

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSEVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

JANUARY 3, 1985

ISSUE 24

AIDS Cases Top 7000 : 5244 Are Gay Men

by Christine Quillen

ANTA, GA (CNN) - The number of AIDS cases reported in the United States and health department and the time it takes accepted by the U.S. Centers for the CDC to accept the case, the number of persons having been diagnosed 7,000. As of December 10, 1984, 7,270 cases have been reported and 2,449 people, or 47 percent, have died from the disease. Six months ago, as of June 4, 1984, CDC reported 4,690 cases and 2,074 dead.

CDC maintains a tight operational definition of AIDS and it is estimated that the syndrome has actually affected ten times the number reported by the CDC, often with milder immune deficiencies such as AIDS Related Complex (ARC). Some people estimate over 70,000 persons have been affected by the current epidemic.

The CDC definition includes "...any patient who has a disease at least moderately indicative of underlying cellular immuno-deficiency ...but who has no known cause of reduced resistance to that disease..." Diseases include cryptosporidiosis, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), candidiasis, cytomegalovirus, herpes simplex virus, Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) and brain lymphoma. The diseases overwhelm the body when its line of defense, the immune system, breaks down or is severely depressed.

Because the problem is the underlying immune deficiency, the syndrome can express itself in a variety of ways, making the diagnosis a clinical one based on a number of factors. There is currently no test for AIDS. Additionally, the presence of diseases or symptoms associated with AIDS does not provide evidence of the syndrome, and in fact can be associated with less severe illness.

The state hardest hit by AIDS has been New York, with 2,805 adult cases reported. One thousand three hundred thirty six people have died in New York. California has reported 1,624 cases and 660 deaths. Thus these two states together account for over half the number of cases.

Florida has 494 confirmed cases; New Jersey 431; Texas 339; Illinois 153; Pennsylvania 141; Massachusetts 121; District of Columbia 101 and Georgia 91, making these the ten states with the highest number of adult cases. Figures for children are kept separately since it is difficult to assess which cases are acquired and which are congenital.

Currently, 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico require AIDS cases be reported to their health departments. Forty five states now have reported cases to the CDC.

Because there is a lag between the time a case is reported to a state health department and the time it takes for the CDC to accept the case, the number of persons having been diagnosed with AIDS is actually higher than CDC figures indicate.

For example, while the CDC reports Massachusetts as having 121 confirmed cases as of December 10, the state epidemiologist reports 140 as of December 1.

While the numbers of persons diagnosed with AIDS has risen, the proportion of persons from the high risk groups, with the exception of Haitians, has remained relatively constant. Thus far, 5,244 Gay or bisexual men have been affected, accounting for 73 percent of the total cases. Intravenous drug users account for 17 percent, Haitians 4 percent, hemophiliacs 1 percent, transfusion related cases 1 percent and those who could not be categorized or did not fit into a known risk group accounted for 4 percent of the total.

Forty percent of those diagnosed with AIDS are either Black or Hispanic. One percent are other minorities and one percent were of unknown ethnicity. The remaining 58 percent are white.

AIDS continues to strike hardest the 30-39 age group, which accounts for 47 percent of the cases. The 20-29 year group accounts for 22 percent, while the 40-49 group accounts for 21 percent. Ninety percent of all persons diagnosed with AIDS are between 20 and 50 years of age. AIDS diagnoses are most rare in the 13 to 19 year range.

According to a recent report issued by the CDC in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 73 percent of patients diagnosed before January 1983 have died. However, according to Harold Jaffee, a CDC AIDS researcher, of the 60 persons diagnosed before 1981, ten are still alive. He said of 240 diagnosed during 1981, 42 are still alive. Although Jaffee did not have further breakdowns available, he said most of these surviving persons have Kaposi's Sarcoma. Persons who have KS have one of the best survival rates; figures from CDC indicate a 30 percent mortality rate.

Persons having both KS and PCP have the highest fatality rate, with 66 percent of those diagnosed having died. Of those having been diagnosed as having PCP or another opportunistic infection alone, approximately half have died. While a combination of KS/PCP has the lowest survival rate, it also accounts for the fewest number of cases.

San Francisco AIDS Patients May Be Placed In Private Hospitals In 1985

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (AP) - With the growing number of AIDS patients threatening to overwhelm San Francisco General Hospital, public health officials are considering a plan to put AIDS patients in private hospitals next year, a published report said.

"It's clear we are going to have our hands full if we continue to see an increase in AIDS cases - and it tragically looks like that will be the situation," Mayor Dianne Feinstein was quoted as saying.

An eight-member Medical Advisory Task Force on AIDS has urged the city to coordinate AIDS treatment among the city's 18 private hospitals, where most patients are admitted only if they are under the care of a physician associated with the institutions.

According to figures through mid-December, 851 people in San Francisco had been diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a fatal disease that attacks the body's immune system and leaves it vulnerable to a variety of ailments.

The AIDS ward at the city-run San Francisco General Hospital has only 12 beds and can expand to only 24 beds next year. At any given time, 10 to 15 percent of the city's AIDS patients require hospitalization, according to a recent survey by the city Department of Public Health.

The mayor's assistant on health affairs, Margaret Kisliuk, said health officials are compiling a registry of doctors on the staffs of the city's private hospitals who are willing to treat AIDS patients.

"It does not appear that we are having any problems getting together a very extensive list," she said. "If we don't get enough (doctors), there will be a targeted mailing to all the city's doctors, but I don't think that will be necessary."

Mayor Feinstein said she plans to lobby state officials to change Medi-Cal rules to speed payments to private hospitals providing expensive AIDS treatment.

Also according to MMWR, 86 percent of adult AIDS cases in the U.S. have been reported since January 1983.

Recently, James Curran of the CDC said there are probably 300,000 persons living in the U.S. who have been exposed to the virus. He estimated 10 percent of that number will eventually come down with AIDS.

Harold Jaffee, an AIDS researcher at CDC, said Curran had arrived at his figure by using results from a San Francisco study indicated a 1:35 ratio of persons with AIDS to persons testing positive for the HTLV III anti-body. From this Curran assumed the number of exposed individuals nationally is 35 times the number of cases - now about 7000 - a figure he expressed as 200,000 to 300,000.

