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Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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PERSPECTIVE

by Brent Hartinger

An Open Letter To Gay Men

When it comes to gay men and safer sex, I wish I could just write a piece about how wonderfully responsible the gay male community has been and leave it at that. After all, rarely does any mention of safer sex in the mainstream media not include an addendum about how gay males have, for the most part, made sweeping changes in their sexual behavior. I don't need to tell you that gay men don't receive much positive press in the mainstream media, and the last thing I want to do is question or undercut one of the few lauds we've ever gotten from them.

Yes, we gay men have acted responsibly. We've made one of the fastest behavior changes in the history of humankind. And--in spite of not just public and governmental inaction, but downright hostility--we've been instrumental in creating and maintaining a nation-wide network of institutions geared to educating the public about HIV and to meeting the needs of individuals with HIV-infection. We should be congratulated and congratulate ourselves for it.

We gay men are taking AIDS seriously. But--and this is what I wish I didn't have to write--we're still not taking it seriously enough.

AIDS educators--at least the good ones--talk a lot about there being no certainty when it comes to AIDS, no black and white answers. But--due to denial, wishful thinking, or just plain inaccurate information--a lot of us gay men seem to be acting under the illusion that there are black and white answers. That there really is something known as "safe" (and not "safer") sex.

Yes, there is still a large (and possibly growing) number of gay men, especially younger gays, who engage in the extremely risky activity of unprotected anal sex. It's important that we quickly confront this very real problem--without blame, I might add.

But what I'm talking about is another problem, one I've never seen recognized in either the mainstream or the gay press: the widespread conviction--the gay party line--that "oral sex is okay, especially if you don't cum; anal sex is okay if you just use a condom." Simply wear a condom for anal sex, and you're "safe."

The message is everywhere: in our porno videos and erotic fiction, in our bar conversations, even on the lips of some AIDS educators ("It's theoretically possible to AIDS through unprotected oral sex," I once heard one say to a client, "but I'm sure as hell not going to stop!"). More than anything, though, the message is in our bedrooms.

Problem is, the message is a lie.

Of course, we should all wear condoms if we engage in anal sex. No matter how "monogamous" or "HIV negative" our partner claims to be. And, yes, it's true that HIV is far more difficult to get from oral sex.

But even if every one of us uses a condom every time he has anal sex, condoms sometimes break. Leak. Slip off. The key word to condoms and anal sex is "reduce" the risk--not eliminate it entirely.

And we now know that HIV transmission is possible through oral sex--and new studies indicate it may be easier than once thought.

It's true that if every gay man followed the advice that "oral sex is okay, especially if you don't cum; anal sex is okay if you just use a condom." The rate of new HIV infections among us would slow way down.

But it wouldn't stop. And if I were one of the ones that has been or will become infected as a result of oral sex or a broken or leaky condom, I'd be pretty damn angry at certain AIDS educators and at the gay community itself.

Why? Because we're talking about an incurable, potentially fatal disease, and because human beings are social creatures. Psychology has proven beyond a doubt that much (if not most) of our behavior is influenced by the behaviors of those around us. Gay men haven't changed their sexual behavior as individuals, but as a group: reinforcing and encouraging each other along the way.

But we've sometimes sabotaged each other too. And if I were infected through oral sex or through anal sex and a broken or leaky condom, I'd be angry that I was never encouraged--not really

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

Karen Thompson Finally Gets Custody Of Sharon Kowalski

[ED NOTE: The following story comes as most welcome news to everyone in the Lesbian and Gay community who has been following it. We have been updating the Thompson-Kowalski story after every court hearing for over seven years. We can only hope that this will end the trauma that the judicial system has placed upon these two Lesbian lovers, and let them get on with their lives without further interference.]

by Mary Sandok

ST. PAUL, MN (AP) - For seven years, Karen Thompson fought for the right to care for her Lesbian lover, left a quadriplegic by an auto accident. Her lover's parents and a judge refused. But Tuesday, Dec. 17, a state appeals court said yes.

"There aren't words to express the hell the system has put us through," Thompson said after the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled she was the most qualified person to act as Sharon Kowalski's guardian.

The ruling was hailed as a landmark by Gay rights activists.

Kowalski, 35, a former physical education teacher, suffered brain damage and was forced to use a wheelchair after the accident in 1983. Over Thompson's objections, Kowalski's father, Donald Kowalski, won guardianship in 1984 and terminated Thompson's right to visit.

Thompson, a professor at St. Cloud State University, continued her court battle. Kowalski resigned last year as his daughter's guardian citing medical problems of his own. A judge appointed Sharon Kowalski's former high school track coach, Karen Tomberlin, as the new guardian.

That decision was overturned by this latest ruling, which said Sharon Kowalski had indicated she wanted to be with Thompson, and that Thompson is the only person willing or able to care for her over outside an institution.

"This decision is not a victory," Thompson told reporters. It is a right decision, a just decision that should have been made eight years ago."

N. Sue Wilson, Thompson's attorney, called the ruling a victory for the disabled as well as "a significant affirmation that moves Gays and Lesbians and the way the law treats them in this state into the 20th century."



Karen Thompson finally wins guardianship of her lover Sharon Kowalski after a seven year court fight. See related story.

The case drew the attention of feminists and Gay rights organizations around the nation and was unusual in that it pitted Thompson against Kowalski's parents, said Suzanne Born, an attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a Gay-rights organization that filed a brief supporting Thompson.

"I'm sure there are cases where a partner was appointed a guardian or conservator for a partner, particularly in the men's community with AIDS," said Born, who practices in Minneapolis.

"But I'm not aware of a case where it was contested ... by the family" and made it to a state appeals court level, she said.

Since guardianship laws vary from state to state, Born said, the ruling doesn't set a legal precedent outside Minnesota.

Tomberlin hasn't decided whether she'll appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court, said her attorney, Thomas Sjogren.

"Our position was ... that given the state of Sharon Kowalski's injuries, I don't believe that in a legal sense that it can be said that she has the capacity to make reliable decisions and choices," he said.

Kowalski's parents didn't return telephone calls; nor did the court-appointed attorney for Kowalski.

Thompson said Kowalski was "visibly
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

UPDATE

ADHS Expands AIDS Treatment Program

PHOENIX - The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has added dideoxyinosine, or DDI, to its AIDS treatment distribution program which, since 1988, has provided free distribution of AZT to persons with HIV disease who are otherwise unable to obtain the medication.

Although the ADHS did not receive additional funding to purchase DDI, it will utilize existing resources to the extent possible to provide the medication free to eligible individuals. In making the decision to add DDI to its AIDS treatment distribution program, the ADHS consulted with community service organizations and AIDS clinic physicians.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration recently approved DDI for use in treating adult and pediatric HIV-infected individuals who are intolerant to AZT or whose health has significantly deteriorated while on AZT. Individuals eligible to receive DDI through the ADHS distribution program are low-income Arizona residents without medical coverage through AHCCCS or whose medical insurance does not cover the purchase of DDI. Interested individuals should check with their physicians to determine their medical eligibility.

For information regarding this program, contact the ADHS office of HIV/AIDS Services at 1-800-334-1540 or (602)230-5819.

The Boy Scouts In The Good Old Days

[ED NOTE: With all the hullabaloo about the Boy Scouts not admitting homosexuals to their ranks, it is interesting to read this early draft from Baden-Powell's "Advice To Boys, First Draft, Preface to 'Scouting For Boys'" 1908:

"The result of self-abuse is always, mind you, always, that the boys after a time becomes weak and nervous and shy, he gets headaches and probably palpitations of the heart, and if he carries it on too far, he very often goes out of his mind and becomes an idiot. A very large number of the lunatics in our asylums have made themselves mad by indulging in this vice although at one time they were sensible, cheery boys like any one of you.

Furthermore, if a boy misuses his parts he will not be able to use them when a man; they will not work then. Remember too that several awful diseases come from indulgence - one especially that rots away the insides of men's mouths, their noses and eyes etc... the next time you feel the desire coming on, don't give way to it. If you have the chance, just wash your parts in cold water and cool them down.

