Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | MARCH 31, 1993 | ISSUE 454

Madame X Crowned Miss Gay Tucson

TUCSON - It was the final evening for Miss Gay Tucson 1992-93 Candy Plastique as the annual Miss Gay Tucson Pageant was held last Sunday, March 27 at the Ramada Inn. Five Contestants entered the pageant, they included Kristen, Lucinda Holliday, Dani Reid, Madame X and Alotta Whoremones.

At the end of the evening, the crown of Miss Gay Tucson 1993-94 belonged to Madame X, pictured above being crowned by the pageant producer, Penelope Poupé (r to l) assisted by Kyra Starr, Miss Gay Arizona and former Miss Gay Arizona Pussy Le Hoot.

Lucinda Holliday received 1st runner-up honors and Dani Reid was selected 2nd Runner-up. All contestants should be congratulated for a fine performance.

Other entertainers included Divina, Raven, Cristina de Alexis, Brittany Fox, Lady Casondra and T.J. McKay.

Final Chance To Sign UP For Fiesta de Mayo Candidates

TUCSON - This Sunday April 4, will be the last chance for candidates for King and Queen of Fiesta de Mayo to sign up. The Fiesta will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 30, May 1 and 2. TLGA (Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance), who produces the 3-day event will hold a meeting on Sunday at Club 2520 beginning at 3:30. All potential candidates are requested to attend so that rules for their running can be handed out and other questions answered.

TLGA produces the Lesbian/Gay Pride Week in Tucson each year and the Fiesta de Mayo is the major fund raising tool that allows the weeklong series of event to take place. Everyone is familiar with the huge Pride Picnic where no admission is charged, booth space is free, and all beer and soft drinks are provided at no charge. In addition, other events are subsidized throughout the week and are all free to members of the Gay and Lesbian community and their friends.

The King and/or Queen candidates each hold several fund-raising activities up to and including 10:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2 at the Fiesta where the final monies are counted, and the candidates who have collected the most "votes" are crowned King and Queen of Fiesta de Mayo and will preside over all Pride Week Functions as well as other events when called upon during the year.

Last year's Pride Picnic entertained over 10,000 persons and i = predicted that this year's event will oe even larger. The budget set for this year's series of events will be nearly $6,000. King and/or Queen candidates are the method of raising funds. In the past they have raised thousands of dollars for Pride.

This will be the 8th year for Fiesta de Mayo. This year all Fiesta activities will take place at Club 2520 which will be decorated and ready to go with live bands, mariachis, food and game booths, etc. TLGA has chosen the Fiesta to coincide with the Mexican holiday Cinco De Mayo - the fifth of May. But the TLGA celebration is a multi-cultural one with participants and candidates of varied ethnicity - using a Mexican holiday theme to heighten the excitement.

Persons wishing to help in presenting this year's Fiesta are welcome to join TLGA by coming to the Sunday meeting.

MOW Target Of Anti-Gay Violence

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As incidents of anti-Gay violence continue to increase, organizers of the massive civil rights march on Washington, D.C. have become the target of right wing phone threats.

In a series of messages that have been turned over to the Secret Service, members of a white supremacy group predicted violence against President Clinton because of his stand on equal rights for all citizens regardless of sexual orientation.

"It looks like Bill Clinton, Americas presidente and leftist leader, has some sort of love for homos and a secret fetish for men in uniform. Maybe that commie bitch wife of his has something to hide. Is Hillary really a he? Maybe she used to be a man or a faggot. With queers in the military, this nation's military strength will all but diminish," one of the messages began, "And if Bill Clinton can make it through his four year term without a chunk of lead in his head, who really cares anyhow? Of course victory is ours." "The sax blowing, rich, white trash, bastard was breaking promises before his inauguration date was even on the calendar. But, oh, how he loves the human race, black, brown, pink. Yes, pink as in faggot," stated an unidentified man in one of the dozens of messages left over the past few months.

The messages left by the group, which identified itself as the White Aryan Resistance, included verbal slurs against people of color, women and Jews.

Statistics released at a news conference today by the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force show a shocking surge in attacks on Gays in Oregon and Colorado, two states targeted by right wing anti-Gay ballot initiatives. In addition, the survey shows an increase in anti-Gay violence as a result of the debate over lifting the military's ban.

"The violence and threats have not intimidated this community," said Derek Livingston, a March Co-Chair. "If anything, people, both Gay and straight, are realizing more and more the importance of standing up to all forms of discrimination, bigotry and violence. Indeed, the March on Washington will be the largest civil rights demonstration in our country's history."

The March, which is scheduled for April 25th, comes at a pivotal moment in history and is expected to draw record breaking crowds to the nation's capital. The debate over lifting the military anti-Gay ban, coupled with the increasing number of anti-Gay referenda, has provoked a nationwide debate on this chapter of the civil rights movement. A unprecedented coalition including the NAACP, women's rights leaders and the religious community has joined the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual community to push for equal protection under the law and an end to anti-Gay discrimination.

UPDATE

Important Information For Pride Picnic Booths

TUCSON - The 16th Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride Picnic will be held, as usual, in the Northeast Corner of Himmel Park on Sunday, June 20th.

This giant event, which drew over 10,000 persons last year, is expected to be even bigger this year. However, the City Parks and Recreation Department and the County Health Department have revised their rules on booths in the park.

TLGA does not charge for booth space but, because the number of booths has exploded in the last couple of years, the city and county want their share. Persons desiring booth space should not be discouraged, however, the costs are minor.

Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) is requesting that all persons who anticipate having a booth at the Picnic contact TLGA member Max Vosskuhler at 293-9545. Max will give you the update on park rules and advise the permits needed, and costs, but most important, TLGA must give Parks and Rec. a complete list of persons desiring booths and they will issue permits only to those who are on the TLGA list, so please call as soon as possible.

Pride Logo Deadline Nears

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) is calling for submissions of the 1993 Pride Logo. Some submissions have been received but the deadline is Sunday, April 18. All artists or others who are able to draw are requested to submit ideas for the Pride Logo.

The Logo will appear on Pride T-Shirts, cups, advertising posters and all other articles connected with Tucson's Pride Week 1993. The national theme for this year's Pride Week is "A Family Of Pride" and this wording should appear on the logo along with Pride Week dates - June 20 - 27 - and Tucson, Arizona.

The winning logo, which will be chosen on April 19 and the winning artist will receive a $100 cash prize. T-Shirts will be available beginning April 30th at Fiesta de Mayo - The major fund raising event for Pride Week.

Entries may be mailed to TLGA, P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703, or be presented in persons at any of the TLGA meetings prior to the deadline. Check the Non-Bar calendar in the OBSERVER for time and location.

Lambda Democratic Caucus To Meet April 7

TUCSON - The Lambda Democratic Caucus will be holding a General Meeting Wednesday, April 7th at Cushing Street Bar and Restaurant, at Cushing Street & Meyer, downtown. Starting time is at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome and new memberships will be accepted from those who want to join at the meeting. Scheduled topics of discussion include the Anti-Gay Hate Initiative which has begun to circulate petitions in Tucson and the 1993 March On Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

Lambda maintains a seat on the Pima County Democratic Party Executive Board. This seat gives Pima County Gays and Lesbians a direct and strong voice in Democratic Party decision making. Your membership and participation in Lambda is one positive way in which to make your opinions and needs heard. Hope to see you there.

Team Arizona Elects New Board Of Directors

PHOENIX - A new board of directors for Team Arizona has been elected, and the wheels are in motion! With only 15 months remaining before Gay Games IV, Unity '94, Team Arizona is strongly encouraging as many members as possible to become involved now.

A third General Membership Meeting is being held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday April 4, in the Banquet Room at the Squaw Peak Bowling Lanes, 3049 East Indian School Road, Phoenix, Arizona. Everyone interested is invited to attend and find out what's in store as Arizona organizes to participate in Gay Games IV.

For more information about Team Arizona and Unity '94, write to: Team Arizona, P.O. Box 36431, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6431.

'Facing Terminal Illness' Seminar

TUCSON - The monthly Family Life Renewal series at Picture Rocks Retreat, 7101 W. Picture Rocks Road, will feature a seminar on "Facing Terminal Illness" by Fr. Dick Mevissen, the Director of Picture Rocks, on Saturday, April 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The suggested donation is $15. To register, please call 744-3400 by Thursday, April 15.

Share Bears
Sharing Weekend Committee

TUCSON - A number of years back, the local bar owners and the Shanti Foundation, Tucson started something called the Sharing Weekend. It was basically volunteers collecting donations for Shanti at the entrances of each of the bars on the first Saturday of each month. Since then the committee has expanded to include PACT for Life and The Tucson AIDS Project. At times we have had some difficulty finding sufficient volunteers to cover all the bars for the three hours required. (Bars are covered between 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month.) We have done other things in the past as well as Sharing Weekend.

