

Gays Demand Apology From University of Arizona Physics Professor

TUCSON - A University of Arizona memorandum equating Gay UA employees with gila monsters, democrats and communists was distributed to faculty and staff mailboxes in the Physics Department on March 2. Peter Carruthers, who wrote it, is the Head of the UA Physics Department. Jay Stauss, the recipient, is the UA Affirmative Action Officer. The Campus Climate Survey that Carruthers says is "truly offensive" was intended to produce an unbiased sample of UA faculty and staff attitudes towards UA employees' sexual orientation and lifestyle, and official UA policies in this area.

Until last week, a "Sexual Harassment Consent Form" was posted in the Physics Department's Main Office. Next to it was another Carruthers memo complaining that the University's affirmative action guidelines were a waste of paper.

On Feb. 25, the Arizona Daily Wildcat, which is the UA student newspaper, quoted Dr. Stauss as saying that the consent form violated federal law. Carruthers

said it was a "counter attack" against "out of control political correctness." Reportedly the consent form was taken down after Dr. Stauss asked for a copy.

On Friday, Feb. 28, Carruthers received an order from his dean to attend mandatory harassment awareness workshops, according to the Arizona Daily Star on March 4. He refused and said he didn't want his faculty to attend them either. The next day, he wrote the "Campus Climate Survey memo to Stauss, which is reprinted here:

"I have just received an offensive memorandum on the above topic (Campus Climate Questionnaire).

"I could not care less about what people do in their sex lives. However this memo, distributed to the entire campus, is truly offensive. I hope that you will take suitable action against this circular.

"I do care if university resources are used

to subsidize special interest groups. There are so many causes that it would be inappropriate and financially impossible to support them.

"Please inform me about the question: are UA funds being used to subsidize this small group concerned with gay issues? And if so, why. What about gila monsters, democrats, communists and other worthy causes?"

On March 6 members of six campus organizations decided to demand a formal apology from Carruthers because of his memo which they said was offensive to Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals.

"We recognize that he is entitled to his opinions. He needs to apologize for his inappropriate comments, not for his opinions," said Michael Perez, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association (BGALA) information chair.

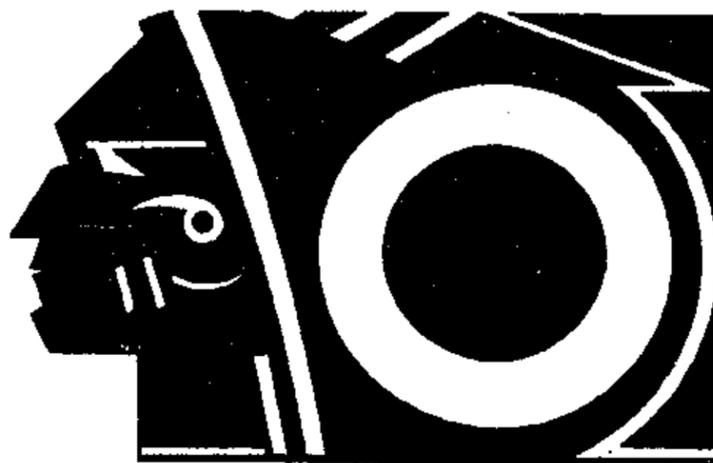
"For this to happen is just blatant

ignorance," said Jillian Ratensperger, ASUA Women's Resource Center Director. "We can't be scared of him just because he is a tenured professor. When Carruthers was told about the plan to have him apologize, Carruthers said, Good luck to them."

Carruthers said that he did not intend to be humorous. His comments, which Thom Turner, a BGALA member said were homophobic, are part of the reason that the campus is considered unsafe for Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian students and employees, Turner said.

BGALA will also ask UA to develop a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual research and resource center. Members of the Tucson Civil Rights Coalition and the Old Pueblo Business and Professional Association offered their support.

"We need to stress that this is not just a female, Gay or Lesbian issue, it's a student issue and a human issue," Perez said.



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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Levi Strauss Offers Health Benefits To Workers' Unmarried Partners

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Levi Strauss & Co., the world's largest clothing manufacturer, announced it will offer health benefits to unmarried partners of its U.S. employees.

The policy, which takes effect June 1, applies to any worker who lives with and shares finances with an unmarried lover.

"We want a non-discriminatory workplace," said Reese Smith, Levi's director of employee benefits. "And when we looked at our policies prohibiting discrimination for race, sex, origin, or marital status, we realized our own practices were not in compliance with our policy."

The decision makes Levi's the largest company in the United States to extend benefits to partners of unmarried employees. It applies to all of its 23,000 U.S. workers, but it is expected to be used primarily by homosexual couples who are forbidden to marry under civil law.

More and more lawmakers around the country are rewriting ordinances to accommodate unmarried couples. San Francisco, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Seattle allow municipal workers to add unmarried lovers to health plans.

But business has actually led the way on the issue. The Village Voice, the American Psychological Association and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream adopted similar policies in the mid-80s.

The Montefiore Medical Center in New York City and the computer software giant Lotus Development Corp. outside

Boston granted health benefits to unmarried lovers last year.

Reese said he does not know how many Levi's workers will take advantage of the new policy. He would not estimate the company's cost.

A Levi's-commissioned study by benefits consultant Hewitt Associates found that only 750 employees nationwide have signed partners up for benefits, out of 50,000 who were offered the option.

Under the Levi's policy, unmarried couples will be eligible for the same benefits as married ones. However, benefits for an unmarried lover are considered taxable income to the employee, so the value of the dependent health care will be taxed, Reese said.

Levi's will use the "honor system" to ensure that people who join the health plan are really live-in, unmarried lovers, Reese said. "If we find out later they're lying, we'll take disciplinary action," he added.

He said Levi's is considering extending the new policy to its international employees, but most of those workers are in countries with some form of national health care.

Meeting With Bush Campaign and Gay Activists Sparks Intense Right Wing Backlash

WASHINGTON, DC - Far right organizations have seized on a meeting between the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Bush/Quayle '92 campaign to push anti-Gay rhetoric to the forefront of the presidential race and attack Gay and Lesbian campaign visibility.

NGLTF representatives met with Robert Mosbacher, chair of the Bush re-election campaign on Feb. 13 in Washington, DC. The activists briefed the campaign on discrimination, AIDS and homophobic campaign rhetoric. Following the national media coverage of the meeting, several arch-conservative political and religious groups aggressively condemned the meeting and demanded that President Bush disavow himself from Gay and Lesbian issues.

"Having the highest-ranking member of your re-election campaign meet with the homosexual lobby is a direct contradiction to your attempts to portray your administration as pro-family," wrote Rev. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and reported in the *Washington Times*. "We call upon you to personally disavow any sup-

port or sympathy for the homosexual civil rights agenda."

On Feb. 24, Reps. William Danenmeyer (R-CA), Newt Gingrich (R-GA) and other conservative Congressmen fired off a letter to Bush blasting the meeting. "The invitation and meeting was a slap in the face of every voter who affirms the traditional family. The NGLTF agenda is not the Republican agenda and should not become a part of your re-election bid."

The Conservative Political Caucus, Pat Robertson's "700 Club", the National Association of Evangelicals and other groups have also vilified the meeting. Richard Land, Christian Life Commission head, was quoted in *The Tennessean* as saying, "People who campaign for office as pro-family are engaging in hypocrisy when they court people whose lifestyle is not... traditional."

The White House has distanced itself from the meeting saying it was a "personal decision" by Mosbacher.

"Gay people have every right to meet with representatives of our elected officials," said NGLTF Executive Director Urvashi Vaid, who arranged the meeting. "These extremist groups are anti-democratic. In a panic because of increasing Gay political organizing, they are striking out at our visibility. Now the burden is on President Bush. Will he capitulate to the bigotry of extremists, or will he stand for tolerance and justice?"

OBSERVER/Community Benefit - March 28
To Benefit SHANTI/Tucson and P.A.C.T.
Plaza Hotel Convention Center

UPDATE

Bit of the Old South

Well, I really want to thank the generous and beautiful people who helped to make this year's Hoedown another success (in keeping with SOS' tradition). The more formal thank you will appear elsewhere in the Observer by AGRA. It excites me to see the support by the Tucson Gay community for AGRA. And the selfless contributions from donors, entertainers, bar owners, volunteers and the members of this great community.

Next year AGRA will produce the 9th Annual SOS Hoedown, and it will be even better. We still have a lot of work to do before the rodeo in May. If you'd want to help out, please let us know. Thank you Lee for your patience!

