Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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

TUCSON - This weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 1,2 and 3 the annual Fiesta de Mayo will take place at IBT's, 616 N. 4th Avenue. Fiesta is the major fund raising event which finances the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week events, including the annual Picnic in Himmel Park each year. The budget for this year has been set by the producers, TLGA (Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance) at $6,500 for the weeklong series of Pride activities. There are other fund-raising activities currently underway also.

IBT's will expand its entertainment area into the patio and parking lot to accommodate the crowd, booths and other outdoor activities.

There are two candidate couples running for Fiesta King and Queen. Lisette and Conley represent the Red Team, and Madame X with Ken Davis represent the White Team. These candidates have been holding various fund raising activities. The couple raising the most money wins the title of King and or Queen of Fiesta de Mayo. So the dollars that they collect are 'votes' on your part, and there are a lot of 'votes' that need to be cast in order to produce this year's Pride Week.

Booths at the Fiesta are available at no charge. (TLGA requests a $15 reservation deposit, which will be refunded upon occupation of the booth). Friday morning is the absolute deadline to reserve booth space. Reservations may be made by calling 791-7000 or stopping by the Cactus Gallery at 621 N. 4th Avenue. These booths can used as fund raisers by selling food, arts, crafts etc., or promote games or may be used for information booths for organizations and clubs.

The Fiesta de Mayo schedule is as follows:

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Booths are open from 4:00 p.m. until closing. Crownholder's Show begins at 9:00 p.m. At presstime, performers include Tiffany St. Thomas, Gilda Fatale, Lucinda Holliday, Shanise & Leo, Minerva & Juan, Christina de Alexis, Mr. Eric Hemphill, comedienne Emma Keller, and vocalist Karen Brooks of Sisters Soul.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Booths open at 4:00 p.m. The popular live band, Rare Breed will perform from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for listening and dancing. Then at 9:00 p.m. there will be a Show, featuring the candidates Lisette and Conley and Madame X with Ken Davis plus and surprise performers. This show will be hosted by Gilda Fatale.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Booths open at 4:00 p.m. The live sounds of the popular band Rare Breed will be heard for listening and dancing from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. There will be a show hosted by Aviva Diamond and featuring the newly-crowned Miss Gay Tucson, Candy Plaststique, and other surprise performers, along with the contestants one more time to collect additional 'votes' before the final counting. The voting is cut off at 11:00 p.m. when they will be counted and the winner crowned at 11:30.

The winning contestants will preside over many of the Pride Week events including the Picnic, and will be seen at various events throughout the rest of their reign.

Plan to attend and root for your favorite candidate. The entire weekend promises to be a full three day affair with plenty of fun, food, music, entertainment and remember all the proceeds go right back to the community in producing Pride Week '92.

Gay Delegate Elected To Democratic Convention Delegation

TUCSON - Arizona Democrats picked more than half of their delegates for the national convention in a series of regional meetings this past Saturday and history was also made in the process with the election of an openly Gay delegate from Arizona.

In Tucson, 100 persons gathered to elect delegates pledged to Bill Clinton, Jerry Brown and Paul Tsongas. Elected as a delegate, pledged to Governor Bill Clinton was Tucson Gay Political Activist and Observer Columnist Mark Kerr. Kerr, who also serves as Chair of the Legislative District 13 Democrats and organized the March 7th Presidential Caucus in Pima County defeated former Tucson Mayor Tom Volgy on what insiders called a hard fought contest. It was thought as such when a person takes on a recent elected official.

Kerr ran a grass roots campaign, stressing his activity as a Democrat, running and being involved numerous campaigns, getting the Lambda Democratic Caucus going and his commitment to Democratic ideals and principles through getting Legislation passed in Phoenix.

During the meeting, Volgy told Tucson Clinton delegates not to support him unless they felt Clinton did not have the nomination locked up by the time Volgy would go to New York City, July

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Controversy Brews Over Blood Testing For Rare HIV Strain

SEATTLE, WA - Only a few U.S. blood centers are testing for a rare but spreading strain of the AIDS virus despite fears that it could slip into the nation's blood supply.

More than 50,000 people in Europe, Africa, India, the former Soviet Union and North and South America are infected with human immunodeficiency virus Type 2, the second virus thought to cause AIDS, according to the World Health organization. HIV-2 has been identified in at least 37 countries.

The mutation is widespread in Africa, where it primarily is spread heterosexually and has an incubation period of up to 19 years. At least 43 cases of HIV-2 have been identified in the United States and Canada. Though rare, many experts say there is reason to believe HIV-2 will spread.

"HIV-2 could be a bigger heterosexual transmission threat" than HIV-1, the first AIDS virus discovered, said Michael Wandell, an epidemiologist and director of regulatory and clinical affairs for Genetic systems. The Redmond-based company is the only federally licensed maker of HIV-2 tests.

While U.S. blood centers are required to test donated blood for HIV-1, testing for the rarer HIV-2 is not required. Experts disagree whether HIV-1 tests always will detect HIV-2.

The federal Food and Drug Commission is evaluating a September recommendation by its Blood Products Advisory Committee that mandatory universal HIV-2 testing be adopted nationwide by June 1.

Many HIV-1 tests now used are cross-reactive with HIV-2, and the committee's recommendation is being considered "purely for precautionary reasons," FDA spokesman Brad Stone said. "There's no reason to believe ... that HIV-2 represents a significant risk to the blood supply.

The American Red Cross, the federal Centers for Disease Control, and the FDA in 1990 said HIV-2 was too rare to spend time and money on testing. The CDC estimated testing every blood donor for HIV-2 would cost $60 million annually.

"In view of the extremely low prevalence of HIV-2 infections in the U.S. population, there appears to be no public health need at this time to screen donors of blood or source plasma for antibodies to HIV-2 with this test," the FDA told blood centers.

"The blood supply today in America is the safest in the world and the safest it's ever been," American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole said. "We keep a constant eye on the possible threat of new diseases, like HIV-2."

The FDA licensed a Genetic Systems test for HIV-2 in 1990, and Genetic Systems combination test for both strains in September.

Fewer than 20 of the nation's 2,400 blood banks and plasma centers - representing 5 percent, by volume, of all the blood collected - test for HIV-2, according to Donna DeLong, Genetic Systems marketing and business development director.

"I think it is very possible that HIV-2-infected people are donating today in the U.S. and that blood has the potential to slip through and be transfused into an unsuspecting person," Wandell said.

The National Hemophilia Foundation says any additional cost form HIV-2 testing would be "minuscule": compared with the cost of caring for people who become infected with HIV. The foundation is calling for immediate and mandatory universal HIV-2 testing.

The United States is the principal supplier of Europe's blood products, and some U.S. labs voluntarily test for HIV-2 when exporting blood products to Europe.

A person with either strain of HIV may not show detectable signs of infection for up to six months. The CDC found that half of the reported HIV-2 cases in the United States in 1989 tested negative for HIV-1.

A 1991 study by Richard T. Schumacher, of Boston Biomedica Inc., with Portugal's National Health Institute revealed FDA-licensed HIV-1 tests detected HIV-2 in only 8 percent to 62 percent of specimens.

"We're deeply concerned about the potential for HIV-2 [infection of the blood supply]," Dr. S. Gerald Sandler, medical director the American Red Cross' National Reference Laboratories, said in Washington, D.C. The Red Cross collects 6 million units of blood annually and supplies half of the nation's blood supply.

"We have an opportunity to prevent a public health problem. [It might be in the blood supply. Why wait?" asked National Hemophilia Foundation Executive Director Alan P. Brownstein.

"When HIV-1 came to the U.S., we didn't know what it was," Brownstein said. "Now we see HIV-2 coming our way. ... Haven't we learned?"

UPDATE

Wingspan Moves

TUCSON - Wingspan has moved! They are no longer at the Court Avenue location. The new address is 422 North Fourth Avenue, next to the Food Conspiracy.

Right now the space is raw (very raw) an the group will be spending the next couple of months fixing it up. All support groups are still meeting, and anyone who wants to help with the renovation please call 624-1779.

When all the renovation is done, Tucson will have a Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual community center in a visible, heavily trafficked location! Keep your eye out for further information and the grand re-opening bash.

Delegate

(Continued from page one)

13 for the Democratic Convention. Volgy was passed over in favor of Kerr by a 2 to 1 margin of the Clinton Tucson delegates voting.

"This victory belongs to the party workers, the common citizen and to the Gay and Lesbian community. I would not give in, I was amply qualified to be a delegate and it was time to elect Gay and Lesbian Democrats as delegates due to our contributions to numerous campaigns and the Pima County Democratic Party, and, through my efforts, I was elected." Kerr said.

Kerr will go as a Regional Delegate to the Convention. On Saturday, May 2nd, the Arizona Democratic Party State Committee will elect the remaining 15 At-Large Delegates in their meeting at Phoenix.

PACT Seeks Interviewer

TUCSON - The People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT) is currently accepting resumes from persons who are interested in applying as a full-time interviewer to the Early Intervention Program. The person should be bi-lingual and an HIV positive person is preferred; must be a responsible self-starter who will work will paid and volunteer staff providing services to HIV+ persons.

Applicants must be knowledgeable with early intervention concept as well as treatment options for HIV. A complete job description is available at the PACT office, 2579 N. 1st Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705.