He then assumed a 10 percent conversion rate to AIDS based on preliminary data and thus estimated up to 30,000 cases arising in the next three years, based on speculation about incubation time. However, this data is preliminary and perhaps skewed because the San Francisco population may have been a higher than average risk group of Gay men. In explaining Curran's method, Jaffee said "It might not be right, but that's what he did."

He said the point to be made, rather than a specific numerical prediction is that many people have probably been exposed to the virus and while it was originally thought only 1 percent of those exposed would actually go on to develop AIDS, it now appears to be higher.

However, Jaffee also said changes in sexual activity among Gay men, as evidenced by a drop in the rectal gonorrhea rate, may eventually slow the epidemic's growth.

Regardless of the numerical prediction, it is clear many more people will be affected by AIDS over the next several years.

Demonstrators Disrupt Falwell Speech

by Charles Michael Smith

NEW YORK, NY (CNN) - Demonstrators both inside and outside Manhattan's Town Hall protested the December 10 speech to be delivered by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a member of the religious right wing who promotes his anti-Gay views through the Moral Majority. Protestors prevented Falwell from speaking, however, and he left the building an hour and a half after the 8:00 p.m. scheduled starting time.

The protest, called by the People's Anti-War Mobilization and supported by various Gay and Lesbian groups drew a predominantly white crowd of more than 300 people. Protestors carried signs and chanted slogans condemning Falwell's homophobia. One sign read, "Say no to Reagan and the Right Wing." Another said "Keep New York Clean, drive out Falwell."

Andy Humm of the Coalition of Gay and Lesbian Rights estimated that about two-thirds of the people entering Town Hall were protestors. "Jerry Falwell is a clown, a puppet," said Humm, addressing the crowd surrounding a makeshift platform across the street from Town Hall. "He has no power of his own. The next time he comes to New York, he'll be ignored."

As the crowd chanted such slogans as "Falwell and the Klan go hand in hand," from behind police barricades protestors were being forcibly ejected from the auditorium. Some had to be dragged to the sidewalk. As each ejection exited the building, he or she was cheered on by the supporters outside.

The mood of the crowd was festive; even the police seemed to be enjoying themselves throughout the evening. A woman and a man sang songs over a loud speaker, bolstering the spirits of the demonstrators as they stood in the cold night air. And a sign language interpreter translated remarks of the speakers at the rally.



Apuzzo in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI — National Gay Task Force executive director Virginia Apuzzo took her road show to Cincinnati recently, attracting the largest crowd of gay men and lesbians ever to gather together in the city. Stonewall Cincinnati sponsored Apuzzo's post-election appearance, at which she touched on Reagan's victory, the importance of educational work as well as political work, and the diversity of the gay and lesbian community.

On the matter of men and women working together, Apuzzo said: "Let me say to you men, with affection, that we women are so frightened that gay men will get their rights and go home and forget us. Being in the Constitution, pay equity, choices about our bodies — there are so many issues on which we need your help. It hurts to be a woman in this society. We have to resolve this and build trust."

— John Zeh

With gay love comes unity.
With gay unity comes power.
With gay power comes pride.

BRIEFS

GAYS TO BE INTERVIEWED ON 'TUCSON TODAY' TELEVISION SHOW

TUCSON - Lesbian and Gay issues in Arizona will kick off 1985 for the Channel 13 KVOA "Tucson Today" show hosted by Sandy Rathbun this Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Jack Stockslager, Co-Chair of the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, Ann Yellott, from the Tucson Women's Commission, and Christopher McPherson a member of the Arizona Lesbian and Gay Task Force and a regular contributing columnist for The Observer, will be guests on the show discussing current concerns, struggles and upcoming events for Lesbians and Gays in Arizona.

HOMOSEXUALITY RUNS IN FAMILIES

BOSTON, MA - The Boston University Medical Center has released a study which may indicate that homosexuality runs in families.

At the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, it was reported that 25 percent of the adult brothers of Gay men were also Gay, while only four percent of the adult brothers of non-Gay men were Gay. The study sampled 50 Gay and 50 non-Gay men. Researchers cautioned that the figures do not necessarily mean there is a genetic link to homosexuality, even though a hereditary factor appears to be strong.

GAY RETIREMENT CENTER PLANNED

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - *Pattar*, a Sacramento Gay newspaper, reports plans to establish a retirement center for Gay men and Lesbians were recently announced by a group known as Gay and Lesbian Accommodations for the Experienced in Years (GALAXY). In cooperation with the Unitarian Church of San Francisco, GALAXY hopes to raise \$1 million to construct the center.

For further information or to make contributions, write GALAXY, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

'TIMES OF MILK' HONORED

BY NEW YORK FILM CRITICS

NEW YORK, NY - "The Times of Harvey Milk" received a special documentary award from the New York Film Critics Circle.

A much-acclaimed film, produced by Robert Epstein and Richard Schmiechen and narrated by Harvey Fierstein, describes Milk's rise from Gay activist to community leader and his tragic assassination.

Six years in the making, "The Times of Harvey Milk" will begin showing throughout the country shortly.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm not expected to be repulsed or angered by this, even though I have to deal with heterosexuality not just being flaunted, but propagated on television and radio. In art, advertising and movies, I will gladly shut up about my sexuality when heterosexuals shut up about theirs."

Richard Anton in a letter to the editor, "Newsweek On Campus," December 1984.

RESEARCH SCAM

ALBANY, NY (GCN) - Four men have been indicted on charges that they attempted to bilk the state of New York of \$250,000 by inflating the cost of an AIDS research project, according to the New York Times. One of the men is former state Assemblyman Stephen Greco of Buffalo, currently a \$43,500-a-year Intergovernmental liaison.

According to the indictment, Greco was asked by one of the other three to use his political influence to insure approval of a \$448,000 grant application to the state Department of Health. The application was rejected.

