

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 25, 1985

ISSUE 75

HAPPY NEW YEAR

to our *advertisers* and *readers* from the *staff*

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Tony Schelling

Paul W. Reigle

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Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

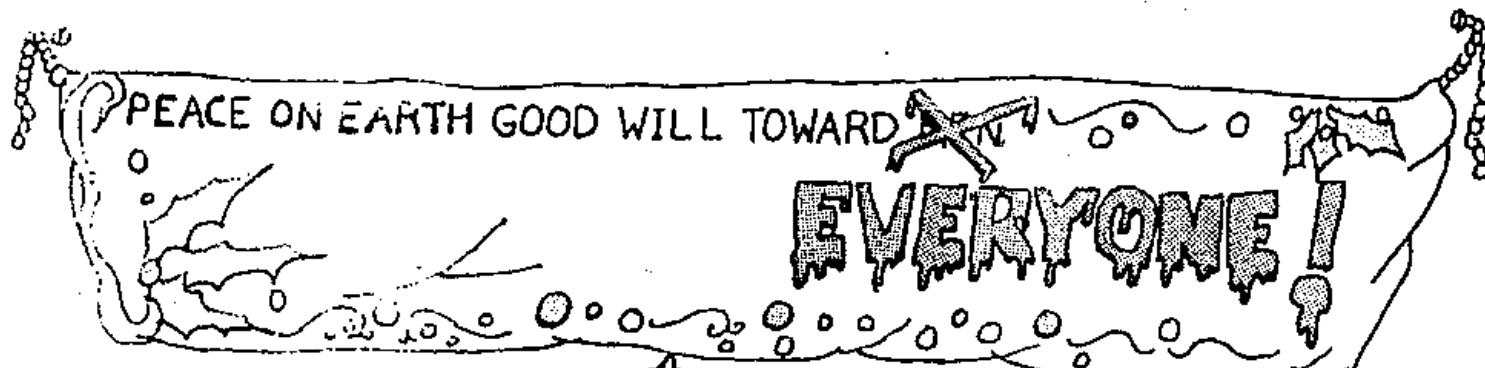
Doc

Gabriel Bazuто

L. Mills

Monte-Jon Gi Iner

Jza Jza Latbre



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BRIEFS

ENTERTAINERS' REUNION

TUCSON - A few years ago there were two show bars in Tucson, Jekyll's & Hyde's and the Front Runner. These two bars spawned many a new talent as well as bringing known entertainers to their stages. Rumor Hazzit, which is in the same location as the old Front Runner, is bringing back some of those 'oldies but goodies' in a reunion to be held on New Years Eve. "Tucson's Finest Reunion" will star Dani Reid who is flying in from Chicago, and Flo and Alex Villa who are coming in from San Diego to be part of the reunion show. Monte-Jon will join the east as one of the original "Tucson's Finest" revue as will this year's runnerup to Miss Gay Arizona, Aviva Diamond.

It will be quite an evening. Dani Reid, whose renditions of Judy Garland songs is legend, will once again grace the Tucson stage with his professionalism. Flo, who will be remembered for her comedy routines of Flo and Laverne with the late Cindy Diamond, will be welcomed back as will Alex Villa who was the male lead at most of the Jekyll's shows. Rounding out the evenings performance will be Mr. Monte-Jon who is still very active on the Tucson stages as is 'newcomer' Aviva Diamond.

For those of us who remember way back then, it will be an evening of nostalgia. For those who haven't had the chance to see these performers before, this is an unusual opportunity to see some class acts recreating some of the best routines that ever graced the Tucson stages.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON SODOMY

WASHINGTON, DC - The Supreme Court has agreed that it will review a ruling that could possibly result in the repeal of sodomy laws in Georgia and several other states. The ruling is expected by next July.

The court has not issued a detailed ruling on homosexual rights since 1967 when it announced that aliens found to be homosexual may be deported as people "afflicted with a psychopathic personality."

Kathleen Wilde, an Atlanta lawyer for a Georgia man challenging that state's sodomy law, remarked, "This is potentially a momentous case. We think the facts of this case are very strong for us - no money, no minors, no force involved, and in the privacy of one's own bedroom."

Michael Hardwick, a self-described practicing homosexual, was arrested in Atlanta in 1982 on charges of committing the crime of sodomy with another man in his home.

He sued Georgia officials in 1983 although prosecutors had decided that they would not seek an indictment against him. The state law bans "any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another." Hardwick sought to have the law declared unconstitutional.

A heterosexual married couple challenged the law, saying it infringed on their privacy rights. Lower courts ruled that the couple had no legal standing to sue since there was no evidence Georgia authorities would enforce the law against them.

SIMONE'S TO RELOCATE

TUCSON - Simone's, Tucson's popular women's bar has lost their lease and will close down temporarily at their present address this Saturday, December 28.

Deb Fagan, manager, advises that Simone's will re-open in a new central location in three or four weeks, with newer and better facilities to offer the Lesbian and Gay community. Watch these pages for more information.

How it is out just what that "New Woman's Bar" advertising was all about!

DANIEL STEENKEN

TO PERFORM AT RITA'S

TUCSON - Rita's Rendezvous is going 'live' New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with the piano talents of Daniel Steenken. He will be performing on a grand piano both days with two shows each day - 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Steenken, originally from Florida, has lived in Tucson since 1969. Beginning his musical studies at the age of 12, he won numerous piano competitions while still attending Catalina High School, from which he graduated in 1976.

He went on to attend Pima Community College, Northern Arizona University (where he studied for three years), and is presently studying with Ozan Marsh at the University of Arizona.

