



EDITORIAL

Two very important stories are included in this week's OBSERVER. One is out of Phoenix that advises that Arizona health care providers will receive notification of a new requirement that they must report the names of people who test positive for the AIDS virus.

The other story is out of Atlanta, where the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) wants to make testing for the AIDS virus mandatory for couples seeking marriage licenses and persons admitted to a hospital.

It has been the contention of the OBSERVER as well as many, many civil libertarians that this invasion of privacy is dangerous and unlawful. No matter how 'confidential' files may be kept, there is no assurance that codes won't be broken, names secretly purloined out of 'locked' files or otherwise confidentiality would be broken.

OBSERVER, in an interview with Mr. Bob Hegyi, Director of the Arizona AIDS Information Line in Phoenix said, "I don't think people should take the test unless they feel it is causing them mental stress and anxiety. Maybe in the case of people getting married, I can see where they might want to take the test for

their own satisfaction, knowing that they haven't been exposed to the virus. The possibility might exist with two Gay men going into a relationship wanting to find out if either has been exposed to the virus. But I just don't see where everybody has to take the test."

Hegyi continued, that if a person does take the test that "I advise them to use a different name." "If the state is going to trail what's going to happen a year from now to people who have been exposed to HTLV-III positive; what's going to happen to the percentage of cases that come down with ARC or AIDS in a year or two years, in a study, I don't see where they need a person's name for that. It's case number one, or case number 10, or case number 346," Hegyi said. "This thing is going to make less people be tested, I think."

OBSERVER agrees. There is too much to lose to a test that doesn't tell you much of anything. OBSERVER advises you to avoid taking the test unless you absolutely believe you have to. In that case, we urge you to not give your correct name. Until the governments can give absolute pledge of the right of privacy, be anonymous when it comes to the AIDS virus blood test.

THE TEST CAN BE ALMOST AS DEVASTATING AS THE DISEASE

The new test for antibodies to the "AIDS virus" doesn't tell you very much of anything. It only indicates that you have been exposed to the virus. What it can do is frightening.

Imagine if your health insurance company found out that your test came back positive, they might cancel your policy. Even your job and home may be at risk.

Names might be reported to the government and find their way onto a master list.

In fact, desperately needed research is being hindered because the Federal government refuses to guarantee confidentiality. So, if you do take the test, make sure you get a guarantee in writing that your name and the results of your test won't ever be released to anyone.

Otherwise, our advice is, stay away from the test. It's bad news.

10,000 Mile run for AIDS passes thru Tucson



TUCSON - Shown above is runner Brent Earle with his mother Marion who is accompanying Brent on his 10,000 mile run around the perimeter of the United States, to

TUCSON - A very unusual person arrived in Tucson last Thursday. 35-year-old Brent Nicholson Earle, a healthy, concerned athlete from New York City. Brent is currently almost half-way through with his goal of running 10,000 miles around the perimeter of the United States.

A professional playwright by occupation, Earle committed himself to run the entire distance - 10,000 miles - when he began losing so many of his friends to AIDS over two years ago. Terry Fox, who ran a "Marathon of Hope," was also an inspiration to Earle. Although not a seasoned runner, he began working out and getting his body tuned for this magnificent effort.

He hit the 4,877 mile mark as he passed through Tucson on his way to Albuquerque. Earle actually runs about 20 miles per day and is led by a 30-foot Winnebago vehicle which serves as mobile headquarters, and living accommodations. Earle is accompanied by Bill Konkoy, chief member of the Run Crew and Executive Director of "The American Run for the End of AIDS" (A.R.E.A.).

The run will end where it began, in New York City on Halloween, Oct. 31, 1987. Earle also plans to be in Washington, DC on October 10 to participate in the March on Washington event.

"I am running to deliver the message that together, with education, we can stop the spread of AIDS," Earle said in an interview with OBSERVER. "I have lost almost 30 friends to this terrible plague - two of them from Tucson," he said.

"While running through Phoenix," Earle said, "I spoke out against Governor Meacham's impeding our civil rights progress while in Phoenix." Earle continued, "I am totally against reporting to

educate the public about AIDS prevention. They are shown as they rested after arriving in Tucson last Thursday, Feb. 5.

the state the names of persons who show positive to the AIDS test."

Earle is accompanied on this 20-month trek around the country by his mother, Marion Nicholson a retired school teacher. She has been very active in press interviews speaking out to the parents of America to get them involved in the education of the children about the hazards of AIDS. "Stop these road blocks - cut out the suicides - accept the children's choice of lifestyle - we will be a much happier country when that happens," she said. "We all need to be more accepting."

The run is designed to raise public awareness of the need for AIDS education and to raise funds to support the national AIDS effort. In addition to raising funds for the National AIDS Network (NAN), one of the participants in this run, Earle is supporting the local AIDS organizations in the cities he passes through. IN Tucson he represented the Tucson AIDS Project.

In addition, Earle made appearances at several Tucson bars while he was in Tucson. He receives no compensation for this lengthy run but is supporting his 'mission' by selling T-shirts and buttons during these bar visits. The Graduate bar, for one, raised nearly \$350 to assist Earle and his group to continue their valiant effort to carry this important message across the country.

Tax deductible contributions to The National AIDS Network are solicited. Any contribution is welcome. Contact: The National AIDS Network, 1012 14th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

Tax deductible contributions to the American Run for the End of AIDS to keep the Run on the road may be made to A.R.E.A., Inc., 2350 Broadway, New York, NY 10024.

UPDATE

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE LOOKS FOR HELP IN PLANNING PRIDE WEEK

by Jack Stockslager

TUCSON - The time is quickly approaching to start planning for the 10th Annual Tucson Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Celebration. This has traditionally been organized by various Pride Week committees with the last four years being taken over by the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance.

The responsibilities of planning this event over the last four years has greatly increased. There remains only five working members of TLGA to do the planning and run the events for this year. Obviously to have another successful celebration, the help of the overall Lesbian/Gay community is needed.

TLGA believes that Lesbian/Gay Pride Week is a community event and thus should also be a community responsibility. With this in mind, TLGA is asking responsible individuals and organizations to assist in the planning and operations of Pride Week 1987.

To begin to make this a community project, TLGA cordially invites all individuals and interested members of organizations to attend the first Tucson Lesbian/Gay Community Pride Planning Meeting. This will be held at the Joshua Tree on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. with complimentary cocktails and condiments, hosted by the reigning Queen of Pride Week '86, Miss Aviva Diamond.

To attend, you must RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 17 by calling Terry Miller at 325-7313 or Jack Stockslager at 293-3515 for an invitation.

HAVE A HEART - BUY A BOOK

TUCSON - Books Brothers, Ltd., Arizona's premiere bookstore, whose inventory carries the largest selection of Lesbian and Gay titles in the southwest, is planning a special promotion over this Valentine's weekend to benefit the Tucson AIDS Project (TAP).

"Have A Heart - Buy A Book" a special 3-day event, takes place this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 13, 14 and 15. Mike and Mitch, owners of Books Brothers, will be donating fifteen percent of the store's 3-day gross sales to TAP.

TAP is a non-profit organization that provides counseling, emotional and financial support to persons with AIDS, their friends and loved ones. Anyone unable to visit Books Brothers is urged to send a tax-deductible donation to the Tucson AIDS Project, 80 West Cushing Street, Tucson, AZ 85701.

Books Brothers is located at 3242 East Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85716. For further information call 326-3332.

OPBPA HOSTS TAX SEMINAR

TUCSON - The Old Pueblo Business & Professional Association (OPBPA) will present an income tax seminar at their next regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Radisson Suite Hotel.

