophantic towards its protagonists, Martin Delaney and Jim Corti. What no one has attempted is a rational, detached analysis of the impact of the AIDS activist movement on medical research and practice. U.C. San Diego sociologist Steven Epstein steps into that void with *Impure Science*, not the definitive volume on the subject but definitely a worthwhile first effort. Epstein is looking at the big picture: How do biomedical researchers decide when they know something? And do how factors other than pure science—and Epstein makes a convincing case that there really is no such thing—shape both those decisions and the ways they are subsequently put to use? "The members of this movement are not the first laypeople to put forward claims to speak credibly on biomedical matters," he notes in his introduction. "But this is indeed the first social movement in the United States to accomplish the large-scale conversion of disease victims into activist-experts." He



Epstein chronicles the first social movement in the United States to accomplish the large-scale conversion of disease victims into activist-experts.

traces—in clear, readable prose that only occasionally gets bogged down in academese—just how dramatically the world of AIDS research, and to some degree other areas of medical research as well, has changed because of the intervention of these non-scientist activists.

Rather than try to chronicle every single battle over treatment and research issues—an endeavor that would take at least three volumes of this size—Epstein follows two

major issues and uses them as examples of the larger picture: The debate over the cause of AIDS and the development and testing of anti-HIV drugs. It is a reasonable approach, since these are clearly two of the defining controversies in the AIDS world, but it also leaves out many areas that deserve consideration and which could shed light on his subject.

If nothing else, *Impure Science* is valuable for its blessedly level-headed review of controversy over whether or not HIV really causes AIDS. And while Epstein does eventually come down on the side of the conventional view that the virus is indeed the culprit (though he never quite says so explicitly), he makes it clear that there was a period in the mid-eighties during which the evidence was tentative indeed and when the skeptics were right to be asking pointed questions.

Epstein charts a remarkable evolution that occurred during the two years after Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler, joined by researcher Robert Gallo, told a packed April, 1984 news conference that "the probable cause of AIDS has been found." At the time the evidence was far from conclusive—the virus had been found in many but not all AIDS patients examined and a solid cause-and-effect relationship had not been clearly demonstrated—and qualifiers such as "probable" showed up consistently in both news accounts and scientific journal articles.

But fairly quickly that began to change. Scientific articles published in 1984 universally included qualifying phrases when discussing Gallo's virus as the cause of AIDS, but by 1986 the majority of articles were flatly stating that HIV was the cause, often doing so without citing any additional research beyond the original 1984 papers by Gallo and others. In other words, scientific acceptance of HIV as the cause of AIDS was at least as much a political and social phenomenon as it was the result of advancing research.

Epstein deftly charts how the AIDS dissenter movement reopened the controversy and the role played by lay media and activists as well as established researchers such as Dr. Peter Duesberg. Both elements were required to keep the argument bubbling even as more and more evidence mounted in favor of HIV's role. It is frustrating, though, that Epstein ends this portion of the book without discussing the recent viral load research that has pretty much nailed the coffin shut on the dissenters' hypotheses.

AIDS activists have had an even more dramatic impact on the study and approval of anti-HIV treatments. It's easy to forget that many of the things we now take for granted, like expanded access programs for

promising experimental drugs and accelerated approval for treatments for life-threatening diseases, didn't exist until a few years ago, when the AIDS activist movement invented and demanded them. Often researchers and regulators resisted, arguing, for example, that expanded access would mean that no one would volunteer for formal studies of new drugs. But the activists, including several ACT UP chapters, Project Inform and *AIDS Treatment News* publisher/editor John S. James (who in *Impure Science* finally gets the recognition he deserves for the remarkable influence his newsletter has wielded), had shown they knew what they were talking about and often won the day. And frequently, as in the case of expanded access, they were proven right.

Epstein's analysis falters a bit as he traces the divisions among treatment activists in recent years. He accurately charts two major threads: Insider/outsider tensions between the well-connected activists who had worked their way onto NIH and FDA committees and those who stayed outside the system, and the growing split between New York's Treatment Action Group and San Francisco groups like Project Inform and ACT UP/Golden Gate. The San Franciscans (as well as the New York and Philadelphia ACT UP chapters, among others) kept pressing for greater access to experimental therapies and fast approval of promising drugs, while in 1993 TAG started arguing for a slower approach, with more and longer studies and greater emphasis on what it termed "good science."

So far so good, but Epstein misses a key issue: TAG's members, formerly the core of ACT UP/New York's Treatment and Data Committee, left ACT UP because they felt hindered by having to go through the group's general body, explaining issues and obtaining approval from activists less familiar with the science than they were. The new group they formed eschewed the democratic forms of ACT UP and reverted to a more closed, hierarchical type of structure used by more traditional organizations. TAG's new infatuation with "good science" as opposed to broad access, critics argued, was the result of the group's detachment from its grassroots base. It is a significant question, and one that Epstein ignores entirely.

But even with its flaws, this is a significant book. When future historians seek to understand how a group of activists with little or no formal scientific training wrought such dramatic changes upon a major area of biomedical research, *Impure Science* is likely to be one of the texts they use as a starting point. ▼

