Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER — DECEMBER 18, 1991 — ISSUE 387

Federal Judge Upholds Navy Expulsion of Midshipman Steffan

WASHINGTON, DC - On Dec. 9, Federal District Court Judge Oliver Gasch (D.C. District) upheld the current Defense Department policy banning openly Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual service members from military service. In a case brought by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) -- the national Gay and Lesbian legal organization -- Gasch ruled

Former Midshipman Joseph Steffan

that the anti-Gay policy "rationally furthered state purposes", and denied relief to former Naval Midshipman Joseph Steffan. Gasch's opinion was unprecedented because it upheld the Department of Defense (DoD) policy on the grounds that it was a legitimate tool to prevent the spread of AIDS within the armed forces.

Joseph Steffan was forced to resign from the U.S. Naval Academy in May, 1987, a few weeks shy of graduation, after he disclosed his homosexuality to an academy chaplain. In December 1988, Steffan and Lambda filed suit challenging the policy. In the spring of 1991, during hearings on the lawsuit, Gasch referred to Steffan as a "homo" three times. Attorneys for Lambda Legal Defense & Education fund plan to appeal the ruling.

"The surprise in this ruling is not Judge Gasch's prejudice -- that was clear earlier this year. The shock here is the use of AIDS as a rationale to justify the military's anti-Gay exclusion," said Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "Even the Pentagon has never made this argument. Military policies on HIV and AIDS have nothing to do with the more than 48-year-old ban. To rely on the former to bolster the latter is outrageous."

NGLTF has worked politically to overturn the policy since 1988 through its Military Freedom Project. In November of 1991, NGLTF secured the introduction of House and Senate Resolutions calling on the President to rescind the DoD policy. The Senate resolution, S. Res. 236, was introduced by Sen. Brock Adams (D-WA), and presently has 4 co-sponsors. The House resolution, H. Res. 271, was introduced by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and has 39 co-sponsors.

"Grassroots activists should urge their members of Congress to co-sponsor these resolutions," said Tim Drake, Director of NGLTF's Military Freedom Project. "We can't sit back any longer and wait for Judge Gasch or President Bush to catch up with the American people on this issue. We must not tolerate taxpayer-funded discrimination against anyone who has served our country honorably.

"Judge Gasch has used the AIDS epidemic as a crutch to prop up the military's outdated policy," Sen. Adams said. "His decision was not based on Midshipman Joe Steffan's conduct, which was exemplary. It was based on pure prejudice against Gay men and Lesbians," Adams said.

"The judge's ruling," Adams continued, "is reminiscent of the flimsy arguments used previously to ban African-Americans and women from serving in the armed forces. Those policies had nothing to do with conduct or performance. They had everything to do with prejudice."

Activists Blocked from Attending Cracker Barrel Stockolders' Meeting

WASHINGTON, DC - Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores Inc., has intensified its actions against the Gay and Lesbian community by suing activists who have protested the family-style eateries' anti-Gay employment policy. The chain also moved to prevent Gay and Lesbian activists who own stock in the company from attending its annual stockholders' meeting. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has stepped in to defend the activists.

On Nov. 1, Cracker Barrel filed a suit seeking damages from organizers of non-violent protests in Georgia and Tennessee. Activists view the recent Cracker Barrel actions as an escalation of hardline tactics against the Gay and Lesbian community.

In early 1991, Cracker Barrel fired at least nine Gay and Lesbian workers for violation of company policy which states it is inconsistent with the chain's "traditional American values...to employ individuals... whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

A statement claiming the policy was "a well-intentioned over reaction" was later released by Cracker Barrel. But after months of demonstrations at the restaurants none of the dismissed employees has been re-hired nor has any restitution been made.

Ivy Young, Director of the NGLTF Families Project, was one of the defendants named in the suit. Also named were Lynn Cothren, Larry Pelligrini, Joe and Goldie Criscuolo, Stan Mobley, Tennessee Cracker Barrel Boycott Coalition; the Cracker Barrel Protest Coalition; and "John and Jane Doe".

"Cracker Barrel should know from history that this kind of intimidation tactic has never worked when the issue at hand is the basic struggle for justice and equality," said NGLTF's Young, who has served as a liaison for activists and has organized a national petition drive against the company. "We are not going to stop our protests, demonstrations, petition drive or boycott until this company makes it clear that Lesbians and Gay men can work for them in safety and security. We are not turning back."

The suit alleges that "... these defendants... are planning a mass demonstration for the purpose of disrupting the annual stockholders' meeting..." The suit sought an injunction to prevent the demonstration and "damages".

"This is a blatant example of prior restraint on free speech," said Abby Rubenfeld, attorney and NGLTF Board member. Rubenfeld and Paula Ettelbrick of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will spearhead the defense team.

The stockholders' meeting was held on Nov. 26 at the company's headquarters in Lebanon, Tennessee. Gay activists who own Cracker Barrel stock were delayed from entering until the meeting was almost over.

"We are investigating the possibility of hitting Cracker Barrel with a countersuit for federal securities violations, claims of malicious prosecution and abuse of process," said Ettelbrick. "It's essential that we challenge this homophobic abuse of corporate power." Cracker Barrel stock is traded in the National Market System under the NASDAQ symbol CRBL. Ettelbrick asks that anyone who was a witness to events at the stockholders' meeting call the Lambda office at (212)995-8585.

The City of New York, which has $3 million in pension funds invested in Cracker Barrel, sent a representative to the meeting to get a clarification of the current policy. Earlier this year, trustees of the pension fund voted to ask Cracker Barrel to adopt a policy barring discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. The pension fund also asked Cracker Barrel to inform them of steps taken to compensate the terminated employees.

At the meeting, Patrick Doherty, the NYC Pension Fund representative, questioned Cracker Barrel chairman and president Daniel Evins, who responded by saying the policy was never a corporate-wide policy and that the employees were not fired for being Gay. Evins also released a statement claiming the firm, "is an equal opportunity employer that adheres to the letter and the spirit of non-discrimination in the workplace."

However, NGLTF has the termination forms for two employees, one of which stated, "The employee is Gay," and the other, "Violation of company policy on homosexuals."

National media interest in Cracker Barrel intensified recently when ABC's 20/20, CNN's Larry King Live and other media covered the story. On Larry King, Queer Nation/Atlanta Chair Lynn Cothren, one of the defendants in the suit, displayed items carried in Cracker Barrel gift shops that adjoin the restaurants, including a "Black Mammy" doll.

Activists are urged to contact NGLTF for more information about the ongoing campaign against Cracker Barrel. Write NGLTF, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202)332-6483.

UPDATE

AIDS Vaccine Ready In 5 Years??

HAMBURG, GERMANY (AP) - Luc Montagnier, the French pioneer researcher in AIDS was quoted as saying that a vaccine against the HIV virus that causes the disease probably will be available in five years.

Montagnier, director of the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the man credited with discovering the virus, told the German magazine "Stern" he was highly optimistic about the vaccine.

For years we were groping in the dark, all attempts proved to be dead ends," Montagnier was quoted as saying. "Now I see a great chance for a vaccine, which comes out of a part of the cover of the virus."

Asking how long it would take before the vaccine would be widely produced commercially, Montagnier was quoted as replying, "Not to make any hasty promises, you can count on five years.

He said the vaccine would be produced from a part of the HIV virus that does not spread the infection. It does not contain any genetic information, but it programs the immune system for the defense against all similar substances, therefore also against the real HIV-1, as soon as it appears in the blood," he was quoted as saying.

He said problems could arise in Africa, where the vaccine may not be effective against all variations of the virus that appear there.

Montagnier was also quoted as saying that industrial nations will have to help developing countries pay for the vaccine.

New Dating Service For Hiv Infected People Initiated

LOS ANGELES, CA (AP) - Tony Morton is looking for a companion. His requirements are simple: The person must be educated, have a good sense of humor and enjoy country/western dancing. The person must also be HIV-positive.

Morton, 31, is among about 50 people who have listed their names with one of the nation's first dating service for people infected with the AIDS virus.

"It's important for people to realize that HIV-infected people have the same needs as others: the need to be loved, the need for a relationship," he said. "They have hopes and dreams like everyone else."

Ex-Hostage Says He Fought Captor's Sexual Advances

LONDON, ENGLAND (AP) - Former British hostage Jack Mann says he fended off sexual advances from one of his captors, a documentary film maker said. Mann talked about his 2 1/2 year captivity in Lebanon during filming in September of "The Hostage Retrievers," a Thames Television documentary.

Paul Woolwich, editor of the documentary program "This Week", said Mann told film makers the captor's leader was a homosexual who tried six times to sodomize him. "This 77-year-old war hero fought him off with fisticuffs and lost two teeth in doing it," Woolwich said.

Woolwich said producer Martyn Gregory spent four or five days visiting Mann just after his Sept. 24 release from solitary confinement in Lebanon. Air Force psychiatrists who examined Mann said they were impressed with his mental agility. He scored 98 out of 100 on a memory congnitive test.

"This is very good. But we are dealing with a highly intelligent man," Mann's psychiatrist, Squadron Leader David Stevens said.

First Domestic Partners Register In Michigan

ANN ARBOR, MI (UPI) -Two Ann Arbor women have become the first couple to register under a new city ordinance that recognizes domestic partnerships between homosexuals and unmarried heterosexuals. Eighteen other U.S. cities have similar laws, the but Ann Arbor ordinance is unique in Michigan.

Nona McKenna, 50, and Sally Johnson, 48, were among about two dozen couples who filled out applications at City Hall. For a $25 fee, the city will issue them a domestic-partnership certificate. The document has little legal weight, but strong symbolic significance. Assistant City Attorney Thomas Blessing said the law is intended simply to grant official recognition to domestic partners, but will have no other impact on their legal status.

The City Council approved the ordinance Nov. 4 over objections from people who said it would undermine traditional family values. City Councilwoman Ann Marie Coleman, who sponsored the ordinance, said society's definition of the family should expand to reflect new realities.

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In Memoriam

JAMES H. "JIM" TATE
1947 - 1991

A native Arizonan, Jim slipped peacefully into eternal rest Saturday, Dec. 14 after a long struggle with AIDS complications. He is survived by his parents and a multitude of friends. Jim's knack of making friends and his wonderful wit and sense of humor made him a personality that, once met, would not be forgotten - ever.

He lived a full life working hard and playing hard. His career centered around cooking, he had his own restaurant called "Naughty Nell's", and had worked as chef at other establishments including the Arizona Department of Public Safety. But his humor always seemed to rise to the top. He had written jokes and skits for impressionist Charles Pierce and comedian Rip Taylor, among others.