This last weekend I went to Las Vegas to visit some friends. I met some really fun and wonderful people up there. But with all of Vegas' glitter and such, I still am happy to call Tucson home. If you do go to Las Vegas, don't miss "Back Street". It is a HOT country/western bar. Great music, dancing and a great looking group of men and women. I promised to say hi and extend a warm Tucson invitation to several of our Gay brothers in Las Vegas. Namely: Ron Walter, Bob, Robert Kingham, David West, Sister Brian and others. I told them that we treat our visitors real good here in the Old Pueblo. So, come on down!

Till next week: Sean 628-7816.



Nicholson Memorial At MCC

TUCSON - A memorial service will be conducted for Ernest S. Nicholson by the U.L.C. of the Open Road at MCC/Tucson, 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 14. Officiaries of the service will be Archbishop Ronald C.H. Drumbore and Bishop Robert J.H. Drumbore.

Ernest Nicholson was born March 29, 1951 in Ragle Park, Pa. and was educated in Pennsylvania. He was a veteran of the Vietnam conflict and later worked at Dilards in Paradise Valley as a sales person. He was a friend of the Copperstate Leathermen in Phoenix and was a visitor to events in Tucson held by T.A.L.L. and TKO. The members of these clubs are especially invited to attend this Memorial Service.

Workshop On Homophobia Explores Impact on Our Lives

TUCSON - The Tucson Men's Cooperative monthly program for March will be "Exploring Homophobia: Looking At Its Impact On Our Lives". This presentation will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church meeting hall, 209 E. 16th Street (near 5th Avenue). The program presenter will be Dan Meyer of Our Town Family Center. The program is free and open to the public.

"Homophobia is multi-faceted," states Meyer. "It not only includes fear of homosexuality and Gays/Lesbians, but also involves fear of closeness and intimacy with same-sex friends. This program will explore how homophobia has influenced our lives - both in the past and presently - and how we can move through and beyond homophobia to develop friendships which enrich our lives." For additional information call Dan Meyer at 323-1708.

Southern Nevada Gay Rodeo Group Forms, Seeks New Members

LAS VEGAS, NV - Southern Nevada's first Gay rodeo association is seeking new members - and you don't even have to know how to ride a horse to join!

The Southern Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, formed in January by a handful of country-western rodeo fans, has held two general membership meetings and is planning for a series of fundraising and get-acquainted events.

The organization's ultimate goal is to hold a rodeo within three years.

"This is a group of hard-working, committed folks who believe a rodeo association will offer great benefits to Southern Nevada's Gay and Lesbian community," said Bob Edwards, SNGRA president. "We already have a great base of support and new members are joining every day."

SNGRA held a "Buckin' Beer Bust" Feb. 21 at Back Street, one of the Las Vegas bars sponsoring the new organization. The Bust featured Loren Johnson, a multi-talented singer from Phoenix and included a successful "50/50" raffle to raise additional money.

The rodeo group is also sponsoring the "Silver City Slickers," a group of entertainers which includes impersonator Michelle Kristie and singers Marty R. and Travis Hudson. The group during the AGRA Hoedown at Hours Sunday, March 1.

"We want to be deeply involved not just in the Southern Nevada community, but in the Gay community throughout the west and throughout the country," said Edwards. "We hope to offer any help we can to other rodeo associations."

SNGRA is actively pursuing non-profit incorporation and shortly will be applying for membership in the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA).

For more information on SNGRA, write to 2350 S. Jones Blvd., #101, Suite 924, Las Vegas, NV 89102 or call (702)593-3193.

Desert Voices Seek Accompanist

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian Choral group is seeking an accompanist. Interested persons are asked to contact James at 325-1747.



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Conservative Attack On Public Broadcasting Feared

by Diane Duston
WASHINGTON, DC (AP) - For 25 years, public broadcasting has prospered through use of federal funds without federal control, airing such favorites as "Sesame Street," "Masterpiece Theater," and MacNeil-Lehrer."

But now conservative Republicans in the Senate are saying things have gone too far.

They are unhappy about a PBS program called "Tongues Untied", which portrayed the lives of Gay Black men, and another called "Maria's World," which documented the Salvadoran guerrilla movement.

The conservatives don't like the idea of Bill Moyers, who was Democratic President Lyndon Johnson's press secretary, hosting news documentaries. And they think the Children's Television Workshop should be cut from the federal dole because it generates income from products featuring Sesame Street characters.

Led by Republican leader Bob Dole, of Kansas, and Sen. Jesse Helms, of North Carolina, the conservatives aired their concerns briefly recently on the Senate floor.

But they're likely to bring all their forces to bear this week, if the Democrats start debate on the bill that authorizes the existence of Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the agency that disburses money for PBS, National Public Radio and local public radio and television programming.

Supporters of public broadcasting see it as a fight for the system's survival.

"It's scary," said John M. Lawson, director of national affairs for the Association of America's Public Television Stations, "in that a lot of people think it is the beginning of a long attack on public broadcasting in the United States that could lead to a slow erosion in funding and public support."

The republicans insist they don't want to kill public broadcasting.

But "we have a duty to analyze closely all authorization bills and all appropriations bills," Helms says.

Seventeen percent of public broadcasting's money comes from tax dollars, with no strings attached to avoid any appearance of a government-controlled media.

Lawson and Donald Ledwig, president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, argue that the system is the most accountable broadcasting operation that exists because it depends so heavily on individual public donations.

Local stations can choose whatever programming they determine best fits the tastes of their communities and are not bound to any national network.

Businesses underwrite certain productions, but shows aren't influenced by sponsors.

"Our system is neither a commercial nor a government one and I believe

Americans like it that way," Ledwig said.

Republicans have not said specifically how they would try to amend the authorization bill, but speeches given on the Senate floor last week indicated they object to:

1. The size of the funding request - \$1.1 billion over three years starting in fiscal 1995 - in view of other demands on the budget. Public broadcasting officials say that without federal funds, the system would perish. "It's the seed money that brings in the other funds," said Ledwig.

2. The size of the salaries paid some public broadcasting executives.

To this, PBS chief operating officer Robert Ottenhoff said PBS salaries are covered by the same cap as all federal salaries, which is \$143,800. He said local station executive salaries are determined by local boards of trustees that control the stations, often at universities and school boards.

3. Programming they consider biased.

Ottenhoff responded: "There is no PBS political agenda to the left, right or center. Our job is to provide a diversity of programs. There has to be a place in this country where we hear from a variety of viewpoints."

4. Continued federal funding of the Children's Television Workshop, producer of "Sesame Street".

Ellen Morgenstern, a spokeswoman for Children's Television Workshop, said

licensing the characters for commercial products started 10 years after the show opened because government funding was diminishing and the show was in danger of dying.

She said one-third of the funding for "Sesame Street" comes from local public television stations. Grants have come from the National Science Foundation and Department of Education to support the workshop's math and science series, "Square One TV," and "3-2-1 Contact".

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Double Mischief

by Wendy Caster

Lysistrata

"What does she expect if she goes to a man's hotel room?"

"Why did she get drunk at that party?"

"Why did she go home with him at 4 in the morning?"

"What was she doing in Central Park anyway?"

We've all heard -- and asked -- these questions. And we all know -- or should know -- the answer. It doesn't matter where she is, what time it is, or how much alcohol she has consumed; a woman always has the right to say no. Always.

Well, morally that answer is true, but in the real world, it doesn't work. Rapists can be found not guilty because the victim was drunk, or had gone home with the man late at night, or was a prostitute, or had kissed the man once, or wore short skirts. The message is that once a woman says yes -- to a date or sex or even to alcohol or fashion -- she is no longer allowed to say no.

And the court of public opinion makes the legal courts seem gentle in their standards for women. The law at least pays lip service to the idea that a woman should be listened to when she says no, and occasionally, as in the Mike Tyson case, the law honors that belief. But average people on the street -- whoa, they are tough on women. Unless a woman can show her chastity belt and its lock and key as Exhibit A, she's guilty in the eye of public opinion -- even though she's not the one on trial.

Eating breakfast at Burger King the other day, I was able to witness this public opinion up close. The young man behind the counter, good-looking, charming, speaking of the Mike Tyson case, said, "Hey, she went to his hotel room. What did she expect?" Then the woman to whom he was talking, also young and good-looking, answered, "Yeah, what did she expect?" And they both giggled as though they were talking about sex rather than violence.

I wanted to reach across the counter and shake that woman by the shoulders. "How can you agree with him?" I wanted to demand. "Don't you know that you're at tremendous risk of being raped -- even by him?" Then a thought struck me, hard. Yes, she thinks it's foolish for a woman to go to a man's hotel room -- because of the risk of being raped. I And that's why, in the pragmatic mean real world, Patricia

Bowman was foolish to trust William Kennedy Smith -- because of the risk of being raped. And that's why, in the pragmatic mean real world, the Central Park jogger was foolish for running at night -- because of the risk of being raped.