The conspiracy involved a scheme in which the men claimed the AIDS research project would cost at least \$250,000 more than its actual cost.

Arraignments are underway for all four of the accused, charged with single counts of conspiracy, attempting to commit grand larceny, and offering a false instrument for filing.

The state of New York has set aside \$5.7 million to support AIDS research projects.

CRIME PAYS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (GCN) - Convicted assassin Dan White plans to return to San Francisco when his parole expires in January, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. White served five years for manslaughter in connection with the 1978 assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Gay City Supervisor Harvey Milk. He completes his parole this Sunday, January 6, one year after release from Soledad prison. White served his parole in Los Angeles because state correctional officials believed there would be less chance there for an attempt on White's life or a riot over his release.

The Chronicle reported that White is unemployed and working on a book. According to Ray Sloan, White's former campaign manager, White will not need to work when he gets back to San Francisco, both because of a one-third partnership in a Pier 39 hot potato stand and funds collected to take care of his family while he was in prison.

ARCHDIOCESE WOULD FORGO \$72 MILLION

NEW YORK, NY - Archbishop John O'Connor of New York has announced that his archdiocese would forego \$72 million in city funding for church social services rather than change its position concerning homosexuality. He made the surprise announcement during a press conference on another matter with Mayor Ed Koch.

BROAD CHANGES FOR

SWEDISH GAY RIGHTS

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN - A six year study by a Swedish parliamentary commission has produced recommendations for sweeping legal, cultural and educational policy changes for Gay rights in that country, reports *Body Politic*.

The commission recommends laws to put Gay couples on an equal footing with non-Gay couples, anti-discrimination protection equal to that for other minorities, and specific provisions in immigration laws to provide the right to asylum for Gays facing persecution in their native countries as a result of their sexual orientation.

BERKELEY COUNCIL PASSES BENEFITS POLICY

by Sue Hyde

BERKELEY, CA (GCN) - The City Council here approved a policy which defines partners of unmarried city workers, Gay or straight, as eligible to receive health insurance benefits. The council's unanimous approval of the domestic partners policy capped a five-and-a-half year effort by Gay and Lesbian activists in the city.

"We are elated and proud," said Tom Brougham, the political action director of the East Bay Lesbian Gay of the closet when this photo was taken Democratic Club. Brougham, in many ways a particular, has ample reason to be Tucson resident, widely known in the happy about the council's action. In community. Which one is he and what is 1979, he petitioned the city to extend his name????? benefits to his lover and initiated the long process that led to the council's adoption of the policy.

NEW RISK GROUP?

IRVINE, CA (GCN) - Evidence of the HTLV-III virus in the blood of prostitutes on three continents has promoted speculation that female prostitutes may constitute another group at high risk for AIDS. According to a United Press International dispatch, 100 scientists at the International Conference on AIDS Syndrome gathered to discuss the virus and the disease it is believed to cause.

Newly developed blood screening tests have isolated HTLV-III anti-bodies in prostitutes and servicemen in Europe and the United States. And a study of prostitutes in Zaire found that about 80 percent had HTLV-III anti-bodies, said Dr. Phillip Markham, virologist with the National Institutes of Health team that discovered the virus.

A U.S. study of military men discovered a substantial number with anti-bodies to the virus who belong to none of the high-risk groups. Markham said it had been concluded that they had contact with the virus through sex with female prostitutes in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere.

Markham said the antibody test, which is not available outside the research community, has revealed anti-bodies in more than 50 percent of the active homosexual men in major population centers, in more than 80 percent of hemophiliacs who are treated repeatedly with concentrated blood product, and in about 50 percent of intravenous drug users in major cities.

PHOTO QUIZ



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TUCSON Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee

Jack Stockslager, Co-Chairperson

The Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (TLGPC) has now been in existence for one year. Since January 9, 1984, TLGPC has sponsored a very impressive list of activities. These include: four Lesbian and Gay Roller Skating Nights at Rollers Fun Center, four challenge softball games at Himmel Park featuring beer busts and ending with a double-double header, the second annual mud wrestling tournament at Joshua Tree, a week full of activities for Pride Week, including the annual picnic at Himmel Park, a Political Forum, Movie Night, Dance Contest, a free skate night, Inspiration Night at Gates Pass, and a day full of workshops at MCC.

We continued after Pride Week publishing a Lesbian and Gay Resource Guide for the greater Tucson area and organizing a Political Forum for Election '84, interviewing candidates for local political offices, continued sponsorship of the Lesbian and Gay Youth Group, organized the Law Enforcement Forum, developed a Law Enforcement Liaison and have begun to develop a volunteer group of Lesbian and Gay Victim Witnesses, produced the first annual Twinkle Ball Gay-La and we are currently working with Lesbians and Gays from four other states to help organize the First Desert States Lesbian and Gay Conference to be held in Las Vegas March 30 and 31.

I believe this list is one that we can be very proud of and entitles me to say that 1984 has clearly been a year of success. We are going to work very hard to make 1985 even more successful. Some of our goals for this year include working towards passage of an anti-discrimination ordinance for Pima County based on sexual preference; strengthening the police liaison position; sponsoring Lesbian and Gay safety and self-defense workshops, boycotting businesses in Pima County that discriminate against Lesbians and Gays; updating the Resource Guide and networking with other minority and human rights organizations.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported and attended our activities in 1984 and we hope to have your continued support in 1985.

Our first activity for 1985 is a

Lesbian and Gay Skate Night at Rollers Fun Center on Wednesday, January 9 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.75 which includes skate rental. There will be cash prizes awarded for the winners of skating contests.

"Relations" Workshop

January 26

TUCSON - On Saturday, January 26 The Old Pueblo Business and Professional Association will present David P. McWhirter and Andrew M. Mattison who will conduct a workshop based on the findings in their popular new book "The Male Couple" about the stages of relationships.

McWhirter and Mattison are themselves a couple and have been together for 12 years. Dr McWhirter is medical director of the Clinical Institute for Human Relationships in San Diego. He is a board-certified psychiatrist and sexologist. Dr. Mattison, a PhD. in professional psychology and a board-certified sexologist, joined the Clinical Institute for Human Relationships in 1979. Both hold clinical faculty appointments at the School of Medicine at the University of California at San Diego.