Wet dreams come from it especially after eating rich food or too much meat, or with sleeping with too warm a blanket over your body or in a too soft a bed, or from sleeping on your back. Therefore avoid all these. Avoid listening to stories or reading or thinking about dirty subjects... Be strong and don't give way to it."

Copperstate Leatherman Contest

PHOENIX - The annual Copperstate Leatherman Contest will take place Saturday, January 11. The judging for Mr. Copperstate Leatherman 1992 will take place at the Bum Steer beginning at 9:00 p.m.

The cut-off date for entry is January 4. For contestant information call 997-0671 in Phoenix or write to P.O. Box 44651, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Lesbian Writers Fund Accepting Submissions

NEW YORK, NY - The Lesbian Writers Fund of the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation is now accepting entries for its annual awards in the categories of fiction and poetry. Prospective applicants must send for guidelines and an application form. Deadline for the 1992 cycle is March 13, 1992.

Now in its second year, the Lesbian Writers Fund was established by the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation to support the work of emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Five awards of \$11,000 each (3 in fiction and 2 in poetry) will be made in June of 1992.

Astraea, the first nationwide lesbian foundation, has been a feminist, grassroots-oriented organization since its founding in 1977. Started by a multi-racial, multi-cultural group of feminist activists, Astraea has always worked on behalf of projects that contribute to the well-being of women and girls. 1990 marked the beginning of Astraea as the National Lesbian Action Foundation.

The Lesbian writers fund has been made possible by the generous support of its founding donor, Loan Drury, a lesbian feminist, philanthropist from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Applicants to the Lesbian Writers Fund must have published at least one piece of work in a magazine, literary journal or anthology. A completed application form and writing sample must be submitted by March 13, 1992 to be considered for a grant in 1992.

For guidelines, eligibility criteria and application form, write to: Lesbian Writers Fund, Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York, NY 10012.

CUSTODY

(Continued from page one)

moved and relieved" when she told her of the court's decision. Thompson said several options regarding Kowalski's future care are being considered, including moving her to a nursing home closer to Thompson's home. Kowalski now lives in a nursing home in Robbinsdale, a Minneapolis suburb. The trial judge had ruled that Thompson had acted contrary to Kowalski's best interest by making their lesbian relationship public, by appearing with her as featured guests at community events and by collecting money to fight for guardianship in court.

A legal fund set up for Thompson has collected more than \$100,000 for attorney fees and to buy equipment for Kowalski. Thompson said the money was used to buy medical equipment for Kowalski, including a voice machine, a motorized wheelchair and a hospital bed.

She also has built a fully handicapped-accessible home in the hope that Kowalski would be able to live there.

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TALL Hosts Christmas Dinner



TUCSON - The Tucson Arizona Levi/Leathermen celebrated the Christmas holidays on Sunday, Dec. 15 at their annual dinner party for the group and invited guests. This year the dinner took place at Ye Old

Lantern where a sumptuous meal was had by all. As proof positive, you can judge for yourself if there is an upset stomach in the crowd! Thank you TALL.

PERSPECTIVE (Continued from page one)

anyway--to not do these things. Let's face it: in most gay communities, not doing these things means bucking social pressure.

When the best AIDS educators talk about safer sex, they talk a lot about choice and empowerment and education and degree of risk--and they're absolutely right. But we need to make rational, personal, real choices--not ones that are at least partially the result of social pressure or this rarely-questioned, oft-repeated dogma that "oral sex is okay, especially if you don't cum; anal sex is okay if you just use a condom."

Yes, we should respect each other's sexual choices--no matter what they are. Anyone who has chosen--at the very least--to use a condom each time he has anal sex deserves respect and affirmation for making that choice.

But not all of our choices are equal. Using two condoms and pulling out before ejaculation is a safer choice. And giving up anal sex entirely--at least until you and your monogamous partner have been together six months and both tested negative--is the safest choice of all.

Stopping oral sex before ejaculation is better than nothing. But oral sex

with a condom is a much safer choice.

These choices aren't just safer; they're better. And, as gay men, we need to start reinforcing each other for making the safest--best--choices each of us can possibly make.

We need to not make assumptions about what other do in bed. We need to talk more about risks and what they really mean, not just pay lip service to them. An we need to never ever pressure anyone to do something in bed that they don't feel completely comfortable with.

But I'm asking to much, right? We gay men have made significant behavioral changes already, slowed the rate of new infections considerably. Why can't I be satisfied with that? Why ask even more from our pretty damn beleaguered group of men?

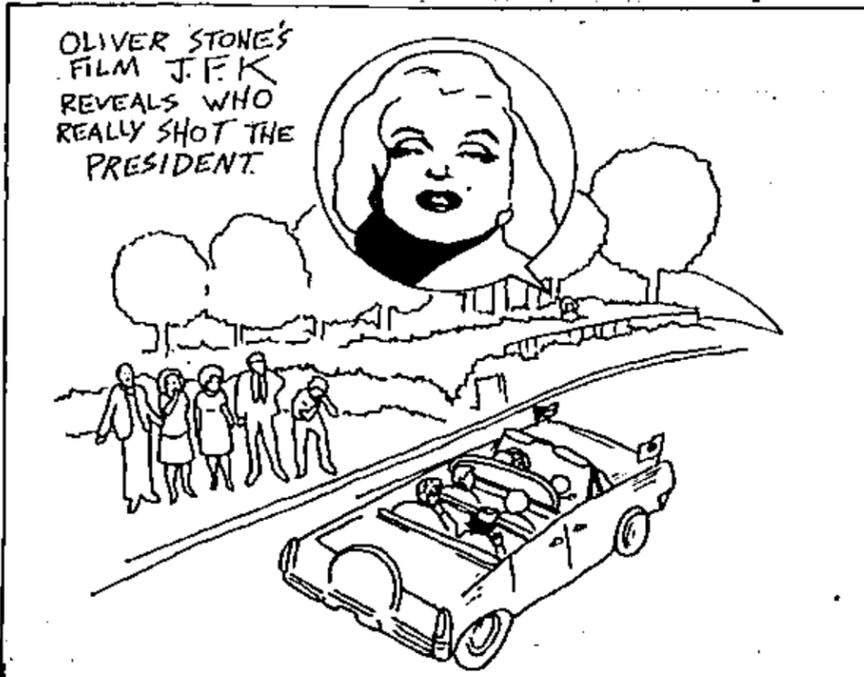
Because unless we ask more of ourselves, some of us are going to be less safe than, in another place and time, we might have been. And so some of us will get HIV who might not have otherwise.

Now I know that some people will read this and call me sex-negative. Perceive

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOURTEEN

As I See It

by Clark



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Double Mischief

by Wendy Caster

In Defense Of Gossip

For most people, the word *gossip* brings to mind women sitting around the kitchen table, drinking coffee and discussing who's sleeping with who, who's in the hospital, and who's getting divorced. Men, of course, don't gossip; they discuss important, factual things, like wars and baseball statistics.

This sex-typing carries over to TV and newspapers, where stories about entertainment and romance are "soft" (feminine) news, and stories about politics and Wall Street are "hard" (masculine) news. And, as always, the sex-typing goes one step further: the soft, feminine news--the gossip--is considered trivial, while the hard, masculine news is important.

This is one more case where the conventional wisdom is based on sexism--and is just plain wrong.

Take the absurd idea that only women gossip. It's hard to argue against, since its root is the belief that anything women say is trivial, while everything men say is important. So a woman talking about war is gossiping (she's probably talking about how good the men look in their uniforms), while a man talking about housekeeping is not (after all, he's talking about fixing the dish washer, not about actually washing the dishes).

And then there's the idea that gossip has to be trivial because it's about trivial topics like sex and housekeeping. But if that's so, why were Gary Hart and Jenny Bakker destroyed by the world knowing who they slept with, while Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan survived corruption and raving stupidity? (Could it be that the trivial became important when it was about men?) And does anyone really believe that sex and housekeeping are trivial? (If so, he's probably sleeping alone on dirty sheets.)

Breaking away from all of this sex stereotyping, I'd like to make the case that gossip is actually positive and important.