But let's look a little closer. First of all, women are judged more harshly for "foolishly" acting like free human beings than men are for being rapists. That's disgusting and anti-woman. But underpinning these beliefs lies an interesting assumption: Under the right circumstance, all men are rapists.

Now, I personally disagree with this belief; clearly, not all men are rapists. But, just as clearly, legal courts and the court of public opinion expect women to live with the assumption they are. I So the question is this: if women are never to trust men, if men cannot control their sexual urges, and if all men are potential rapists, then why are women sleeping with these people?

At the very least, if men cannot be trusted in hotel rooms or late at night, then it's unlikely that they can be trusted to be caring and sensitive lovers. At the worst, women become the sexual slaves of men, with the right to say no only if they are conservatively dressed virgins sitting in church pews in the middle of the day.

There is a paradox that all straight women must deal with: after being brought up in a society that says don't trust men in private, don't trust men on the street, don't trust men if you dress "too" sexy, and don't trust men after dark, straight women then have to pick on a man to trust and love and live happily ever after with! No wonder it's easier for women to blame women in rape cases; if they focused on the men, they might have to give up their romantic/sexual lives entirely.

Well, maybe that's not a bad idea.

Over two thousand years ago, Aristophanes wrote a play called *Lysistrata* in which a country of women went on a sex strike until their men stopped fighting. Perhaps it's time for a modern *Lysistrata*, where all the women of the world refuse to have sex with men until all the men of the world acknowledge a woman's right to say no. That's one way to change the world.

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As I See It by Clark



Dr. Gallo Under Investigation

NEW YORK, NY (AP) - Dr. Robert Gallo, the American co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, is under investigation on suspicion of making false statements in applying for a patent for the AIDS test, the New York Times said March 2.

The inspector general of the Health and Human Services Department, the General Accounting Office and a House subcommittee are especially interested in Gallo's assertion that his work in developing the test for the virus owed little to French scientists, the newspaper said, citing unidentified officials.

The three groups also are investigating whether senior HHS officials, including Dr. James Mason, assistant secretary of health, knew at the time of Gallo's application that his statements were false, the newspaper said.

newspaper said.

Gallo already under investigation concerning his original discovery of the AIDS virus. NIH is looking into the accuracy of the 1984 research paper on the virus, and whether scientists at France's Pasteur Institute were properly credited. That probe was prompted by an investigation by the Chicago Tribune in 1989.

The United States and France share the royalties from the AIDS blood test and have split credit for their discoveries 50-50 under a 1987 agreement. Gallo earns \$100,000 a year from the patents, as does an American colleague, Dr. Mikulas Popovic.

"These patent investigations will go nowhere, I assure you," Gallo's lawyer, Joe Onek, told the Times.

Politicians Call For Inclusive St. Patrick's Day Parade In NYC

NEW YORK, NY - The city's comptroller, council president and first openly Gay council member said they won't march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade unless a Gay group is allowed to march, too.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit over who has the right to stage the March 17 parade was withdrawn after two squabbling committees of sponsoring Ancient Order of Hibernians compromised.

Comptroller Liz Holtzman, Council President Andrew Stein, and Councilman Tom Duane appeared with several other council members at a City Hall news conference.

A pledge they are circulating among fellow politicians says they will march only if members of the Irish Lesbian and Gay organization are allowed to join the overwhelmingly Catholic parade, "in a manner which they deem acceptable".

"For me, this is an issue of social justice," said Duane, a Gay Irish-American.

"We all have a right to be included," said Councilwoman Annette Robinson, who recalled that as a Catholic high school student, she was "excluded from the parade because I was an African-American child.

Asked whether he'd sign the pledge, Mayor David Dinkins expressed optimism that the city would work out a compromise to allow ILGO to participate.

"I don't see it as useful to talk about what I'm going to do - it", said Dinkins. "...The Irish - you know, I'm David O'Dinkins that day - we're going to have a St. Patrick's Day Parade that's going to be all inclusive and I'm going to keep working at that."

"They have the right to march or not to march: It's purely a personal decision," said Frank Feighery, spokesman for the state Hibernians.

"Politicians are politicians and have to appeal to their voters and their constituencies," said Feighery. "It's their right to do that and that's how they keep their jobs. I don't condemn it or condone it."

In Manhattan's state Supreme Court, the Hibernians' county committee withdrew its suit against the city.

The city had given the parade permit to the state Hibernians after county Hibernians had refused to allow a distinct homosexual contingent in the predominantly Catholic parade. But the settlement still didn't answer the question of whether a separate Gay group will be allowed in.

The compromise calls for the parade to be sponsored by both state and county committees. It also calls for the six month suspension of Bartholomew Murphy, vice president of the county Hibernians.

Brian O'Dwyer, lawyer for the state group, said the suspension punishes Murphy for filing the lawsuit without exhausting the organization's internal dispute machinery.

After hearing the terms of the compromise, state Supreme Court Justice Kristen Booth Glen said she hoped the Hibernians would recall "the oppression they suffered in the past: and let it inform action toward "people who are oppressed in our society today."

IBT's To Host Clark Retrospective

TUCSON - As a kick-off salute to OBSERVER/Community Benefit, It's 'Bout Time (IBT's) will host a retrospective of Observer Cartoonist Gary Clark's work. The one-night exhibit will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 23 at IBT's, 616 N. 4th Avenue.

Clark's cartoons are well known for their biting, but humorous commentary on everyday life, local and national political issues and problems facing the Gay community.

The exhibit will provide the first-ever opportunity to view Clark's cartoons as a single body of work. The artist has chosen many of his best cartoons for display.

Copies of the originals will be offered for sale. In addition, many of the cartoons will be enlarged and mounted and raffle tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held Saturday, March 28 at the OBSERVER/Community Benefit dinner. All proceeds from this raffle will go to SHANTI/Tucson and PACT for Life.

All members of Tucson's Gay and Lesbian community are invited to attend this unique exhibit.

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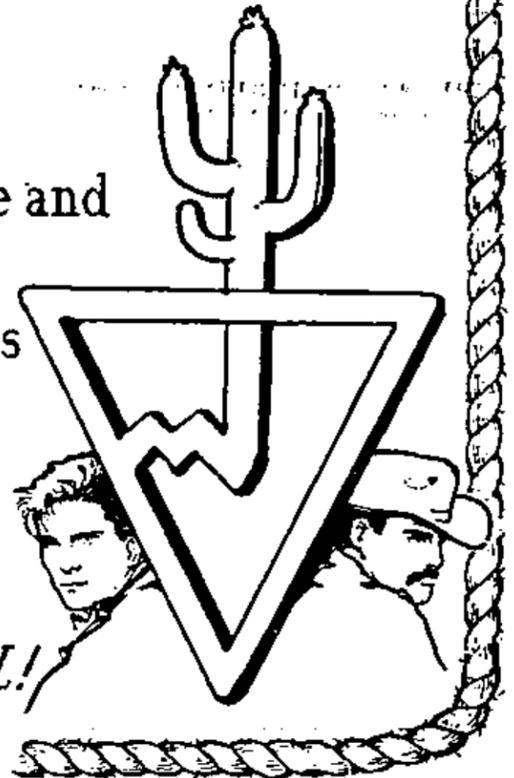
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Home On The Range With AGRA-Tucson
by Clyde Mitter

A.G.R.A. presented the 8th Annual S.O.S. Hoedown at Hours on Feb. 29 and March 1. The weekend proved to be very successful with entertainment, an auction and raffle which included a variety of donated items. The net proceeds of \$1,482.50 will help to produce Tucson's first Gay rodeo - The Saguaro Regional Rodeo, May 8-9-10 at Old Tucson Studios. A.G.R.A. would like to like to extend our thanks to all who participated in making this Hoedown such a success.

Entertainers included: Margo Leigh, John Barnes, Tiffany St. Thomas, Joe Wallen, Vickey Wallen, Lauren Johnson, Anne English, Dani Reid, Jerry and Friends, Lucinda Holliday, Michelle Kristi, Travis Hudson, The Sunburst Squares, Victoria London, Raven, Gary L'Abbe, and our wonderful Vanna White (Aviva Diamond).

Donations by: T.J., Talk of the Town, Bill Darnell, SOS, Charlie's/Phoenix, Daniel Richards, Clyde Mitter, Mike Dralle, Randy McClean, Jim Baran and Hours.

