



LOTS OF FILM IS USED DURING NFL TRAINING CAMPS

By Kerry Schmidt 06-05-2005

Yes, lots of film footage is used during the NFL training camps.

But one filled with lesbian porn, off-color racial jokes, ethnic slurs, gay marriage spoofs, X-rated language, among other definitely non-football related stuff is probably not the norm.

In a story broken by the "San Francisco Chronicle," the paper stated they had obtained a copy of a 49'ers 15 minute tape whose stated purpose was intended as a primer on "how players should handle the media in diverse San Francisco."

The tape was made by the Forty Niners PR head Kirk Reynolds, who also played a starring role, wherein he was seen frolicking with a trio of topless buxom blondes.

As of now, said lead star Reynolds is busy seeking employment.

Irony abounds here with the timing coinciding with the 30-year old story of the outing on the famous Watergate "Deep Throat" source.

And as if causing the Niners immense embarrassment wasn't enough, some of this epic was filmed in the office of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The story quickly spread throughout the media and on the internet, where, only in the cause of total dedication in my pursuit of the truth in journalism, I downloaded the "instructional video" and watched it.

Yes, I can state unequivocally that in all my olden days there were never any training films like that.

Like the above Deep Throat, the film was sent anonymously to "The Chronicle" last week.

The film, shown to the players last August after a 2 ½ hour diversity workshop, opens with Reynolds sitting in Mayor Newsom's desk, impersonating the mayor and saying he was going to explain to the meatheads all about this "beautiful, diverse and tremendous city."

Next, the scene shifts to Chinatown, with Reynolds reading everything about the players and the organization, followed by then-49'ers train, George Chung, dressed up as a "bespectacled, buck-toothed Chinese man in an aloha shirt" who portends to translate the message into the Asian language. Speaking of then Niners' QB Tim Lattay (real name, Rattay), he said, "...He feeling good. No plactice with team, so most of time he play with himself."

The rest of the film goes way down hill from there. Even though "The Chronicle" printed just about everything, I don't think me describing too many details would get by some of my editors, especially after last week, so let's move on. Remember, Louisiana is not "Diverse" S.F., but likely most readers outside this area will get the idea.

Scene II takes us to a topless, lesbian wedding, officiated by "Mayor" Reynolds.

Following the "I do's," well, you can let your imagination go and you will be pretty much right on.

He then tells the players that they need to embrace this diversity, followed by two large men, one black, one white, who step up to get married.



OFF THE WALL SPORTS

The film goes on to such things as an X-rated skit on how to handle interviews with the media, a shower etiquette scene featuring a topless blonde and a trip to a fancy restaurant where the “mayor” buys expensive champagne and caviar and lays the tab on the tax payers. Sounds like Louisiana.

More topless stuff, a short scene showing how a player should act when getting arrested – hey, that’s more topical now, and just about everything else follows.

The real irony is the end of the film, where Reynolds says, “You do (or say) something controversial, it will have an impact on this team, so be mindful of your actions.”

He certainly proved himself prophetic.

Obviously, the reactions were swift and, well, diverse.

Cornerback Mike Rumph said, “I thought it was one of the funniest things I ever saw.”

And to be honest, with my sick sense of humor, I likewise thought parts of it were funny. Sort of a “Saturday Night Live” uncensored. Hey, turn on cable TV and you will see a lot worse.

Needless to say, however, Niners’ management, the NFL front office and the real mayor’s office had a diverse review of the film.

Team lawyer Ed Goins said “(it) is absolutely contradictory to the ideals and values of the (team).”

The real Mayor Newsome, after viewing the scene depicting the Chinese man, understated the obvious, saying “Not good, not good.” And after the lesbian wedding scene, he shook his head and said, “What an idiot,” and shortly thereafter, said, “that’s enough,” as he ended his private viewing.

Reynolds himself said, in part, that he had no regrets about trying to connect to the diverse audience and that its intent was to inform the players. He then admitted the obvious when he said “I pushed it too far.” Really, wow, could have fooled me. He went on to say it was meant for the locker room only and admitted “some of the content was inappropriate for the values of the organization, and, mine frankly.” Wait, explain again then why this tape was made, you old job-seeker you.

I lived in San Francisco from 1966 to 1976, only a few blocks from the notorious Haight-Ashbury district, and I can certainly tell you that such terms as diverse and outrageous were the norm, rather than rare. The 60’s forever changed not just America, but the entire world, for better or worse, take your pick.

The so-called porn industry was born in San Francisco, and there was, and in some ways, still is very little that does not go on out there.

Thus, that “training film” was not that far off in the attitudes of some of the many still demented individuals who live there. The “shocked” Mayor is the same one who defied state law and allowed gay marriages.

There was a reason why the late Gonzo journalist and Pulitzer Prize winning author Hunter Thompson loved the “City by the Bay” so much.

Had this been kept in the locker room, as was its intent, it would have just been an idiotic, “Animal House” movie.

However, since it was “leaked” to the mainstream press...

From now on, I guess the NFL will stand for No Further Learning.

Stay tuned. Film an 11:00.