

# High Tech Gayzette

Newsletter for High Tech Gays and Their Associates of Silicon Valley  
July 1997

## Words from the "Prez"

Texx

The July meeting was a nice warm evening so we ate outside on the patio at the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center (our usual meeting place). We will consider doing this again at future meetings, weather permitting. Several new faces dropped by and we were quite happy to see them.

We discussed recent events in the southbay gay community. Of particular concern is the recent tendency of the San Jose police department to harass the gay community. Within the past few years, Police Chief Lou Cobarruviaz spoke at an HTG meeting and he assured us that he would treat such incidents seriously. Perhaps it is time for HTG to remind him of his forgotten pledge.

Recently, a town meeting was held on this matter at the DeFrank Center with the police department and more are scheduled (see notes from the 23 July meeting on page 3). There is interest in HTG assisting in these meetings. Police harassment has been tentatively scheduled as the topic of the upcoming October HTG meeting.

On the internet there is a service IRC (Internet Relay Chat) as well as a number of MUDs etc. In the southbay, many people from the net have gathered at Cafe Leviticus to meet face to face. When the cafe closes, a few stand outside saying their good-byes. The San Jose police have been reported as acting in a hostile and belligerent manner in demanding ID from all present and other harassment.

Here's how HTG can help. When talking to people on the net, see if you can collect anecdotes from witnesses of police misconduct. Names, places, badge numbers, dates, times and any other details are important. Assure your sources that HTG will withhold victims names if desired but we need a way to get in touch again if we need more information. HTG has offered to act as a data collection clearinghouse for use in documenting police abuses and disciplinary actions against misbehaving officers. HTG has long enjoyed a tradition of service in the community and this is a way to continue that. Mail to president @htg.org or texx@netcom.com to get the details documented.

Please understand that the San Jose Police Department has many, fine officers that perform in the highest traditions of service. However, some appear to have an anti-gay bias that is not consistent with their profession.

## Coming Events

### Aug 6

HTG Board meeting at 8 PM at the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center located at xxxx Stockton St., San Jose.

### Aug 10

Annual picnic at Kelly park. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Aug ?

A dinner activity will be announced in the August issue of the newsletter. Get your tastebuds ready.

### Erratum:

The Editor acknowledges the misspelling of the Secretary's name in the last issue of the newsletter. My apologies.

High Tech Gays  
P.O.Box 6777  
San Jose, CA 95150

Meetings the 2nd Sunday of the month  
Social at 6:30 PM, Potluck at 7:00 and  
program at 8:00.

President - Texx  
Secretary - Bruce Gililand  
Treasurer - J. David Eisenberg  
On the World Wide Web at:  
<http://www.htg.org>

HTG Voicemail (408)289-1484

Membership: \$30 per year, \$50 for a family, \$12 for full time student

## The Editor's Column

The issue of OUT NOW published the week of August 7 contained a very disturbing article about the behavior of some members of the San Jose Police Department. The article documented instances where police on duty harassed the customers of gay bars - notably Renegades and others on Stockton Street - and the coffee house, Leviticus, on The Alameda. The harassment took the form of questioning customers, demanding to see business and liquor licenses, and parking with headlights focused on the business entries. At Leviticus, customers leaving the premises at closing time were ordered not to linger or be ticketed for loitering. This comes at a time when the Police Chief is trying to form closer ties with the gay community. One question immediately comes to mind: what has caused this display of hostility on the part of some of the police rank and file? I don't want to believe that discipline has broken down to the point that the Chief doesn't control the department. However, it seems to look that way to an outsider. In San Jose, our community does not have the political clout of an openly gay city council person or county supervisor like in the City. Perhaps we need to become more openly political and get the kind of representation that other minority groups have either by working to elect an openly gay person or an openly gay-friendly person who will fight for our right to participate in the life of San Jose like any straight person. We don't ask for special treatment - just the same rights and treatment that others get. Send your comments on this editorial to [ddenis@pacbell.net](mailto:ddenis@pacbell.net).

## **HTG Annual Picnic**

### **10 August 1997, 12 Noon**

As has been the HTG practice for many years, the August meeting is our annual picnic. Again this year, the picnic will be at Kelly Park located at Senter and Keyes in San Jose. The picnic area is the Maple Leaf area located between the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Historical Museum next to the parking lot. HTG will provide briquettes and lighter fluid for barbeque and cold soft drinks. Please bring a picnic type dish (e.g. a salad) to share and any meat you might want to cook. The picnic will commence at 12 noon and last until whenever. To find the park, drive east on Keyes to its dead end at Senter. The park is right in front of you. Where is Keyes? Travel south on Second street in San Jose and Keyes is the last cross street before Second merges with Monterey Highway.

## **Prayer for Bobby**

Gene Smith

An outstanding turnout at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts celebrated the "Prayers for Bobby" concert and program on Sunday June 22 put on under the sponsorship and management of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus/Rainbow Pride Performing Arts. Bobby was a young gay man who committed suicide by jumping from a freeway overpass because of his inability to reconcile his gayness with the Christian fundamentalism that he was raised in. Subsequently his parents realized that being gay is not a sin and have become activists in PFLAG (Parents and Friends

of Lesbians And Gays). Their presence at the concert contributed to the very touching nature of the endeavor. Along with the Silicon Valley Men's Chorus and the soloists, Francine Lancaster and Buddy Symes, Joan Van Ark did an outstanding job as the narrator. Following the intermission, there were a number of joyous performances that confirmed the celebratory nature of the event. A truly memorable occasion.

## **Town Meeting**

A town meeting of sorts was held at the Billy DeFrank Center at 7 PM, July 23. The meeting was between members of the gay community and the San Jose Police Department. The purpose was to discuss recent confrontational events in which police officers harassed gay citizens and employees and owners of gay businesses. Deputy Chief Walt Atkins was the ranking officer present as well as a captain, a lieutenant, and two sergeants from the Western Division which covers the part of San Jose where most gay activity exists. Over 100 gays, lesbians, PFLAG members plus members of the media were very vocally present. Complaints ranged from verbal abuse to public, on the street strip search. One man said he was made to take off his shirt and shoes and one officer ripped a cross that was his mother's from his neck and kept it. Other events were cited. The police stressed that there was little they can do if these events are not reported. The offending officers can always be identified. Phone numbers to use are: Internal Affairs - 277-4094  
Field Operations- 277-4631/2  
Lieutenant's pager - 699-4065

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Our last day in practice was April 18th, 1997. We wish to thank all of you who have entrusted us with your care over the last 14 years. It has been a wonderful privilege for us to have served the Gay and Lesbian communities

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