Submit a resume, letter of interest and three references before 5:00 p.m. on May 12 to: P.A.C.T. for Life, P.O. Box 2488, Tucson, AZ 85702. P.A.C.T. is an EOE/AA employer. HIV+, minorities, women are encouraged to apply.

Use condoms.
There's
living proof
they stop AIDS.

AGRA Press Conference May 6

TUCSON - The Saguaro Regional Rodeo will be having a press orientation on Wednesday, May 6th, at 12:30 a.m. at Hours, 3455 East Grant Road in Tucson. Those persons wishing to cover the rodeo must attend this orientation to secure a press pass.

Lutherans Concerned Convention in July

PHILADELPHIA - The biennial assembly of Lutherans Concerned/North America will be held July 9th through July 12th, 1992. Hosted by the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter, the event will be at the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. The keynote speaker for the weekend will be author Chris Glaser, a regular columnist for the More Light Update and Second Stone. The schedule will include business sessions for the organization, keynote addresses on the theme Free To Celebrate: We Are The Church, workshops on a variety of topics, and worship in the Lutheran tradition. a banquet and dance will be held on Saturday evening, with separate tickets available for this evening only. The assembly is open to all persons who are interested, regardless of membership status or religious affiliation. Registration fees for the assembly range from US $225 to US $330, which includes housing and meals for the four days and three nights. For further information write Lutherans Concerned, Assembly '92, P.O. Box 58801, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, 19102.

Rummage Sale By GLIA

TUCSON - God's Love In Action (GLIA) will hold its sring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 2, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Once again,. Cornerstone Fellowship' Social Hall will be filled with thousands of household items, clothing, furniture, and more. All proceeds will benefit GLIA's HIV/AIDS ministry.

GLIA provides many practical support services to its clients. In addition to weekly luncheons, volunteers offer assistance with transportation, home care, cooking, shopping, yard work, moving, hospital visits, and more. Numerous food boxes and grocery vouchers are distributed every month to clients who have limited resources. GLIA receives no government money and relies solely on donations and fundraisers, such its Rummage Sales.

Anyone wishing to donate items for the Rummage Sale may drop them off at the church or call 622-8860 or 622-4626 to arrange for a pick up. Cornerstone Fellowship is located at 2902 North Geronimo, one block north of Glenn and two blocks west of First Avenue.

AGRA

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSN.

Let's Rodeo

2nd Saguaro Regional Rodeo

May 8, 9, & 10, 1992

Old Tucson Rodeo Arena

Rodeo Info
(602) 798-3528
AGRA-TUCSON
7272 E. Broadway #412
Tucson, AZ 85710

NOW FORMING A NEW SHANTI GRIEF GROUP

CALL 622-7107 TO SIGN UP

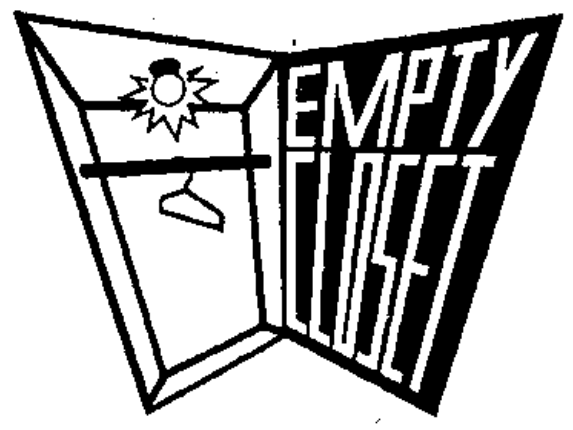
This group is open to anyone experiencing grief from the loss of someone in their life.
Group meets Wednesdays 7:30 PM at the Shanti Office.
Limited space available.

SHANTI FOUNDATION

Volunteer Counseling for Persons Facing Life-Threatening Illness and Bereavement.

602 North 4th Avenue
Tucson, Az. 85705
(602) 622-7107

NEW EPISODE THIS MONTH!



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MONDAYS, 8:30pm, CHANNEL 62
SATURDAYS, 2:30pm, CHANNEL 49

▼

FOR INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES, WRITE TO:
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P.O. BOX 1257
TUCSON, AZ 85702

OBSERVER

P.O. BOX 50733, TUCSON, AZ 85703
(602)622-7176
FAX: (602)629-0936
Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. M-F

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Bob Ellis
ART & GRAPHICS: Clark

Regular Contributors
WENDY CASTER
BEN CORBIN
CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
STEVEN DIETZ
DOC
BRUCE FOWLER
MARK R. KERR
JZA JZA LA MORE
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1992 Fiesta De Mayo

May 1st, 2nd & 3rd

FIESTA DE MAYO IS THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER THAT SUPPORTS
TUCSON'S LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE WEEK EVENTS
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT WORK!

BOOTHS ▪ ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD ▪ GAMES ▪ MUSIC
CHECK THIS OBSERVER FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE

THIS TUESDAY... MAY 4TH
AGRA BEER BUST ▪ 7PM TO MIDNITE
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SEE YOU AT THE RODEO !

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SUN • MAY 2 • 5 TO 9

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hours

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Recent research shows that early detection and treatment can slow the AIDS virus. The FIRST step is knowing whether or not your are infected with the virus.

The Pima County Health Department offers free, ANONYMOUS AIDS COUNSELING AND TESTING.

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For an appointment or information on AIDS and anonymous testing, call the Pima County Health Dept.

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ANONYMOUS TESTING - PROFESSIONAL - FREE - CONFIDENTIAL

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Home On The Range With AGRA-Tucson

by Clyde Mitter

AGRA-Tucson's big weekend is almost here and the excitement is buzzing from Los Angeles to Denver to Chicago to New York. The Ramada Inn-Downtown is 80% full, with the overflow hotel, Quality Inn-University, starting to receive more reservations. There are approximately 90 contestants pre-registered for the rodeo.

The AGRA Saguaro Regional Rodeo is scheduled for the weekend of May 8, 9 and 10, 1992. Tickets will be available Friday night, May 8, at the Kickoff Dance and Party at the Ramada Inn-Downtown, 275 North Granada, and at the rodeo ticket window at Old Tucson Studios on Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at the rodeo arena at 9:00 a.m. with Grand Entry at noon.

The gate admission of $12.50 covers the rodeo excitement, including all activities in the arena, dancing and entertainment in Old Tucson's newest banquet facility, Stage II, all shows and rides at Old Tucson, plus a rodeo dance each night at the Ramada Inn will be featured from cities throughout the Southwest.

AGRA-Tucson has scheduled a series of rodeo parties starting with the Volunteer Sign-up Party, May 1st, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Hours at 3455 East Grant Road. Anyone wishing to volunteer to work during the Saguaro Regional Rodeo is encouraged to attend this party. The pre-rodeo parties are designed to raise some additional monies to underwrite the cost of the rodeo and to put the Tucson community in the rodeo spirit. here is the complete schedule of AGRA rodeo parties:

May 1 5:00 p.m. Hours
3455 E. Grant Rd.
May 2 5:00 p.m. The Graduate
23 W. University
May 3 5:00 p.m. Hours
3455 E. Grant Rd.
May 4 5:00 p.m. Venture-N
1239 N. 6th Avenue
May 5 5:00 p.m. IBT's
616 N. 4th Avenue
May 6 5:00 p.m. Rumorz
2222 N. Stone
May 7 5:00 p.m. Club 2520
2520 N. Oracle
May 8 9:00 p.m. Miller Lite Country Jamboree Ramada Inn-Downtown

Saguaro Regional Rodeo tickets will also be available at each of the rodeo parties. We are encouraging people attending the rodeo to purchase their tickets prior to the rodeo to avoid the possible lines at the ticket window at Old Tucson.

Anyone interested in AGRA may write for more information to: AGRA-Tucson, 7272 East Broadway #412, Tucson Arizona, 85710 or call 798-3528.

Bit Of The Old South

by Sean Thomas

This last week, I had the interesting experience of attending the Michael Callen event at the Leo Rich Theatre. For those of you that have not heard of this gentleman before, don't feel alone. And after hearing his rather unique points of view, I know why. the expression of an opinion contrary to that which is accepted by general consensus is a good thing when duly documented. Unfortunately that was not the case in regards to Mr. Callen. His presentation mixed with wit, humor and emotion was very interesting and entertaining. However his blanket statements and absolutes left nothing to be desired. Outrageous statements such as that AIDS can not be transmitted to men through heterosexual contact and that anyone who says they were infected by that means is a "Liar" was down right offensive in it's self. Six men in New York claim to have been infected by heterosexual contact, he boldly said they were all liars. His statement that no one has ever been infected by AIDS through a needle stick in the entire world, ever, was a bit presumptuous. Conjecture and an excellent use of the English language was his basis for his viewpoint. You really need a bit more than that. Considering the fear and confusion people have in regards to the whole subject of AIDS, Mr. Callen failed to add light on the subject. Evidence, proof of some form of logic are the waters that help put the flames of confusion out and eliminate the fears of uncertainty. "The disease in Africa is not AIDS, but rather it has been labeled such by the people's governments to get money", this statement was a real peach. In the days of so much uncertainty it is great to have as much information as possible, opposing viewpoints with solid information to back it and not just well expressed conjecture. Unfortunately Mr. Callen's presentation was more entertainment and less informative. I may not have agreed with the opinions expressed by Mr. Callen, but do defend his right to express them. I have a great respect for the man, just not for some of his opinions. Remember, just believing something ought to be so, does not always make it so. If his presentation prompted discussion, thought or even a desire to learn more, then he was effective in a positive way. I have great confidence in those that attended to take what they can from the evening and toss aside the rest. I believe it is good to question and not automatically accept everything presented to us in life. But always listen carefully for the proof. Don't just replace one blindly accepted stance for another because you like the way it was presented or the person who delivered it. Look for the substance of the matter. I take the whole experience as what it really was, and that is the expression of another point of view. And of course this is just my opinion. And I respect each person's right to disagree.