Two years ago we produced The Gay Dating Game and Family Feud during Gay Pride Week at what was the French Quarter. It was both fun, educational and demonstrated a lighter side to the local AIDS organizations. Then this last Christmas, we began the Santa Project. Through the generosity of several local Gay businesses and individuals we were able to bring a little holiday cheer to several dozen local PWAs and their loved ones. Women, children and men of different ages and ethnic backgrounds were provided with what in many cases was their only Christmas for that year. The Gay community should be very proud of this accomplishment. This project was not funded by the monies collected at the bars.

Where does the monies collected during Sharing weekend go? Each organization utilizes these funds in different ways. But they use them to help people living with HIV/AIDS. One might use it for emergency assistance, while other to provide services. The amount collected will be published in the Observer on a quarterly basis by the Sharing Committee. To find out how each of the three organizations use the funds, please feel free to contact the respective organization.

Over two years ago a handful of people living with HIV/AIDS met and the TORCH Awards were formed, the purpose was for the clients and local AIDS organizations to recognize those in our community who are doing so much to help int he battle against AIDS.

For the month of April and only this month, we of the Sharing Committee have decided to give the proceeds from the Sharing Weekend to the TORCH Committee to enable more PWAs to attend this year's Awards in October. A large number of people living with HIV/AIDS are on fixed incomes and find it difficult to afford to enjoy such things as the TORCH Awards. it is important that those who have been helped so much by our local angels be present to see them receive their much deserved recognition.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding Sharing Weekend of the Sharing Committee (Share Bears) please feel free to call;l PACT for Life at 770-1710, The Shanti Foundation, Tucson at 622-7107 or The Tucson AIDS Project at 3262-62626 and ask for their Sharing Committee representative. If you are interested in volunteering please call the numbers above. Thank you for all your support in the past and in the future. You do make a difference!!!

GRIEF GROUP REGISTRATION

Shanti's Grief Group begins on Wednesday, March 31st from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Shanti Office.

This is an eight (8) week group for those who have lost a loved one or who are preparing for the loss of a loved one. Please call us to register for this free group. 622-7107

Don't forget the upcoming Shanti Training call for information.

SHANTI FOUNDATION

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

602 North 4th Avenue
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(602) 622-7107

OBSERVER

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Say You Saw It In The OBSERVER

April Fool's Cabaret

Thursday, April 1

9:00 p.m.

A benefit for the Tucson AIDS Project

$3.50 ($2 with Centennial Hall Ticket Stub)

With a special appearance by

Les Ballets
TROCKADERO
de Monte Carlo

ENTERTAINMENT - BUFFET
ONE HALF PRICE ON FIRST DRINK

Glamour & Glitz Raffle

Win theatre tickets, beauty products,
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CLUB 2520

2520 N. ORACLE RD., TUCSON 882-5799

4TH AVENUE
STREET FAIR
April 2, 3 & 4
SHOWS • 3PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Starring
Tucson's Own
Aviva Diamond,
Angelica West,
From LA
Diva, Cassi Phillips,
and Dolly Levi
— PLUS —
A Special Benefit Show
for the Observer Benefit
Sunday Nite • 9PM
Starring
Miss Gay Tucson
Madame X,
Gilda Fatale, Raven,
Angelica West,
Christina De Alexis
and Jackie

Coming April 11th
IBT's
Presents
FLESH FOR FANTASY
A Weekly Male Erotic Revue
Every Sunday
9:15PM
(See You There)
IBT's
Right for Tucson
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882-3053

WHAT'S UP DOC???

As I sit here typing this weeks column, the rain is falling and the weeds in my yard are going ape shit. What does that have to do with this column, who the hell knows or even cares.

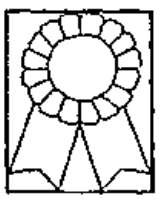
Yesterday was supposed to be the final round in TKO's challenge to the other Tucson clubs in their UNO tournament. Well, it didn't come about.

Many times, when writing this column, I sometimes forget a basic rule, and that is not everyone who reads my print knows what I'm talking about. To me it makes sense, to others, it lacks simple explanation. In other words, as stated, I know what I am trying to say, but I sometimes do not put enough information into the paragraph so that the everyday reader understands where I'm coming from or trying to go.

I, in this past week, have discovered that I sometimes even talk this way. On a phone call last Wednesday evening, I was calling to state that due to illness I would not be able to attend the First Ladies meeting. A long story short, during this conversation I was asked, "does this mean we cancel tonight and Sunday also?" I answered yes, without thinking or making sure the other party knew what I was talking about.

The First Ladies were to have gotten together this past Sunday and drive to the site for this years run. Having created a conflict, two different events going on at the same time, I assumed when answering yes, the trip was being cancelled, not the UNO game. Guess what, the UNO game never came off, even though there was one Partner and one TKO member on hand for it. Now it will be back to the drawing board for rescheduling and hopefully the next time, I'll present the information correctly.

After last weekend and all the different events going on, this past one seemed dull. Other than TALL's beer bust Saturday, it was all quiet on the home front in the Old Pueblo.



On the other hand, yes there were benefit shows going on for those contestants running for the Miss Gay Tucson title. And from reading the list of this years contestants, I'm sure there will be a lot more to come before the festivities of the Pageant evening.

This not being one of my areas for reporting on, and even if I do try to make some of them, you may not be reading that much about them in this column. But, I do wish all entered contestants the best of luck in your ventures.

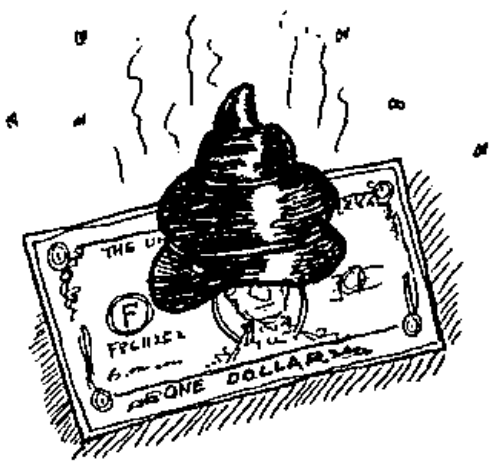
Some of you out there may not realize the amount of money each contestant takes out of their own pockets for costumes and other necessary supplies. That is why all the different benefits. A few years back, one of the previous Miss Gay Tucson winners expressed to me he had spent close to $1500 of his own money. I sometimes do not understand the reason for such expenditures when the money is never recovered, but - each time there is a pageant, those going for the roses, willingly does so.

And, let us not forget those running for the Fiesta De Mayo King and Queen. Of course the money these contestants raise all comes back to you and I via the Gay Pride picnic. And yes I'm sure that even these contestants spend some of their own money, but the end results directly benefits everyone here is Tucson. So, whenever all the different couples are finally announced, do try to support them as much as possible.

As if you even need reminding, don't forget the Observer benefit on April 17. The entertainment for this years version is probably going to be the best Tucson has witnessed in many years. I personally know that a lot of hard work has gone into this production, the stars have all put in many hours of practice, and some even sewing their own costumes. By you attending, it will be more than a thank you to the Observer, but a very big thank you to those performing - and, of course, all monies raised goo
es to Shanti and PACT.

I guess that is enough for this week. I must say, staying home in bed (not that way silly) all week, my TBBS's did not come along as usually they do but you can bet, they will so hang in there. And just as a little warning, Thursday is approaching and all of the fools will be out - it's April Fools Day.

As I See It..... by Clark



POLITICS '93

by Mark Kerr

Last Saturday, the Arizona Democratic Party State Committee met at the Westin La Paloma Resort Hotel. Over 200 delegates were present for the second meeting of the year. Also at the La Paloma, the State Party held a fund raising luncheon and political memorabilia auction, which raised several thousand dollars for the state party coffers. (Yours truly won the "Ed Pastor Package and an Unwanted Poster of George Bush).

During the luncheon, Democratic National Committee Political Director, Craig Smith, gave a speech outlining the national party's plans for Arizona; their priorities are to elect a Democratic governor. That part of the speech went over like a lead balloon, especially to Senator DeConcini staff members. Smith claims that electing a Democratic governor helps a national ticket by two points, electing a Senator only helps the national ticket by one and since Clinton lost the state by 1 percent in the recent election, they are banking electing the governor will help in 1996. (Too bad Dennis!)

The convention's highlights were two, (really!), there were two measures that were approved by the State Committee. They were; 1. A measure to approve President's Clinton's policy on ending the ban against homosexuals in the military. 2. To support gaming on the indian reservations.

There were notables attending the festivities up in the foothills. (I will list the elected officials first, then the wannabees, because the wannabees were much more interesting!). In attendance were State School Superintendent C. Diane Bishop, (and she was not wearing that awful red suit!). Also present were State Senators Cindy Resnick, Chuck Blanchard, Lela Alston and Victor Soltero, State Representatives Phil Hubbard, Elaine Richardson, Cathy Eden, Andy Nichols, George Cunningham, Herschella Horton and Ruth Solomon. Elected officials also in attendance were Pima County Board of Supervisor Dan Eckstrom (D-District 2), and Tucson City Council Member Bruce Wheeler (D-Ward 1).