A local Certified Public Accountant and a professional tax preparer are slated to explain the new tax laws and how they affect 1986 and future filings. Special attention is promised by the two consultants to unraveling the rules that apply to single returns.

For those who find the IRS rules a bit taxing, a short stress relieving exercise, conducted by an OPBPA member psychologist, is promised to end the evening meeting.

A no host bar and a brief business agenda precede the tax forum. Admission is free to OPBPA members and guests. The Radisson Suite Hotel is at 6555 East Speedway, near Wilmot, on Tucson's eastside.

OPBPA President, Jim Foley, states that newcomers are welcome to the association's meetings. First-time visitors are encouraged to call 792-3373 for additional information about OPBPA's programs and goals. Foley adds that the group of business and professional people are bonded by social, educational, and humanitarian purposes.

'DEALING WITH HOMOPHOBIA' LECTURE

AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

PHOENIX - A public lecture, "Healing A Disfunction of the Human Family - Dealing with Homophobia", will be conducted at Arizona State University on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 8:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Arizona's National Organization for Women and the Women's Studies Student Association, and Lesbian and Gay Academic Union, the lecture features Laura Brown, PhD., President-elect of the Society for Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues.

A nationally known lecturer and writer, Dr. Brown has also hosted a radio talk show in Seattle. She will be discussing psychological and social issues relating to homophobia and its negative effects on individuals, families, and the community.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This public lecture is free to students and admission to the general public is \$2.00. The date again: Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8:00 p.m. at ASU MU Arizona Room.

Books Brothers is located at 3242 East Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85716. For further information call 326-3332.

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Sunday
10 AM/6:30 PM

State to require names of people who test positive on AIDS virus

by Paul Davenport

PHOENIX (AP) - Arizona health care providers this month will receive notification of a new requirement that they report the names of people who test positive for the AIDS virus, a senior state health official said.

The names will be kept confidential and health officials need the rule to help judge the scope and development of AIDS in Arizona, said Dr. Glyn Caldwell, a Department of Health Services assistant director.

Caldwell said last Friday, Feb. 6, forms and other material to begin enforcing the rule will be printed for distribution during the next several weeks to clinics, doctors and other providers.

Arizona is among only about a half-dozen states either with such a reporting requirement or in the process of starting one.

AIDS virus tests do not show whether a person has AIDS or will necessarily develop the deadly disease, but do indicate whether the person has been exposed to the AIDS virus.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome breaks down a person's immune system and leaves the person vulnerable to other diseases.

After state health officials proposed the reporting rule last year, medical professionals and members of the state's homosexual community expressed concern that names reported would not be kept confidential and that discrimination might result.

Robert Hegyi, executive director of the Arizona AIDS

Information Line in Phoenix, was out of town and no one else in the organization was available to comment on the rule, a switchboard operator said.

Caldwell said state health officials will keep AIDS virus test results confidential but would attempt to contact those who test positive if there is no indication they already have received education and counseling about the virus and the disease.

However, the contact effort would not extend to sexual partners, he said.

"Everything will be handled confidentially," Caldwell said. "We'll keep all the records locked up."

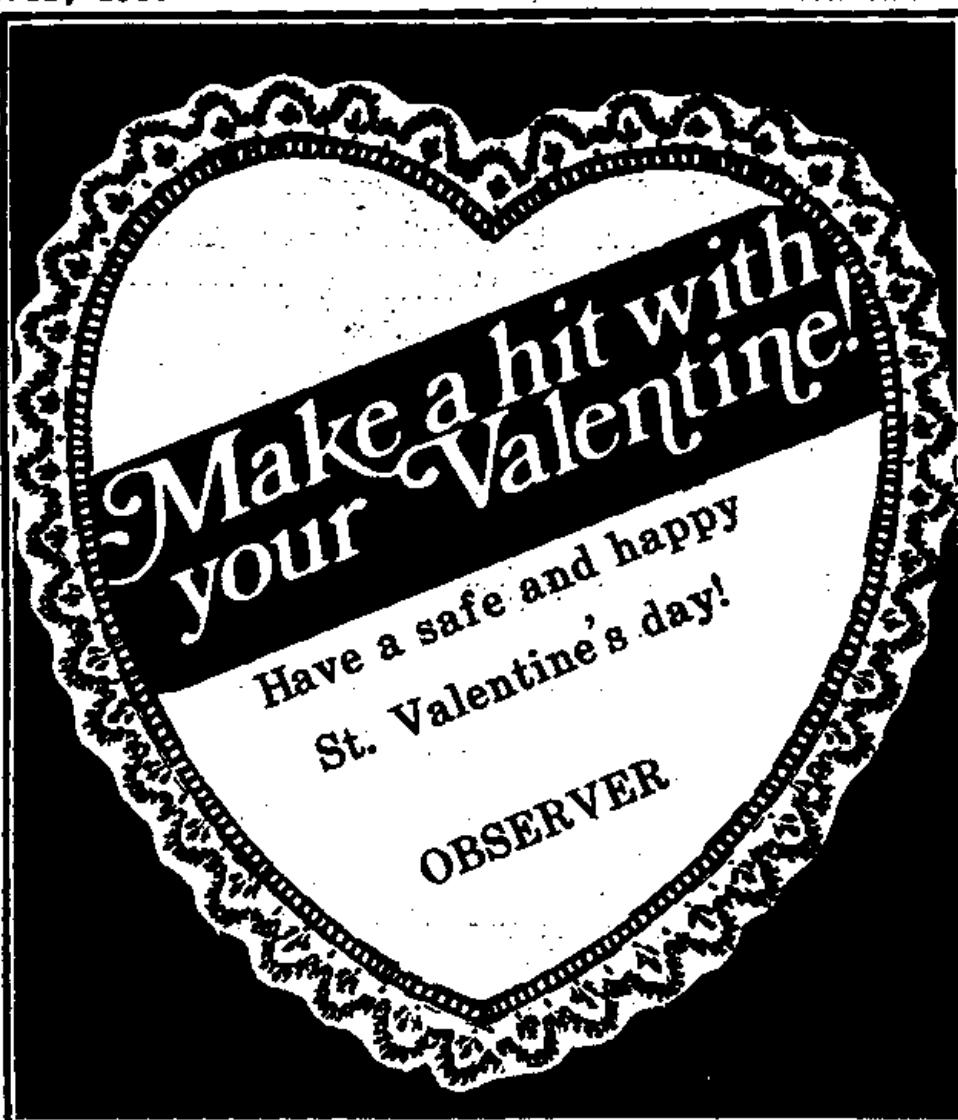
Asked whether he was confident those tested would use their real names, Caldwell said there is no provision that people tested show identification. "I have to accept what they give me," he said.

Male homosexuals and intravenous drug users are high-risk groups for AIDS although health officials say an increasing number of AIDS patients are heterosexuals, including sex partners of members of the high-risk groups.

Caldwell and Dr. Charles Juels, director of disease control services for Maricopa County, said health officials can be expected to preserve the confidentiality of test results.

"We've been doing it with sexually transmitted diseases for years," Juels said.

Juels said approximately



1,000 people had taken the AIDS virus tests through Maricopa County's free testing and counseling program between mid-1985 and mid-1986. The current rate is 20 to 30 people per week, he said.

The tests actually detect the presence of antibodies related to the AIDS virus and not the presence of the virus itself, he said.

"When both (initial and confirming) tests are positive, that's a reasonable assumption that the person has been exposed to the virus," Juels said.

