

31 May 1989

*SSSSSSSSSSSSSafeway:* If you haven't heard yet, Safeway has dropped its 1% donation from register receipts. I found out a couple of weeks ago when I called them to turn in all those receipts our switchboard vols had been saving. Too late! they said. What a rip-off. I was told that they would probably be setting up other programs. So if you're still saving receipts, well okay, but for now at least they won't do your favorite charity any good.

*Get your tickets!* Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips will bring their "gay campfire songs" (Thank you, Frank) to the new community center at 1475 West Gray during this year's pride week. Specifically, R & P will perform at 8:00 pm on June 24th. Tickets are only \$10 in advance at Inklings, which should give you a good excuse to visit this fabulous shop and support some folks who really support us.

*And sell ours!* There are still plenty of GLSH raffle tickets. For anyone who'd like to buy (or sell) them, just contact any board member (you know who we are-- like Bob, Terry, Pat, Ken, Ron, Kay.....) The event is set for Father's Day, June 18, from 4 - 7 pm at the B R B, 2400 Brazos. Also there'll be an auction to help raise money for the switchboard. This is our first major fundraiser in some time, and there are lots of ways to help out. Contact any of the above-mentioned folks....

*"Will you join in our crusade?"* Well, not really a crusade. Just a little old pride week march. Fees have gone up again this year and the switchboard banner will be there, but we'd like to know how many of you will be there with us. There should be a sign-up list on the training bulletin board very soon. Or you may be getting a phone call. Or both.

(Oh. For all you non-artsy-queen types, the quote is from a song in Les Miserables, which despite Jimmy Carper's opinion, is a faaaaaabulous show.)

*The naming of trucks is a difficult matter...* Got a call from Kayteau the other day. She said since David and I were so good (translation: such queens) about naming our cats (Eurydice and Ganymede), she wanted help in naming her truck.

"But I haven't even met it yet."

"It's silver."

"You could name it after Barbara Bush."

"I love you, too."

So I invited her to bring over this new toy truck and we'd have a look at it. I promise not to dig up any names from Edith Hamilton's Mythology. Maybe some of you have ideas? Does anyone still name their vehicle? My first old MG was named Dolly, but that was a while ago. Now we drive a standard grey Honda Accord, very dependable but not much personality.

*"Let's do this again!"* That's what I kept hearing at the bar tour last weekend, and it was a lot of fun. First time in probably two years that I've participated, and none of the clubs were places I'd really been to (well, okay, the Mining Company. Once. On a bar tour, long ago.) My favorite was dancing at Bacchus, which wasn't on the list at all, but you know how that goes. Stayed out very late and had a memorable evening with some very special people. Yes, let's do this again, and soon.

*The Letter* A lot of people have asked me what I know about "the letter," as it's being called, as if there were only one letter in the world. I don't mind discussing it. But not here. I'd be happy to talk to anyone about their feelings or concerns. Let me simply say that in regard to "the letter," I am most disappointed in Bruce and Judy.

*General Meetings* This idea resulted from a motion passed at the May board meeting: general quarterly switchboard meetings, where phone staff and board volunteers could get together and talk over ideas or concerns. The structure should be pretty informal, similar to the meetings that were held for a time last year at the Barn. The first general meeting will be upstairs in the Autry House, 6265 South Main, on June 11 (Sunday) at 1:00. Call Kayteau or Ron with any questions.

*What a class!* Yes, the rumors are true. We had a fantastic training class this May, with twelve wonderful new vols coming on board: Dawn, Carol, Donna, Gregg, James, Tina, Patti, Lisa, Frank, John, Donna and Peter. I have the privilege of partnering with Tina on Monday afternoons-- and do we have fun. We actually got a call from "Pink Panties" this week. He's now using the name "Capital B- E- R- T Bert." (Okay fine....)

Just before a class starts, I get asked the same question: "How many people are going to be there?" And I always say, "I don't know," like I'm being real evasive or something. The truth is, folks, I really don't know. There seems to be no way of telling who is going to really show up on a Friday night, despite what people have told us during their phone interviews.

For a while I thought I had worked out an acceptable equation, one that seemed to work more or less: if, say, forty people called in over a three-month period to sign up for a class, then about half of them (20) would be likely to actually

plan on showing up. (Some can never be reached by phone, some change addresses, some have schedule conflicts, whatever.) So okay, that gives twenty who plan to be there on Friday night. If you take half that number again, you get a nice conservative estimate: at least ten people should show up at orientation. And for a while, this equation seemed to be reliable. Then it all went kaflooey: we'd expect a minimum of seven for Friday night, and four would show up, and two of them would be gone the next morning (this happened). I began to wonder if people thought I didn't know what I was doing-- shouldn't it be relatively easy to make an educated guess? Sure, anyone can do that. But predicting with any accuracy has proven to be impossible.

So along comes the May class, and folks are asking: "How many people are going to show up?" And I say, "I don't know," but I do my little equation number on Friday afternoon and figure we have 15 who say they'll try to make it, so that means hopefully seven who will be there. Friday night we got eleven, with two who had called in and made arrangements to come early Saturday, so thirteen. And twelve made it all the way through. It's delightful and baffling. So. How many are going to be in the August class? You tell me.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank again Shelby, Katherine, Alfredo, J.P., Jeff, Becky and Terry for their marvelous help with the last training class. I wish all my work could be such fun.