The workshop will take place at the Holiday Inn on Broadway in downtown Tucson on January 26. There will be a cocktail and autograph party at 5:30 and the workshop will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Advance ticket sales are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple and may be obtained by mailing a check to OPBAPA, P.O. Box 44033, Tucson, AZ 85733.

The workshop will take an in-depth look at the joys and difficulties of long-term, fulfilling relationships and explore how Gay people handle commitment, conflict, competition, responsibilities, sex, money, coming-out, families, roles, and problems. This workshop is for everyone interested in knowing more about couples and how they work.

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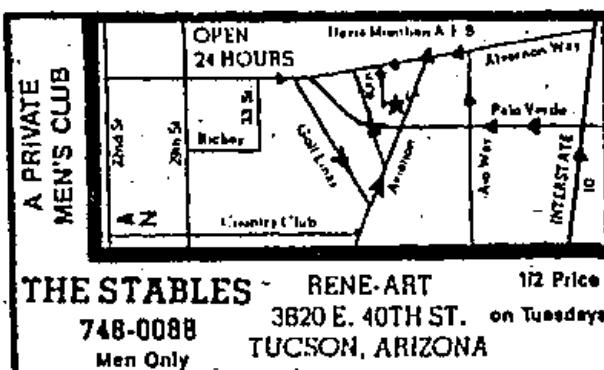


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SPECIAL CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
TLGPOC Sponsors a Lesbian and Gay Skate Night at Rollers Fun Center. 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission \$3.75 includes skate rental. Cash prizes for skating contests. Rollers is located at 1830 S. Alvernon. Everyone welcome to enjoy the fun.

THE TUCSON CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Draft Beer Bust 9-11. All you can drink \$2. 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$3 a glass of draft.
COLETTE'S WEST - Well Liquor .75 - 9 to Midnight.
FINELINE - Tall Neck Bottle Beer Night .75 - "Dynasty" on big screen TV in BFR.
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.
RITA'S - Lunches 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Limited Menu 3-9 p.m.
"Dynasty Lite" on big screen TV. Alexia Champagne
Cocktail .75 from 8 to 10 p.m. Well Shots .75
TRAMPS - Square Dancing with Tucson's T-Squares and country
and western music with DJ Linda Flaxdele.

THURSDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bottle Beer Night .90 domestic
9:00 - 1:00 a.m. "ARIZONA GAY" television show on TV
at 7:30 p.m.
COLETTE'S WEST - Draft Beer Bust 9 p.m. - Midnight \$2.00.
FINELINE - Shots of Schnapps .75 -
RITA'S - "Party Lite" - Well Shots and Domestic Beer .75.
Well Drinks \$1.00 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Kitchen open
for lunches 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limited menu 3-9 p.m.

FRIDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Shots of Schnapps .75.
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limited
Menu 3-9 p.m.

SATURDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Shots of Schnapps .75
COLETTE'S WEST - Free Pool from Noon to 4 p.m.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open for lunch 11 a.m. 3 p.m.
Limited Menu 3-9 p.m.
TRAMPS - Saturday morning with Daddy David begins at 6 a.m.,

SUNDAY

BACK POCKET - Beer Bust 4 to 6 p.m. All the draft you can
drink for \$2.00. 6 to 9 p.m. Beer, wine and well
\$1.00. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Disco. Steak Dinner 4 to 8
p.m. \$13.00.
COLETTE'S WEST - Sunday Sick Call - All Juice Drinks \$1.00
Happy Hour Prices 4 - 9 p.m.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Sunday Brunch Noon to 3 p.m. Bar-b-que
Dinners served 5 to 9 p.m.
TRAMPS - BEER BUST 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. All the draft beer you
can drink \$2.00 \$500 cash "Grab Bag". Drawing
begins at 11 p.m.

MONDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bowlers Special Night. 1/2 price
drinks to Monday night bowlers.
COLETTE'S WEST - Monday Night Madness - \$1.00 Margaritas
9:00 to Midnight.
FINELINE - All Well Drinks .75
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. to Midnight.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Lunch served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limited
Menu 3-9 p.m.

TUESDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Shot Nite - Well shots .75.
COLETTE'S WEST - .75 Domestic Beer. Pool Tournament from
9:00 p.m. to Midnight on alternate Tuesdays.
FINELINE - MICHAELOR CLASSIC DARK .75
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Lunch served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TRAMPS - "FRECTION NIGHT" check for special schedule each
week. "Rock 'n Roll Night" too!

CONSENTING ADULT

TV SHOW HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Alliance for Gay
and Lesbian Artists in the Entertainment
Industry (AGLA) has endorsed the
upcoming ABC-TV movie "Consenting
Adult" (currently scheduled to air on
February 4, 1985 at 8:00 p.m. central).
Calling the program "an important TV
event which should be viewed by
everyone," AGLA Chairperson Chris
Uzler stated "it accurately depicts
the struggle many families with Gay or
Lesbian members experience in learning
to overcome their homophobia."

Based on the novel by Laura Z.
Hobson, "Consenting Adult," which stars
Mario Thomas, Marlin Sheen, Barry Tubb
and Talia Balsam, is the story of a
son's "coming out" to his family and
how their lives are affected.

Chris Uzler feels that "this TV
season has been a 'coming out' of sorts
for the television industry, both
network and cable, many shows including
"Love Boat", "Brothers", "Hill Street
Blues", "Hotel", and "St. Elsewhere"
have had Gay or Lesbian characters.
Uzler said, "We hope this trend will
continue and will include a deeper
discussion of Gay issues and showcase
Gay and Lesbian situations beyond
'coming out'".

AGLA encourages all persons to
view "Consenting Adult" and to write
their comments to Mr. Brandon Stoddard,
ABC Entertainment Centre, 2040 Avenue
of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067 or
your local ABC affiliate (Channel 9 in
Tucson).