Pima County health officials announced last week they plan to begin a free AIDS virus testing program. The program will start within two months and will include counseling, officials said.

(Tucson Citizen)



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Readers' Input

REBUTTAL.....

OPEN LETTER TO CHRISTOPHER
GEOFFREY McPHERSON

After reading your commentary on Rock Hudson: His Story - A Review" in Observer, Issue #131, I feel your column should be renamed 'A Narrow View From Within'.....

Somehow, I am amazed that you feel Rock Hudson was looking for your sympathy or anyone else's. How could you miss the importance of "His Story," to the world and Gay community? How shallow of you not to recognize Rock Hudson, the man. It's people like you that made him have to stay in his closet. Now even in his death, you expect him to be a "stunning God," the perfect "GAY MAN".

To condemn a man for his fears, Gay lifestyle and his trauma of coming to grips with AIDS is ludicrous. When you wrote, "unless you want to revel in the disgusting and stupid facts which were Rock Hudson's life, then it is a book best passed on". What did you mean? Are you saying Gay lifestyles are disgusting and stupid, or only Rock Hudson's? Perhaps if your story were told to our Governor, he would tell you which acts you do that are disgusting and stupid in your own life. You seem to share similar views.

Perhaps your bubble was burst. Today's Idols have learned a lesson from past celebrities. They have the choice and freedom of being more human. We now realize they are mere mortals and allowed to live somewhat 'normal' lifestyles.

My main objection to your "commentary" was that it was not so much a review of a book, but a blatant attack on Gay lifestyles. Your judgmental attitude only perpetuates hatred and bigotry that Gays have been fighting against for so long.

Sincerely
Howard - Phoenix

READERS INPUT.....

OK, I give, what is the problem with the Gay men in this town? I refer to placing personal ads. I have placed a few and, well I guess all the single Gay men were out of town the two or three weeks the ad was run. I don't understand, at age now of 25, 5'10", -180 lbs, nice looking, not gorgeous not ugly. Sounds average maybe, but not necessarily true, if only more people would have written.

I refer to the local bars; I have found them to be meat market and I'm too pretty to be with you, and later if you go to the bookstores, you see those too pretty boys.

I refer to friends. If you are lucky to have friends introduce you to other friends with a good chance of hitting it off. In my case friends are not helping. Hell, I have not even heard from them in months.

I refer to the bookstores. Could be one of the worst places to look for a relationship. With AIDS and other STD's going around...

Now I don't know about the rest of you who are in a similar predicament, I can speak for myself and say I am tired of being and sleeping alone every night.

What to do, can you tell me? Seriously, write and let me know what you think! Send to: Phillip, P.O. Box 62001, Tucson, AZ 85734-6001. I look forward to hearing from almost anybody.

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WHAT'S UP DOC?

This will be the final time I'll be able to remind you this coming Saturday is round one of TKO's Ping Pong Tournament over at Rumor Hazzit. By this time next week, depending on the total number of contestants, I'll be giving you either the names of the four finalists or the winners' names. The sign-up jar is at Rumor Hazzit at this time, so get over and sign up now, or be there early Saturday to sign up. Entry fee is \$1.00 per person plus a couple cans of food for the Food Bank. I'll see all of you at the games on Saturday and let's all really have fun.

At TKO's meeting this past Saturday, the final plans were made for this year's Closet Ball on March 14 at Colette's West. Two major changes for this year's Closet Ball is (1) The judges panel will seat one TKO member as head judge to ensure the rules of the Closet Ball can and will be strictly adhered to, and (2) All applicants to enter this year's Closet Ball must be received by either TKO through the mail or delivered to me no later than March 8. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted the night of the Closet Ball.

This year's Closet Ball will present a show and will start at 7:30 p.m. I'll have applications out in two weeks so be sure to get them filled out and mailed in early. Show stars, prize monies and more details will be in this column once I get the Ping Pong Tournament behind us.

Talking to Tammy tonight, he told me that 16 people showed up for the first clogging class over at the Fineline this past Sunday. These clogging classes will be

held each Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., so stop over and join in on the fun.

Don't forget this weekend, Feb. 13-15 is also when the Desert Leathermen are hosting the Wasatch Leathermen Motorcycle Club out of Salt Lake City. This, I'm sure, will be an entertaining weekend for all, so come on Tucson, let's give the Wasatch M.C. a roaring old fashioned "Welcome To Tucson!"

To top the weekend off, the Graduate will be having their yearly Valentine Day Show. Check their advertisement in this issue of the OBSERVER for the names of the stars on stage for this show. I look forward to another excellent show and plan on arriving early to get a front row seat.

Well, it's time I closed this week just for the hell of it. In any case, everyone have a good week and enjoy this beautiful Tucson weather.

AIDS DRUG GETS OK
WASHINGTON, DC (AP) - A New Jersey-based health care company has received tentative federal approval to develop and manufacture a new drug aimed at treating the deadly disease AIDS.

The drug, dideoxycytidine or DDC, was found in National Cancer Institute tests to inhibit reproduction of the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

DDC still is being checked for safety and side effects, and tests on humans for effectiveness against AIDS have not begun, John Dooley, spokesperson for Hoffman-La Roche Inc., of Nutley, New Jersey said.

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A VERY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO EVERYONE

by Gary W. Clark

Valentine's Day with all its commercialism and exploitation, has come to represent an unbiased acknowledgement of love and friendship, a uniquely human showcase of precious icons we recognize as emotions. Rightfully so, that we should celebrate that ebb and flow of life force with such a day. February 14 originally meant to be little more than a modest commemoration of two Italian Saints, has become a symbol of how we, as a species, refuse to accept the survivalist beat of Darwinism, but rather choose to embrace the spirit of Valentine emotions.

Love and friendship - these major emotions are an intricate part of life's social fabric.

JOY AND DONNA - Our friendship grows stronger week to week. We always love, though we rarely speak. Happy Valentine '87.

Linda & Terri

JOHN WELLER - Be my Valentine.

Love W.L.F.

Kelley - Thanks for being my friend and my lover! I love you David

Dear Ev M. - Happy first and last Valentine's Day as governor.

J.Q. Public

Mr. X - Thanks for being my eyewitness to the hole in my camper shell. Love you

Ford Truck

Happy Valentine's Day "Funny Face" Love George

Larry S. - Happy Skiing! Eddie F.

Rubin - Happy Valentine's Day. You sent lots of love to someone else.

Teno

Skeets - Love like ours will never die, it just grows stronger!

Chuck

John - You always make my day. Love you.

Ron

Dear Mr. Big - Future's too bright! I want to spend it with you.

Love Lithryup

Angela - Happy Valentine's Day.

Love ya...

Freddie

Thank you Graduate and all employees for a good year.

K.M.

Happy Valentine's Day Doug. Miss your big thingy. Love Jesse

Roger B. - If roses are red and violets are blue, I sure do love you.

Peter S.

J.T. - May Blanche always show up when I want Art.

Juicy Lucy - My love for you is returned in "Mein Kampf".

Michael Y. - Even though I've stopped skiing, we can still go swimming. Love Hoo Hah

Thomas - Hope you have a happy Valentine's Day.

Teno

Dear Ricky D. - Love you even tenting.

Jason

Lloyd - Sorry I'm healthy.

S.A.M.

Bruce - See you visiting day.

Thanks for the file.

Lurch

Jim T. - I don't know what I'd do without you.

Jim T.

Willingham - It's great knowing and being with you. Have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

Love Scott

Lloyd - Happy sales to you.

Love Mike

Aviva - Hoping you have a happy Valentine's Day.

Candy P.

