



H I G H T E C H G A Y S

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N E W S L E T T E R N O V . 1 9 8 3

President: Rick Rudy
Secretary: Denny Carroll
Treasurer: Eirc Lipanovich

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H.T.G. CALENDAR

OCTOBER 29 HALLOWEEN PARTY sponsored by the San Jose and San Francisco chapters of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). HTG has been invited to join "Puttin' on the Ritz" at the Park West Hotel, 450 Post St., SF. For info call Bill at (408) 277-0644.

NOVEMBER 13 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING and potluck dinner. Help us celebrate Thanksgiving early! HTG will provide the turkey, please bring a traditional side dish to share. 6:30 at Jeff and Ron's house 4682 Ventura Ave, San Jose. See attached map.

DECEMBER 3 XMAS PARTY AT "THE BROADWAY". Dinner, dancing and socializing with the folks from BWMT. Call Bill at (408) 277-0644 for info. and cost.

DECEMBER 11 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING and potluck dinner. Xmas theme for this one (surprize!) at Herb Zeman's house in Palo Alto. More info in the next newsletter.

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BIG BASIN CAMPING TRIP

In spite of the threat of rain some very brave souls from HTG succeeded in getting to Big Basin and having a great time.

Eight people made it for the camp-out and two joined us on Sunday for the picnic. We had plenty of good food; no one was on a diet for this trip!

The animals were friendly, wild and noisy at times, just like the members. We hiked pine covered mountains, walked redwood trails, and explored the Big Basin museum. If you missed this trip, you missed loads of fun.

MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9

Approximately 40 members attended our meeting last month hosted by Bill Collins.

Our guest speakers were Waheed "Larry" Ghilzai and his attorney Liz Shivell. They discussed the suit filed against SEEO, Inc. for alleged harassment about Larry's sexual orientation and for isolating him from other employees because of rumors that he had contracted AIDS. (See enclosed newspaper articles.)

This could very possibly become an important Gay Rights case, and help many individuals in deciding to stay in, or come out of, the closet, at the workplace.

Rick Rudy, president of HTG asked how we, as an organization, could provide assistance. Ms Shivell anticipated that volunteers will be needed to help with photo copying, media coordination, and other such work. Simply keeping the Gay technical community informed would be of immense help. Other than Ms Shivell's fees (which are being handled by Waheed) funds are needed to help defray court costs. A trust fund is being set up for donations to help with these costs.

HTG can become involved with Waheed's case. We would like to set up a committee to discuss the various ways in which this can be done. Any interested members of our organization should contact Denny at (408) 292-6475 and leave your name and number. More discussion of this topic at next month's meeting.

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HTG has heard from a gay, independent recruiter in San Francisco. His name is Steve Rosenquist, and he specializes in semi-conductor process engineers. If interested in Steve's services, please phone him at (415) 550-8683.

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Last month's newsletter included a copy of a letter from one of our members, Bob Kanefsky, to the National Gay Task Force.

Bob has received a reply from NGTF which indicated that Fairchild had in fact replied to NGTF queries about discriminatory policies based on sexual orientation in a positive manner. Fairchild's reply, however, was dated more than five years ago. The reply stated that the company provided equal employment opportunities, and that sexual preference was not a considered factor in determining employment, retention or job promotability at Fairchild.

It would appear that this letter has not been disseminated within Fairchild company personnel publications.

HTG would like to know if the company that you work for has a stated policy regarding sexual orientation. Is the policy widely publicized? Can you send a copy of that policy to HTG? We would like to include notes on various companies in each newsletter.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

* Rick Rudy and Steve Completo are two of the new owners of the Silver Fox (formerly Kevans). Various members of HTG have visited the bar twice now as part of the after-theatre festivities. This is truly "A Friendly Place to Drink".

* Pacific Ventures, a gay oriented travel club, is sponsoring a trip to Acapulco the week of Nov. 26 thru Dec. 4, '83. Cost and other details available through Dan Parsons at (415) 941-4048.

* The house warming and AIDS/KS fund-raiser at Max and Norman's was a tremendous success! Many HTG members showed up and the contributions totaled nearly \$600. Heartfelt thanks to those of you who donated so generously!

* New member Bob Moore is seeking work. He has done electronics stockroom supervising, expiditing, general clerical, and accounts payable and receiveable; he is also familiar with ASK software. Does anybody have an opening for Bob? Call him at (415) 593-7866 or (415) 493-7994.

