



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

APRIL 9, 1986

ISSUE 90

None Of These Will Give You AIDS



Responding to the AIDS epidemic: Symposium tackles tough issues

by Christopher McPherson

TEMPE - A symposium sponsored by the Center for the Study of Law, Science and Technology, at the Arizona State University regarding the Constitutional, Legal and social policy issues of AIDS was held Monday and Tuesday of this week (April 7 and 8) in Tempe.

Calling AIDS a "classic civil liberties problem", Paul Bender, Dean of the ASU College of Law introduced the two-day conference which was taped for re-broadcast by KAET. (The two-part broadcast will be seen in Phoenix on Channel 8, April 19 and 26, from 1 to 4 p.m.)

Ambitious in scope the two-day conference sought to initiate discussion on many areas which, although related to the AIDS situation, have received far less attention than they deserve. These social policy issues included: insurance coverage and the insurance industry; public health; AIDS in the work place; civil liabilities for transmission of AIDS; and legislative and community goals.

The conference, arranged by Jane Aiken of the College of Law, sought to bring together nationally recognized experts on these peripheral topics. Included on the program agenda were: Dr. Mervyn Silverman, National Spokesperson for the American Foundation for AIDS Research in Los Angeles, and former Director of the Department of Health in San Francisco; Tom Stoddard, Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York; Dr. Lloyd Novick, Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services; Urvasi Vald, AIDS Coordinator of the National Prison Project, Washington, DC; Peter Goudinoff, Arizona House of Representatives, Dist. 11; Abby Rubinfeld, Legal Director of Lambda Legal and Education Fund, New York.

The turnout for the Conference was small. Rosalind Pearlman, administrative assistant for the Conference said it was "less than we had hoped for, but we're pleased with the turnout." Of the two hundred attendees hoped for, about 60 attended.

The conference itself provided a forum in which various national experts could discuss their particular fields of interest and then address questions from the audience.

Many of the facts and figures presented were of interest. After kicking off the conference with the best and most simple definition of AIDS yet offered ("A cellular immune deficiency caused by a virus.") Dr. Silverman provided some demographics "which," he said, "have remained practically unchanged since the crisis began." Of the AIDS cases 72% are homosexual; 17 percent I.V. Drug users; 2% transfusion related; 1% heterosexual; 1% Hemophilic coagulation disorder, and 6% other/unknown. (The "unknown" category is namely people who died before a proper diagnosis could be made, or those people who would not admit to being drug users or Gay.) 90% of cases are between 20 and 49 years old. 60% are white; 25% black; 14% Hispanic; 1% other.

Of the statistics which have changed, Dr. Silverman pointed out that incidents of AIDS in men is now 35 out of every million;

seven-hundred times greater than 1980.

While stressing that there is "no magic bullet at this time," Dr. Silverman did seem optimistic. About the drug AZT now being tested, he said, "(it) may have some favorable characteristics." He said the blood test is a good way to test the blood supply but, as a personal test it "is obviously a bad concept."

A light moment was injected when Dr. Silverman showed a slide asking the question: "which is easier to get by casual contact, AIDS or AIDS hysteria?" He then told of another AIDS-related affliction AIPS: AIDS induced Panic Syndrome.

Tom Stoddard summed his presentation by saying, "By and large this society has dealt pretty well with the AIDS epidemic, and it is a tribute to the American system and its people."

In a telephone interview on March 19, the coordinator of the Conference, Jane Aiken expressed her thoughts on the conference by saying the "goal is to try to look at what should and should not be done with regard to AIDS." She wanted to try to discourage the stereotypical thinking which has plagued AIDS research and given the impression that homosexual men are not responding in any way to the AIDS Crisis. "Assuming that they (Gays) are not responsible (enough) to do something about AIDS) plays right into the hands of the old stereotypes."

That same day I spoke with the executive producer of HORIZON, Dan Burrenberger. (HORIZON is the KAET Produced show which will broadcast the two-part proceedings). He supported the College of Law AIDS conference and said the "hysteria fostered by a lot of misinformation will do more harm than good to those affected by the disease."

A written and edited transcript of the proceedings, as well as video tape copies of the HORIZON special will be made available. For more information contact the ASU College of Law at 965-4010.

AIDS cases in S.F. expected to double

BY JOHN WILDERMUTH

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The AIDS caseload in San Francisco is likely to nearly double before it begins to level off next year, a specialist in epidemics told the city's Health Commission.

Stressing that his study is only preliminary, John A. Newmeyer of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic told the commission that the number of AIDS patients in the city will increase from the current 800 - 900 to about 1600 by 1987.

"This means that the city is going to have to plan for an 80 to 100 percent increase in its services for AIDS patients," he said.

Newmeyer was one of a number of speakers at a public hearing at San Francisco General Hospital on the AIDS epidemic.