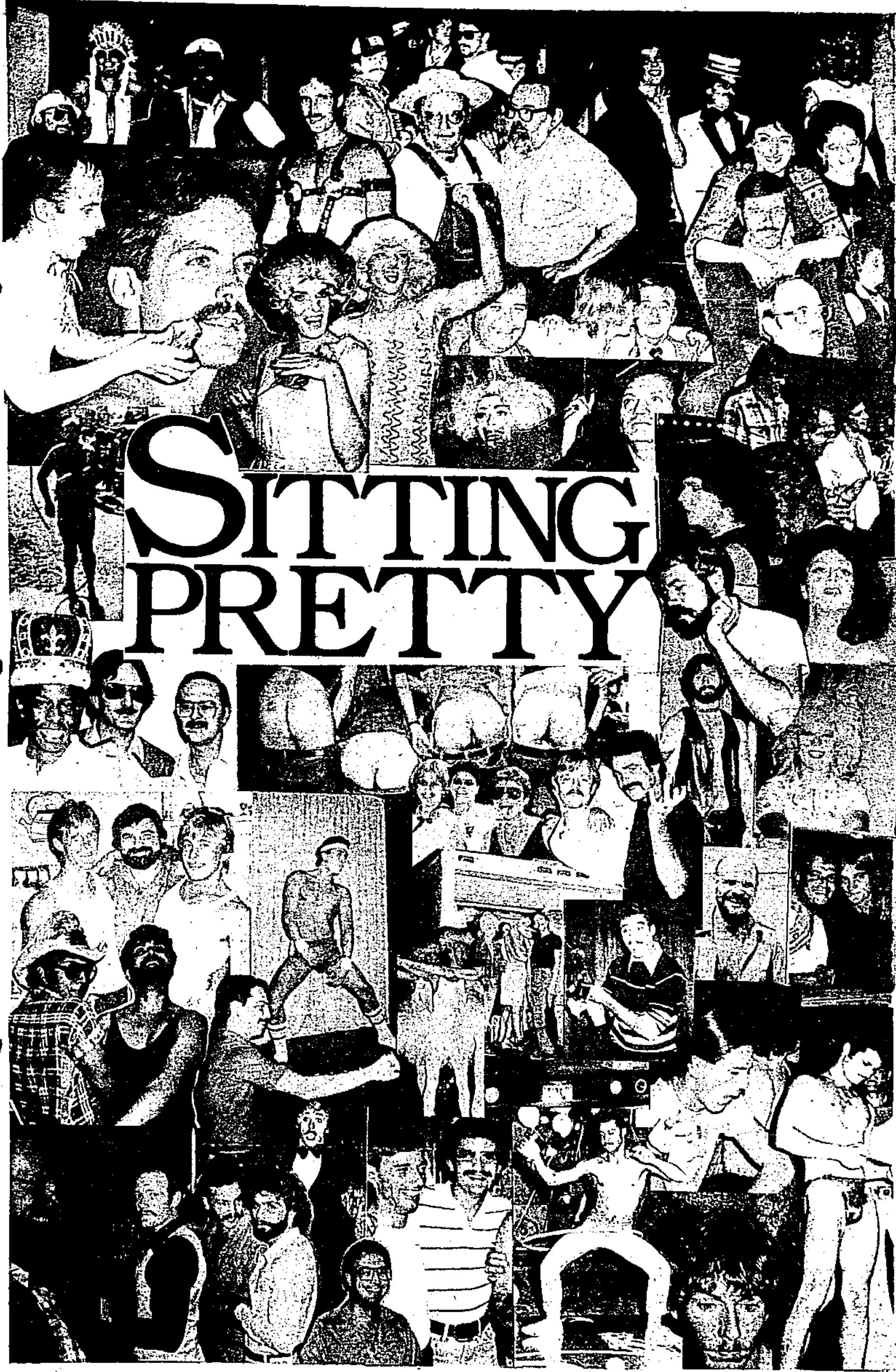
The AGLA is the only media
organization of its kind in the U.S.
that responds to the issues raised.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

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THE EDGE...

by Guy Edgerly

FOR LOVE OF MICHAEL

Little did I realize that in 1952 when I was already 13, that a baby was being born in Ohio that would have a great influence on my life. He was to teach me the greatest lesson of my life.

Our adult lives crossed paths on April Fool's Day in 1982. I experienced his presence before I experienced him. My heart must have stopped; my eyes froze in a stare that I could not break away from; my legs were like rubber. My entire being cried out to meet him.

Who do I think I was that I should deserve a being like that. He was awesome and I was only me. It's the kind of feeling one gets while watching nature in all its glory (or fury). Something forced me forward. I felt quite humble but I had to risk all of me to meet him. He would be either the highest or lowest point in my life. As it turned out, he was both. I knew it had to be that way because that's the type of person I need in my life.

We met. We talked - and talked - and talked. I kept my distance and listened well. We became friends.

But then something special happened. My admiration and respect for this man grew. I was impressed. My friendship could not contain itself. God knows I tried. A new feeling began to emerge. A feeling I had not experienced before. "Hold on," I said to myself, "All your life you've been on your own; beholding to no one. Independent and self-reliant."

A new feeling came over me. We shared so much. Here was a true kindred spirit. We understood each other without having to say anything. His wishes were mine and mine his. There was a bond that I had never experienced with another living soul. It both excited me and scared me. I never felt so willing to be so vulnerable. Never had I trusted anyone so emphatically. He made me want to be a better person. He challenged my ideas and made me question my beliefs. My respect and admiration for him grew.

Then I made the fatal mistake. I fell in love with my best friend. Never before did I think it was possible. I knew a new kind of dedication. He was a cause worth investing in, worth living for.

All my life has been spent in living for causes that I knew I could dedicate my time and energy to. Each one was carefully selected, based on my interest and talents. My enthusiasm and energy are boundless but a good cause

requires me to reach deep inside for something special when the going gets tough. Is the cause worth living for? (Dying for a cause is easy; living for it is more difficult because the pain you may experience will not always end soon. It requires true dedication).