A very special "A.G.R.A." thanks to Lee (Butch), Betty and Staff of Hours, Rick of Casas Adobe Flowers, Mike from Sun State Wholesale Flowers, Alan McLaughlin of Cloud 95, IBT's for contributing the spotlight, Randy McClean for the beautiful decorations, A.G.R.A. royalty, Miss A.G.R.A. Jaquelin de Savoi and Mr. A.G.R.A. Kris Eisenhut and all the volunteers and friends that worked behind the scenes. Thanks to Frank Gallego who

was slipping warm weenies into hot buns throughout the entire event.

S.O.S. has contributed so much to the Tucson community. Their hard work and generosity will be missed. One of S.O.S. final contributions was the awarding of checks to the Tucson AIDS Project, Shanti, P.A.C.T. and El Proyecto during the Hoedown. The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association - Tucson Satellite would like to thank and extend our appreciation to all the past members of S.O.S. who have worked to make the Hoedown the success that it is today. We are grateful that S.O.S. has charged A.G.R.A. with the responsibility to carry on the "Hoedown" tradition.

Congratulations to George Kaminski for sashaying away with the title of "Hoedown" Mr. Gay Rodeo Days and Ken Davis for being first runner-up. Congratulations are also extended to John Klein for accepting Rodeo Events Director for Tucson. CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN BOY!

The Grand Marshall for the 1992 Saguaro Regional Rodeo will be elected at this Sunday's General Membership meeting. Nominees are Mr. Bob Ellis of the Observer, Mr. David Osollo, President of S.O.S., Ms. Natalie Perry former Executive Director of Shanti/Tucson, Mr. Jim Toevs, President of the Old Pueblo Business & Professional Association, and Mr. Lee Thompson (Margo Leigh). Further nominations will be taken from the floor at this Sunday's meeting.

The distribution of Tucson's portion of the profits from the Road Runner Regional Rodeo will also be voted on by the general membership this Sunday. A.G.R.A.-Tucson is distributing just over \$2,200 in rodeo profits.

The next general membership meeting will be Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. at the Venture-N, 1239 N. Sixth Avenue. The run-off election for Dance & Entertainment Director will be decided on Sunday. An A.G.R.A. Beer Bust will be held at 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a member is encouraged to attend or write to AGRA-Tucson, 7272 E. Broadway #412, Tucson, AZ 85710.



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POLITICS '92

by Mark Kerr

This week's column will unfortunately be short due to time constraints. But, I want to talk about the caucuses held here last Saturday. As I was going from polling place to polling place, I saw members of our community out in force, participating in the caucus. And, when the delegate votes were counted, it showed that we backed our delegate candidates who were running. That pleases me greatly.

What I observed Saturday, shows that this column is having an effect in the community, making people aware of the political process and their need to participate, and it paid off Saturday. It looks like we - the Lesbian and Gay community of Tucson - will be sending delegates to the Democratic Convention in New York City. We have finally arrived, politically in the Grand Canyon State!

To end this minuscule column, a short story to show you that what I have said was true. I was at the Legislative District 11 polling place when a gentleman came up and asked if I was the Mark Kerr who wrote the column for the Observer. I said that I was. He thanked me for writing the column and planned to vote for Tom Harkin and the delegate candidate I had mentioned in last week's column who was a Lambda member and running as a Harkin delegate.

So, you see, this column is having an effect on the community. To all of you who voted, I say thank you, you have done the community well.

Until next time, politics as usual.

A Commentary By

Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

Is It Real Or Is It Reality TV

There are lots of things to fear in the real world: crime, heartbreak, accidents, disillusionment, ultraviolet radiation, bad network television.

How much easier it would be if reality could be contained in nice little packages complete with opening credits (to tell you when the fearful stuff is starting), commercials (for a much needed break from reality), and closing credits (telling you when the bad stuff is over).

That's exactly what's happening. Every season - almost every month - come television programs that package reality for a viewership more and more fearful of experiencing life.

With names like "Cops", "Rescue 911", "Firehouse", and the newest, "I Witness Video", the networks are bottling real life, encapsulating actual events into palatable half-hour or hour programs. Using real video or recreating events with actors, these programs feed their viewers' fires, auto accidents, car chases, tornados, daring police rescues, airplane crashes, medical operations, life, death, and all the fearful things in our world.

With each new program comes a growing fear that people will lose the ability to cope with real-life tragedies that don't end conveniently in 30 minutes, or have commercial breaks, or signal the end with closing credits.

Is there any wonder a tornado lasting 5 minutes on television is preferred over one that lasts 30? Or sound bites and recreations of a followed kidnapping plot where people die are desired over living through the 14-hour ordeal?

Could this explain the growing dissatisfaction with success taking longer to achieve than a week? Could this explain the growing influence of gangs on children, or lowered educational levels, of increased crime, hate, violence.

No, television programs are not to blame; rather, a society in which reality is less interesting than a media-enhanced version of it, a society that does not teach its citizens that success is a long road not traveled quickly, one in which instant gratification is accepted as the norm even though it is merely an exception.

And networks are capitalizing on this cultural trend by feeding us edited, annotated, condensed, and abridged versions of life in the real world.

As we watch these programs and make them more popular, we give motive to the networks for making more such shows that will become more popular until, one day, we are each wired directly into our TV sets, living out our lives through video images of a reality we long ago stopped living.

At Spes Non Fracta: See you next week.

Fiesta de Mayo Pride Week Benefit To Be Held At IBT's May 1-2-3

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) is urging the community to get involved with the upcoming Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1992 activities. A lot of work needs to be done and volunteers and help and input is needed to make sure that this year's event, which promise to be bigger and better than ever comes off without a hitch as has been done in the past under the direction of TLGA.

TLGA has set a budget of \$6,500 for the 1992 Pride Week activities and a series of fundraising events are to be held to achieve that goal.

The weeklong, Pride Week will take place June 21 through 28. As usual the big Picnic In The Park will lead off Pride Week June 21. The picnic is the most costly affair with free beer and soft drinks being dispensed throughout the afternoon. Last year nearly 9,000 persons attended the Picnic.

The major fund-raising event continues to be Fiesta de Mayo originally scheduled for the Joshua Tree, has been moved to IBT's and will be held this year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2-3. Candidates to run for King and Queen of Fiesta de Mayo are being sought. A change in this event this year has been announced. Candidates may run as couples or singly. The person or couple who raises the most amount of money is declared the winner and will preside over all Pride Week activities as well as other events throughout the year. Prospective candidates should apply at the next TLGA meeting, March 8, at IBT's

beginning at 3:00 p.m.