Those figures could be
CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

TV

This Week's TV Programs

- 7:00 (2) **THE LOVE BUTT** (60 min.)
The head Mermaid is told, "Ask the management! Who is that?"
- (7) **THE GUIDED GIRLS** (60 min.)
Blanche is disturbed over asking "only a few entertainers" to be in a very important benefit show at the end of the month. Blanche: Eileen Over.
- (69) **FRONTLINE** - (60 min.)
Co-hostess Candi Plant is the only one who can lose a Readers Choice Awards contest with style and grace. Don Hinkle Orchestra.
- 8:00 (2) **KATIE AND AL** - (60 min.)
Katie is overheard saying something about "naked" and "shaving" and everyone wonders what gets shaved when you're naked. Katie: Petra St. Pool.
- (7) **MIAMI TWICE** - (60 min.)
Stubbs says if he doesn't get it tonight, he probably won't. Stubbs: Bob Jealous
- (69) **MOVIE** - Drama - (2 hrs)
"Alice in Wonderland". While Alice is in her "self-proclaimed" fantasy, the more well-mannered queens scream, "Off with her head! Off with her head!"
- 9:00 (2) **DIE NASTY** - (60 min.)
Alexi shows the state she can act like the perfect "lady". Alexi: Davida Zircon
- (7) **ST. SOMEWHERE** - (60 min.)
Mrs. Endicott has embarrassed the city for the last time. Mrs. Endicott: Stephanie Pricetag. (SHOW CANCELLED).

TWO MAJOR FUNDRAISERS PLANNED FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK CELEBRATION

TUCSON - With the slogan for Gay Pride Week '86 "Forward Together" - the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) has announced that there will be two major fundraisers this year to assist in offsetting costs of producing Gay Pride Week celebrations in Tucson. The first will be a benefit show at Rumor Hazzit on Sunday, April 27 and the other a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, at the Joshua Tree/Back Pocket. Proceeds from both events will be given to TLGA to support and provide funding for Gay Pride Week.

The April 27th show at Rumor Hazzit will include Miss Aviva Diamond, Delilah, Eddie Flores, Monte-Jon and Jeff. There will be many door prizes given away during the evening in addition to the scheduled 9:00 p.m. show.

On the weekend of May 3 and 4 in the "sports arena" at JT/BP there will be a stage erected, as well as many booths offering food, information, games, etc., will be set up both days and nights in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. There will be live music including a mariachi band playing both evenings. A King and Queen of the Fiesta will be chosen by votes (the amount of money each can raise) and the King and Queen will reign over Gay Pride Week activities.

The booths will be for rent to individuals, businesses and organizations. Watch for more details concerning these fundraisers and the complete list of events being planned by TLGA for Gay Pride Week '86. For further information contact: Jack Stockslager, 293-3515.



Tucson-Lesbian and Gay Alliance

forward together

tucson 86
benefit • rumorhazzit • april 27

Fatrans

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Theatre REVIEWS

TUCSONANS PERFORM AT AWARDS

PHOENIX - The Western Express Readers Choice Awards ceremony was held March 31 in Phoenix. As reported in last issue of OBSERVER, there were some Tucson performers who displayed their musical and theatrical talents that evening. Herewith is a review of their performances. (ED NOTE: Not to put down the other performances by Phoenix entertainers, but this was the way the reviewer saw the evening as it was performed by Tucson entertainers only. If someone wants to do a review of the performances by Phoenixians, please feel free to submit).

As I entered the Grand Ballroom of the Phoenix Hilton, the lights were low but not so the energy level of the people who were in attendance for the 4th Annual Readers Choice Awards.

It was with this same energy and feeling of excitement that all the performers who represented Tucson carried with them to Phoenix and sustained them through all the delays that seem to go hand-in-hand with a large production.

Even though most were tired before setting out for Phoenix from previous schedules and obligations, the professionalism of all, both on and off stage, was easily distinguishable.

When the spotlight brought to the stage Aviva Diamond, Monte-Jon Gilmer and Rick Dillon, all the hours of rehearsal, choreography, costuming all paid off in a big way for these troupers. Even without a spotlight, these veterans would have lit up any stage.

Linda Elzdale and David Ross were spectacular in blue, weaving dazzling and intricate moves to the pulsating music. The size of the room was no problem for these two pros either - if anything, it only enhanced the well-received performance. Sally Rand, eat your heart out!

GREAT OUTDOORS

TUCSON - Great Outdoors (GO) has two more weekend outings planned for the month of April.

On April 10 through 13 a trip to Palm Canyon in the Kofa Mountains north of Yuma is planned. This is the home of Arizona's only native palm trees. This is rugged desert country - impressive cliffs, steep box canyons, and expansive bajadas. The mountains surrounding Palm Canyon support a substantial Bighorn Sheep population.

