

Court Rules FBI's Anti-Gay Policy May Violate Constitutional Right to Equal Protection

by *Don Nelson*

On February 12, 1992, Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong, recently appointed by President Bush, denied the government's motion for summary judgment. In a 23-page Order, Judge Armstrong ruled that Frank Buttino, a gay former Special Agent with 20 years of outstanding service, represented by Dick Gayer, had offered persuasive evidence that he was fired because he is gay. Judge Armstrong added that it would be hard for the FBI to prove that its action was rational, especially since Buttino had "expressly given the FBI 'unrestricted permission' to tell anybody it wants about his sexual orientation and sexual activities."

The FBI's summary judgment motion sought to win the case without a trial. The FBI argued that they revoked

Buttino's clearance because he allegedly lied to FBI investigators about details of his gay-related conduct, whereas Buttino said the FBI has long had an anti-gay policy and he is just another victim of it. Judge Armstrong ruled against the FBI, thereby setting the stage for public trial later this year.

Disappointed and desperate, the FBI has asked Judge Armstrong to reconsider her 23-page ruling. If Judge Armstrong denies the FBI's motion for reconsideration, Buttino plans to file motions in May to add a rejected Lesbian applicant as a named plaintiff (she was asked about oral sex) and to certify this case as a "class action" to protect the constitutional rights of all gay FBI employees and applicants. A public trial should be held in September or October 1992.

Election Results

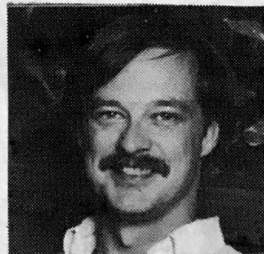
Last month's elections resulted in the re-election of Don Nelson and Chris Clarke to president and secretary, respectively. Treasurer Lynn Jaeger, who chose not to run for re-election, will be handing over the HTG finances to A.J. Alfieri. Congratulations to all.

This was a noteworthy election because for the first time in HTG history there was a two-candidate race for a president. As Allan Hurst, who also ran for president, pointed out, it proves that others can and should run for a position on the HTG board. Every organization needs the input and fresh ideas of new office holders.

In Memoriam

Al Crook

We were all saddened recently by the death, on Friday, May 1, of Al Crook, a long-time member of HTG. For many years, Al was a dedicated and hard-working member of the HTG Activities Committee and an organizer or participant in most of HTG's hiking, camping, and skiing trips. He is perhaps most remembered for several dinner nights he organized at The Cats restaurant, and for some of his escapades on the Mt. Lassen trip several years ago. Most recently, he began the organization of HTG's trip to Berkeley for the Mapplethorpe exhibit, a task he was forced to pass on to others as his health deteriorated.



In addition to his efforts for HTG, Al was on the board of directors of the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration for several years and served as volunteer coordinator for the June event.

Al was a highly respected expert in cryptography and worked for Tandem Computers for seven years in the development of security systems. A voracious devourer of scientific literature, he enjoyed an active tendency toward the macabre, and his reading included such gems as "Kitchen Improvised Plastic Explosives," and the "Sceptical Inquirer."

Al was born in 1950 in the little town of Henderson, Kentucky. He graduated from the honors program at the University of Kentucky in 1972, and soon afterwards entered the Peace Corps, where he spent three years teaching junior high students in Liberia in West Africa. After eight months of travel in Africa, Europe, and America, Al lighted for a while in Atlanta, Georgia, earned a certificate from the Georgia School of Bartending, and spent six months working at one of Atlanta's popular gay nightspots. Years later, Al

How Tacky!

On May 2, Alan Stephenson took advantage of flawless weather and our lives in his hands by hosting Tacky Tour IV, a second look at Santa Cruz (the first having coincided with the 1989 Loma Prieta Quake). Stops this time out included the Boardwalk (Bill Weaver's pictures from the Giant Dipper are enough to make anyone sick - and that's a compliment). Vision Santa Cruz, and perennial favorite, India Joze. Beautiful beach boys abounded, as did busloads of Christian sightseers. Everyone had a good time despite a meager turnout (10). Clear your calendar for Tacky Tour V: Palo Alto (The Dark Side) coming in August.

Thank You, Lynn!

by *Don Nelson*

HTG can attribute its success to many factors and one of them is our retiring treasurer, Lynn Yaeger.

Lynn has many commitments: her work with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Awareness Program (LGBAP), her graduate studies, her three children home from school, and a home re-model. She continually apologized for not being able to contribute as much as she would like, but it was always reassuring to know that she was handling the HTG finances so competently.

Lynn has promised she and her lover, Donna Mathewson, will continue to be involved with HTG in the future.

Thanks for all the work, Lynn!

HTG

professionals in high technology industry **HIGH TECH GAYS**

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A portion of the proceeds from these concerts will
 benefit the Billy DeFrank Community Center

conference was held at City College and was held in northern California. Companies and educators were represented in sessions of last year's conference.

The extraordinarily positive results of last year's conference included concurrent developments in diversity programs, benefits and the gay

community would like to start one. There will be a reception and social event on Friday night at the B street Bar in San Mateo. The main conference will begin Saturday morning with a keynote speaker, plenary sessions and a series of topical workshops.

The Program Committee is accepting proposals for workshops at the conference. Contact Rhoda Shiffman at (415) 973-4434 for proposal guidelines. Volunteers interested in helping to organize the conference may contact George Kronenberger at

Letter to HTG

It was with some fear and trepidation that I attended the last HTG meeting. While we have certainly had members of the straight community address the group in the past, it is quite another matter when you're the one who invites them and they're co-workers to boot. In addition, despite our name, high-tech presentations are almost unheard of. The speaker himself was nervous about the outcome, too: "Am I being too irreverent?; am I using too much jargon?"

Despite the above, the meeting seemed a success and Mr. Tulley and Ms. Spiagler (AKA Carol Merrill) felt extremely welcome; I should have expected nothing less. Gever and Julie have already landed another engagement at a local high school making a presentation to an art and video class and promise to return to HTG soon. I'm even considering hooking them up with Paul Falworth for paragliding or some other equally life-threatening event (Gever and the Spiegelmeister are absolute sports fanatics).

Thanks again for putting your best foot forward and our concerns to rest.
Alan Stephenson

Baylands Frontrunners

by *Martin Yonke*

A non-competitive running/walking group has formed for Peninsula and South Bay for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals and their friends. We meet every Saturday morning at 9:00 am. for a run followed by a social/coffee hour. The variable length runs start in the parking lot of the Baylands Athletic Center in Palo Alto (Exit 101 to Embarcadero east, left at 2nd light which is Geng road, which dead ends in the Centers parking lot. For information call Linda at (408) 245-5083, Jay (415) 858-2800 or Martin at 415 493-7201.

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Wheelchair

HTG Monthly Meeting

Map to the next HTG meeting at
the Billy DeFrank Community Center,
175 Stockton St. San Jose.