Mr. Steenken has given several solo recitals and has performed four times with orchestra. Daniel also has performed at and composed music for the Gaslight Theatre in 1983 and 1985. During the summer of 1984, he was musical director of the Flagstaff Festival of the Arts. This past January, he placed 3rd in the Sun City Concerto competition.

AIDS IS SPREADING IN CENTRAL AFRICA

CHICAGO, IL (OCN) - The prevalence of the HTLV-III antibody may run as high as 15 percent among healthy heterosexuals in the Central African countries of Rwanda and Zaire, according to a report released by the American Medical Association. The report cites other research as yet unconfirmed by ongoing studies, which has indicated a seropositivity in Equatorial Africa of approximately 10 percent among adults and as high as 35 percent to 67 percent among children.

The AMA report, which is based on studies conducted by researchers from Sainte Pierre Hospital in Brussels, Belgium and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, also concludes that prostitutes, especially those in Central African countries, should be considered a new high-risk group for AIDS.

Of 84 Central African prostitutes tested for HTLV-III, 67 (or 80%) were antibody positive. In addition, of 24 adults with AIDS studied in Rwanda, 12 of 17 men had contacts with prostitutes, and three of seven women had contact with johns. The AMA summary noted that the group of 87 prostitutes claimed heterosexuality and denied any intravenous drug use, but did not indicate whether such information was available about the people with AIDS.

'AS IS' OPENS JAN. 10

PHOENIX - Todd Patterson directs 'As Is', which will be presented at the Phoenix Arts Council Building by Janus Theatre Company, 302 W. Latham. Performances are scheduled at 8:00 p.m. on Jan. 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19. A special performance to benefit the Arizona AIDS Fund Trust will be given on Sunday, Jan. 12.

General admission tickets are available for \$6.00, and \$5.00 for students and senior citizens with identification and can be purchased at Humanspace Book, 2401 N. 32nd St. (956-6336) and at FlyerTravel Ltd., 5150 N. 7th St. (265-0666).

'As Is' currently is playing at the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway. The Janus production is the first presentation of the play away from New York. It is timely and powerfully real as a hospice worker directs the effects of AIDS on the relationship between two ex-lovers, Rich and Saul. Nothing is held back. WARNING: This play contains explicit scenes and language which may offend some viewers.

For further information and reservations call 256-9773.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS:

GOOD AND BAD

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The number of AIDS cases in San Francisco appears - that's the operative word - to have leveled off during the first three quarters of 1985, indicating that the disease appears to have peaked. During the past nine months, an average (from 89 in March to 53 in June) of 82 new cases (2 people per day) have been reported monthly.

But despite the apparent reduction in the number of cases reported, the city's Department of Public Health has bad news: The virus is so widespread there that even one unsafe sexual contact poses a high risk.

Dr. Dean Echenberg, director of disease control for the Department, estimated that as much as half of the city's Gay male population has been exposed to the virus. "The prevalence of the virus in the Gay and bisexual population is so high now that people must stop all unsafe sexual practices to avoid infection," he said. The only good news amidst these statistics was this: Of the men who tested HTLV-III positive in a 1978 Hepatitis B study, only 7% have developed AIDS.

The AMA report, which is based on studies conducted by researchers from Sainte Pierre Hospital in Brussels, Belgium and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, also concludes that prostitutes, especially those in Central African countries, should be considered a new high-risk group for AIDS.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Another year is passing us all by and we have a lot to be thankful for, but still a lot of work to do.

The purpose of this little message however, is to caution everyone who is going to celebrate this holiday season heartily; to be most careful about driving if you are drinking.

The Tucson police department is going all out this year to stop drivers who are under the influence.

It makes good sense to plan ahead and have someone in your party to be responsible to do the transportation chores. With so many parties and events going on these next few days, it is not asking too much for one person to stay sober and alert on one day and switch to another person the next day.

Friends don't let a friend drive drunk. Remember, the life you save may be your own.

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Benefits awarded to man caring for dying lover

by Regine Gillis

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (CNN) - The state of California recently awarded unemployment benefits to a 34-year-old Gay man when he quit his job to care for his dying lover.

The case is significant as it broadens the category of "good cause(s)" for leaving employment. Under the California Unemployment Insurance statute, one such "good cause" recognized by the state is provision of care to a seriously ill or dying spouse, child or blood relative residing the same household. In the ruling by Administrative Law Judge Robert P. Mason, the relationship between the Gay man and his lover with AIDS was deemed as significant as that between blood relatives or a married couple.

Mason stated that unemployment benefits were appropriate because "even though a blood or marital relationship did not exist, it is recognized that non-blood, non-legal relationships may be established which are as meaningful, if not more meaningful, than the relationships created by blood or the bonds of marriage."

Although heartened by the decision, Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project and attorney for the man who won the benefits, told CNN she could not call the decision a true precedent. "Technically, it is not a precedent," said Achtenberg, "but it carried significant persuasive value on other similar cases." She added that the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, which declined to appeal the case, does not recognize the decision as binding.

Achtenberg's client, who wishes to remain anonymous, had been a computer instructor for a San Francisco-based educational firm for two years when his 39-year-old lover was diagnosed with AIDS in January, 1984. They had been living together for over four years.

In April, 1985, the man was given a two-month leave from work by his employer in order to allow him to care for his lover at home. According to Achtenberg, it was understood among the physicians and the employer that his love would most likely die within the two months' time.

When his lover did not die

Suit charges coercion in sex probe case

by Sib Connor

NEW YORK, NY (CNN) - In a case which is perhaps the first of its kind, a Gay man, two women, their two sons, and six other youths, ranging in age from 11 to 18 years, have filed a federal civil rights suit charging Manhattan South precinct officer Robert Maginnis, Bronx Assistant District Attorney Marianne Jennings, and other state and city officials with harassment and denial of First Amendment rights.