This will also be a joint outing with GO/San Diego. Plan for a car camp with day hiking. This remote desert area will also afford good viewing possibilities for comet Halley fans. GO will be car camping at the BLM Crystal Hill Campground, south of Quartzsite, Arizona. Some members will leave Thursday, others will go on Friday evening or Saturday morning. More information can be obtained by calling 742-9888.

PHOENIX 'RAGE' SOCCER TEAM VISITS TUCSON

TUCSON - The team had apparently gotten some misinformation and was under the assumption that Tucson had a soccer team that was practicing to enter the upcoming Gay Games II in San Francisco this coming fall. At any rate, the San Francisco bound soccer team from Phoenix - the Phoenix Rage - descended upon Tucson this past weekend and although was disappointed in not being able to play the non-existent Tucson team, did take the opportunity to enjoy the Tucson hospitality all day Sunday.

It was reported that 'Rage' coach Richard Rose particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the Pichaco Peak rest stop on the way to Tucson. It seems some biker walked in on him as he was changing into his soccer uniform and was very, very reluctant to leave.

Good luck Phoenix Rage in Gay Games II.



THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

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THE 4TH AVENUE STREET FAIR - APRIL 25, 26, 27

SHOWS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2 & 4 P.M.
Starring the First Lady of Tucson and Tucson's Tucson's Best Female Impersonator

AVIVA DIAMOND

With Miss Gay Arizona and Phoenix's Best Female Impersonator

TAMARA

plus other special guests

SUNDAY, MAY 4

IBT'S 1st ANNUAL AWARDS PARTY

SATURDAY, DURING GAY PRIDE WEEK

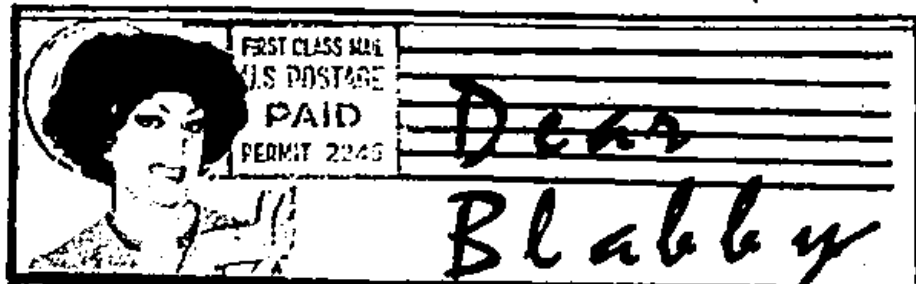
DID AVIVA SAY "A WET SHOW?" DAN DID SAY A WET PARTY!

(HOPE YOU KEPT YOUR SQUIRT GUNS!)

DANCE MUSIC WED. THRU SUN. 8 pm TIL 1 am

IT'S 'BOUT TIME

616 N. 4th Ave. Tucson, 882-3053



AUTHOR'S NOTE: Due to my late arrival back to Tucson after the Western Express Readers Choice Awards, I did not get my column in on time. In the short time I spent in Phoenix, I was able to gather up all sorts of correspondence which had all the earmarks of a real jolting column. After a week of reflecting on the notes, letters, etc., spread out in front of me, I came to the conclusion to do a little cutting out the dead wood as it were. What follows is a gathering of the highlights of a very, very interesting night.

DEAR BLABBY:

Everytime I spend the night in a hotel, I have a real paranoia of fire. Can you possibly give me some safety pointers for the next time I stay at a hotel?

signed, Fear of Flames

Dear Fear-

The best advice I can give you is: When staying at the Phoenix Hilton, I strongly suggest that you avoid dark haired men in grey tuxedos. If you fear fire, a man like that, on the eighteenth floor could send you into a coma.

B.

DEAR BLABBY:

From all I've heard out and about, the entertainment portion of the Choice Awards was really wonderful. Not only the acts from Phoenix but from Tucson as well. Is this true? It is nice to see the two cities compliment each other so well, if so.

signed, Pulling for the Pros

Dear Pulling-

What you have heard is true. Everyone on the stage, whether performer or presenter, was very professional. Phoenix and Tucson can be proud of the people who represented them at this event. At one point, late in the evening, there was an uncalled for theatrical display in the back of the ballroom. Fortunately those few who noticed it were not impressed and went back to watching the real show, on the real stage.

B.

DEAR BLABBY:

We've seen a lot of shows in the last few months and they've

been good. But, I think everyone is really ready for something different. Let's face it, it sure has been a long time since we've seen an all-live revue like a few years back, or a stage play like last year's (which won an award with another live production, I hear). Is there anything being planned for the future? I sure hope so, those shows are really great.

signed, Watching and Waiting

Dear Watching-

Funny you should ask. As a matter of fact I have heard that the ground work is being discussed this very minute for this year's (we hope) All Live Broadway Revue which sold out three nights in a row a few years back. I'll keep you posted. Also, there is a very good chance that a well known performer from Phoenix is collaborating with a Tucson performer on a stage production to be, hopefully, performed in both cities. The two person, two act comedy would be perfect for the two people in question and one can only hope that they can pull it together. Let's get to work kids. Best of luck.