Jim's creativity, sharp wit and eternally smiling face will be missed by all who knew him. Graveside services were held Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Thatcher, Arizona.

DAVID "WILLIE" PECK
Sept. 28, 1961 - Dec. 4, 1991

It is with much sadness I write this in memory of my dear friend "Dave". We have lost another of this earth's finest persons to this terrible plague!

David was a resident of Tucson for several years, but a few short weeks before his death, he returned home to Chicago with his family. David passed with his loving family at his side, his very special, loving mother holding his hand!

David loved life, and loved Arizona very much. He was very adventurous and was a world traveler. He was articulate and a perfectionist.

He fought and won many of his health battles for years, but as I watched the life drain slowly from his being, he courageously continued to fight to the end to the best of his abilities.

David is survived by his loving parents Les and Mary Ann Peck, brother Les Jr. and many friends worldwide. Services were held in Chicago, and he will be laid to rest in Germany, the country of his heritage, with his beloved grandmother.

Dave, I went to your apartment last night, and it was clean as you would wish. I love ya buddy, and will always miss you as you were my very special friend. Love

Vern Scott

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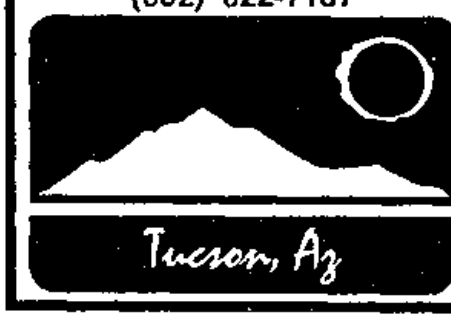

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New Club Opens In Tucson

TUCSON - The long-awaited opening of Club 2520 is at hand. The club opens its doors for the first time at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. Months of work has gone into glamorizing the old Dynasty Restaurant, 2520 N. Oracle Road, and when it opens to the public Thursday, the efforts will be highly visible.

The large complex consists of three separate bars and entertainment areas. The north side of the building is dedicated to the dancing and video crowd while the south side of the building is decorated and wired for the sounds of Country and Western music and dancing. The small, middle bar is for the crowd that disdains loud music and noise, preferring relative quiet for conversing. All three areas are extremely comfortable and very attractively furnished.

There is ample lighted parking for customers and the landscaped grounds add to the attractive surroundings.

Owners Michael Bennett and Peter Sittig, no newcomers to the Tucson night scene, are planning a lot of activity for their customers. You can check out their ad in the center section of this week's OBSERVER and also check out the bar calendar in this issue for their nightly specials too.

With the announcement of the renovation of the French Quarter into the Venture-N in last week's paper and the opening of Club 2520 this week, and with the winter season in full swing in Tucson, these new additions to the night club scene will undoubtedly bring new people out to enjoy Gay Tucson.

Left to Right in the above photo are the men in charge of the new Club 2520: Roger Barger, co-manager; Peter Sittig co-owner, Al Benion, co-manager and co-owner Michael Bennett, all ready, willing and eager to serve your every need in their club which opens this Thursday, Dec. 19. Congratulations to everyone involved for a wonderful new addition to the Tucson night scene.

C.A.T. Awards Postponed

TUCSON - The Community Awards of Tucson (C.A.T.) Committee has announced that the C.A.T. Awards presentations has been postponed to a later date.

The nominations and actual ballots for the voting for winners have been cancelled at this time. Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, interest is lagging and not enough volunteers to perform these functions have come forward.

In a special meeting of the Steering Committee of the C.A.T. Committee, it was a decided to postpone this annual event until a later time in the year. "It was a difficult decision, but the members agreed that the Awards Presentation needed the support of the entire community to fully represent the community. The support needed is not accomplished when everyone is in a frantic and time consuming position at the holiday time of the year," said Ben Corbin, committee member.

It will be announced, in the near future, the time schedule for the new C.A.T. Awards Presentation.

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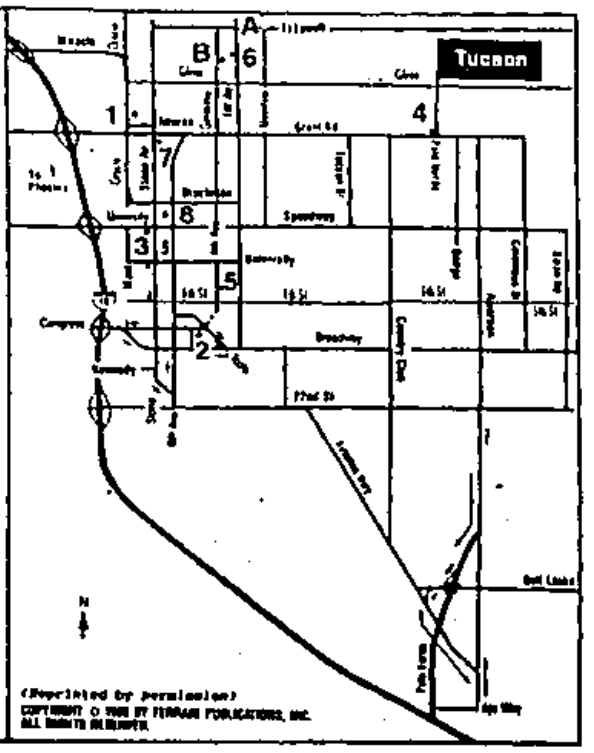

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The Committee for the Community Awards of Tucson (CAT) would like to congratulate Michael Bennett and Peter Sittig and staff on the opening of their **Club 2520**

And to Jim Dondson on the opening of **Venture-N**

We welcome them to the night club scene of Tucson and wish them the best of success.

Cat

BOOK REVIEW

Leatherfolk: A Challenging Look At A Diverse World

Four years ago, Mark Thompson gave voice to a new movement with his widely acclained anthology Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning. In his new book, "Leatherfolk", Thompson again breaks new ground, with his first non-fiction, co-gender work to focus on this large and often controversial subculture. The diverse contributors look at the history of the leather and S/M movement, how radical sex practice relates to their spirituality, and what S/M means to them personally. Five chapters from the book, including Thompson's introduction, are briefly excerpted here.

LEATHERFOLK AND RADICAL SEX PRACTICES

Even though the leather phenomenon is growing ever more popular, its psychology has been al but ignored. Few observers have delved beyond the broad pathological meanings, the hoary cliches, that have been projected onto the variant sexuality. In truth, most people don't want to see the inner reality of radical sexual practice. Outsiders are made uncomfortable by the notion of S/M because it carries with it all that has been kept repressed and shadowy inside; it is an unacknowledged waste dump for the psyche's ills and discontents. Saying this does not make radical sexuality bad; only the hypocrisy and lack of consciousness about it is. As many leatherfolk we understand, rather than keeping parts of the psyche distant and detached, S/M can serve deep spiritual needs for wholeness and completion.

In the broadest sense, radical sex practice is about the exploration of eros. Being playful with sexuality -- entertaining our fantasies, enriching our lives with pleasure -- is an essential freedom. The look, scent and feel of black leather sexualizes everything it comes in contact with. Liberating erotic potential from the dour puritanical ethics that still rule our culture, and our libidos, is prerequisite to establishing a more sane and forgiving society. S/M practice, composed of highly potent sexual games, increases awareness about ourselves and others. It is not unusual to find leatherfolk who are members of the clergy or the New Age movement, or who have explored psychoanalysis or various recovery programs. In short, most of us are in some way seriously committed to personal and social change.

--Mark Thompson

A FAR PLACE IN MIND

People who play with power are likely to question it as well, and in S/M play, at least, they often turn the world upside down, so the cop is handcuffed and hangs by his heels. In sex and in everyday life I'm fairly aggressive. But there are times when I want nothing but to give up control: to be willingly weak and willingly subjected to another's will. In a leatherspace created between trusting partners, I can shed my own selves -- the writer, the Fighter, the Lover, and others -- and perhaps take the path of pain toward that far place in my own mind which is still unmapped, unnamed and unknown.

--Scott Tucker

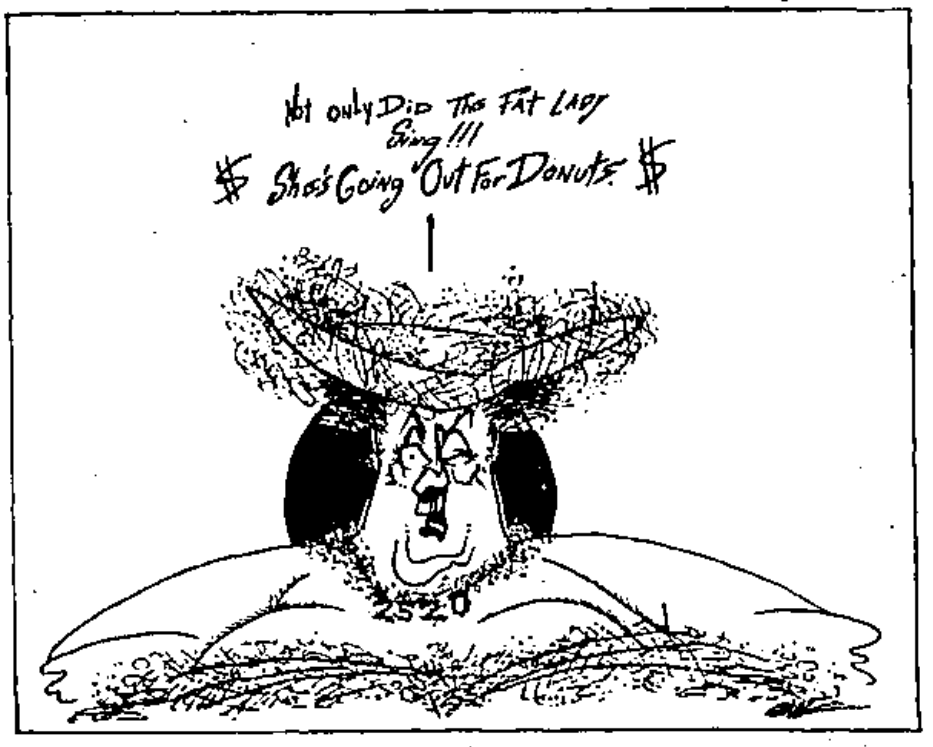
THE LIMITS OF THE S/M RELATIONSHIP

The negotiating process that takes place before an exchange of power in an S/M scene is supposed to ensure consent and equal gratification for both partners. If this is true, why are so many more sadomasochists wearing their keys on the right? This would certainly seem to imply that one role is potentially more rewarding than the other. If some of us aren't getting what we want (which seems guaranteed in a subculture in which bottoms outnumber tops), maybe we need to make some changes.