The wannabees were: Former Phoenix Mayor and unannounced gubernatorial candidate for 1994, Terry Goddard. Goddard was being led (literally) around the luncheon and the convention by his handlers. Flyers were being distributed asking committee members to become "Early Birds for Goddard." To jump on the bandwagon. Not present were Phoenix Mayor, Paul Johnson and Grocery Magnate Eddie Basha, who had announced he plans to seek the Democratic nod to challenge Fife in 1994. Also there was David Bradley, District 13 wannabee, was there, right behind Nichols and Cunningham at all times. Also trying to campaign was C. Diane Bishop, her term is up next year as well.

The favorite and the most "obvious and annoying", stated by many state committee members, was Secretary of State Richard Mahoney. Mahoney oozed his way through the throngs of delegates shaking hands glad-handling with people, saying how great the party and the state committee was, (interesting; he has ignored the party for the past four years and now he is cozying up to the party before an election!). I was one of a few delegates that was not "virtually molested" by Richard "The Roving Hands" Mahoney.

After the convention there was cocktail party and fundraiser held at a swanky house in the foothills. Proceeds of which went to the state party. At the party was State Senator Lela Alston (D-District 20), who in an exclusive (scoop!) interview stated that she plans to challenge C. Diane Bishop for the Democratic nomination for State School Superintendent in 1994. Alston states that there has been a lack of leadership in the state's highest education post and she feels it's time for a change. The cocktail party/fundraiser raised over $2,000 for the state party.

There was also a candidate announcement to note. Yes, Jessie "The Signs" Lugo, founder of the Tucson Business Coaltion (Tucson Biggest Crybaby's) announced his challenge to Incumbent Ward 5 Council Member, Steve Leal. Lugo stated in his speech that Ward 5 has been ignored during Leal's term and that Lugo would provide the leadership for Ward 5.

Until next time, politics is dirt!

A benefit party for
LISETTE
who is running as a candidate for Queen of Fiesta de Mayo, fund raising event for Pride Week in Tucson.
The benefit will take place at
THE CLUB HOUSE at LOS COLINAS APARTMENTS
1600 N. Wilmot beginning at 6:00 p.m.
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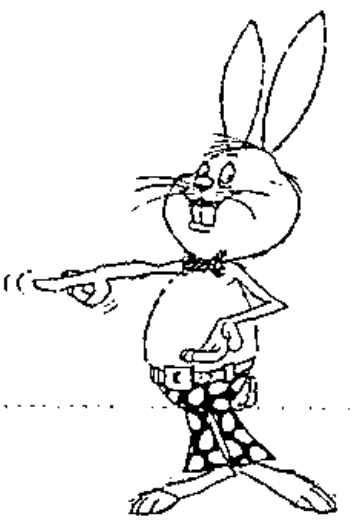

Tuesday, APRIL 6 - 9:30 P.M.
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ONE-IN-TEN REPERTORY THEATRE
PRESENTS

Jane Chambers'
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*
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Double Mischief

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by Wendy Caster

Be Still My Heart

Years ago, when Prince Charles married Lady Di, people spent hours gaping at the pomp and glitz surrounding the wedding. I slept late, totally impervious to the charms of the event.

Then, this week, I read in Liz Smith's gossip column in the L.A. Times that k.d. lang and Martina Navratilova are lovers. Now I too have become entranced with the coupling of royalty.

Martina Navratilova and k.d. lang. Let's stop for a second and take that in. Mmmm.

Being the Liz Smith of my social circle, I called my friends to announce the news. Their responses fit into three categories: (1) "it's almost unfair"; (2) "who's on top?"; and (3) "wow!" One friend rejoiced that, rather than fantasizing about k.d. or Martina, she could now fantasize about k.d. and Martina. Many women yearned to be the proverbial fly on the wall. One friend said, "They're just people,": but I answered, "Naaah."

The pairing of Martina and k.d. is breath-taking. The phrase "Dream Team" comes to mind. Couples tired of cop and crook and teacher and student scenes can now revitalize their sex lives by playing k.d. and Martina (Martina and k.d.?).

But, for all the jokes, something important has happened here: a Lesbian coupling was announced, rather mundanely, by a nationally syndicated gossip columnist. And Liz Smith's tone was consistently positive; for instance, she wrote, "Yes, it's k.d. and Martina. Long may these powerful women wave, and do their own thing."

This is not the most important progress the Lesbian and Gay community has ever made, but it is very, very satisfying. For gossip is not trivial; that's an old husband's tale. In reality, gossip exchanges ideas, gives emotional support, maintains community standards, and provides role models.

My own early awareness of homosexuality was based on negative gossip. In one case, my grandmother mentioned to my mother that two of their neighbors years earlier had been homosexual. "How do you know?" my mother snapped, as though my grandmother had said something terrible. My grandmother replied, "One night, the police came," but my mother cut her off with a gesture that clearly denoted, "not in front of the children."

A few years later, a columnist wrote that Truman Capote had gone on vacation with a beautiful young woman, but that no one was gossiping. I read this item to my mother and a friend of hers who was visiting, and I asked, "What does that mean?" My mother said, "I'll tell you when you're older," and she and her friend giggled and giggled as thought Truman Capote-ish was just about the grossest thing you could be.

I remember no other mentions of homosexuality in my childhood; I endured no religious teachings about Gays going to hell; I received no warnings about masculine women with short hair. Just two little instances of unfinished gossip were enough to teach me that homosexuality was, literally unspeakable.

Now Liz Smith has removed some bricks from that smarmy wall of innuendo, and the world may never be the same. For homophobes are right: positive depictions of homosexuality are dangerous (to them), and the media do affect how people experience and express sexuality, theirs and other people's. Martina and k.d. are open, talented, and, I hope, joyously together; their combined image is powerful and attractive. And, since their lives have been reported positively in major newspapers, their power is accessible to the world. No heterosexual teenage girl will find them so enticing that she changes her sexual preference (at least I don't think so), but dozens (hundreds? thousands?) of teenage Lesbians may find k.d. and Martina together to be the image that saves their sanity and self esteem. As a result, Liz Smith's "casual gossip" is almost subversively significant.

It's clear that both Martina and k.d. have experienced some ambiguity about coming, and their bravery may indeed cost them money and cause discomfort in their lives (though k.d. won a Grammy after coming out). It must also be strange for them to realize that strangers fantasize about their sex lives (I mean, just think of what they might be doing right now!). Living as open and famous Lesbians obviously has its exhausting side. But k.d. and Martina have improved our world just by honestly being themselves. And Liz Smith has pushed social progress an inch or two along by, yes, gossiping about them.

I hope all three women know how much they have done.

EXCITING
TIMES TO TRAVEL
Some of our 1993
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IN MEMORIAM

BRIAN K. BROWN
December. 30, 1962 - March 24, 1993

Brian passed away due to complications of AIDS. He is survived by his mother a brother and three sisters. Brian was a graduate of Tucson High School and was a familiar figure in the local community. He had worked with Rev. Bernardo David at MCC Cristo Obreros Church in Nogales, Sonora. He was a sign language interpreter for various groups, and was a member of Desert Leathermen and AGRA-/Tucson at the time of his passing. Services were held Friday, March 26 at Heather Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, family requests remembrances be made to St. Mary's Hospice or the Tucson AIDS Project.

With a lot on my mind, my hand begins to write. I feel as though I have lost a friend, before I had the chance to gain one. In time I will become numb, but the love will always be there. I only try to understand and know that he will always be my friend. .....Bert

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN BROWN

Brian Brown was my friend.

I was 19 when I met Brian 12 years ago.

Brian was 18.

I was inexperienced, nervous and naive.

Brian was not.

Brian took me by the hand, showed me the "in" places to hang out and introduced me to all his friends.

Brian made me laugh ... a lot.

What did Brian want after he provided me with guided tours, introductions and plenty of entertainment?

My friendship, no strings attached.

He didn't need a ride somewhere.

He didn't ask me to loan him a few bucks or buy him a few beers.

He didn't try to convince me to go home and have sex with him.

I was unaccustomed to someone being nice and friendly to me without an underlying motive.

Brian will always be special to me.

Brian deserved better than he got in life.

Thirty years was too short, like many in our community, he was ripped off.

I will miss my friend, Brian, until the time comes for me to see him again.

I will look forward to meeting his new friends, discovering the "in" places to hang out and laughing, a lot.

...Bill Close

JAMIE EDE ROSEN

Jamie Ede Rosen, 39, died at her home in Inverness, California after a long and determined struggle with metastatic breast cancer.

From 1980 to 1986 she owned and operated Antigone's Book Store, one of the longest operating feminist bookstores in the country. Following that, she moved to Berkeley, California to attend UC Berkeley School of Social Work, and was engaged in licensing int he field when first diagnosed in 1988.

Jamie had a keen intelligence, sharp wit and great love of both the written and the spoken word. She was an ardent outdoor adventurer, and especially enjoyed hiking her English setter, Straya, whom she had for 15 years.