B.

DEAR BLABBY:

Is it true that you are considering writing an expose entitled "Francis goes to the Awards...or How to Make an Ass of Yourself in a Ballroom"?

signed, Dying to Know

Dear Dying-

No!

B.

Rumor Hazzit brought to the stage several young men who proved to have exceptional talent when it comes to the art of showing off their bodies. Last Sunday, April 6, Michael, Jessie, Greg and Michael along with guest "stripper" Louis, gave a more than adequate view of what a male body can and should look and move around like. Here are some shots of the "hot" activity that took place last Sunday. Don't you wish you were there????!!!!

At the end of the show, a birthday cake was presented to Clint (voted number one DJ in town) who celebrated his birthday that evening along with his "boss" Mark at it's 'Bout Time.

ALL MALE REVUE



Thank you Tucson and Phoenix for voting us

● **BEST MIXED BAR**

● **BEST MIXED DANCE BAR**

● **MOST OUTSTANDING BENEFIT AT A BAR**

Sunday, April 27

Tucson Lesbian Gay Alliance

BENEFIT SHOW - 9:00 P.M. DOOR PRIZES \$3.00 Cover
starring

● **Aviva Diamond** ● **Eileen Over** ● **Monte-Jon** ● **Delilah** ● **Jeff**

Every Sunday

POOL TOURNAMENT

4:00 p.m.

\$25 Guaranteed First Prize

Longneck Domestic Beer .75

Schnapps .50

during pool tournament

HOURS: 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Various video programming all day.

Sports video on request before 9 p.m.

VIDEO DANCING 9 TO 1 NIGHTLY

RUMORHAZZIT

A VIDEO DANCE CLUB

2222 N. Stone, Tucson Arizona

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TWO
TWO
TWO
TWO
HUCHI

WHAT'S UP DOC?

Here I go again getting my article in late to Bob. I hope he isn't pulling his hair out. He hasn't got that much left!

Being under the weather over the weekend, I was not able to make Cher's show at the Graduate. After asking around, I wish now I would have because I've heard nothing but great comments. Not only were there new songs but also at least one new face.

For those of you who watched this show and the show the previous weekend, you can see why the Graduate was chosen as the Best show bar in Tucson for 1985. Of course, looking at the wall at the Graduate, there is a total of 8 new awards just for that one bar, and others shared by Aviva and Cher. My congrats to all winners in Tucson, even Miss Teresa Terminex.

I talked to Ron T. last Monday to get some info on the AGRA "Midnight Ramblers" (square dance group). This fun group will be arriving in Tucson Saturday, April 12 at the Graduate. The first square will be at the Graduate and from there it's around to the rest of the Tucson bars for dancing. I cannot find the time schedule, so check with Tom at the Graduate Saturday, that is if you want to run around with this bunch of Phoenix squares (Ha!).

You still have plenty of time to get your application filled out if you want to join the Copperstate Leathermen in Bisbee on May 3, for the "Murder at the Copper Queen". I wonder how many Copper queens will be on hand?

Don't forget, TKO's Spring Fling starts Friday, April 18 at the Graduate. If you want to join this always fun-packed 3 days, stop in at the Graduate from 9 p.m. and sign up. Another RIS-11 bus tour to the bars is

planned again for this year. I cannot tell you about this year's games, but I'm doing the purchasing for them, so you know hell will be had by all.

Due to the lateness of this article, I'll make this week's column short. I do have one special surprise - a guest writing the TBBS. The following is word for word, from a weekend fishing trip. Sunday morning found Sue and Angie in a 3-man (?) tent, with bulges. Angie spent the night with a 7-year-old. Why is it that on the trip down, Lindsey saw a hare. "rabbit". Early the next morning, she asked for dental floss. Nancy, what happened? As the night progressed, Little Tim asked why all the men weren't sleeping together. Bill said he was not going to sleep with Linda again. Cher's Chela stole the boat only to prove that there were some real suckers in the lake and not at the campsite.

Now that I've probably cut my own throat, I'll see everyone next week, on time, and with the missing notes from last week. Speaking of the missing notes, in going over them, I found one word I cannot figure out the meaning - handcuffs!

Last Saturday, April 5, a "Mixed Revue" was presented at the Graduate, which was recently voted as the number one show bar in Tucson. This show proved why they have gained that reputation. The show, produced by Cher, (who was chosen favorite female bartender at two different locations), proved a winner. MC'd by Debbie Fagan, the show ran smoothly and featured Cher, Rick, Candy, Wayne, William and "Ole" who did an outstanding strip number. The show was smoothly performed and as evidenced by the packed house, the audience was left wanting more. Here are some photos of the evening that everyone enjoyed.