How do tops and bottoms view each other? Is S/M really about sensuality and mutuality? Are we being honest about what we want from each other? Are we being realistic or fair?

One of the things that tops do bond with each other is stand around and bitch about bottoms. A lot of this is self-serving and basically affectionate, so it can't be taken too seriously. But I've repeatedly heard some complaints that probably should not be discounted.

As I See It . . . . . *by Clark*



Double Mischief

by Wendy Caster

The Season Of Supposed To's

Remember the expectations of your childhood? If you're my age or older and you're female, you were supposed to like dolls, ignore sports, stay clean, wear dresses, have crushes on boys in your early teens, have dates with boys in your later teens, and marry a man sometime in you twenties. Then you were supposed to have children, take care of your family, and remain at least one metaphysical step behind your husband.

If you were a boy, you were supposed to love sports, never cry, be rough and tumble, hate dolls, and consider girls weird. Then you were supposed to become obsessed with girls, while never taking them seriously, and eventually marry, support your family, keep a stiff upper lip, and know what was right.

Of course, these expectations were 'straight-jackets,' since any deviation from them got one labeled as weird, gross, faggy, dyky, disgusting, or not even human. Luckily, most of us outgrew these expectations and rid ourselves of internalized homophobia, heterocentrism, and role limitation-ism.

Expectations are on my mind since it's the holiday season-- or rather, "tis the season of supposed to's." One day it's Halloween, and the next thing we know we're supposed to be in loving families, we're supposed to love carols, we're supposed to spend money, we're supposed to love Frank Capra movies, we're supposed to be part of the big amorphous blob of U.S. capitalism and love.

Yick.

It's not that I have anything against the winter holidays. But I hate it when TV, radio stations, department store and restaurant sound systems, and newspaper columns tell me how to feel! And I particularly hate it when "going with the program" leaves out the reality of myself and most of my loved ones.

The other day the radio woke me with a Christmas carol saying that "Jesus is king." Well, he's not my king. I don't mean this in any nasty way, and I certainly don't mean to offend any Christians. But although I am not religious, I am a Jew, and this is difficult season for Jews in the United States--and, I imagine, Buddhists, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, Sikhs, pagans, Taoists, et al. It's a time of year when our minority status can feel dangerous, as the U.S. is repeatedly called a Christian nation, creches and crosses appear all over, and those of us who worship differently or not at all are seen as un-American, weird, Communist, or _____ (fill in the insult of your choice).

And for lesbians and gay men, including Christians, the enforced merriment of this season is cruel. Too many of us aren't welcome at the homes of our "loving families." Too many of us are alone and scared. Too many of us have died and will die; too many of us are widows and widowers. AIDS continues to ravage our community, gay-bashing is at an all-time high, and it is just too damn hard to try to imagine that most people wishing "good will toward men" include us, male and female.

This year the exhortations to love and worship and spend money ring particularly false, since millions of people in the U.S.--and billions in the world--are going through tough times. Unemployment is sky high. Homelessness is rampant. People are scared. And George Bush says, "Go Christmas shopping and spend cash." Screw you, George.

If this column seems unduly negative to you, good. I hope you and your loved ones are happy and healthy and prosperous and remain so. But, for those of us too scared to take a walk at night because of the rapists and gay-bashers, wondering if their folks will ever accept them, wondering if a cure for AIDS will be found in time for them, mourning all our friends who weren't saved, and wondering how they'll pay January's rent, I have a different message. First of all, you're not nuts to be unhappy. You're not an inhuman weirdo. You're not disgusting or odd or depressing or morbid. If you are in pain, feel your pain. Don't let the bullshit artists twist you around. Your life, you reality, is more important than Madison Avenue's and George Bush's put together. Cherish it, even when it hurts.

And for all of us, I have a wish: I pray that we find ways to take care of ourselves and each other. I pray that we find compassionate and humane people to govern our country. I pray we find cures for AIDS and cancer and hunger. I pray that gay-bashing and rape and racism and sexism cease.

And I pray that we may all experience joy, our own joy, genuine joy, free of anyone's expectations.

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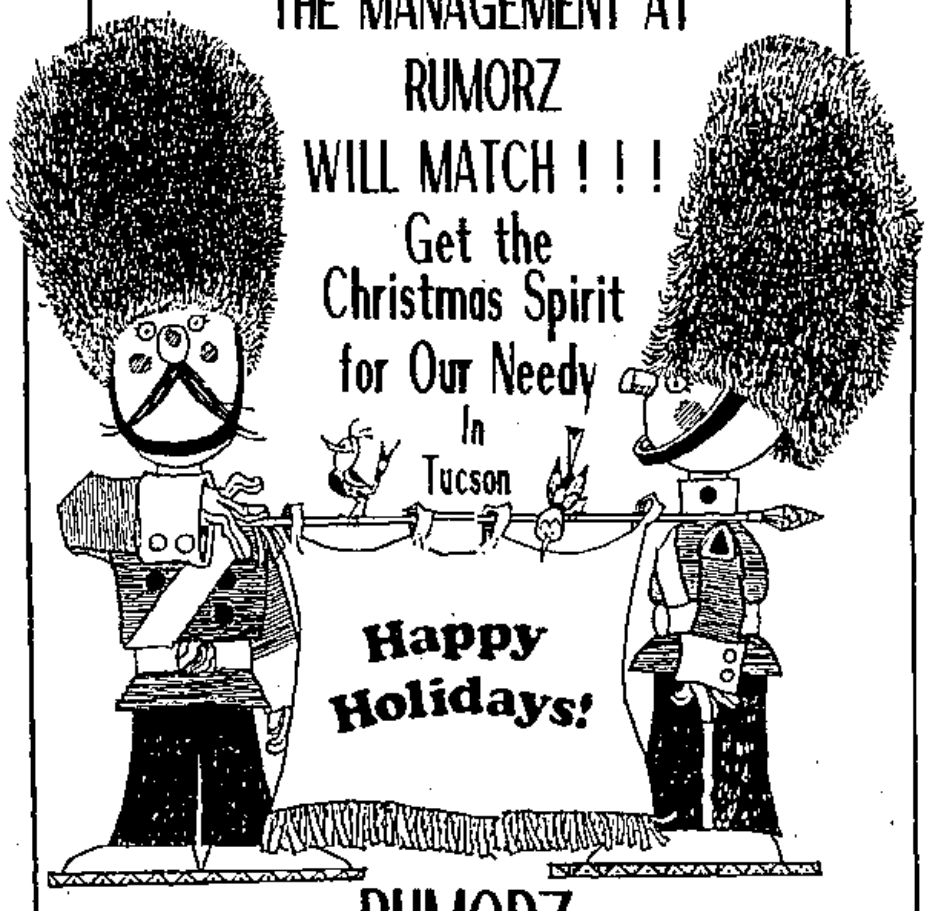

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POLITICS '91 by Mark Kerr

NATIONAL NEWS

The first of many televised debate between the six hopefuls for the 1992 Democratic Presidential nonination took place this past Sunday on NBC T.V., with NBC newsanchor Tom Brokaw as moderator. Here are some of the highlights from the televised debate: Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Governor Douglas Wilder of Virginia called for a middle-class tax cut. Senator Tom Harking of Iowa called for a massive public works program. Former California Governor, Jerry Brown's theme throughout the event was that we needed to end big money's role in politics. Brown throughout the whole event was trying to portray himself as an outsider and blasted Senator's Kerrey and Harking for voting for a pay raise for Senators. This led into the biggest clash between Senator Kerrey and Brown. Kerrey demanded that Brown answer the question regarding if Bob Kerrey was bought and paid for. Brown, who lagging in the polls, backed down by saying that Kerrey was apart of the systen and he was too. For the most part the six stuck to their canpaign themes. Kerrey mentioning about his tour of duty in Vietnan and how he lost part of his leg. Clinton talking about his 12 years experience as Governor of Arkansas. Harking talking about the fact that he was the first Democrat to be re-elected to the United State Senate from Iowa and that would come in handy since the Democrats have only won one election in the last 20 years. Brown talked about his experience as Governor. Tsongas mentioned his experience as a Massachusetts Senator and his economic plan.

At the State Convention of the Florida Democratic Party, which took place this past weekend, a straw vote on the Democratic Presidential Contenders took place, with the State Committee, consisting of 2,300 participating. The big winner in this contest was Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton. Here are the results from the vote in Florida:

Governor Bill Clinton (Arkansas)	53.6%
Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa)	31.0%
Senator Bob Kerrey (Nebraska)	10.2%
Senator Paul Tsongas (Massachusetts)	2.2%
Governor Douglas Wilder (Virginia)	1.3%
Governor Mario Cuomo (New York)	1.1%
Governor Jerry Brown (California)	.6%

This is seen as a boost for Governor Clinton as he was seen on the botton of the first tier candidates.

Last Tuesday, in Concord New Hampshire, newspaper and television commentator, Patrick Buchanan made his bid for the 1992 Republican Presidential official. In his declaration, Buchanan stated that it was time to put America First, by ending foreign aid and stop raising taxes. In his speech, Buchanan stated that George Bush has abandoned the "conservative principles" of the Republican Party and that Bush also has filed on foreign policy and that it is time for a conservative to serve as President to protect "Judeo-Christian values." Bush blasted Buchanan, indirectly, in a speech in Chicago, he stated that America would suffer severe danage if the country goes back to the policy of isolationism.

ARIZONA NEWS

1992 will not start out well for Governor Fife Symington. On Monday, the Resolution Trust Corporation has filed a $146 million dollar lawsuit against the former Board of Directors of Southwest Savings, which Symington was a Board Member, for negligence and financial nismanagement. Southwest Saving failed in 1989 and was taken over by the RTC. Symington did not personally comment on the suit, his lawyer called it a sham.

Until next time, politics as usual.