They are the glue which binds our society together and provides the bread and butter of our essential emotional sustenance. They are significant factors in humankind's tendency to huddle together through the many inconveniences of urban dwelling and living. Love and friendship help us weather the storm of stress and strain. They sustain our very physical and mental health.

Nearly twenty centuries ago, Seneca noted, "Friendship always benefits; love sometimes injures." Research has shown that love and friendships are similar in nature. Friendships includes enjoyment, mutual assistance, respect, spontaneity, trust, understanding and confidence. Love includes all of the above plus the additional

Zu mein ex-ober scheff, do kanst mich kreuzweig an dem arsch lecken.

Bill - I wish your heart shaped crotch was sitting on the bar.

Biggest Mike

To all the folks at the Graduate who have been so kind to me over the past few months. Happy Valentine's day and lots of love.

Teno Menchaca aka Candy P.

Larry - I love you.

Neil

BBM - Happy Valentine's Day - BBM

Jeremy - I will always love you.

Dave

To Bunny with love from your Chocolate Bunny.

To all the drags in the state of Arizona - I love you all. Always Shelly Ross.

P.S. Love you Kelly Ryan.

Dick - To you, handsome. You are my Valentine. Here's to many more together. Love to you.

Brad

Mike - Life's a bitch then you get me. Thanks for putting up with me. Love ya.

Dan

Roger B. - Happy Valentine's Day and much love.

Teno

Noyo - Happy Valentine's Day. I love you much.

Mark

Ron - Come home soon. I'm having too much fun. Happy Valentine's Day. Love ya.

Brian M.

Peter S. - Star Light, Sky Light, is there light in the kitchen tonight?

Roger B.

Brian M. - Phoenix is lots of fun love Ron

Dear ??? - Oh how I wish I had a Valentine to write this to. Maybe better luck next year.

Ruben T.

Happy Birthday. We love you Calypso.

Kim, Kimberly, Shawn

Still miss and love you both. Happy Valentine's Day S.K.J. and Allie.

love F.G.

Bill Neal - Have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Teno

Dawn - I think you are sweet and I hope to spend a Valentine's moment with you.

Your new-found friend.

Happy Valentine, Genivieve

Happy Valentine's Day Circle K J - L - Tillie

Love and kisses!! I love you Gro Gro.

Hi, I love you

Lyla

To the best crew in town - I love you all. Even you, Eileen!

Silver Fox

Tony - Meet me in Miami for our fifth.

Don Johnson

Candy - Thank you for your help and support!!

Ken

elements of fascination, sexual desire, exclusiveness, competition, advocacy for each other and giving one's bestmost to each other. Love doesn't make the world go round, but love does make the ride much more enjoyable and worthwhile. Friendship lessens the loneliness of our singular being.

Love relationships have more impact in satisfying our human needs, while also frustrating them. Studies indicate same-sex friendships share more give and have a more stable relationship than do opposite sex relationships. This may account for the particularly strong bonds found within the Gay and Lesbian community. Among non-lovers, acceptance is much higher among best friendships than love

Joe C. - Have a Happy Valentine's Day.. Miss you and thinking about you. Have a good day!! Love

George

To everyone who knows me too well. Happy Valentine's Day.

Jeff

Don - Dicks are red, butts are blue, I know mine is, when I've had you.

Tony

To my friend David. Your friendship over the past year has meant more to me than you will ever know. Happy V-Day. Love always.

George

Mr. Kubas - My love, my life. Be my Valentine with all my heart and soul.

Your Joseph

To my darling Terri with all my love. Happy Valentine '87.

Love Linda

Happy Valentine's Day Genevieve. I love you.

J.S.

Is there nothing so lonely, nothing so bare as an unfound love waiting somewhere?

J.S.

Happy Valentine Ruth, Wanda, Tillie, Delores and Sandy. Love

Freddie

Munch - Two quarters and a pool table netted me all the riches life could bring - you

Munch

Reuben - I think you're tops! Happy Valentine's Day.

M

No heart is big enough for the love I have for all my friends. Always

Hope

P.S. Happy 75th Birthday Arizona!

Robert - When my wife leaves, I want you to be my Valentine.

Robert II

Aviva D. - In my heart you're the best.

M.E.

Mark - A truly happy Valentine's Day

RM

To all my friends, I shout "Hooray". To mention them all, would take all day. I could never hope to repay all they mean to me. Especially one, named simply J.J.

Beret - I don't care what Juicy Lucy says. You're still a pretty decent gal!! As always

Ernie

To My Love... Brown all around - The Snowman

Crazy Woman - Year after year we become more like each other. Frightening, isn't it?

Love, Sleazebucket

R - Happy Valentine's Day, sweets

M

To Chuck (Charlie) - I love you with all my heart. After 5 years I'm looking forward to 50 more.

Happy Valentine's Day

Love, Pat

Thumper - I've always wanted it to be this good. Love, Beastmaster

I've had many dicks, but I haven't had many men. If you were one of them, Happy Valentine's Day.

Love, Me

relationships. Most friendships are seen as much more simple than love relationships.

While friendships may sustain us, love transforms us by fueling our fantasies and energizes our daily life. There is nothing so uniquely human than feelings of love and care charged emotions of life. Even with all the sorrows and grief, they may produce in us our emotions contribute profoundly to our relationships. Love and friendships are the milk and honey of our very essence.

Valentine's Day emotions fuel our fantasy - hope and desire in all of us all year long.

A.F.T. - May our relationship grow with time.

B.T.P.

Jacob - Give it a chance. Warm regards.

B.T.

J.B. - I love you always.

John

Mark - Thanks for a great year at the bar. Love.

Your Sunday Help.

(The one from the Tucson Mall. !!!!)

Mom - I love you very much for your love and understanding. Love always. Happy Valentine's Day '87. Your daughter

Terri H.

To the greatest bearfriend in the world. I love you. B.V.R.

Peter - To the only person in my life who has taught me the real feelings of love. Love ya.

Roger

Kim - Here's to 7 wonderful days. let's do it for 7 more... I love you and I'm in lust with you. Always.

Shawn

Tucson Tanners (nudist organization) thanks members who helped monetarily and otherwise. Let's make 1987 acreage acquisition year. Box 84, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

To the Vermont Girls - We love you.

Tucson Boys

Rudy M. - You're the Estrella Valentine of the old desert.

Guess who.

Mom - Hit it lucky on your first Valentine's Day in Tucson.

Roger

Ron S. - What a peach. Many hearts to you.

Hank

To Jesika and Isadora - Two great people we "Jess Adore". Happy Valentine's Day '87.

Romantic P and Lover

Eddie - A very, very Happy Valentine's Day. Love always.

Mandatory AIDS test plan violates privacy

ATLANTA, GA (AP) - A federal agency's proposal for mandatory AIDS tests for anyone admitted to a hospital and even for couples seeking marriage licenses "would drive the disease underground," a medical ethicist says.

Civil libertarians also condemned the tentative U.S. Centers for Disease Control proposal, saying screening would violate fundamental rights to privacy.

Dr. Walter Dowdle, the agency's AIDS director, said last week's proposal and a public hearing later this month were a way to "explore issues related to using the test to prevent further infection."

But Carol Levine, who researches ethical issues related to AIDS at the Hastings Center in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., said such screening would "drive the disease underground by driving people away from the setting in which they could get the needed treatment and help."

And Nan Hunter, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, called mandatory testing "a violation of fundamental privacy rights and, like many coercive measures, counterproductive."