Congratulations to Geoffrey george and the rest of the Dance & Entertainment and Fundraising committees for another successful and profitable event for the May Rodeo. It was good to see our newly crowned Miss Gay Tucson, Candy Plastique, as well as: Aviva Diamond and Jerry and Friends. Some of the men attending had some rather beefy legs. Nice legs Bill. More details are contained in the Home on the Range column this week. Rodeo is coming real soon. Are you ready? Should be a lot of fun!

Till next week: Sean 628-7816.

Play Safe!

Ban On Gay Protection Laws Goes On Colorado State Ballot

DENVER, CO - A proposed constitutional amendment that would ban laws protecting Gays and Lesbians from discrimination will be on the November state ballot in Colorado.

Secretary of State, Natalie Meyer said that Colorado for Family Values had collected 65,391 valid petition signatures - nearly 16,000 more than needed to put the issue on the ballot.

"We're the first people to get back in [the homosexuals'] faces. They're going to have to put on the boxing gloves," said Kevin Tebedo, co-chairman CFV.

The petition effort touched off storms of controversy earlier this year with harsh anti-Gay remarks from former U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong and University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, both directors of Colorado for Family Values.

If approved, the amendment would repeal anti-discrimination laws passed by Denver and Boulder and Aspen and prevent any state or local body from protecting non-heterosexual residents.

The Denver ordinance protects job, housing and public accommodations rights regardless of religious status, sexual orientation, race, age or a number of other personal characteristics. The ballot issues would strip only those protections offered to "homosexuals, Lesbians and bi-sexuals".

The fight against the amendment will be led by Equal Protections Campaign, which successfully pushed for the Denver anti-discrimination ordinance and last May defeated an attempt to repeal it.

EPC spokeswoman said "as far as we're concerned, the campaign to keep discrimination out of the state constitution has begun."

Colorado for Family Values argues that Gays and Lesbians are protected from discrimination under current law.

Legal experts say that no federal or state laws currently prevent homosexuals from being fired for their sexual orientation.

"There's not that much going for the Gay community and it's incorrect to advertise that they have protection," said John Reese, a constitutional law professor at the University of Denver.

HRCF Seeks Local Coordinator For 'Speak Out' Campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Human Rights Campaign Fund is looking for local coordinators to helps sign up participants in the Speak Out program during this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Season. The Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay organization, hopes to dramatically increase grassroots political participation in California, Nevada and Arizona by signing up new participants during Pride events and other community activities in coming months. Speak Out, the largest grassroots mobilization in the history of the Lesbian and Gay political movement, helps thousand of individuals make their voices heard on Capitol Hill by sending mailgrams to their Members of Congress.

According to Cathy Nelson, HRCF National Field Director, the Campaign Fund is looking for assertive individuals who will coordinate Speak Out activities in California, Nevada and Arizona. Speak Out Coordinators attend community events to enroll members. In addition to enrolling members, the coordinators recruit, train and supervise other volunteers at events. "We hope to hear from individuals who are willing to take a lead as organizers in their local communities. Speak Out Coordinators receive compensation for their work according to how many people they enroll in the program. Local coordinators can earn extra money for themselves or for their local organizations."

Nelson notes that the Speak Out program has had a significant impact on how Congress reacts to Lesbian and Gay, AIDS and women's issues. "We know from experience that the program is an effective way of making a difference in the legislative process. members of Congress pay attention to the mail they receive from constituents."

The Campaign Fund's Speak Out program counteracts the thousands of anti-gay phone calls and letters that members of Congress receive each year. "Every time Jesse Helms has a homophobic amendment on the Senate floor, Pat Robertson asks his viewers to call their Senators and vote for Helms. The Speak Out program makes it possible for those of us who oppose Helms to have our voices heard as well," says Nelson.

"At a time when the Far Right is increasing their assault against the lesbian and gay community, we need to increase our ability to send mail to members of Congress from constituents who demand fairness and equality. As the program has

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

The Graduate

SATURDAY, MAY 2
A.G.R.A.
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FUN FOR ALL !!!!!

CINCO DE MAYO SPECIALS
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Margaritas - Sunrises - Coronas
$1.50
HOME BAR TKO - PARTNERS - TALL
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23 W. University, Tucson, AZ
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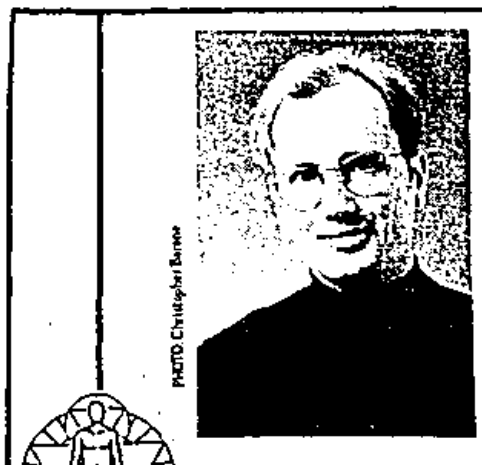
AGRA CHAMPION MEMBER
Rumorz
2222 N. Stone,
Tucson Az
791-4009

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Bucky's Western Omelette Bar

$3.99

Rumorz would like to thank the AGRA members who put on such a great "Boots and Boxers Day"
REMEMBER THE AGRA RODEO MAY 8-9-10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OVER ONE MILLION SOLD SINCE JANUARY
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Double Mischief

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Coming Out Column #5372

It sound like an old joke: "Why did the lesbian columnist write another coming out column?" "To get to the other side."

But it is not a joke. Continual coming out columns are need because coming out itself never ends. We move to new neighborhoods, get new jobs, meet new people, and once again, and once again, and once again, and once again, there is that will to climb over, that road to cross.

I recently came out for the 245th, 246th, and 247th times, and I encountered a gamut of responses.

Number 246 was a "Homosexuality 101" speaking gig I did with a gay man at a local workplace. I've done them before, but this one was particularly difficult. I've lost much of my patience for dealing with people whose compassion and consciousness are in the Stone Age. Also, people were required to attend. The room was little, and some of the workers clearly resented being forced to sit that close to homos.

Responses ranged from mildly supportive to vividly grossed out. One guy carped on the possibility of our turning straight. (We were unenthused at the idea.) Many people asked us why we felt compelled to discuss our sex lives.

One woman dozed in the back, until my co-speaker explained that he was no longer a Catholic because of inconsistencies in the bible. The woman in the back sprang awake, yelling "Inconsistencies in you! Inconsistencies in you!" The moderator said that was not time for bible debates, but the woman demanded the right to express her opinion. She then repeated, "Inconsistencies in you!", put her head against the wall, and returned to dozing.

When we were done, some people fled the room, while others thanked us for coming.

Did we make a real difference? We'll never know. Perhaps, in the future, when a son or daughter or friend comes out, the people in that room will be more accepting because we showed them that Gay men and Lesbians are human.

Fast forward two weeks to coming out #247, at an adult ed course I teach at a local college. The subject is column writing, and the class has expressed curiosity about my work. To show them my columns is to come out, so I wait until the end of the second class, when they have some sense of me as a person. then I send then home with two of my pieces.

At the next session, I wait for the reaction. But the class starts at 7:00, and at 7:05, only three people are there. At 7:06, only three people are there. At 7:07, only three people are there. Okay, I figure, that's that. These three didn't read my work, but the others did, and they all dropped out of my class and submitted letters of complaint to the university.

At 7:08, two people show up. Then two more. By 7:15, everyone is there.

There had been a traffic jam on the highway.

Two people mention that they like my work. No one else even refers to it.

We get down to the business of workshopping everyone's writing. In a general political essay, one man argues that homophobia is a terrible thing. Whether he would have written that anyway or it was a message to me, I don't know. I do know that it felt wonderful to have the coming out behind me.

Coming out educates people, consolidates political power, and provides the next generation of gay men and lesbians with role models. And coming out is a gift to ourselves; on the other side of that road lie peace and self-acceptance.

But what about coming out #245? That was my favorite, so I left it for last.

Some months ago, I decided to volunteer at a local services agency. Then fear set in: what if they don't like gay people? I was educate them, raise their consciousness, even take them to court, but I really just wanted to be accepted so that I could get on with the work.

I nervously went to my first training. If they went around the room and asked us what we did, I would be out—most of my life and work is in the gay and lesbian community. I took a deep breath, crossed the threshold, and went up to the woman handing out information packets—who turned out to be lesbian I had known for years. Then she introduced me to the man running the training—another family member.

Some coming out experiences are easier than others.

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GOP Ballot Pits Bush Against Gay

by Ellis E. Conklin

SEATTLE, WA - When Steve Michael isn't running for president, he's often running for cover.

Don't look for the Secret Service to offer him protection. Usually, they haul him away.

