



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSEVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

MARCH 18, 1986

ISSUE 86

EDITORIAL

Someone said that it was kind of like being the victim of a rape, and so it is. The habit of going out for an evening of fun and entertainment and returning home safely is no longer a viable option for any of us. There are many, many things that can ruin a perfectly wonderful evening.

A person may just innocently get turned down at closing time and be forced to go home alone. One may get stopped by the police and may even get a ticket for DWI. One may get mugged or worse. But what has to be one of the more frustrating things to befall a person is to return home, open the door and find that someone has been there while he/she was away and taken all the possessions that were near, dear and necessary to the victim. That empty feeling, that feeling of anger, that feeling of fear. There is nothing quite like it.

It used to be that your home was a safe haven for you and your possessions, but that is no longer the case. The Tucson Citizen came up with some startling figures in its Tuesday evening edition. The Arizona State Attorney General released figures that stated that Tucson is now listed as number eight (#8) in the incidence of crime in the entire nation. That's an honor that does not belong here.

Among other statistics, the Attorney General said that there is a burglary taking place every ten minutes in this state. Well, that is exactly what happened to the offices

of OBSERVER last Sunday night. Major equipment was taken that was indispensable in the printing of this paper. That is the reason that you may find several different type faces in this issue. Our borrowed computer and printer were stolen along with many, many other items. The loss is extensive and unfortunately not covered by insurance.

After about ten years of newspaper publishing, we are used to just about anything, but an act such as this was really a blow. The paper works on a very tight budget, and many times suffers a loss on a weekly edition. It is difficult at best to get each issue out on schedule and have it look attractive and have some semblance of reliable information.

There is an OBSERVER benefit set for Saturday, March 22. This was to have enabled us to expand our equipment and supplies to permit us to bring you an even better weekly newspaper. This is still the basic goal but rather than be able to put all our efforts into new and better equipment, it is going to be necessary to get back to basics. Back to square one so to speak. Your help is needed to assist us in that endeavor. We do appreciate your support in the past, and look forward to the future with the faith that we shall endure. Your continuing support and backing makes us eternally grateful.

Thank you, and see you on the 22nd at Sir George's, at the big OBSERVER benefit.

Benefit for Casa de los Niños

TUCSON - Casa de los Niños, a home for children in crisis, will benefit from a special show to be presented by Garland Productions at the Fineline on Sunday, March 16. Casa's services and programs include social work services and counseling from a staff of qualified professionals. Casa de los Niños is located at 347 E. Speedway and is directed by Sister Kathleen Clark who established Casa de los Niños in 1973.

In today's world there are a lot of injustices going on, and child abuse is in the top ten. Child abuse has become one of America's biggest embarrassments. In Pima County alone, child abuse has increased 30% over the past three years.

For Bill (BJ) Harris, child abuse hits very close to home. He realizes that Casa needs help for these children and he wanted to give help and support to them. Thus was born "Give The Children Back Their Childhood".

Harris believes "the Tucson Gay community has much love, pride and support for these children" and hopes everyone comes out to lend their support for this worthwhile charity benefit.

Don Henkle, producer of Garland Productions, is pulling out all the stops for this show. "I want this show to prove that the Tucson Gay community is alive and proud of what we're doing," said Henkle. He believes when there is a problem that needs people to pull together and show they care, "nobody does it like the Gay community".

Dick Ploofman, owner of the Fineline, is showing his support by donating a percentage of his profits from that night, besides taking an active part in the benefit itself.

The show will feature a variety of entertainment including live singing, dancing, female impersonators and a very special slide show. Listed to appear are Don Henkle, Jacqueline de Savoi, Felicia, and Tony

BJ will host the show as well as appear in a very special dance number. Garland Productions invites everyone to a very special show - "Give The Children Back Their Childhood". Admission is \$5.00 at the door. Tickets are on sale at the Fineline. Help us help them.

More reliable AIDS tests coming

by Daniel Q. Haney

BOSTON, MA - (AP) - Several companies are working on a new generation of AIDS screening tests that would reveal whether a person has been exposed to the AIDS virus without producing the false alarms that mar the current test.

"Fewer people will be under suspicion of having AIDS when they really don't" said Pamela Hicks, business development director of Cenitocor in Malvern, Pa. "It should be very encouraging news," said Gary Buck, president of Cambridge-Bioscience in Hopkinton, Mass. "The public is becoming aware of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWELVE

APA resolution calls condemns use of AIDS epidemic for prejudice, condemnation

WASHINGTON, DC - Given current evidence that persons do not become infected with the AIDS virus through casual contact, "the American Psychological Association deplores the exclusion of persons with AIDS or those suspected of having AIDS from housing, employment, education or necessary professional services," says a resolution adopted by the national association of psychologists.

APA "condemns use of the AIDS

epidemic as a vehicle for fostering prejudice or discrimination against any group or individual," says the resolution adopted by the APA Council of Representatives, the policy-making body of the 51,000 member professional and scientific society. "Until there are empirical data linking specific tests with the eventual development of AIDS, the American Psychological Association condemns indiscriminate testing to detect exposure to AIDS."

APA says that psychosocial and mental health aspects of AIDS should be stressed in treatment, research and prevention programs, and urges that mental health services for persons with AIDS, AIDS-related conditions or an exaggerated fear about the threat of AIDS "should be widely available." However, while noting that identification of persons exposed to the AIDS virus is "a major health goal," APA urges that the confidentiality of patient records be protected.

Observer benefit

TUCSON - The big OBSERVER Benefit scheduled for Saturday, March 22 is now in full bloom. Presented by the Copperstate Leathermen/Tucson Command, the benefit will enable the OBSERVER to increase its community news coverage, expand its supplies and ease some of the financial strain that the paper has been under.

The benefit is set to take place at Sir George's Royal Buffet, 2303 N. Miracle Mile at Grant Road. Cocktails will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continue all evening long for the modest price of \$1.00 each. Cocktails will be served by members of various organizations in the community acting as bartenders and waiters.

Dinner will be served from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. with a choice of six entrees - Breaded Filet of Cod; Fried Chicken; Cheese Enchiladas; BBQ Beef Ribs; Baked Ham or Roast Baron of Beef. There is a complete salad bar and a large selection of vegetables as well as dessert and breads.

Following the dinner hour various members of the Tucson community will conduct a 'roast' of OBSERVER editor Bob Ellis. There seems to be some question as to the quality of these remarks but there promises to be some fun times here.

At 9:15 an all star show has been planned by the Sisters of Sonora. The show will be hosted by Miss Aviva Diamond and will star such Tucson favorites as Brenda Starr, Christi Lunden, Roxanne, Coco Chanel, Monte Jon, Christi Lunden, Michael Caeti, Candy Plastique, Don Henkle, Jessica Captain, Miss Cigi B, Rick Dillon and Anita Lai. The list is still not complete. Music all evening long will be supplied by Linda Fizzdale who is also supplying the sound system.

Tickets for the entire evening - Dinner, Roast and Show - are now on sale for \$11.00 each and are available at every bar and also will be available at the door.

For those wishing to see the show only, it will begin at 9:15 and tickets will be \$1.00 each and will also be available at all the bars and at the door.

Closet Ball Saturday, March 15

TUCSON - This year's annual Tucson Knight Owls Closet Ball is at hand. This Saturday, March 15 at Rumor Hazzit, 2222 N. Stone will be that place where it all happens beginning at 8:00 p.m.

There the contestants will make a miraculous gender change almost before your very eyes. Men into women and/or women into men. It's a fun event that TKO has sponsored for the past several years. There are no reservations so it would bode you well to get there early for good seats.

