

SAN francisco

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SPECIAL ISSUE

Life in the Gay Area

How the Bay Area's out lesbians and gays are making us all richer, sexier, smarter, and more open

LOOK WHO'S OUT 47 HUGE TALENTS WHO RUN THIS TOWN

THE STYLISHNESS OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE **PRIDE FASHION**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Examiner
publisher
Ted Fang, slam
poet Rachel
Bolden-Kramer,
role model
Corey Johnson,
sex writer
Susie Bright,
PlanetOut
founder
Tom Rielly, and
chocolatier
John
Scharffenberger



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10 reasons your computer is acting queer

Every time you boot up your computer, you enter a world of queer creativity. To be sure, the digital revolution has been a collective effort, but some of its most forward-thinking contributors have been gay.

SOFTWARE	WHAT IT IS	WHO WROTE IT/MAKES IT GAY
Adobe Illustrator	The essential tool for most graphic designers	Paul Asente has been its project leader and was a major contributor to recent versions.
Adobe Premiere; Final Cut Pro	Digital-editing software programs that give amateur film- and videomakers affordable access to professional-quality postproduction	Randy Ubillos, now at Apple
The basis of BSD Unix	An operating system whose variations run much of Internet infrastructure and make web surfing possible	Marshall Kirk McKusick, of Berkeley's Computer Systems Research Group
CID font technology Japanese Postscript	Allows printers to print Japanese characters	Steve Amerige, now at Adobe
Java	Sun Microsystems' versatile and widely used programming language	Five of its original developers are gay, and four of them square-dance together.
Microsoft programs	Various, unnamed, ubiquitous	Many in the industry claim that some major Microsoft programs are gay-authored. (The Gates-closed company up north would not substantiate or offer details.)
Sendmail	Makes it possible to exchange email between different networks—now widespread	Eric Allman, incidentally McKusick's partner of 22 years
QuarkXPress	Layout and design software favored by the publishing industry, used by this magazine	Tim Gill. "Actually, it's only 40 percent gay. Two out of five of us," he explains in an email. "<Grin>" Gill was among the earliest contributors to the advocacy group Digital Queers and is a member of its advisory board.
"Wild Eep"	The alert sound of choice among perhaps too many Mac users	Mark Lentzner, CEO of Glyphic Technology, designed and wrote the sound system on the Apple Macintosh II, including its famous boot-up sound. "What can I say?" says Lentzner. "The Eep is my claim to fame, even if my other technical accomplishments are far more impressive to those in the know."
X Window System	Programs that let you multi-task by dividing your monitor screen into several overlapping, adjustable, independent windows	Asente, who calls it "one of the largest and most successful collaborative software efforts ever undertaken." —L.R. and Jonathan Kiefer

EMAIL GURU

Eric Allman

age: 45 / Berkeley / out since: 1976

Half of the ultimate power couple, he's the founder and chief technology officer of Sendmail Inc., which brought us the technology that delivers email. His partner of 22 years is Marshall Kirk McKusick, former head of UC Berkeley's Computer Science Research Group, which provides operating systems to Yahoo! and other major web companies.

on commitment: "We understand enough of each other's work that we can talk about issues, but it isn't all about work. We like to have friends over to dinner, we have similar tastes in music, and so forth. Kirk and I found that after five years together, we started becoming role models for our gay friends. After ten years, we started becoming role models for our straight friends."

POWERHOUSE PROGRESSIVE

Tom Ammiano

age: 59 / Bernal Heights / out since: 1974

A former Jersey kid and comedian and one of the first out public schoolteachers here in the '70s, he threatened Willie Brown in the last mayoral race and now reigns over San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. He's the great progressive hope in local politics.

on growing up: "Today's gay youths inspire me by their endless energy, their refusal to accept inaction, and how affirmed they are in being gay."

on his future: "Another shot at the mayor's office sounds promising."