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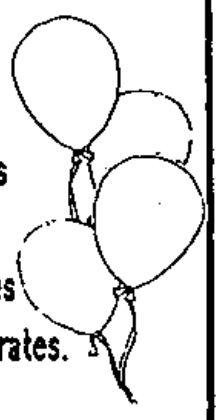

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OBSERVER

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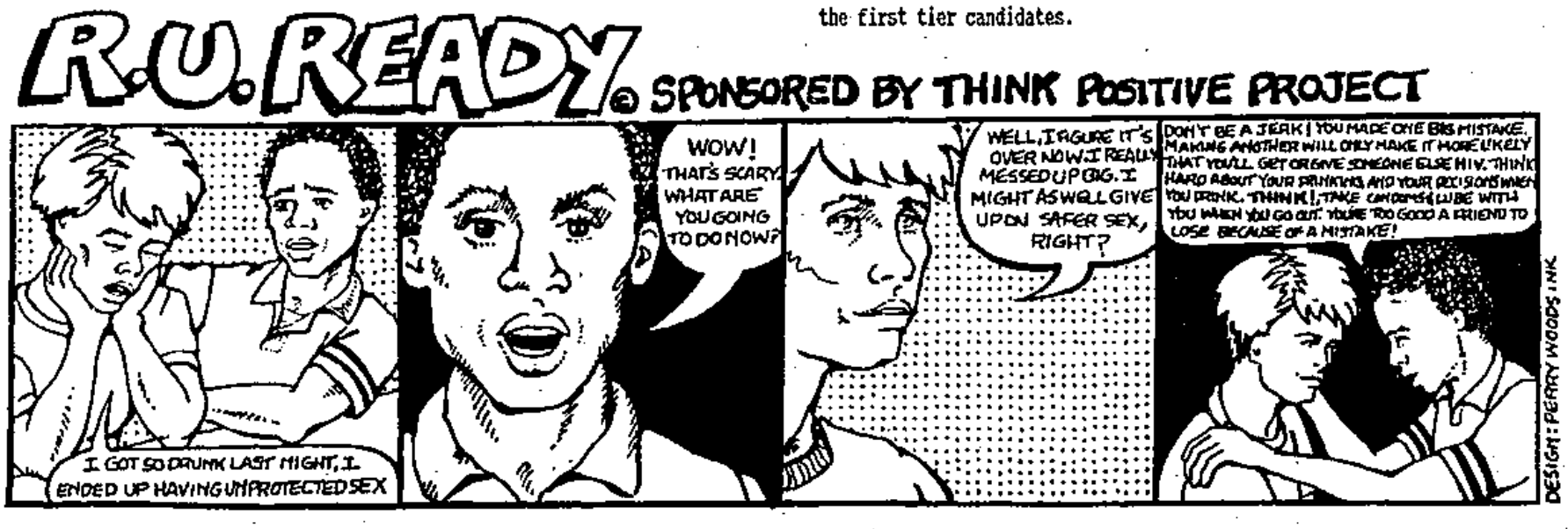


What's Up Doc ???

It is hard for me to believe it but a week from today it will be Christmas. And, as always, I haven't even been out shopping. Of course I do not buy that many gifts so it shouldn't take more than a couple hours, I hope.

And speaking of Christmas, this coming Saturday it will be time for this years first Christmas show. This one is being staged by TKO, for their annual Make-A-Wish benefit. Staring in this show will be Avia Diamond, Margo Leigh, Kimberly Ryan, Lady Cassondra and Tish Tanner. Show time will be 8:30ish. Other gifts will be under the tree for you to win prior to the final drawing for the tree itself. Winners tickets for those gifts will be placed back into the jar for the tree drawing. Drawing will go on all evening during the show with the winners for these (presents under the tree), will have to be present to win. For the tree itself and the Laughlin package, the winner need not be present.

WELCOME HOME DIRTY DOLLY! That's right, Dirty Dolly will be arriving back in Tucson and there will be a welcome back party for her on Dec. 26 at Club 2520, starting at 4 pm. For all of you that knows her, lets all show up and make her feel the Old Pueblo hospitality and love. With her in town again, poor Ben will have to be on good behavior again, if that is even possible.

I must say, Tucson sure is going through some drastic, but welcomed, changes. First off, this Friday we have the opening of the long awaited Club 2520. Then, and still open for business, we see the changing of the guard at the French Quarter. It, the French Quarter, will become known as the Venture-N.

The French Quarter/Venture-N is presently going through some remodeling so things are a tad bit messy looking but, the end results, when all completed, will be a surprise. With Club 2520 opening and when the remodeling is finished over at the French Quarter/Venture-N, both will be a welcomed change for the Tucson bar scene.

Last Sunday at the Graduate, TKO and TALL combined for a beer bust. All proceeds, $151, were split equally between the Make-A-Wish benefit and Shanti's food box. Both TKO and TALL wished to thank everyone who were in attendance, making this beer bust as successful as it was. The members of both clubs also takes this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and thank you for another years support.

Well, by the clock on the wall, I see it is time for to head over to Bobs, so that I can re-type this column, plus a few other for this weeks Observer. Next weeks Observer will be arriving at the bars on Tuesday, we did not want to overtax Santa Claus by having him deliver the papers also.

Have a safe and loving week.

A Commentary By

Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

The Pain Of Love

Many years ago, some wise person said that it is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all. I have always believed these words, and even adapted them to fit different perspectives: It is better to have tried and failed than to never have tried; it is better to have one good friend than a dozen unfaithful friends; etc.

I still believe those words about love.

At this moment in my life, I am finding by belief challenged as I face the loss of someone I loved very deeply. The details do not matter; the pain, the longing, the feeling of emptiness that preoccupy my mind do.

It is the most excruciatingly indescribable pain that I believe I have ever felt in my short life. It is the kind of pain that dulls every happy moment; the kind of pain that makes bad situations worse; the kind that makes sad situations unbearable.

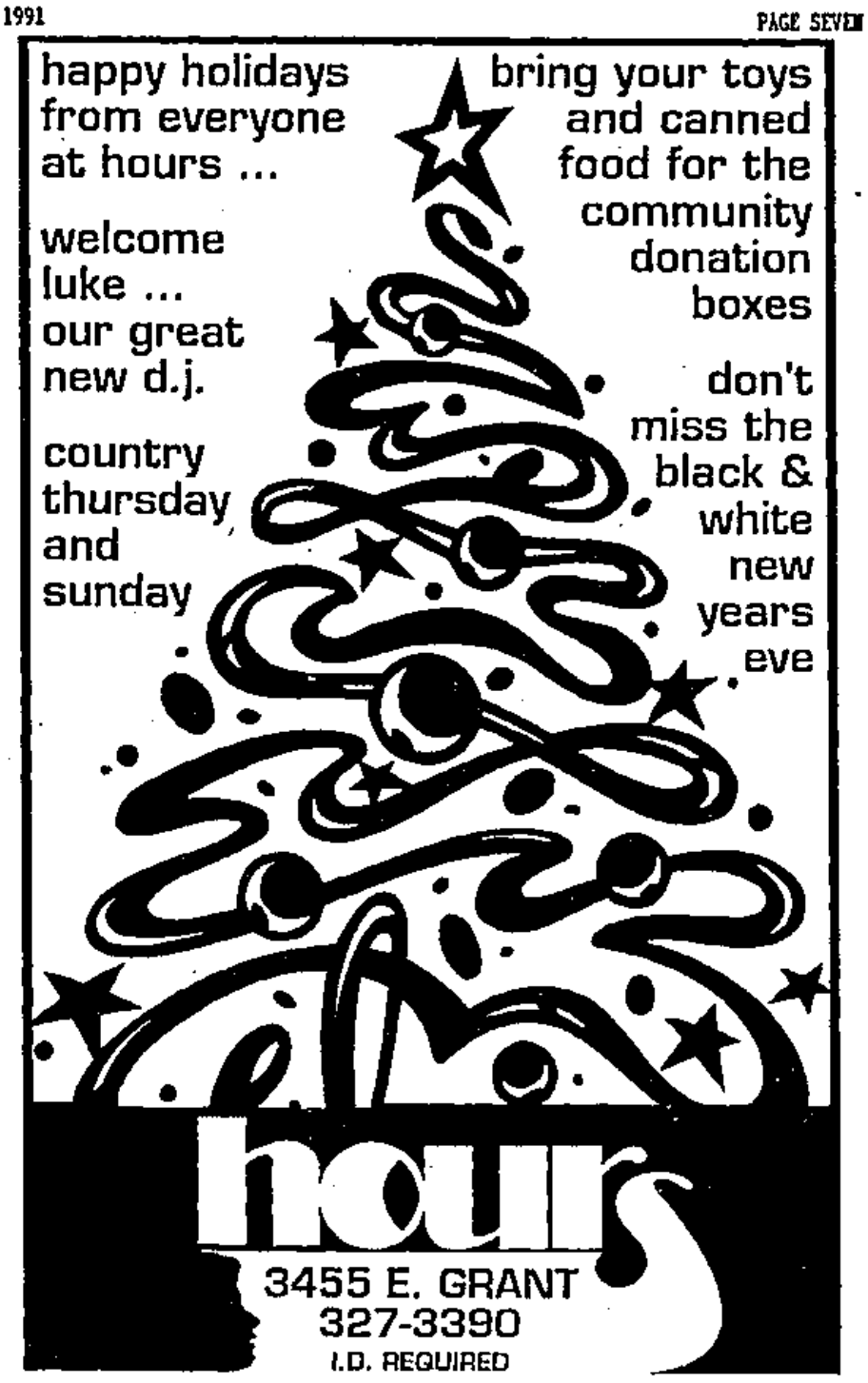
Like all things in life, I know this feeling--while it may not pass--will diminish through time. I know there will come a certain day when I will suddenly realize I have not thought of the cause of this pain for many hours, or days, or months.

But I also know that for the rest of my life, no matter how long that might be, I will feel a measure of pain in my heart for a love I felt unlike any love before; for the joy of the highest possible emotion and the pain when that love fell the farthest possible distance; for the greatest amount of openness and honesty that was given in sincerity and, ultimately, rejected.

I know life will go on, the sun will come up, other things of importance will come and go in my life. I also know that I am a luckier person than those millions for whom life has come and gone without at least one brief taste of the love I have now lost.

Such knowledge, though, does nothing to lessen the pain.

At Spes Non Fracta: See you next week.