The Tucson Arizona Levi Leathermen will perform their very own version of "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" during the intermission while the mustaches and beards and chests are shaved, so there will never be a dull moment during this evenings performance.

Tickets for the Closet Ball are \$3.00 each at the door. There will be door prizes drawn throughout the evening for prizes. The contestants are vying for \$150 first prize, \$75 second and \$50 third place, and there are already many who have signed up for this years Ball. So come on by and have a ball at this years TKO Closet Ball '86.

APA supports increased funding for public education regarding AIDS and calls on psychologists "to combat irrational public fears" of AIDS through teaching, public lectures, counseling and therapy, consultation and research. The resolution was developed by the APA Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns and the APA Board of Social and Ethical Responsibility for Psychology.

B R I E F S

SAUDIS RESTRICT FOREIGNERS

LONDON, ENGLAND - Saudi Arabia has instituted regulations requiring that all foreigners must first supply a medical report proving that they are free of the AIDS virus prior to being issued visas to enter or work in that country.

Two cases of AIDS have been reported in Saudi Arabia, the first reported cases in any Islamic nation. Both victims had received transfusions from blood imported from the United States.

GAY VETS GET MILITARY OK

NEW YORK, NY - The Gay Veterans Association (GVA) announced its plans to place an information brochure in 200 military installations across the United States. The group's announcement comes after several meetings with the Director of Legislation and Legal Policy for the Department of Defense, Colonel Thomas R. Cuthbert.

GVA President John Palme stated that the decision on the part of the Department of Defense represents an important milestone for the Gay vets in their quest for formal recognition by the armed services and veterans organizations.

200 COMMITTED

TO GAY GAMES II SO FAR

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The end of 1985 saw 200 athletes registered to participate in Gay Games II to be held in San Francisco this coming August. These athletes hail from 47 cities with New York leading in the number of athletes registered. Canada and Australia share the lead for foreign countries.

Entries for Gay Games II are being accepted through June 1, 1986. All athletes are eligible: Gay and non-Gay, men and women. Individual sports include Boxing, Cycling, Golf, Marathon, Physique, Powerlifting, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Triathlon and Wrestling for men. Team sports include Basketball, Pool (Billiards), Racquetball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball. Entry fee is \$20 per athlete per sport; a number of athletes have signed up for more than one competition.

For further information there will be meeting on Sunday, March 2 at the Joshua Tree/Back Pocket for any local Tucson athletes interested in participating in the Gay Games II. Phoenix athletes should contact Lambda Sports, at 234-2420 or write P.O. Box 44573, Phoenix, AZ 85064.

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80 proof	1 1/2 oz.	100
90 proof	1 1/2 oz.	110
100 proof	1 1/2 oz.	124
Cream cordials and liqueurs	1 1/2 oz.	70-120
Mixers		
Perrier	8 oz.	0
Cola	8 oz.	96
Ginger Ale	8 oz.	72
Tonic	8 oz.	72

KINSEY LOOKING FOR
RE-INTERVIEWS

BLOOMINGTON, IN - Thousands of interviews were conducted by Dr. Alfred Kinsey and his staff at the Kinsey Institute in the early '40s at Indiana University. Dr. June Reinisch, director of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and reproduction, says her researchers went to re-interview 2,000 of the 12,000 people who originally spoke to Kinsey and his staff. It is of the utmost importance to begin the study right away, she said, because many of the original interviewees are elderly. About 8,000 of them are believed to be alive. "There's a possibility that we could be beginning this time next year," she said.

The first Kinsey volume, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," startled many Americans but became a best-seller when it appeared in 1948. It revealed, among other things, that 90 percent of the 9,000 males questioned said they had masturbated and more than a third said they had had homosexual experiences.

Five years later, Kinsey released a study that revealed that half of 6,000 women interviewed said they had not been virgins when they married.

Some clergymen compared Kinsey to the devil, some politicians suggested he was a communist. Kinsey was hurt by what he considered unjustified personal attacks. The Institute continued its work, but from then on kept a low profile to avoid further controversy.

JANUS PRESENTS BOY MEETS BOY

PHOENIX - In a tribute to those fabulous 1930's MGM musical extravaganzas, Janus Theatre Company will present the Bill Solly-Donald Ward musical comedy "Boy Meets Boy" for seven evening showings - March 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, and a Sunday matinee on March 23.

"Boy Meets Boy" received critical success each time it was performed and has had audiences standing in line for tickets. Both Gay and non-Gay theatre company's have hosted "Boy Meets Boy" for Gay and mixed audiences in New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas and Chicago.

All performances are at the Phoenix Fine Arts Council Theatre, 302 West Lathem in Phoenix. Tickets are available at FirsTravel, Ltd., 5150 North Seventh Street and Humanspace Books, Inc., 2401 North 32nd Street. Reservations are being taken at the box office, 258-9773.

COMING OUT
TO YOUR GYNECOLOGIST

BOSTON, MA (OCN) - Have you come out to your gynecologist? According to a survey of over 1,800 Lesbians and bisexual women, reported in the American Journal of Public Health and Sojourner, if you haven't, you're in the majority. Fifty-five percent of those surveyed have never discussed their sexual preference with their gynecologist.

Apparently assuming heterosexuality for all women, ninety-one percent of the surveyed women's gynecologists had never asked clients about their sexuality.

Women would be more likely to disclose their sexuality if this information were not written on their medical records, according to 60 percent of those surveyed. However, of the women who had come out to their gynecologists, 30 percent were met with a negative response (e.g. the doctor left the room and had the nurse finish questioning or the doctor made a referral to a mental health professional).

Twenty-two percent of the women thought that their health care would improve if their gynecologist was aware of their sexual preference.

FINGERS DO THE WALKING

MADISON, WI (OCN) - Activists have put a stop to efforts to ban use of the words "Lesbian and Gay" in phone books in this city, Milwaukee and Lansing.

"OUT!!" reports that the threat of a lawsuit caused the Yellow Page officials to reverse their decision to discriminate against Lesbian and Gay groups.

David Smith, owner of Four Star Fiction and Video in Madison, had an ad rejected by the Yellow Pages because it mentioned Gay and Lesbian fiction. His attorney, Mark Burns, is certain that the Yellow Page bureaucrats would not have retracted their decision if it were not for Wisconsin's law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual preference. Unless pressed, "they're going to discriminate whenever they can get away with it."

In Lansing, Michigan, it took a state attorney general's ruling to convince right-wing groups that the Bell Telephone Company cannot legally refuse to list Lesbian or Gay organizations in the phone directory, reports Gay Life. The current directory lists organizations such as Lesbian/Gay Hotline. Senator Alan Crosey, representing anti-Gay right-wing organizations, questioned the legality of the ruling, since Michigan's sodomy laws make "homosexuality" illegal.

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Consumer Advocate

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LOTTERY BILL WOULD GIVE DES NAMES

PHOENIX - Lottery winners who owe child support or on welfare may find that a government agency has their number when they try to collect. Legislation introduced by Rep. Jan Brewer R-Glendale, would require the state Lottery Commission to report the name and Social Security number of anyone who wins more than \$600 to the Department of Economic Security.

Another section of the bill would allow state agencies to give lottery officials lists of people who own them money. When a winner came in to claim a prize, the name and social security numbers would be compared with the lists.

HOSPITALS MUST GIVE PATIENTS' FILES TO COPS

PHOENIX (AP) - Hospitals may not claim a doctor-patient privilege when law-enforcement officials file a search warrant to seize a patient's records, an appellate court ruled last Thursday, Feb. 6.

The Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in an action brought by Samaritan Health Services, which claimed that search warrants filed by the state Department of Public Safety and the city of Glendale violated patients' constitutional rights. The hospital contended that it had a duty to claim the physician-patient privilege when neither the doctor nor the patient was present.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge David Roberts had granted summary judgment to Glendale and the DPS, saying that the use of search warrants to get patients' records was not unconstitutional.

The Court of Appeals agreed saying further that hospital officials may help law-enforcement officials find the records they seek, to keep officials from seeing the records of other patients.

Several state laws require the disclosure of patient information, including doctors' duty to report infectious diseases, or gunshot and

knife wounds that may have resulted from illegal activity, the court said. If lawmakers want to require hospitals to assert a doctor-patient privilege, they may enact a law to that effect, the judges said.

STOP COLLECTING ETHNIC DATA, FEDERAL HOUSING OFFICIALS TOLD

WASHINGTON, DC (AP) - The Reagan administration has ordered some of its housing officials to stop collecting racial and ethnic data on program beneficiaries, information now used to head off discrimination, federal officials have said.

Using its authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, President Reagan's Office of Management and Budget has rejected all or parts of several forms proposed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans Administration, said Edwin L. Dale, Jr., an OMB spokesman.

Officials of those agencies said racial and ethnic information on mortgage insurance applications and other documents is used to find and correct discrimination in federal housing aid.

Gerald R. McMurray, staff director for the Democrat-controlled House Banking subcommittee on housing, charged the administration with devious motives. "This is a typical ploy of the Reagan administration to quietly dismantle these programs by knocking out the whole way we're able to determine their effectiveness," McMurray said. "The data base for our assisted housing programs is being casually dismantled... We just don't have the information we need to legislate in a thoughtful manner."

(ED NOTE: The following letter appeared in the Jan. 11th issue of the Arizona Daily Star. It is reprinted here as food for thought)

"P.W. Redlaczek, in his recent letter "Wear your seat belt," said "driving is a privilege granted by the state." To have a police officer, as Redlaczek identified himself, postulate that the state can grant a privilege is shocking, and Orwellian in both tone and concept.

The United States provides regulation only for the common good, and can require demonstration of competence in a particular activity, but can never pass a privilege to a single individual.

For motor vehicles and driving, the state did not even get interested in regulation and licenses until they were identified as a source of revenue. The 55-mpg speed limit, a regulation promulgated by a gaggle of brain-dead dragon slayers, is an obvious example of this monetary-only mentality.

It is our hope that this totalitarian concept of privilege is eradicated and the basic freedoms and rights as defined in the Bill of Rights are maintained. It is not, never has been, and never will be the province of the state to protect the individual from himself. In the United States, the individual has never granted this privilege to the state.

S.M. Hubbel - Tucson

IMMIGRANTS TO U.S. MAY FACE AIDS TEST

LOS ANGELES, CA (AP) - An order requiring all permanent immigrants to the United States to be tested for exposure to AIDS has been signed by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Otis R. Bowen, a spokesman says. The proposed order would add AIDS to a list of medical conditions, including sexually transmitted diseases, that exclude immigrants from entering the United States as permanent residents, the Los Angeles Times and The New York Times reported.

The regulation must be released for 60 days of public comment and receive approval from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the Los Angeles paper said, citing sources it did not identify.

The proposed regulation does not specifically require immigrants to take an acquired immune deficiency syndrome antibody test, but language in its preamble suggests that the secretary should order the blood test, the newspaper said.

Screening tests for the antibody to the suspected AIDS virus have been mandatory at the nation's blood collection centers since March. A positive test indicates the presence of AIDS antibodies. That means the person tested has been exposed to the AIDS virus, but it does not mean the person has AIDS.

HHS spokesman Charles Kline told the New York Times that tests would be taken by emigrants in their own countries under medical screening programs in place through the INS.



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GAY GAMES GETS \$10,000

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Jack Campbell, president of the Club Body Centers, presented a \$10,000 check to the Gay Games Board of Directors at a recent meeting. Representing nine other affiliated members of the newly formed Club Body Centers which have become business sponsors of Gay Games II, Campbell emphasized the Centers' commitment to the health of the Gay community as a major reason for their contribution.

"By promoting health, the new clubs will naturally promote more interest in the Games," stated Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games and president of San Francisco Arts and Athletics, Inc., in accepting the check from Campbell.

Gay Games II is scheduled for Aug. 9-17. It is an international cultural and sports festival which is expected to draw 5,000 participants from around the world.

GAY RESORT PLANNED NEAR RENO

RENO, NV - The National Association of Lesbians and Gays, a non-profit corporation in Nevada, is planning to develop "Stonewall Park," a Gay resort and recreation community. The project will offer legal gambling and full recreational facilities as well as a planned residential community.

A self-sustaining base for the community's economy will be based on a concept of a destination resort geared toward Lesbians and Gay men. Stonewall Park is being marketed as the nation's first Gay resort and residential community offering comfort, respite, recreation and a permanent home in a completely supportive environment.

Additional information can be obtained by calling (702) 322-8093.

BLACK LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS STUDIED

LOS ANGELES, CA - A survey of black Lesbian relationships is currently being conducted by UCLA researchers, directed by Dr. Vickie Mays. In particular, the researchers are interested in documenting those things which make it easier or more difficult for black Lesbians to find and keep friendships and lover relationships.

Interested individuals or couples should contact Dr. Mays at the Black Woman's Relationship Project, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024 or call (213) 396-4906 to request a questionnaire.

AIDS INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS DENIED PAYMENTS

SANTA MONICA, CA - Coastal Insurance Company of Santa Monica, which gained national publicity last year by offering 'AIDS Insurance', has denied payments to four policyholders who purchased supplemental AIDS coverage and filed claims. The company has sold 1,200 policies in four states.

A coastal spokesman said four claims have been made to the company, and all were denied payment for failing to note that they had AIDS-related symptoms at the time they purchased the policies. The policies claim to pay a maximum of \$78,000 a year. Coastal raised their rates from \$194 to \$290 in the past year.

AIDS SPREADING FASTER IN NYC INFANTS

NEW YORK, NY (AP) - AIDS has become the most common infectious disease in newborn infants in some parts of New York City. Its spread is increasingly rapid among children even as the adult AIDS epidemic slows, researchers said. Fighting the spread of children's AIDS may be especially difficult because most infants with AIDS are born to mothers with no outward signs of disease, said Dr. Howard Minkoff, director of obstetrics at the State University of New York-Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

Only four of 34 mothers studied who gave AIDS to their children at birth had any symptoms of acquired immune deficiency syndrome or related illnesses. Minkoff said AIDS has now become the most common infectious disease of newborn infants in Brooklyn and other parts of New York City where AIDS is prevalent.

AIDS has struck 16,227 adults, nationwide and 231 children, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. About 5,000 of the adult cases, and 103, or some 40 percent, of the children's cases have occurred in New York, said Rita O'Donnell, a public-health advisor in the city health department.

O'Donnell said she expects the number of children's AIDS cases in New York to double by the end of the year, while the epidemic of AIDS in adults is slowing. She estimates that for every child who has AIDS in New York, there are three to five children who have AIDS-related complex, a milder illness caused by the AIDS virus that might or might not develop into AIDS.

AIDS weakens the immune system of its victims, leaving them prey to unusual infections and forms of cancer. It is more likely to be fatal in children than adults, O'Donnell said. Sixty-nine percent of the New York children with AIDS have died, but only 52 percent of New York adults have died since record-keeping began in 1981, she said.