Donations may be made in Jamie's memory to the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH
from Al

Have you ever returned to your high school? Maybe you found your old locker, or you looked up a teacher you once had a crush on. Maybe you stepped into the auditorium and remembered a school play or concert. Maybe you ventured back onto the football field or the basketball court and relived games, won and lost. Maybe you stopped by the library and recalled looking up dirty words in the unabridged dictionary, or you went to the cafeteria and chuckled over the food fights there.

Then you probably thought, "You know, I had lots of fun here once. But my life is different now. The high school is the same, but I am changed. This is not my home."

Ralph died this year, fighting a crippling battle with a disease that robbed his strength and wasted his talents. When his body was racked with pain and his energy spent, Ralph resolved, "This world i snot important to me any longer. This is not my home."

When his father condemned Ralph because he was Gay, and when Ralph's employer fired him because he had AIDS, Ralph reasoned, "This will pass, because this is not my home."

When Ralph fell in the shopping mall, and when he was no longer able to feed or bathe himself, he no doubt thought, "I will press on, because I am not home yet."

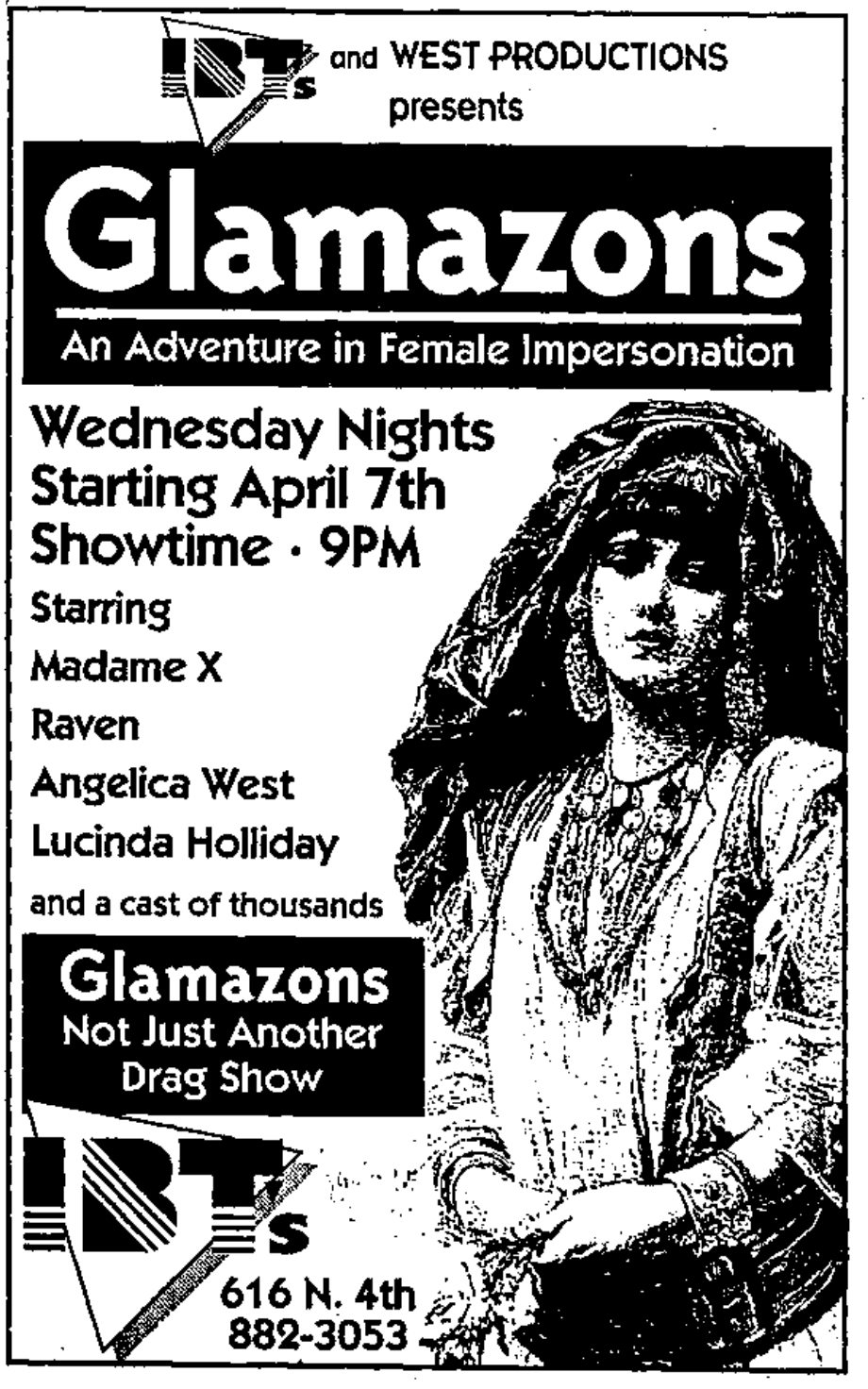
When people either avoided him because of his illness or, worse yet, patronized him because he was sick, Ralph reasoned, "I will move on. This is not my home."

When Ralph saw the misery, fear, strife and injustice in the world, he realized, "I do not belong here. This is not my home."

So when the doctor explained that the drugs, which caused terrible side effects, could extend his life a little longer. Ralph answered, "For what? I want to go home."

And when his lover, sister, mother and friends wished he could stay, Ralph said, "I must go. This is not my home."

Ralph went home on January 13, 1993, at the age of 37. Ralph went home to peace. He went home to freedom.



Mr. New Mexico Drummer / Drummer Boy Contest Winners

by James Danforth

Pictured (right to left) Steve Benoit, Mr. New Mexico Drummer 93-94; Pat Sanchez, President of Motorcyclemen of New Mexico and James Danforth, New Mexico Drummerboy 93-94. See story below. Photo: Richard Saiser

The Sandia Leathermen and the Motorcyclemen of New Mexico hosted the 1993 Mr. Drummer/Drummerboy contest February 26, 27 and 28, at The Ranch in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Master of Ceremonies, The Leather Journal's Pantheon of Leather Awards 1993 Rocky Mountain Regional Recognition Award, Southwest Drummer '91, and president of the Motorcyclemen of New Mexico, Pat Sanchez, charmed the crowd as they packed themselves chaps to chaps in Albuquerque's only Gay bar owned and operated by Gay men.

Everyone was decked out in full formal dress for the reception in Cuffs, a leather bar located inside The Ranch.

The Albuquerque Social Club, home bar of the Motorcycleman of New Mexico was very gracious in providing a place for the contestants to be interviewed. The post interview luncheon was an excellent opportunity for everyone to meet each other and exchange knowledge.

The judges were Emerson Brinney, International Mr. Drummer 1993; Rick Price, Mr. Southern California Drummer 1991; Leon Marfell, owner of Galerie Leon in Denver, Colorado; Steve Patton, Mr. Northern California Drummer 1989; Jim Chandler, Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer 1992; D. Eddie Christie, secretary of the National Leather Association-Dallas; and Greg Lowe, producer of Rocky Mountain Drummer. The alternate judge was T. Allan Gates III, Mr. MNM Drummer 1992. Also present were Chuck Floyd, Mr. New Mexico Drummer 1992, and Charles Mantai, New Mexico Drummerboy 1992.

A wonderful display of leatherwear and a plethora of toys were provided by Wayne's Leather Rack of California, and The Leather Shoppe of Albuquerque. Wayne mingled with the crowd, demonstrating his latest inventions on contestants, judges, or anyone who happened to be within reach. One could track his movements by listening for a buzzing followed by a grunt or sigh of pleasure, as he snuck up on an unsuspecting member of our leather tribe.

Many exciting and highly erotic performances thrilled the audience and made the judges' decisions difficult. After much anticipation, the honor of 1993/94 Mr. New Mexico Drummer was presented to Steve Benoit, and 1993/94 New Mexico Drummerboy was awarded to James Danforth.

Mr. Benoit and James will now go on to compete for the Southwest Regional title in Phoenix, Arizona, May 7, 8 and 9. Judging from this team, New Mexico will provide some hot competition. Don't miss it.

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Venture-N To Leather Opens

TUCSON - One of the newest businesses in the Tucson Gay community is now two weeks old and is flourishing. A new leather shop directed to the Gay community, opened off the patio of the Venture-N bar located at 1239 N. 6th Avenue.

Manager Michael Holliman, who also operates Speedway Books, welcomes all leathermen to come visit and check out the leather goods, videos, and gift items. Venture-N To Leather is open Thursday through Sunday.

BEARS of the Old Pueblo

Okay, first things first. Last week I thanked two Bears for designing and putting together our club colors. I left out the time, effort, and money donated to that project by our Treasurer, Bernie Wert. Sorry, Bernie; I was misinformed. Thanks for yet another success.

Last weekend's camping trip was, wet. Anybody want to plan another one? Even with the rain, I'm sorry I missed this one.