1989–90 General Materials

A PRESENTATION OF LAGO AND NSUCSD

CELEBRATE

COMING OUT WEEK

AT THE

NON-SEXIST DANCE

AT THE

CHE

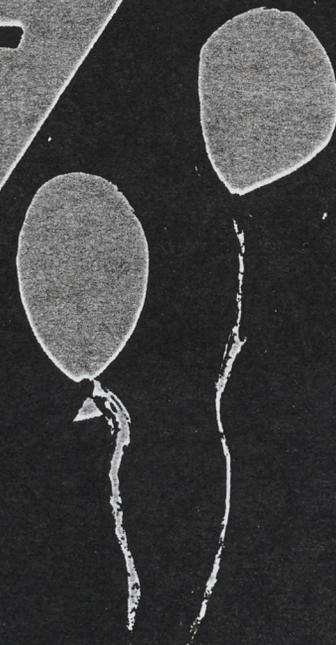
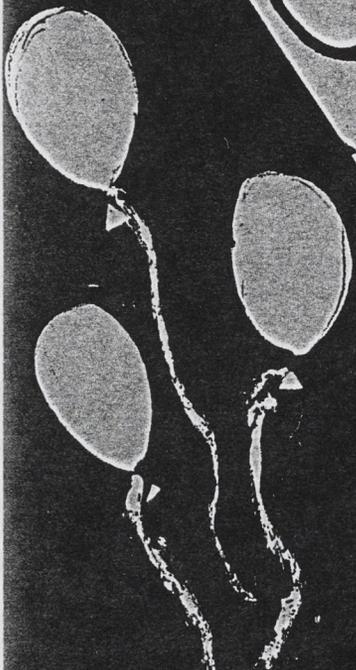
SATURDAY ^{THE} 14th

9:00

TO

1:00

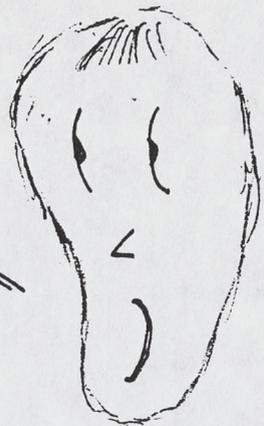
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WOMEN'S DANCE

AT THE CHÉ CAFE

9pm ~ 1am

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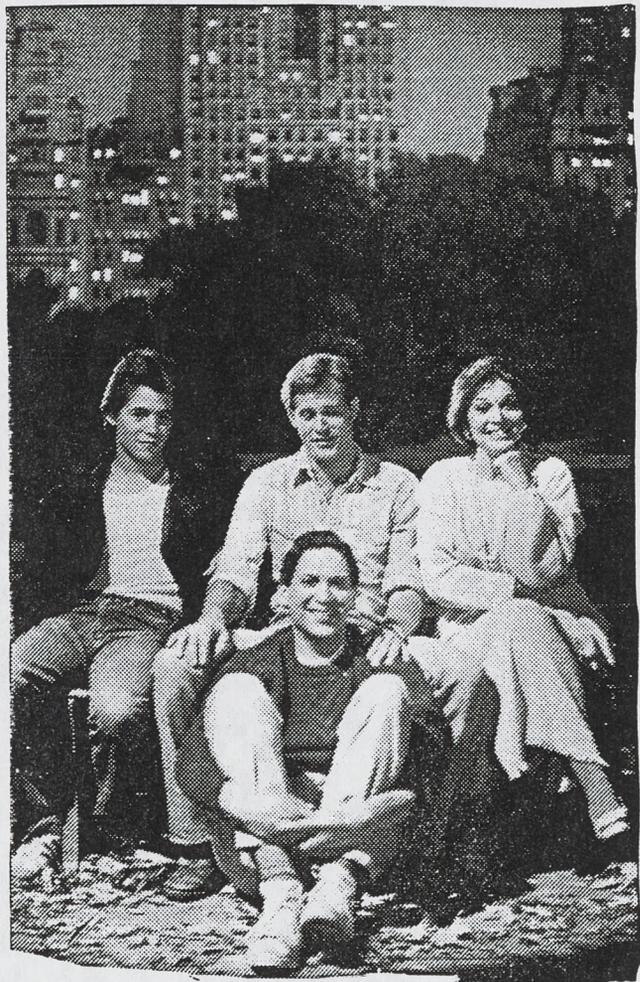
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“It's funny and touching. YOU SHOULD SEE IT!”

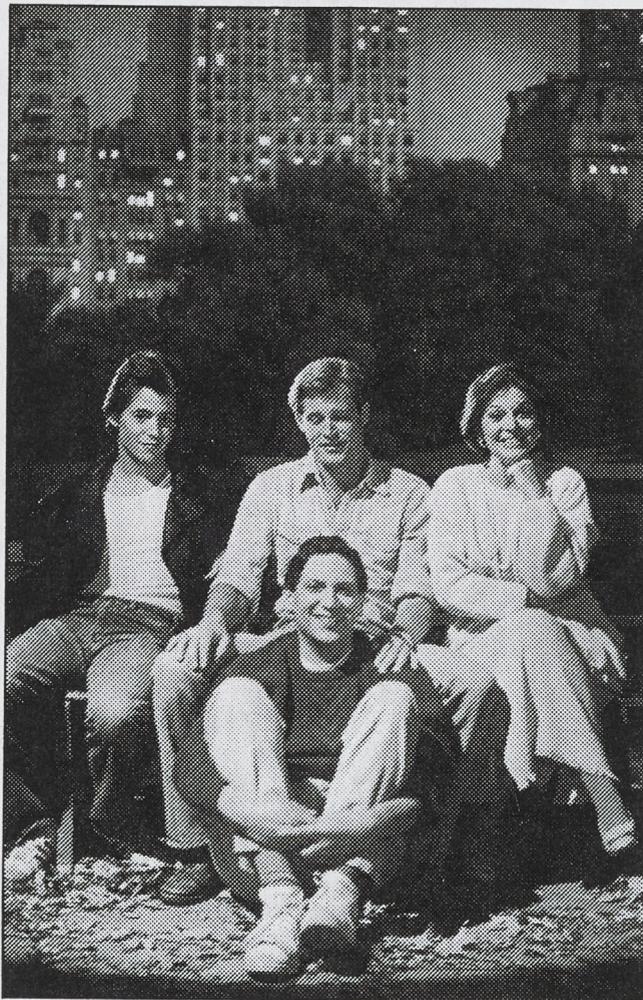
—Dixie Whatley, AT THE MOVIES

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—Roger Ebert, SISKEL & EBERT

“‘TORCH SONG TRILOGY’ IS A WINNER!”