Immediately after the suit was filed, Federal Judge Gerard Goettel issued a protection order to safeguard the identities of the youths and the women. They may be referred to by their initials only.

The federal suit filed on March 25, follows a January criminal court grand jury indictment of the Gay man, Ed Bagarozy, for allegedly engaging in sex with eight youths. The grand jury found Bagarozy guilty after two of the youths testified that they had had sex with Bagarozy, the other six maintaining that they had never had sex with Bagarozy.

However, on an April 30 New York Independent Network News (INN) broadcast, the two youths identified as D.M. and M.O., recanted their grand jury testimony and claimed that they were coerced into lying by threats from Maginnis and Jennings.

According to Bagarozy, the two youths were repeatedly harassed by officer Maginnis. Bagarozy said that D.M. was taken from school approximately thirteen times for up to five hours at a time without the knowledge of his parents. During the interrogation, Bagarozy claims that D.M. was repeatedly threatened by Maginnis with arrest and incarceration in a juvenile detention center, and that the other seven youths received similar threats.

According to Bagarozy, during the INN-broadcast, Jennings denied using coercive techniques on the boys, but could not comment on tactics used by the police. Also during the telecast, officer Maginnis admitted interrogat-

ing within that time, the man applied to his employer for an extension of the leave, but was denied. It was at this time that he handed in his resignation and applied for unemployment benefits.

The man's lover died June 7, 1985, and the man was denied benefits by the Employment Development Department (EDD) of the state July 15. In late July, he appealed the EDD decision and turned for legal representation to the Lesbian Rights Project, a non-profit, public interest law firm dealing primarily with Lesbian/Gay family related issues.

At the appeal hearing in July Achtenberg asked that the interpretation of what constitutes "good cause" be extended to include non-marital partners with whom the unemployed have a compelling, familial relationship in the definition of household members.

Achtenberg presented Administrative Law Judge Mason with four witnesses at the hearing: a hospice worker and a nurse, both of whom testified to the commitment between the two men which they witnessed while helping care for the man with AIDS; the men's Lesbian minister, who testified on the significance of the relationship between the two men; and the man himself, who testified on the nature of the relationship with his late lover and why it was important to be with him during his last days.

The Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board had twenty days after the Sept. 13 decision to appeal the case. The Board declined to appeal, and Judge Mason's decision became final.

Achtenberg's client told CNN the decision "was quite a surprise - given other recent court decisions against Gays. But I felt in my heart that given the circumstances and the testimonials presented that the judge would have been pretty hard-hearted not to see it at all to recognize us as a family unit."

"It was a validation for me. It made some of the struggle worthwhile. It took (on) the struggles of my lover and I, which were very private, and helped the Gay community as a whole. It was something positive out of a very difficult time," he said.

gating the youths without their parents knowledge.

Marianne Jennings and Robert Maginnis could not be reached for comment. The public relations spokesperson for the Bronx D.A.'s office refused to speak with CNN.

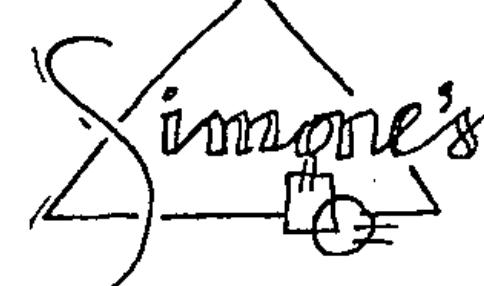
On October 1, Federal Court Judge Goettel dismissed the civil rights case. His opinion stated that since the criminal court case against Bagarozy has not been tried, "there is no basis for entertaining this complaint." The opinion further stated that "even an acquittal (at the criminal court level) would not establish a civil rights violation unless he (Bagarozy) can demonstrate that the prosecution was instituted in bad faith, without hope of obtaining a conviction."

Ed Federowicz, a prisoner at the state prison in Rahway, New Jersey who is doing the legal research and writing for Bagarozy said that the judge's opinion exposed his "prejudicial mindset". On behalf of Bagarozy et. al., Federowicz has filed a motion for reconsideration and a new judge and trial.

Federowicz said that the criminal case against Bagarozy is "very, very common," but added that "no one has ever stood up before (to fight the state)." Federowicz noted that no complaint had been filed against Bagarozy and that the police began harassing the youths of their own accord. "Since Bagarozy had pleaded guilty before (to charges in 1981 of second degree sodomy), someone figured that he would (plead) again." Federowicz said the youths had told their parents about Bagarozy and that the parents had met Bagarozy.

Bagarozy claims that the 1981 indictment was similar to the present case. At that time, 14-year-old boy testified that he had had sex with Bagarozy. Bagarozy said that he plea-bargained "under pressure" and received a suspended sentence. He told CNN that the boy now claims he was forced to lie under the force of police threats and harassments.