Michael, a 36-year-old Gay activist who secured a spot on the ballot for the Washington State Republican Party Primary May 19, delights in heckling and taunting other presidential contenders, particularly Bill Clinton and George Bush. Both, he says, have done nothing to address the AIDS crisis.

It was Michael who helped organize the ACT-UP group that drowned out a Clinton speech in New York earlier this month. Michael was carted away by agents in Wayne, Michigan, when he loudly pressed the Arkansas governor about his commitment to AIDS funding. He also staged a condom distribution effort at a Florida prep school attended by one of George Bush's grandsons.

Next month, Michael is planning a protest march outside Clinton headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas. "Clinton and Bush are both equally bad on the AIDS issue. They've done nothing toward working to fight this disease that's killing thousands."

Michael's campaign manager, Wayne Turner, went even further: "They are practicing a policy of genocide against people with AIDS."

On April 23, Michael and a small group of supporters converged in front of Bush campaign headquarters in Seattle. The door was locked, but Michael was not deterred. He tacked his certification of candidacy on the metal entranceway while his followers stood on the curb waving placards to motorists that read, "Bush is getting away with murder" and "George Bush's policy on AIDS and Health Care....This will not stand."

Asked what the most difficult part about getting on the Washington ballot was, Michael smiled widely and replied, "The hardest part was finding a thousand queer Republicans to sign the petition."

Michael is serious, though, about the presidential race and is calling his effort, "Queer Campaign '92", saying he wants to focus attention on AIDS, "queer rights" and health care reform.

Michael was born and raised in Longview, Washington. He attended the University of Southern California for a few semesters while living in Los Angeles. Michael was married briefly but said it was the worst mistake of his life.

In Seattle, when not organizing political events, Michael writes for Gay publications.

By building a coalition of abortion, child care and health-related groups, along with his Gay network, Michael believes it's possible to finish second in the primary behind Bush while garnering a delegate-qualifying 15 percent of the vote. He said he intends to spend up to $40,000 and plans to begin running TV and radio spots next week.

"We think it's time the queers take over this country," Turner said.

Michael conceded he's not really a Republican and that he might even vote for Clinton over Bush if it comes to that in November.

But the main goal, he said, "is to be at the Republican convention (in Houston). We want some delegates there, and we want to be on the inside. If they don't talk about AIDS, we will!"

'Speak Out'

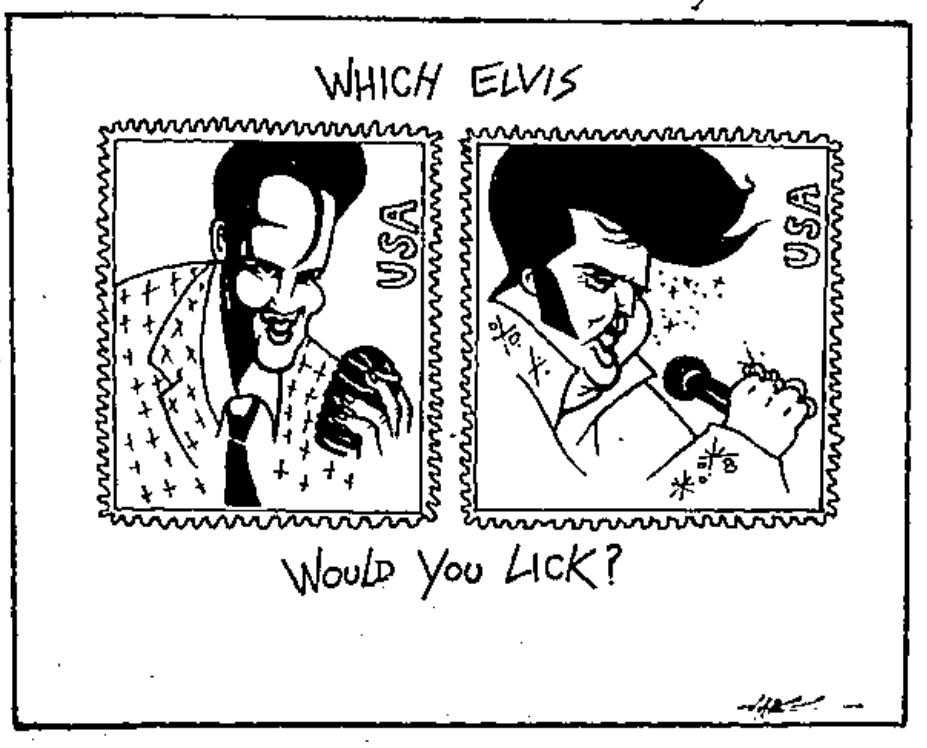
(Continued from page five)

grown, it has become clear that much of the work is best done at the local level, rather than from our national office in Washington, D.C.," Nelson said.

Since the Speak Out program began three years ago, over 375,000 mailgrams have been sent to Congress on Lesbian and Gay civil rights, AIDS, choice and health care issues. This action has helped secure victories as the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, Immigration Reform, Women's Health legislation, and the Ryan White CARE Bill. A record 120 Members of Congress are now co-sponsors of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act, a victory won in part by Speak Out pressure.

For more information on how to become local Speak Out Coordinator contact Rene Narvaez, West Coast Canvass Coordinator, at 1-800-727-HRCF, or write to the Human Rights Campaign Fund Canvass Unit, 1012 14th Street NW, Washington D.C., 20005.

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



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POLITICS '92
by Mark Kerr

NATIONAL NEWS

This past Tuesday, voters in Pennsylvania voted in their primary election. The big victors in the Presidential contest were, on the Republican side, President George Bush scored an impressive victory with a 3 to 1 win over his challenger, conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan. If Bush wins the Republican Caucuses held in Maine and Wyoming this weekend, he with have the mathematical lock on renomination. On the Democratic side, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton handily defeated former California Jerry Brown, by a 2 to 1 margin, pushing Clinton a big step closer to the Democratic nomination. Former Governor Brown stated that no matter what he planned to stay in the race till the bitter end.

ARIZONA NEWS

S.B. 1429 Update: The House L.P.T. Committee passed the bill and have sent it to the House Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will look over the bill, to make sure that the wording is legal and that it does not violate the State Constitution. More in next weeks column.

The big question around the State Capitol is who is going to run for the House and Senate in Legislative District 11? Here is a possible answer. So far, in the House race, you have two announced candidates for the Democratic side, Phil Lopes of Tucson and Gerald "Louie" Walters of Ajo. A name being mentioned for the race is Lambda Democratic co-founder Mark von Destinon. On the Senate side, former aide to ex-Tucson Mayor Tom Volgy, Alonzo Morado has dropped out of the race. It looks like State Representative Peter Goudinoff will have a free ride. The Democrats have a 2 1/2 to 1 majority in registration so no Republicans are considering a "suicidal" run for a District 11 seat.

PIMA COUNTY NEWS

Last week, two more candidates joined the fray. Pima County Democratic Chair, announced his intentions to run for the Democratic nomination for Recorder at a speech in front of the Democrats of Greater Tucson. The other was Charlie Gilliam of Sahuarita, who announced his plans to run for the Democratic nomination for the Pima County Board of Supervisors from District 3.

This past Monday, a mind was changed in regards to running for re-election. Pima County Supervisor Reg Morrison, has announced his intentions to run for a third term. The Chair of the Supervisors stated that he has not finished his work and wanted another term to do so. Last year, he had announced that he was not going to run again.

Last week, Pima County Supervisor Greg Lunn, (R-District 1), reaffirmed his intentions not to seek another term. Thus giving Pima County Recorder, republican Mike Boyd, a sigh of relief. Boyd plans to run for the Republican nod in District 1.

A possible candidate for Justice of Peace in Justice Precinct 2. State Senator Jaime Gutierrez. It seems that Jaime has not gotten his McDonald's franchise yet, so he is doing polling in J.P. 2 to see what his chances are. The incumbent, Democrat Jim West, is scared and has been seen at Democratic events, after disappearing for the past four years since his election. Justice of the Peace pays $61,000 a year. Interesting!!!

TUCSON NEWS

The recall of City Council Members Steve Leal, Molly McKasson and Mike Haggerty is running into trouble. It seems that the steering committee of Tucsonans for Responsible Government are no longer united since several votes by the Council. Radio talk show icon, John C Scott says the recall will go on since they do not keep their promises. Strange for him to say that. Shouldn't we not recall John C. for coming back on the air, breaking his promise to leave the airways if Janet Marcus was re-elected. What a hypocrite!

Until next time, politics as usual.

