

## Measure Seeks Gay Rights

Early next month, Berkeley's Human Relations and Welfare Commission will send the City Council a draft ordinance against discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual orientation.

The current draft (available from the commission -- which wants written comments by Thursday, June 1 -- at 2180 Milvia St., 644-6645) forbids "discrimination based on sexual orientation" in the following cases: \* by employers, unions or agencies in job-related situations; \* by landlords or other principal parties in transactions involving homes and apartments and by hotels, motels and businesses or by the City of Berkeley or any educational institution furnishing services and/or facilities.

The commission voted to confine the law's prohibitions to discrimination on the basis of "an individual's actual or supposed choice of sexual partners," rather than including "physical characteristics, personal mannerisms, or modes of dress" that indicate that choice.

-- David Kolsky



Roman Polanski: A contract out for Charlie Manson

## Polanski To Off Manson

There is an "open contract" on Charlie Manson throughout the California state prison system -- and the man behind the alleged contract is movie director Roman Polanski, according to *New West* magazine.

Manson and his so-called family were convicted on murder charges, including the killing of Polanski's late wife Sharon Tate. *New West* says that the filmmaker apparently made no secret of the existence of the contract while undergoing psychiatric evaluation at Chino last fall.

Polanski, who fled to Paris recently following his conviction on having sex with a 13-year-old girl, could not be reached for comment.

--(ZNS)

## CLUES

## A Tough Case To Crack

Police in Saginaw, Michigan, are confirming that a motorist was arrested last week for carrying a concealed weapon that was found in his car.

The motorist was released the next day after a check of the serial numbers on the pistol showed it belonged to the arresting officer.

Police said it appeared the officer was searching inside the car after he stopped the motorist, and that he accidentally lost his own gun and then found it again.

--(ZNS)



Rhonda White-Warner of Alameda County Neighborhood Arts Program and Idris Ackamoor, leader of the jazz group the Pyramids, consult over last minute details before the start of last weekend's highly successful Multi Cultural Arts Parade in Oakland.

## Paraquat Update: Arsenic And Red Tape For Dopers

A Senate hearing into U.S. government support of paraquat spraying was cut short this week when Carter Administration of-

officials refuse to discuss the subject in public.

White House Drug Advisor Peter Bourne said that because a

suit has been filed against the spraying program by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), government officials would make no public statements.

Illinois Senator Charles Percy says he will attempt to attach a rider to the Foreign Aid Assistance Act that would kill all funds earmarked for the anti-marijuana spraying program in Mexico.

The Mexican government has been experimenting for the past two months with fluorescent dyes and foul-smelling substances that could be used to warn pot smokers their marijuana is contaminated with herbicides. So far, those experiments have flopped.

A red dye mixed with paraquat was sprayed on marijuana fields near Oaxaca but proved to be ineffective. Another experiment to mix paraquat with a foul-smelling chemical was quickly cancelled after helicopter pilots became nauseated by the smell.

The Mexicans say they are confident they can come up with some sort of effective chemical warning before the end of this year.

A Southern California firm called Southland Helicopters has quietly been training the helicopter pilots involved in paraquat spraying programs in Mexico, according to a Los Angeles Times report.

The trainees are reportedly engaged in simulated missions in Southern California on how to spray chemicals such as paraquat and 2,4-D from the air while avoiding gunfire from the ground.

American funding and training of the pilots in the U.S. continues while American officials continue to describe the paraquat spraying program as "entirely a Mexican government effort."

Meanwhile some weed grown in Hawaii may be contaminated as well. Sugar cane growers in the Hilo area say they spray paraquat on their fields to get rid of excess leaves. Many Hawaiian pot growers reportedly raise their crops among the rows of cane to hide them from authorities.

The American government's National Institute on Drug Abuse is pushing to expand drug-eradication programs similar to paraquat spraying into cocaine-producing areas of Bolivia and Peru, *New Times* magazine reports.

A Northern California plant expert reports that paraquat spraying is also wiping out certain species of house plants in Mexico.

Dale Williams of the San Francisco Bromeliad Society says that paraquat sprayed in Mexico is killing off all kinds of vegetation, not just marijuana plants. He adds that the chemical is reported to have contaminated water supplies in Oaxaca, causing residents there to be afraid to drink it.

--(ZNS)

## Eunuch Lib: No More Sex!

Members of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists report that the sexual revolution may be coming to a crashing halt as more and more Americans become "asexual."

According to Shirley Zussman, vice president of the Association, some members report that "a lack of desire" seems to be the prime problem with at least 50 percent of their patients. She said in the past the most prevalent complaints were premature ejaculation, impotence and failure to achieve orgasm.

The asexual revolution is not just hitting the middle-aged and older folks, according to Zussman. She reports that more and more young people are choosing to be asexual.