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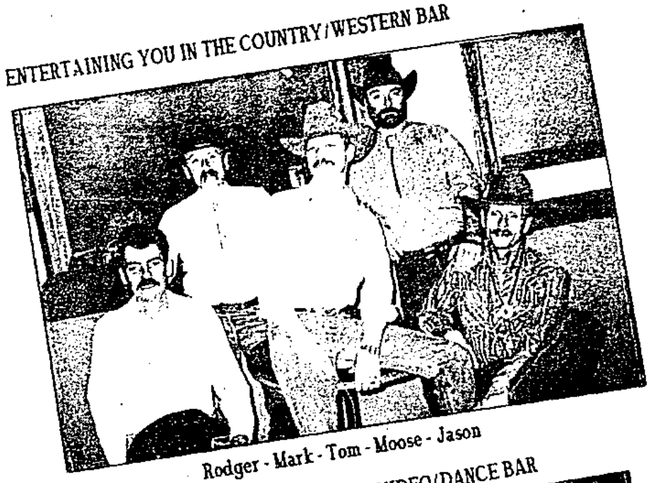
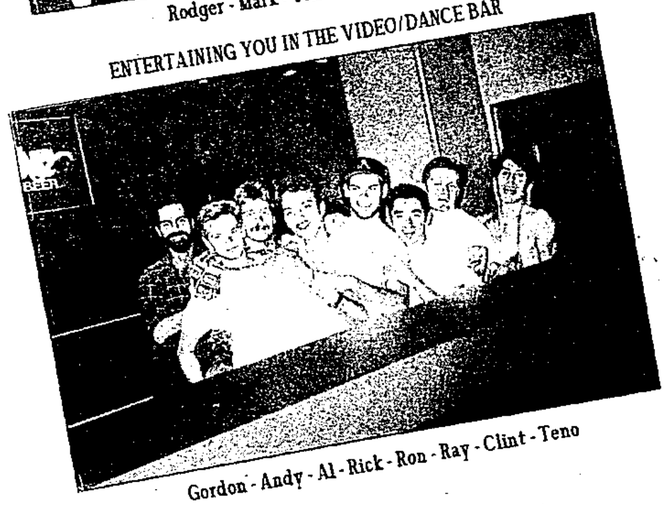


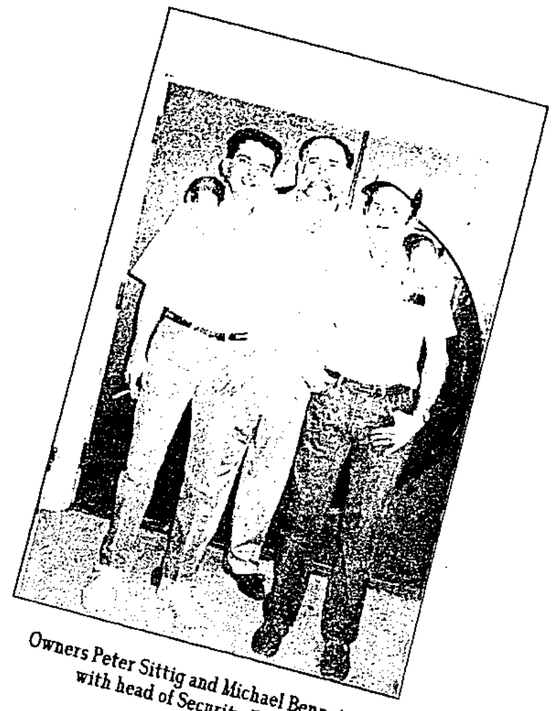
Rodger - Mark - Tom - Moose - Jason

ENTERTAINING YOU IN THE VIDEO/DANCE BAR



Gordon - Andy - Al - Rick - Ron - Ray - Clint - Teno

FRONT ROW (l to r): Jason - Frank - Ron - Ray - Clint - Rodger - Teno - Moose - Tom - Mark . BACK ROW: Gordon - Rick - Al - Michael - Peter - Andy.



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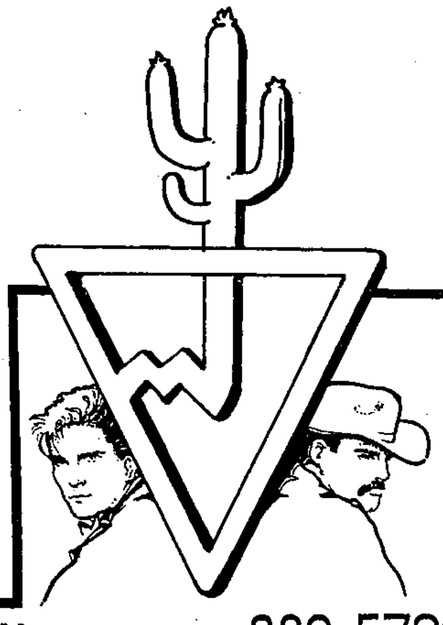

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Sunday Evening Service · 6:30 PM
Wednesday Mid-Week Service · 7:00 PM

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Can you feel it "in the air?" Does it inspire you that in 7 very short days, it will BE Christmas! Oh yes, it IS "that time of year!" What people think about during the Christmas season, and Christmas itself, is based on a multitude of different aspects regarding the real "meaning of Christmas" to them, as individuals. Each person's experience is not doubt different in one way or another. Have you ever given any serious consideration to what December 25th each year means to YOU?

I can only share with you what Christmas means to me...and I'll readily admit, my opinion is very prejudiced. You see, I'm a Christian. That does not mean I don't savor the very same joys of Christmas and the Holiday Season you do. I love brightly colored lights, Christmas trees, the joy of giving gifts to those I love...you know...you enjoy those things too! But to me, there's something far more significant than these and a million 'other' Christmas-type activities.

Christmas to me is the Birth of Jesus in the very same world I now live in...a few centuries later than the time of His coming to earth; destined to be Almighty God's one and only means of salvation for the entire human race; Jesus, Who is the Savior of the World. Yes, I especially honor my Savior on December 25th, yearly--even though many supposed-theologians say that's not, actually, the date of His birth. During my lifetime, Christianity recognizes this particular date, over all others, to worship Jesus the King, in human, physical form; being fully human...and also...fully Diving--as a day of Great Celebration for His birth into my world!

The birth of Jesus on earth, in human physical form, was so significant then, that of the four Gospels beginning the New Testament of the Bible, His Birth is fully described in three different Gospels! That alone is of eminent significance! It's reflected in Matthew 1:18--2:11; Luke 1:26-38--2:1-7; and also in John 1:1-5, 14. So the actual focus of my mind when I'm anticipating Christmas, December 25th, is the coming of He Who became my Lord and Savior through His brief three-year ministry on earth. Christmas is the Birth of Jesus, First!

Every single detail of the coming of Jesus and His birth, was the 'fulfillment' of all the former Scriptures..one right after another; no matter how much the Jewish Council and leaders of the Sanhedrin denied the Divinity of Jesus, and repeatedly tried to discredit Him, not only at the :Birth of the Messiah," but all the way to the Cross...33 years later.

I don't think of 'traditional' Christmas carols this time of year..no. I think..."Because HE LIVES, I can face tomorrow. Because HE LIVES, all fear is gone. Because I know, HE holds the future--and life is worth the living--Because HE Lives!"

Yes, I sure AM rejoicing Christmas is now hours away, and I'll most likely celebrate the birth of Jesus just like you do, on the surface. The only difference is, I'm blessed with the realization of the true, worshipful significance of this one "Special" day yearly. I celebrate Jesus' Birth, without which the entire human race...and that means ME!....would face the eventual acceptance that when our earthly lives are over, we would perish! We'll ALL have Eternal Life--but JESUS gave each of us the chance to reserve our Eternal Home with HIM! Without Jesus, our Eternal lives will most certainly be spent in hell.

Please come and share Christmas Eve with all of us at Cornerstone Fellowship. We would really love to share it with YOU. Jesus, the essence of Christmas is there waiting for you, right now.

News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Cockle

This is the time of the year when all Christian Churches focus on the Christmas Season. Christmas id not come into being until many, many years after the birth of Jesus Christ. In fact, Christmas was not celebrated until after the actual date was lost in history. There was no actual recording of this event except in the four Gospels of the New Testament and none of these Gospels give any indication of the date.

The word "Christmas" is derived from "Christ's Mass". In the early Roman Catholic Church, Masses were established to give honor to the many individuals who helped to bring the church into being. All of Christ;s disciples; Mary, the mother of Jesus; Stephen, the first martyr in the name of Christ; were made Saints in the early church. In order for the early church to secure the support of the people into the church many concessions were made. Ancient rituals were incorporated into the Christian church and Christmas was one of those concessions. The Romans held a celebration in the time of year of what is now known as December. During this celebration the people gave gifts to each other to show their friendship. This ritual was used in the early church to join this ancient ritual with the giving of the gifts of the Three Wise Men from the East as recorded by Matthew.

Christmas, as we know the celebration today, has evolved through the years. Martin Luther gave us the Christmas Tree. Martin Luther also gave us the Christmas Carols. The stories behind these two traditions are most unique. Santa Claus was given to us by Mr. Moore.

But, for whatever reason or at what time of the year we celebrate this holiday, let us not forget why we are celebrating. We are celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ here on Earth.

MCC/Tucson will have a special Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Starting at 9:00 p.m. there will be an Open House with food and beverages until 11:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. there will be a Candle Light Service to celebrate this Holy Night. Everyone is invited to attend and be with us.

Thought for the week: In times like these it helps to remember that there have always been times like these.

People Magazine To Include Full-Page Gay Ad

by Brent Hartinger

A Lesbian and Gay organization is placing in People magazine what may be the single most expensive and widely-seen pro-Gay advertisement ever, but if the diversity of the Lesbian and Gay men in the ad is any indication, Variety might be a better place for it.

The full page ad is sponsored by the national Lesbian and Gay Awareness Project, a non-profit organization which uses the media to educate the public on the topic of homosexuality and homophobia. The ad will appear in the December 30 year-end double issue of people and fea tures a photo of over forty Lesbian and Gay men with the caption, "Guess What? We're your family, neighbors and friends ... and we're Gay. Look beyond Lesbian and Gay stereotypes and find out more about us!"

"The photograph really shows the diversity of the Lesbian and Gay community," said Julie Baron, recently appointed new executive director of the Los Angeles-based Awareness Project. "People don't think they know anyone who's Gay, but there's such a diversity (of people in the ad) that there's probably somebody there anybody can relate to."

The Awareness Project went to great lengths to include as much of the Lesbian and Gay community's diversity as possible in the ad. "We decided we wanted a true representation," Baron said, noting that the ad that the ad includes representatives from the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, Viva, the Gay and Lesbian Latino Unidos, and the Asian Pacific Islanders Gay and Lesbian Group.