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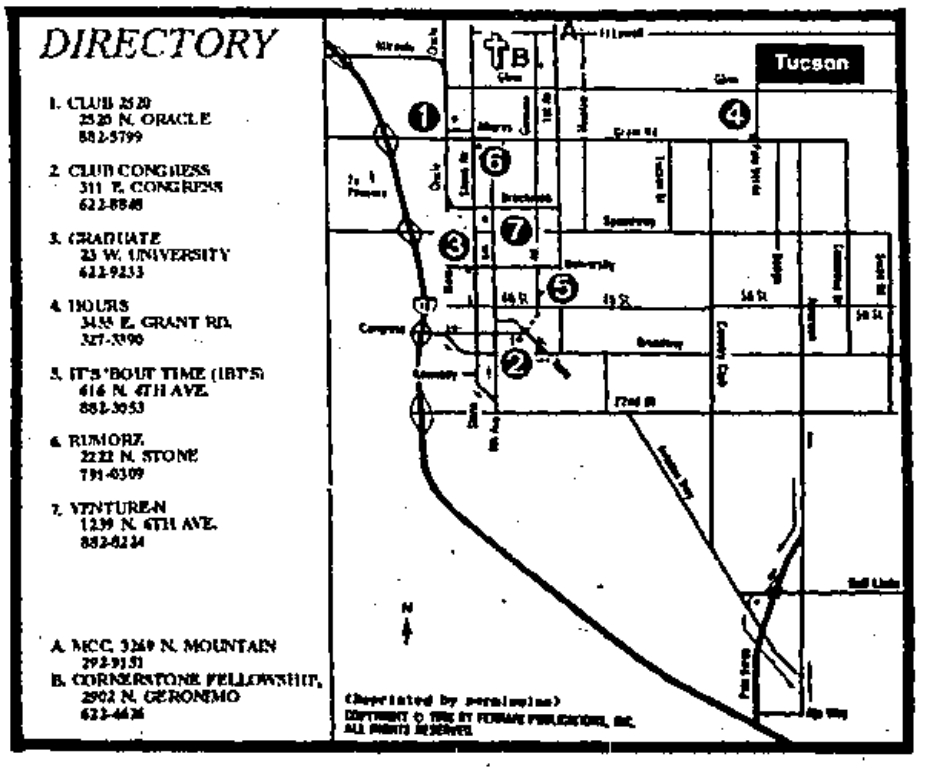

A Commentary By

Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

Does He or Doesn't He

Just think of the questions muttered in private about celebrities and their private lives: has she had a face lift? Is he gay? Is that her real hair color? Is he really the father of that woman's child?

Such prurient invasions of privacy are leading many people to forego a life of fame and celebrity. Although we might not all have some deep dark secret eagerly awaited by the editors of the National Enquirer, there are enough creative types can fabricate anything they want about any one they choose.

This brings me to the tale of tennis legend Arthur Ashe who announced earlier this month that he had been battling the HIV infection for about five years. All the well-attended press conference, Ashe said he believed he contracted the virus from one of his open-heart surgeries about a decade previously, and that he was forced to come public with his infection because of rampant rumors about his health.

Okay so far. But what bother me is the rampant press-bashing since Ashe's public statement. I don't feel the press forced him to say anything About his illness. if the pressure's too much for him, he should have been up front about his life years ago. Honesty would have saved him all this grief and heartache now.

Sure, I'll be the first to admit such a public disclosure five years ago would not have met with the compassion and empathy received by Ashe, basketball's Magic Johnson, and the seeming plethora of celebs and near-celebs that have come forward in 1992 alone.

But stop and think: If Ashe had come forward five years ago it would have been easier for dozens if not hundreds to come forward much sooner. In fact, it is possible Johnson's momentous admission on coast-to-coast television would have been no big deal had people gotten accustomed to celebs with AIDS in the last years of the 1980's.

Ashe had a big chance to become more than just a faded tennis legend. He could have been the icon to millions of children that Johnson is now. He had a chance and blew it because of his own personal fear of prejudice and discrimination against people with AIDS.

Don't miss the irony, here. A Black man, whose ancestors fought for his right to be free, his right to play tennis with white folks, his right to eat in public restaurants, refused to take a stand against the discrimination of thousands of others until the waters were calm and safe.

Change on the magnitude needed for AIDS patients DOES NOT COME from waiting until the waters are calm.

For my money, I think it should be Ashe and celebs like him who should be taken to task for hiding, whimpering in a closet while thousands more AIDS patients die from a lack of public understanding.

Don't kill the messenger because we bring you word of another AIDS infected celeb. Think instead of all the AIDS patients who died while Ashe stood silent.

At Spes Non Fracta: See you next week.

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CALENDAR
of upcoming events

MAY 2 THROUGH MAY 7

AGRA will be holding fund-raising Beer Busts nightly for one week to help raise funds to put on the 1992 Rodeo at Old Tucson. Sat. May 2 at the Graduate; Sunday, May 3 at Hours; Monday, May 4 at Venture-N; Tuesday, May 5 at IBT's; Wednesday, May 6 at Rumorz; Thursday, May 7 at Club 2520. Each begins at 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

IBT'S - Fiesta de Mayo, the fund raising vehicle for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week events begins today. Booths will open at 4 p.m. and be open until 1 a.m. Crown-holder's show at 9 p.m. Performers include Tiffany St. Thomas, Gilda Fatale, Lucinda Holliday, Shanise and Leo, Minerva and Juan, Christina de Alexis, Vocalist Eric Hemphill, comedienne Emma Keller and vocal duo, Sisters Soul.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

IBT'S - Day 2 of the Gay Pride Week fundraiser, Fiesta de Mayo. Booths open at 4 p.m. The popular live band, Rare Breed will perform from 4 to 8 p.m. for listening and dancing. At 9:00 p.m. there will be a show featuring the King and Queen candidates, Lisette and Conley and Madame X with Ken Davis, plus some surprise performers. This show will be hosted by Gilda Fatale. All proceeds go to Pride Week '92 in Tucson. All proceeds go to Pride Week 1992.

VENTURE-N - Regular monthly Beer Bust with the Desert Leathermen. It runs from 3 to 7 p.m. and there will be food also.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

IBT'S - The final day of Fiesta de Mayo. Booths open at 4 p.m. The live sounds of the popular band "Rare Breed" will be heard for listening and dancing from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be a show hosted by Aviva Diamond and featuring the newly crowned Miss Gay Tucson, Candy Plastique with surprise performers, along with the contestants, one more time, to collect additional 'votes' before the final counting. The 'voting' is cut off at 11 p.m. when they will be counted and the winner will be crowned at 11:30 p.m. It all goes to Pride Week '92, so be sure to attend and be generous with your tips to the performers and candidates.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

CLUB 2520 - Final local contest in the "Great Arizona Swimsuit Contest ...and Model Search". Tonight will be the contest with all the previous winners. Winners will be off to Phoenix for the state finals there on the weekend of May 15-17. Entry fee and hotel accommodations in Phoenix will be paid by Club 2520. $500 cash to the final winner plus other great prizes. Check with 2520 for entry forms and rules.

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. Bob 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 292-9131 in Tucson.)

FRI., SAT., SUN., MAY 1-2-3

Fiesta de Mayo celebration held as a fund raising event to help pay for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week activities. The three-day event is held at IBT's. Check the bar calendar for daily schedule.

A 3-day series of revival services at Casa de La Paloma, 1122 N. Jones Blvd. Worship services Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. In addition, a church picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. at Ada McCormack Park. All people are welcome to attend the worship services and the picnic. Contact the church at 323-6855 for more information.

FRI., SAT., SUN., MAY 8-9-10

The Tucson Satellite of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) will hold their first annual Saguaro Rodeo over the weekend. Plenty of activities are planned for the rodeo fans both locally and those arriving from all over the country.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

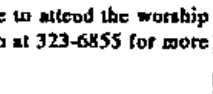
Registration from 6 to 10 p.m. at the headquarters Hotel, the Ramada Inn downtown. From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. there will be the Miller Country Jamboree at the Ramada Inn, a kick-off dance and party . Rodeo tickets will be available at the Ramada on Friday only. Saturday and Sunday they will be available at the rodeo grounds at the Old Tucson Studios.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Gates open at Old Tucson Studios for the 1992 Saguaro Rodeo at 9:00 a.m. Rodeo events (slack) at 10 a.m. Grand Entry begins at noon in the arena, and dancing and entertainment in the Dance Hall. Rodeo events begin at 1 p.m. Cocktails and Show in the Dance Hall at 5 p.m. Saguaro Dancefest "92" until 1 a.m. at the ARamada Inn. Tickets to the rodeo are $12.50 per day which includes all the rides, shows at old Tucson, rodeo activities, including Dance Hall, and the nightly dance at Ramada Inn.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Saguaro Rodeo gates open at 9 a.m. with Rodeo events (slack) beginning at 10 a.m. Grand Entry festivities in the arena with dance and entertainment in the Dance Hall at noon. Day two of rodeo events begin at 1 a.m. Cocktail Show in the dance hall at 5 p.m. At the Ramada Inn, the Saguaro Barn Dance and Awards Show begins at 8 p.m. (Special awards will precede the dance). At 10 p.m., the "Passing of the Flag" ceremony will be held as part of the closing ceremonies and then dancing until 1 a.m.

323-3340

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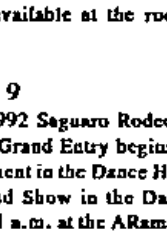
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Tucson CALENDAR

sunday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Brunch served noon to 3 p.m. Tea Dance 3 to 8. Western Steak Fry 5 to 7. Video/Dance Bar and Country/Western Dance bar open 8 pm to 1 am. Line Dance lessons by Paul Barner from 6 to 8 pm.

GRADUATE - All White Well $1.50 till 8pm and $2.00 8 pm to close.

HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screws $1.25 til 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.

IBT'S - 2 for 1 Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm on well and non-premium beer. 8 to 1 Trash Disco Night. Hot music from the 70s & 80s.

RUMORZ - Open at noon. $1.50 well and Domestic Beer until 8:00 p.m. VJ/DJ Jeff 9 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Dart Tournament 1 pm, $3 entry fee. Beer Bust in our Patio Bar at 2 p.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 nite. 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 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. 8:00 to closing, $1.50 White Well. VJ/DJ Jeff 9 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 p.m.

tuesday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. $1 Tacos 5-7. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 pm to close. Country/Western and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.