The theme for this year's Pride Week is: "A Simple Matter Of Justice," a quote from Harvey Milk, the Gay San Francisco Supervisor who was murdered because of his Gayness. A contest is now being held for a logo for this year incorporating the 1992 theme. Artists and non-artists may submit entries by dropping them off at a TLGA meeting or by mailing them to TLGA, P.O., Box 57033, Tucson, AZ 85703. The winning entry will receive a \$75 first prize and the artwork will appear in all advertising and on T-Shirts and other items that will be on sale during pride week. The committee would like to get the first shipment of T-Shirts on sale during the Fiesta de Mayo events, so the deadline for entries will be Sunday, April 12 at the TLGA Meeting.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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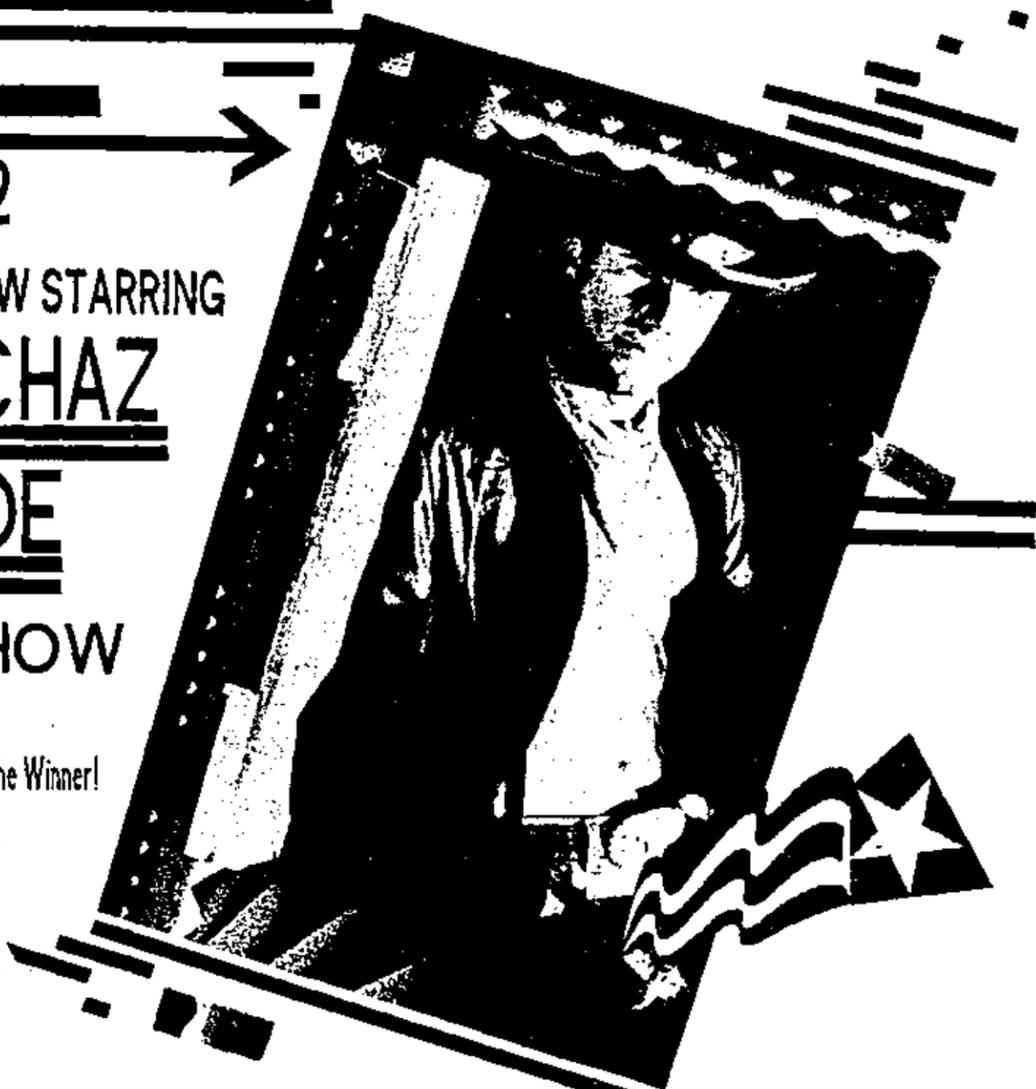
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TUESDAY, MARCH 17

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CALENDAR of upcoming events

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

GRADUATE - Monthly Beer Bust for Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) from 2 to 6 p.m. There are usually games and lots of fun and camaraderie with this crazy gang. In honor of St. Patrick's day they will be serving corned beef and cabbage from 2 to 6 p.m. **THEN!** At 8:30ish, there is a Benefit Show for Lucinda Holliday, who is a candidate for Miss Gay Tucson. The show will be hosted by Tiffany St. Thomas (Miss Gay Tucson) and will star Pussy Le Hoot (Miss Gay Arizona) and featuring Margo Leigh, Raven, Christine de Alexis as well as Lucinda and Live vocals by Eric Hemphill. There will also be an auction during the show.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

RUMORZ - A big benefit for P.A.C.T. is in the planning stages here. It's being billed as "Four Star Reunion Show" with Mr. Monte Ion, Mr. Dani Reid, Nana and direct from Los Angeles, Miss Brenda Starr. \$1 donation at the door for PACT. Reservations are suggested. A limited number of 4-seat tables are available for reservations (\$10 donation). 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

IBT'S - Benefit show for Rodney (Gilda) who is a candidate for Miss Gay Tucson. The show will feature an all-star group of performers. Help Gilda on her run-for-the-crown and attend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

IBT'S - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will be here this afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m. Come and meet the members of this organization that means so much to our community - our parents and friends who support us. They want to put out a newsletter and are trying to raise funds for this and other programs that they want to institute. There will be a Beer Bust with 50¢ Draft Beer with proceeds going to PFLAG. Anne English will be entertaining also. Make this Beer Bust if you can... It supports a great cause.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 21 & 22

VENTURE-N - "Hydes of March" celebration of levi leathersmen coming in from Venture-N in Houston, Texas as well as many others from around Arizona and California. Big time fun. Watch for more details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CLUB 2520 - Another fantastic strip show starring Chaz, Bruce Peters and Shane Blade. It takes a different twist tonight though. After the professional strip show, there will be an amateur strip show and it will be judged by those great professionals. Who knows - maybe future stardom!!! Sign up with Clot who will give you the scoop.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

IBT'S - As a kick-off to the OBSERVER/Community Benefit IBT's hosts a retrospective of Observer cartoonist Gary Clark's work. The one-night exhibit will begin at 7:30 p.m. Clark's cartoons are well known for their biting, but humorous commentary on everyday life, local and national political issues and problems facing the Gay and Lesbian community. Copies of some of the originals will be offered for sale. In addition, many of the cartoons will be enlarged and mounted for viewing. Raffle tickets will be sold for some of these and the drawing will be held Saturday, March 28 at the Observer/Community Benefit Dinner at the Plaza Hotel Convention Center. All proceeds from this raffle will go to SHANTI/Tucson and PACT for Life.

Fourth Avenue Street Fair coming in April - Watch for it

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

CLUB 2520 - Another AGRA-Tucson benefit for the May rodeo. "Chili Verde Days" here. More details later. It'll be a big one!

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 (EASTER SUNDAY)

CLUB 2520 - Extra special Easter Brunch. Make plans now to enjoy Easter here with some great food and excellent company and fine food.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MAY 1-2-3

IBT'S - The annual Fiesta de Mayo festivities have been moved here and it's promises to be bigger and better. There will be booths with food, games and all sorts of other fun things. Check for more details but it will be a great time, including the crowning of the new King and/or Queen of the Fiesta. Lots more details coming. Watch for this big-big weekend.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

CLUB 2520 - It's Mother's Day. Plan to take mom out to Brunch here for some fabulous food. Treat your mother to a real treat.

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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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Softball game in Himmel Park Benefit for Shanti. Noonish. Hot Dogs, Beer, Fun. Originally advertised as a March 1st event. Sorry for the error, but come on out the 15th and enjoy. It's for a good cause too!

TLGA will meet at IBT's at 5:00 p.m. to make plans for Fiesta de Mayo, the big fund-raising event to help finance Gay Pride Week. All parties interested in helping out or interested candidates for King or Queen of the Fiesta or persons with logos for Pride Week please attend.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Starting at 7:00 p.m., the Experience Workshop will host an introductory preview for people interested in enhancing the quality of their relationship and living a life of choice. For information call Steve in Tucson, 327-7719.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

No host Bingo games will be played at MCC/Tucson, 3269 N. Mountain, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a small prize, value not to exceed \$6.00 and play Bingo for the entire evening. If you are unable to bring a prize, come and enjoy the games anyway. Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

The Men's Massage Group will have a Spring celebration outdoors. If you have never attended one before, or it has been awhile, this is the one. 1-2 p.m. for men under 35 only, then 2-3 p.m. over 35. 3-5 p.m. entire group Spring Celebration. Meet someone new. It's a safe and sensual way to make a new friend. Fee. Call Marque at 881-4582 for information and to register.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

OBSERVER/Community Benefit at the Plaza Hotel Convention Center. Dinner, Dancing, Entertainment. Tickets \$15.00 per person includes dinner and the entire evening of fun. Door Prizes. All net proceeds go to Shanti/Tucson and PACT for Life. Watch for Details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Miss Gay Tucson Pageant at the Quality Inn. More details later.