—Lisa Karlin, WABC RADIO



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—John H. Richardson, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

“FIERCELY COURAGEOUS AND FUNNY.”

—Jay Scott, FILM COMMENT

“OUTRAGEOUS, ENDEARING, LARGER-THAN-LIFE!”

—Elliott Stein, VILLAGE VOICE

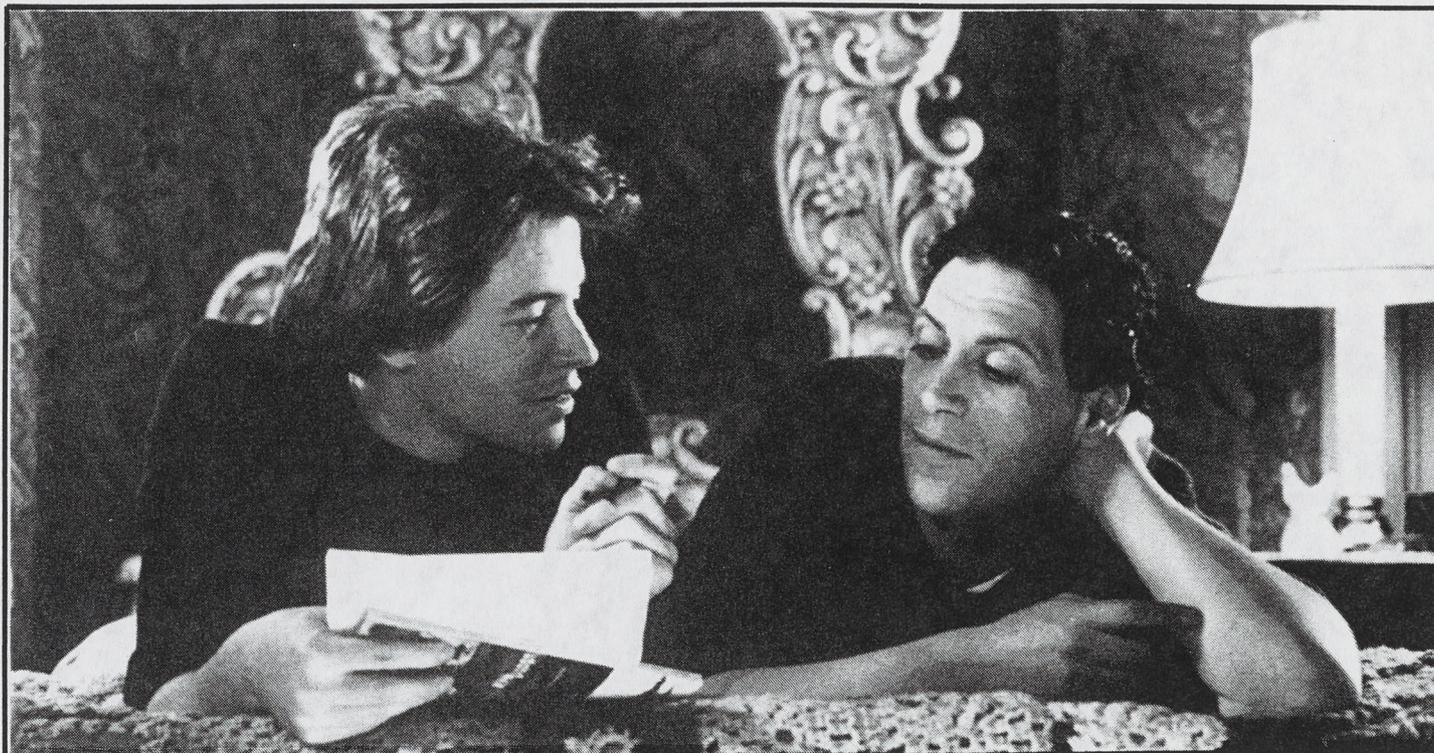
TORCH SONG TRILOGY

Based on the Award-Winning Play

Released by New Line Cinema Produced by Howard Gottfried
Directed by Paul Bogart Screenplay by Harvey Fierstein
Starring: Harvey Fierstein, Anne Bancroft,
Matthew Broderick, Brian Kerwin, Eddie Castrodad, Ken Page
(C) Rated R Distributed by Films Incorporated

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TORCH SONG TRILOGY

Based on the Award-Winning Play

Distributed by Films Incorporated
Released by New Line Cinema, 1988
Produced by Howard Gottfried
Directed by Paul Bogart
Screenplay by Harvey Fierstein
Starring: Harvey Fierstein, Anne Bancroft, Matthew Broderick, Brian Kerwin, Eddie Castrodad, Ken Page
126 min. (C) Rated R

Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award-winning Broadway hit is now one of the most talked-about recent films. Fierstein brilliantly re-creates the role he originated on stage, that of Arnold Beckoff, a shy, introspective female impersonator who longs for love and fulfillment, but never loses his sense of humor. Matthew Broderick and Brian Kerwin costar as two of Fierstein's lovers, and Anne Bancroft is perfect as his nagging Jewish mother. *Torch Song Trilogy* is a poignant film that views life's joys and heartaches through the eyes of a sensitive and unique individual.

"In the film *Torch Song Trilogy*, Harvey Fierstein's long-running, Tony Award-winning play, the lovable is emphasized at every turn, but the surprise is that it does this entertainingly and well. Mr. Fierstein emerges as an enjoyably wise-cracking figure. As hammy as his on-stage alter ego, Mr. Fierstein's Arnold nonetheless manages to complain about his messy love life in lively and amusing detail. Anne Bancroft is exactly right."