In addition, the ad features Dick Sargent, the actor who portrayed Darrin Stevens for most of the run of the 1960s television series "Bewitched", and who publicly came out as a Gay man on Oct. 11, this year's National Coming Out Day. "Since I went public about my sexuality, I decided to do everything I can," Sargent said.

Actress Sheila Kuehl, who played Dobie Gillis' girl friend on "Dobie Gillis" and who also came out with Sargent on Oct. 11, was present for much of the photography session during which the photo was take, but is not in the photo actually chosen for the ad.

Other Lesbians and Gays in the ad include Lynn Shepodd, executive director of National Coming Out Day; Warren Sims, president of the African American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance; Virginia Uribe, the founder of Project 10, one of the nation's first counseling programs for Lesbian and Gay high school students (and still the only school board-sanctioned such program); and pre-Stonewall Gay activist Morris Kight.

The ad, which will appear in the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Sacramento, Boston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Cleveland editions of the magazine, cost over $26,000 to place -- a price which reflects the considerable discount "People" gives to non-profit agencies and another discount because the ad was placed through an ad placement agency. The ad was paid for by individual contributions and a grant from the Chicago Resource Center.

Everything else -- photography, graphics, and placement -- was done "basically pro bono," said Catherine Coker, founder of the Awareness Project and its former executive director.

"$26,000 is a lot of money," Coker concedes. "But the thing that's great about this ad is that we will be reaching a cross-section of the population that isn't necessarily Gay-aware." According to Debbie Mabari of JCJ Productions in West Hollywood and who handled the placement of the ad free of charge, almost two million copies of the magazine will feature the ad. According to Coker, many millions more than that will see the ad in the magazine since most copies are read by more than one person.

In addition, Coker points out, unlike most magazines ads, pro-Gay advertisements usually generate subsequent positive publicity in the mainstream media for Lesbians and Gays. After a series of Awareness Project print ads appeared in the Los Angeles Times to coincide with the 1990 Gay pride events in that city, the organization was written up extensively in newspapers and invited to appear on local radio and television shows. Just the fact that "the Gay and Lesbian community and its supporters feel so strongly that homophobia must be ended that we're willing to put our money behind it" is newsworthy, Coker said. As a result of the "People" ad, the Awareness Project has been in contact with the national talk-show circuit.

The ad also features a tear-off coupon which readers can use to either donate to the Awareness project or to request a free brochure on the subject of homophobia. Coker hopes to mail out as many as 50,000 brochures.

The "People" ad is the latest project of the Los Angeles-based Awareness Project, but it's not the first. Founded by Coker in 1987, the group has produced a series of nine pro-Gay print ads which have appeared in regional newspapers and magazines nationwide -- some sponsored by the Awareness Project itself, others through their Adopt-an-Ad campaign in which local organizations buy advertising space and the Awareness Project provides camera-ready ads. The group has recently started distributing anti-homophobia radio and television public service announcements, which run for free.

"We plan to do at least one big ad like (the "People" one) a year along with our regional adopt-an-ad program and the other radio and television public service announcements," Coker said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

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CALENDAR
of upcoming events

VENTURE-B - The old French Quarter has new ownership. There will be extensive remodeling to the building and, during this remodeling period, the bar will be open at 4 p.m. Monday thru Saturday. On Sunday it will open at 11 a.m. Come by and see the progress. Watch for more details for the grand re-opening.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

CLUB 2520 - The long-awaited opening of this new Gay complex at 2520 North Oracle is at hand. The bar will officially open this date at 11:00 a.m. and close at 1:00 a.m. You won't want to miss seeing this most spectacular complex that houses a Video dance bar, a separate country/western dance bar and a separate conversation bar. You will be hearing a lot about this and it is all good! Stop by and enjoy the Opening Day festivities.

JOSHUA TREE - Starting today and then every Thursday, JT's will present for ladies only - "The Hottest Legs In Tucson" for laidies by ladies. Showtime 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

GRADUATE - TKO will be having a full evening of fun and entertainment and prizes and everything else that goes with the holidiys. Show and benefit for the Make-A-Wish Program. Raffle for two Laughlin trips, their $100 Christmas tree will also be raffled off. Show features Miss Aviva Diamond, Lady Casondraa, Tish Tanner, Margo Leigh and TKO's very own Kimberly Ryan. Get your raffle tickets now and be there for the gala event.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY)

CLUB 2520 - Will open at 6 p.m. today only.
GRADUATE - Will open at 3 p.m. today only.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

RUMORI - A special evening here tonight. A roast of Natalie Perry in recognition of her many years sof service and caring for our community. There will be an auction of select donated items plus a raffle for roundtrip air fare for two to San Francisco, Los Angeles or Las Vegas. All proceeds will be donated to Shanti/Tucson In addition the Rumorz management will donate 50% of their register for the evening to Shanti. Reservations are suggested and for further info call Rumorz or Shanti.

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Non-Bar
CALENDAR

(NOTE: If you have an event or special happening that you feel should be included in this Non-Bar Activities Calendar, please contact Mr. Ben Corbin prior to Monday of that Wednesday's paper for inclusion in that week's issue. After the first notice has appeared, it will appear weekly until that event has taken place. Mr. Corbin may be reached at 292-9151 in Tucson.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Croniess (men's 40 and over club) will hve a mid-month dinner. Call Merle 888-7264.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Desert Voices will present their Fall/Winter Concert at St. Francis in the Foothills at 4625 E. River Road. The concert is being sponsored by the St. Francis Reconciling Congregation Program and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Donations accepted at the door. Desert Voices and R.C.P. of St. Francis are extending an open invitation to Tucson's entire Gay and Lesbian community to join them for this evening of music and song. During the evening, a compact disk will be given away.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

"A Service of Carols and Candles", will be the subject of a Christmas Eve Service at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, 4831 E. 22nd Street at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Twerling, minister of the church says, "All are invited to join us for an evening service of singing carols and sharing stories of Christmas and Hanukah." Special music will be by the Church Choir and UU Family Singers. Childcare is available. The church is wheelchair accessible and handicapped parking is available.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY)

Cronies (men's 40 and over club) will have a Christmas dinner. If you would like to attend, call Merle at 888-7264.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

The Cronies (40 and over mens club) will hold their monthly meeting at MCC Church on Jan. 4 at 7:00 p.m. Call Merle for details 888-7264.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

DofA Committee for Gay, Lesbian & Biserual Faculty and Staff will meet from Noon to 1:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 283. Professor Bruce Fowler facilitates this brown bag luncheon meeting, and it is open to DofA staff and faculty who are concerned about Gay, Lesbian and Biserual issues.

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Tucson CALENDAR

Sunday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Beer Pitchers $2.50 noon to 7 p.m. Volleyball begins at 1:00 p.m. Sunday Pitchers Specials. David cooks Steak Dinners 4-8 pm $4.00. Dave L. plays good hot old music.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Brunch served noon to 3 p.m. Tea Dance 3 to 8. Western Steak Fry 5 to 7. Video /Dance Bar and Country/Western Dance bar open 8 pm to 1 am.
GRADUATE - All White Well $1.25 daytime and $1.50 nighttime.
ROCKS - Open at 11 a.m. for NFL football. Bloody Marys and Screws $1.25 till 7 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1 and with your DJ Jason.
IDY'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. 8 to 1 Trash Disco Night. Hot music from the 70s & 80s.
RUMORI - Open at noon. Drink specials.
VENTURE-B - Open 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

monday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Blackboard Specials noon to 7 p.m. Jerry DJs.
CLUB CONGRESS - 70's Disco with Super Star Lover. $1. 9 pm to 1 am.
CLUB 2120 - Open 11 am. 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Hourly mystery drink specials 8 to close. C/W dancing and video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour prices open to close.
ROCKS - Open Noon. Happy Hours 3 to 7 pm - Well and Domestic Beer $1.25,
IDY'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Easy listening music. Bring in your own tape for a drink special 8 pm to 1 am.
RUMORI - Open noon. Daily drinks specials. DJ/VJ at 9.
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

tuesday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Daily Special noon to 7 pm. Drink Draft and Brown .50 draft 8 pm till close. Open Volleyball games begin at 7 p.m. Jerry DJs.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 pm to close. Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Draft Beer Special. Small Pitchers $1.50, Large Pitchers $3.00
ROCKS - Happy Hours 3 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.25.
IDY'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Copper City Squares 7-8. Leather Nite with .75 draft beer and .50 off call liquor for anyone wearing leather 8 pm to close. Country music and dancing with Gil Leon 9-1.
RUMORI - Open noon. Daily drink specials. VJ/DJ 9-1 with Clint.
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

wednesday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Drink specials till 7 pm. Mesh for Fantasy male strippers at 11 pm. Dave L. DJs.
CLUB CONGRESS - Rock 'n Roll Boy Bar with DJ Sir Rodney Farrow. No charge.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. 50 cents off on everything from 8 pm to close. Country/Wester dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - Domestic Beer $1.25/days - $1.50 nites.
ROCKS - Draft Beer .50 7 p.m. to close. Happy Hours 3 to 7 pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Black & White Service Industries Night Out. Bartenders, waiters and waitresses 1/2 price.
IDY'S - 4-8 Two for One. Dance music 8-1. Double dose Schnapps for $1.50. Check out blended drink special. Bowler's Special $1 Well or non-Premium Beer.
RUMORI - Open noon. Daily drink specials. VJ/DJ Clint at 9pm.
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

thursday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Drink Specials 3-8 pm. Drink Draft and Brown .50 draft 8 pm to close. Dave L. DJs.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. 50 cent draft beer 8 pm to close. Country/Western dancing and video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Top Shelf Call $2.00 in the daytime and $2.50 at night.
ROCKS - Draft Beer .50 7 p.m. to Close. Happy Hours 3 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Heineken or Corona $1.25 from 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1 with your DJ Jason.
IDY'S - 4-8 Two for One. Country music and dancing with Gil Leon. Free dance lessons 8 p.m. Bud and Bud Lite $1.50 from 8-1.
RUMORI - Daily drink specials. Dancing with your VJ/DJ Clint 9-1.
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period)

friday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Drink Specials 3-8 pm. Bobby Jr. DJs.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Extended 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 10 pm. (well and domestic beer). Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - Drink Specials until closing.
ROCKS - Happy Hours 3 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Dancing 9 pm - 1 am with Jason.
IDY'S - 4-8 Two for One / Hot Music 8 to close with Ray.
RUMORI - Daily drink specials. Freee Hors d'Oeuvres 5:30. VJ/DJ Clint 9-1.
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. (during construction period)

saturday

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. $5.00 pitchers of Margaritas or Long Island Iced Tea. Bobbie cooks Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers $2.00. Dave L. DJs.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 50 cent Schnapps 8 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Drink specials until closing.
ROCKS - Open Noon. 7 pm to 1 am. DJ music 9 to 1. Last Saturday of each month is Country and Western dance music.
IDY'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. Hot music 8 to close with Linda Fiddle.
RUMORI - Open Noon. Daily drink specials. Dance with VJ/DJ Clint 9-1
VENTURE-B - Open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period)

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Leatherfolk

(Continued from Page Four)

I have yet to meet a top who didn't feel that they were frequently depersonalized and objectified by the people who cruise them. This is an odd sensation. You know that somebody wants you bad, but you're not sure they know who the hell you are. I've often been approached by bottoms who want a scene, but they have no idea what my scene is. When I try to tell them (gently, at first) that I am basically a sadist and have no interest in body worship, domination, French maids, or bondage unless these activities can be combined with physical pain, they often choose not to believe me. I'm not seen as being responsible because I communicate my preferences; I'm seen as being withholding.