Take gossip in the lesbian world. I don't mean destructive rumor-mongering, which I have no interest in defending. Saying seriously mean things about someone behind his or her back stinks, and I like to think that all reasonable humans are trying to move away from such behavior (myself included).

I'm interested in stories--good, juicy, gossipy stories--adding up to an oral history that teaches us how to lead our lives and that gives us permission to be ourselves.

The first focus of this oral history would be coming out stories. When we share these stories, we share pain and thereby lessen it, we bolster one another's bravery, we change heartbreak into humor (a big part of gossip), and we remind one another that yes, it is wonderful we are lesbians, and yes, we must come out.

Another focus would be on first dates. Since lesbians rarely get to date the girl next door when we're young, in our early out days we tend to be sort of adolescent-adult hybrids, with the needs of adults and the skills of adolescents. But we can learn how to start dating through the stories of those around us. Sharing stories of dates that went well is also sharing stories of social techniques that worked. Sharing stories of dates that went badly is also sharing warnings of potential mistakes--and giving proof that one can go on a bad date and survive the experience.

And then there's the focus on sex. Lesbians, like all women, grow up in a world of mixed messages. Don't have sex, do have sex, sleep with one person, sleep with many. Shared lesbian sex stories can give permission for a wide variety of behaviors (and can pass along safety tips). Also, learning that everyone is everyone else's ex-lover's ex-lover's ex-lover is a freeing, is somewhat insane, discovery.

The fattest focus would be on relationships--including alternative relationships. Lesbians have little support and information on how to stay together--and on how to break up gracefully. I have seen--and felt--a hunger in lesbians for stories on how long-term couples survived. What did they do when the passion waned? What did they do when one woman was sick for a long time? How did they survive outside affairs, unemployment, different belief systems? How did they decide who does the dishes? Gossip is filled with answers to these questions.

There is a world of love and wisdom and permission and support in gossip. If those things are trivia, I wish us all extremely trivial lives.

Honoring
Natalie Perry
Thank you
for all your fine work
for the HIV Community.
Good Luck in the future.

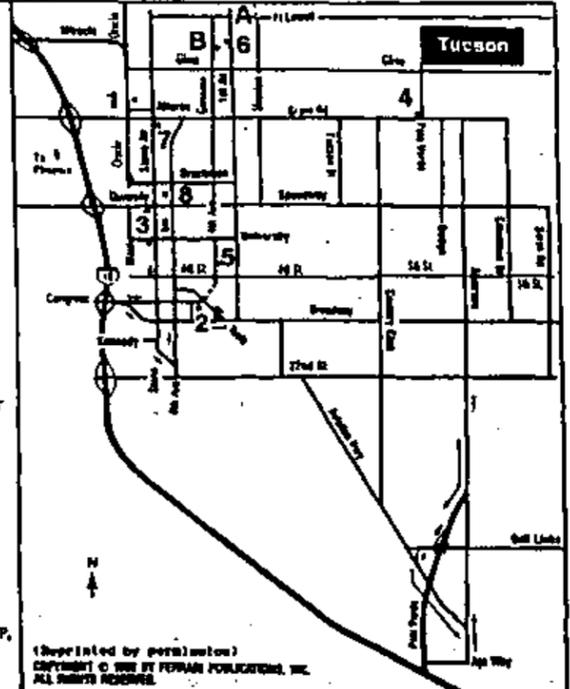
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Gay Youth Suicide Bill Approved By Massachusetts House Committee

Bill is first in the U.S. to target Gay and Lesbian Youth Services

BOSTON, MA - The Gay and Lesbian Youth Services Bill H.3238, was reported favorably by the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee. The full House is expected to vote on the bill shortly.

The legislation was drafted and filed by the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. The bill seeks to create a Gay and Lesbian advisory board with the Office of Human Services. The board's chief focus will be to create statewide suicide-intervention programs for Gay youth and to establish Gay-supportive programs in the states 351 cities and towns.

The Massachusetts Gay Youth Bill is the first in the nation to specifically target Gay and Lesbian youth issues. The measure has received strong public back-

ing from Gov. William Weld (R) and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci (R). Cellucci was the keynote speaker at a Nov. 14 State House Rally for the bill which was sponsored by over 20 Gay Rights Organizations. "Gov. Weld and I believe that Gay teenage suicide can and must be prevented," he said at the rally.

Other key supporters of the youth bill include Public Health Commissioner David Mulligan, Secretary of Human Services David Forsberg, Mass. Democratic Party Chair Steven Grossman, and Mass. GOP Chair Leon Lombardi. The Boston Globe, the state's leading news daily, recently editorialized in support of the bill.

Beginning in the spring of 1991, the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights launched an intensive public education campaign around the issue of Gay youth suicide to rally support for H.3238.

"Gay and Lesbian youth suicide is like a hidden Holocaust in America," says David LaFontaine, lobbying director of the Coalition. "30% of completed youth suicides are by young Gays yet virtually no action has been taken by anyone to counter the hostility and isolation young Gays face. It's way past time for Gay-rights groups in every state in the U.S. to initiate and fight for bills like the Massachusetts Gay Youth Bill. We need to make saving the lives of young Lesbian and Gay persons our very top priority.

The following quotes and statistics are from the "Report of the Secretary's

Task Force on Youth Suicide (Vol. 3) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989."

COMPLETED SUICIDES

- * Suicide is the leading cause of death among Gay male and Lesbian youth.
- * 30% of completed youth suicides are by Gay youth.
- * Between 1950 and 1980, there was a 170% increase in suicides of people between the ages of 15 and 24.

"Gay youth face problems in accepting themselves due to internalization of a negative self-image and the lack of accurate information about homosexuality during adolescence. Gay youth face extreme physical and verbal abuse, rejection and isolation from family and peers."

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

- * 500,000 young people attempt suicide annually.
- * Gay youth are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

"A predisposing factor in suicidal feelings among many adolescents is poor self-esteem. This is especially true for Gay adolescents who have internalized a harshly negative image of being bad and wrong for society, religion, family and peers."

"Suicidal behavior by Gay and Lesbian youth ... occurs within the broader context of and epidemic increase in

suicide among young people in society."

SUICIDE AND FAMILY

- * 26% of Gay youth are forced to leave home due to conflicts over their sexual identity.

"Gay youth are the only group of adolescents that face total rejection from their family unit with the prospect of no ongoing support."

"Gay youth may make suicide attempts after being rejected by their families. For Gay and Lesbian youth forced to leave home, the loss of parental love and support remains a critical issue for them."

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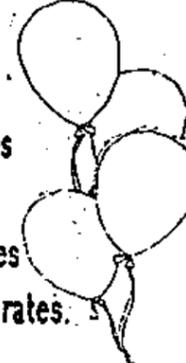
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COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	POPULATION	CASES OF AIDS			DEATHS	CASES OF ARC			DEATHS	CASES OF HIV+			DEATHS
		NOV.	OCT.	SEPT.		NOV.	OCT.	SEPT.		NOV.	OCT.	SEPT.	
APACHE	61,591	4	4	5	1	1	1	1	-	5	5	5	-
COCHISE	97,624	12	11	13	5	9	9	7	-	44	44	44	-
COCONINO	96,591	10	10	10	5	0	0	0	-	18	19	19	-
GILA	40,216	5	4	4	3	0	0	0	-	4	4	4	-
GRAHAM	26,554	4	4	4	1	2	2	2	-	3	3	2	-
GREENLEE	8,008	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
LA PAZ	13,844	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	-	8	8	8	-
MARICOPA	2,122,101	1166	1143	1118	670	313	318	320	30	2049	2031	1989	37
MOHAVE	93,497	15	15	15	7	1	1	0	-	27	27	26	-
NAVAJO	77,658	5	5	4	3	0	0	0	-	1	1	1	-
PIHA	666,880	288	278	272	149	62	62	61	7	536	538	537	10
PIHAL	116,379	13	13	13	10	3	3	3	-	24	24	24	-
SANTA CRUZ	29,676	4	4	4	0	2	2	2	-	4	4	4	-
YAVAPAI	107,714	16	16	15	11	0	0	0	-	28	28	28	1
YUMA	106,895	21	21	21	12	2	2	2	-	61	59	59	-
UNKNOWN		1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	227	227	229	2
	3,655,228	1568	1533	1502	879	395	400	399	37	3039**	3022**	2979**	50

** NOTE: ON MARCH 15, 1989, THE OPTION TO RECEIVE HIV TESTING ANONYMOUSLY BECAME AVAILABLE. AN ADDITIONAL 1,248 PERSONS HAVE TESTED HIV+ USING THE ANONYMOUS OPTION.

vendetta to get him by the Washington bureaucrats." Isn't it interesting that the R.F.C., which is being run by a Republican Administration is out to get a Republican Governor? Didn't Evan Mecham also hold a press conference decrying his innocence? Didn't Charles Keating also call his charges against him a "sham"?