—Janet Maslin
New York Times



"*Torch Song Trilogy*, the long-awaited film adaptation of Harvey Fierstein's play, has proved to be one of the strongest and best made dramatic films of the year. Starring Fierstein himself as a professional female impersonator, and directed by veteran Paul Bogart, known mainly for his TV work, the film masterfully mixes comedy, tragedy, and music into a first-rate entertainment. Chronicling two of the hero's love affairs with men (Brian Kerwin and Matthew Broderick) and his troubled relationship with his strong-willed mother (Anne Bancroft) in the '70s and early '80s, the movie is never preachy or moralistic in its depiction of gay life. Much of its power can be attributed to the high-voltage performances of Fierstein and Bancroft, as well as to a superb use of jazz and popular music. (Woody Allen could learn a lot from this movie.) Although the material shows some of its theatrical origins, the transfer to film is intelligent and effective. One would hate to find this film treated as a 'special interest' picture because of its gay characters; its superb theatricality deserves to be enjoyed by everyone."

—Jonathan Rosenbaum
Chicago Reader

"Funny and moving, the movie of Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy* is impossible to dislike. Fierstein's generous, overflowing performance is a marvel, and his wise, sentimental, angry vision remains fundamentally intact. This is a sloppy bear hug of a movie."

—David Ansen
Newsweek

"★ ★ ★ ½. *Torch Song Trilogy* is a very powerful human story."

—Roger Ebert
Siskel & Ebert

"Outrageous, endearing, larger-than-life . . . Fierstein's Tony Award-winning performance is here for all to see. Matthew Broderick's Alan is a masterful job of underplaying. He never seems to be doing anything, yet he's always powerfully there. This babyface could become the Spencer Tracy of his generation."

—Elliot Stein
Village Voice

"What I love about *Torch Song Trilogy*, both the play and the movie, is its sentimental subversiveness. Harvey Fierstein's Arnold is a character who thinks in jokes, even when he has no desire to laugh. His nervous wisecracking and dotty domesticity not only cut into straight images and fears about gays, they cut into some of the more pompous images we have of ourselves. Translated to the screen, the play loses the stylistic devices it used onstage, but almost everything else is intact, with new material that broadens and anchors the original. All the performances are good—Fierstein as Arnold, Matthew Broderick and Brian Kerwin as Arnold's lovers, Ken Page and Charles Pierce as Arnold's friends. For all its accessibility and commercial qualities, *Torch Song* sits squarely at the center of several questions now important in gay culture. But beneath all its cultural fire and smoke, this is a movie to be seen, enjoyed, and respected."

—Christopher Bram
Premiere

"Passionate, sincere, funny and honest."

—John H. Richardson
Los Angeles Daily News

"The play's poignant sensibility emerges on screen with great power. Anne Bancroft is out of this world."

—Judith Crist
Coming Attractions

"*Torch Song Trilogy* is easily the warmest, friendliest comedy of the holiday season! Genuinely hilarious. Those who don't see it will be missing one of the most appealing comedies around."

—Bob Mondello
National Public Radio

"★ ★ ★ ★. Warm, sensitive and funny! Harvey Fierstein's story is even more compelling on screen . . . heartfelt performances by Anne Bancroft and Matthew Broderick. *Torch Song Trilogy* is honest and real."

—CBS-TV

"Mainstream accessible . . . director Paul Bogart has retained the heart and humor of Fierstein's original play."

—Jami Bernard
New York Post

"Fierstein is the heart and soul of this movie and he is immensely winning."

—Lynn Darling
Newsday

"*Torch Song Trilogy* is remarkable. Harvey Fierstein's wonderfully articulate features speak volumes, his arresting voice is like high heels on gravel, and his obvious emotional investment in the material makes *Torch Song Trilogy* a personal tour de force, and a tribute to integrity and romantic love."

—Lesah Sawahata
Boxoffice

"As a social and political statement, it's head and shoulders above most films you're likely to see this year."

—Vito Russo
The Advocate

"Harvey Fierstein is smashing! The screenplay has been skillfully sharpened, brilliantly realized."

—Peter Miller
New York Native

"*Torch Song Trilogy* is an important movie, an entertaining movie, a story laced with life-giving humor . . . a movie that should be seen with an open mind and an open heart—a work of the human spirit! Harvey Fierstein earns a permanent honored place among America's writers with this single—and singular—work."

—Gene Shalit
Today Show

"It's funny, touching, heartbreaking and heart-mending. Harvey Fierstein and Anne Bancroft are excellent! You should see it."

—Dixie Whatley
At the Movies

"Fiercely courageous and funny. Neil Simon with balls!"

—Jay Scott
Film Comment



Now, WHY CAN'T
I FIND SOMEONE
LIKE THAT?

DON'T SIT THERE MOPING!

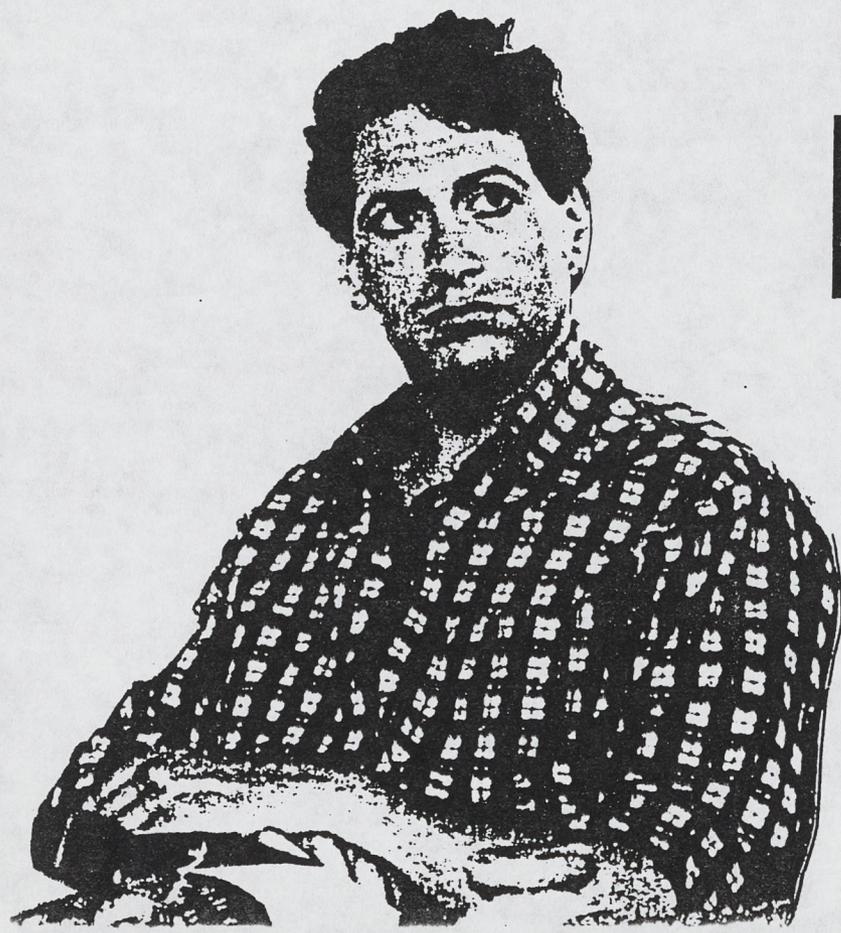
FIND THE SOMEONE
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~ **DREAMS** ~