Zussman says that members of what is now being called the "chastity underground" say asexuality offers a comforting antidote to such contemporary ills as traumatic divorces or affairs, random sex and the pressure to "score" -- in bed as well as on the job.

## Valium Harms Muscle Cells

Valium appears to cause damage to muscle cells and prevent the formation of muscle tissue, according to a University of California (Berkeley) study carried out by Zoology professor Richard Strohmman.

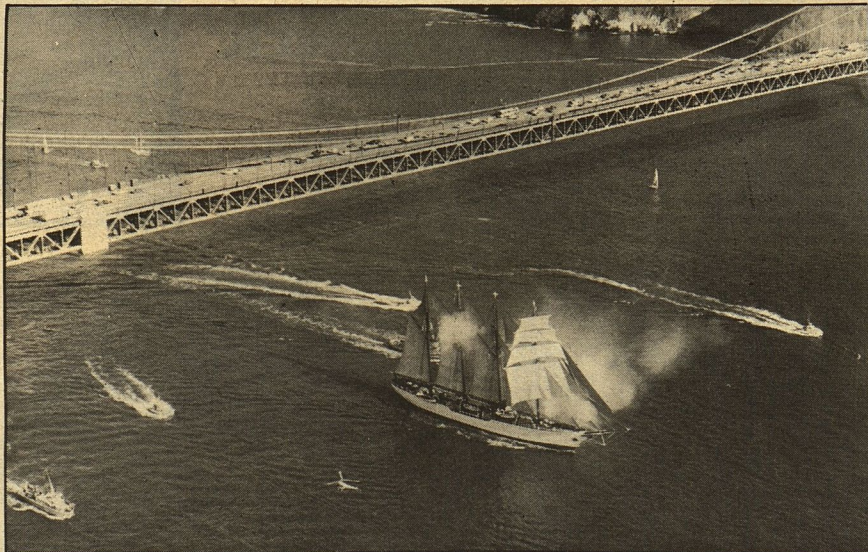
Strohmman said he applied doses of Valium up to more than 100 times the comparable human doses to embryonic chicken muscle cells and muscle tissue.

He reports that cells, which would normally have grown muscle contracting fiber within 12 days, did not completely mature and did not show evidence of the ability to contract, as a result. At higher doses, more mature muscle tissue would not activate, and in fact began to degenerate.

Strohmman concluded that the drug's relaxing effect, thought to result from its action on the central nervous system, instead has a "profound direct biochemical effect" on muscle tissue.

Valium is said to be the most widely prescribed tranquilizer in the United States.

--(ZNS)



The Chilean torture ship Esmeralda cruised through the Golden Gate Tuesday dogged by a flotilla of small boats protesting her presence in the Bay.

## Press Grills Chilean Torture Ship Captain

The real power of the press was demonstrated this week when Bay Area reporters forced Chilean officials to throw open a carefully screened press conference aboard the torture ship Esmeralda and face more than an hour of hostile questions about the country's repressive military regime.

The press conference had originally been open to only a handful of local television stations and San Francisco's *Examiner* and *Chronicle*. The Oakland *Tribune*, all Bay Area radio stations and all alternative news services and papers were originally excluded from the Chilean consul's list of media to be allowed aboard the ship.

But after a show of solidarity on the pier where the ship was docked (reporters from the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* refused

to attend if others were excluded), Chilean officials relented and invited all representatives of local media aboard the ship.

Primed for a fight after the consul's attempt to exclude them, the reporters pressed question after question on the Esmeralda's use as an internment center and torture facility for political prisoners during the 1974 Chilean coup.

Captain Victor Larenas, skipper of the Esmeralda, waffled back and forth before finally denying that the ship had been used to torture dissidents.

Larenas dismissed questions about the ship's infamous reputation saying, "People who wish to attack the prestige of the Chilean regime do so by attacking this ship. . . The power of the press has been used to spread these lies about our country."

18 and 25 has experimented with cocaine.

Approximately 11 percent of the high school seniors questioned reported having tried "coke," and three percent described themselves as users.

That same survey found that 56 percent of the high school seniors polled admitted to using marijuana, with one in 11 stating they smoke daily.

The three most popular drugs, the government reports, were tobacco, pot, and alcohol, respectively.

--(ZNS)

## The "Real Thing" Refreshes More

The use of cocaine by young people has jumped sharply in the past year, a new federal survey shows.

The government's annual "National Survey on Drug Use" for 1977 reports that nearly one in every five Americans between

## Arab Oil Out Of Sweden?

By the year 2015, Sweden could be wholly capable of meeting its energy needs by using only domestic and renewable energy sources, according to a two-year study by researchers working for the Swedish government.

--(ZNS)