I Try To Remember The Cruise To Remember

by Arthur Blank
Part Four



The day after Key West is really hard to remember. I know we allowed ourselves the luxury of skipping 7:30 breakfast and stayed in our beds until about 10:00. Thank goodness we made it back to the ship because one guy was literally left screaming on the dock. He had the wherewithal to charter a plane to Cozumel, so didn't really miss anything of the trip. We just held out with coffee and croissants until they began serving lunch on the pool deck. This usually consisted of burgers, dogs, grilled cheeses, and the like. I can eat burgers (referred to as "boogers" at home) all the time, so was quite happy with arrangement.

There wasn't much to do but hang out on the pool deck and catch some rays and look at people. They had a band there (all Filipinos - I believe all the bands were made of the same 5 guys - they just changed names and costumes - would they had Imelda's closet to dip into!) under the canopy that seemed to favor Lawrence Welk-type classics, but every now and then would take something fun and really slaughter it. Their number on "New York, New York" was really worth hearing. They did to that what most drag queens do to a song if they're actually forced to sing. The whale showed up in his obscene little pouch (all the hunks were butchly frolicking in the pool so it was a good place to

perch) and lay on the tile by the pool. As Tom would say, "fine". But then he commenced to switch on his back just like some bacon getting ready to crinkle up in the pan or maybe a fish lying in the hot sun. He was a bit much.

I think between the sun and the daily drink special (the men in tuxedos came around hawking them on trays - "Two chits - special") we became slightly toasted and decided to take a nap (mind, we'd only been up for 3 or 4 hours). There was to be a tea dance at 4:00 and we wanted to make that. Woke up about 3:45 and noticed a distinct rolling of the boat - much more so than usual. Upon looking out the porthole it appeared the sea was threatening to come up to

our level and the sky was black as a summer storm. Dressing and making our way to the deck we discovered a nasty storm underway: lightning and thunder crashing and foaming whitecaps churning into the distance. We were told that we had arrived at the confluence of two major ocean currents (the Gulf Stream and something else) off Cuba and hit the storm to boot. The tea dance was moved inside the Star Lounge (orange low couches, brass tables, pole lamps, emaciated rubber plants dotting the perimeter, swivel chairs - also orange) and the music was cranked up and the people were getting down, so to speak. It was great fun and easy to dance - you picked up one foot and the boat came

up to meet it - not so much dancing as just keeping level. I don't think those queens would have noticed us sinking, everybody was having such a good time. Mac, slightly greener than usual, was there sipping a drink. Tom was not in evidence - he'd probably retired to his cabin with medicine to weather the blow. Dinner was an interesting exercise in coordination - passing dishes on a diagonal, all the while dealing with swaying Tom and the ship. I'm sure glad it wasn't a dress-up night. The evening passed uneventfully as the storm passed. We cruised on in the darkness, music and lights blaring from the pool decking - discoing our way to Cozumel.

MORE FROM LES

by Les Bottes

A PAPER MEMORIAL

Last Saturday he was cremated and the freshly sterilized ashes spread. The Arizona desert became a pound or so richer. We had lost another one. There were no memorial services.

We, the living, are rather omnipotent. We can know the past and how things turned out. But the closer we come to our own lives, the more we feel and the less we understand. Maybe we risk losing vision. Napoleon was quoted as saying in 1813 that "...a man such as I does not concern himself with the lives of a million men." We have the luxury of forgetting the past, but the present affords us no such luxury.

We are a unique group of men and women, for we are the ones society has impeached. As soon as one of us succumbs, drawn and quartered by a virus, the general population expresses thanks. But as a group could we be guilty of negative concern. We boldly claw before the government praying for a cure, a plea that echoes our fears. Could our community possibly find honor in remembrance? Or must our friends be written off like a soldier from an ancient Greek war?

Life has been consumed. Soon no one will remember his name. To die is cruel. To be forgotten within days of one's death is crueler.

Someone wrote a few lines not long ago. A few of those words seem fitting:

The day endeth too soon
When the sun struggles to rise
Then sets before noon

— (From "An Apotheosis on the Death of Jon-Erick Hexum")
[ED NOTE: Les Bottes is a critic and writer living in Arizona. This is the first of a number of columns dealing with a variety of subjects of interest to our readers].

LETTERS

EDITOR:

A note of appreciation to Dr. Bob Henry and Michael Hutchins of the Tucson AIDS Project for providing a training for trainers session to Mobilization Against AIDS and AAP-T volunteers on safer sex education workshops.

We appreciate Bob's and Michael's willingness to share their knowledge and expertise.

On behalf of the Board and members of Mobilization, please extend our appreciation to Tucson AIDS project and to Dr. Henry and Michael Hutchins.