AT LAGO'S

NON-SEXIST DANCE

SATURDAY, Nov. 18th
AT THE CHECAFE

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GLASS

Second Annual
Midsemester

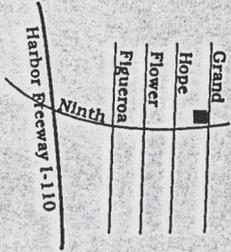
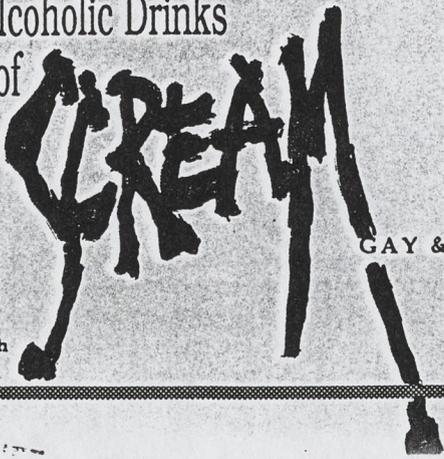
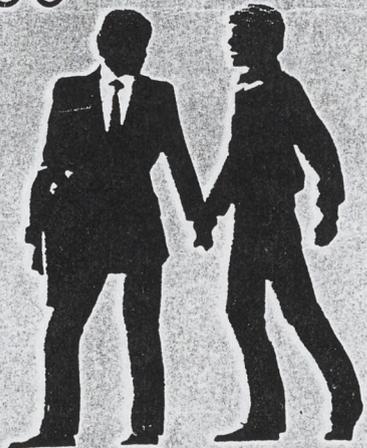
Night's

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NOV 13 1989

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CALENDAR FOR WINTER 1990

WEEKLY:

LAGO Business Meetings--Wednesdays 2pm-3pm, LAGO office.

ROCKERS! (Nightclub) Wed/Fri nights 9pm-2am at Whistle Stop
2236 Fern St., Golden Hill. Get discount passes at LAGO
office.

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

20 January	DANCE!DANCE!DANCE!	9pm-1am	Che Cafe
30 January	LAGO Social	4pm-5:30	Rev. Formal Lounge
30 January	Movie: Querelle	8pm	Price Center Theater
14 February	Valentine's Day Social Don't Miss This One!	4pm-5:30	Rev. Formal Lounge
21 February	Movie:TBA	8pm	Price Center Theater
27 February	LAGO Socail	4pm-5:30	Rev. Formal Lounge
3 March	DANCE!DANCE!DANCE!	9pm-1am	Che Cafe
13 March	LAGO Social	4pm-5:30	Rev. Formal Lounge

Check the LAGO answering machine at 534-GAYS for time and place updates. We can also give more directions and more information about these events. Our NEW office is located in Room 203, just around the corner from the old office next to the restrooms in the Old Student Center.

Our new address is listed below.

Lesbian and Gay Organization

University of California, San Diego

0-077 B-18 La Jolla, California 92093

(619) 534-GAYS

professional physician and an internationally recognized gay leader who received many human rights awards. This is a tragic, tragic loss for this whole community, not just the gay community."

Truax was also a clinical instructor for the UCSD School of Medicine. He was a 1968 graduate of Duke University, earned his medical degree from the Baylor College of Medicine in 1972 and did his internship at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

Born in Mahoning Township, Pa., he is survived by two brothers, Martin of Atlanta and Doug of Berwick, Pa.

Services have been set for 11 a.m. Saturday at the Unitarian Church in Hillcrest. Memorial contributions to the San Diego Democratic Club or the National Fund for Human Dignity have been suggested.

Caption:

1. Dies: Dr. Brad Truax, local leader in fight against AIDS, was 42. (A-1:1,2,3,4,5,6) 2. Dr. A. Brad Truax (B-4:1,4) CAP= 2. File photo
2 PICTURES

Memo: Head Varies
Editions Vary

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Record Number: SDU1827027

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

January 12, 1989

Task force favors detailed federal AIDS survey here

By Cheryl Clark; Staff Writer

Section: LOCAL

Edition: 5,6,4

Page: B-4

Estimated Printed Pages: 2

Index Terms:

COMMUNICATIONS

DISEASE

MEDICINE

RESEARCH

SAN DIEGO

SUPPORT

TESTS

USA

Article Text:

A county panel yesterday gave its support to a proposed door-to-door survey of AIDS infection in San Diego County to gauge the feasibility of doing such a federal study nationally.

San Diego is one of three metropolitan areas selected as possible sites for the pilot survey, along with Dallas and Allegheny County, Pa., where Pittsburgh is located. Peter Hurley of the National Center for Health Statistics described the project at a meeting of the county's Regional AIDS Task Force.

