

HIGH TECH GAYZETTE

The Newsletter for Lesbian and Gay Professionals in High Tech Industries
April 1996

HTG NOMINEES FOR OFFICE

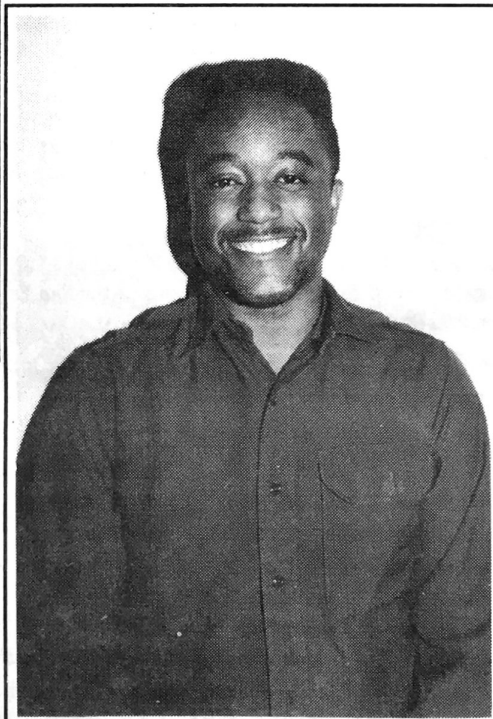
PRESIDENT

?

TREASURER

?

SECRETARY



Derek

what's up

mar

26 California Primary Election

Please register and vote! HTG supports the Billy DeFrank Center and the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Community Centers in their 1996 "Promote the Vote!" campaign.

apr

10 Activity Committee Meeting

The activity committee meets at 7:30 PM at Hamburger Mary's for dinner and the planning meeting.

10 Executive Committee

Meeting starts at 8 PM, and is open to all HTG members. We meet at Hamburger Mary's for dinner.

14 HTG Monthly Meeting

Potluck begins at 6:30PM and general meeting begins at 7:30PM. This is our annual anniversary meeting with elections of officers, and the announcement of the Rick Rudy Award recipient. Meet us at the DeFrank Center (see map on page 4).

19 Newsletter Article Deadline

All articles must be submitted to Bruce by this date.

21 Brunch on the Hornblower Yacht

Join us for brunch aboard the Hornblower Dining Yacht. The Hornblower departs Pier 33 at 11:00 AM for a two hour "smooth" cruise around and "under" many of the special attractions of the San Francisco Bay. Sign-ups are thru April 8th. Cost for brunch and cruise is \$40. Contact Kim at 408/245-0216 to sign-up.

25 Newsletter Stuffing

Meet us at the DeFrank Center at 6:30 to help prepare the newsletter for mailing.

may

4 Oakland Zoo

Bill enjoyed this event so much, he's repeating it for those of you who missed it the first time around! More information at the April meeting.

5 Sunol Day Hike

So, if you didn't get enough of the great outdoors at the Zoo, you can enjoy it some more! Bill is hosting this event also, and should have information at the April meeting.

HTG

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Copyright and published monthly by:

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(AUX-1-HTG)

Anyone interested in HTG may sign up to receive the newsletter free for three months. To become a member of HTG, send a check with your name and address for one of the amounts below to the above address

Yearly Membership Rates:

Individual \$30
Family \$50
Full-time Student \$12

HTG Returned Check Policy: A \$10.00 service charge will be applied against any checks returned to HTG due to insufficient funds in your account.

For information on advertising or submitting articles, contact Bruce Hopkins via Email at newsletter@htg.org The deadline for advertising or articles is the second Sunday of each month.

Advertising Rates Per Insertion:

Business Card (3.5 x 2") \$25
1/4 page (3.75 x 5") \$40
1/2 page (7.5 x 5") \$70
10% discount for six months.

High Tech Gays is a Cooperating Organization Member of NGLTF.

When signing up for Activities - Send payments directly to the person running the activity, or if the address is unknown, send it to: HTG Activities, c/o Steve Weirauch, 1563 De Anza Way, San Jose, CA 95125.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE TO BE DISCUSSED AT HTG IN APRIL

Recent reports suggest that the number of incidents of anti-gay violence has actually fallen off but that the level of violence has risen. (That is to say that the people that used to just scream at you may now be pulling a knife)

Realizing that fact, our April 14th speaker is from the "American Crime Prevention Institute". They specialize in providing training and materials to help you and me avoid being the next statistic. The overview of the four step training they will be presenting is as follows:

STEP ONE:

Threat Assessment

(Your Mental Awareness of Your Surroundings)

- Is this a perpetrator? Or just a moocher? Am I in danger? What is he capable of doing to me? What does he really want?
- Who is that knocking on my door at 10pm? A stranger? What does he want? Can he be an intruder? or worse? Is he crazy or does he have an emergency?
- Look at that dog running toward me! is he friendly? Is he mean? Or is he vicious? How can I tell before it's too late? What is he capable of doing to me?
- This is an unfamiliar neighborhood that I'm driving in! Who are those people hanging around on the corners? Are they hoodlums? Am I safe and secure in my car?
- Why is that guy just sitting in his car in the parking lot? Is he waiting for someone? Or is he waiting to victimize someone? How can I tell? Should I turn my back on him? Should I leave now while I can?