Regards
Kimberly Webster
Co-Director
Mobilization Against AIDS-Phoenix

DEAR BOB,

I'm sorry I could not attend the OBSERVER fund raiser and "Bob Ellis Roast". We were out-of-town and I can see we missed a very successful event and perhaps one of the major social events of the season.

None-the-less, I want to take this opportunity to say a big "thank you" to you and the members of the staff of the OBSERVER for a job well done!

Bob, you personally have done more for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Tucson to keep us informed than any other person or group of people. Your dedication to our community and your tireless efforts on our behalf are noted by many of us. You have been an inspiration to many and a model of integrity and personal grit to more than a few. Thank you for caring about us!

Enclosed please find a check - a small contribution to an important "cause" and vital work in this community.

Sincerely
Bruce Fowler

BARE NECESSITIES



for the fun of it!

SUNDAYS:
Volleyball
1:00 p.m. - ???
Steak Dinner
4p.m. to DUSK

Thanks for voting us #1
MAN'S DANCE BAR

**JOSHUA TREE
BACK POCKET**

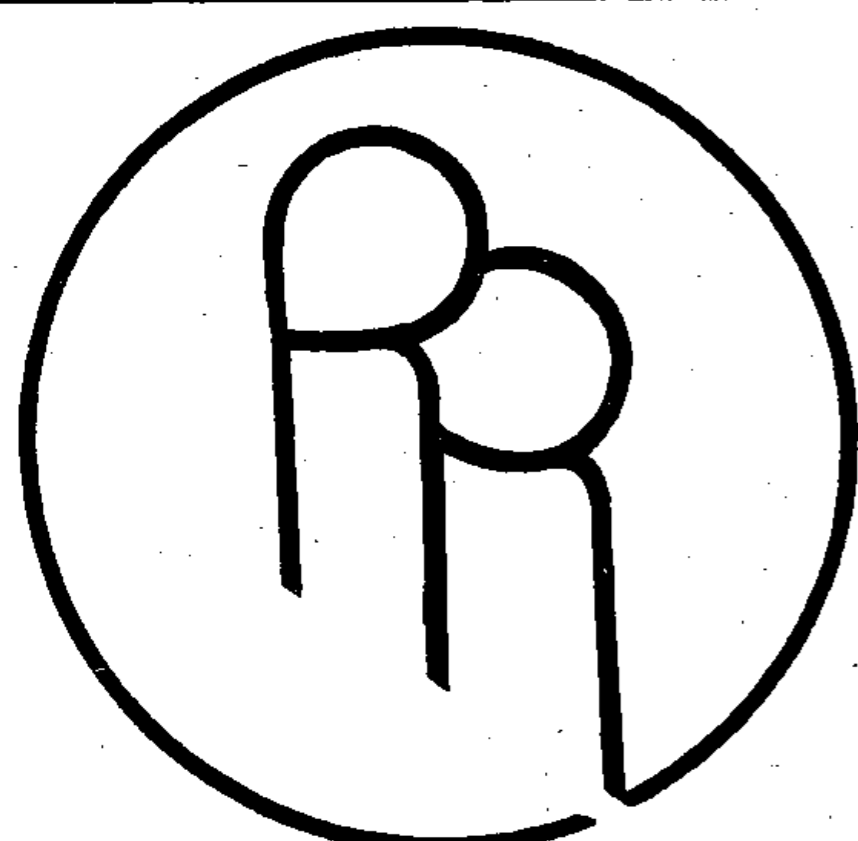
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TUCSON

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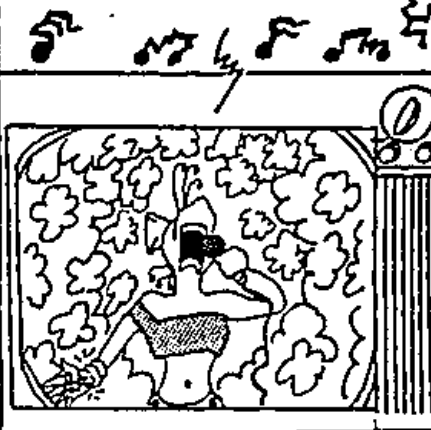
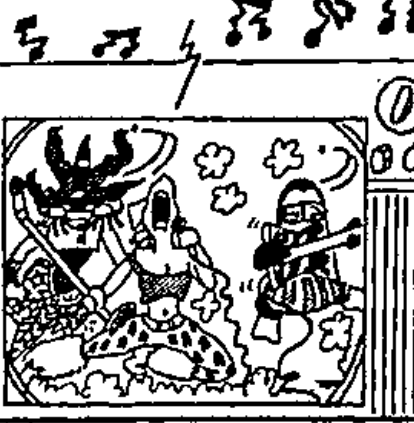
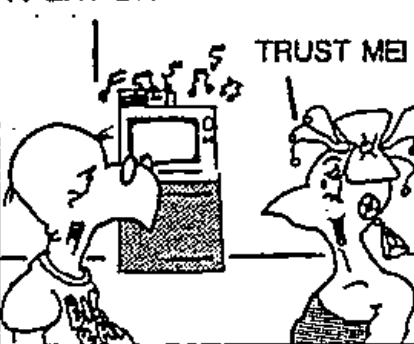