Is the cause worth the price? Are you willing to pay the price? I know what self sacrifice is about. I had been a social worker, Peace Corps volunteer for 5 years, counselor in a psychiatric hospital. Things I believed in and lived for. Without a strong feeling for dedication and a willingness to put my all into it, none of these would have succeeded.

So I felt this way about my friend. I asked nothing in return. I simply experienced a new high in life just by loving this man. Because of him, I experienced life as I never had before. He opened me up. How could I not love him?

But, alas, after eighteen months, he asked me to stop seeing him. He didn't say why and I never questioned him. He had his reason. He had to do what was right for him. It was a healthy thing to do for his peace of mind. I respected him.

The light and life went out of me. My cause had left me. I was devastated, and lost all interest in living. The greatest joy in my life had now become my greatest sorrow. I have never had a lover. I won't accept second best. Michael was the best and he is gone. But my love for him burns eternal. That's the way I am.

by Guy Edgerly

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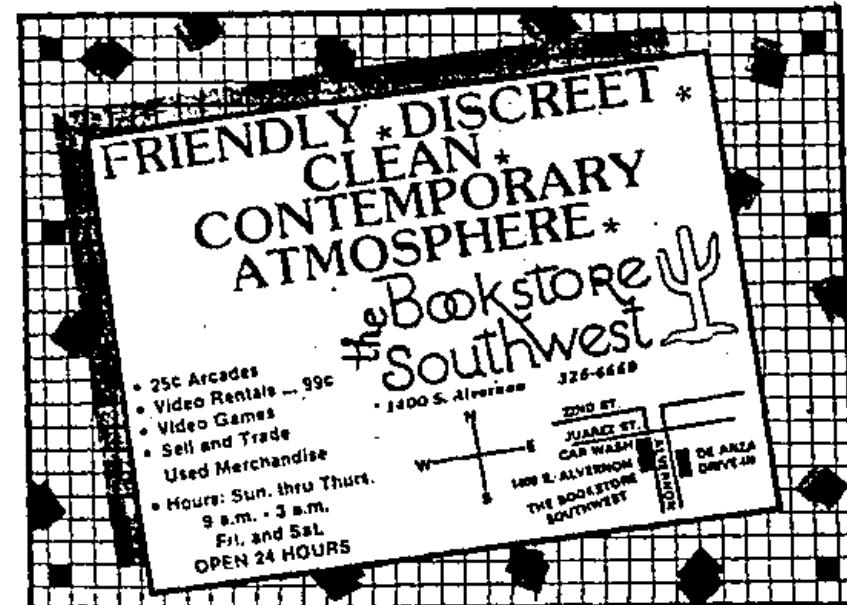
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FICTION: "THE ACCIDENT"

Copyright 1984, John Feddersen.
(ED NOTE: John Feddersen is a former Tucsonan who will be submitting short stories to The Observer on a regular basis. We thank him for his contribution to our paper.)

Conclusion

"Look, Mick!" He pointed. "A huge one's coming." My mother was the only person I ever knew who affectionately called me Mick. I couldn't take it anymore. I'd seen a huge one long enough and if I didn't get out of there immediately I'd be the one coming!

"I'm getting out, Brad. I've had enough for a while," I said as I turned and headed back.

My hands flew forward and my knees buckled. I splashed into the water barely having time to hold the gasp of breath that came with the sudden impact. I struggled, attempting to regain my balance when the horror of what was happening hit me.

Brad had tackled me from behind, grabbing the back of my bathing suit with both hands, dragging me under. Now while I was trying to regain control I could feel him tugging at my suit to pull it down.

God, if he did...I couldn't let him...everyone would see... Brad would know...I'd die!

I clutched at my suit and pulled. He let go. I desperately inhaled when my head surfaced only to disappear again, but long enough for me to hear his laughter in my ear. His hands were everywhere. Our legs were a jumble. Then he had me held tight against him, his left arm around to the front of me, the hand cupped over my breast. I could feel the lower part of him...could feel it pressing into that hungry crevice as he pulled me backward, onto him. His huge chest, his flat stomach, hot against my skin despite the cold water. I was hard and I couldn't help it...couldn't do anything about it as we toppled over into the water.

Then his right hand seemed to be caressing my thigh as it stroked quickly over my burning flesh, his fingertips searching. In a flash he reached through my legs, pushed his hand flat against my hardness and picked me off my feet.

I flew over his shoulder and splashed behind him in the water. I was mortified! He'd felt me! He knew...

I turned and stood to see him all shining and gorgeous, laughing his head off and heading at me again. He reached me and put a hand softly on my shoulder. He stopped laughing. I had my head bent. I couldn't look at him.

"Come on, Mick. Let's get out." He could tell I was shamed unbearably.

We headed back to the beach. He didn't say a word to me.

Good God, would this beautiful torture never end? I was embarrassed at what had happened, what he'd felt, so have to walk with my hands so ridiculously positioned in front of me, certain that everyone looking at us could tell what I was hiding. I was miserable wondering when and how I could end this hopeless temptation. At the same time I felt a strange pleasure at discovering that heads were turning not to see my aroused state but to gaze longingly at the beautiful guy walking beside me, knowing they must think he was with me, that he was MY friend. And here I was, trying fruitlessly to get away from him.

He followed me to my towel and stood spread-legged as I plunged face down onto it.

"Are you with anybody, or did you come alone?" he asked.

"I'm by myself," I answered, my voice muffled from having my head on my arms. I turned my head and lay a cheek on outstretched hands, feeling the water trickle down my face and seep cleverly between my lips to remind me how salty it was. Just what I needed added to everything else!

He walked to the top of my towel and sat beside it in the sand, so close I could feel the heat of his leg radiate against my arm. I didn't dare move.

"I came with a bunch of friends," he spoke softly. "They're a bit further down the beach. Lots of fun, but sometimes I just have to get up and go walk by myself. Look at the other people here. Swim alone. Then go back and get all perched up again."

I opened my eyes and saw him hugging a bent leg with his chin on the knee, gazing out at the ocean. He hadn't moved, the leg nearest my arm. His bathing suit was rumpled

at the leg and I could see right under it. He had nothing on underneath! And it was right there!