TUCSON NEWS

The Tucson City Council will take up the proposed "hate crimes" measure on their Monday meeting of January 13th. We need to call our Council members to urge them to support this bill, which will have criminal penalties and is based on Senate Bill 1183, which failed in the State House of Representatives. Here is the number to call to leave a message for all of the Council members and the Mayor, 791-4700. The measure looks good for passage but we must not take anything for granted.

The Lambda Democratic Caucus will be holding a public information meeting regarding the 1992 Democratic Presidential Delegate Selection Process for Arizona on January 21st, the time of the meeting will be at 7:00 P.M., the location of the meeting will be Pima County Democratic Headquarters which is at 2617 East Broadway.

END NOTES

Three Cheers for the Phoenix Mayor, the boy blunder Paul Johnson. A couple weeks ago he pleaded with the Maricopa State Legislators not to change the property tax rate assessment, which gives Maricopa County an unfair advantage, (Pima County Residents pay up to four times higher because the State bases assessment on value property not population as most states in the union do). Next, the so-called Democrat, (and I use that loosely), states that the proposed A.C.P. ordinance to end discrimination in the work place based on sexual orientation goes too far and then, to bolster his political aspirations and to appease the right-wingers, offers the milk toast compromise and then states to former Tucson Mayor Tom Volgy that the Tucson City Council would not have voted for it unanimously! I thank heavens we have such a wonderful Tucson Mayor and Council who are open-minded and who passed the very broad based ordinance in 1977. The Mayor and Council who will put a hate crimes ordinance on the books and who will take up the "domestic partners" issue. Gee, the boy blunder should come down to the best city in the state and see what goes on down here. He will see Tucson daylight and the go back into the Phoenix darkness.

Until next time, politics as usual!

POLITICS '91

by Mark Kerr

NATIONAL NEWS

The Mario watch is over and the answer was no! New York Governor Mario Cuomo, in a press conference from the state capitol building in Albany last Friday announced that he will not be seeking the 1992 Democratic Presidential nomination. In his statement, Cuomo cited the budget crisis that the state is facing and the inability of a deal by the Democratic Governor and the Republican controlled State Senate as the factor against his possible candidacy for the Democratic not. He felt like he would be abandoning the state for higher glory. "I was elected in 1990 to serve the citizens of New York State," he stated. Cuomo also stated in his statement that he would not seek the second spot on the Democratic ticket in 1992, he also stated he would not rule out a draft for the Presidential bid, if the national convention was deadlocked.

Last Friday was the deadline for candidates to file for the 1992 New Hampshire Presidential Primaries, (Democratic and Republican). A record 49 candidates filed to become the nations Chief Executive.

ARIZONA NEWS

The Phoenix gay and lesbian scored a victory last week with passage of anti-discrimination ordinance for city employees. The Arizona Committee for Progress had pushed for a general anti-discrimination ordinance for all employees, but the Phoenix Mayor, Paul Johnson, who supposedly has aspirations for higher office, possibly statewide, worked against this proposal and brought up the compromise measure dealing with city employees. The Phoenix City Council took up the proposals in their weekly meeting, which was last Tuesday. And by a vote of 6 to 3, they passed the measure. Council members Mary Rose Wilcox, Reverend Calvin Goode and Linda Nadolski voted against the measure because Mayor Johnson's compromise did not go far enough, they stated their support for the A.C.P. measure.

Governor J. Fife Symington, in a scheduled press conference, blasted the Resolution Trust Corporation in regards to their lawsuit against him and his dealings while on the Board of Directors on the now defunct Southwest Savings. Symington stated that the suit "was a

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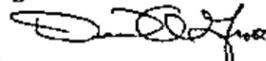
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THINK POSITIVE PROJECT

by Mena Trujillo

Happy Holidays 1991 to you and your loved ones from the Think Positive Project.

Do you know what the greatest gift to have during this lifetime would be???

The most rewarding gift is YOUR-SELF!!!!

Yes, that's right --- what better way of expressing who you are than by accepting and liking yourself for exactly who you are. This doesn't mean you can't work on the rough edges, because you can do both simultaneously. Take a minute and become aware of those qualities that you have to offer which come from the heart. How often and without a second thought do we tell other people how attractive they are... how hot they look and that their cologne is just out of this world. When was the last time you looked in the mirror and said those things to the person looking back at you???

What is it that we are searching for when we look for our "Knight in Shining Armor?" Are they tall, blonde, blue-eyed? Husky with dark hair and a mustache? Older with that certain distinguished look? Far too often we limit ourselves by focusing on that perfect looking person. What an individual appears to be has little to do with what they have to offer us on a date or in a relationship.

Do we find ourselves being exactly what we wouldn't want from others like being judgmental and close minded? By

limiting our circle of friends and lovers based on appearances we could lose out on some really "Beautiful" people. What criteria we use for a basis on willingness to date someone will tell a little more of who we are.

There are some things to keep in mind that we do not have to compromise. For example, should you choose not to date someone who drinks heavily, smokes, does drugs or doesn't practice safe sex still is your choice. It's okay not to have this as part of your life.

Before we go out seeking that "right" person, let's take a minute and concentrate on ourselves. Do we have what others are seeking???

We might be that "Knight in Shining Armor" that someone is looking for? ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

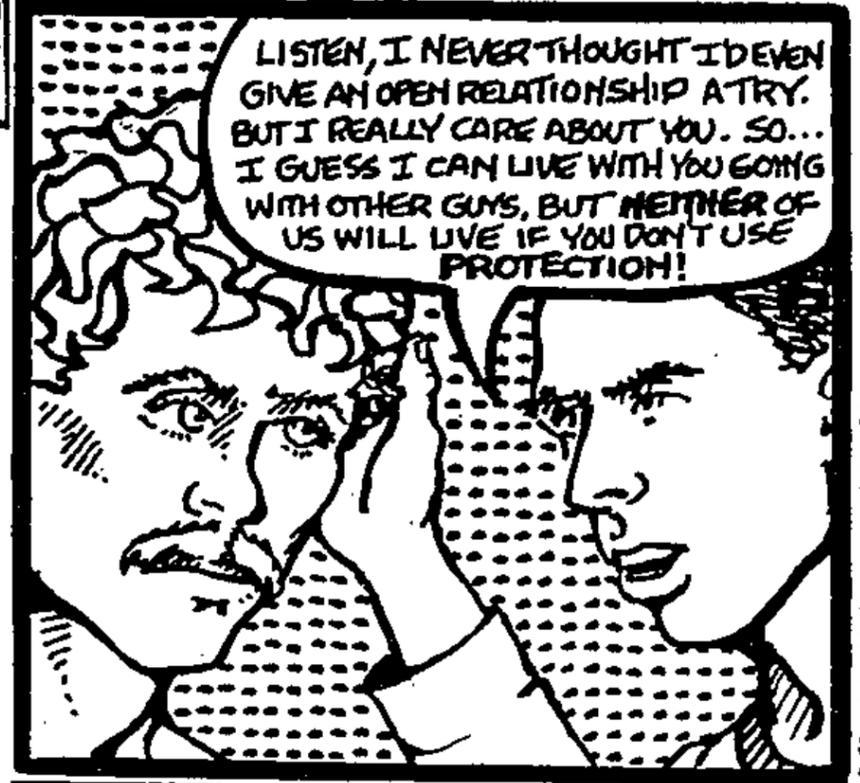
By turning the spotlight on ourselves, there are a few questions we must ask ourselves first:

1. Do I accept myself?
2. Do I like myself enough to have safer sex all the time?
3. Do I like what I see in the mirror?
4. Do I tell people what they want to hear and not what I really feel?
5. Do I let myself feel?