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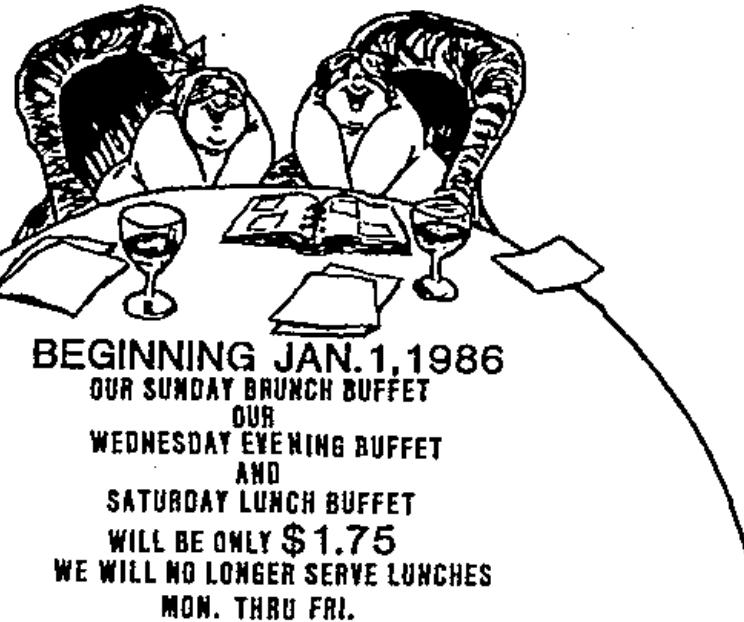
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DRIVE IN

U.S. research on AIDS is likened to Manhattan Project for health

WASHINGTON, DC (AP) — President Reagan was told Thursday, Dec. 19, that the government's AIDS research program may produce so much new information for scientists that it may one day be viewed as "the health equivalent of the Manhattan Project," which produced the first atomic bomb.

A White House official said the optimistic assessment was offered by Donald Macdonald, acting assistant secretary of health in the Department of Health and Human Services, in a meeting at which the president received an update on AIDS, and a summary view of what government agencies are doing about it.

The official, who attended the meeting but asked not to be identified, said no recommendations for new policy and no new money requests were presented to Reagan at the meeting.

The New York Times, quoting budget documents and unidentified government officials, reported Sunday that a draft of the administration's fiscal 1987 budget proposes to cancel \$48 million of the \$238 million Congress already has appropriated for AIDS treatment and research in the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. The budget also would hold all federal spending on AIDS programs to \$190 million in fiscal 1987, the Times said.

The newspaper account said the spending cuts would primarily affect treatment of AIDS victims rather than research into the causes and possible treatment or cure for the affliction, in which the body's immune system becomes unable to resist disease.

Naval officer sentenced to one year hard labor

by Jim Gleaser

FT. LEAVENWORTH, KS — Daniel Miller, the 24-year-old Navy lieutenant sentenced by a military judge on Nov. 13 to one year hard labor for engaging in private consensual homosexual acts, was transferred from Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

"I have been ordered that I can no longer speak to members of the press," stated Miller in a phone interview with the San Diego Gazette. "I will only be allowed to write letters. I am being confined to maximum security for at least a month. Then I'll be subject to security review. I am alone in a 6'x10' cell and monitored by a camera."

Miller and others aboard the USS San Jose became a subject of a Navy Investigative Service (NIS) Gay investigation in Guam during August and September. He was found guilty of "behavior unbecoming an officer and gentleman" for having engaged in homosexual activity with two seamen at separate times in his off-base apartment in January. As a result, he was the only person investigated that received a court-martial, a dishonorable discharge and sentenced to a year at hard labor by military judge Captain Snow.

Miller was kept in solitary confinement in the Subic Bay brig since October. During confinement he was only allowed to read a Bible, Stars and Stripes military newspaper, and the rules and regulations of the brig.

Lt. Timothy Walton, his defense

The official who briefed reporters about Reagan's meeting said Dr. William Roper, a special assistant to the president for health affairs, reported that the government is conducting an "unprecedented research effort" into the mysterious disease that usually proves fatal within a year or two after it is diagnosed.

Macdonald, the official said, was "very optimistic" about the research now being done, said scientists have learned great deal about the disease and "may some day look upon this research as the health equivalent of the Manhattan Project."

The Manhattan Project was the secret government program that led to production of the first atomic bomb during World War II and yielded much of the scientific information later used to develop peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The official said Reagan also was told scientists have been encouraged that the number of new AIDS cases, while now up to 15,000 in the United States, is not quite doubling each year, as medical scientists had predicted it would.

It remains largely confined to male homosexuals and intravenous drug users, with no evidence it can be spread by casual contact, the doctors said.

Reagan, the official said, listened to the report and indicated he was concerned with the problem; telling others present that he had discussed it during a private luncheon at the White House on Wednesday for leading figures in medical science.

counsel at Subic Bay, stated at that time that he was in the process of deferring sentence and requesting clemency. Admiral Kohn, the convening authority at the base, denied clemency and recommended immediate transfer to Leavenworth.

"I recently found out that if the press calls or any press interest is shown, that it must be reported by the officer in charge or commanding officer to his superiors," noted Miller. "Keep the calls coming."

Miller, a Seattle resident and graduate of the University of Washington, is receiving press coverage, congressional inquiry and Gay and veteran organizations' interest in his case. U.S. Representatives Mike Lowry (D-Wash.) and Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Rights Advocates are inquiring into Miller's plight.

"Contacting congressmen would help in this case," responded Walton. Miller's defense attorney, while he was in Subic, noted he had not seen any similar cases of fraternization that had resulted in such a severe conviction. According to Walton, most of these cases are administratively discharged.

"I just hope I can be home for Christmas," stated Miller. "When I think of Christmas in jail, I think of Johnny Cash and Folsom Prison for some reason. I hope military prisons are safer than civilian prisons."

Those interested in writing Miller may address correspondence to: Daniel J. Miller, 535-72-5468, Drawer A, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027-7140.

Miss Gay Tucson

Pageant

Jan 12

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MISS
A
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AIDS and Public Attitude Toward Gays

By George Gallup Jr.

PRINCETON, NJ - Six in 10 American adults report that the AIDS epidemic has not changed their basic attitudes toward homosexuals.

Although about a third say that they are now less favorably disposed toward Gays than they were before the disease became widely publicized, other evidence from surveys suggests that the depth of recently formed anti-homosexual attitudes may not be great.