Rita's

327-3390

BIRD BATH

BY ADAM WOOLDRIDGE & BEAST

OH GIVE ME A SPOT, WHERE
THE MEN ARE ALL HOT!WHERE EVERYONE'S HAPPY
AND GAY!WHERE NEVER IS HEARD A
DISCOURAGED BIRD...ARE YOU SURE THE WORLD
IS READY FOR A ROCK
VIDEO TV COMMERCIAL FOR
A GAY BATH HOUSE?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE RESPONDING TO THE AIDS EPIDEMIC; SYMPOSIUM TACKLES TOUGH ISSUES

changed by a number of factors, he said. If the AIDS diagnosis rate is reduced among people whose blood tests positive for the AIDS antibody, the future caseload will be reduced. If the mean survival time of people with AIDS is increased beyond the present 16 months, the caseload will increase.

Hewmeyer believes it is unlikely that the disease will spread much beyond the male Gay community before the 1990s. About 97 percent of the city's cases are in that high risk group.

However, other speakers at the hearing warned that as the disease changes its targets, city health efforts will have to change also.

The number of drug users with AIDS is increasing and that means more blacks and Latinos are becoming victims of the disease, said John Hayes, executive

director of the Westside Community Mental Health Center. However, minority groups have been neglected in the city's education and treatment efforts, he said.

In a related development, the San Francisco Health Department released its monthly figures for AIDS cases in the city. In March, there were 68 AIDS deaths, the highest number recorded for a single month. There were 75 new cases, down from the 101 cases reported in February.



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The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance [TLGA] meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Call 293-3515 for location. Everyone welcome.

JOIN THE STAG SPORTSMEN CLUB for camping and fishing. For details contact Albert Marr, P.O. Box 58210, Tucson, AZ 85732-8210. 88

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

AIDS HOTLINE - TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP) 792-3772 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Transmission, sympathy, testing for AIDS, medical and counseling.

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/HTLV-III and for the worried-well. Located at 101 W. Irvington; Phone 573-8098. 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.

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

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 881-1794.

THE ARIZONA LESBIAN AND GAY TASK FORCE, your organization aimed at furthering human rights, education and networking with other national and local organizations, invites you to participate. Come and attend our meetings and input your ideas. Visitors and new members always welcome. Meetings: Every Monday. Membership: \$10 per year. Contact: Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard (7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) 234-2752 or write P.O. Box 1405, Tempe, AZ 85281.

MEN'S BODYWORK CLUB
Weekly gatherings for men who want to feel the pleasure of exercise, nudity and massage. Sincere only. Write P.O. Box 40504, Tucson, AZ 85717, or call 881-4582 between 9 am and 9 pm only. 83

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Call information and Referral 881-1794.

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YOUNG GYM COMING TO TUCSON FOR VISIT from Nebraska in middle of May for three weeks. Would like to meet discreet GYM for good times while here. Harvey, P.O. Box 50733, Tucson AZ 85703-1733

RAY FROM JOSHUA TREE MARCH 26: Thanks for the passion - sorry about the no-show. For explanations or continuations please write: Dan, Box 1142, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 2Y4 90

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A View From Within

A COMMENTARY BY
CHRISTOPHER GEOFFREY McPHERSON

A REAL "SOAP" OPERA: "MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE"

It is billed as a comedy, but *My Beautiful Laundrette*, a film by British director Stephen Frears, is also a poignant, bitter, witty portrayal of the lives of young people in London.

My Beautiful Laundrette is a landmark film: important because it is one of the first films to treat a man's homosexuality as an incidental aspect of his personality as opposed to the only aspect. This beautifully made film introduces us to a group of well-crafted, interesting individuals and allows us to glimpse intently at their lives.

The film deals with two young men: Omar (played wonderfully by Gordon Warneke) a young Pakistani youth who has seen none of his homeland, yet feels a common bond with the other Pakistani's for they are all displaced by London youth, who resent their wealth and privilege; and Johnny, (a brilliant portrayal by Daniel Day Lewis which will win him an Academy Award nomination as Best Actor), a punk -- in the colloquial sense of the word -- who desires more from life than gang-life, but doesn't see much hope for himself or the others like him in a country of high unemployment, civil unrest, and growing discontent.