In becoming aware of these things, we have already started in the right direction by becoming more self-confident and building up our self-esteem. These will take time and effort on our part, but the outcome is worth it! Start your journey by becoming your own best friend.

R.U. READY

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DESIGN: FERRY WOODS INK, 1991

What's Up Doc ???

The Tucson Knight Owls would like to thank everyone that was in attendance at their "Make-A-Wish" show and raffle drawings last Saturday evening at the Graduate. After a fantastic show with Avia Diamond, Margo Leigh and Kimberly Ryan, it was time for the drawings for the \$100 Christmas tree and the Laughlin round trip package. The winner of the \$100 tree was Kenny D. and the Laughlin trip was Gary T. Another thank you goes out to the staff of the Graduate for opening the doors again for this benefit.

Diamond was able to announce that over \$500 had been raised, all being donated to the "Make-A-Wish" program.

With that I will, again giving myself a Christmas present, close this column for this week. Before closing I do want to wish each and everyone of you a very special MERRY CHRISTMAS.

TBBS: TJ - what were you doing with over 15 condoms in your coat pocket last Sunday evening? Santa will also be bringing you a year's supply of red pens.

After all was wrapped up, Avia



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IT FINALLY HAPPENED !!!



Last Friday, Dec. 20, Tucson's newest nightclub opened its doors to the Gay community. Owners Michael Bennett and Peter Sittig greeted friends, old and new, to their Club 2520. The place was supposed to have opened one day earlier, but due to last minute delays in city inspections, staff and patrons waited patiently for another 24 hours.

The club officially opened at 4:45 p.m. on Friday when the building inspector signed the final permit allowing the

club to fully operate with an Arizona Liquor license. Club 2520 is located at 2520 North Oracle Road. It is centrally located North of Grant road and just east of the Grant Road exit off I-10.

Over 700 people were in attendance in the club by 9:00 p.m., and each had their own particular place to hang out - video/dance bar, country/western bar or the conversation bar. "Tucson has needed a bar of this caliber for a long time. There is something for everyone here," said first-nighter Bruce Lingquist.

Club 2520 is also handicapped accessible. In addition, there is handicap reserved parking. "As far as I know, our club is the only one in Arizona to have this accessibility for our handicapped patrons," Sittig said.

"This is a place where friends can meet, dance and enjoy being themselves," Bennett said. "Also, with future decoration changes planned, a contest to name the three entertainment rooms individually, and upcoming shows to benefit the Gay

community including our Shanti and PACT, we have a busy schedule ahead," Bennett continued. "We hope everyone in our community will stop by, say hello, sit awhile and enjoy themselves..."

Remember, drink responsibly, drive carefully and enjoy the holiday season. Merry Christmas.

--Daryl Kalisto William Christen Carol Kotsedockis Duarte-Gartner

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- ▼ If positive, consider anti-viral treatment and get a full immune health workup.
- ▼ Monitor T4 cells quarterly, charting the trend.
- ▼ If the trend of T4 cells is downward or falls consistently below 500, consider both anti-viral and immune boosting therapy.
- ▼ If the trend of T4 cells falls below 300, use prophylactic (preventative) treatment against pneumocystis.

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at Rumorz*



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

News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Cobble

If everything is on schedule, tomorrow is Christmas. Since Bob put out the word that The Observer would be issued one day early this week, as I sit at my typewriter, I assume this article will be read on Tuesday, Christmas Eve. Which brings up the question, how are you spending your Christmas Eve? As I have said before, Christmas is the holiday that should be spent with someone, it isn't a holiday to spend alone.

Tonight, December 24th, starting at 9:00 p.m. there will be an Open House with food, beverages and fellowship until 11:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. there will be a Candle Light Service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ here on Earth approximately 2,000 years ago. If you are spending this night alone, join with us at 3269 North Mountain Ave. and if you are spending this evening with someone, bring them with you to enjoy this holiday more fully.

Last Sunday was a big day in the life of MCC/Tucson. During our Morning Worship Service, it was the pleasure of the congregation to welcome seven new

members into the membership of MCC/Tucson. Those who honored MCC/Tucson with their new membership were, Jean, William "Pops", Julie, Bob, Don, Ean and Ken.

Next Tuesday, December 31, 1991, starting at 11:00 p.m., there will be another special worship service celebrating New Year's Day. This service will bid a fond farewell to 1991 and a joyous greeting to 1992. During this service all of the special prayers put in the Prayer Box in 1991 will be burned. The prayers will remain unknown to everyone except who made them as they are burned to ashes and the contents given to God forever. Communion will be served in a time schedule to that this Sacrament will be in process when the year 1991 becomes 1992.

The staff and congregation at MCC/Tucson wishes each and everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Thought for the week: Maturity is the ability to bear an injustice without wanting to get even. Abigail Van Buren

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

What do you consider to be the best Christmas gift you've ever received? Was it that sleek ten-speed bicycle you got when you were eleven, or perhaps that portable stereo you may have been given a couple of years ago? Maybe it was that gold herring bone necklace that shimmers in the sun and makes you feel special. Yes, you're special! You're very special to the one who is the "reason for the Christmas season".

Take your imagination back with me for a moment to some 2000 years ago. The Father of mankind and his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; dwell in the peace and glory of heaven surrounded by bands of angels. The Father, being displeased with the sin of the world, gives his Son as a sacrificial lamb to pay for those sins. The Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, willingly comes to be born into this world, knowing fully his fate upon the cross. Why did he do this? He did it so that all those who would believe in Him and accept Him as their savior would one day be able to join Him in the glory of heaven.

Do you know why the Christmas tree has become one of the symbols used in the celebration of Christ's birth? Many years ago the evergreen tree was seen, as

its name implies, as a tree that retains its beauty steadfastly throughout the year, as our Lord remains steadfast with us. The lights upon the tree symbolize the everlasting light of our Lord.

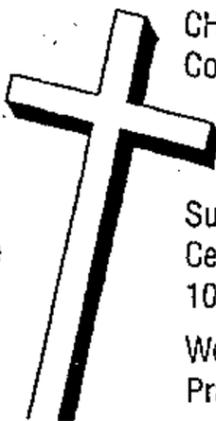
One day your ten-speed bicycle will become tattered and rusty. One day when you plug in your stereo it will no longer work, but the peace and love that the Lord offers will remain within you forever. As Jesus once told us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27)"

If you feel that you have no family here, or you just feel unfulfilled somehow, do not look to the herring bone necklace or any other treasures of this world for comfort, but look to what is everlasting. Know that there is a family that awaits you; the family of God. So this year when we exchange our gifts of love to one another, let us all first remember the greatest gift of all, our Lord Jesus. Let us remember "The Reason for the season".

Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us at Cornerstone Fellowship!

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EXPLORING IDEAS

by William Waybourn,
Executive Director of the
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

There may be much debate about what we call ourselves, but in New York and Seattle, plus in Oregon and Texas legislature, you can add a new title for Lesbians and Gays: "Honorable". This past year saw New York add not just one, but two openly Gay city councilmen; Seattle elected the nation's first Black openly Lesbian city councilwoman; and for the first time, good old boy networks in Texas and Oregon House of Representatives had to negotiate with a Gay man and a Lesbian, respectively and respectfully.

While these are important gains for Gay and Lesbian rights, they are not enough. We still lost important races that could have changed the dynamics of politics in David Duke's backyard, the Louisiana state house, and on the city councils of Cincinnati, Greece (NY), Cambridge, Houston and Tampa.