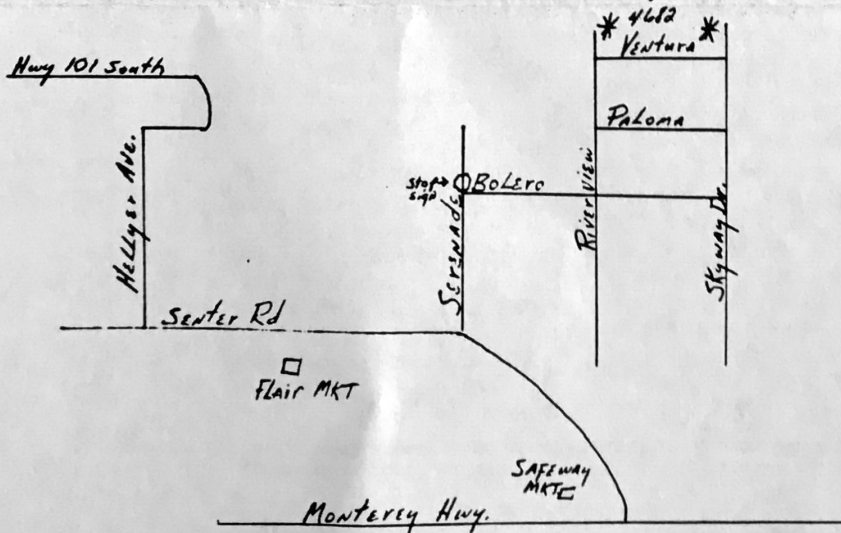
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MAP - MAP

Hwy 101 South to Hellyer Exit. Hellyer to Senter Rd. Left on Senter to Serenade. Left on Serenade to Bolero (stop sign). Right on Bolero to Skyway Dr. (to top of hill). Left on Skyway to Ventura. Left on Ventura (4th house from top on right). Only 2 story house on block.

226-0645

JEFF'S HOUSE



FROM SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Firm sued over AIDS rumor

Ex-worker seeks \$30 million from SEEQ for alleged harassment

By Linda Goldston
Staff Writer

An electronics worker is seeking \$30 million in damages from SEEQ Inc. of San Jose for allegedly harassing him about his homosexuality and for isolating him from other employees because of rumors that he had AIDS.

Waheed "Larry" Ghilzai, who said he does not have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, contends that company officials did nothing to stop an AIDS slander campaign against him. His suit, filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court in July, also seeks damages because of derogatory comments he says company officials, including his supervisor, made

during the past year about his homosexuality.

AIDS has claimed more than 900 victims in the United States. A disorder that destroys the body's ability to fight infection, the disease has been discovered in male homosexuals, intravenous drug users, Haitians and hemophiliacs. It is usually fatal.

The suit charges that company officials began moving other employees from Ghilzai's work station after the AIDS rumors surfaced in early June, said his attorney, Elizabeth L. Shivell of San Jose.

"The AIDS rumor was the reason people were told they were being moved" away from Ghilzai, Shivell said Thursday.

In addition, Ghilzai claims that he was moved to an isolated spot in the plant that was unsafe. As a result of that, he contends, his hair began falling out.

Ghilzai, a native of Afghanistan who now is unemployed and living in Fremont, quit his job as a chemical technician at SEEQ on June 23 "after suffering considerable embarrassment and emotional anguish," according to the lawsuit.

"My life has become pointless and sad," Ghilzai said through his lawyer Thursday. "There's no way to mend my reputation or my family's reputation in the Afghani community."

Dennis Lyons, vice president of person-

See AIDS, Page 3B

AIDS rumor: gay sues

AIDS, from Page 1B

nel for SEEQ, said neither he nor other company officials could comment on the suit because "the matter is in litigation."

As a result of his treatment at SEEQ, Ghilzai charges in the lawsuit, he has been forced to seek medical and psychiatric treatment for physical and emotional distress, including sleeplessness, depression, weight loss and suicidal tendencies.

"Before this happened, I had read a lot about the AIDS hysteria and how gays were being treated," he said Thursday. "It felt like a nightmare coming true."

According to the suit, Lonny Wright, a supervisor, and Kevin Curnes, another SEEQ employee, said in front of witnesses June 17 that Ghilzai was suffering from

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The two are among the co-defendants named in the suit.

A few days after the alleged statement, Ghilzai said, he came to work and found on the company's premises a flier linking him with AIDS. The flier said: "LARRY GHILZAI — STOP SPREADING AIDS — QUIT NOW."

Neither Ghilzai nor his lawyer knows who was responsible for the flier.

Ghilzai said he immediately wrote a letter to Lyons, vice president of personnel, informing him of the statements being made about him having AIDS and their effect on his co-workers and on his work environment.

The suit says Lyons took no action to check on the allegations about Ghilzai.