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Local 'Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Okays Gays

As reported earlier (OBSERVER, Feb. 12), Big Brothers of Los Angeles published a letter which appeared in the Tucson Citizen and stated that "Big Brothers Has No Place For Gays". Jack Stockslager, Co-chair of the Tucson Lesbian Gay Alliance wrote a letter to the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tucson asking for a clarification of their policy. The following is a response from Tucson Executive Director Chip Tullgren:

"Dear Mr. Stockslager:

This letter is in response to your inquiry letter regarding the concern of discrimination toward Gays in our local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. To begin with, the bottom line is that we do not exclude Gays in our local agency. We do accept and match homosexuals and bisexuals; however, they must pass our screening procedures that are enforced for all potential volunteers.

The screening process (for matching volunteers with children) begins during the interview with the "Little" and their parent. We present a list of matching preferences to the parent. Their choice includes preferences regarding the volunteer's ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality, age, personality, marital status, etc. (even including preferences as to whether they drive a motorcycle or wear a beard). Through this list, we attempt to discern what "type" of volunteer would best work with the family in order to develop the most beneficial relationship possible with the child. "We do not match volunteers who are in conflict with the preferences of the parent.

The screening of each of our volunteers is thorough and intense. The purpose of the screening is to evaluate whether or not that individual is suited to effectively perform as a volunteer in our unique one to one friendship program. We are looking for volunteers who lead a balanced life, are dependable, committed, mature, and exhibit stability in their jobs, with

peers, in their marriage, (if married), with their emotional expression, etc. We are also trying to screen out potential pedophiles (who may be either heterosexual or homosexual).

We directly ask the volunteers as to their sexual preference, as well as additional questions to ascertain whether or not the person is comfortable in their sexuality, stable, and not acting out inappropriately (heterosexual, bi-sexual and homosexual alike). If the person is not comfortable or stable in their sexuality or they lie about their sexuality, it would be grounds to exclude them from our program.

In conclusion, to restate our policy, we do not exclude a homosexual based upon their sexuality. A homosexual must meet our standards of screening and a parent must be open to having their child matched to a homosexual. Currently, we have about 10 homosexuals or bisexuals matched to volunteers and three of our mothers of Littles are Lesbian.

I appreciate your concern and willingness to check into our policy. I also appreciate your past support of our bowlathon and hope that you will continue to support our agency through the bowlathon and through our other projects and endeavors. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Sincerely

(signed) Chip Tullgren

Executive Director

BOB JR-SALLY B-SCOTT B-RAY K-DAVE P-BOBBY P-ERIC K-SUSAN D-DAW M-JEFFERY M-ED P-PHIL C-DENNIS K-STEVE M-LOUIE W-

SUSAN D-DAW M-JEFFERY M-ED P-PHIL C-DENNIS K-STEVE M-LOUIE W-

VOLLEYBALL
This SUNDAY
MARCH 16
1:00p.m.

struttin' in
the new season

On Our New Girls Court

STEAK DINNERS
4p.m. to DUSK

JOSHUA TREE/BACK POCKET
2921 N. 1st Avenue
622-6233

Tucson
Lesbian/Gay Alliance
Report

TUCSON - On Monday, March 10, TLGA voted unanimously to officially endorse and support the Shanti Foundation of Tucson. The Foundation as presented by Executive Director Michael Griffin, provides personalized emotional support to people with AIDS, their loved ones and family members. TLGA believes that the Shanti Foundation will operate in a professionally trained capacity to provide this much needed service not only with a regularly scheduled weekly group and individual sessions but also on an as needed (crisis intervention) basis. Volunteers will be expected to be available when the service is needed. We urge the community to give this new organization your support.

In other business TLGA will be working with the Tucson Alternative Lifestyle Health Association (TALHA) - Gay men's Clinic - In developing a condensed guide about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. This guide will be incorporated into the 1,500 remaining copies of the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Resource Guide. There will be no further copies of the resource guide distributed until the AIDS information guide is completed. So in approximately 2 weeks, the revised Tucson Lesbian/Gay Resource Guide will be available free throughout this city's bars, book stores and other businesses.

TLGA has also started the planning for this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week activities. Pride week in Tucson will take place from June 22 through June 28th. We will again kick off the activities with the picnic on Sunday, June 22 at Himmel Park. The picnic this year will also include carnival-type activities. We are inviting all Lesbian and Gay oriented organizations to set up information, contest, food and/or fundraising booths at the picnic.

Excel in the Desert
March 14 - 16

PHOENIX - The Desert Excel Team is extending an invitation to everyone to participate in a weekend adventure March 14-16. The Excel weekend offers a unique opportunity for one to rediscover their spirituality in an open and affirming environment. The weekend experience consists of a diversity of people who are learning, living, worshiping and playing together. Gradually throughout the weekend one discovers a foundation of what is basic or fundamental to being an alive, active and growing Christian.

Although Excel is sponsored by area Metropolitan Community Churches, the weekend is an ecumenical experience in building bridges between Christians in a positive way by accenting similarities rather than differences. Excel stands for Exercises in Christian Living and helps one discover the greater area of common ground rather than dwelling on religious differences.

"I encourage anyone seeking spiritual growth and support to take advantage of this weekend experience", says Rev. David Paul, an MCC minister, member of the Desert Excel Team and Chairperson of Arizona's Lesbian & Gay Interfaith Alliance. "I've found Excel a new opportunity to make new friends and for churches to work together towards renewal in the desert states."

The Excel weekend is held at a secluded area of cabins in a Desert setting at Lake Pleasant. The weekend begins Friday evening and finishes Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$40 per person which includes food, lodging and materials. Call or write today for more information and registration: Excel in the Desert, P.O. Box 121, Scottsdale, AZ 85252 or call George at 998-9732 or Jim at 279-5542.



Sunday, March 16

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARTY

Free Brunch
2p.m. to ???

Happy Hour Prices
Day and Night

The Graduate 23 W. University
Tucson, Arizona
622-9233

Between the Weird and the Wonderful

JOHN F. KARR

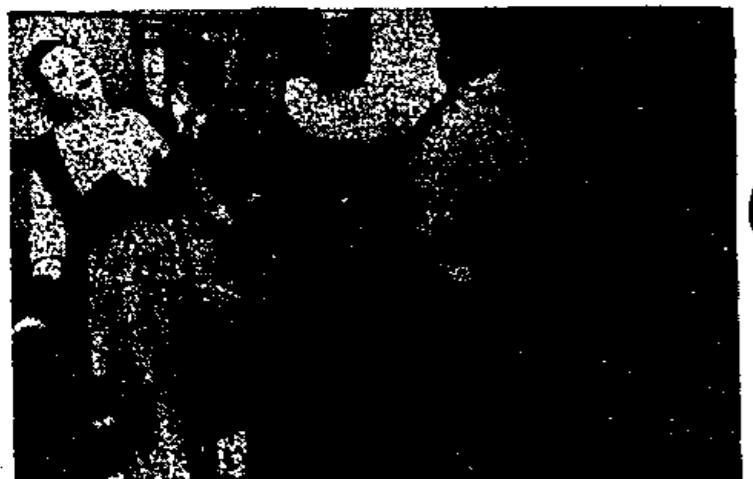
The challenge in being a drag queen, says Boy George, lies in finding the correct balance between weird and wonderful. Mankind's age-old interest in drag may lie in the point it presents of witnessing this strange balancing point between the sexes. Biblical mythology tells us that woman came from—out of—man. Perhaps our fascination with transvestism comes from our unconscious desire to be whole again.