There is no doubt that Ton Duane and Antonio Pagan will make a major difference in New York politics, where the Gay and Lesbian community has wrestled with the city's power structure for years with very little representation. In Seattle, Sherry Harris changed overnight how openly Lesbian candidates are perceived, as a record turnout of voters (150,000 plus) propelled her into office. Gail Shibley's appointment to the Oregon House, where she boldly announced her sexual orientation at her swearing-in ceremony, plus Glen Maxey's oath of office by Gov. Ann Richards before a packed House chamber in Texas, have reshaped these states' politics.

When Gail couldn't get a committee to hold hearings for the Oregon Lesbian and Gay Rights Bill, she promptly held her own before the media, embarrassing House leaders who had blocked it. Right after his swearing-in ceremony, a House colleague rose to protest sitting next to Maxey, a "known" homosexual. Now everyone wants sit next to Glen, as he has become known as the leader of ethics reform in a scandal-plagued House where the speaker has been indicted.

But, the most significant development in 1991 may not have occurred at the voting booth, but in the development of a new national organization designed to change the way we approach electing openly Gay and Lesbian candidates. With the 1992 elections approaching, we will soon have the first real test of this new strategy, the Gay and Lesbian Victory

Fund. Even though we have worked for years on the campaigns of sympathetic, but non-Gay "friends", the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund represents the first time that we have undertaken a nationwide initiative to financially support openly Lesbian and Gay candidates in local, county, state and federal races.

Begun in May, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund was organized by a group of committed activists from around the country who wanted to build financial clout for candidates we can count on. These activists, known for their political savvy and fundraising capabilities, have raised significant amounts of money and served in consulting roles for progressive and mainstream candidates who are good on our issues.

When the Victory Fund was started, we knew that being openly Gay or Lesbian helped to make better candidates. We knew that they made even better public officials. What we didn't know was whether Gays and Lesbians living in one city would support a qualified openly Lesbian or Gay candidate in another. Seattle City Council-Elect Sherry Harris proved that they would, as Victory Fund members provided over \$10,000 for her campaign.

Suddenly, she no longer was a fringe candidate running against a 24-year incumbent. Sherry beat another challenger in the primary election, and then she clashed head-on with the incumbent in a bruising general election. The incumbent had voted against domestic partner benefits for city employees, calling it "Gay rights". While her opponent drew major support from the business community, Seattle's Gay and Lesbian community mobilized behind Sherry, just as Victory Fund members from across the country responded with contributions to her campaign.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund works by recruiting members who contribute \$100 to the organization, and agree to make at least two other \$100 contributions to recommended candidates during the two-year election cycle. The membership fee covers expanding the network, candidate promotion, political analysis and keeping members informed about recommended races. Each member decides which candidate to support, makes checks payable directly to those candidate's campaigns, and sends them to the Victory Fund. Checks from members are combined by the Victory Fund, recorded and sent to the candidates for maximum political impact.

By joining the Victory Fund, individuals can play a major role in helping openly Gay and Lesbian candidates become front runners. Victory Fund candidates get in the early money they need to mount effective campaigns capable of attracting support they need to win.

As the Victory Fund grows, we will become a resource for recommended candidates, providing technical assistance on campaign strategy, fundraising, media, direct mail and management. We will be able to not only work harder, but smarter with the utilization of shared resources.

The potential of the Victory Fund to make Lesbian and Gay candidates major players in local elections is enormous. It is giving financial clout to candidates we can count on.



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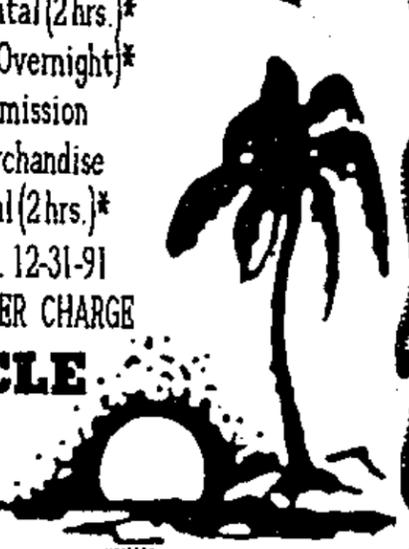
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CALENDAR of upcoming events

VENTURE-II - 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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY)
CLUB 2520 - Will open at 6 p.m. today only.
GRADUATE - Will open at 3 p.m. today only.
HUMORS - Will open at 7 p.m. today only.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
HUMORS - A special evening here tonight. A roast of Natalie Perry in recognition of her many years of service and caring for our community. Show throughout the evening hosted by Miss Aviva Diamond and starring Marjo Leigh, Dani Reid, Tiffany St. Thomas, Candy Plastique and Christina de Aizalis. 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 Humors management will donate 50% of their register for the evening to Shanti. Reservations if paid in advance (make check to Shanti). For further info call Humors or Shanti.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 (NEW YEARS EVE)
GRADUATE - New Years Eve Show with Aviva Diamond and Dani Reid and friends. Complimentary champagne at midnight as well as the usual party favors and noise makers - Party!!!



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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 792-9151 in Tucson.)

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, 4431 E. 22nd Street at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Iwerling, minister of the church says, "All are invited to join us for an evening service of singing carols and sharing stories of Christmas and Hanukkah." 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 Marle 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 Marle for details 888-7264.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
Tucson Rape Crisis Center to hold a workshop "Toward Wholeness: A Healing Workshop for Lesbian Survivors and their Partners". This special workshop focuses on the special needs of Lesbian survivors of incest and child molestation and on the needs of their partners. Noon to 6 p.m. Cost \$10. For reservations please call the Tucson Rape Crisis Center, Inc., 624-7273.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27
DofA Committee for Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual 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 Bisexual issues.

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Tucson CALENDAR

Sunday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Beer Pitchers \$2.00 noon to 7 p.m. Volleyball begins at 1:00 p.m. Sunday Pitchers Specials. David cooks Steak Dinners 4-8 pm \$1.00. Dave J. plays good hot old music.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Brunch served noon to 3 p.m. Top Dance 3 to 8. Posters Steak Fry 9 to 7. Video/Dance Bar and Country/Western Dance bar open 8 pm to 1 am.
GRADUATE - All White Hall \$1.25 daytime and \$1.50 nighttime.
HUMORS - Open at 11 a.m. for NFL football. Bloody Marys and Screw \$1.25 till 7 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.
LET'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. 8 to 1 Frank Disco Night. Hot music from the 70s & 80s.
HUMORS - Open at noon. \$1.50 well 7 p.m. to closing. W/DJ Jeff 9 p.m.
VENTURE-II - Open 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Monday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Blackboard Specials Noon to 7 p.m. Jerry Dlx. Club Congress - 70's Disco with Super Star Lover. \$1. 9 pm to 1 am.
CLUB 2520 - 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.
HUMORS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3 to 7 pm - Well and Domestic Beer \$1.25.
LET'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Easy listening music. Bring in your own tape for a drink special 8 pm to 1 am.
HUMORS - Open noon. \$1.50 Well and Domestic Beer till 7 p.m. \$1.50 White Hall 7 to closing. W/DJ Ray 9 p.m.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