WIN-AT-ALL-COSTS LOBBYIST

Robert Barnes

age: 41 / the Castro / out since: '70s

He's the most wired-in partner at San Francisco's most influential lobbying and political consulting firm, Barnes Mosher Whitehurst Lauter & Partners. After running Carole Migden's successful campaign, he maintains close ties to the assemblywoman as she contemplates a run for the mayor's office.

on being typecast: "Sometimes it's hard to be taken seriously. People want to hire me to do the gay part of political campaigns, and I have to overprove doing something other than gay outreach."

RESTAURANT WATCHDOG

Michael Bauer

age: 48 / Pacific Heights / out since: "I never really came out."

As the *Chronicle's* lead restaurant critic, he's the man every chef in town wants to—and has to—please. He's also the acting editor of the *Chronicle Magazine*. Yes, he eats out every night. No, he isn't fat.

on his success: "Fortunately for me, being gay has never been an issue in my career."

DESIGN SAGE

Aaron Betsky

age: 42 / Sunnyside Heights / out since: 1985

With ease, he became the city's arbiter of good taste and style as curator of design, architecture, and digital projects at SFMOMA. He's leaving this month to become director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

on the gay contribution: "It's gone beyond the cliché of bars and fashion. The development of the Castro showed a way for urban revitalization in the U.S. Because queers did not have the same traditions of a neighborhood based on family, they made their own neighborhoods, and it wound up being a strategy that other groups, such as Yuppies, could later use."

POLITICAL INFORMER

David Binder

age: 46 / Dolores Park / out since: 1975

Since he started his polling firm in 1994, Democratic gay and lesbian candidates across the state, including Carole Migden, have sought his advice. He's a policy setter, in effect, because candidates incorporate his ideas into their platforms.

on the gay agenda: "The issues now are not about gay equality; they're the same issues that everybody in this city faces."

GRAPHIC-DESIGN MASTER

Tom Bonauro

age: 45 / Sausalito / out since: "I don't have a good answer for that. I'm a private person."

Internationally recognized for his design work in print, fabric, and film; if you don't recognize his name, you know his clients: Todd Oldham and Levi's, to name just two.

on the arts: "I don't know that being gay has had an effect on my career. Is there a 'gay aesthetic' in design?...As I get older, divisions melt away."

LEGAL LIONESS

Angela Bradstreet

age: 46 / Sausalito / out since: 1989

Though she still hears homophobic jokes, she's stuck it out in the legal field, becoming the first female and first publicly gay managing partner at Carroll, Burdick & McDonough. She's now an employment litigator and the president-elect of the 10,000-member Bar Association of San Francisco.

on the crowded closet: "In the legal

profession, I run into people all the time who aren't coming out at work. It's troubling, and surprising. People are still experiencing homophobia in San Francisco, and there's a real fear about coming out. I'd rather avoid the term out, though. This is the best place to be who you are, as an individual."

MARKETING GIANT

Jack Calhoun

age: 36 / Pacific Heights / out since: 1992

He spends serious cash in his job running brand management and advertising at Charles Schwab, handling a \$190 million multinational ad and sponsorship budget. Last year, he landed on *Ad Age's* marketing power list.

on normalcy: "Being gay is so much more pop culture these days, it's a nonissue—all the way down to TV shows like *Will & Grace*. I grew up in the Midwest, and it's even more common to talk about it there now."

HOTEL VISIONARY

Chip Conley

age: 40 / Potrero Hill / out since: 1983



He took drab decor out of the chain-hotel business with his fab overnight joints, including the Phoenix, the Savoy, and Hotel Del Sol.

As founder and CEO of Joie de Vivre Hospitality, with 20 hotels and inns, he's the largest independent hotelier in the Bay Area.

on the upside: "In this business, most people—both straight and gay—see my being out as a plus. It shows a willingness to be authentic."

FIVE-STAR CHEF

Gary Danko

age: 44 / Nob Hill / out since: 1978

Overwhelming praise for his eponymous restaurant, including a James Beard Award and a Mobil five-star plaque, has made it one of the hottest meal tickets in town.

on the kitchen: "My work is the reason I'm alive today. I spent the '80s in the kitchen instead of the bedroom. I've never been uncomfortable in this business, despite the



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