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Tucson CALENDAR

sunday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Brunch served noon to 1 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 \$1.50 till 8 pm and \$2.00 8 pm to close.
HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screens \$1.25 till 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.
IBT'S - Great food from Kevin 1-6 pm. "The Dance" 4 pm, hot music with Linda Fizzle. 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer.
RUMORZ - Open at noon. \$1.50 well and Domestic Beer until 8:02 p.m. V/DJ Jeff 9 p.m.
VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.

monday

CLUB CONGRESS - 70's Disco with Super Star Lover. \$1. 9 pm to 1 am.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ 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. Mystery Movie site. Bring in your VHS movie and they'll play it. (No porno please!).
HOURS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 12 to 7 pm - Well and Domestic Beer \$1.25. 50 Draft Beer 7 to close.
IBT'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Easy listening music. Bring in your own tape for a drink special 8 pm to 1 am.
RUMORZ - Open noon. From 3:22 pm until 8:02 pm \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. 8:02 to closing, \$1.50 White Well. V/DJ Ray 9 p.m.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Cricket Dart Tournament 7 pm.

tuesday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 pm to close. Country/Western and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Draft Beer Best. Small Pitchers \$1.50, Large \$3.00 till close.
HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7 pm Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Schnapps 75¢ 7 to close.
IBT'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Copper City Squares 7-9. Country music and dancing with Tom Crawford 9-1.
RUMORZ - Open noon. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:22 p.m. to closing. V/DJ Mark 9 pm.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

wednesday

CLUB CONGRESS - Rock 'n Roll Boy Bar with DJ Sir Rodney Farrow.
CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. 50¢ off on everything from 8 pm to close. Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 p.m. Spaghetti feed 6 to 8 p.m. \$1. (Beginning Feb. 19)
GRADUATE - Domestic Longnecks \$1.25 to 8 pm - \$1.50 till closing.
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Bartender's Choice 7 to close.
IBT'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.
RUMORZ - Open noon. From 3:22 pm until 8:02 pm \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. From 8:02 to closing, 75¢ Schnapps. V/DJ Mark at 9 pm.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

thursday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Men's Nite - Strip Show and/or Jockey Show Contest plus 50¢ draft beer 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western & video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Call \$2.00, Top Shelf \$2.50 all day and night.
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Heineken or Corona \$1.25 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1.
IBT'S - 4-8 Two for One. Hot dance music with Rodney. UofA Student Night. \$1.50 well 8 pm to close.
RUMORZ - Open Noon. \$1.24 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:22 pm to 8:02 pm. 50 cent Draft from 8:02 pm to close. Dancing with V/DJ Mark 9-1.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

friday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Extended 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 10 pm. (well and domestic beer). Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 p.m.
GRADUATE - All Well \$1.50 and Domestic Beer \$1.25 until 8 p.m. All Well \$2 and Domestic Beer \$1.50 from 8 p.m. to close.
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Dancing 9 pm - 1 am. Country/Western last Friday of each month.
IBT'S - 4-8 Two for One / Hot Music 8 to close with Ray.
RUMORZ - Open Noon. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:22 until 8:02. Horn D'Orchestra. V/DJ Mark 9-1.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.

saturday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 50¢ Schnapps 8 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Draft Beer \$1.50 till 8 pm, \$2.00 to closing.
HOURS - Open Noon. 7 pm to 1 am. DJ music 9 to 1. Last Saturday of each month is Country and Western dance music.
IBT'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. Hot music 8 to close with Linda Fizzle.
RUMORZ - Open Noon. \$1.50 Corona 8:02 pm to close. Dance with Jeff V/DJ 9-1.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Cash Pool Tournament 3 p.m. \$3 entry.

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Say You Saw It In The **OBSERVER**

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Because I am a City employee, I didn't have to work on February 17th, the day which is designated "President's Day". Since I had the day off, I decided to do something constructive and prepare my Federal and State income tax forms. I usually don't do them this early, since I invariably have to pay, but I thought I could at least get them done; but I didn't intend to mail them until the very last second. After all, neither the Feds nor the State give any discount for early filing, and I don't have any extra money laying around to use to pay before I absolutely have to. Imagine my surprise, therefore, to discover not only do I not have to pay, but I am going to get a refund from both the Feds and the State! Not much... but still, what a pleasant surprise!

By the time you read this it will be almost the middle of March. What would you think about me if I still hadn't sent in my income tax forms? There is a guaranteed refund waiting for me, and I'm sure you would think me rather foolish, to say the least, if I hadn't bothered to take the steps necessary to obtain that refund. (Let me assure you, by the time you read this, those forms will have been sent long ago!

Each one of us has the promise of something much more valuable than money just waiting to be claimed! We read about that promise in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV) As soon as I receive my tax refund, it is going to be spent, because money is very tight with me right now and

I have lots of bills. However, this promise of eternal life is not a promise of something that can be used up and then it will be gone! Eternal life is just that -- Life never ends!

Even though my tax refund is mine and belongs to me already, if I never apply for it, I will never get it. In the same way, Jesus died to provide eternal life for everyone who has ever lived or will ever live... but in order to obtain eternal life, each person must "apply" for it. How? By believing in Jesus as God's "one and only Son" Who died to pay the penalty for your sins and mine so that we could have eternal life.

Do you have God's gift of eternal life? If not, why not "apply" for it today? All of us at Cornerstone Fellowship welcome the opportunity to warmly greet you and share the blessings God longs to bestow on you, as well as us. We provide Worship Services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Come and find out just how you can assure your eternal destiny... and in the process absorb the JOY the Lord will shower upon you. See you Sunday.

News From MCC/Tucson

by Don Carlin

It has been asked why did the early church, the Jewish-Christians, change the Sabbath (Saturday) to the Lord's day (Sunday). As we are in Lent, approaching Easter, we can more readily understand why Sunday is celebrated as our day of rest. The early church, during the first century, celebrated every Sunday as Easter. At the end of the first century an annual celebration of the Resurrection was established. It was called PASCHA, the Greek translation of the Hebrew word PASSOVER, since it was during the spring seasons when Jesus Christ's death and resurrection took place. Since PASCHA was similar to the Greek word PASCHEN, meaning "to suffer", many Christians at that time thought this meant that this festival meant "suffering" instead of rejoicing.

Easter is the oldest of the "Holy Days" celebrated by the Christian Church after Sunday or the "Lord's Day" which is actually a celebration of Easter every day of the week. Because Sunday was the celebration of Easter, this annual celebration was first called "the Great Easter" and is still referred to by this name in the

Orthodox churches. Since the first Easter was celebrated on the actual day of Resurrection and this was known as the "Lord's Day", Sunday has been celebrated as our day of rest since the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection.

It was announced last week that we would be having our District Coordinator and our Assistant District Coordinator visiting with us. The actual dates of these visits have been changed slightly. Rev. Judy Davenport, our Assistant District Coordinator, will be in Tucson next week and will be preaching at our Midweek Service on March 18. This service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and a pot-luck supper is planned preceding the worship service.

Our District Coordinator, Rev. Don Pederson, with Rev. Thomas Jordan, pastor of the Gentle Shepherd MCC of Phoenix, will be visiting the following week and will be at our Midweek Service on March 25. It may be possible that Rev. Charlotte Strayhorn of Oasis MCC in Phoenix will also be in Tucson with the Reverends Peterson and Jordan.

On Saturday, March 21st, starting at 6:30 p.m., another of our No-Host Bingo Parties will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 3269 N. Mountain Ave. It is requested that you bring a prize not to exceed \$6.00 in value to spend the evening playing Bingo. This is only a suggestion, if you are unable to bring a prize, come on out and play Bingo anyway.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "And in conclusion" only means that we have about fifteen more minutes of a speech.

J. CONRAD EGGE, Ph.D.
Psychologist

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STUDY THIS!

THE TUCSON MEN'S STUDY
University of California
 ■ THINK POSITIVE PROJECT ■

WE WANT YOUR NAME ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

The Think Positive Project, with the collaboration of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, is conducting a survey of gay and bisexual men in Tucson. The survey is designed to help Tucson AIDS service organizations develop effective programs to meet the needs of gay and bisexual men during the AIDS epidemic.

During the month of March survey workers from the Think Positive Project will be recruiting gay men in bars in Tucson for the survey. To become part of this effort, all you have to do is give us your name, address and telephone number. We'll mail you a questionnaire later. Also during April, the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies will be conducting a telephone survey of gay and bisexual men in Tucson. A random selection of Tucson's telephone numbers will be called to reach gay or bisexual men. To be part of this study all you have to do is agree to be interviewed by telephone.

Support for this project comes from the National Institute of Mental Health. No local funds are used to support this research. Confidentiality is absolutely guaranteed. Be part of a project that helps Tucson AIDS service organizations do a better job!

We look forward to talking with you soon!

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

EDITOR:

It has recently come to my attention that there is a rumor being spread around town that IBT's is closing. I am writing this to inform the community that this rumor is not true. IBT's has a very strong and steady business. It is unfortunate that, in the past several months, some of our bars have not received the support they deserve and one has closed their doors. This has meant a great loss to our community.

We at IBT's have been lucky enough to sustain ourselves through the good times and bad, and we plan on being around for a long time. If you check the calendar and articles in this newspaper, you will see that we have many events coming up in the near and not so near future.

The bars in this community are here for you; they are the first place many organizations come to for fundraising, and they are a place for safe, Gay socialization. All the bars in this town need support so that they can keep providing for the community.

I thank our loyal customers for sticking by us and we look forward to many years of serving the Gay and Lesbian community of Tucson.

Sincerely, Danny Duncan
 Manager, IBT's

TO THE EDITOR:

I was at the "Tucson Is Burning" show and I was surprised and a little angry that Eric Hemphill did not win the live vocals award.