--Pat Califa

RECLAIMING RITUAL

I discovered through Perusha that piercing magic affects people in many different ways. Most importantly for me, it is the deliberate creation of a rite of passage. It is taking control over pain and pleasure in my body, taking responsibility for my experience and what happens in my life. I have done most of my own piercings, usually outdoors in the wilderness, where I can create secluded, sacred space with Mother Nature, and maintain proper hygiene. The piercings in my cock are dedications of my sexual pleasure and power to the work of the Mother Goddess; to healing the Earth, of all its inhabitants, and their relationships. My nipple piercings are like wedding rings to the higher self and my guides. The ring in my naval is a constant reminder to be true to myself in this life, and not to be limited by other people's belief system. And so on.

Prepatriarchal religions provided rituals to assist people in their journeys, to mark their significant passages. Piercing is a prominent and well-documented part of primitive rites of passage and sacrifice throughout the world. However, modern religions have bent the ancient myths, and thus the common mind, to manipulate the populace. Now they provide only watered-down rituals, and dose them carefully, so as to maintain political and social (psychological) power. This is why I abandoned the orthodox religions.

--Ganymede

GOD'S SENSE OF HUMOR

When a Gay male begins to think about leather, he finds that if he is going to be a part of the leather community, he must experience a second coming out. In this coming out, the enemy is ignorance and homophobia from some elements of the Gay and Lesbian community. Because "leather" is unique to each individual in the leather community, there is no single definition of what leather is. To the participant, leather is, period; to be defined as the experience and life-style unfolds.

I am a Christian minister, who believes God has a sense of humor. Why else would the Christian scriptures tell us that John the Baptist, the person who proclaimed the coming of the One we believe is the Christ, the Promised One, wore leather?

--Rev. Troy Perry

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Desert Voices Holiday Concert

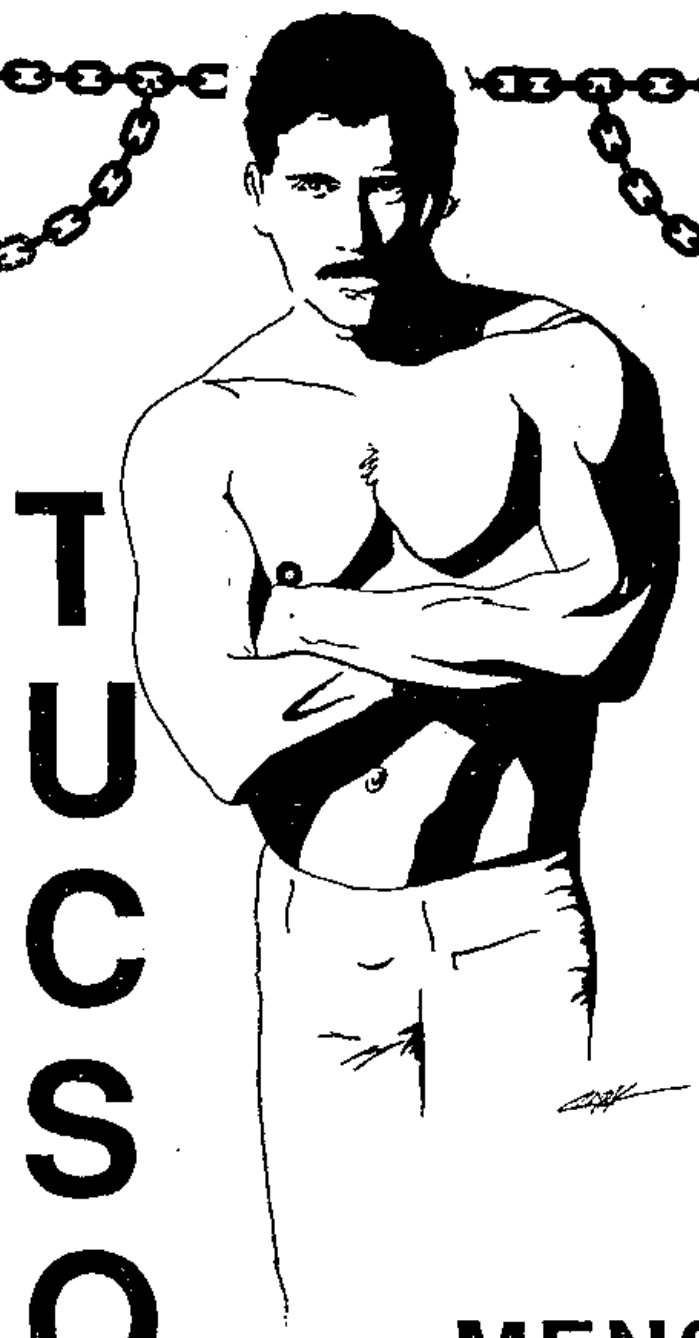
TUCSON - On Sunday, Dec. 22, Desert Voices will present their Fall/Winter Concert at St. Francis in the Foothills, 4625 E. River Road in Tucson. The concert is being sponsored by the St. Francis Reconciling Congregation Program and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Dr. Jack Delmore, Desert Voices Musical Director, has selected a unique program which will feature the reading of a poem by John Harrell. Harrell's poem, "Hello In Exile", especially describes the human dimensions of the first Christmas and relates these factors to our own time. The reading will be interspersed with choral, instrumental and solo works which compliment the poem's theme.

The second half of the program will include many well-known song favorites such as "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," and "The Holly and the Ivy". The Desert Voices Ensemble, in instrumental group will also be featured and will accompany the choir on several numbers.

Desert Voices and R.C.P. of St. Francis are extending an open invitation to Tucson's entire Gay and Lesbian community to join them for this evening of music and song! During the evening, a compact disk will be given away.

Play Safe!



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WHORE-A-SCOPES

by BARTMAN

ARIES

Heard you're now running around in one of those wild street gangs - I'd hardly call the Salvation Army bell ringers a "street gang." Get together a Xmas wish list - not everyone is going to send you a "toy" though. Buy five scratch tickets on Friday.

TAURUS

The Bartman knows exactly what you want for Xmas. Those new self help books "1,001 ways to get "stains" off your couch", and the best seller - "How to keep a 3-way going," BDR has read both of those. It will be raining money, not men, by the end of the year.

GEMINI

Do nothing that could jeopardize your reputation -(I'll stop laughing in a minute) actually your reputation is as clean as the driven snow - (you don't have one at all) - you could start dating Peter - weekend adventure leads to new romance.

CANCER

Buy things for your home that express the real you - but forget the lava lamps - too 60's. How about the dildo lamp like Tom has - his roonies take turns turning it on & off. Wrap holiday gifts today.

LEO

Being with young people will invigorate you - just ask Gordon. How's the new relationship going? - you know - from Embassy Suites? Travel this week brings good luck. You meet a Mr B lookalike at Flex Plex - you'll play circus - under the big top.

VIRGO

A sure footed friend makes walking or hiking safer - take your dog along -(not the one you're dating). He needs a "come 'n get it" tee-shirt like the Bartman has - Woof Woof - there is plenty of truth to what your mate has to say.

LIBRA

A program designed to strengthen a special skill will add excitement to your weekend - don't keep yourself in that sling too long though. You have a real flair for interior design - especially the job you did at Pleasure World. Buy a lotto ticket Saturday.

SCORPIO

Deal with a restless mood in a constructive way. How about helping Myron & Jerry clean their house. Naa - takes to long - I know, donate some vodka & Scotch so the new bar can finally open. Get together with old friends.

SAGITTARIUS

You're the only person I know that can walk into a bar and leave with someone within 10 seconds - Have fantastic sex, and fall in love - all within 2 hours. Too bad they're all tourists. Of course you learned everything you know at the bookstores.

CAPRICORN

You enjoy "giving" more than receiving. A letter perfect performance wins you widespread admiration. They're lined up in the parks again. Be modest when others praise you - they're lying anyway.

AQUARIUS

Going to Winslow for the holidays? - I doubt it - if you do, check out the truck stop & see Randy. Seeing a new love again? What does this new one think of your '2 are better than one' attitude? "Double your pleasure, double your fun?" - or is it 8 plus 2 equals fun?

PISCES

Consider a pet when making weekend or holiday plans. Get the complete picture before making up your mind. Cutting corners is not wise - obtain more info from that farmer in Iowa you're thinking of living with.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTE
ETTERSLETTERSLETTER.

DEAR FRIEND:

I've been watching you very closely to see if you've been good this year. And since you have, I will be telling my elves to make goodies for me to leave under your tree on Christmas. I was going to bring you all of the gifts from the twelve days of Christmas, but we have had a little problem up here.

The twelve fiddlers fiddling have all come down with VD from fiddling with the ten ladies dancing. The eleven lords a leaping have knocked up the eight maids a milking and the nine pipers piping have been busted for doing weird things to the seven swans a swimming. The six geese a laying, the four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and the partridge in a pear tree all have me up to my ass in bird shit. On top of all this, Mrs. Claus is going through menopause, eight of my reindeer are in heat, the elves have all joined the Gay liberation movement and have scheduled Christmas during Gay Pride Week in June.

Sincerely, Santa Claus

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Notices

ROOMMATE REFERRAL OF TUCSON
Men and women both welcome. NO FEE. Call Bill Jones 622-1404 in Tucson.

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IN TUCSON
Call Information and Referral 881-1791 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Certified psychologist facilitator. Call 884-0476 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

MUNICIPAL - Tucson's Lesbian & Gay Community Center offers support groups / library / monthly newsletter. Volunteer opportunities. Information 624-1791 Tucson.