First, the latest Gallup poll found no decrease since 1982 in the proportion of those who feel that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal, and only a minor increase in those who disagree.

Second, the survey found no increase since 1982 in job discrimination against homosexuals.

Third, A recent Newsweek Poll conducted by the Gallup organization found an increase since 1983 in the view that homosexuals as a group are becoming more rather than less accepted in American society.

In the mid-November Gallup poll, 59% said that the AIDS epidemic has made no difference in the way they feel about homosexuals, but 37 percent report their opinions have changed for the worse. Only 2 percent say they now are more sympathetic toward Gays, and 2 percent are undecided.

Public opinion on this issue is conditioned by age, education and income, with people 65 and older, those whose formal education ended before graduation from high school and those with lower incomes more likely to say their attitude toward homosexuals has worsened because of the epidemic of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

In the Gallup Poll's first (1977) sounding of public opinion on homosexuality, equal proportions said relations between consenting adults should and should not be legal. In 1982, a 45 percent plurality favored legalization, 39 percent were opposed. The current survey found no significant decline in those favoring

legalization, a slight upturn in opposition, and a concomitant decline in the undecided vote.

As shown below, a small majority of people under 50 currently support the legality of homosexual relations, while majorities of their elders are opposed. Opposition drops sharply as education and household income increase. A bare majority of Catholics are in favor, but the reverse is true of Protestants. Women are closely divided on the issue, but more men are opposed.

Following is the question asked and the trend:

> "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

LEGALITY OF GAY RELATIONS

	Should be legal	Should not be legal	No opinion
National	44%	47%	9%
Men	41	53	6
Women	46	42	12
18-29 years	52	41	7
30-49 years	52	41	7
50-64 years	32	53	15
65 & older	5	63	10
College graduates	60	31	9
College incomplete	51	43	6
High school grads	42	46	12
Not high school graduates	21	70	9
Family income:			
\$35,000+	62	31	7
\$15,000-\$34,999	43	48	9
Under \$15,000	33	55	12
Protestants	38	53	9
Catholics	51	40	9
East	43	44	13
Midwest	44	49	7
South	40	50	10
West	50	42	8

Following is the second question in the series:

> "Would you say the AIDS epidemic has changed your opinion about homosexuals for the better, for the worse, or has it not made any difference in the way you feel?"

Here are the results by key population groups:

HOW AIDS HAS AFFECTED ATTITUDES TOWARDS GAYS

	Changed for better	Changed for worse	Hasn't changed	No opinion
National	2%	37%	59%	2%
Men	3	38	58	1
Women	2	36	59	3
18-29 years	4	34	62	*
30-49 years	1	32	66	1
50-64 years	4	39	55	2
65 & older	*	52	42	6
College graduates	3	25	71	1
College incomplete	1	38	60	1
High school graduates	3	37	59	1
Not high school grads	2	47	47	4
Family income:				
\$35,000+	2	33	64	1
\$15,000-\$34,999	2	34	63	1
Under \$15,000	3	45	50	2
East	2	39	57	2
Midwest	3	33	63	1
South	2	41	55	2
West	2	33	63	2

* less than 1 percent

LEGALITY OF GAY RELATIONS

	Should be legal	Should not be legal	No opinion
Nov. 11-18	44%	47%	9%
1982	45	39	16
1977	43	43	14

PRIESTS ENDORSE GAY RIGHTS

NEW YORK, NY - The national Federation of Priests' Councils which represents some 30,000 U.S. Catholic priests from 105 member diocesan councils and religious orders has endorsed the Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil Rights (CCGCR) statement. The statement calls Catholics to "support sound civil rights legislation... and not to oppose such ordinances on the basis of unfounded fears, irrational myths and inflammatory statements about homosexuality."

The priests' statement also commits the Federation to "work for the elimination of discriminatory and un-Christian attitudes and practices" in parishes, schools, diocesan offices, chanceries, seminaries, religious communities, and the Catholic media and press. The Coalition statement also discusses social justice, homosexual myths and ways of acting to dispel prejudice and the fear of Gay/Lesbian teachers influences on students.

The endorsement by the National Federation of Priests' Councils adds to a growing list of prominent Catholic organizations which support the civil rights of Gays and Lesbians.

EDITORS EVICTED

DUBLIN, IRELAND - Rosemary Curb and Nancy Mahan, editors of "Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence", were evicted from the Buswell's Hotel here during a recent promotional tour. And, after the two women appeared on a local talk show, Irish Customs officials made their move, seizing 15,000 copies of the book. John O'Carroll, manager of Buswell's claimed that "the management does not adopt a policy of excluding 'Gay people' though he admitted he had evicted the lesbian editors.

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Gay Lit. 101 . . .

"TOO EASY"

By Kerry A.

To your everyday straight, clean cut, all-American jock, growing up in my house would have to be the ultimate nightmare. The ultimate horror story of the Pepsi generation. This is the story of being Gay, and more important growing up in a Gay world. And it's a story only a straight teenager, that all-American jock type could tell.

I'm the oldest of three brothers, lord knows I've tried to raise my siblings into regular people. I have failed miserably.

Torry, the youngest, is twelve. His every waking moment seems to be focused on one goal in life, to become a gynecologist. He began his studies early in life and has now examined every girl in the neighborhood. With his smooth bedside manner, he'll make a fine doctor. Unless of course he never makes it to college. There is always the chance he will be busted by someone's mother for practicing without a license!

Just the opposite, Trevor would never think of playing doctor with the neighborhood girls. Life would be much simpler if he did. I had hopes for Trev once, years ago. He was a rough and tumble kind of kid, more than willing to whip any neighborhood boy who messed with him. Most of his fights were due to the fact that Trev liked to wear lipstick, and pinch the other boys on their cute, round little bottoms. Or, as time wore on, because someone tried to steal his tights and dance slippers on the way to Thursday night ballet.