GRADUATE - Draft Beer Bust. Small Pitchers $1.50, Large $3.00 til close.

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Schnapps 75¢ 7 to close

IBT'S - 4 to 8 Two for One. Copper City Squares 7-9. Leather Nite with 75¢ draft beer and 50¢ off call liquor for anyone wearing leather 8 pm to close. Country music and dancing with Gil Leos 9-1.

RUMORZ - Open noon. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 p.m. to closing. VJ/DJ Mark 9 pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 p.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. Spaghetti Nite 6-8, $2. 50¢ off on everything from 8 pm to close. Country/Western dancing and lessons for partners by Paul Barner from 7-9. Video dancing begins at 8 p.m.

GRADUATE - Domestic Longnecks $1.25 to 8 pm - $1.50 til 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 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. From 8:02 to closing, 75¢ Schnapps. VJ/DJ Mark 9pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 p.m.

thursday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Chicken Fried Steak 5 to 7 $3. Men's Nite - Anyone in boxer or jockey shorts ½ price on all well drinks. Strip Show and/or Jockey Short Contest + 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 7pm, 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. Country music and dancing with Gil Leos. Free dance lessons 8 p.m. Bud and Bud Lite $1.50 from 8-1.

RUMORZ - Open Noon. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. 50 cent Draft from 8:00 pm to close. Dancing with VJ/DJ Mark 9-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 p.m.

friday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Extended 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 10 pm. (well and domestic beer). Hamburger Nite 5 to 7 $3. 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 7pm, 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 3:00 until 9:00. Hors D'Oeuvres. VJ/DJ Mark 9-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 p.m.

saturday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. B-B-Q Spare Ribs 5 to 8 $3. 50¢ Schnapps 8 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing and Video dancing begins at 8 pm.

GRADUATE - Dark Well $1.50 til 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 Fitzdale.

RUMORZ - Open Noon. $1.50 Corona 8:00 pm to close. Dance with Jeff VJ/DJ 9-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Cash Pool Tournament, 3 p.m. $3 entry fee. Patio bar opens 4 p.m.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES - DIVISION OF DISEASE PREVENTION

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOR ARIZONA - APRIL 1, 1992

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	POPULATION	CASES OF AIDS			DEATHS	CASES OF ARC			DEATHS	CASES OF HIV+			DEATHS
		MAR.	FEB.	JAN.		MAR.	FEB.	JAN.		MAR.	FEB.	JAN.	
APACHE	61,591	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	-	4	10	5	0
COCHISE	97,624	12	12	12	5	7	7	9	-	46	46	44	2
COCONINO	96,591	10	10	10	5	0	0	0	-	17	19	18	0
GILA	40,216	5	5	5	3	0	0	0	-	4	4	4	0
GRAHAM	26,554	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	-	3	4	3	0
GREENLEE	8,008	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	0
LA PAZ	13,844	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	-	7	10	8	0
MARICOPA	2,122,101	1257	1230	1196	722	273	278	314	28	2074	2050	2131	45
MOHAVE	93,497	16	15	15	8	1	1	1	-	23	22	27	0
NAVAJO	77,658	6	6	5	3	1	1	1	-	2	2	2	0
PIMA	666,880	310	306	299	158	61	60	62	8	540	532	551	9
PINAL	116,379	14	14	13	11	3	3	3	-	24	24	26	1
SANTA CRUZ	29,676	4	4	4	0	1	2	2	-	4	4	5	0
YAVAPAI	107,714	18	18	17	11	0	0	0	-	30	30	29	1
YUMA	106,895	21	21	21	12	3	3	2	1	58	58	62	0
UNKNOWN		2	2	1	0	0	9	0	5	195	208	222	1
	3,655,228	1687	1655	1610	942	351	365	396	37	3031**	3024**	3136**	54

** NOTE: ON MARCH 15, 1989, THE OPTION TO RECEIVE HIV TESTING ANONYHOUSLY BECAME AVAILABLE. AN ADDITIONAL 1,421 PERSONS HAVE TESTED HIV+ USING THE ANONYHOUS OPTION.

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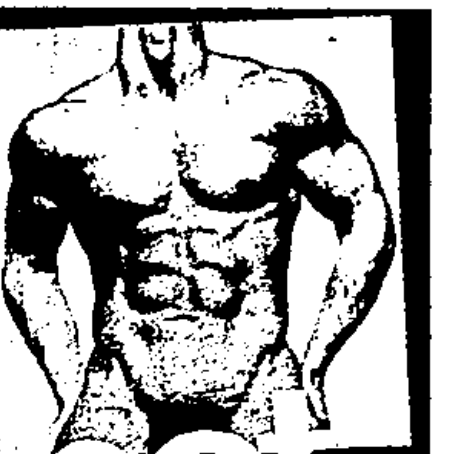
ALL THREE DAYS

FRIDAY: Crownholder's Show featuring all the past Kings and Queens of Fiesta de Mayo plus other outstanding live entertainment.

SATURDAY: Live music by the ever popular RARE BREED plus a contestant's Show

SUNDAY: More from RARE BREED plus a show hosted by Miss Aviva Diamond and the ballot counting and crowning of the new King and Queen of Fiesta de Mayo.



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Get The OBSERVER Habit

News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Corbin

It is interesting to note that Jesus came as the Messiah to the Jewish people in fulfillment of the prophets of the Old Testament. But Christians, the followers of Jesus' teachings, are predominately "Gentiles". Gentiles, which simply means "people" or "nations" was the name given by the ancient Hebrews. This word is still used today meaning "non-Jews". The ancient Hebrews had kept their religion pure in spite of conquest, exile and other national disasters by putting up a strong barrier against outsiders. A great deal of the Old Testament is about their successes and failures in remaining "pure". However, the attitude of Jesus was quite different. Jesus showed no prejudice against them. Jesus spent a lot of time in Galilee which was heavily populated with "Gentiles".

Paul is said to be the most important person in the new Testament after Jesus Christ, himself. Saul of Tarsus, as he was originally called, was one of those present at the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul was one of the fiercest critics of the Christians and after Stephen's death went to the High Priest of Jerusalem and requested that he be sent to Damascus and bring the Christians as prisoners to Jerusalem. But on his way to Damascus he had a vision and was struck blind. He was led into the city and was blind for three days. It was here that Saul became Paul and was baptized. It was here that Paul became the most fervent missionary to the Gentiles. It was Paul, above all others, who transformed the small community of Palestinian Jews into a movement that spread into all parts of the ancient world and became the religion of all races. Paul became the most powerful of the Apostles and he was mainly responsible for the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

Peter was Hebrew and preached mostly to the Jews. In fact, it is recorded that Peter even insisted, in his early preaching, that Christians should be circumcised. But in the 10th chapter of Acts, Peter is shown by God that "To him give all the prophets witness, that though his name who so ever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:43 KJV Peter had a dream, or vision, that a huge sheet descended filled with animals of all kinds, including reptiles, pigs and other "unclean" animals. A voice said, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." Peter replied, "No, Lord. I have never eaten food that is unclean." God answered, "It is not for you to reject what God has offered." Peter was completely puzzled over the meaning of this dream, or vision, until it was soon revealed to him. Cornelius had sent messengers to Peter to tell him that he wished to meet with Peter. Cornelius was a Roman centurion, probably not a Roman but certainly a Gentile. He was sympathetic to the Jewish religion, and Cornelius has also received a vision in which he was told to send for Peter. As a result, Cornelius became one of the first Gentiles to adopt Christianity. Peter, of course, recognized that his dream about unclean food had meant that, in spite of the Jewist restrictions against even talking to Gentiles, they were not to be rejected by those who followed Jesus.

At MCC/Tucson anyone believes in Jesus Christ as their redeemer and savior is welcome. No one is turned away, Christ turned away no one, and neither does the congregation at any Metropolitan Community Church. Only believe and let Jesus Christ's teachings lead your life, this is the only requirement of MCC/Tucson. We are a family of God. God created and God loves everyone, how can a parent not love what that parent created?

Thought for the week: Greet one another with a holy kiss. II Corinthias 13:12 KJV

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

How many times have you looked forward to a special occasion with great anticipation, only to be sorely disappointed? Perhaps it was your graduation from high school or college...or maybe it was a first date with someone you hoped might be that 'Special Someone." Perhaps it was the completion of a special project at work. It might have been a holiday celebration with family or friends. Whatever the event, it was something you had prepared for and planned for a long time. And after it was over, in the words of an old Peggy Lee song, you said, "Is that all there is?"

We have just completed the celebration of the most important of all Christian holidays, Easter. This is a universally celebrated time that even non-Christians observe it in one form or another. The newspapers have been full of ads for "New Spring (read "Easter") Clothes." And every restaurant in town has been vying for your attendance at their "Grand Easter Buffet." As children, we all looked forward to the coming of the Easter Bunny with jelly beans, chocolate eggs, and brightly colored hard-boiled eggs; and despite the renowned separation of Church and State, the season wouldn't be complete without the traditional Easter Egg Roll for children on the White House lawn.

Now that Easter is over, do you have that familiar feeling of "Is that all there is?" If you have just experienced the "trappings" of Easter, you could very possibly be feeling just that! But if you have experienced the Christ of Easter, you should have the same joy today that you had on Easter...the joy of knowing that death has been defeated for you once and for all! Scripture tells us that, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." But now, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:26, 54b). Where does that victory come from? "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:18).