Tuesday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Daily Specials noon to 7 pm. Drink Draft and Brown .50 draft 8 pm till close. Open Volleyball games begin at 7 p.m. Jerry Dlx.
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
HUMORS - Happy Hours 3 to 7 pm Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25.
LET'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Copper City Squares 7-9. Leather Lite with .75 draft beer and .50 off call liquor for anyone wearing leather 8 pm to close.
Country music and dancing with till late 9-1.
HUMORS - Open noon. \$1.50 Well and Domestic Beer till 7 p.m. and drops to \$1.25 from 7 to midnight. W/DJ 9-1 Back.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

wednesday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Drink specials till 7 pm. "Tub" - late strippers at 9:30 pm. Dave J. Dlx.
CLUB CONGRESS - Jack's Bull 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/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - Domestic Beer \$1.25/days - \$1.50 sates.
HUMORS - 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.
LET'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.
HUMORS - Open noon. \$1.50 Well and Domestic Beer till 7 p.m. \$1.50 Domestic long necks and .75 Schnapps 7 to close. W/DJ Bart at 9pm.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 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. All Female Revue, strippers 9:30 p.m. Dave J. Dlx.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99 cent Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. "Men's Night" (Men Only) .50 draft beer 8 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing & video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - Top Shelf Call \$2.00 in the daytime and \$2.50 at night.
HUMORS - Draft Beer .50 7 p.m. to close. Happy Hours 3 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Melrose or Cronies \$1.25 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1.
LET'S - 4-8 Two for One. Country music and dancing with till late. Free dance lessons 8 p.m. and hot lita \$1.50 from 8-1.
HUMORS - \$1.50 Well and Domestic Beer open to 7 p.m. Kopperl 50 cent draft 7 to close. Dancing with W/DJ Bart 9-1.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

friday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. Drink Specials 3-8 pm. Hobby Jr. Dlx.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Arranged 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.
HUMORS - Happy Hours 3 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Dancing 9 pm-1 am.
LET'S - 4-8 Two for One / Hot Music 8 to close with Jay.
HUMORS - Open Noon. \$1.50 Well and Domestic Beer till 7 p.m. Free Bars d'Oranges 5:30. Progressive mixer: Well drinks \$1.25 7 to 9 p.m. then go up .25 each hour. W/DJ Bart 9-1.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).

saturday
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Open Noon. \$5.00 pitchers of Margaritas or Long Island Iced Tea. Nicole cooks Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers \$2.00 from 2 to 5 pm. Dave J. Dlx.
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.
HUMORS - Open Noon. 7 pm to 1 am. DJ music 9 to 1. Last Saturday of each month is Country and Western dance music.
LET'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. Hot music 8 to close with Linda Piradele.
HUMORS - Open Noon. \$1.50 Corona 7 p.m. to close. Dance with Jeff W/DJ 9-1.
VENTURE-II - Open 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. (during construction period).



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Bit Of The Old South

by Sean Thomas

The holidays are upon us once again. This has always been a happy time of the year for me. But it can also be sad. It seems that, to some, it is the time to do their yearly good deed. Unfortunately those in need are year-round. A homeless man told me that he never worried about a hot meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas. It was the rest of the time he was concerned about.

The true joy of Christmas should be a year-round affair, not just five weeks. I'm not saying to not do everything you can during this festive time of the year. Just don't let it end with the season. And, it doesn't have to be money.

Many of us don't have much to give, how about that extra blanket that's been lying around, or pick up a few extra cans of food when you're shopping. The feeling of knowing you kept someone from being cold at night, or cheering up a little one's heart who doesn't think that Santa's coming this year.

It doesn't take much time to make a difference in this world of ours. Just a little love, a smile, a few hours of time, a little change, a helping hand to steady someone else who is not too steady. People make it so difficult sometimes. It really isn't.

We are blessed by the presence of some truly remarkable people in this community who give and give and give. I'm not everywhere, so I can't see all the great things that happen, but believe me they do happen. On behalf of the dozens of people who enjoyed this holiday season a little bit more because of the goodie bags produced by the Desert Leathermen, thank you!

The holiday giving and love shown by our fine clubs and organizations such as AGRA, TKO, TALL, Partners, SOS, MCC, Cornerstone, our local bars, Shanti, PACT, TAP, the OBSERVER, and people like Lee Thompson and many more make this one of the best places to live.

We don't need snow on the rooftops to have a warmth in our hearts. It's so easy, all you have to do is let go and let the love and compassion for your fellow man flow. The opportunity to express it will happen if you just let it happen.

May this season be a joyful one for all of you and your loved ones. May the joy that you give, come back upon you a thousand times. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!! Till next week.... Sean.

A Commentary By

Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

Newspaper Takes A Stand

The November 30, 1991 issue of the trade publication "Editor & Publisher" ran an interesting story about one Oregon newspaper and the stand it has taken--and the consequence of that stand--against an organized "hate" group.

The Salem Statesman-Journal is suffering from a boycott called by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a 15,000-member organization characterized as being an "anti-gay rights group." The newspaper earned the group's ire with an editorial accusing the group of perpetuating a "crusade of intolerance and prejudice." According to the story in "E&P" the OCA has vigorously fought legislation that would protect the civil rights of Gay and

Lesbians.

The OCA has condemned the editorial for painting an inaccurate picture of the group's agenda. It encouraged a boycott of the newspaper as a way of drawing attention to the "inaccurate" portrayal.

The newspaper's offer of space for an OCA guest editorial to rebut the original editorial was turned down: the OCA would only run a rebuttal if it ran next to a retraction from the newspaper.

It would not seem to make good business sense at a time like this--when the health of the country in general, and of newspapers specifically, is being damaged by a depressed economy--for a newspaper to risk a loss of readership, no matter how small or inconsequential such a loss might be.

The newspaper's executive editor Bill Florence and the entire editorial staff of the Statesman-Journal should be commended not only for standing by an editorial, but for taking a stand against anti-rights groups in the first place.

Only when politicians, newspapers, and people of influence take a stand against hate groups--even at the risk of their own livelihoods--will such groups and the specious dogma they espouse finally be seen for what it is: hate mongering.

Letters of encouragement may be directed to:

Bill Florence
Executive Editor
Statesman-Journal
P.O.B. 13009
Salem, Oregon 97309

At Spes Non Fracta: See you next week.

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ARIES

All you want for Xmas is your two front teeth? You got them knocked out again? Trying to be like the cowboy with the bad teeth? Buy a Bart Simpson doll for that special someone in your life.

TAURUS

So what did daddy get you for Xmas? Plastic covers for the couch? Bout time! A new and exciting romance takes you on a trip you'll never forget. A scenic tour of the adult bookstores in Phoenix - at least, finally - someone in common to relate to.

GEMINI

How's the self help book you got? - "101 ways to Make a Glory Hole", by Burt. How wonderful to have such local talent. New Years brings you close to a new buddy - careful though, he's a sandwich short of a picnic.

CANCER

A member of the opposite sex (is there such a thing?) invites you out to lunch and poses a very interesting proposition to you. New Years eve is very productive - a Patrick Swatee look-alike knocks you off your feet - but - alas it's only Zane - again.

LEO

Any more late night visits to Embassy Suites? Maybe you can be a "Food server" there too! Easy money - they only have one menu item - Tube Steak, with wine. Frank has found a new home - the K-mart on Valencia - "Feliz Navidad"!

VIRGO

What would you do without your fan club at the bar. Especially the one's that weenie wack on the patio - oh well - you know the old saying "Idle Hands" -- For New Year's better replace those eye bolts in the ceiling - could cause a nasty accident.

LIBRA

Double shifts at the bars again? - Are we trying to pick up a trick? It'll take longer than that - stop wasting your hard earned cash - just go over to Tom's - free tricks and free booze - she's a working woman again.

SCORPIO

The double fist ed beer drinker is a real company man - Bud, Miller, etc, etc. How can you play pocket pool with two beers in your hands? Be more assertive in any business dealings this week. Play the Fantasy Five game!

SAGITTARIUS

Cloudy days and fruitcakes - nice combo, but it's a far cry from surf and turf. Why not a vacation over the holidays - possibly Death Valley - no bookstores, there - so bring your pump. You meet a New Years eve mystery man.

CAPRICORN

You're not eating right again - 7-11 burrito's and hot dogs every night? Maybe you need a new job? Or how about a gambling man? The Bartman's available! A new love has you wondering - do I want him - or that sleezy bartender?

AQUARIUS

Met any more "fun" friends at the bars? Or is that Pleasure World. Some people do just go out to have a drink and be sociable. You're not happy with anything less than a 6-way. More "stains" on your "imitation" leather?

PISCES

You get a lovable little dog for Xmas - now you can dump your lover. Trust me, the dog will be better company - eats less too! Jerry's been trying to do just that - but - that's another story.

Have a Cool Christmas!
See you next year Dude's

SPECIAL BARTMAN ANNOUNCEMENT:

Whats this? - The Bartman was in error? The Embassy Suites routine was a ruse - Steve and Steve? My apologies to Bert and Ernie!

But a wedding announcement - Steve Meza and Steve White have consummated their vows - over, and over, and over. But - which one's sore?