As this bright little film develops, Omar and Johnny -- who had known each other as children, but later drifted apart -- are thrown together as young men when Omar's uncle Nasser (wittily portrayed by Saeed Jaffrey) offers him a worn down laundrette to manage. Omar seeks out Johnny to be his partner in the sudsy venture.

Going into this film, I knew there were Gay characters involved. Although I had my guesses, it was not until about 45 minutes into the film that we find out for sure. I don't want to give away this surprise, but other reviewers already have, so I shall, also, in a dark side street, Johnny and Omar are walking to the laundrette when Johnny suddenly grabs Omar and kisses him long and deeply. It comes as quite a surprise for there is no lead-in to this action. At the theatre where I saw this film, the scene instilled such silence that one could easily hear the sound of a fly landing on a wall. It is from this point in the film that the relationship develops.

Johnny and Omar charge on and renovate the laundrette and are soon ready to re-open. Here we are treated to a scene of absolute inspired brilliance. Johnny and Omar are awaiting the arrival of Omar's father, when they decide to venture into the back office of the laundrette and talk. While there, Johnny slowly and very romantically begins to undress Omar who in turn responds with a moving dialogue which explains to us why he and Johnny drifted apart years ago. Succumbing to Johnny's attentions, Omar and Johnny embrace, while at the same time, Omar's uncle and his mistress are dancing in the laundrette to some classical music. We see them dancing through the one-way mirror in the office where we see Johnny and Omar -- naked -- making love. It is witty, funny, passionate, brilliant! (And when Johnny drinks from the champagne bottle and lets the liquid dribble from his mouth into Omar's, we are witnesses to the sheer mastery of this film. And it's pretty sexy, too!).

There are many more incidents in the film which I shall leave for your enjoyment. When you see *My Beautiful Laundrette*, listen carefully: the English accents and slang zip past and are often hard to understand. The film is littered with eight gags and puns -- both sight and sound. (See if you recognize the music played at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. A perfect example of a great sight-

gag-for-the-ears).

But, as with every good film, there are points of weakness, but in this film they are all small, except for the ending confrontation scene between the "Pakis" and the "punks". Johnny is forced to make a difficult choice between his past, and his future. The tension he feels is not stressed enough, for it is all but sacrificed by quick editing. If, on the other hand, the lack of tension comes from a lack of conflict this is a devastating oversight on the part of the director or screenwriter. Whatever the explanation, this potentially engaging scene is less than it could be.

Overall, this film is great, and a must-see. The acting of all is excellent, compelling and wholeheartedly believable. And Daniel Day Lewis is a great actor who should be seen a lot in the future. Gordon Warneke is also endearing, and an actor of note. The music by Ludus Tonalis is comical and atmospheric. (It really is!).

Currently, the film is not playing in Phoenix or Tucson (are you really surprised?) but call your local theatre and request that they book the film. (The more of you who call, the sooner it will show up on our local screens so I can see it again.)

The film, released by Orion Classics, runs 93 minutes and is currently showing exclusively in Los Angeles at the Beverly Centre Cinplex. For more information call the cinema at (213) 652-7760, or (213) 652-7767.

JOINT CONCERT PLANNED BY DESERT OVERTURE AND DESERT SKY SINGERS

PHOENIX - Plans for the first ever joint concert, featuring the Desert Overture and the Desert Sky Singers, has been announced by the presidents of each organization.

J. Karen Hill and Dennis P. Davenport stated that the theme selected for this concert is "Dreams" and will feature both the Desert Overture and the Desert Sky Singers in addition to "Chaps", and will combine forces for several "featured numbers" to include "Chorus Line", "Body Electric" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".

The concert will take place on Saturday, April 19, at Camelback High School Auditorium, 4612 N. 28th Street, at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased from members of either organization, Diamonds Ticket outlets or local Phoenix community businesses for \$6.00. Tickets are \$8.00 at the door. For additional concert information call Dennis at 234-1111.

In three and a half since it began, Desert Overture Concert Band has grown from 13 musicians to a current active membership of about thirty. Under the musical direction of Mike Smotherman, the band's major performances have included participation in a National Band Conference at the Hollywood Bowl in 1984; "Keep The Music Playing" at Phoenix Little Theatre last March; and a tour to Las Vegas shortly thereafter. Desert Overture's repertoire focuses on light classics, pop tunes, film, musical comedy and old American favorites.

The Desert Sky Singers were founded in February 1981. This year's chorus under the musical direction of Barry Stein, has 18 active members. "Chaps", under the direction of Shannon Rud, is an ensemble group of eight men, and reflects a lighter, more comical musical style. The Desert Sky Singers present two major concerts a year, and have entertained their audiences with a wide variety of music, ranging from Mozart and Copeland to Broadway and Gershwin. The chorus welcomes new members who enjoy singing and entertaining.

For additional information or inquiries into participation, please call Dennis at 234-1111 in Phoenix.



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