Now, at 15, Trev has the looks and build that has every girl, including middle-aged women, begging to be his sex queen. But Trevor only has eyes for Sany, our minister's son.

The last member of our family takes the prize for the parent you would most like to trade. It would be tough enough living with a single Dad who did all the regular junk with his kids. But we drew a parent who holds the three carnal sins of what not to choose in a parent.

He's a psychologist. From infancy we were his test cases for every form of new therapy produced. Dad is also devoted to his church, and while not the hellfire and brimstone type, we learned to walk the straight and narrow. Or at least I did.

And to top it all off, Dad is Gay. It would seem there is enough evidence for a therapist to show why my brothers went astray. I wish it were that simple. The truth is our home varies very little from the upper middle class homes around us.

It is full of love. I was Dad's favorite and I'm the only regular one, yet my two brothers turned out opposites. It's enough to drive a dozen psychologists to drink.

The thing that bothered me most as a youngster was the way people treated us. I was twelve, Dad and I were on a skiing trip, when he told me he was Gay. I talked it over with Mom and in all my wasted wisdom, advised her to get away from this pervert!

But they loved each other and would never consider a divorce, not that it mattered anyway. Mom was murdered less than a year later by a drunk driver. By that time of course I'd accepted Dad and a year later when Seth moved in, I accepted him also. I'd never seen Dad happier.

As a young teenager, my biggest fear in life was the idea of some day having to tell my friends Dad was "one of them". And with the presence of Seth in our home, a tiny voice in my head told me it was time I did some serious thinking about the lies I could come up with about him.

It was my best friend who asked me one day over a Big Mac who the hell the blonde kid with the lisp was who lived with us. All my lies vanished from my head, I blurted out the entire story. He never stopped chewing his Big Mac. Instead he looked me straight in the eye and told me the secret he'd been hiding. Seems Trevor and he had spent some time together. In fact, entire nights every time he'd come to spend the night with me. For over four years. Life is full of surprises.

I went through the guilt stage after that. All these strange people!

In fact, everyone I loved the most was either a pervert or a fruit. The first thing I did was go out and tell Brutus Baker my Dad was Gay. I wanted him to call me names. Brutus was famous for saying things about your family just to push you into fighting him. I wanted to get beaten to a pulp. I wanted him to laugh at me, to tell his friends I was a sicko 'cause I had a sicko family. Then they would beat up on me too, maybe beat out the curse I seemed to have on people close to me.

Brutus didn't beat me up. Instead he told be to get lost, that he knew what it was like to have family problems. I wanted to run away. Instead I went home and cried it out.

As Dad became more and more open, not once did I ever hear a bad word about him. Nobody wrote "fag" in blood on our walls. No women pulled their kids off the streets and the home owners union didn't run us out of town. It was all too easy. I wanted to suffer, like the other Gays and their families I'd read about.

In school the kids asked me questions. But when a senior knew walked up and told me, "You think you got problems, I'll trade you my drunken excuse for a father for your Dad any day," I began to see the light.

It might have gone the way of a rough time for us, but my Dad built up something important. Respect for who he was that was so strong, what he was didn't matter. While it's true that Brutus didn't have the respect, he could feel my pain. He'd lived it.

No matter what Dad is, or isn't, we love him. Even though I wouldn't want to live his lifestyle, he is our Dad above all and his sexuality doesn't stop love as a parent. (Reprinted from The Paper, Baltimore)

Man claiming to be Hudson's lover sues estate

LOS ANGELES, CA - A 34-year-old man who claims the late actor Rock Hudson continued to have sex with him even after Hudson was diagnosed with having AIDS has filed a \$14 million lawsuit in a California Superior Court.

Marc Christian is suing Hudson's estate for \$10 million. He is also seeking \$1 million each from the estate's executor Wallace Shelt, Secretary Mark Miller, and two doctors.

Christian is being represented by famous palimony attorney Marvin Mitchelson in the suit which alleges bodily injury, mental suffering, fraud and deceit.

The suit claims Christian asked Hudson if he had AIDS and Hudson repeatedly denied it, saying he suffered from anorexia and was intentionally trying to lose weight.

According to Mitchelson, Christian lived with the actor for two and a half years. While Hudson was hospitalized in Paris, Christian was flown there to undergo AIDS testing. Although no antibodies were found at that time, doctors recommended that Christian be monitored regularly. Documents filed with the court say, "It is probable that claimant has contracted AIDS from Hudson."

The lawsuit alleges that Hudson learned he had the disease in June 1984 but continued to have sex with Christian until February 1985. Mitchelson said Christian learned of Hudson's affliction from a radio report in July 1985. Mitchelson said Christian first consulted him in August 1985 considering a suit before Hudson died.

The 59-year-old movie and television star died in his Los Angeles home on Oct. 2 from AIDS complications. (OBSERVER, Oct. 2).

Mitchelson, who is noted for litigation involving Hollywood celebrities, cites the suit as the first in the nation to deal with AIDS. He hopes to prove that Hudson's doctors had a duty to tell Christian of the dangers of having sex with Hudson.