The number of Americans who have contracted AIDS through heterosexual contact has risen from only a few in 1981 to 4 percent of the more than 30,000 confirmed cases. More than 16,800 people have died from the disease, and the CDC estimates AIDS will strike 270,000 people and kill 179,000 through 1991.

Dowdle said the steady increase especially among heterosexuals, prompted the proposal to simply expand testing. "We're saying these are the ways the test might be used. Here are the justifications, here are the obstacles."

Mandatory AIDS testing already is required for blood donors, military personnel and State Department foreign service employees and their families.

One obstacle, Dowdle said, might be a concern about confidentiality, and the hospitals and government agencies would have to ensure that test results remained secret to prevent discrimination.

Hunter agreed that confidentiality would be a concern.

"When you have a controversial political issue you can't assume medical records will remain confidential the way they are when you get treatment for flu," she said in a telephone interview from New York.

Ms. Hunter and other critics argued that research, education and counseling were the way to combat the deadly disease.

"The Reagan administration has ignored AIDS education for five years," said Dr. Neil Schram, chairman of the Los Angeles City-County AIDS Task Force. "That has led to AIDS being out of control in this country."

"Rather than put in \$1 billion for education and prevention programs, they continue to propose token testing of various populations."

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A person who tested positive for the AIDS antibody while apply-

UPTOWN PRODUCTIONS

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT OF

"THE BACKSTAGE PLAYERS"

STARRING

PENELOPE POUPE' DEVINA
ROSE TRELLIS

AND

MISS GAY ARIZONA 1986-87
JAMIE DE SARIO

9:00 PM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1987

\$3.00 COVER PER PERSON

Where Else But...

RUMORHAZZIT

2222 N. Stone 791-0309

OUT ON THE TOWN

STUNT MALIBU CHRISTI FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Mandatory testing of hospital patients "would provide the physician with information that may directly relate to the way he cares for the patient," he said.

(Tucson Citizen)

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Poor Christi is back in traction again due to her latest accident. If the diagnosis is as bad as originally thought she may need a few transplants. The report on her condition will be updated as soon as possible.

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Marilyn and Jo Ann, having passed on with Scooter's love

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Camille Devoon may be a trashy bitch, but the mountains will certainly miss her. Look out Tucson. Camille Devoon and Sir Lawrence are both back. Hawaii's Islanders weren't as golden as Sir Lawrence had thought.

Mysterious Magda might manage a better tan if the clouds go away. Was that Camille Devoon flashing. Maybe Mysterious Magda won't need the sun after all.

Was that the Silver Grey Walser we saw streaking Tucson last week?

And who said they'll never call me Foozie again - was that Rambo? Oh, I didn't drive and if he's your man, he'll let me know. By the way, who's trick bag was that anyway?

Till next time, Forever Yours
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*Fan mail to: Stunt Malibu Christi Fan Club, P.O. Box 2704, Tucson, Arizona 85702

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THE TUCSON CALENDAR

wednesday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - "Wednesday Wednesdays" - From 2-8 pm Drink Specials: Check the chalkboard. Draft Beer Bust 9 pm to 1 am .50 per glass! Bobby Jr. DJ's 9 pm to 1 am.

COLETTE'S WEST - Check for daily sandwich special. Schnapps shots .75 from 8 pm to Midnight.

GRADUATE - Bottle Domestic Beer \$1.00 with other drink specials.

FINELINE - Open 5 to 7 pm with drink specials and free appetizers. Full service bar 5 pm to 1 am. Michael's International Market Place open 5 pm to 3 am for food and spirits. Downstairs opens 8 pm for non-alcoholic beverages and dancing. Afterhours til 3 am.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon to 5:30 Well Drinks \$1, (with juice \$1.25). Long Neck Beer (non-premium) \$1.25. 5:30 to 1 am Draft Beer .50 and Schnapps .50 shot. Dance 8 - 1 am.

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 am - 1 am.

RUMOR HAZZIT - .75 Well & .50 Hot Dogs 4-7 pm. "Dynasty" on life-size screen 8:00 p.m.

thursday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bottle Beer Nite \$1.25 domestic 9 pm to 1 am. Dave Pierson DJ 9 to 1 am.

COLETTE'S WEST - Check for daily sandwich special. Bottle Beer Special from 8 pm to Midnight.

FINELINE - Open 5 to 7 pm with drink specials and free appetizers. Full service bar 5 pm to 1 am. Michael's International Market Place open 5 pm to 3 am for fine food and spirits. Downstairs open 8 pm for non-alcoholic beverages and dancing. Afterhours til 3 am.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour Prices until closing!

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon to 5:30 Well Drinks \$1 (with juice \$1.25). Long Neck Beer (non-premium) \$1.25. 5:30 to 1 am Long Neck Beer (non-premium) .75 Dance 8 to 1.

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - .75 Well & .50 Hot Dogs 4-7 pm. Square Dancing by T-Squares 7-9 pm. Regular disco/video dancing 9 pm to close.

friday

COLETTE'S WEST - Check for daily sandwich special. Party Nite. Hourly Drink Specials 8 p.m. to Midnight.

FINELINE - Open 5 to 7 pm with drink specials and free appetizers. Full service bar 5 pm to 1 am. Michael's International Market Place open 5 pm to 4 am for fine foods and spirits. Downstairs opens at 8 pm for non-alcoholic beverages and dancing. Afterhours til 4 am.

GRADUATE - Drink specials until closing.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon - 5:30 pm Well Drinks \$1 with juice \$1.25). Long Neck Beer (non-premium) \$1.25. 5:30 to 1 am All Well \$1.50 (with juice \$1.75). Plus dancing from 8 to 1.

JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. DJ's 9 pm - 1 am.

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - .75 Well & .50 Hot Dogs 4-7 pm. Video dancing 9 pm to close.

Saturday

COLETTE'S WEST - Party Nite Hourly Drink Specials 8 to Midnight.

GRADUATE - Drink Specials until closing.

FINELINE - Open 5 pm with full service bar. Michael's International Market Place open 5 pm to 4 am for fine foods and spirits. Downstairs open 8 pm for non-alcoholic beverages and dancing. Afterhours til 4 am.

JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. DJ's 9 pm to 1 am.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon to 6 pm Bloody Marys \$1.00 6 pm to 1 am All Well \$1.50. Dance 8 to 1.

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - Open Noon to 1 am. \$1.25 Well noon to 6 p.m. Video Dancing 9 pm to 1 am.

Sunday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Beer Bust 4 to 7 pm .50 per glass. Steak Dinner 5 pm to ?? \$4.00. Dave Pierson DJ's from 9 pm until 1 am.

COLETTE'S WEST - Football on our big screen plus "Wine Down Nite". .75 Wine 8 pm to Midnight. Movie Nite begins at 7 pm.

FINELINE - Open 3 pm to 1 am with full service bar. Michael's International Market Place open 5 pm for fine food and spirits.

GRADUATE - Bottle Beer (non-premium) \$1 with other drink specials.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Bloody Marys \$1.00 Noon to 5:30. 5:30 to 1 am "Moose Madness" every hour (??). Dance 8 - 1 am.

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Noon to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - Open Noon to 1 am. T-Squares Beginner's Class every Sunday afternoon. \$1.25 Well drinks noon to 6 p.m. Video dancing 9 pm to closing.

Monday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bowler's Special: .75 Well Drinks for J/T Bowlers. Dave Pierson DJ's 9 pm to 1 am.

COLETTE'S WEST - Check for daily sandwich special. .50 hot dogs and .25 draft. All White Well .89 from 8 pm to Midnight.

FINELINE - Upstairs open at 7 pm with full service alcohol bar.