GAY SUPPORT GROUP: Lesbians and Gay men meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road. Call the church at 299-9063 for information.

CADILLACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX has a hotline for information and membership call: 266-7202 or write CBPA at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP addressing a full spectrum of issues, problems and situations. Meetings every Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 240 N. Court.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA LESBIAN/BISEXUALS/GAYS UNITED
Group meets each Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. in Student Union, Room 285. During the school year. Open to all UofA and Pima College students and their friends.

SEEKING BIG MEN, Bears, Admirers and Friends for new social organization broadening horizons and creating new friendships is our vision. Write Southwest Men At Large, Box 25951, Tempe, AZ 85285-5951 or call (602)730-8171 for more info.

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS - SOUTHWEST
Don't give up your religious beliefs and principles. Be with brothers and sisters of RLDS, LDS Mormon faith. For more information call Elder Butt at 264-2928 (Phoenix) or 1-800-755-2928. Sacrament Meeting Sundays 1-2 (social after). Mondays Family home evening 7-9 p.m. All welcome. Bring a friend.

LESBIANS CONNECTION (Formerly LWP) is a lesbian singles social group. Call 327-2912 to hear about our next events. Join in the fun.

UofA FACULTY AND STAFF for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equity meets on the fourth Monday of each month for a Brown Bag Lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 283 or 285. Open to UofA faculty and staff concerned about Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual issues.

ARIZONA/SONORA PROYECTO, S.I.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 882-3913. Also seeking volunteers who are bilingual (Spanish/English) and are interested in presenting information about AIDS to Spanish groups in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Early Intervention Center, 2579 E. 1st Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719. 770-1314.

Gay males, Lesbians and others interested in joining a mixed group for weekly bike rides at the Rillito River Linear Park call 887-6435, Easy riding and pleasant company.

LOB - Life Outside of Bars. Interested in socializing in a non-drinking atmosphere. Singles welcome, couples welcome. Call 322-5655. Leave message.

LICHIN HIKING CLUB for women of all ages and backgrounds of life. Hike with other women. 795-3610.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 798-3528 or write AGRA/Tucson, 7272 E. Broadway #412, Tucson, AZ 85710.

BISEXUAL MEN IN RECOVERY Support Group forming to explore ways to embrace and celebrate our sexuality. For information call 741-6650.

FREE COMPUTER INTRODUCTIONS! The Western Connection Bulletin Board Service. Dial your modem to 602-441-8283 and ask for access to Lambda West - a round table reserved exclusively for the Gay and Lesbian community.

AMERICAN GAY & LESBIAN ATHEISTS advocating state/church separation. Monthly meetings and support for the non-religious. Write: 3003 N. Central Ave., Suite 121, Box 211, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2903. "Educating Our Community Since 1983".

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message.

BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. Pima County Mediation Service assists with support services involving allegations of civil rights violations, discrimination, landlord-tenant and employee-employer disputes, consumer complaints and offers attorney referrals. No fees are required - donations accepted. Call 349-4429 for appointment.

THIRTY HOURS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in front of the Himmel Park Library, and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 326-3555

P.A.C.T. - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 2579 E. 1st Avenue. Office hours 10 to 5, M-F; Wednesdays 7 pm. Call 322-9404 for info.

SHANTI FOUNDATION OF TUCSON
Volunteer groups meet each Tuesday from 7:30 to 9 pm at 602 E. 4th Ave. Potential Shanti Volunteers seeking information 7:30 to 8:00 pm only. Phone 622-7107.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

ARE YOU IN A COUPLE RELATIONSHIP and interested in meeting other couples for social activities in a supportive atmosphere? Call Joe and K.B. at 292-6440.

Casa De La Paloma Apostolic Church, 1122 E. Jones Blvd., Tucson. Worship Services Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. If you are looking for a loving and caring church family who has a strong desire to share the love of God with others, look no further! Call Pastor S. Levis for info 323-6155.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Information and Referral about Al-Anon 790-4922 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP: The group focuses on assisting members in integrating a positive sense of self and building caring relationships. Contact Michael Hutchins, Ph.D. 327-4024 Tucson.

OLD PUEBLO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (OP)
For meeting dates and locations or membership information call 881-4421 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44033, Tucson, AZ 85733

TRANSSEXUAL, TRANSGENDERS, TRANSVESTITES AND CROSS GENDER SUPPORT GROUP. Conversation and Fellowship. Meets 2nd Saturday and last Friday of each month. Call 293-3456.

Notices

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 21 and under, meet weekly in Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. Call Randy 882-8546 or Amy 884-8670.

NORTH'S THIRD FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE meets third Friday of each month at Unitarian Universalist Church 4831 E. 22nd Street. $1 at door (more if you can, less if not).

GAY MEN 40 PLUS. For active men who are interested in meeting others in the same age group for dinners, theater, movies, travel, sports and companionship. Call Bob at CROWLES, 293-8492 in Tucson.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadmoor). Services for people with AIDS, ARC or HIV+; Community Education. Monthly public meetings. Volunteers welcome. 326-AIDS (Hotline) or 322-6226 (Administration).

Personals

BOB B. Sr. - Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Bob and Gary

BEST WISHES.... The boys at Fenris

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HIV positive??? Meet others who are HIV+ for support and fun, call P.L.C.T. for Life, 322-9404. 390

Housing / For Rent

REMTON "OBSERVER SP" for these specials: Near Grant and Craycroft, 1 br $245; 2 br $325. Near Broadway and Alvernon, 1 br $300; 2 br $350 - Gas Heat included. All clean, private, enf. many extras. Ret 885-6022.

Roommates

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MALE ROOMMATE TO SHARE 2 bedroom duplex. $175/mo. plus utilities. Glenn/Palos Verde area. Available now. 323-3810. 387

SHARE 2 BDR. HOME. Small furnished room. $195/mo. Includes utilities. $100 telephone deposit. Speedway/Country Club area. 326-8473. 389

UofA AREA. 3 br/2 ba, large home. Nice neighborhood. Single or couple. $250/mo. Includes utilities. Call Frank for info. 326-4164. 387

For Sale

RUNS AND LOOKS GREAT. 72 VW. Tinted, stereo. $2,000 obo. Or, 85 Ford Escort station wagon. Runs great, tinted, stereo. $3,000 obo. [602]648-3914 or 882-8224 David. HONDA CM650. 13,000 miles. Runs good. $350. 881-3632 or 290-6791. 385

JEWELER'S BENCH, two stainless steel trayes, 3 storage drawers, arm rests. $75. Call 628-3727. Leave message. 387

GREAT NON-GUY EXERCISE. Brand new condition. Same principle as Solo Flex. Isometrics. "It ain't the meat, it's the muscle!" Call Gary, 622-7176. 388

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE
1983 Black Yamaha Virago 500cc. Excellent condition. Only 14K miles. Asking $1,000. Must see! Tony 323-2796, leave message.

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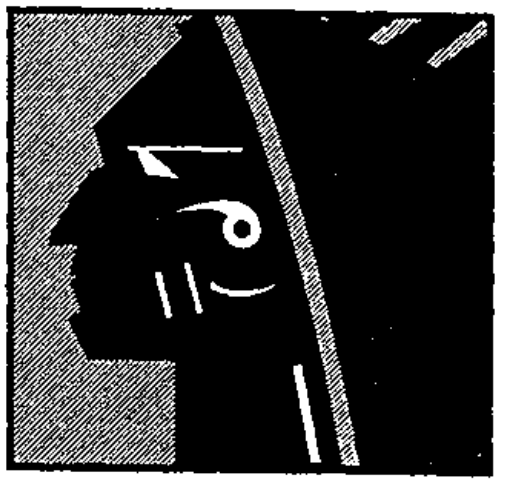
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- - - - - -

P.S. If you have any
good dirt on Natalie,
Please call Rob at Rumorz.

Rumorz
2222 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ 791-0309

People Magazine Ad

(Continued from Page Eleven)

As for the reception of this particular ad at "People" magazine, "they didn't flinch at all" about the Lesbian and Gay subject matter, Mabari says. "I would say that they get an A-plus rating."

People involved with the project are most proud of the fact that the ad contains racial, sexual and generational diversity. "It was a blending of so many different groups that often times don't relate to one another," Coker said. "We sometimes stay separate in our issues."

For Baron, the Awareness Project's new executive director, the ad symbolizes the organization's newfound commitment to racial diversity. Most of the time "we fail when we deal with people of color, Baron said, because we "say 'join us,' rather than asking how we can support you." But, she said, the strength of the Lesbian and Gay community "is in its diversity," and until people start listening to these often-ignored voices, the movement "won't get very far." Baron is seeking those voices in preparation for a series of Awareness Project ads targeting the African American and Latino communities.

Even the photo shoot for the "People" ad broke down barriers, Coker said. "It was like a party where we were all coming together, having a good time, at the same time getting the point across for the cause." According to Dick Sargent, "The unity feeling we had as a group is unlike anything I've ever felt."

Baron agreed. "It was very empowering for the individuals and groups who were there," she said. One person from a participating group even called to say they went home from the shoot and "revamped their whole organization." And while Baron usually expects someone to "cop and attitude" at functions like this, despite the fact that over one hundred people were involved the day of the photo shoot, no one did.

Homophobia and the politics of social change are complicated matters, Coker said. "You can't boil it down to a few words, "she said, "but you've got to start somewhere." And, she said, what better place is there to start than by telling people the truth: that Lesbians and Gays are everyone's family and friends -- even if not everyone knows it. "This is different than how we're typically portrayed" in the media, Baron said.

We need to use every avenue available to reach the general population," Coker said. "We need to use television, print, and radio. We need to all come out. We need to do everything we can to dispel the myths and let people know that we're just people."

Baron hopes the ad and the exposure it will provide will "really get the community working together, really get people to put actions and money where their mouth is."

The "People" issue featuring the ad goes on sale Dec. 23.

Guess What?

We're your family, neighbors, and friends . . . and we're gay.
Look beyond lesbian and gay stereotypes
and find out more about *us!*

Help end homophobia NOW.
☐ Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution made payable to The Awareness Project.
☐ Please send me a free brochure about homophobia.

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The Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project
Post Office Box 65603, Los Angeles, CA 90065 (818) 990-8000

This ad made possible by a grant from the Chicago Resource Center, a bequest from Gary W. Lawless, and the support of Vernon C. Mitchell and many other valued contributors.

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