STEP TWO:

Responding to a threat to your safety

- The very first thing you should do when someone "gets aggressive"
- How pros handle "bad guys"
- How to respond to a purse snatcher
- What should I do if I am cornered or trapped?
- Managing the "antagonist"--how to make sure others don't "pick a fight" with you...and succeed
- Facing the "out of control" person! 3 immediate steps you should take to take control.

STEP THREE:

A Plan

- What skills do I know that I can use? Right now!
- What level of behavior should I choose, based on the assessed threat?
- Is there something that I might do that will cause him to escalate his intentions?
- Do I own a personal protection device? What is it? Will it work? Should I use it now?
- Should I hurt him? Will I incur liability?
- What about deadly lethal force? When can I use it legally? What if he's armed?
- What are the fallacies? What really works effectively, safely, reliably, legally?

STEP FOUR:

The Real World

- Devices, gadgets and gimmicks. Which ones work? Which ones are "phony baloney"?
- Do I know enough "Karate" to "hold my own"?
- The "Escalation Scale"--how to prevent confrontations from escalating into a violent incident
- When a situation is "too hot to handle"...how to make a quick retreat and get back in control
- Signals that speak! How to read them and avoid a serious threat to your safety
- Stun guns, pepper sprays, whistles, keys, fighting, guns, knives, screaming....

Yes? No? When? How?

**Find out the answers to these questions and more at our
next HTG meeting!!!!**

ASSEMBLYMAN KNIGHT TRIES AGAIN! ASSEMBLY BILL 3227 IS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO BAN SAME-SEX MARRIAGES!

We've done a good job at opposing AB 1982, Assembly member Pete Knight's first attempt to prevent California from recognizing same-sex marriages legally performed in other states. But now he's introduced a more subtle and insidious version of the bill, AB 3227. The two bills have different names, and contain very different words, but their objectives are the same: to prevent the state from giving legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same gender. AB 3227 might also be unconstitutional, but it is more cleverly worded than AB 1982 and has a better chance of passing both the Assembly and the Senate. With the possibility that Hawaii might make same-sex marriages legal, conservatives in the State Assembly are working hard to see this bill become law.

Don't let Pete Knight slip this one by! All it takes to stop him is for you to make yourself heard. Write one letter or postcard to your local Assembly member, asking her or him to vote

NO ON AB 3227.

Then make two copies, sending one to Assembly member Sheila Kuehl and one to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. See the back of this sheet for easy-to-follow instructions.

ACT NOW!

STOP THE BAN ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE!

STOP AB 3227!

Write one letter or postcard opposing AB 3227 to your local Assembly member by March 22nd. Brief and polite letters are the most effective. **Important:** please also make two copies of your letter or postcard, sending one to Assembly member Sheila Kuehl (who is heading the opposition to the bill) and one to the Assembly Judiciary Committee (which will make key decisions about the bill). All three cards or letters can be addressed as follows:

Assembly Member or Committee Name
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento CA 94249-0001

Not sure who your Assembly member is?

Your local Yellow Pages telephone directory probably has a blue page titled "Government Officials" that lists the local State Assembly members and Senators, and a map of senate and assembly districts. Or you can contact the office of the Registrar of Voters in your county:

COUNTY	REGISTRAR OF VOTERS PHONE #		COUNTY	REGISTRAR OF VOTERS PHONE #
Alameda	510-272-6933		San Francisco	415-554-4375
Contra Costa	510-646-4166		Santa Clara	408-299-8302
Marin	415-499-6456		Santa Cruz	408-454-2060
Monterey	408-647-7621		San Mateo	415-312-5222

Some Reasons For Opposing AB 3227:

- AB 3227 is discriminatory, singling out one specific group of Americans to limit their rights in ways that others' rights are not limited.
- AB 3227 violates the principle of "equal protection of the laws," guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- AB3227 claims that the state has a compelling interest in restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples, but offers no evidence to support that claim. In fact, there is no such evidence.
- AB 3227 will cost California taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees as the state tries to defend it against the inevitable legal challenges.