GRADUATE - All White Well Drinks \$1.50 until 1 am plus other drink specials.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon to 5:30: Well Drinks \$1 (with juice \$1.25). Long Neck Beer (non-premium) \$1.25. 5:30 to 1 am "Moose Madness".

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - Open 1 pm to 1 am. .75 Well & .50 Hot Dogs 4-7. Video dancing begins at 9 pm.

FEBRUARY 11, 1987

SPORTS



JOSHUA TREE VOLLEYBALL

SPRING LEAGUE

FEBRUARY 8, 1987

Seven teams were registered for the Spring Volleyball League this past Sunday. After everyone was registered, there were practice games where the new teams got a feel for each other. This coming Sunday, Feb. 15, at 1:00 p.m., official league play starts. There is room for another team or for people to join us as individuals.

The Spring League will consist of 12 weeks of league match play followed by a playoff and tournament day. League play is divided in half with the winners of each half playing off for the championship at the end of the season. On each Sunday, teams will play at least two matches consisting of the best out of three games. A team roster can consist of up to 8 players, with two alternates. Six players, at the most, are on the court at any one time, with the additional team members rotating in.

Everyone is welcome to join the Volleyball League. There is still time to join as an individual or form your own team. Just show up this Sunday between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. to register.

This is a league where all team members play regardless of skill level. Joining a team does require that the individual make a commitment of 12 weeks to show up as the rest of the team is counting on you. A member can be dropped from the team for missing scheduled league play or for unsportsman-like conduct.

For spectators, this is a perfect way to get plenty of fresh air, liquid refreshments, enjoy the scenery and meet new friends. There are plenty of picnic tables with umbrellas to accommodate a large number of spectators. See you Sunday, February 15.

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

WEEK OF FEB. 15, 1987

TUCSON SUN SPIKERS vs. P.L.U.'S & THE TRAMP

U-GUYS vs. MEN AT PLAY

ONE MORE TIME vs. MISS PHITTS

P.L.U.'S & THE TRAMP vs. NO NAME TEAM

MEN AT PLAY vs. TUCSON SUN SPIKERS

ONE MORE TIME vs. U-GUYS

NO NAME TEAM vs. MISS PHITTS

JOSHUA TREE MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE

STANDINGS WEEK OF FEB. 2, 1987

TEAM	WON	LOST	PINS
1. FLINTSTONES	13	3	7113
2. PENETRATING FORCE	12	4	7141
3. 3 J's	11.5	4.5	6734
4. JOSHUA TREE	11	5	6529
5. KASSIE'S KLAN	10	6	6960
6. BACK POCKET	10	6	6878
7. MEN AT WORK	8	8	6735
8. SHOTS PLEEEZ	7.5	8.5	6855
9. HEAD GAMES	7	9	6792
10. THE MISFITS	6	10	6620
11. THAT'S THE TICKET	6	10	6582
12. RITA'S GIRLS	5	11	6666
13. THE THUMPERS	4	12	6595
14. THREE MINUS ONE	1	15	6582

HIGH SERIES - TEAM: KASSIE'S KLAN 1546 / MEN: MARK K. 639 / WOMEN: MARY B. 502.

HIGH GAME - TEAM: THE MISFITS 589 / MEN: RICK H. 267 / WOMEN: DEBBIE E. 200.

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tuesday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - 12 oz. cans Miller's or Miller Lite \$1.00. Bobby Jr. DJ's in J/T 9 pm.

COLETTE'S WEST - Check for daily sandwich special. "Sudsercise"! .40 draft beer from 8:00 until midnight.

FINELINE - Upstairs open at 7 pm with full-service alcohol bar.

GRADUATE - Dark Well Drinks \$1.50 till closing plus other drink specials.

IT'S 'BOUT TIME - Noon to 5:30 pm: Well Drinks \$1

(with juice \$1.25). Long Neck Beer (non-premium) \$1.25. 5:30 to 1 am "Moose Madness".

RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

RUMOR HAZZIT - Open 1 pm to 1 am. .75 Well & .50 Hot Dogs 4-7. Video dancing begins at 9 pm.

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER
SPECIAL CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

COLETTE'S WEST - Valentine's Day Drink Specials plus a Super Selection of Slow Dance Love Songs from 8 to 9:30 p.m. followed by contemporary D.J. music. Some other surprises too!

FINELINE - Grand Premiere of Michael's International Market Place. Restaurant opens at 5:00 p.m. for fine food and spirits. Afterhours dining until 4:00 a.m.

GRADUATE - VALENTINE'S DAY SHOW hosted by Miss Aviva Diamond with Deja Vu, direct from Phoenix and Tucson's own Jacqueline de Savoie. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

RUMOR HAZZIT - Tucson Knight Owls present their 1st annual 'Ping Pong Tournament' preliminaries beginning at 1 p.m. \$1 plus 2 cans of food for Community Food Bank is the entry fee and you will play for trophies. Finals on Feb. 21.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

RUMOR HAZZIT - Direct from The Network (formerly Shamoo's) in Phoenix, a big Gala Show starring the Backstage Players - Penelope Poupe', Devina, Rose Trellis and Miss Gay Arizona 1986-87 Jamie de Sa. An Uptown / Bombshell Production. 9:00 p.m. \$3 cover per person.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

GRADUATE - "Phoenix Phalsie Comedy Revue" will take the stage here tonight and tomorrow. Starring Lady Casandra, Tish Tanner and Penelope Poupe'. 8:30 p.m. No Cover.

JOSHUA TREE - Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance holds its first 'Pre Pride Week' planning meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. Cocktails will be served. Contact Jack Stockslager, 293-3515 for more information and invitation. Everyone invited. Help plan the activities for Pride Week '87 in Tucson. Get involved!

RUMOR HAZZIT - Finals in the TKO 'Ping Pong Tournament'. The four finalists from last week will play for trophies beginning at 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

GRADUATE - The "Phoenix Phalsie Comedy Revue" plays here again tonight. Featuring some of Phoenix's best performers - Lady Casandra, Tish Tanner and Penelope Poupe. 8:30 p.m. No Cover.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

COLETTE'S WEST - "Sweet and Sour" - some really great country and western sounds by this live group. They will be playing from 9:00 p.m. until closing and there is a small \$2.00 cover to hear this great group. Don't miss them!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

GRADUATE - Sisters of Sonora (SOS) present a 'Rodeo Week Kick-off Show' 8:30 p.m. More details later.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

FINELINE - Michael's International Market Place opens at Noon for Michael's Brunch. Bar-B-Que with Michael from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. All you can eat for \$3.

Gay sports festival set for July in Seattle

SEATTLE, WA - Team Seattle will host its first annual Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival in Seattle this summer over the Fourth of July weekend to promote continued development of sport opportunities for the Gay and Lesbian community following Gay Games II in San Francisco.

Currently nine sports are anticipated: soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming & diving, 5K and 10K runs, bowling, tennis, racquetball and wrestling. Team Seattle plans to finalize its list of sports for the festival by April 19, and additional sports are being considered including darts, rowing, cycling and others. Many of the sports will be sanctioned by their appropriate national sport associations.

"We had such a great time at Gay Games II in San Francisco last summer, we couldn't let the flame die until Gay Games III in 1990," said Team Seattle Co-Chair Rick Peterson. "The festival we're planning is one way to keep up interest in sports in the interim, and help build on what we already have."

Team Seattle is the organizing group which put together Seattle's team to Gay Games II. With 153 men and women athletes in 15 or 17 sports offered, Team Seattle had the largest team to Gay Games II outside California except New York City.