Thursday night, April 1, is our General Meeting. If you are interested in bears or big guys, or fit one or both of those categories, you should try to join us. We will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the patio of our home bar, the Venture-N. We'll be discussing future events such as an Easter potluck, a progressive dinner, upcoming Video Nights, Bear's Night Out, etc. After the meeting, a Bear Beer Bust will ensue. Cheap beer, hot men, and lively discussion should be plentiful. Stop in and check us out! Call 327-8781 for more information.

Speaking of the Venture-N, have you seen the leather shop? Lots of goodies, custom work, and printed matter for the card carrying pervert in your life. Those of us who wear the hides are glad to see this niche being filled in the community. Thanks to all who have worked together to bring us this affirming resource. After all, Bears and leathermen are no mutually exclusive (evil grin). Want proof? Come to the General Meeting!

This weekend is the 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Though Tucson doesn't know it yet, 4th Avenue is the center of Tucson's geographic Gay community. Come out this weekend and show your stuff on 4th Avenue! We'll see you there. Until next week, Grrr!!!

Congratulations on another grand pageant, Penelope! Hope it profited you well.

Mark Elenz. . . .

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FIESTA DE MAYO

APRIL 30, MAY 1 & 2

The major fund raising event for Pride Week in Tucson for 1993

King and/or Queen candidates must attend the TLCA meeting this Sunday, April 4, 1993 at Club 2520 to receive rules for running.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MINERVA 326-4741 OR LEO 791-0671 - 623-8462

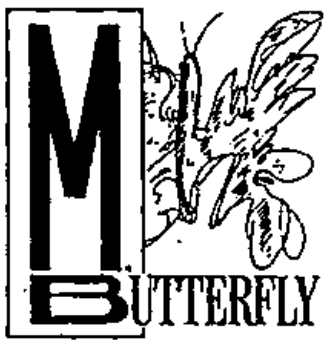
Fiesta de Mayo will take place at

CLUB 2520

2520 N. ORACLE, TUCSON, AZ 882-7799

Two Grande Dames

of the theatre
in benefit for the
Tucson AIDS Project



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7 P.M.
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LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSL

News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Corbin

Our new roof has been installed! Finally, after all of the rain and adverse weather, the roofers were able to lay the new roof last week. Boy, were those guys fast, they started Monday morning and by Tuesday afternoon the big part of the job was done. Wednesday morning they finished up the trim and other small jobs to finish the job. These past few days have made the test, we have no more leaks any where. The new skylights in the Fellowship Hall and the new exhaust vent in the kitchen held under the rain and hail, equally well. The air conditioning firm will be here at the church this week installing our new refrigeration cooling unit and will update our existing "swamp coolers". A lot of new lumber was installed replacing some of the old lumber in the roof and we now have a job of painting and making the main building sparkle.

The Deacons have announced that their Parking Lot Sale went well enough, considering the bad weather that we had last Saturday. They wish to thank each and everyone who gave their support in this event. There are already plans to have another Parking Lot Sale in the near future. There is plenty of room here on the church grounds for this kind of an event with lots of off street parking.

This coming Sunday, April 4th is Palm Sunday and will begin Holy Week prior to Easter. There will be special services on Thursday and Friday. Sunday morning there will be a Sunrise Service and the Easter Worship Service will begin at 10:45 a.m. Watch this column for a complete schedule next week.

The church grounds are becoming more pleasant each week. There is a work party each and every Saturday. New plants are being planted, existing plants are being trimmed and groomed, lawns are being maintained and the Memorial Rose Garden is starting to shape up. We are hoping to have roses in bloom for Easter. The formal dedication of the Memorial Rose Garden will be the last part of April. Additional roses were planted this year for future Memorials but all have now been taken. A rose bush can be ordered at any time but will not be added to the garden until next January 1994. Roses are not native to this type of climate and take a lot of special care, especially during the planting season of January and February.

Thought for the week: Liberty means responsibility. That is why most people dread it. George Bernard Shaw

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Many people have a rudimentary knowledge of Jesus Christ. Some of you reading this article may even believe his declaration of John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." We are told in Acts 4:12 that, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved," speaking of Jesus.

In the waning years of the 20th century, everyone seems to have an opinion how soon the "end of the world" will come; if they will be alive then; and what will happen to themselves, particularly. This hot topic today can stimulate conversation and perk up interest at parties, yet the end result is no more than sheer speculation.

In Matthew 24:36 Jesus told his disciples, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the father." Jesus told them when he comes it will be as it was when Noah built the ark and people continued eating, drinking, and carrying on their lives unconcerned about the future, in those days before the flood.

The day Noah entered the ark, the people suspected nothing until the flood came and took them all away. When you really think about the cost everyone not on the ark when Noah closed the door, paid, it's sobering. Yet, in Matthew 24:39-42 Jesus states, "That is how it will be at the coming of the son of man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a handmill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

I don't know if Jesus will come in the next 5 minutes or 5 years, but I have a vivid mental picture of the sheer hopelessness and despair of the man left in the field and the woman left to grind with a handmill. I don't want to be like that man and woman.

You see, if our lives on earth are over, or the second coming of Jesus Christ occurs, before we have accepted Jesus as our own personal Lord and savior, it is simply going to be too late to make that decision. All of us desire salvation and yes, time is of the essence, for the sake of our own eternal futures.

Please come and worship with us Sunday at 10:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you. Ask us any questions that will help you make the most important decision you will ever make. In Revelation 22:7, Jesus says, "Behold, I am coming soon!" Are you prepared to face the consequences should he not tarry?

Seder At Cornerstone April 10

To the people of Israel, the Passover Feast signifies their redemption from bondage in Egypt. As Christians, the Passover Feast signifies our redemption from the bondage of sin.

Christians are not commanded to celebrate Passover, but why would we choose to miss out on all the blessings that come from observing this custom? We can only be blessed while we gain a deeper appreciation of the heritage that is the basis of our faith and ultimate salvation.

The ritual Passover meal is referred to as a Seder. Seder is the Hebrew word for "set order." We will be gathering together to share this Seder meal. We will also be looking at the symbolic foods of the Passover Seder to learn more about their significance to the Israelites and to us as Christians.

This meal will take place at Cornerstone Fellowship on Saturday, April 10th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We are located at 2902 North Geronimo. There is a charge of $2.00 per person and reservations are requested. Please call 622-4626 to make a reservation.

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CALENDAR
of upcoming events

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 3 & 4

IBT'S - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair takes place and IBT's will be having female impersonation shows both days at 3 p.m. starring Aviva Diamond, Angelica West, and direct from Los Angeles, Diva, Casai Phillips and Dolly Levi. Make this your headquarters for the fair, one of the great cruising experiences of your life.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

CLUB 2520 - "April Fool's Cabaret" a benefit for the Tucson AIDS Project begins at 9 p.m. entertainment, buffet, and 1/2 price on first drink. There will be a special guest performance by the fabulous Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, plus a Glamour & Glitz Raffle for theatre tickets, beauty products, autographed "Trocks" toe shoes! $3.50 (or $2 with your Centennial Hall ticket stub from the show)

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

RUMORZ - A special Congratulations Show in honor of our new Miss Gay Tucson Madame X will be held here beginning at 8:30 p.m. The show will feature Madame X, first-runner-up, Lucinda Holliday and 2nd Runner-up Dani Reid and the hostess of the evening will be former Miss Gay Tucson, Cristina de Alexis.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

IBT'S - Easter Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. Eggs filled with surprises. Make this a sure-stop!.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

IBT's - Hot Buns in 501's Contest. $25 first place. Winner goes to finals in July and becomes eligible for a trip to Las Vegas.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

RUMORZ - 1st Annual Roger Barger Memorial Closet Ball will be held here beginning at 9:00 p.m. For applications and more information call Rumorz or Cristina De Alexis 682-6619. Watch for more details.

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Non-Bar
CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

"Born In Flames", at 90 minute 1983 futuristic film in which multi-racial group of women band together in an effort to gain control of the state-owned media. Presented by the University of Arizona English Dept., Women's Study Dept., African-American Studies Dept.' Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Assn. 7 p.m. in the Modern Languages Bldg. Room 310 on the UofA campus.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

The Cronie-Prime Timers, the local 40 & over club, will hold their April meeting beginning at 7 p.m. at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. A potluck dinner will be held and guest speakers will be members of BGALA, the UofA Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Tucson Gay/Lesbian Alliance (TLGA) will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Club 2520 to continue plans for Fiesta de Mayo, the major fund raiser for Pride Week activities. Those interested in entering the King and/or Queen of Fiesta contest must attend this meeting to receive rules and other information. Persons may submit logo artwork at this meeting (deadline for entries is April 18 at that TLGA meeting). Anyone interested in working on these two projects are also urged to attend.