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PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from page three)

we as issuing a homophobic call for self-denial--maybe even equate me with George "just change your behavior" Bush.

I'm not sex-negative. Yes, those of us still alive need to go on living. And, no, we can't let our fear of this disease force us to stop that living. But since when does "living" mean being only marginally safe in bed?

And, yes, I guess I am issuing a call for more self-denial, even more behavior change. But don't we all agree that AIDS requires at least some self-denial, some behavior change? I'm just saying that a few more behavior changes will save even more lives. Does anyone really think that our community's good time is worth even one more unnecessary death?

When it comes to safer sex, we gay men have done a pretty damn incredible job. Which is why I'm absolutely convinced that we can do even better still.

[BRENT HARTINGER is a former AIDS educator from Washington state. Now a full-time freelance writer, he resides in Seattle.]





CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED: 20¢ per word. \$4.00 Minimum.

Notices

ARIZONA/SUNBELT PROTECTO, S.L.D.A. - AIDS (770 LINE 842-3931). 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, 2573 N. 1st Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719. 770-1314.

Gay males, Lesbians and others interested in joining a mixed group for weekly bike rides at the Millito River Linear Park call 877-6475. Easy riding and pleasant company.

LOB - Life Outside of Bars. Interested in socializing in a non-drinking atmosphere. Singles welcome, couples welcome. Call 322-5465. Leave message.

LICED KICKING CLUB for votes of all ages and backgrounds of life. Ride with other women. 775-3410.

ARIZONA GAY BOUND ASSOCIATION (AGBA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 798-3528 or write AGBA/Tucson, 7772 E. Broadway #112, Tucson, AZ 85710.

TRIALS ARE IN RECOVERY Support Group forming to explore ways to embrace and celebrate our sexuality. For information call 742-4650.

FREE COMPUTER INTRODUCTIONS! The Western Connection Bulletin Board Service. Dial your modem to 602-821-8281 and ask for access to Lambda West - a round table reserved exclusively for the Gay and Lesbian community.

AMERICAN GAY & LESBIAN ACTIVISTS advocating state/church separation. Monthly meetings and support for the non-religious. Write: 3003 E. Central Ave., Suite 121, Box 211, Phoenix, AZ 85012-7901. *Educating Our Community Since 1981*.

SOCIETY ORIENTED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5465. Leave message.

BASIC DISCRIMINATION AGENCY. Pima County Mediation Service assists with support services involving allegations of civil rights violations, discrimination, landlord-tenant and employer-employee disputes, consumer complaints and offers attorney referrals. No fees are required - donations accepted. Call 449-1829 for appointment.

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

P.A.C.T. - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 2573 N. 1st Avenue. Office hours 10 to 5, M-F; Wednesdays 7 pm. Call 322-9808 for info.

SHANTI MEDITATION 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.S.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 575-3660 or write P.O. Box 34264, 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 E.B. at 292-4410.

Casa De La Paloma Apostolic Church, 3122 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! All Pastor S. Lewis for info 322-6455.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call information and referral about 11-noon 790-1922 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 FRIENDS BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (OP)
For meeting dates and locations or membership information call 417-8323 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44013, Tucson, AZ 85713

FRAGMENTAL, FELLOWSHIPS, FRANKS/STYVES AND CROSS GENDER SUPPORT GROUP. Conversation and fellowship. Meets 2nd Saturday and 1st Friday of each month. Call 293-3456.

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 842-8984 or Lay 841-8470.

WOMEN'S THIRD FRIDAY COFFEE HOUR 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 CHRYSLER, 291-9632 in Tucson.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadway). Services for people with AIDS, AIC or HIV; Community Education. Monthly public meetings. Volunteers welcome. 326-4126 (Hotline) or 322-6226 (Administration).

BOONVILLE REFUGAL OF TUCSON
Men and women both welcome. No fee. Call Bill James 622-3406 in Tucson.

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IN TUCSON
Call information and referral 841-1794 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

GAY OR LESBIAN AND HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?
Call A.A. 624-4181. 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 846-0476 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

AIDS HOTLINE - 125-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

WINGSAP - Tucson's Lesbian & Gay Community Center offers support groups / library / monthly newsletter. Volunteer opportunities. Information 624-1774 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, Shea and Elver Road. Call the church at 299-9063 for information.

CAMPBELL BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX has a hotline for information and membership call: 266-7803 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 9:30 p.m. at Wingsap, 240 E. Court.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA LESBIAN/BISexuals/GAYS UNITED
Group meets each Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. in Student Union, Room 243. During the school year. Open to all GOLF and Pima College students and their friends.

SEARCHING FOR MEN, Bears, Admirers and Friends for new social organization broadening horizons and creating new friendships in our vision. Write Southwest Men at Large, Box 25951, Tempe, AZ 85285-5951 or call (602)730-1171 for more info.

Notices

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS - SCOTTSDALE

Don't give up your religious beliefs and principles. Be with brothers and sisters of FAITH, LOVE AND HOPE. For more information call Elder Butt at 264-2928 (Phoenix) or 1-800-755-2928. Sacramento Meeting Sundays 1-7 (social after). Monday Family hour 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.

COFA 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 243 or 245. Open to COFA faculty and staff concerned about Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual issues.

Personals

To the people who called me for alterations: I want to say thank you and have a Happy Holiday season. I hope I can be of service to you in '92. Marie Boyton 414-7264.

KIPPED-KIPPED TAPES

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Bob Bishop Sr. - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a speedy recovery and we look to see you on the job again at JI's soon. From your friends in the community.

WHERE SEEKING WHEN

Desert Heart to Heart. A unique and discreet dating service. Info: Send SAS to PO Box 9246, Mesa, AZ 85214-9246.

EVY positive??? Meet others who are HIV+ for support and fun, call P.A.C.T. for info, 322-9408.

Housing / For Rent

RENTION "OBSERVER" for these specials: Near Grant and Croycroft, 1 br \$245; 2 br \$325. Near Broadway and Alvarado, 1 br \$300; 2 br \$350 - Gas Heat included. All clean, private, mt. very extras. Bpr 445-6022.

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WALL ROOMMATE TO SHARE 2 bedroom duplex. \$175/mo. plus utilities. Clean/Palms Verde area. Available now. 323-3418.

SHARE 2 BR. HOME. Small furnished room. \$195/mo. includes utilities. \$100 telephone deposit. Speedway/Country Club area. 326-4475.

COFA AREA. 3 br/2 ba, large home. Nice neighborhood. Single or couple. \$250/mo. includes utilities. Call Frank for info. 326-4464.

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HOMES AND LOOKS GREAT. 77 sq. ft. fixed, stereo. \$2,000 obo. Or, 85 Ford Escort station wagon. Runs great, tinted, stereo. \$1,000 obo. (602)648-3914 or 842-8124. David. BORDA CHESS. 13,000 miles. Runs good. \$250. 811-3632 or 290-9791.

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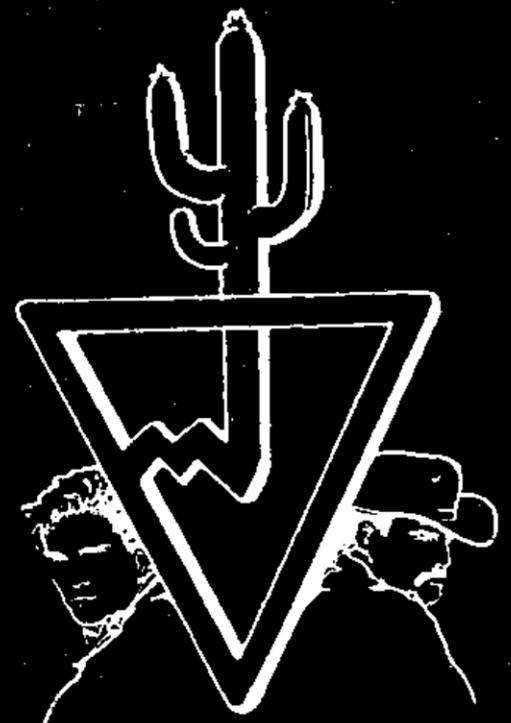
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