Planning for the Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival is well underway. A \$3,000 corporate sponsorship has already been received from K&L Distributors, Inc., to help pay for promotional costs. K&L is the major distributor of Anheuser-Busch products in Western Washington.

Peterson expects more than 500 athletes to participate, with teams and individuals coming from throughout the Pacific Northwest primarily from Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Spokane, and Northern California. "But we already know we'll have athletes from as far away as Houston, Texas and Denver, Colorado," Peterson said.

The "festival" part of the sport weekend will include an all-athlete banquet July 5, and a special athlete/community party on the Fourth of July. Most competitions will be held Saturday, July 4, with some beginning July 3, and several on Sunday, July 5. An attempt will be made to provide housing for all athletes indicating a need.

Entries for the festival will be due in early June. Athletes interested in receiving additional information and/or entry forms should write Team Seattle, 800 East Pine Street, Seattle, WA 98122. Or call Team Seattle at (206) 322-2777 leaving a name, phone number and mailing address.

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And Their Friends



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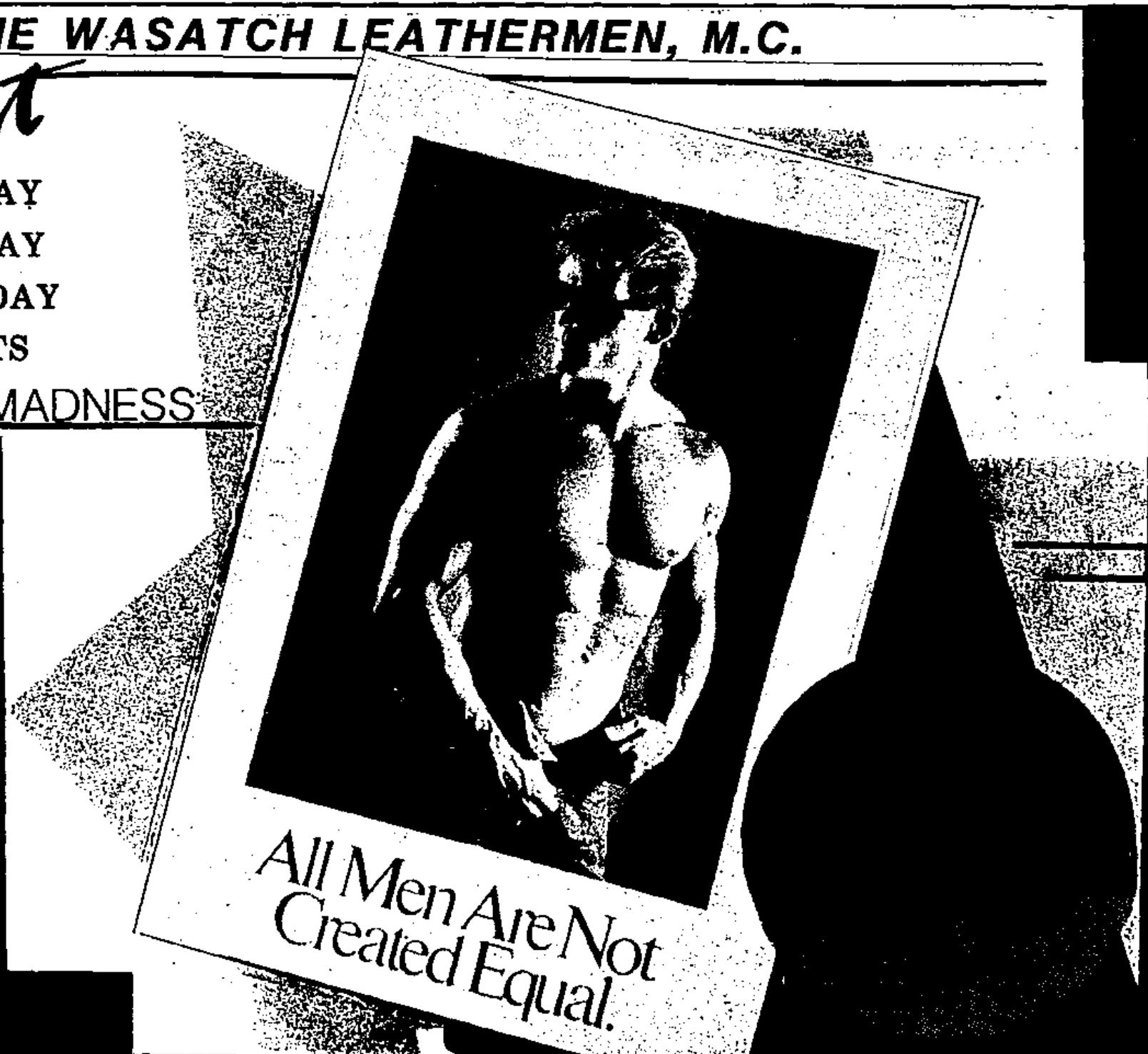
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Juicy Lucy

Due to my ex-wife showing up
in town looking for me, something
about back alimony payments she
says I owe, I'm slipping out of
town for a couple of days.

This means you-all will just

have to suffer, because I'm not
writing about you this week. But
no problem - this little ole pea-
picker will catch up next week.
That is, of course, if my friends
in town send my ex-wife out-of-
town!



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Club Does Not Run On Water Alone

by Nancy F. Neman

Operating a bistro in Tucson with ultra-exclusivity may seem, to the casual observer, to be an extremely profitable endeavor. Not so, says Colette Barajas, owner of Colette's West, Ltd., the sole women's bar in the Old Pueblo.

Colette's is situated on East Speedway, right across from Daddy Jack's Blue Note, a notorious nightspot featuring exotic dancers. Aside from an occasional unknowing inebriate falling into the bar from across the street, Colette's is mainly frequented by Gay women.

This is the second go-round for Colette's in Tucson. Its predecessor was on North First Avenue. Colette says the new bar has a slightly different atmosphere from the old Colette's and it seems to cater to a slightly different clientele.

"We're getting a lot more professional women, which I like to see," Colette observed. "A lot of people told me, being on this busy street, we wouldn't upgrade, but I've actually gotten a lot more professionals in this new club."

Colette says one of the things she's trying to accomplish with her new business is to cater to the many needs of the women's community as a whole. Her suggestion box, located at the bar, is constantly filled with ideas, and as a result she's held special movie screenings, theme nights, sports events, pool tournaments and fund-raisers for political causes. Colette says she sees this as a necessity for helping the women's community.

"I certainly think I'm open-minded and try to do different things to reach out to everyone in the community. It's literally impossible to meet everyone's needs, though. We're going to have some country music coming up, for example, as well as a pool tournament and a benefit for the Shanti organization. We're also going to set aside a night for dancing for the over-40s crowd. On Valentine's Day I plan to do a little something special for the customers, too."

Colette believes her new bar is a much nicer establishment than her old one, and as a result is bringing in a better clientele. She attributes this to more space, a quality sound system, big-screen TV, a stage, efficient and courteous employees and even a gift shop. Although she is encouraged by her new success, she says it's not being reflected at the registers.

As a non-drinker herself, Colette says she makes sure to include a well-stocked, non-alcohol bar selection. However, she sees many women who come in, particularly to dance on weekend nights, and order just glasses of water which they nurse all night long. This presents a big problem, in that these women take up table space that could be occupied by patrons willing to spend money.

"I don't think most people understand the large overhead it takes to run a quality establishment, which I think Colette's is. I've got to pay that dee-jay, it costs to keep that music library up to date to accommodate requests, and it costs money to pay my staff," Colette says.