A special benefit performance of "M. Butterfly" will be held at 7 p.m. to day to benefit the Tucson AIDS Project. The performance will take place at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott and is performed by the Arizona Theatre Company. All tickets are $20. For more information call 322-6226.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Cornerstone Fellowship will observe Good Friday with a service beginning at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Cornerstone Fellowship will continue its weekend Easter schedule with a Seder (Passover Observance) at 6 p.m. $2.00 and reservations are required.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Cornerstone Fellowship celebrates Easter Sunday with a Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. followed by a free Pancake Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Sunday School at 8 a.m., Easter Celebration at 10:30 a.m. and closes with an Evening Worship at 6 p.m. Cornerstone is located at 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

MCC will hold a Sunrise Easter Service at 6 p.m. and an Easter Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

"Tongues Untied" will be presented at 7 p.m. at the Modern Languages Building, Room 310. This 55 minute award-winning documentary, uses poetry, personal testimony, rap and performance to tell the racism and homophobia that confronts Black Gay men. Presented by the University of Arizona English Dept., Women's Study Dept., African-American Studies Dept.' Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Assn.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

8th Annual Observer/Community Benefit at Plaza Hotel, Campbell and Speedway. Reserved Dinner Seating is Sold Out. General Admission tickets $5.00 per person available at all local bars, and at the Shanti or PACT office. A cast and crew of over 50 people make this a most unique evening. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. 3 bars, show, awards, raffles, and lots of live entertainment throughout the entire evening. All proceeds go to PACT and Shanti. Get your general admission tickets now before they are gone too.

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Tucson
CALENDAR

sunday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. Salad Bar and Western Steak Fry 3 to 7 pm. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music 8 to 1.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm - All Shots Well Drinks $1.00.

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 - Open noon to 1 a.m. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, $1.25 domestic beer and well. Cookout for community organizations 3 to 6 pm. Dancing 9-1

RUMORZ - Open at noon. Bloody Marys and Screw Drivers $1.25 from Noon to 6:00 pm. Domestic Beer $1.75 9-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. 501 Dart Tournament 4 pm, $3 entry fee. Cash prizes. Patio Bar Beer Bust 3-7 pm, B-B-Q 5-7 pm.

monday

CLUB CONGRESS - 70's Disco with Super Star Lover, $1. 9 pm to 1

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Kitchen closed. $1.25 well 8-1 + Mean Madame "Buckets". C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 p.m.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm all short well drinks $1.00. 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 - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well, also, 8 pm to midnight, 50¢ draft beer. Mellow Jazz Mondays 9 to 1

RUMORZ - Open 3:00 pm. From 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm $1.25 Well & Domestic Beer. 9:00 to closing, Domestic Beer $1.75 9-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm

tuesday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Kitchen closed. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 pm to close. 'Monster Beer Nite' 25oz can of Pointers $2.75 8 to 1. T-Squares Advanced Group 7 p.m. Country/Western dancing and Trash Disco Black Light Party begins at 8 pm.

GRADUATE - Beer Bust all day. Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well $1.00

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

IBT's - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. Also country/western night with Tom Maze. Lessons at 7 pm. Open C/W dancing 9 pm. Bud and Bud Light $1.50 8 pm to midnight.

RUMORZ - Open 3:00 pm. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. $1.75 Domestic Beer or $1.50 White Well 9 pm to closing.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm

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. or Tacos @ $1 each. 50¢ off on everything from 8 pm to close. C/W Dance lessons with Paul 7-9 pm. C/W dancing and Progressive dance music at 8

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks $1.00.

HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25, Bartender's choice 7 to close.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. Seasonal short specials 8 pm to midnight.

RUMORZ - Open 3:00 pm. From 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. From 8 to closing, 75¢ Schnapps & domestic beer $1.50.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm.

thursday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Chicken Fried Steak 5-7, $3. Men's Nite - 50¢ draft beer 9 pm to 1 am. C/W & Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 pm. Dart Tournament 8 p.m. Bar matches pm.

GRADUATE - Beer Bust all day. Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks $1.00.

HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25, Heineken or Corona $1.75 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. Electric food train $2.50 8 pm to midnight. Dance! Dance! Dance!

RUMORZ - Open 3:00 pm. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. $1.75 domestic beer, 50¢ Draft or 75¢ schnapps 9 pm to closing.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm.

friday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. (well and domestic beer). "Build Your Own" Hamburger Nite 5 to 7, $3. Domestic Bottle Beer and Well Drinks $1.75 8 pm to 1 am. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 p.m.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks $1.00.

HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Dancing 9 pm-1 am. Dance 8pm to 1am playing a mix of dance and country music.

IBT's - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. Dance Party Weekend 9 pm to 1 am.

RUMORZ - Open 3:00 pm. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 until 9:00. Hors D'Oeuvres. VJ/DJ Linda Findale 10-1.

VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens 5 pm.

saturday

CLUB 2520 - Open 11 am. B-B-Q Spare Ribs 5 to 8, $3. Country Dance Lessons with Ricky 7-9 pm. Domestic Bottle Beer and Well Drinks $1.75 8 to close. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 pm.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks $1.00. Pool Tournament 2:00 pm, $3 entry fee, pot matched.

HOURS - Open Noon. Dancing 8-1 with a mix of dance and country music.

IBT's - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour noon to 8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. Dance Party Weekend continues 9pm to 1 am.

RUMORZ - Open Noon. $1.50 Corona 8:00 pm to close. Dance with Linda Findale VJ/DJ 10-1.

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

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Bit of the Old South

by Sean Thomas

Are you ready for April 17th at the Plaza Hotel? If you are wondering what that is, well only of the biggest social events of the Gay Community in Tucson. Yes, you guessed it "the Annual Observer Benefit." The dinners may be sold out but not the general admission tickets. Look elsewhere in this weeks' Observer for more details. The entertainment, I've been told is going to be something else. Hope to see you there.

For those of you who wonder what happened to the CAT (Community Awards of Tucson) committee, next week we will provide all the facts and figures ($$). It was your community awards, so you have the right to know what happened to everything. I was the last elected moderator and I feel we need to put everyone's questions to rest.

It is quite interesting to see so may people vying for the title of Queen of Denial. Denial of one's health situation or relationship failures. The best way to deal with a problem or situation, is to face it and go through it. We all grow by this process. And it is so much of a relief to have it behind you, rather than having it follow you around and popping up at the most inopportune times. It is much healthier to focus one's energies towards forward and not held back by unresolved situations. People who say let nature take its course are only fooling themselves or copping out. Taking the time to look at a situation and assessing it, is the best way to deal with it. Who best knows what we need or want but us. Other people can not tell us what we want or need or how to solve our problems. The answers are always within us.

Others such as professionals are a great asset in helping us to resolve things, but they only assist us in realizing the answers within. Many times we should spend more time healing ourselves and less time criticizing and trying to fix others. Treat others as you fell you deserve to be treated. What you put out you'll get back. Think first is a good philosophy to live by. Let nature take its course is a cop out. Everyone has good inside of them. Just let a little out and you'll be surprised how happy you'll be as a result.

Till next week: Sean.

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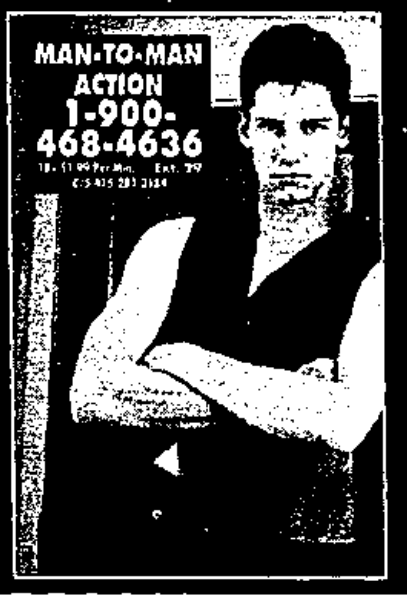

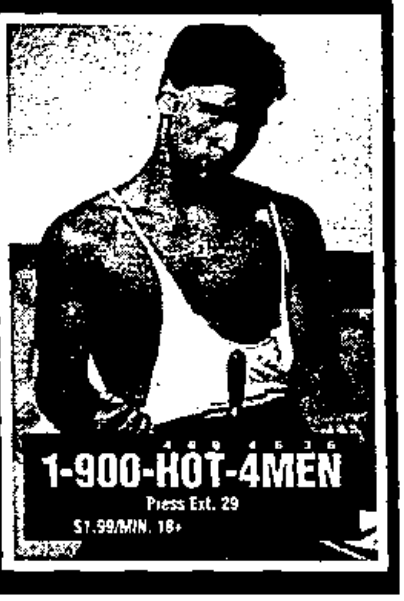

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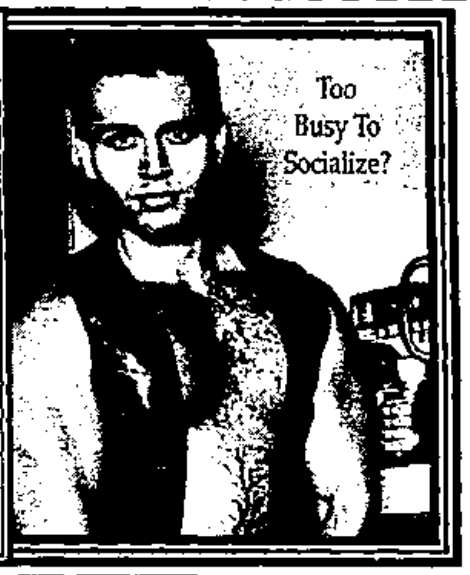

