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Phoenix

Volume III Issue 2
January 23 -
February 5, 1987

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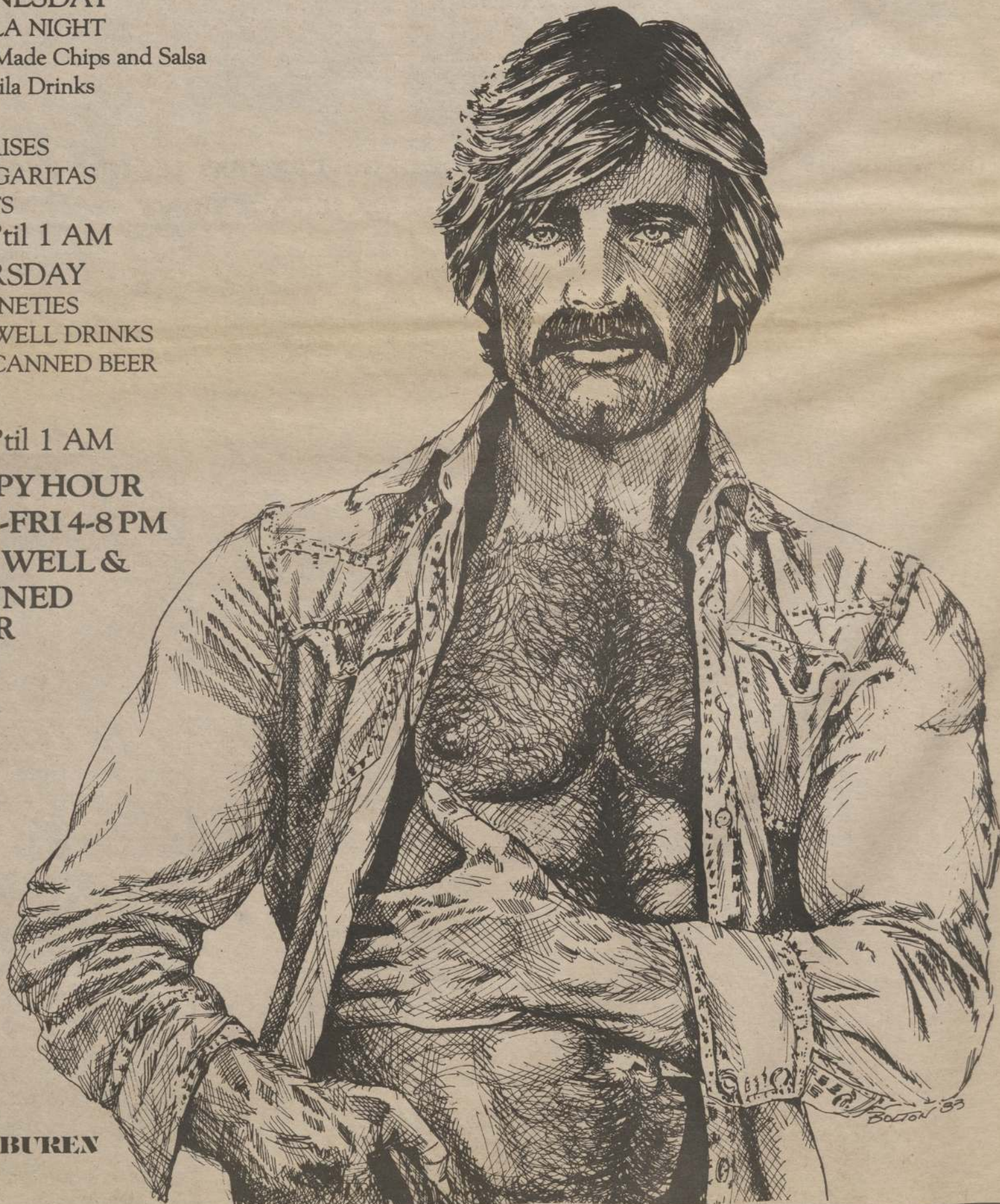
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Phoenix