I slammed my lids closed for fear he'd notice me looking at it. I had to squirm around on the towel to try and reposition the polo that was pushing into the sand. I didn't dare reach down to straighten things out as he had in the water.

When was this going to end?

I looked up at Brad to see a towel draped over his head and a pretty girl behind him wrapping her arms around his neck. He reached up, pulled the towel away and yanked her down beside him.

"Hi, troublemaker. What are you doing here? Trying to cause more trouble?" She struggled to get away and they both began kicking sand all over the place. And all over me.

I sat up to get out of their way as they rolled around together, laughing and poking at each other. As I brushed the sand off me Brad sat up and took the girl's hand.

"Monica, this is Mick. Mick, this pest is Monica, wicked witch of the beach."

"Hi, Mick," she said with a smile. And then to Brad, "He's cute!"

"Cut it out, Monica. He embarrasses real easily," Brad chided.

And embarrassed I was. Red again.

Come on, Brad. Everyone's waiting for you to come back so we can eat," she whined melodramatically as she stood, pulling on his arm.

"Okay, okay." Brad looked at me. "Nice talking with you Mick. We'll catch few waves together next weekend."

"Sure, Brad," I mumbled, watching his legs straighten and lift his massive bulk off the sand to run off with Monica.

Next weekend...together...

I was staring again and didn't realize it until minutes later when I discovered that I hadn't torn my eyes away from them...away from him...until he was no longer in sight. I could feel my face grow hot and shot quick looks around to see who was looking. Without even knowing for sure if anyone had been watching me I fell backwards onto the towel, closed my eyes, and felt a painful mixture of loss and relief. Then, with my eyes still closed, there he was!

And with me he stayed all through the next week, when I awoke, while I worked, and most especially when I tried to fall asleep. The whole thing had been such a dream. At times I scolded myself for acting like such a doit. Sometimes I'd catch myself at work just standing, daydreaming. And by Friday I knew I wouldn't go back to that beach because all I'd do was go crazy trying to spot him among the thousands of bodies there. I wasn't about to stroll up and down the beach all day long, obvious to everyone that I was looking for someone...for him.

And if I did find him, what would I do? Go up to him with his friends all around, and Monica there with him, and say, "Hi, Brad. Remember me? Mick? The guy you were body surfing with last weekend?" Yeah...sure. Then they'd invite me to join them, and I'd have to pretend having a good time while I stole glances at the real reason I wanted to be there in the first place...the only reason. Forget it...no beach Saturday!

Saturday morning I was there at ten, sharp. As I walked through the already large crowd of people stretched out all over the beach on towels and blankets and lounging in chairs, I kept tripping trying to watch where I was going while at the same time searching the throngs for Brad.

If I saw him I'd just keep going. I wasn't sticking around this section anyway.

And then I saw it. It was just a rope! A rope that stretched from the dune grass out into the water, just lying there on the sand separating the two sections.

Is that all? What must people think on this side who are sunning themselves so close to those on the other side, with nothing but a rope to separate them? I thought for sure there'd be a fence or something. Maybe a bunch of rocks I'd have to climb over to get to the other side, letting everyone on this side know that I was Gay, and listening to them holler behind me, "There goes another one!" But just a rope? How silly. How simple!

All my life I'd made things more complicated than necessary because of my being Gay. I was surprised that Ogunquit Beach had seen to make things so simple...let the Gays have their own section to socialize in if they wanted to and just use a rope to delimit the areas, not to separate, but to let everyone know that they could feel comfortable with their own kind if they chose, or could mingle easily between both groups if they chose to do that as well. Thus, no one had an excuse to be offended by something they might see or not want to see.

But what was there to see? The people looked the same on both sides. There were men and women on each side of that rope. And they all looked the same! What was I expecting? Why had I been afraid to join those with whom I shared this other life style? Why had I waited so long?

As I walked across the rope no bells clangled, no one shouted, "Hey, queer! Go swim with the rest of the fags!" No head turned to gape at me. For all anyone knew I was just a straight guy walking down the beach, across the rope, to continue on the Gay side.

Except that I had all my gear with me, and they had to know where I was headed and why I was headed that way. So what! At least I was able to come back to the beach today knowing I could sun and swim without having to waste time looking for Brad or worse, if I found him, having to be embarrassed all the time around him.

"Mick!" My head snapped around and my eyes popped open to gaze on that too familiar body sparkling so slick from the suntan oil spread freely over his bulging body.

"Mick! You made it." "Brad," I managed to croak. "What are you doing HERE?"

"What do you mean?" he asked, a frown replacing his glorious smile. "I said I'd see you this weekend." The smile returned. "Ready for some more body surfing?"

"Where's Monica? Where's your girlfriend?" I asked, not believing he'd dare to be seen over here, let alone have Monica with him.

"My what?" he asked, confused. "Your girlfriend. Monica! The one who was with you last weekend," I explained.

"You mean my SISTER!" he hawked at me as he started to laugh.

"Monica's your sister?" I asked, dumbfounded.

"Yes, you jerk. Put your stuff down here," he ordered.

I stumbled over and dropped my gear beside his towel, looking down at him. "I thought she was your girlfriend. But what are you doing over here?" I lowered my voice. "On this side?" I stressed, not caring that there was no doubt now that he knew what I was.

"I belong here! My sister's the one who shoved me into you last weekend when she saw me drooling over you." His lips slowly curved up into that captivating smile of his. And he began to stare at me this time. But not at my face...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

about Gay and Lesbian characters. AGLA was formed to encourage the responsible portrayal of Gay and Lesbians in the entertainment media. Over the years, AGLA has attracted such artists as Ann Baxter, Sammy Davis, Jr., Alan Bates, Robert Hooks, Richard Levinson, Donna Pescow, Richard Thomas and Ed Asner through its annual "Media Awards Show" and monthly meeting/panel discussions.



CLASSIFIEDS



THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

NOTICES

ROOMMATE REFERRAL OF TUCSON. Men and women both welcome. NO FEE. Call TUCSON GAY HELPLINE - 742-7558 Bill James 622-3808.