If you do not yet know Christ, what better time than now to come to Him? All of us at Cornerstone Fellowship would enjoy the opportunity to welcome you among us; to share with you the daily joy we now possess, and how we came to receive it. Our Worship Services are 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. every Sunday. I hope we see you this Sunday...we have so much to share with you...so much to make your life happier than it has ever been before.

CORRECTION: The last paragraph in last week's View had a typographical error. The paragraph should have read, "Let us tell you how YOU, too, can have all the sins of your life forgiven and forgotten forever; the price of death for sin, Paid in full;...".

LETTERS

To The Community:

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my friends who so unselfishly contributed to help make my kid's Easter a happy one.

Special thanks to Jim at the Venture-N, to Shirley who contributed all the stuffed Easter animals when she was filling the stuffed toy machine at Venture-N. To Mike, Peter and staff for their most generous contribution.

Special thanks to my roomie David who is very supportive and always there when I need him.

To all on behalf of my kids and myself, thanks again and God Bless you.

Love, Rudi.

Dear Editor:

AGRA's first BOOTS AND BOXERS COTILLION has been a smashing success due to a lot of team work, preparation and participation by many of our community members. Attendees danced, were entertained, fed on terrific sloppy joes made and donated by Hank Stone and helped raise funds for the Saguaro Regional Rodeo which is at our doorstep next week!

Special thanks to Rumorz Club 2222's owners, Jerry Geller, Ken Sullivan, manager, Hank Stone, D.J. Mark, staff members Gary, Jeff, Chip. Helping with entertainment, George and Wayne from Green Valley, Jerry and his puppets, Aviva Diamond, Candy Plastique and Gilda Fatale, all of you were wonderful in helping us.

Our fantastic judging panel consisted of three Champion Members: Lee Nordmark, T.J. Westberg and Hank Stone. They were assisted by Gilda Fatale and it was difficult to see who had more fun, the judges or the contestants.

Michael Mahynske made a great Master of Ceremonies. R.T. "Stacked" made sure the music and videos kept everyone busy on the dance floor.

The entire event was choreographed by Geoffrey Wilcox, you did a great job, sir! Assisting him were: Telvi Roybal, Larry Mann, Randy Bilbro, Jimmy Johnson, Michael Butrymowicz, Bill Darnell, Ron Shaw and last but definitely not least, George Vissichelli.

Hats off to all of you for your work, effort and sharing of your talents to make this a memorable day for many of us, especially myself.

Thank you, Frank E.G. Gallego

A Letter Of Thanks:

On April 21, I celebrated my 30th birthday. Of all the ones from the past, this has been the best. I want to thank all of mt friends and the staffs of Venture-N and the Graduate for making the best. I am one lucky son of a bitch to have such friends. A heart felt thanks and a toast to many good times.

Patrick E. McCurdy

Dear Editor:

I AM ONE PISSED OFF DRAG QUEEN!!!

Reason being, a stupid rule that states all Fiesta De Mayo Candidates must make their intentions known to enter the pageant by April 5, 1992.

Well, I was not intending on entering the pageant until I was informed there were only two contestants.

I thought I would do my part and try to help raise some money for the gay pride picnic. But petty jealousies sometimes make good intentions go up in smoke. First of all, I went to the two contestants and asked if there would be any problem with me entering and was told no there would not be a problem. Then I went to members of TLGA and was told they would be happy to let me enter.

But one Queen raised a stink about the deadline, and at the next TLGA meeting it was decided that I could not run. I was not informed of this decision until the night of the "Meet The Contestants" Show. Here I was all gussied up and ready to perform when I was told. Well guess who felt like shit!

This is supposed to be an event to raise money for the "whole" community. Am I not part of this community?

Who decides who is and who isn't well, I'm guess I am just not good enough to help out. I think any one who wants to help should be allowed to.

Thanks to that one contestant who felt she wanted that crown bad enough to stab her one "friend" in the back. They are only rhinestones honey!!!

Until next year, GINA WHO?

Notes From Desert Voices

Desert Voices had another successful rehearsal this past Monday night. There were a couple of new faces and there were more women who showed up at rehearsal. A special thank you to all of our sopranos and altos this season. We really appreciate your participation and enthusiasm. We hope that everyone who has attended one or more rehearsals will decide to join Desert Voices. there is so much talent in our community and we are especially appreciative of those who have decided to share that talent. "The people of Desert Voices are a group of enthusiastic, talented singers who show the potential for being a dynamic "voice" in the Tucson area," said Jim Gall, the chorus's music director. "The Gay/Lesbian community and the fine arts community of Tucson need this kind of performing voice, and I believe we can activate the potential to fill that need," he said.

At Monday's rehearsal the chorus read through the haunting, but tender, music of Henry Mancini, entitled "Charade." This work offers a particular challenge to the chorus through the long sustained harmonies and intermittent chromatic dissonances. A new worked passed out at rehearsal was the "Fugue for Tinhorns" from the musical "Guys and Dolls." The selection uses the traditional composition technique of the fugue, but the melody and style of the melody, or the fugue subject, is far from traditional. It is a bouncy, jazz melody which is full of chromaticism.

Finally, the chorus has been rehearsing on a medley of selections from "West Side Story." The music was written by the late Leonard Bernstein, who was the conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and a leading musical figure in American music. The lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim. The combined effort of these two Gay artists produced one of the most memorable musicals ever on Broadway.

Interested people should write to: Desert Voices, P.O. Box 40036, Tucson Arizona, 85717-0036 or call 886-1208 for more information.

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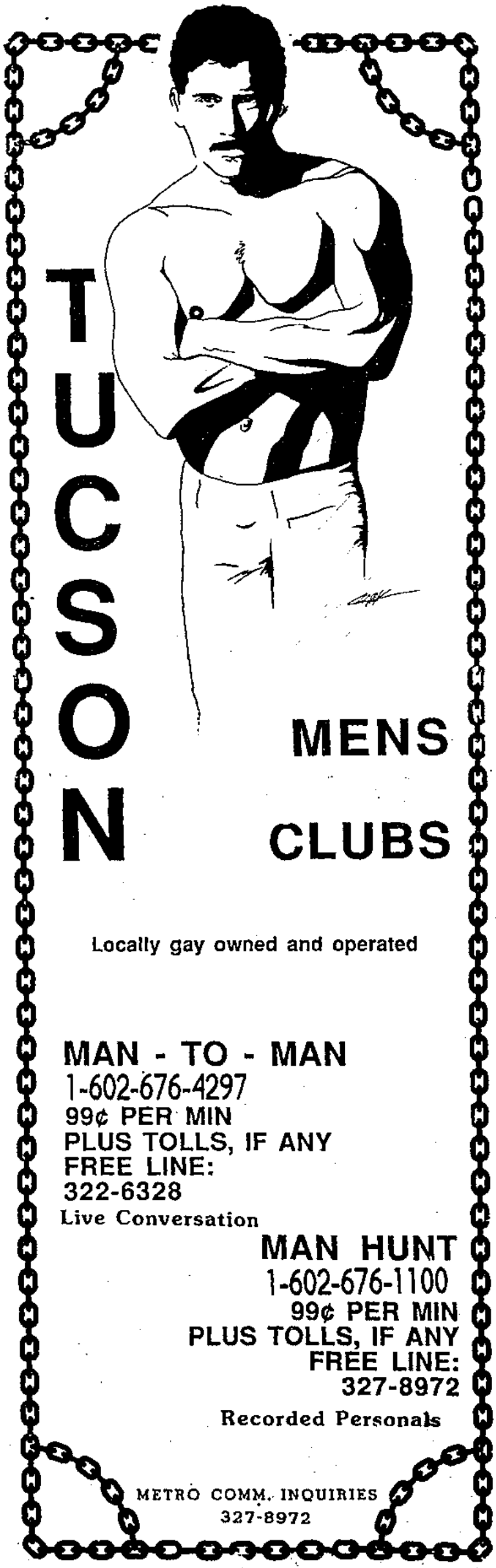

WHORE-A-SCOPES

by BARTMAN

ARIES

Accept the comforting words of your mate or another "close" friend. Comforting words? Well people have been talking about you behind your back. Your stock interest in that new Phoenix bathhouse is raising eyebrows. Lucky day Sunday.

TAURUS

Spending money for home improvements is a good idea. But turning your new roomies bedroom into a dining room? Does that mean using the bed instead of the couch for the Domino's Pizza Man? Being married has it's advantages. But when is David going to trust you with the car Kevin?

GEMINI

Wanna be in pictures? Another commercial is being filmed at 2520. "Mr B. surrenders to dessert cart, again?" Avoid announcing an important decision until you have had all the time you need to study the matter thoroughly. Lucky day this week? Two of them, Sunday and Monday.

CANCER

A generous act will bring you wonderful dividends. Your "double the rubber" campaign was a generous act, especially since you own the local rubber shop. Vacation sometime this month if possible; But keep close tabs on spending. A return to school is possible in your near future.

LEO

You blew your chance for orgasmic delights last weekend at the Venture-N. You forgot to ask that all important question, "Hey dude are you in a band?" Your question of the week, "How does it feel to have to much in common with Peg Bundy?" Good news arrives from the folks at home.