Other Things You Can Do to Defeat AB 3227:

- Make copies of this flyer and share it with others who will write letters or cards.
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, explaining your opposition to AB 3227.
- Volunteer to distribute flyers, make phone calls, organize a letter-writing party, etc. Call 408-286-4396, and leave your name and number to volunteer.
- Be prepared to write more letters. The status of either AB 1982 or AB 3227 could change rapidly.

See the Front of this Sheet for Important Information on Assembly Bill 3227 and the Ban on Same-Sex Marriages

BAYMEC SPEAKERS SPOKE AT MARCH HTG MEETING

Leslee Hamilton, President of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, and Judy Richard, BAYMEC's Vice President of Political Action, were the speakers at the March HTG meeting. BAYMEC endorses (or doesn't endorse) political candidates based on their sensitivity to human rights issues, especially to those of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, but also to reproductive choice and affirmative action.

BAYMEC has certainly come a long way from its early days. Ten years ago, candidates avoided BAYMEC, and if they did get endorsed they didn't want anyone to know. Now endorsements are actively sought out by those running for political office in the Bay Area, and candidates are upset when they don't get endorsed. In this way, the fact that candidates are responding more positively to issues concerning lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered persons through work with BAYMEC is an indication not only of the major amount of work BAYMEC has put into doing outreach to and educating candidates, but also the growing influence of our community in general.

One issue that Leslee and Judy brought up that is becoming a problem for BAYMEC more and more nowadays is when there is more than one candidate running for a particular office both qualified for the position and a friend for our community. How

then, does one choose which candidate to get the endorsement? In some races, as shown in BAYMEC's brochure of Candidate Endorsements for the March 26th Primary Election, BAYMEC lists multiple candidates with the caveat "Vote for one". In other races, BAYMEC has to make tough choices based on other factors, such as how well they responded to the BAYMEC questionnaire, which candidate seems more likely to win the race, or how long the organization has had a relationship with a particular politician.

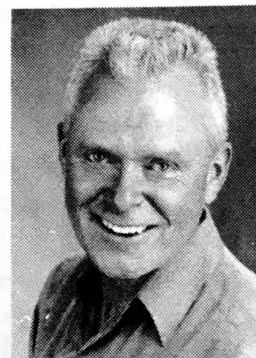
Also, in the Primary Election endorsement brochure given out at the meeting one noticed that a few Green Party and Natural Law Party candidates received BAYMEC endorsements. This is a relatively new stance for BAYMEC, as the organization has not endorsed many candidates from outside the two major parties. As Leslee and Judy described, this is based both on the fact that independent party candidates often don't return BAYMEC's questionnaire, and that BAYMEC is more likely to support a major party candidate since minority party candidates often don't have a very good chance to win the race, and it's better politically to back a winning ticket.

Leslee is also the director of the Ken Yeager campaign, and she stressed that although it is important to educate those running for political office, and politicians in general, about concerns to our community, there's nothing like an openly gay, lesbian or bisexual officeholder. (Ken's victory party, by the way, will be at his campaign headquarters 9:00 PM the night of the primary)

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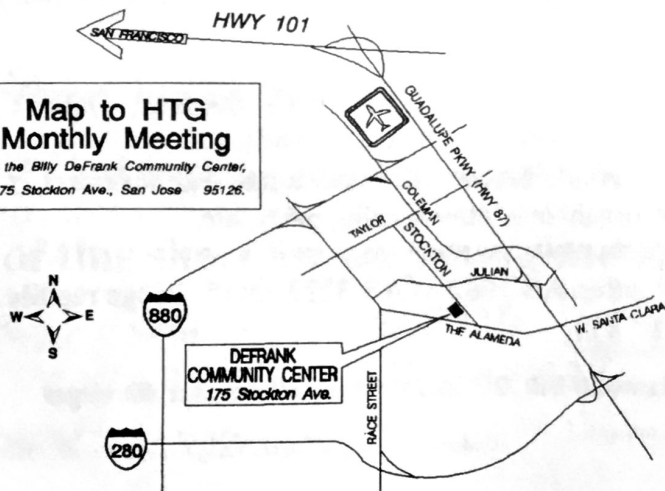


**ALEX J.
BAUMER, DMD**
408/226-0424

**275 HOSPITAL PARKWAY, #700
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**Map to HTG
Monthly Meeting**
at the Billy DeFrank Community Center,
175 Stockton Ave., San Jose 95126.