T-Squares, square dancing group meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Tramps.

TUCSON ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE HEALTH ASSOCIATION (TALHA) Gay men's clinic. Located at 101 W. Irvington is open stories will be held in strict from 6 to 8 p.m. every Friday. A confidence. Discretion assured. \$5.00 donation is requested. TALHA is Write: 11m-Entitled, P.O. Box 7484. Burbank, CA 91510. in need of doctors and nurses to volunteer their services.

GAY AND LESBIAN SOCIAL RAP GROUP TUCSON meets every Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. AT MCC, 560 S. Stone. Call Galen, 883-1328.

TUCSON YOUTH GROUP meets every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at 560 S. Stone. All Lesbians and Gays under 22 invited 792-3772

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TUCSON LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE (TLGPC) meets every second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Pipeline. Everyone welcome.

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confidence. Discretion assured.

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Anyone interested in helping with the organization of a holistic men's resource directory, please call Marc, 881-4582. Time compensated.

THE ARIZONA LESBIAN AND GAY TASK FORCE, your organization aimed at furthering human rights, education and networking with other national and local organizations. Invites you to

participate. Come and attend our meetings and input your ideas. Visitors and new members always welcome. Meetings: Every Monday. Membership: \$10 per year. Contact: Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard (7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) 234-2752 or write P.O. Box 1405, Tempe, AZ 85281.

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MALE, 32, 5'7", SEEKS COMPANION UNDER 40 who enjoys hiking, tennis, movies, computers and intellectual exchange. Send letter and photo to: Leo, P.O. Box 40782, Tucson, AZ 85717. 22

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A View From Within

by Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

AND NOW... THE DENOUEMENT*

* de-nou-e-ment /,da-ˌnu-ˈmənt/ n: the final outcome of the dramatic complications in a literary work.

It is a French word. Usually applied to theatre works: "ACT III: The Denouement". This is when the murderer is caught; when Perry Mason tricks the confession from the guilty party; when the "boy who lost the girl, gets the girl back". It is the time when all the loose ends get tied, and everyone leaves the theatre happy.

CAY AMERICA: IN BONDAGE

ACT I: The Beginning
SETTING: Ancient Civilisation (sic)

ACT II: The Present
SETTING: Civilised (sic) America

ACT III: The Denouement
SETTING: Small Towns & Big Cities everywhere
TIME: The present

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

MAN....Man WOMAN....Woman

THE STORY SO FAR:

ACT I: Through the good graces of DNA and genetic mutation, random chemicals swirled around the primordial oceans, met up, and formed rough, ancient, single-celled organisms. From here, multicellular organisms formed and became more and more complex leading to humans as we now know them. (*Darwin, The Origin of Species*, 1859, et.al.)

Before man (a generic term) became burdened with the "myths of his civilisation" (a phrase later shortened to RELIGION), nature took its course. What was natural was: This is commonly referred to as "the good ol' days".

ACT II: Man (a generic term) bred and bred (or not, as the case may be). It, "Slowly the reigns of "I Long Ire", (an anagram for religion) encircled man (a generic term) and tightened its grip on an unsuspecting people, (a pre-dicament).

People got tired of this persecution (a persecution) and migrated - as it were - to paradise, but maybe a paradise with the bright, golden shores of ACIREMA (a palindrome). Here everything which was natural was categorized as either "That painful terminal illness" is purely which is supported by the Bible" or coincidental. All surnames used are "Un-natural". This was called "Civilised America", (a mistake).

ACT III: And Now... The Denouement. In small towns, and big cities everywhere man (a generic term) is finally getting the balls (a metaphor) to stand up and defend himself (a generic term).

Now man (a generic term) is spreading the word that "the only un-natural thing in this world is calling something natural 'un-natural'". It is now that we harken back to "the good ol' days", (see ACT I) when the actions of men and women existed unhindered by the myths of religion. People were allowed to follow their own gods; to do what was natural.

any religious leaders is just blind luck. The sexual orientation of such fictional religious leaders, or their love for chicken, vibrators and/or nags is not to be construed.

(The editor of this paper would like to apologize for the apparent educational and sarcastic turn this column has taken. Mr. McPherson is still recovering from the brutal attack on Christmas Day. Recent word from the doctors indicate that the suspect tree was shot, and an autopsy has shown it to be the attacking tree. It is asked that no money or flowers be sent, as this only tends to make matters worse. The doctors do suggest that an evening with Rob Lowe, or any member of MENUDO would decidedly increase Mr. McPherson's outlook on things. Thank you)

(The editor of this paper would like to apologize for that last apology as it was not written by the editor of this paper. It was just a cheap attempt on the part of the author to get a date. Sorry....)

**Events**

First off I went to wish each and every one of the clubs and club members who I've had the chance and opportunity to write on these past weeks, the happiest New Year possible. May all your wishes come true for this year.

At this time I would also like to congratulate the newly installed officers of the Sun Country Leather Club. Good luck to each of you and your club in '85. If I can help you in any way through this column, please get in touch with me and I'll do my best. Brotherhood in Tucson will come alive in 1985.



by Jay Cunningham

LEATHERSPACE

Phoenix Power and Supply at 1810 E. McDowell in Phoenix has been officially named as the home bar for The Copperstate Leathermen.

Phoenix Power and Supply is dedicating Thursday nights to leathermen. And the program is going to be varied and interesting and not just another costume night to save a few bucks while drinking.

To be sure there will be drink specials every week and they will be different every week so that sooner or later everyone will have the opportunity to save a little without having to switch to a different drink.

Every week on Leather Night the Copperstate Leathermen are providing "Bonus Bucks" that the customer can accumulate and use for one of the six auctions that will be held during 1985. The first auction will be on January 31 and will feature leather, accessories, toys, plants, dinners and a variety of special services.

Thursday, January 10, will be a special video night to present the 1984 Mr. Arizona Leatherman Contest finals.

Next week's column will carry the details of the installation of officers and hanging of colors at Tramps by the Sun Country Leather Club.

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