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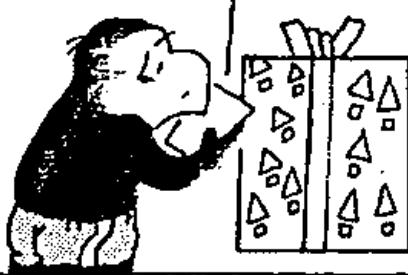
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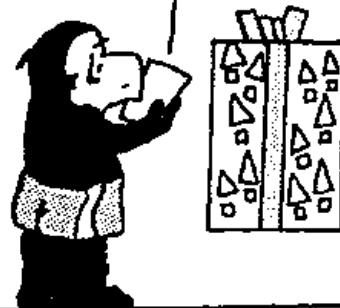
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THE HOLIDAYS
ARE HERE AGAIN,
TIME FOR FAMILIES
TO BE TOGETHER,



CAN WE SET ASIDE
OUR DIFFERENCES,
AND BE A FAMILY AGAIN?
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CHRISTMAS PRESENT IS
ENCLOSED. I HOPE YOU WILL
WEAR IT WHEN YOU COME
HOME.



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THE NATIONWIDE PEST CONTROL EXPERTS

A View From Within
by Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

AS OUR FLAGS FLY AT HALF STAFF

As we all prepare to celebrate another holiday season, we are saddened by the tragic loss of 248 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division as they returned from a tour of duty in Egypt. It is this kind of senseless loss which makes us stop and contemplate the true meanings of our lives and the holiday spirit.

One cannot read about this incident, nor watch the news without feeling an aching sorrow for those families who -- so close to Christmas -- are dealt such a hard blow.

One cannot but hurt when we see the Christmas trees all aglow, and know that those lights burn a little less brightly because of the loss we all have suffered.

It is usually easy to sit back, breathe a sigh of relief, and say, "There but for the grace of God go I....", but when we see the red, tired, tear streaked eyes of those mothers and fathers who lost their children, or the happy, knowing faces of children whose fathers or mothers won't be coming home how can any man, or woman smile in relief?

Defending the country of one's birth has always been a noble and decent task for those who have chosen to answer the call. It may have suffered a bad image during past conflicts, but the military has always been a haven for pride, encouragement, and patriotism. It is this which makes these deaths so very hard to accept.

Death, of any person, at any

time, is hard to face, but the death of so many young people, who have done something to be admired, who have spent the last months of their lives protecting, so that we may walk free, who have but begun to live their lives and taste all of the sweetness a life in America has to offer -- this is the root of the pain, the anguish, the hurt.

In our mega-mechanized world, death is a common-place, almost casual thing to see on the television, or hear on the radio, or read in print. Millions dying in Africa from starvation, thousand dying in Columbia at the hands of mother-nature, thousand more dying in Mexico victims of an unstable earth. Yes, we ached for them all, but the addition of 248 more lives does nothing to us but hurt us more.

During this holiday, as we gather closely to those we love, and in whom we find comfort, let us not forget for a moment those families which will have one empty chair at the table, empty for this holiday and for those to come. As we open the gifts, and bask in the warm glow of the holiday spirit, let us not forget those gifts which will remain unopened. And, as we end the old year, and begin another anew, let us never forget those families to whom the holidays will always be a little less happy.

But, mostly, never let us forget those 248 men and women who died for our country, but did not die alone; for all of us, in our hearts, have died a little, too.

LETTERS

EDITOR:

Sister Pat O'Donnell has been fired from her job at Picture Rocks Retreat near Tucson, because of her piece in 'Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence' (see pp. 300-305). She discussed her contribution to the book with the director of Picture Rocks, Father Lyle Konen, long before the book was published, and he had been understanding. Although we don't know all the circumstances, pressure on Father Konen following the book's publication apparently pushed him to dismiss her.

Sr. Pat's Dominican community was not involved in the decision. They own several copies of 'Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence', and have made them available at community discussions concerning the topic.

In Rosemary's and my appearances around the country, several women have introduced themselves to us as grateful recipients of Sr. Pat's spiritual direction. Many Lesbian nuns, ex-nuns, Gay priests and brothers, and others have found their way to Tucson after hearing about Sr. Pat's healing work. It is distressing to think of our Lesbian sisters' and Gay brothers' access to her spiritual guidance being threatened.

-Pat O'Donnell will continue giving workshops and providing holistic counseling on an individual basis, but donations would help her through this time of transition. If you can, send a check or money order directly to Pat O'Donnell, 2937 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85728-6247, who was courageous in using her name in 'Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence' and is now suffering painful consequences.

In Sisterhood
Nancy Manahan & Rosemary Curb, Editors
Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence
Napa, California

Editor:

In two of the last three issues of THE OBSERVER, you have included male frontal nudes that are not, in

our opinion, in keeping with the community nature of the paper. Since THE OBSERVER is read in both the women's and men's community, to run such photos is, in our opinion, sexist.

After much careful consideration at the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Community Church of Tucson, Inc., it was decided that we would suspend all advertising and contributions to THE OBSERVER until we receive written assurance from you that nude photos will no longer be a part of the newspaper.

I sincerely regret the fact that we have been forced to take this action, Bob. I hope you can see the problem such photos create for us.

If you have any questions about this action, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely
Reverend David A. Gunton
Pastor
Moderator, the Board of Directors



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by Doc

Since this is my column, I get to say what goes into it, so the following is just from me.

Yes, next September I reach the big 50, but what Santa brought me this year makes me feel at least 25. He brought me (myself) youth. This isn't the type I'm known to associate with even though, God knows, over 3/4 of the people I'm always around range from Tucson's own "Grand Duchess" to our own little Stand Jr.

I look upon this year's gift of love, friendship, brotherhood and a whole bunch of adjectives as the greatest gift anyone could receive. A person travels all his life, sometimes only across town, sometimes maybe to the next state, and sometimes, thanks to Uncle Sam, around the world. You meet all types of people, go through all kinds of experiences, sometimes learn new kinky games, and in general experience, and learn things you could never learn from grades 1 to 12.

