

# High Tech Gayzette

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

From the "Prez"

First some information and then some thoughts to share.

## Gay Games 2002

This just came in. It's official as of Friday afternoon 14 November 1997, Gay Games 2002 will be in Sidney, Australia. They are working out a deal with Quantas for cheaper air fares. Three quarters of the events will use venues from the year 2000 IOC Olympics.

## Need DeFrank switchboard volunteers

In order to continue meeting at the DeFrank Center, we will need to supply a volunteer to go through switchboard training. With a switchboard trainee, the Center will stay open Sunday night long enough for the HTG meeting. Without a volunteer, the Center will close at 6 PM and leave us without a venue.

## Other thoughts:

I have been watching the situation with the San Jose PD unfold. I note the similarity with earlier, dark times when police routinely raided gay businesses. In earlier times, it was considered OK to harrass gay businesses because even being present in such a business was considered a "crime of morality". Stonewall changed that. Police discovered that once the riled, the gay community is not one to be trifled with. Time has helped public opinion.

Now, I note that things are sliding backwards and, worse yet, no one seems concerned. I find this disturbing. While I did have trouble getting to the meetings with the police department I did try. I was disappointed that only 40 people attended and, of those who didn't come, few really cared. So, does this mean that we will let the police get away with this sort of thing? I hope not. When the police get out of hand, it's much to put them back in their place when we have a couple of hundred people in front of them. Forty people just doesn't pack the punch.

At the moment, the SJPD has promised to send their officers to "sensitivity training". I'm not sure how foolish they think we are to fall for that tires line, but I suspect we will have more trouble with the police in the future. Getting more people to the meetings is critical. One should not fail to note that the police trouble started about the same time as the City started getting complaints from people hiking from the Alameda to the Arena. People were complaining "Can't you do something about all the gay people out there on Stockton St.?" If you think that is a coincidence, then I have a bridge you might want to buy .... Come on people, WAKE UP!

Happy  
Thanksgiving

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# HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

BY  
BRUCE R. GILILLAND, SECRETARY

There is some interesting reading in the October issue of READER'S DIGEST from the book entitled "OUT OF AMERICA" BY KEITH B. RICHBURG. Mr. Richburg was Africa bureau chief for the *Washington Post* for 1991 to 1994. He now runs the newspaper's Hong Kong bureau. I was dumbfounded to learn of the atrocities being done in the African nations of Rwanda and Tanzania. His depiction of the genocide as described so well in the dead bodies floating in the Kagera River at a rate of 700 per week defies all that Americans consider normal. This is by no means the only such incident in Africa which has had a long history of such repeated senseless brutality in nation after nation. In the author's words, "*There but for the grace of God go I*", brought back memories which I thought were forever on the shelf of forgetfulness.

In February of 1979, I had the experience of going with a group of fellow bankers to review the credit of commercial borrowers in the city of Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia is the only OPEC nation located in Asia and enjoys an enormous income from its oil resources. But in the words of my fellow bankers, "*it is just outside the armpit of the world,*" because of its extremely affluent upper class and the very poor low class. There is a river which runs down the middle of one of the main traffic routes. I was more than amazed to see people surviving in dire poverty. The river was literally used for everything imaginable. One block included people bathing or cleaning themselves after having defecated, followed by the washing of clothes and finally the washing of teeth. On the return to our hotel the first day, I noticed that people were preparing their sleeping quarters on the metal supports underneath one of the many bridges which spanned the river. I also could only say to myself, "*There but for the grace of God go I.*" The poor lower class living on the river had a hyphenated human dignity.

Has the United States come so great a distance to eliminate such disparity? We call ourselves a democracy where all men or women are created equal. Is our society so healthy that one can say that this is truly the case? Our freedom is said to be that of one *under God*. Some of the conservative right wing Christian organizations have literally used the cause against homosexuality to raise huge sums of money to support incredible budgets. This is done using tactics filled with hate and precipitating brutal acts of violence against same sex couples. Is our society so different from that of the nations of Africa? When is this nation of ours going to recognize that true human dignity and the pursuit of happiness are born in a spirit of peace and love? From our perspective, family values means a loving committed same sex couple spending their lives together, working for recognition in employment, the owning of property and the raising of children. When is our government going to start changing the laws? When we start electing the people who will carry forth our rights toward true human dignity and the pursuit of happiness. Otherwise we remain hyphenated Americans.

## Coming Events

### Dec. 10

HTG Board meeting at 8 PM at the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center located at 175 Stockton Ave., San Jose.

### Dec. 14

Monthly meeting and potluck 6:30 PM Bring something tasty to share and ideas to express. Also at the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center. This is the holiday dinner. A turkey is provided - you bring side dishes.

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>

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Contact Texx at  
[president@htg.org](mailto:president@htg.org)

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

## Activities

### Mystery Theater: "Crossing to Eternity"

Murder, Mystery, and Dinner at Mac's American Grill, 325 Main St., Los Altos on Friday January 9, 7PM.

Murder treachery. and subterfuge on the Transatlantic crossing from New York to Liverpool, and you have a first class ticket to go along. During the course of the five-act play, you will rub shoulders with various well-to-do and sometimes shady passengers, as well as enjoying a delicious four course meal, including soup, garden salad entree, and desert. Entree choices are top sirloin steak, sauted chicken breast, red snapper Vera Cruz, or vegetarian pasta. Price is \$42 per person and includes dinner, show, tax, and gratuity. Drinks are not included. For reservations, get your check to Gene Smith at 2045 Yale St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 to arrive by December 19. Please indicate your entree selection. Checks may also be given to Gene at the December meeting.

HTG members are all encouraged to submit suggestions to Gene for activities of interest. In the past we have had walking tours, ski and camping outings, white water rafting, and a visit to an orchid nursery to name a few in addition to dinners and theater outings.