"I don't expect people to come out and spend ten or fifteen dollars, but you can at least expect to spend five dollars for a nice evening out. I can't keep Colette's open without the support of the community, and they only way women can support Colette's is by spending money. I feel we are probably the nicest women's bar in the Southwest. We offer quality

service with a trained staff that always offers a smile to our customers, and the only way we can continue this is through good nights at the registers and good tips," Colette continued.

Colette is holding off on charging a three-dollar cover charge on weekend night to combat this problem. She also says she has considered a one-dollar "set-up" fee for glasses of water, but she would really prefer that the community rally to the cause and support the bar by being aware of this problem. For those abstaining from alcohol/sugar, Colette's offers a wide variety of sodas, non-alcohol beer, wine and champagne, and even Vita-Fort, a sugar and chemical free beverage containing seven essential vitamins.

These drinks offer a palatable alternative for would-be water hounds.

Colette says she hesitates to charge a cover because of the loyal clientele that does come in and spends money. But, she's also concerned about those same people not being able to get a place to sit and enjoy the evening when valuable space is being taken up by water drinkers who aren't spending any money at all.

Colette says she would welcome suggestions about this problem in her suggestion box on the bar. In short, she is open to advice on how to stay open, as a quality service women's bar, contributing to the needs and enjoyment of the women's community.

POPE MEETS THE SISTERS

SYDNEY, Australia (GCN) - The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and "Red Lesbian" Cardinal Tili greeted Pope John Paul II often during his late November visit to Australia.

Traveling along Sydney streets in the inner city, the Pontiff was confronted at every turn by clusters of Gay male nuns and their supporters. During the slow progress of the bullet-proof pope-mobile, Mother Superior, Cardinal Tili and others unfurled their pink triangle flag. The Gay male nuns were also well in evidence outside Sydney University when John Paul II spoke to a pre-selected audience of academics and students.

According to a woman attending the Pope's speech, two men in the audience also confronted John Paul II. Speaking on radio after the University event, the woman said, "As the Pope was about to address us, two very brave men - one in academic gown, stood up and unfurled a couple of white flags with large pink triangles and shouted, 'Anti-woman, anti-Gay, Fascist Pope, go away!'"

The protests were not without repercussions, however. One sister, Mary-Mary Quite Contrary, who had been checking the Darlinghurst area to make sure the Pope-FREE Zone posters were still visible, was hauled off the street by police. Interviewed later, the Sister said he was strip-searched and taken to Catholic Psych Hospital for an evaluation. According to Mary-Mary, the psychiatric staff did not take the need for an evaluation seriously, but were pressed to do their duty by police. Mary-Mary was pronounced sane and released.

The protest at the University was also met with violence. The Gay men who shouted at the Pontiff before he spoke were kicked and punched by other audience members who ripped one flag to shreds. The Gay men, who were dragged away by security police, were charged with offensive behavior.

A View From Within

A COMMENTARY BY
CHRISTOPHER GEOFFREY McPHERSON

AMERICAN ATHEIST: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Like many of you, I have fought long and hard with the concept of religion and whether there is a god. Coming from a science background, I have looked at all sides of the argument and come to my own conclusions. Unlike many of you, I cannot believe that there exists a divine being who charts the course of our lives killing those he/she thinks necessary; maiming others; granting success to some and total failure and obliteration to others.

Like many, I believe only in the power of the human mind to chart the course humankind takes. Look around you. Everything which exists, exists because some man or woman made it, or thought of it. Why can't people give themselves credit for being able to figure out how to build a skyscraper, print a book, create a typewriter, create art? We are not some creature with Jello for brains that is programmed like a computer to build or destroy, create or think. We create our own worlds due solely to the power within our minds. A computer cannot function without someone to push the keys; men pushes his own keys.

Sure it's tough knowing that you succeed or fail because of the power in your mind and not because it's "God's Will." It's so reassuring to believe that our world is so awful, yet "Heaven" is such paradise. Comforting thoughts, but life is what we make of it.

I never was able to truly say I believed in a god; it just never made sense to me. Maybe I'm right. Maybe I'm wrong. But

until there is some concrete, irrefutable proof that I am wrong I'll continue striving with the assumption that once I'm dead, that's it. I don't think I'll be reincarnated as a worm, or another person. I don't think I'll go to spend some idyllic eternity in paradise.

This brings me to my selected title this week: American Atheist. I found this wonderful magazine dedicated to organizing and uniting those people who feel as I do. Who believes that man creates his own destiny.

And it's a long time in coming. Whether you believe in a god or not, you cannot argue the fact that homosexuality is considered wrong only because of the influence of religion; abortion is considered immoral only because of the intrusion of someone's religious beliefs; the same hold for teaching creationism as a science, fostering censorship, fighting against the increased civil rights of women, allowing the Moral Majority to have a say in how my country is run politically. All of these things have a common denominator: without religion they probably would not be considered wrong by the majority of people.

Whether you consider yourself a-theist or not, the American Atheists are fighting --incredible as it may seem-- for the rights of homosexuals. Perhaps not directly, they are fighting for the decreased influence of religion on the creation of laws and morality. And, without the influence of religion on morality, homosexuality will be nothing more than an

"alternative sexual activity".

But beyond the immediate advantages which would come from supporting the American Atheists, look back into history at the detriment religion caused: Galileo was tossed into prison because religious leaders wanted him to denounce his accurate observations of the astronomical world around him; McCarthyism flourished by dividing people into two groups: religious and God-fearing, or seamy, anti-American, child-molesting, wife-beating atheists. There are more examples but I think you understand my point.

And now, religious interference is causing what perhaps may be looked back upon as the biggest mistake mankind has ever made: they are actively crusading to prevent the airing of television and radio advertisements for condoms: other than chastity, the only known ways to prevent the spread of the deadly virus of AIDS. The powers that make these decisions are bowing to the pressure placed upon them by religious groups, thereby increasing the numbers of men and women who are unknowingly becoming infected.

If you wish more information about the work the American Atheists is doing, you may write to them at AAP, Post Office Box 2117, Austin, Texas, 78768-2117.

Another organization, perhaps more closely and more directly involved, is CALA - The Gay and Lesbian Atheists. You can write to them at P.O. Box 14142, San Francisco, CA 94114.

And remember: Our country was founded in an effort to escape many things including the repression of religious beliefs. But many people forget one important thing: Freedom of religion also includes the freedom from religion.

NEWS FROM MCC TUCSON

This coming Sunday, Feb. 15, will be World Church Extension Sunday for all U.F.M.C.C. churches in the United States. There will be a special offering taken to help support the different churches established in various parts of the world. The U.F.M.C.C. has churches in Western Europe, Africa, Indonesia and the Hispanic Americas. MCC/Tucson is unique in that our Associate Pastor, Bernardo David, is a minister of the World Church Extension. Rev. David is pastor of the Nogales, Sonora, Mexico church and is with MCC/Tucson as our Associate Pastor. Rev. David will be officiating our Sunday morning worship service and will be bringing the message. We are pleased to have Rev. David with us fulfilling the duties of the pulpit while we are in our transition period. Our new pastor, Rev. Edward Perry will be moving to Tucson the last part of February and will take over his duties as pastor of MCC/Tucson on March 1st.

The newly elected Board of Directors had their first formal meeting last Sunday following our regular morning worship service. Routine business was conducted with all of the members present. Rhonda was appointed by the Board to be in charge of our bookstore.

Thought for the Week: Why are our two most famous presidents on the smallest dominations of our currency? Because the One Dollar bills with the picture of Washington and the Five Dollar bills of Lincoln are the most used and circulated.

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