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HTG's World Wide Web service is provided by Best Internet
Communications, Inc., the San Francisco Bay Area's Premier
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(415) 964-BEST (2378) URL <http://www.best.com/>

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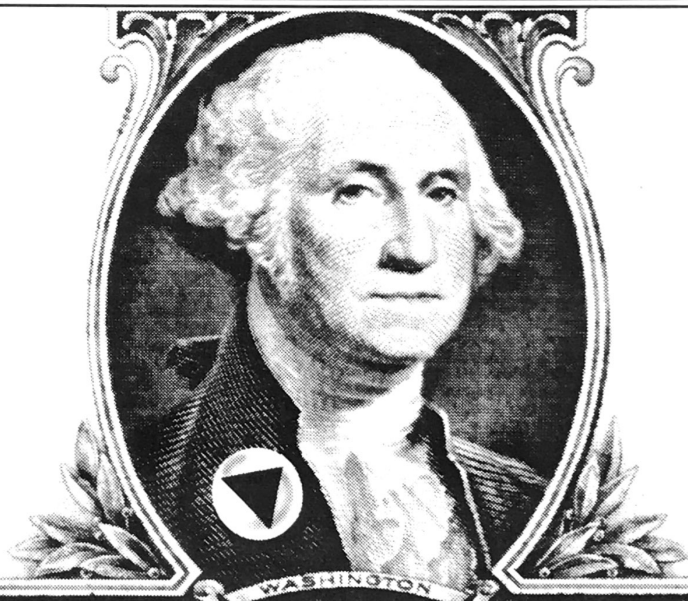
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WILL HTG DISBAND?

by Bill Weaver

Disband! What? Yes, HTG has reached that point in its existence where some major decisions must be made. We are faced with the chance to define what HTG is/will be for many years to come, or simply fade into the history books.

This opportunity comes as the result of several things happening at the same time.

First, this year as never before, all of the "official" positions in HTG are being vacated at the same time. As of this writing, we have a volunteer to be our newsletter editor for next year, and we have one person who has accepted the nomination to run for secretary. This leaves us with the positions of treasurer, president and activities committee chair open and available. If we can fill these positions with new people with new ideas we have the potential to do almost anything we choose. If we don't fill these positions by the April 14th elections we will instead simply disband on April 15th.

Secondly, in the nearly thirteen years that HTG has been in existence it has changed a lot, but the world around it has changed a lot more. Now, whole organizations have formed whose sole purpose is to accomplish what HTG used to do as a small part of its many activities. This gives us the chance to reform ourselves anew to meet the needs of our community that others have not met.

Towards this end we recently conducted a survey to see where the membership thought HTG should take itself. It's my hope that the new board can use this as a template to guide the organization for at least the near future.

In its early years HTG was for all intents and purposes "the only game in town." It had the PABAC Committee (Political And Business Action Committee) as its political arm and showed its capability alongside the recently formed BAYMEC organization during the "No on 64" campaign. In those days politicians would say that they supported us and our goals just please don't put it down in writing. Nowadays politicians come to BAYMEC seeking their endorsement and the PABAC committee has faded into oblivion.

One of the things that first put HTG on the map was its involvement in workplace and security clearance

issues. This was partly due to its involvement in the lawsuit "HTG vs. DISCO," where a member of HTG was denied a security clearance after it was discovered that he was a member of HTG. At that time, coming out at work had a good chance of being a career ending move at even the most "liberal" of Silicon Valley companies. Times have changed (a bit) - these days a large Silicon Valley company without an internal les/bi/gay group is more the exception than the rule. (If someone had told me ten years ago that Lockheed would have its own group using the Lockheed name I would have said that they were dreaming) This isn't to say all is equality in the valley. It's just that we have made a lot of progress. And with AGOG (A Group Of Groups) carrying the workplace issues/employee groups banner, HTG has sort of faded into the background in this area, more famous for what we have done than what we are doing.

Another place where HTG has excelled was in the social/coming out/support area. At the time of its inception, there just weren't many other "safe" non-bar places to meet other gays and lesbians in a social setting. Since that time, hundreds of Gay and Lesbian organizations have been founded, offering a wide range of other places for people to go. At the same time, changes in society have allowed many to come out even earlier so that the "need" to congregate with ones own kind has lessened. (For someone who has been out since high school, every group they are in is a "Gay group" just as a result of their ease with their sexuality in an otherwise straight setting) The need for a Gay social group is not so great anymore. As an example, just look at our membership. Over the years our membership has aged, some have died, some have just left to pursue other interests. At the same time we have been unable to draw on a supply of "new blood".

It is my hope, that with a whole new slate of officers with new ideas unencumbered by the past, that HTG can and will go on as a vital part of this community. But, without you (yes you!) to take on positions of responsibility to help the organization it will simply be a bright spot in the history books.