Participants would be offered a payment of between \$25 and \$50, Hurley said, as an incentive to answering written questions and providing blood sample to be tested for infection with the AIDS virus. All would be anonymous.

San Diego County is a candidate for the study because it is a medium-size urban area with a sufficient AIDS caseload and "doesn't have a lot of political entanglements regarding AIDS," Hurley said. "A lot of places would want to reveal the names of people (who test positive). ... The results must be anonymous."

But most of all, Hurley said, "We're looking for an area where the health department would like us to participate."

The county's health officer, Dr. Donald Ramras, said he is convinced that the study would be anonymous and confidential, and would provide general statistics that would be useful in planning for coping with future AIDS cases here. "I'm excited about it," he said.

The national center, which is part of the federal Centers for Disease Control based in Atlanta, will decide where it will undertake the survey within the next two weeks.

The idea for a nationwide AIDS survey originated 18 months ago when the Health and Human Services secretary, Otis R. Bowen, called for a national blood sampling and interviews involving

45,000 people. However, the project has been plagued by concerns that the results could not be kept anonymous, or that the survey would unfairly target areas with high minority populations, such as Washington, D.C. Several members of the San Diego task force had problems with the concept of such a survey. Dr. Chris Mathews, director of UCSD Medical Center's Owen Clinic, which treats a large share of the county's infected population, said he expected the survey would be biased, "underestimating the true prevalence."

For example, he said, the survey would exclude the homeless, many of whom are infected with the AIDS virus, as well as single people, prostitutes and intravenous drug users, who all are transient groups. Hurley said the survey will be statistically designed to overcome bias.

A task force member, R. Preston Price, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in La Mesa, said he wondered if people would be convinced that the survey is truly anonymous. La Mesa Mayor Fred Nagel said he was concerned that if a high infection rate emerges, "it may make San Diego look like a horrible place to live." Nagel added that many of the county's infected population may have moved here recently from areas such as San Francisco and Los Angeles. If San Diego is selected for the survey, about 2,000 statistically selected households will receive a letter, addressed to "Resident," from U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and CDC director James Mason asking them to participate.

Memo: Editions vary | Head varies

Record Number: SDU1870130

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

March 24, 1989

AIDS-infected lovers choose to die together

By Maria Puente; Tribune Staff Writer

Section: NEWS

Edition: 5,1,2,3,4

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Index Terms:

DISEASE

FAMILIES

HOMOSEXUALS

MULTIPLE

PROBES

RESEARCH

SAN DIEGO

SUICIDES

INTERVIEW STATISTICS

Article Text:

They're about the three worst shocks a parent can bear, especially all in the same day: You find out your son was gay. He had AIDS. And he has killed himself.

That's what an elderly Michigan couple had to cope with this week when San Diego authorities called to say that their son and his lover had been found dead Wednesday in their north Clairemont home -- both suicides.

One was sick with acquired immune deficiency syndrome; the other tested positive for the AIDS virus and expected to get sick eventually, although he was still free of symptoms, co-workers told police and The Tribune.

Robert James Simmons, 37, and Robert Francis Markworth, 41, would have died sooner or later, but they chose sooner. In doing so, they joined what health-care professionals fear may be a growing number of AIDS patients taking their lives. These people decide that taking charge of their own death is preferable to becoming hostage to the pain and suffering of late-stage AIDS and its attendant burdens on loved ones.

In a brief telephone interview yesterday from their Kalamazoo, Mich., home, Nonie Simmons said she and her husband, Fred, were stunned by the news about their son. Both are nearing 80 and both have recently undergone cancer operations, she said.

"I just talked to him the other night and he said something like, 'I love you, Mom,' but I never knew anything was wrong," she said, her voice high-pitched with strain. Rather than telling people at home the true cause of her son's death, she is saying that he died in a car accident.

Markworth's mother, Josephine Markworth Leitz, was equally distressed in a phone interview from her Eau Claire, Mich., home. She said she had been trying to reach her son for days; her husband had just died and the funeral was yesterday.

The door was closed but unlocked when police arrived at the house in the 4900 block of Gallatin Way Wednesday afternoon. They were called there by two women co-workers of Markworth, who had worked since 1986 as an administrative assistant at the California Space Institute based at the University of California at San Diego.

Virginia Floyd and Kim Pierce would not comment to a reporter, but they told police they last heard from Markworth on March 7, when he left a message saying he wouldn't be at work. He said something was wrong but he couldn't talk about it, Floyd told police.

In the garage of the house, police found Simmons' body hanging from a rope draped over a rafter. A wooden stepladder was next to the body. In a rear bedroom, they found Markworth's body, lying face up, arms outstretched, covered by a blanket. A black trash bag was over his face.

Numerous empty pill and liquor bottles were found in the house, police said. Deputy Coroner Penny Hammerstead said autopsies performed yesterday indicated cause of death for Markworth was self-asphyxiation with the trash bag; for Simmons, asphyxiation by hanging. Times of death were unknown, she said.

Coroner David Stark said today that state law prohibits release of results of AIDS tests.

Simmons and Markworth were a close couple and well-liked by their co-workers, but they apparently didn't socialize much. They had lived in the Gallatin Way house for about two years, and a neighbor said they were pleasant but kept to themselves. Markworth was said to be a Master's point bridge player. Apparently, the couple had been together in Michigan and had come to San Diego about 10 years ago.

Simmons, a computer software specialist, had worked as an administrative assistant in the mathematics department at UCSD's Muir College since 1984, and in the pediatrics department at the UCSD Medical Center for two years before that.

His boss, math department manager Nancy Hartley, said she had last heard from him March 8, when he called to say he would be absent from work for a week. When she asked why, he said, "It's Bob," and started to cry, she said.

"He was very despondent at the onset of Bob's illness (about a year ago)," Hartley said yesterday. "He was very emotional about it. They were devoted to each other."

When she still hadn't heard from him by Tuesday, she called the police to request that they check on them. She wondered whether that would be invading their privacy, but she was more concerned about finding out if they were all right.