Growing up as I did, there one area of my life I didn't know was out there. Yes, I traveled around the world, experienced almost everything; met many people of all types, but

never in my life have I found what Tucson has given me. I apologize for being personal in this column this week, but I received from Tucson something money cannot buy - love. I'm not just talking about the type you feel for one special person, I'm talking about everyone and everything about Tucson.

When I first started writing this column, I wasn't really sure what I was doing and I'm not saying that I do now, but it has been a constant learning experience. At the beginning I had a watch dog checking every paper finding and pointing out my mistakes. I had to trust him because he also helped me get through college. He is just one of the many true friends I have in Tucson because the only thing he ever charged me or asked for in return was a Beam and water.

Later on, after a few months of writing, I added the TBBS area, just to spice up the column. Through that little area of my column has come some of the most beautiful friendship feelings I've ever experienced. Yes, I've had a few I've picked on for weeks on end, but never heard any hard feelings from any of them.

The one time I took a month off from writing, was when I really found out that the column was read because people were always asking if I was going to start up again. All the clubs had the one thing they need, free advertising and someone to report on their functions, both past and upcoming.

Again I say to each of you - A great big thank you for your love and friendship and helping me fill lines up in the paper weekly. Thank each of you for the TBBS that I've printed and tons more that I haven't.

Thank you Santa Claus, for Tucson and the people who live here.



At The Hayride

TUCSON - The Seventh Annual Hayride sponsored by the Joshua Tree/Back Pocket was held last Thursday, Dec. 19. The popular annual event gathers together a group of fun-loving people in a hay-laden truck and transports them to all the Gay bars picking up passengers and imbibing in holiday spirits and then on a grand tour of Winterhaven.

The Winterhaven neighborhood has become a holiday tradition and is well known around the state for its display of Christmas lights and decorations. Almost 300 homes are in the neighborhood and over 75% of those decorate

their homes. Thousands of lights and other unique Christmas scenes and displays are used. This is the 36th year that this Christmas spectacular has taken place. It will run until Dec. 28 for any of those who missed the Hayride or wish to view the scene again. The lighted displays may be viewed from dusk to 10 p.m.

As evidenced from the accompanying photos, the Hayriders were in a jolly holiday mood and everyone who enjoyed the ride, and there were nearly 80 who participated, is looking forward to next year's event.

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TUCSON COMMUNITY DIRECTORY
(NOTICE: Any business, club or organization wishing to be listed here should contact the OBSERVER by mail giving full particulars).

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2449 N. 1st Ave. 622-9733. Open daily 3 P.M. Saturdays & Sundays Noon to 1 a.m. A woman's bar where everyone is welcome. (Formerly Colette's West).

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BOOK STORES
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BOOKS BROS., LTD. - 3242 E. Speedway, 326-3332. (Full range of books. Hundreds of Lesbian and Gay titles)

BOOKSTORE SOUTHWEST - 1400 S. Alvernon, 326-6668

CALSAIR'S - 2510 N. Miracle Mile, 622-9479

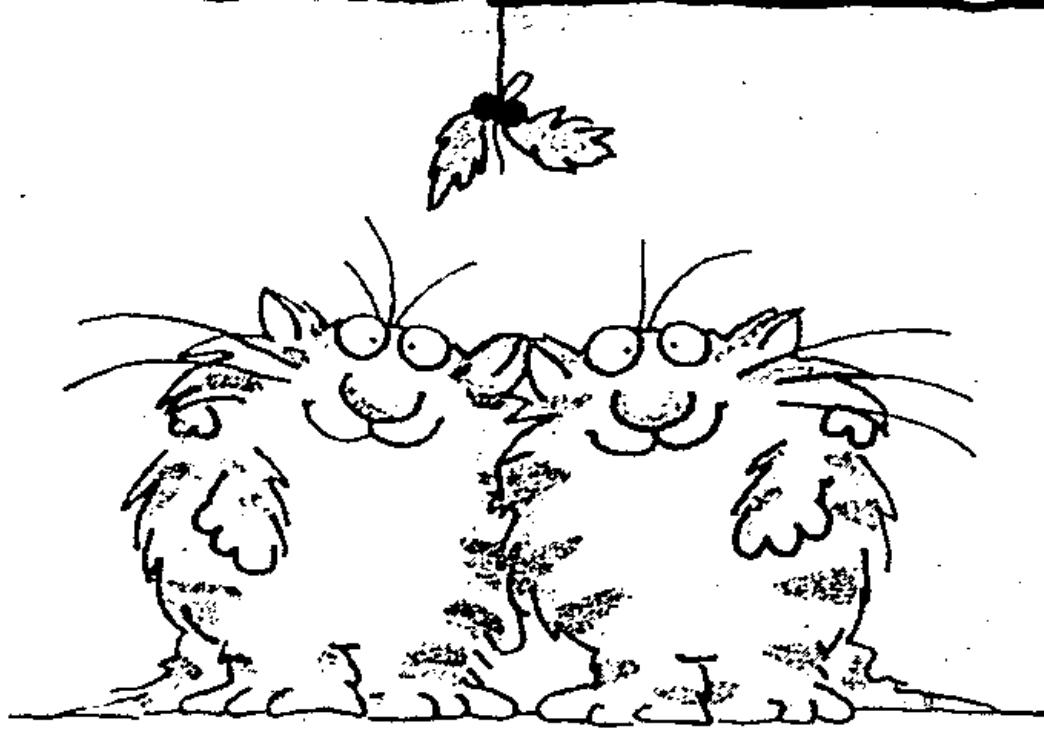
1-10 ADULT BOOKS - Wilmet and 1-10 (NE Frontage Road), 574-9336.

PLEASURE HOUSE - 3814 E. Speedway, 225-4750.

SPEEDWAY BOOKS - 3660 E. Speedway, 795-7467.

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'til dawn

See You