Although it's hard to find documentation, drag was a popular and acceptable entertainment form in America for many years. In the early part of this century, no show or revue was complete without a drag act. Even the Ziegfeld Follies had its Queen. These queens—Frances Renaut, Du Nord, Karyl Norman—had their female counterparts, with Vesta Tilley and Kitty Donner masquerading as top-hatted men. Among other causes, world wars, and an anti-homosexual campaign led by the show business bible *Variety* cleared transvestites from all "respectable" stages by the

late '30s. Although Uncle Miltie brought drag to television in the early '50s, it wasn't until the last several years that drag once again became a viable performance art. Here's a brief introduction to several of the most popular American drag queens, and a look at contemporary drag on stage and off. In drag we confront our sexual values more abruptly than in any other art form, and that's weird. And when performers cast their illusions, it's wonderful.



Quite the opposite of the wildy feminine Julian Eltinge was Bert Savoy, who played with his partner/straight man as Savoy and Brennan. Perhaps it was Savoy's hammy, bawdy, and leering manner that allowed him to be a star in his own right, when other drag of the day appeared to be Eltinge imitators. Savoy was a camp, calling everyone "she," and dishing the dirt. It is claimed that Mae West "borrowed" not only her famous walk from Bert Savoy, but also her intoning manner of speaking and her catch phrase, a variant of Savoy's "you muss come over." Savoy and Brennan headlined the Palace, and starred in several editions of John Murray Anderson's Greenwich Village Follies. In the middle of his third starring season, while walking on Long Island, Savoy was struck by lightning and killed. An unverifiable legend has it that Mr. Savoy's last words were a riposte to the thunder which preceded the fatal lightning. In his outrageous honest, this was 1923! stage manner, Bert supposedly said, "Mercy, ain't Miss God cutting up something awful!"



Today only old-timers recall Julian Eltinge, but he was the most famous impersonator of them all. He headlined in countless plays, musicals, and silent films, always appearing as both a woman and a man, to heighten the effect of his beauty in drag. In gratitude for his great success, Eltinge's manager built a theater in his name, which stands today as the Empire movie house on 42nd Street.

Eltinge was a dandy gentleman who visualized the big money he could make as an impersonator while playing the heroine in an amateur theater group. His vision was capped by a European tour and command performance for Edward VII at Windsor Castle. His most famous routine was a bathing beauty scene in which he had six different bathing suits. He worked hard, developing an extensive knowledge of fabric, color, pose, and dress, and learning make-up from Lillian Russell to make his impersonations as beautiful and tasteful as possible. Such work paid off, for women adored his style. Still, he stressed his masculinity in an aggressive and likable manner offstage, as if he had something to prove. His name was never lied, however, to either scandal or a lover. He lived with his mother for years, and died alone after an unsuccessful comeback in 1941. Famed for his good taste and beauty, Eltinge created the initial fascination for impersonation, and his influence didn't fade until World War Two. Here (l.) he plays a fainting customer to Mary Pickford's (r.) bank robber.

Gay History

DOOR PRIZES



No tribute would be complete without Barbette, the American vaudevillian who became the toast of Paris, and the basis for Julie Andrews' "Viktor," not as a singer, but as an aerialist. You say you've always wanted to be a transvestite trapeze artist? Sorry—it's already been done! Barbette was coaxed into drag by a wire-walking friend who claimed audiences were more impressed by female artists than male, and audiences did love the finale of Barbette's act, when he slid down a chute from his trapeze to the floor and pulled off his wig with a flourish. Barbette was Cocteau's muse in the film, *Blood of the Poet*, flew over Durante's head in *Jumbo* while the Schmora sang "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World," and then worked backstage in Hollywood when his performing career was ended by pneumonia. Barbette is the only female impersonator to have been the subject of a *New Yorker* magazine profile.



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Many thanks to all the sponsors.
Especially Bruce Pegg, Bob Bishop
& Roger

RUMORHAZZIT
2222 N. STONE, TUCSON

DOOR PRIZES



WHAT'S UP DOC?



The TKO "Closet Ball" is this coming Saturday, March 15, so now is the time to say OK, and find yourself a sponsor so you can enter. How many times have you watched a drag show and in the back of your mind thought, "What would I look like in drag?" How often on Halloween have you cloaked around in drag? This also applies to all of you out there who are considered butch.

Remember, the basic idea behind the Closet Ball is the best transformation from one gender to the other. Those who are considered to be more on the butch side would, in this contest, might stand a better chance of winning than someone nelly. Yes, you may lose that beard or mustache or whatever, but for a one-time appearance, the chance to walk away with \$150 for first place, \$75 for second or \$50 for third place, and knowing it all grows back, don't you think it's worth it? Even if by chance you do not win a prize, the question as to how you may look in drag will have been answered. With someone's help, you may even have a picture to show off at the next tea party you go to.

Once again I say, now is that one chance you have always wanted, so get your sponsor, fill out the application and enter this year's Closet Ball, this Saturday, March 15 at Rumor Hazzit. I'm looking forward to the Closet Ball because once again this sexy senior citizen will be the dressing room monitor. I will have my camera with me, so if you want a picture of yourself after the completed transformation, let me know. My fee for that picture can be paid off over the next year sometime, one cent. Good luck and I'll see each and all of you there. One last thing—I promise to keep my pen in my pocket in the dressing room, no TBB's.

Entertainment for this year's TKO Closet Ball will be supplied by Tucson Levi Leather Club (TALL) and their version of "Best Little Whorehouse In Texas". For anyone that may have missed this show the first time on stage at the Graduate, I cannot stress strongly enough to go see TALL's "Best Little Whorehouse". If the original producers of the movie and Broadway show would have seen it, Dolly and Bert might have had a run for their money. OK, it may not be quite that good, but I guarantee you it is one of the best locally produced stage shows Tucson has had or seen in a long time.

For those attending the show, remember that there are no reservations and there will be door prizes given away, so what more incentive do you need but to attend and have a great evening watching a great show and contest.

Moving over to the Copperstate Leathermen/Tucson Command, the following weekend, March 22 at Sir George's, we find the Observer Benefit. This benefit, organized by the Copperstate Leathermen, supported by all the local bars, clubs and/or organizations, promises to be a fun-filled and very entertaining evening. Starting with cocktails served at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and roasting of one of Tucson's celebrities, then at 9:15, a special all-star show produced by S.O.S. Tickets for the entire evening, available at all the bars, are only \$1 each. Seating for the dinner and roast is only 100, so if you plan on attending this portion of the benefit, purchase your tickets early. When the show portion of the evening comes around 9:15, the seating will increase to over 200. Show tickets are only \$1.00 and are also available at all the bars. Tickets for the evening or show only will also be available at the door if it is not sold out beforehand.

I'm dropping in on S.O.S. meeting to see what they have up and coming. If I want to get info from them, it looks like I'll just have to force myself to sit in on their meeting with a cold Bud. I do know they are

having elections today (Sunday), the results to follow. What with Hair On Broadway expanding again, David is going to have his hands full of hair curlers so someone else will be taking hold of the reins of S.O.S. for the up-coming year. During this fiasco (normal) meeting they found time to hold election. Newly elected are President: Big Mike; Vice President: Penny; Secretary: Ken; Treasurer: Annie and Other (Blabber Mouth): Roger. Good luck to the new officers and I look forward to working with all of S.O.S. in the next year. They are planning on another Easter Bonnet contest at the Graduate.

I'm only giving one little TBB's this week but a lot could be said about this one. After reporting last week about Lindsay looking for her hat, I found out from Big Bear that on another occasion in the Graduate, Lindsay (aka Little Bear or Huggy Bear) also lost her bra in the bar. She proceeded to look for it, finding up Bill N. All the time, this little item was hidden in Big Bear's bra.

That's it for this week gang, so everyone have a fun-filled, safe week. Jean, I hope and pray you are well very soon and get back to the Graduate for lunch real soon. Also, a week late, but a very special (better late than never) Happy Birthday to Mike W.