She said the police called back Tuesday to say everything at the house looked fine, but now she wonders whether they really checked. "The door was unlocked," she said. "Don't they even try the doors?" When the couple still hadn't called Wednesday, Floyd and Pierce went to the house. They were too afraid to go inside when they found the unlocked door, so they called the police, the police report said. The staff and faculty of the math department were shocked and saddened by the news of Simmons' death, Hartley said. "I'm going to try to arrange a memorial service," she said. "We need to say goodbye."

The two men seemed to have planned their deaths with some degree of care, taking time to leave a note on a computer printout with instructions about the distribution of their property and the sale of their home.

This kind of planning might suggest what literature on AIDS calls a "rational suicide," the act of a person who is not suffering from depression or dementia -- two common consequences of AIDS that can lead to suicide. Instead, experts say, such a patient has carefully considered suicide as

preferable to the probable quality of the rest of his life and the likely strain on family and finances. AIDS professionals contacted yesterday said most AIDS patients consider suicide at least once, especially after the initial shock of diagnosis. Faced with pain, loss of dignity and control over their life, patients see suicide as potential escape, even if they never actually do it, said Christopher Mercier, a counselor in the social services program at the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center in Hillcrest.

"It's somehow very freeing when they know that they can end it anytime," Mercier said.

Judith Saunders, a research nurse at the City of Hope Hospital in Los Angeles who has studied, lectured and written about suicide and AIDS, said there has been only one study of the link between the two. Published last year, she said the study found that New York City male AIDS patients between 20 and 59 have a risk of suicide 66 times higher than the general population, and 36 times higher than other men their age.

"These are astronomical figures, truly horrendous and frightening," she said. "And (the study) doesn't include people who test positive for the virus but have no symptoms; the anecdotal evidence indicates a higher risk for them as well."

San Diego AIDS experts could not confirm similar findings for AIDS patients here and neither could the coroner's office. But Mercier said there's no question that suicide is an "ever-present preoccupation" of those who have the disease or test positive for the virus.

A spokesman for Aids Project San Diego could not be reached for comment, but Sally Jue, manager of the mental health program at AIDS Project Los Angeles, said suicide may appear especially desirable to the patient who is still symptom-free but has watched a partner suffer and die.

"They don't want to go through what the other went through, especially without the support of a lover," she said.

Memo: Editions vary

Record Number: SDU1941195

THE TRIBUNE

FIN
METRO

San Diego's Pulitzer Prize-winning Newspaper

Thursday, April 6, 1989

25 Cents A Copley Newspaper

Critical of story

Re: The Tribune's story, "AIDS-infected lovers choose to die together" (3-24-89). The first paragraph says, "The three worst shocks a parent can bear: You find out your son was gay. He had AIDS. And he has killed himself."

This comparison is reprehensible. I am shocked that someone still holds the opinion that homosexuality is as much of a shock and a tragedy as AIDS and suicide. Such beliefs are what the gay community has been struggling against for years.

Not all parents consider it a tragedy to discover their child is gay.

Placing the story on the front page, beneath the photo with the caption, "Forgive them, father . . .," was a gross error in judgment.

It is a tragedy to discover that one's child has AIDS and has committed suicide, but to equate one's sexual orientation with such tragedies does a disservice to us all by reinforcing bigoted attitudes and suggesting to people struggling with their sexuality that suicide may be a better option than telling their parents.

—THOMAS WHITLER
University City

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

June 10, 1989

Column: Today's People | Close to home ... PROFILE

By Susan Duerksen

Section: NEWS

Edition: 1,2

Page: A-2

Estimated Printed Pages: 1

Index Terms:

COLLEGES

PROFESSIONS

SCHOOLS

SCIENCE

INTERVIEW

Marguerite Jackson

Article Text:

As a 20-year-old college graduate trying to control a roomful of teen-agers at an inner-city Atlanta school, Marguerite Jackson decided she was not meant to follow in her mother's footsteps as a teacher.

"I was very good at the biology, but I had no clue how to discipline 15-year-olds, most of whom had no interest in the subject and all of whom were bigger than me," she said.

Now, 25 years later, Jackson is back in the classroom, teaching night classes in basic research methods at National University to help put her 20-year-old son through college.

By day, she's epidemiology director at UCSD Medical Center. In between, she chairs the county's AIDS Task Force and is working toward a doctorate in sociology.

"Most of my life is very work-focused," she says.

A native of tiny Statesboro, Ga., Jackson switched from teaching to microbiology research and spent 10 years in Mississippi specializing in salmonella bacteria in turtles.

Her interest in public health and epidemiology was sparked when a near-epidemic of gastroenteritis caused by salmonella erupted in children who had pet turtles.

After gaining a nursing degree as well, she turned her full attention to "the rituals and magic of infection control," and now lectures nationally on a method she helped develop to protect health-care workers from AIDS infection.

Caption:

She chose microbiology over teaching, but now Marguerite Jackson is back at the head of the class, teaching at night at National University. By day, she's head of epidemiology at UCSD Medical Center and chairwoman of the county's AIDS Task Force.

Tribune photo by John Gibbins

1 PICTURE

1989-90 Clippings

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

October 5, 1989

UC anti-bias policy called legally sound

By Ann Levin; Tribune Education Writer

Section: NEWS

Edition: 1,2,3,4,5

Page: A-10

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Index Terms:

COLLEGES

ETHICS

HANDICAPPED

HOMOSEXUALS

HUMAN RIGHTS

LAW

LAWSUITS

MINORITIES

RACE RELATIONS

WOMEN

Article Text:

A new University of California policy aimed at stamping out harassment of women and minorities on campus has a good chance of surviving a legal challenge, says an attorney who successfully sued another university over a similar policy.

Robert Sedler, a law professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, said in a telephone interview this week that the University of California's policy is better crafted than the University of Michigan policy that his lawsuit overturned.