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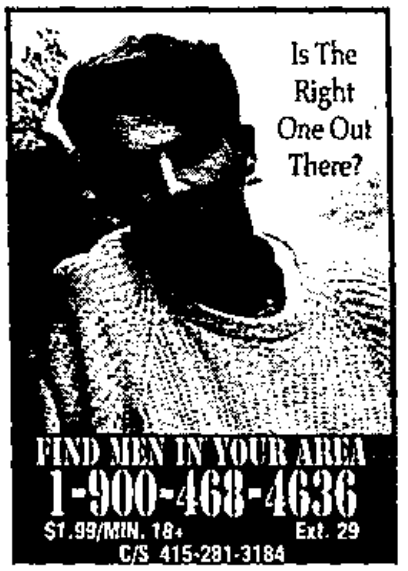

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ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

A recent personal assessment triggers vitality and endurance. Your native ability to command an audience is especially easy at this time. As you move into your newly structured life style, it suits you well and enhances your attractive appeal and sexual nature.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 20

This week allows your pace to become less hectic; Taurus always takes full advantage of these moments. You relax and get in a little more rest than usual and depend on a lot of left brain activity to keep the engines running. New ideas are spawned by this respite and those in a relationship reinforce intimate bonds.

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

You are confident with the way your career is running along, free up some time for yourself. Socialize a little bit more. This week will strengthen your confidence and perhaps give you visionary capabilities, thus enabling significant strides to occur financially and concerning your work.

CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

The spotlight is lifted off your relationships and centered on your vocation this week. Your need to feel purposeful in whatever you do is stressed and most likely will translate into your work. You are under the strong belief that you should be happy in you station in life or change it! Expect some low grade entertaining at home.

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Unlike many other signs in the Zodiac you are a planner. This is the time to consider your vacation and thoroughly research destination, value, customary ways and central or remote location. Most of your experience would come through others concerning your options. You always make sure to listen & learn from their trips, now is no exception.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

You will find your self going through a period of enlightenment. Deja vu & other situation occurrences cause you to pause and realize the magic taking place. These circumstances do not happen often so allow the doors & windows to be completely open for the cosmic forces that be. Cover yourself in white light and enjoy the bath!

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

There is a love and power that awaits you if unattached or attached. Those involved in a relationship will find you especially sensitive this week. Let appreciation for your partner shine. If single, you yearning to share your life is greater than usual. Get out there & make it happen! Show off your well balanced feelings.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 22

The workplace affords you more space to work harder and faster. You actually surprise yourself by the efficiency you are handling your duties with. Those in position of power take notice and appreciate your dedication. You seem to enjoy this burst of energy and think about how to go further.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21

You need a makeover. Something has got to give! By being so bogged down with responsibility lately, you feel you have lost contact with the world. Burst out & conquer the social scene and rejuvenate your sense of humor and vitality. Your presence has been missed and your friends clamor to let you know just that.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

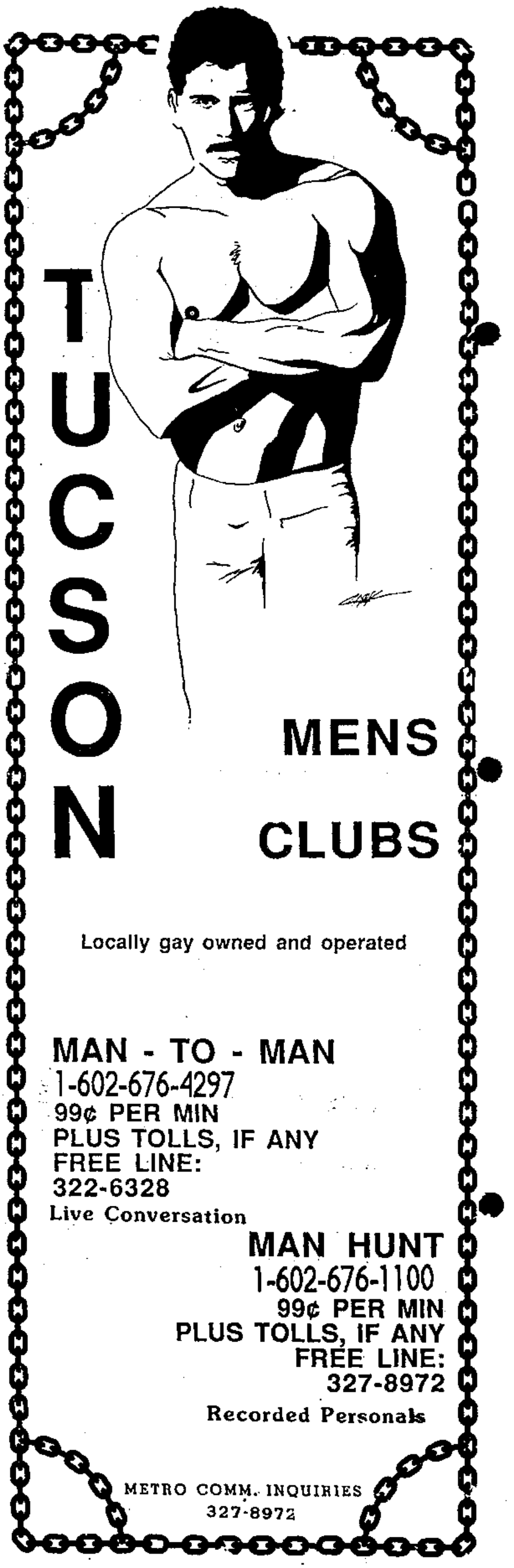
All things focus on the homefront and that is just fine with you. Your family enjoys this time as you are closer with time & love. Leisure makes being home all the more enjoyable. You are never one to lose contact with your work situation. But, this week you manage to work out of your home. You add a creative jolt to your performance and assume a new aspect of accomplishment.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

Lately you have been discouraged by routine. This week finds you very active with social situations and people who are not apart from the usual. All of the difference lies in the way things are organized and the variety implemented to spice up the same old thing. Enjoy your friends and the refreshing new approach to local events.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

Lately you have not been satisfied with you work in relation to what you are being paid. The stars have focused power your way and the midas touch, concerning all financial affairs and dealings. Take advantage of these unseen forces and work with them to a healthy profit. You are not meant to be without!



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Notices

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 326-3355

PACT - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 801 W. Congress. Office hours 8 to 5 M-F (8-7 Wed); Support Group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. 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 575-3660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

[illegible] La Paloma Apostolic Church, 225 W. Flores, Tucson. Worship Services Sundays at 11 am & 6:30 pm. Wednesday & Saturday Bible Studies 7 pm. Tuesday, women's Rap Group 7 pm. Coming out home couple counseling provided. For appointment 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 790-8722 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 293-3416. Not a dating service.

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 422 N. 4th Avenue from 3 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Randy 882-8986 or Lora 298-7990.

WOMYN'S THIRD FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE meets third Friday of each month at Unitarian Universalist Church 4831 E. 22nd Street. $2 at door (more if you can, less if not).

ARE YOU A GAY MAN 40 OR OLDER? Do you enjoy the companionship of your peers? Call 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 327-6226 (Administration).

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IN TUCSON
Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 a.m. - 5 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.

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. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 884-0476 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 422 N. 4th Ave., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Sunday (open to all). General Meetings every 4th Sunday 6:00 p.m. Parents Support Group meets every 3rd Wednesday. Information 624-1779.

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.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, write PO Box 40021, Tucson AZ 85717; call 327-8781; or come to our general meetings the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm on the Venture-N patio.

GAY AND LESBIAN OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Stop binging, purging and overeating. Get a life! Call 793-3488 / 290-1739. Come to a weekly meeting.

TUCSON ROOMMATE LOCATOR SERVICE
Men and women both welcome. 793-9077 (digital)

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, Grand Canyon Region" for information about membership or activities call Bill James 622-1808 Tucson.

LESBIAN AND GAY ALANON - Affected bd someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Info 581-8850 or Room 968-2384.

AT EASE AGAIN, A men's discussion group, meets at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave, at 7 pm every Tuesday. All Gay and Bisexual men are welcome.

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 2nd & 4th Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave. 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 25951, Tempe, AZ 85285-5951 or call (602)730-8171 for more info.

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF ALL LATTER DAY SAINTS - SOUTHWEST - Don't give up your religious beliefs and principles. Be with brothers and sisters at RLDS, LDS Mormon faith. For more information call 525-7668 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.

Notices

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, 801 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85719. 770-1314.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 798-3528 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, AZ 85710.

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: 3005 N. Central Ave., Suite 121, Box 211, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2903. "Educating Our Community Since 1985".