This Week's TV Programs

7:00 (2) THE LOVE BUTT (60 min.) The head mermaid knew she wouldn't be gone for long. She'll be back with bells on only as long as the Captain can come through. Mermaid: Christi Luvshtiz. Captain: Thom McSmirnoff.

(7) THE GUILDED GIRLS (60 min.) Sophia declares she hasn't had sex in ten years and it's beginning to bother her. Sophia: Brucia Hazzit.

(69) FRONTLINE (60 min.) Hostess Jackie de Soy Sauce welcomes guest Loretta Von Dysternhucker who explains why she isn't writing anymore. Hostess: Candi Plasti bakes an upside-down, red devil, vacuum cleaner cake. Don Hinkie orchestra.

8:00 (2) KATIE AND AL (60 min.) Katie keeps getting flowers from her secret admirer. They do brighten up her work place but Al is beginning to wonder. Katie: Petra St. Pool. Al: Roger Curtin.

(7) MIAMI TWICE (60 Min.) Stubbs and Crock are kept busy typing up all sorts of last minute entries, which is why their joint venture is getting on the stands later and later each week. Stubbs: Bob Jealous.

(69) MOVIE - Drama (2 hrs.) "Will They Ever Be The Same?" The old story of what is known as a 'Closet Ball' and how many entertainers around town started off exactly that way. It starts the multitudes.

9:00 (2) DIE NASTY (60 Min.) Kristie is very busy still putting the benefit together, never realizing the surprise of her life could be waiting for her. Kristie: Davida Zircon.

(7) ST. SOMEWHERE (60 Min.) Mrs. Endicott is starting to make waves and nobody is very happy about it. Mrs. Endicott: Stephanie Pritchett.



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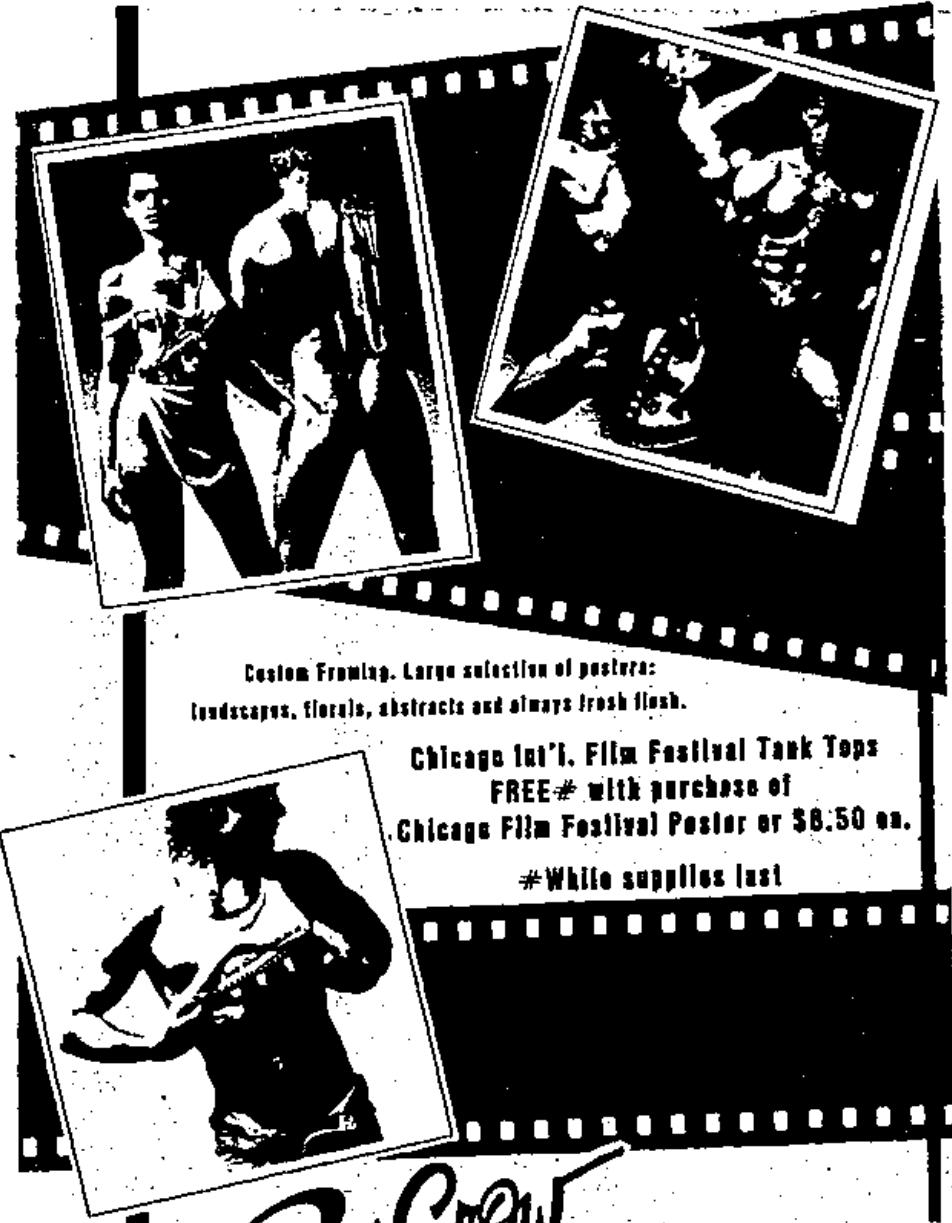
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I Try

To Remember

The Cruise To Remember

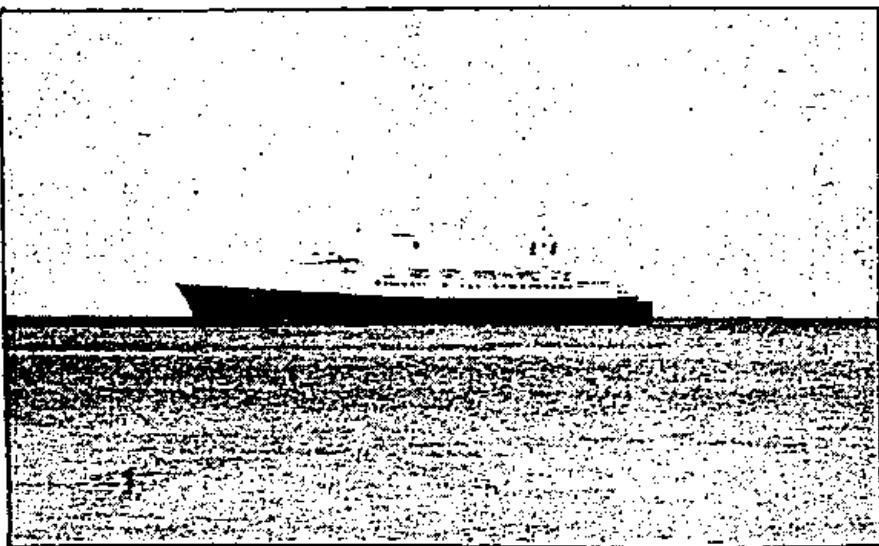
by Arthur and John

(PART ONE)

I admit to being awed when we rounded the corner at the embarkation pier and the black hull rose above us; and we were more than a little amazed at the milling groups of men murmuring and talking and pointing; but nothing could prepare us for the miles of formica and painted metal that welcomed us as we boarded the *Bermuda Star* to begin our *"Cruise To Remember"*. Beautifully maintained, clean as a boatswain's whistle and straight out of the 50's - untouched by anything but rags and vacuum cleaners. "Wood" paneling on the walls and ceilings, "coordinated" brown carpeting with abstract stripy patterns and buzzing fluorescent tubes behind yellowed acrylic diffusers scratch off in every direction.

looking and equipped with a motor - no rowing on the open seas for these boys! The crew circulated continually tightening and rearranging the jackets, while this attractive and charming young "French" Canadian lieutenant lectured, giving us "important informations" should be have to "aa-ban-dawn" ship. I know several among us would have followed him willingly right over the rail!

