

August 2006



Jon's View

"It's Raining Men"

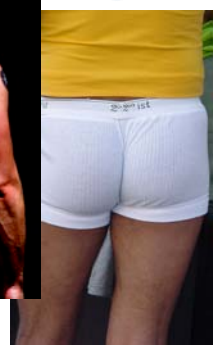
I hope everyone had a chance to make it to Vince's Birthday Luau and summer party put on at the club last month. I have received many compliments and comments from many of you that were there, and seeing the pictures that are on our website made me commit to being at next years summer party. I forgot how much fun it was to MC those naked men events.

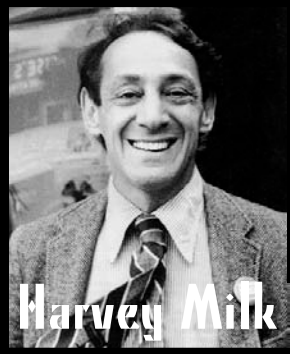
In June I began Jon's View with the opening of the club, given how we are now in our 30th year. Many who currently come to the club were not even born in 1976 - I forget how much history is sitting at 1220 Pine St. If walls could talk!

In July I referred to the first three years as the "DARK YEARS" - I invite you to go back and read last months view if you happened to have missed it - it's a time many of us will never forget. If by chance you're a statistic buff, my webmasters informed me that over 150 tuned in for Jon's View in July. And, for those of you who did, you noticed I had mentioned that the next phase the club and gay & lesbian community was to head into was what I like to refer to as the "ITS RAINING MEN" period. This was the time, in both the suburbs and the city that we were starting to realize that the gay and lesbian community was a huge force and that there were far more of us than we ever thought. I remember going to the gay day parades back then - it was such an elated feeling to be viewed as a human being instead of a freak standing with so many of my gay brother and sisters. It was a time when sex was safe and free - if you

did happen to contract something, all you had to do was get a shot or some special soap and your problem was gone. I remember back in the early 70's it was not unusual for a dinner party to end and the spa fun to begin, with no regard for anything. We also thought that we were in a time that NOTHING could stop us from our sexual expression and freedom - nothing.

The straight community was not yet enlightened with the likes of Will & Grace or Ellen, but at least we were now out from within the pedophile and freak statu





Jon's View

20th
Anniversary
Club 1220



When we celebrated our 20th year anniversary party in 1996 I was asked what had been the proudest moment of owning the club. Well, back in the late 70's I had called Harvey Milk's office in San Francisco and invited him to stop by the club, known then as the Hub, on his way out of town from debating Senator John Briggs. They would be debating a proposed statewide ballot initiative to prevent gay and lesbian people from teaching in public schools. The so-called Briggs Initiative also permitted the firing of any educator who was determined to be "advocating, imposing, encouraging or promoting" homosexuality. Ronald Reagan, then looking to the 1980 presidential election publicly spoke out against this initiative. The voters defeated it in Nov. 1978. Tragically, Harvey was assassinated a few weeks later. I am not sure if this hits any of you right between the eyes but that wasn't all that long ago in our history.

Mr. Milk arrived at the club along with TV & press in tow. I politely informed the TV and press folks that they were not welcomed in the bar with their cameras. I explained that their very presence inside would ultimately threaten the jobs of half the people in the bar should they be seen on TV or be quoted in the paper. Harvey stood up on a bar stool and gave a very nice talk, but the one thing he said about our club was that our brothers and sisters in San Francisco had a lot to learn from us here in the BURBS - we were a mixed bar with both men and women in the same club. Back in the early days there were gay

bars for men and lesbian bars for women, and both went to many lengths to keep the opposite sex out. Because we were the only gay club this side of the tunnel folks didn't have a choice, but as the owner and manager of the club I had very few people complain, and if they did, I just suggested they find another club.

We went on with our "It's Raining Men" attitude until 1981. That is a year that if you were a gay man and living a gay life style, you will never ever forget. What we had been hearing was that something was going around, and that it was affecting gay men, and they were not living very long after getting sick. It was a few years before this deadly disease was given a name.

In my next issue I will cover what it was like being on the front lines of something that still affects each and every one of us today.

For those of you who have not noticed or heard - we are doing a major remodel on the club. We will be closed for the first week of August and reopening on Tuesday the 8th. We also will be having a reopening party on Saturday night, August 12th that you won't want to miss. Please stop by and see our new look.

Please watch your drinking and driving. It is well worth the effort to get a designated driver for the night than to pay the new fines now in effect.

Jon & Champ