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.

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.

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

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

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

SQUARE DANCE WITH T-SQUARES at Club 2520. All level classes are held every Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. in the C/W room. New basic-level classes for beginners to be announced soon. For sign-up or information call 747-2875.

"QUEER BISBEE", Bisbee's Lesbian and Gay Alliance, has a general meeting every 3rd Sunday at 7 p.m. at the YWCA in Bisbee.

PRESCOTT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP now forming. Are you lonely? Scared? Confused? Need Friendship? Support? Please write to us. We will respond to all in confidentiality. We're here for you... don't be alone! For students and the community. YAO, Box 8663, 3200 North Willow Creek Road, Prescott, AZ 86301-3720.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP. If it is difficult for you to start or maintain close relationships, this group will focus on enhancing your capacity for intimacy. Call Randy Oberhoff, Ph.D. 623-3390 or Liz Garigan, M.Ed. 293-7886.

DESERT BLOOD SISTERS, an SM women's support group meets every 2nd Friday at 7 p.m. at Wingspan. For more info call 624-9568.

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ROOMMATE WANTED - Tanque Verde/Sabino Canyon Road area. $260/mo. includes utilities. Call Steve 722-1481. 454

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WHAT I SEE FROM HERE

Anne C. Schmitt

In the March 12 issue of the Tucson Citizen were several articles pertaining to the Gay community. One was about how the Feds have removed funding from Project Aries, the safer sex information phone line. Characterized by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Calif.) as "some sort of homosexual 800 number, that just talks dirty on the phone." Sad to say this was the mentality that prevailed as they voted to eliminate support of a free, anonymous telephone counseling project.

Another article in the same issue of the afternoon paper included the headline of "More violence against Gays reported" complete with a fancy graph that shows these incidents in pictorial view for those with a need to put together a high school social studies paper. "These figures represent only a fraction of the hate crimes committed against the nation's estimated 24 million Gays because most go unreported for fear of reprisal."

Then there was "Genetic basis for Lesbianism?" in the Health Sciences section as a subhead under the big title of "A better way to treat pain?" and after a bit of reading about a study of twins, both identical and fraternal, I guess that the real world out there is attempting to figure out where we came from? Not from Mars, are we the result of not drinking enough Similac as babies, is it something we learned in Kindergarten? Well, I have a few thoughts about this.

Currently I have a house guest. My best friend from first grade in Show Low, Arizona is in town. And we are busy catching up on the news and telling stories about when we were the town tomboys and played marbles every day. We have more or less kept in contact throughout our lives and a number of years back (we won't count them) we both came out of the closet. We had always been somewhat different from the other girls and gotten our share of ridicule for not being the frilly sort.

Before we moved to the White Mountains I had spent the wonderful years of Kindergarten in Willcox, Arizona. My best friend there was one of a set of fraternal twins (was she in the study they used?) and we played in mud puddles and made sling shots and wore baseball caps together. Guess who is a dyke? When I see her we laugh about having been Baby Dykes together. The pictures of us look like something from an Our Gang Comedy.

These two women are my pals from early childhood. We were in small towns in Arizona where there were none of the dreaded "un-natural influences" and only plenty of rural mentality for inspiration. Daisy Mae in Lil' Abner drove me crazy at a very young age, I wrote letters to Annette Funciello and not to Frankie Avalon. And I grew up to prefer company of women. So did the tom-boys I hung out with.

There was recently a new study released by the Fundamentalist Right Wing which stated that there just isn't as many Lesbians and Gays as we claim there to be. Well, I got some news for them, 15%? Probably a lot more when it is safe to come out of the closet. They just better get used to it.

Julie From Indiana Looking For Kristsen From Tucson

DEAR EDITOR:

I met Kristen at Ain't Nobody's Biz in Scottsdale. Due to unfortunate circumstances I was only able to have a brief conversation with Kristen. I thought I was going to get back to the bar after having to rush off; so, i didn't get her last name, nor did I find out how to get in contact with her. What I do know is that Kristen played college basketball (I do not recall where) and that she did her internship in Indianapolis, Indiana during 1988-90.

If you know Kristen, let her know I'm trying to get in contact with her. If you don't her, but if you are interested in helping me find her, contact me yourself. Call (219) 471-4003 or write to Julie Van Tilburg at 4501 Skyview Lane, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46818.

Sincerely, Julie Van Tilburg

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Viewpoint

by Frank Hartigan

Come Out!

I know that national Coming Out Day is months away, but we can't wait. By October, Frank Meliti and his Arizonans for Traditional Values may have gathered enough signatures to place an anti-Gay rights proposition on the ballot in Arizona. Aside from the political work we should all be doing to fight the backlash, the single most important thing you can do fight this oppression is to come out.

When I was sixteen, I had my first physical encounter with another male. I had known I was Gay since the age of three, but after crossing that threshold. I was out to another person. When I was nineteen, I came out to bars (conveniently 850 miles away from my hometown). At twenty one, I came out to my family. I figured I had told everyone I would ever need to tell, and was therefore out of the closet.

then came the time the general manager of the hotel where I worked saw me on TV, with my arm around my lover, in a story about MCC-Kansas City. I was suddenly out at work. I liked it so much that on my next job (in another city), I came out to my boss after four days. The next day she brought in a picture of Jesus in Gethesemane and told me, "See how he is crying for you since you are not living by the laws of God!" Then she fired me. I learned that being out can be risky, but that the freedom was worth it.

In search of that freedom, I moved to San Francisco in 1983. I was fresh off the turnip truck and learned several things in rapid succession: 1. Trust the instinct that tells you to stay away from someone. 2. Don't accept dinner from a stranger, no matter how hungry you are. 3. Not all Gay people are your friends, and 4. Buy a Muni map and Fast Pass first thing. I also learned that my psychosexual persona had some kinks I had never dreamed of. I shied away from coming to "weirdness" for years.

After five years of middle class, corporate commuter existence, I met a man who changed my life forever. He showed me that I had at least one more coming out step to make: coming out to leather. All those kinky corners of my personally were screaming for release, and Jack released them. I had bought myself a leather jacket thee years, but at last it fit. I discovered that, once again, I was not only one! Isn't that, after all what coming out means? Not only telling your truth, but finding out that you are not alone?

Since moving to Tucson more than three years ago, I keep finding "coming out" issues that keep me stepping through more and more closet. As a result, I am becoming an AIDS activist, a political activist, and an obvious, vocal, happy leather fag. I am becoming more and more myself. Almost twenty years after my first tentative step out of the closet, I find that the process never ends.

Have you ever wondered why coming out is such an issue? My answer is that it's a lot easier to pass for straight than to pass for white. This society doesn't want to see us, just as it doesn't want to see people of color, women, or Americans with disabilities. Yet people of color, women and the differently-abled cannot be hidden away any longer. Those groups do not face the dilemma of hiding and watching oppression or coming out and calling down lightning on one's head. (Okay, I know at least one or two of you have seen "Imitation of Life", but that's fiction.) Only Gay people must take a political step to be visible. If all 25 million+ of us in America turned blue overnight, the Democrats wouldn't be the only ones to see the value of our vote! If every Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual person in America stood up and said, "No More!", the oppression would end.

I urge every one of you to rent, buy, or borrow a tape of "The Times of Harvey Milk." Harvey and George Moscone were already murdered by the time I got to California, but Harvey's legacy to us is brilliantly passed along in this movie. If you watch Harvey give his speech about coming out, I guarantee you will never feel the same way about it again.

Please. For Harvey's sake, and yours, and mine, take a step out of the closet right now. You will be freer, as will we all. Please. Before it's too late.

April 16 OP Meeting To Highlight 'Unity'

TUCSON - Representatives from various local Gay and Lesbian organizations will take to the Old Pueblo Business & Professional Association's podium at OP's April 16 meeting.

Billed "Community Unity Forum," the Friday evening event will provide OP members and guests an opportunity to discover other services available to them from other groups. These groups' members can also learn more about OP's programs and goals.

The "Community Unity Forum" begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Park Tucson with no-host beverages, followed by the main program at 8:00. After brief presentations from each of the participating organizations, ample time will be given for people to informally mingle.

Admission to the meeting and parking at the hotel's 5151 East Grant Road location are free.

All Tucson Gay and Lesbian groups are encouraged to invite their members to attend the "Community Unity Forum," designating a spokesperson to make a five minute presentation about the organization's activities.

Call 795-6055 for more information.

7th Annual Golden Threads Celebration in June

PROVINCETOWN, MA. - Golden Threads, the worldwide network for Lesbian women over 50, and their younger women friends, will celebrate what they are and their age (whatever it is), in Provincetown, Massachusetts, on June 25-27, 1993. This Seventh Annual Golden Threads Celebration will be limited to 250 women. Entertainment, banquet, dancing, feminist videos, raps, sing-a-longs, etc.

For more information please write: Christine Burton, Golden Threads, P.O. Box 60475, Northampton, MA 01060-0475.