I have heard Hemphill sing many times and he puts all other vocalists in this city in the ground with his artistry.

So his voice cracked Wednesday night. So it turns out that even the most perfectly beautiful musical instrument is capable of showing a temporary flaw. So what?

It is a shame that a singer of this calibre doesn't perform more often. He truly needs more chances to put Tucson's other vocalists under the table!

I hope you'll print this letter so he'll see it, and then he'll know that, cracking or not, his voice is truly a gorgeous instrument and as long as there are people who enjoy beautiful singing, there will be a place for him!

Thank you, Carolyn Smed (A Fan)

[ED NOTE: Several thousand people at the Pride Picnic last year heard Eric sing the National Anthem. The ovation he received after his performance certainly proves that he is a fine talent. He will be back at the Picnic this year, you can be sure.]

TO THE TUCSON GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY,

Greetings! The Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance is pleased to announce plans are now being made for another successful and uniting PRIDE WEEK 1992.

We are extending an invitation to all clubs and organizations to help in the fundraising and planning of these yearly events.

This year, the picnic will be held on Sunday, June 21st. The theme for this year is "A Simple Matter Of Justice" and comes from our sister city San Francisco.

Our main fundraising will once again take the form of a Fiesta de Mayo 'King and/or Queen' contest. The crowning will take place after a weekend of celebration, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. We are planning on holding this year's Fiesta at IBT's, 616 N. 4th Avenue.

All clubs and organizations are welcome to set up a fundraising booth for their individual organizations during the weekend of the Fiesta. Space is limited and will be available on a first come first serve basis. You may reserve a space with a \$15 deposit which will insure the space is yours and will be refunded when the booth is occupied. (Or you may donate the deposit to TLGA if you wish).

Reservations may be made in person to any TLGA member or at a TLGA meeting or by mail, P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703.

Please send a representative from your group to some of our Sunday afternoon meetings. Check the calendar listing in the Observer for time and location, and help build a united and strong community for us all. For more information you may call 293-1677.

Yours in Pride
 Chris Jones Co-Chair TLGA

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THINK Positive

PROJECT

by Sean Thomas

How you perceive yourself is a major part of what we call self esteem. Our self-esteem can be reflected on how often you practice safer sex, not how often you have sex. It's really funny how some people see safer sex as a hinderance, not a new twist to good ol' sex. To care enough about yourself and the one you are with is the bottom line of safer sex practices.

People tell me that they are sick of hearing about safer sex and AIDS. Just remember that one can prevent the other.

Which would you rather be - Sick of hearing about it or sick of it? As corny as it may sound at times, it's good to love yourself. Next time you go to bed with a partner, and they don't want to practice safer sex, ask yourself if this person is what you'd want for a partner.

Don't you want someone who cares enough to protect themselves and you.

Aren't you worth it? If the answer is no, then ignore what I have written. If the answer is yes, then only demand the best for yourself. And the best is a partner who cares as much about you as he does himself.

People who say they don't enjoy safer sex, are obviously people who don't understand it or have experienced it to its potential. It can be as hot as any other sexual scene around.

If you haven't experienced the erotic world of safer sex, then maybe it is time you did. Snag up one or several of our pamphlets at any of the local Gay bars. They're called Good News for Man to Man Sex. They come in both Spanish and English. If they don't answer your questions, then call one of the organizations that make up the Think Positive Project. Learn the joy of safer sex and increase your level of self-esteem.

STEVEN DIETZ..

Q: Advice From Your Counselor A.

P.O. Box 40084, Tucson, AZ 85717

Q. I was at a memorial service recently and what happened kind of disturbed me. The man who died was the lover of my best friend, and my friend wasn't even asked to sit with the family. They didn't even talk to him about the service ahead of time, except to let him know about it. It just seemed to me that they should have cared more about his feelings. What do you think?

that was the cause of the oversights more than any intentional exclusion of people who should have had a more active part in the services. Your feelings are shared by many people (heterosexual as well as homosexual) who have felt excluded or ignored during their time of grief because relationships weren't properly recognized or acknowledged.

A. There are few situations more difficult for a family than the arrangements for memorial services after the death of a loved one. Grief clouds our thought processes, and especially if there have been no decisions made before death, there are countless details to be covered in a relatively short period of time.

Many funeral home directors are aware of such circumstances, and are very proficient in making suggestions early on to assist families in giving proper recognition of loved ones, including the details of obituaries, following living will requests, and planning services that are appropriate, but even with such advice available, families often need to ask for direction.

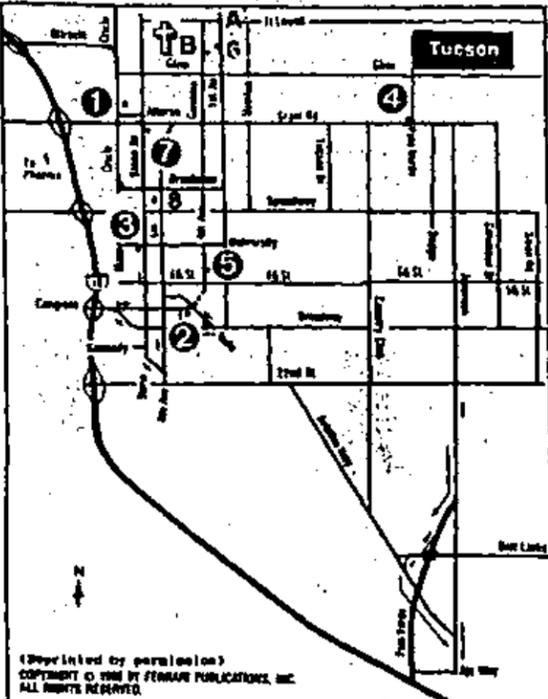
I too have seen several instances of the situation you mention, but in many cases, it was not knowing what to say or do, or preoccupation with intense grief,

Surviving lovers (and relatives, for that matter) should contact the "in-laws" as soon as possible to offer their assistance, share their grief, and make their wishes known. It would have been best if your friend's lover had left instructions for his family that could have prevented this experience from occurring, but remind your friend that his presence, no matter where he was seated, was in memory and in honor of the life of his loved one, and the importance of other relationships pales by comparison.

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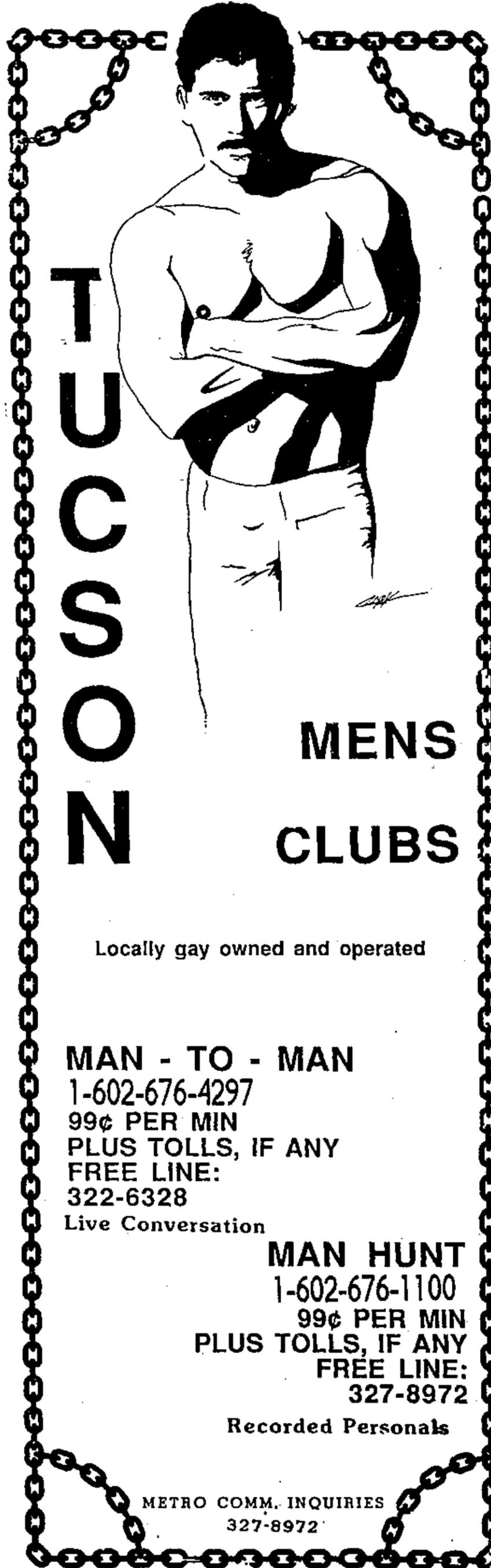
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ARIES

Working late will possibly create tension at home. From now on call from the office - not the pay phone at pleasure World. Saving money is the key to greater success and peace of mind. Your frivolous spending of late will not help the checkbook. Your lucky day: Sunday

TAURUS

A change in family plans works out for the best. Separate beds was just the ticket. You're always camped out on the couch anyway with "guests" till 5 a.m., right Kevin? A long distance friend is still waiting for mail never sent. A bartender from Vegas may show up on your doorstep.