After taking a nap (and finishing the rest of the champagne) we dressed for dinner. The previous week we had been discussing the concept "formal" and decided, what the hell, they're not going to put us off the ship if we don't have a tux.



Men in white suits directed us to our cabin - "Upstairs, all the way to the end." We walked in the indicated direction, with the discomforting sensation of the floor bending up to the horizon ahead. Our cabin was small and very efficiently arranged, sloping downward from the entry to the edge of the ship, with a bed and a fold-down bunk. We figured John got to sleep in the bunk because I was sure my feet would stick out, disoriented and tired from the flight, we just sat for a few minutes and speculated when the luggage would arrive and if we could get ice for the champagne that had been placed in the room. I really don't know what we expected but this ship was not lit. The elegance was there, but an elegance of pole lamps, sparkly plastic laminate, overstuffed swivel chairs and shiny brass cocktail tables, not our modern expressions of chrome, sleekness and glass. I could tell, though, we'd get used to it.

At four, the ship was due to depart so we climbed to the main deck to participate in the festivities. Black-tied waiters circulated with champagne as with a slight shudder the ship slowly drifted away from the dock. The breeze increased and people blew little poppers that sent colored streamers into the air. A feeling of something new and truly unusual pervaded the crowd - not a woman to be seen, men of every type and age all around. We were off on an ocean liner heading down the brown Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

The first official shipboard event, aside from actually leaving the dock (someone told me that ships don't take off, the embark) was the mandatory lifeboat drill. Our boat, No. 10, assembled on the deck, in the shade and very cool breeze, all slightly drunk and with our life jackets on. John was pleased to discover that our lifeboat was fully-covered, substantial

so we did our best and came out looking pretty good in new sports coats and slacks. Dinner was, at least the first night, an anti-climax, after the nervousness and anticipation.

The main dining room was a long, low ceiling affair stretching the entire width of the boat and probably half of its length. Non-descript chairs surrounded table with white linens and a wine list and the ever-present lily. I can't think of the name, but you know them - the red, shiny collar surrounding the thick middle part which sticks up in a familiar manner. Several days later, so prevalent in the ship's decoration were they, I had begun to think these flowers were the cruise line's sly dig at the clientele on this particular cruise.

At the sides of the room were troughs with cut-out grilles in front of them, resembling stair balusters, and back-lit with yellow light to simulate daylight, I suppose. Altogether, the room produced an odd spacious, yet enclosed feeling; however, one left off noticing the room at all after some time. Service was provided by lots of Jamaican men dressed in tuxes, and in white for the special occasions. One does grow accustomed to having plates miraculously disappear when they are empty, indeed.

The menu every night would feature 4 appetizers, 3 soups, 2 salads (typically, whether they broke the iceberg up big or small), 3 vegetables, and 5 entrees, including the "chef's recommended special". I tried medallions of veal in a mediterranean style sauce that night; unfortunately it reminded me of swiss steak at home, which I do better than their veal version. Things improved after the first night, thank goodness. John started his fish bing which

I TRY TO REMEMBER THE "CRUISE TO REMEMBER".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

he continued for several days (did you ever notice the slight tilt to his eyes?)

A show, featuring Karmellion, a shapely woman with hair resembling spun polyester (we never did decide if it was a wig or not - she wouldn't go into the pool far enough), possessing a very histrionic singing style (hand drops, head falls as the lights fade on the song climax) was the entertainment that evening in the Star Lounge (I'll tell you about that place later), so we skipped and sat in the Observatory Lounge and listened to cocktail piano over drinks. This lounge was on the next to very top deck and on the front of the ship, with huge windows looking out, the Mississippi and tiny lights passing before us. Later, we ventured down to the Safari Lounge, the onboard disco. This was a smallish bar, dimly lit, circular in shape, with a tiny, round dance floor. The walls sported a jungle stripe, fuzzy covering on parts and an abstract print, like lava lamp innards, on the rest. Brass cocktail tables, anchored to the floor, were lit by things resembling crystal balls, but with an internal light. The mirrored bar was green back-lit. Everything seemed fuzzy - or was it me?

About this point, I started to feel a little funny; the boat was noticeably rolling and my stomach was moving in rhythm. The only thing was to ignore it, completely and have more drinks and dance. The DJ, a Jamaican guy in a red jacket, stood completely still and unsmiling behind his turntables and spun a good mix of disco hits and hot funk and rock - but he could have been playing church music. This is the first time I noticed the older gentleman, you know the type - came out too late, dresses twenty years younger than he is and dances to the death, all in an effort to make up for lost time - who we came to know as the "beached whale" - later! We

danced 'till we were tired, climbed to the rear deck for a little dash of sea and stars and returned to the cabin - beat. We couldn't take any more relaxation and crashed! CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!!!

Guest Editorial

(ED NOTE: The following editorial appeared in the January 3rd issue of the Tucson Citizen and is reprinted here as food for thought)

BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Before lapsing back into penury, rekindle the spirit of giving briefly to consider the plight of the poor federal judge.

According to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, great financial strain caused by "salary erosion" is making it hard for federal judges to make ends meet. Burger should know. He's struggling along on \$108,000 annually, and he probably suffers the chronic complaints from his Supreme Court colleagues, who get by somehow, day-to-destitute-day, on even \$4,000 less.

It's a sad day when a federal judge finds it easier to stretch a judicial robe around his well-padded midriff than to stretch a meager \$1,500 from one week to the next.

If Burger's plea fails to stir you to donate through your local IRS office, there's still hope.

Senators found a way to balance their bank accounts and still have the best revenge by slipping a little change into a last-minute bill passed before congress adjourned last year. They increased the amount of honoraria fees they can keep for personal use by \$7,500.

Honoraria have been primarily money given to lawmakers for speeches, but lately the definition has been expanded to include a fee for lunch with select businessmen or a payment from a Political Action Committee - for future consideration?

So take pity. Take a federal judge to lunch.

New England Style . . .



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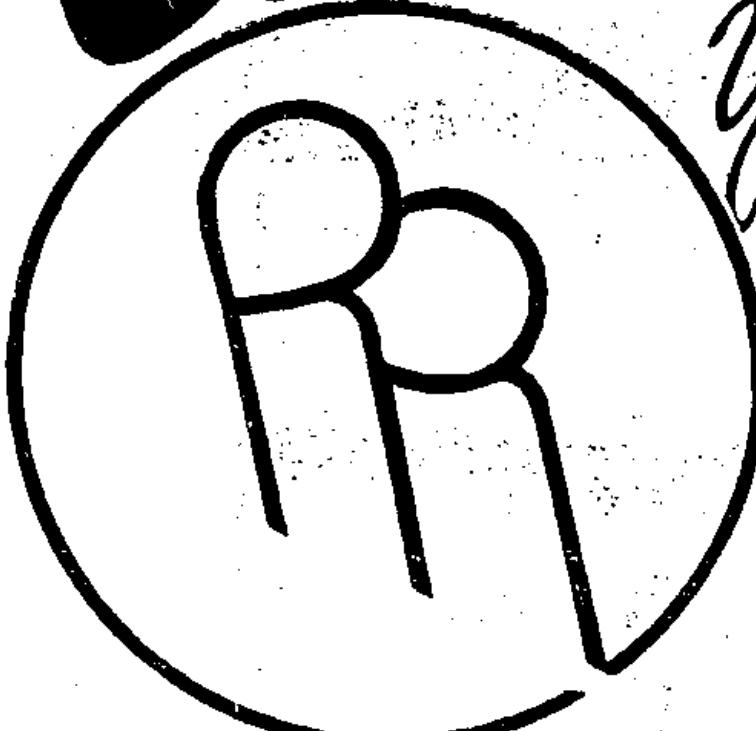
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NOTICES