VIRGO

Steer clear of negative people who have been holding you back. Conflicting loyalties will be hard to resolve. Do you really have to decide right now? It is a tough decision. "Should I go in drag on Friday night or Saturday night? Better confer with Aviva Diamond.

LIBRA

Tap a friend for a vacant position. Oh hell, screw the job, no money is more important. The unemployment is good for another six months anyway. You decide to go one was, but maybe something will pull you the "other" way. Is this a riddle? Answer next week.

SCORPIO

Love and money all strong motivating factors. Just look at Lance and Paul. (I could name others but I promised to be good). You could be the target of unfair criticism. (Burt is familiar with that). Of course in his case, far away places are on your mind.

SAGITTARIUS

What do you do when you see some hot stud, naked, with his legs wrapped around the steering wheel of his hot truck, (you know the kind with the tire's as big as your house?) Ask Skip, the best part is he didn't have pay $6.00. You too will "meat" such a person on Sunday. Alas it's only Moose.

CAPRICORN

Are we still spending more and enjoying it less? You've got to quit charging your meals at 7-11, that is only for gas, (same thing). A "temporary" new job could be yours for the asking. After next week you can give business your full attention. Stick to the Slim Fast, (without the chimi's and beans).

AQUARIUS

Expanding your horizons will make life and romance more satisfying. But don't you "expand" every night anyway? Aren't those blow up toys a miracle of the 20th century? A child deserves your full attention this week. By the way, you secret decoder ring is in the mail Lance.

PISCES

Taking a common sense approach to financial matters will work wonders. Just stop eating, sell your house and find a nice, clean shopping cart. Your role as a mediator may be questioned. Listen to what others say, but be wary of giving advice.

WHAT'S UP DOC?

It is hard to believe but April is over. Seems I just got started on my taxes and mailed them.

This weeks column will be a little off normal subjects. I am going to finally and hopefully stop some complaints concerning my column.

First off and probably the most important, this column has been written weekly and has never been sold to the Observer. This writer has never received one penny for those columns.

The editor of the Observer has never told me what I can and can not write about.

Also, I have never received any compensation from any business, club or individual from my writings.

In short, I have always, and will continue, to write about what I choose. My column does not always please some readers, but no writer could please all the readers all the time.

Weekly, when I sit down at the computer to write my column, I go over the past weeks notes, my list of up and coming events, and go from there. if, in the previous week, I did a lot of traveling around Tucson, you will read some of the higher points. If I have not, then it comes down to where and what is going on the next week.

If by chance someone gives me news about an up and coming event, I incorporate that into the column. If not, then I'm on my own.

I do thank each and everyone who expresses their feelings to me about my column, both positive and negative. I'll continue to do so and I'll continue to try to be fair and open minded when writing.

Thank you and have a good week.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED: 20¢ per word. $4.00 Minimum.

Notices

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

GAY OR BI SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Certified psychologist facilitator. Call 884-0676 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center offers support groups / library / monthly newsletter. Volunteer opportunities. Information 624-1779 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 at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP addressing a full spectrum of issues, problems and situations. Meetings every Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 240 N. Court, 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 is our vision. Write Southwest Men At Large, Box 23951, Tempe, AZ 85285-5951 or call (602)730-8171 for more info.

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Don't give up your religious beliefs and principles. Be with brothers and sisters of RLDS, LDS Mormon faith. For more information call 325-7668 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 882-3933. 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 Rillito 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 798-3528 or write AGRA/Tucson, 7272 E. Broadway #412, Tucson, AZ 85710.

BISEXUAL MEN IN RECOVERY Support Group forming to explore ways to embrace and celebrate our sexuality. For information call 742-6650.

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

P.A.C.T. - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 2579 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. 622-7807. 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 Al-Anon 790-8922 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

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

OLD PUEBLO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

For meeting dates and locations or membership information call 577-6018 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44033, Tucson, AZ 85733

TRANSSEXUAL, TRANSGENDERS, TRANSVESTITES AND CROSS GENDER SUPPORT GROUP. Conversation and Fellowship. Meets 2nd Saturday and last Friday of each month. Call 293-3456. Not a dating service.

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 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 Merle at CRONIES, 888-7264 in Tucson.

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

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.

Notices

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.

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 Affiliate. Lesbian/Gay couples. Social & educational organization. Monthly informal meetings. For information call Jean 573-3767.

ARE YOU FEMME AND ATTRACTED TO OTHER FEMMES? For Lesbians and Bi-wimmen: 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.

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all -- Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. Special interest Gay sub-group available. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Corsaro, AZ 85652.

Personals

BUGAY MONTHLY Newsletter. Opportunity to meet new friends. SASE: For You, P.O. Box 35092, Des Moines, IA 50315. 405

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

Desert Heart to Heart. A unique and discreet dating service. Info: Send SASE to PO Box 9246, Mesa, AZ 85214-9246. 412

HIV positive??? Meet others who are HIV+ for support and fun, call P.A.C.T. for Life, 770-1710 410

Housing / For Rent

U of A, Pima, Downtown. Furnished studios. Laundry. Clean, quiet, secluded. $225/$250. 571-1878. (Available 5/15 and 6/6). 406

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Earn $200-$500 weekly mailing travel brochures. For information, send a stamped addressed envelope to: Galaxy Travel, Inc., P.O. Box 13106, Silver Springs, MD 20911-3106

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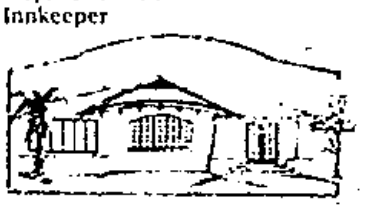
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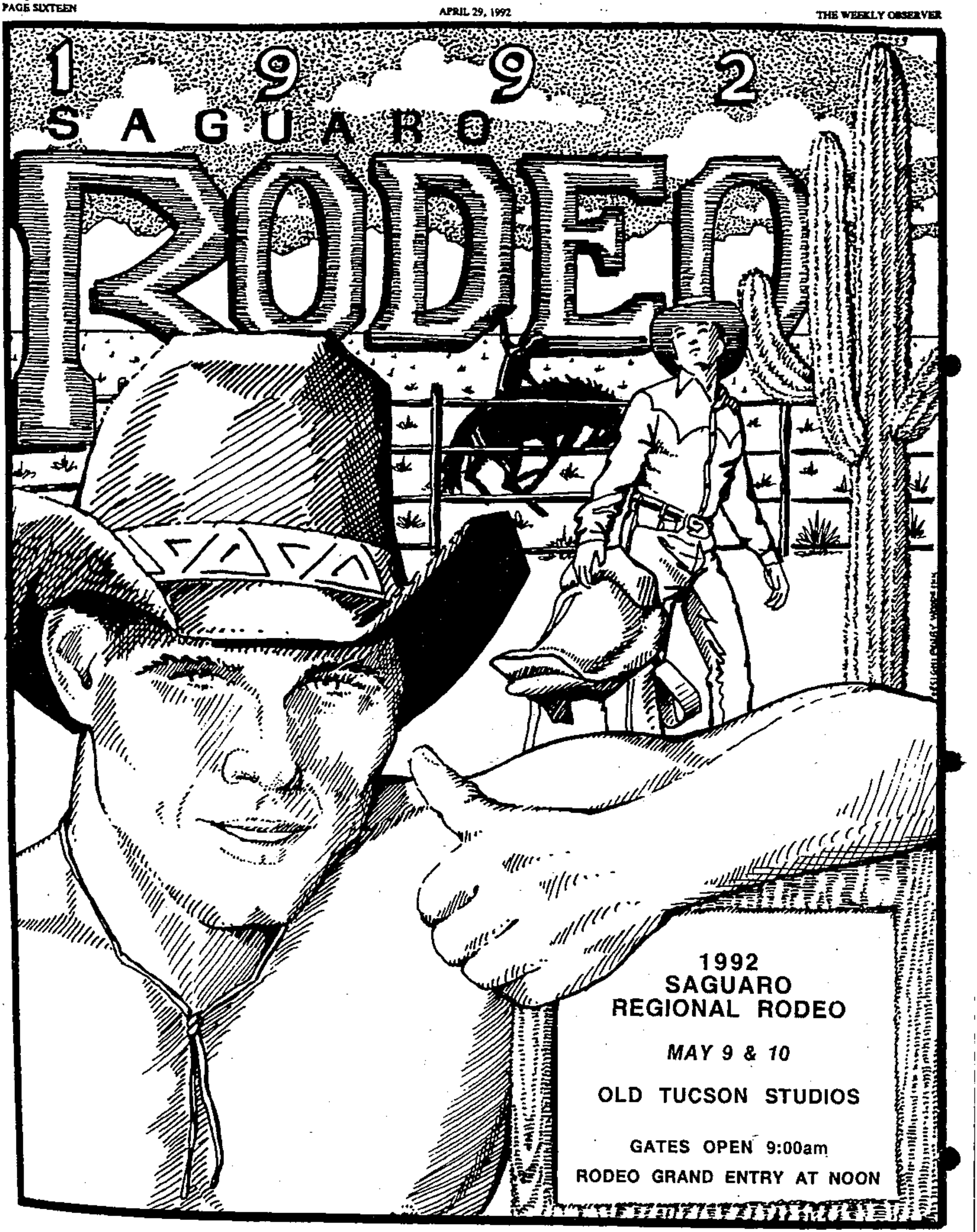

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