In the spring of 1988, the University of Michigan adopted rules prohibiting students from creating an "intimidating, hostile and demeaning" atmosphere for women, minorities, homosexuals and the handicapped. Sedler, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, filed suit on behalf of an unnamed student who alleged that the policy inhibited free speech. A federal judge agreed, and struck down the policy last August for being too vague.

Sedler said the UC policy is more likely to withstand a

constitutional challenge because it is narrow enough to allow the airing of controversial views. He said the ACLU gets concerned by attempts to regulate the marketplace of ideas, "no matter how offensive those ideas may be."

In a Sept. 21 letter, UC President David P. Gardner told the chancellors of UC's nine campuses that he had expanded UC's student-conduct policy to prohibit students from using so-called "fighting words" to harass other people on university property or at university-sponsored events.

The phrase "fighting words" was taken from a 1942 U.S. Supreme Court decision. The UC policy described them as "personally abusive epithets," including derogatory references to race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability and "other personal characteristics." Discipline could

range from censure to dismissal. Such policies are becoming increasingly common as campus administrators struggle to cope with a rising number of incidents of racial and other types of discrimination and harassment. At the University of Michigan, for instance, leaflets were distributed in January 1987 declaring "open season on blacks." The next month, a student disc jockey at the university radio station allowed the telling of racist jokes on the air.

Joseph Owsley, a University of Michigan spokesman, said that students lodged 149 complaints between September 1988 and May 1989 -- before the policy was declared unconstitutional.

More than half of the complaints alleged sexual harassment, while the others were divided among allegations of gay-bashing, racial discrimination and anti-Semitism. Owsley said punishments ranged from apologies to compulsory attendance at classes and workshops designed to foster sensitivity. Only one complaint reached the level of a formal hearing and no students were expelled or suspended under the policy.

As an example of a typical punishment, Owsley cited the case of a student who read a limerick in class that made fun of the reputed homosexuality of a major sports figure. After another student complained, the first student was asked to apologize to the complainant, write a letter to the school newspaper and attend a gay rap session.

Since U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn declared the Michigan policy unconstitutionally vague, the university has narrowed its policy after consulting with experts in constitutional law. Officials have not decided whether to appeal the ruling, Owsley said.

The interim policy forbids students to use racial, ethnocentric or sexual invective "directly to attack or injure another individual" but allows the discussion of offensive ideas in the classroom. "If a person were to say something offensive -- like that women are not fit to govern the country because of PMS (premenstrual syndrome) -- that might insult women in the classroom, but it could be legitimately brought up for discussion," Owsley said.

Caption:
DAVID GARDNER | Targeted "fighting words"
1 PICTURE

Record Number: SDU2136295

LEXIS®-NEXIS® Academic Universe

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Los Angeles Times

October 13, 1989, Friday, San Diego County Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 6; Column 2; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 132 words

HEADLINE: SAN DIEGO COUNTY DIGEST: SAN DIEGO

BODY:

A UC San Diego Medical Center physician has been presented with the first Dr. A. Brad Truax Award by the San Diego County Regional Task Force on AIDS, a task force spokesman said.

Dr. W. Christopher Mathews was recognized this week for his contributions in the treatment of persons infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. Mathews established the Owen Clinic at the UCSD Medical Center in 1982 and created a program for health professionals working with HIV-infected patients.

The award, presented at a reception at the County Administration Center after the monthly meeting of the task force, was created to honor the memory of Truax, a former chairman of the task force and spokesman for San Diego's gay community who died last November of AIDS.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

NewsBank InfoWeb
The San Diego Union-Tribune

January 8, 1990

Column: Theater review

'Party of One' was a good time for singles, couples at UCSD

By Anne Marie Welsh; Arts Critic

Section: LIFESTYLE

Edition: 1,2,3,4,5,6

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REVIEW

Party of One

Article Text:

"Party of One" had a one-night stand Saturday. And it was more fun than you might expect.

The place -- a serviceable little theater in UCSD's brightly designed Price Center -- helped. So did the audience, a young crowd, mostly there single or on dates.

Billed as San Francisco's longest-running original show, "Party" is a tight, smart, sometimes sharp revue about the joys and sorrows of being single right now. Morris Bobrow created the music, lyrics and sketches that play on into their fourth year up north. Director Ronnie Klein did the rest, including some clever choreography. Like most such baubles, "Party of One" has its shiny and dull spots. The tone is jaunty without being silly, cheerful without being empty. Mostly the show deals with heterosexual people, though gays get their say and AIDS gets acknowledged. Bobrow's music is generic, post-Sondheim stuff, agreeably sour in its harmonies. His lyrics and the rhymes are witty and pungent, like those of the more

sophisticated William Finn.

Bobrow's sketches keep celebrating singlehood and damning prejudice against the un-married state. But the four actors play a score of people, most looking for relationships. If there's a contradiction in all this, the show moves too quickly for it to register. Some of the best skits had less to do with being single than with growing middle-aged. Chris Bogart lamented that his lawyer (and doctor and priest and the pro-football coaches) were now younger than he. At 43, "I'm three years older than my stepdad," he warbled mournfully.

Bogart had the best voice in the four-member cast, but the others all had their moments. Carrie Keskinen's came in "A Mom and Dad," a bizarre number about a woman who turns from careering to rearing, without aid of a man. With two children born immaculately, she adopts a teen-age third to baby-sit, then crows again like an operatic hen.

In "What a Waste," Lesley Hamilton sings "Straights are arrogant, obnoxious or married." All the men she likes are gay. Like a late-night TV huckster, Michael Temlin pitches a singles group designed for moderate achievers, a second-rate singles club a cut higher than depressing church socials.

In all these numbers and, especially, the masturbation song "I Love Myself," director Klein finds a tone so innocent and witty, no one could possibly disapprove.

"Party of One" has gone home. But this agreeable show will return, with a local cast and director, as part of the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre's season.

Record Number: SDU2231080