GEMINI

Your new love definitely was a "big one" - but that face! Webster's defines "crater" as a pit made by an exploding bomb - maybe it was a mining accident. Friends are privately supportive. A new economic trend will work in your favor. Lucky Day: Monday.

CANCER

A community group (the local j.o. club) may reward you for your efforts to help others. Teamwork is favored. Want to be an actor or actress? The 2520 is casting for the sequel to Jake and the Fatman - called Peter and the Fatman. Supporting cast? You bet - Tom and his Toy Chest. Lucky day: Saturday

LEO

It may require will power to conquer a bad habit. Saying Geezz all the time is pretty annoying. A close relationship takes an added drama. The trampoline in the bedroom does add that special touch. The clown outfit doesn't make it though. Possible car problems this week.

VIRGO

The spotlight shifts to your private life - a scary thought. What a waste of lotion - it's only a 2 inch fuse. Accepting someone for what they are will put an end to tiresome arguments. Make sure romantic partner does not feel left out. Lucky Day: Friday.

LIBRA

You're torn between staying with an irritating roomie in an irritating town. Take your life savings of \$2.13, steal a bus ticket and hit the road. It's not worth it to make yourself miserable. A financial breakthrough is likely as spring begins.

SCORPIO

Wise use of your talents will take you far. Maybe Ajo. Plan activities that include loved ones of all ages. But try to stay out of jail this time. Events that happened in early winter will bring family members closer together. Enter a contest this week.

SAGITTARIUS

You have such a winning personality - or is that whining? You poor thing, nothing goes your way. The roomie situation will improve, minus one next week. Someone would like to play a larger role in your life. A loving heart can accomplish miracles - it's gonna take one.

CAPRICORN

Your role at work will become increasingly important in the weeks ahead. You get full charge of the icee machine then to top that off, you get to make the nacho cheese. Another week and you'll catch up to Myron. A friend offers you a chance to travel. Lucky Day: Saturday.

AQUARIUS

Obtain further details about an overseas enterprise before investing your money. Opening a chain of personal hygiene stores in Burma is OK, but calling it "SMEGMA'S R' US"? A friend in need is a friend indeed - you'll be getting a call soon. Lucky day this week: Monday.

PISCES

Finances are low - moonlighting at a second job is one solution. You could become a bartender at one of the more fashionable spots in town. That's how Mark E. got his start on 4th Avenue - another success story. Clear up a domestic misunderstanding before it gets out of control.

What's Up Doc ???



I know I'm living in a desert and it needs water to grow different plants but, haven't we just been having a little more than needed? True, as of this writing, the sun is out for the first time in a couple days, and what makes this a little better, I'm off. Well, as long as our ground water level increases, I guess it's not all that bad.

Last week Keith and I, for the first time in a long while, were able to do some bar hopping together. I know that I spend a lot of time at the Venture-N, but that does not mean I do not enjoy going to the other bars. Well, the following are some little TBBS' I came across during our travels.

The first stop was over at Rumorz where Barney was heard saying he came to a real man's bar. Well, Freddie from the Graduate, was sitting there and she asked - he came here! A couple days later, I again was at Rumorz, this time with Bert. He told Bucky, "I'm going to help you do it". Just what is Bert going to help Bucky do? We would all like to know the answer on that one. Just after that comment, it was asked by someone sitting at the bar concerning Bucky, "It must be soap on the bartenders neck, it couldn't be sweat!"

And speaking of Bert, if it weren't for Ernie, Bert would have no hoop!

Venture-N bartender David F. was at the Graduate the other day and asked Stan to call him a cab. A couple of minutes later David asked Stan to cancel the cab because he just remembered he had his car. Maybe David should have taken the cab!

This coming Saturday, it will be time for TKO to hold their monthly Beer Bust at the Graduate. Also, it is time for their annual "Mini-Tacky Ball". If you have not experienced this ball, stop by between 2 and 6 and join in on the fun. And in celebration of St. Patrick's Day the bar is serving Corned Beef and Cabbage during the afternoon too.

Do not forget March 28. That is the day for the Annual OBSERVER /Community Benefit. This is always a very entertaining evening and the proceeds are being given to SHANTI and PACT.

With that I guess it is time to print this column out for Bob. Have a safe and loving week and I promise you, I will be watching for some TBBS' on your part wherever and whenever.



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

Notices

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 psychological facilitator. Call 844-0476 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center offers support groups / library / monthly newsletter. Volunteer opportunities. Information 634-1779 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.

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX has a hotline for information and membership call: 266-7202 or write CBPA P.O. Box 2047, 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, 624-1779.

U of A 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 in 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 Buti at 266-2928 (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.

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 882-3433. 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 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 Billito River Linear Park call 887-6475. Easy riding and pleasant company.

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

LICHEN 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 798-3518 or write AGRA/Tucson, 777 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 742-6650.

FREE COMPUTER INTRODUCTIONS! The Western Connection Bulletin Board Service. Dial your modem to 602-881-8283 and ask for access to Lambda West - a round table reserved exclusively for the Gay and Lesbian community.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in front of the Himpel 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 N. 1st Avenue. Office hours 10 to 5, M-F; Wednesdays 7 pm. Call 770-1710 for info.

SHANTI FOUNDATION OF TUCSON Help us help others in giving emotional support to persons with life-threatening illnesses and their families, friends. Contact us Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 622-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

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 E.B. at 292-6440.

Casa De La Paloma Apostolic Church, 1122 N. 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. Lewis for info 323-6855.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call information and Referral about AS-AZON 790-8922 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP: The group focuses on assisting members in attaining a positive sense of self and building caring relationships. Contact Michael Chias, Ph.D. 327-4224 Tucson.

OLD PUEBLO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION For meeting dates and locations or membership information call 577-6018 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44613, Tucson, AZ 85733

TRANSEXUAL, TRANSGENDERS, TRANSVESTITES AND CROSS GENDER SUPPORT GROUP. Conversations and Fellowship. Meets 2nd Saturday and last Friday of each month. Call 293-3436.

YOUNG AND GAY? Lesbian and Gay youths 23 and under, meet weekly in Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. Call Randy 882-8986 or Amy 884-8670.

WOMYN'S THIRD FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE meets third Friday of each month at Uguilas 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 dances, theater, movies, travel, sports and companionship. Call Mark at CRONIES, 888-7264 in Tucson.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadway). Services for people with AIDS, ARC or HIV+; Community Education. Monthly public meetings. Volunteers welcome. 326-AIDS (Hotline) or 322-8216 (Administration).

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IN TUCSON Call information and Referral 881-1794 - 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.

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

Notices

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.

COUPLES OF ARIZONA/Tucson Affiliates, Lesbians/Gay couples. Social & educational organization. Monthly informal meetings. For information call Joan 573-3767.

ARE YOU FEMME AND ATTRACTED TO OTHER FEMMES? For Lesbians and Bi-women: Do you love wearing makeup and high heels, perfume and skirts, lingerie, etc.? Then, let's get together and see who we are! Femmes for Femmes Social/Support Group. Partners and singles welcome. Call 321-4737 for more information.

ARE YOU HURTING others (AND YOURSELF)? Come to FROM ANGER TO EMPOWERMENT, a two-week group for men. Release and resolve anger through deep emotional and inner child work. Insurance accepted. John Fredson and Navrah Masrah, 297-1995 400

GAY WILDMAN WEEKEND For Gay and Bisexual men. April 24, 7 p.m. - 26, 5 p.m. Healing our wounds, trust, sharing, honesty, empowerment, unconditional acceptance, vegetarian meals. No alcohol, drugs, sex. Limited registration. \$75-\$150, sliding scale. 744-1001. 401

MATURE RETIRED GWM NUDIST looking for a woman to live in is looking for a disease and drug free TOP companion or friend any age or race. James, POB 5902, Arizona City, AZ 85223. 398

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504. 397

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HIV positive??? Meet others who are HIV+ for support and fun, call P.A.C.T. for Life, 770-1710 400

Personals

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