'THE SEEKERS' ...providing monthly Catholic liturgy, Bible study, rap groups and social activities for Gays and Lesbians interested in personal and spiritual growth within the context of a "family" of caring and concerned Catholic individuals and their friends. For information, call 297-6340 or 745-1812 Tucson. 83

BUILD UP YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM AND ENJOY IT with a stress reducing therapeutic massage and nutritional counseling. Call Marc Haberman, licensed Holistic Health Practitioner, 881-4582 for appointment during business hours only. 85

GAY AND LESBIAN ADULT DISCOURSES Tucson, self-facilitated, open rap group. Topics, opinions personal concerns discussed. Occasional guest speaker. For meeting time and place call 792-3772.

YOU ARE INVITED to join a discreet group of Gay men and women ages 24-40 who meet at each others homes in a relaxed, social environment for the purpose of sharing good conversation, pot lucks, outings, etc., as an alternative to the bars. If interested, please write with means of contact to P.O. Box 11651, Tucson, AZ 85734.

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

T-SQUARES, square dancing group meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at It's Bout Time, 616 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP) MEETS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Dining Room "C" (Second Floor) at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome and urged to attend. Get involved! For more information call 792-3772.

GAY OR LESBIAN??? AND HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?? Call A.A. 624-4183. 24-Hour Hotline, for information on Gay and Lesbian meetings in Tucson.

NOTICES

TUCSON ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE HEALTH ASSOCIATION (TALHA) Gay men's clinic, for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and counseling on AIDS/HIV-1 and for the worried-well. Located at 101 W. Irvington; Phone 573-0096. Open 6 to 8 p.m. every Friday. A \$5 donation is requested. TALHA also is in need of doctors and nurses to volunteer their services.

SENIOR GAYS (Over 40). If interested in joining, call Russ at 795-7180 Tucson.

U.S.A. - The Uncircumcised Society of America is accepting members in the Tucson area. For uncircumcised males or those interested in this area. Call 881-4582 for information. C

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A View From Within

A COMMENTARY BY
CHRISTOPHER GEOFFREY McPHERSON

NASA AND I ARE ALMOST THE SAME AGE

I suppose I could say my reaction to news of the CHALLENGER disaster was pretty typical. At first, I told my neighbor (who broke the news to me) that the joke was not funny. Then --as reality sunk in-- I was upset. Exactly why was I upset I am not sure --even now. Upset that it could happen; upset about those who had died; upset about the consequences this would have on my world. Upset may not be the word: Stunned is closer.

Since 28 January 1986, a lot has come out about NASA: the disaster, engineers, doubts, suspicions, and people. But one reaction which --maybe-- has stayed with me the longest came from a reporter after interviewing students at Concord High School in Concord, New Hampshire where Christa McAuliffe taught. "Never again," he said, "would they (the students) take technology for granted."

It was at this point in the shuttle tragedy, that I began to assess technology, and the effect it had on my life. I realized that I was born only a few months after NASA was created. (On 29 July 1958, the National Aeronautic and Space Act created NASA which began operation on October 1 of the same year).

I was born at a propitious moment in time: I was born at the tail end of the Baby-Boom years (which various sources state as being the years 1946 until 1964; The space race had only just barely begun; civil rights were taking on a whole new energy).

Those years since my birth have been called the years of the greatest change in the American people and -- other than the effects of World War II -- had not been seen before.

It is with this background,

that I stood and looked at the past.

I remember the Saturday (Aug. 21, 1965) when I had my tonsils removed. I had spent the previous night in the hospital and awoke that morning (with a sign saying I couldn't have anything to eat or drink placed next to my bed) to pre-empted cartoons: pre-empted because of the launch of the Gemini 5 mission. It is the earliest memory I have about the space race, and one of the most vivid.

With everything that has happened since -- the other manned missions; the subsequent shuttle flights; and the death of seven astronauts -- it would seem -- in the face of recent testimony about the NASA program -- that the space program has gone full circle: we are almost back in square one.

And wherein lies our future? Well, for one, the space program must continue. Secondly, I think we will no longer look upon NASA as the pristine example of how well a government agency can operate: for it is clear that NASA is not above reproach. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, we who use technology will never be able to look upon it with the same blase attitude I and others have acquired in years of being overindulged in its marvels.

The point is important not only because of what happened the morning of 28 January 1986, but because of what will happen in our future when someone with insight asks, "What if...?" and we respond with "Yes, but what happens should something go wrong?" We have seen one example of what could happen, and that example may be the detriment to our future innovations: a detriment with only unfortunate consequences.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

FIRMS STUDY MORE RELIABLE AIDS TESTS; SOME MAY BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS YEAR

problems with the current generation of tests."

Centocor and Cambridge Bioscience are among a half-dozen companies using gene-splicing techniques to develop new AIDS tests they hope will supplement or replace the present version, called the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, or ELISA.

The first of the tests may be available by the middle of this year, depending on approval by the Food and Drug Administration. The test is used primarily by blood banks to keep AIDS-tainted donations out of the nation's blood supply. It is also used by the military to screen recruits and by some insurance companies to check policy applicants.

The test doesn't reveal the presence of the virus. Instead, it shows whether blood contains antibodies that suggest exposure to the virus believed to cause the disease, which cripples the body's immune system. The procedure is highly sensitive and rarely misses antibodies when they exist. But it often mistakenly indicates AIDS antibodies where there are none. The blood donors are told that they've been exposed to the virus, their blood must be subjected to a more exacting test, called the Western blot assay, that is slow and difficult to perform.

Exposure to the virus does not necessarily mean acquired immune deficiency syndrome will follow. Some people may fight off the virus. At least 60 percent of people with a positive antibody test carry the AIDS virus and some may continue to carry the virus without becoming sick.

The ELISA test is made from killed AIDS viruses, but the substance is tainted with human proteins that experts believe trigger the false positive readings. The new tests will use specific bits of purified AIDS virus protein.

Abbott Labs in Chicago already has submitted one new test to the FDA for approval and hopes to have it on the market by the middle of this year. "It's far more specific than the

current screening test," said Derek Bonowitz, an Abbott researcher. "It's sensitivity is at least as good and probably better." He said the new test appears to be virtually 100 percent effective in spotting AIDS antibodies and 99.8 percent specific in ruling out AIDS-free blood.

Abbott already has an ELISA test on the market. But Bonowitz said that of all the samples that initially appear to have AIDS antibodies on this test, about five out of six are eventually determined to be clean.

The new blood test is somewhat slower and more cumbersome than the original ELISA. So it will be used mostly to double-check blood that turns up positive on the original test. But he said the company will eventually develop a faster version.

Hicks said her company also has submitted a new test for FDA approval that is as precise as Abbott's and fast enough to replace the current method.

Another advantage of the new tests is that they can be manufactured without growing the lethal AIDS virus. Several companies are working on even more sophisticated tests that would reveal the virus, not just antibodies.

As of Jan. 13, AIDS had struck 16,458 people in the United States and claimed 8,361 lives. The count began on June 1, 1981, but includes some cases dating to 1979.

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