Volume III

Issue 2

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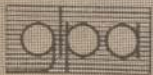
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EDITORIAL

All this "Recall Ev" stuff has me feeling a bit uncomfortable lately. Don't get me wrong — I dislike Mecham's pigheaded racist anal-retentive spoutings as much as any half-awake homosexual (or Black or Democrat, et al.) might. I've pasted a "Mecham For Ex-Governor" sticker on the bumper of my filthy old Ford. I've all but puked listening to his foot-in-mouth post-election speeches, as I'm sure many of you have. I can even forgive my father for having purchased a Mecham Pontiac back in 1973. (Who knew back then?)

That which really has me feeling a bit queasy is the fact that the guy is in office to begin with. Here come the arguments: "He only won by 13% of the vote." "He's in only because Schultz split the vote." Or my favorite: "Mecham won because people were hesitant to vote for a woman." (*Democrats? Does this mean there's no Easter Bunny?*) The point is that Ev's in and Warner ain't. The point that we're all overlooking in our tirades against the poor slob is that somebody put him there. A lot of somebodies, to be exact.

So what does this mean? Nothing. Nothing *new*, anyway. What's true is that people don't make it into Governorland on split tickets alone. A margin is a margin is a margin, but we're overlooking the fact that not only did a number of people who agree with what Mecham stands for vote him in, but that he is indeed representative of those people. In overlooking this fact,

we're overlooking a simple truth: by bucking Mecham, we're essentially reiterating our dislike of bigotry and discrimination (read: Gay discrimination).

Racists, assholes and queerbashers are like old whores — they've always been around. They're a way of life for those of us who've ever been disliked for our race, color, gender, or sexual preference. Now, in Evan Mecham, we have an all-talking, all-singing, all-dancing representative of our worst nightmares. The neighborhood bully in a JC Penney three-piece suit.

What's the difference between the discrimination that we've dealt with all along and Mecham's apparent desire to proclaim these discriminations a way of life? Ev's in office, that's what. But really, how much can he get away with? "Lock up all of the homosexuals, and only let the Blacks who live in *good neighborhoods* stay." Come on.

No, I suspect that while Ev will continue to amaze and disgust us with his pinheaded banalities, he won't be moving any racist mountains. He'll cut funding unnecessarily, and he'll pull some more holidays... but otherwise he'll only serve as a reminder that those of us considered minorities aren't welcome or worthwhile. And we've been hearing that crap forever, anyway.

Me? I voted for Cal Worthington.

NGLTF TARGETS GOVERNMENT TESTING PROGRAMS; ISSUES EDUCATIONAL FACT SHEET

Late last year, the U.S. State Department announced a new policy implementing mandatory HIV antibody testing for all foreign service employees and their dependents. Less than a month later, the U.S. Job Corps announced plans to test all employees and applicants in Job Corps programs. The proposals drew fire from a broad spectrum of civil liberties and gay organizations. "The justifications offered by the federal government for introducing mandatory testing programs were implausible at best," observed Jeffrey Levi, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "We viewed these programs as the federal government's attempt to literally test the waters of mass mandatory testing for all federal employees, and perhaps for all Americans."

NGLTF responded immediately by contacting the Congressional committees with oversight over these departments to obtain hearings on the utility and necessity of the new regulations. To date, no Congressional leader has undertaken a challenge to these policies. The Task Force also contacted federal employee unions such as the American Foreign Service Association and the American Federation of Government Employees. Although the AFSA does not plan to protest the new policy, AFGE is participating as plaintiff in a lawsuit being prepared by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"We believe that the decision to take the antibody test should be an individual one and not one that is coerced by the government," noted Levi. "Given the tremendous psychological, legal, social, and economic impact a positive test result can have on an individual's life, the government has no business interposing itself into this difficult decision."

To focus the debate further, the Task Force has prepared and distributes several fact sheets on antibody testing, including the enclosed document "Questions & Answers on HIV Testing and Government Employment and Programs". Other NGLTF fact sheets include "Questions and Answers About the HIV Antibody Test", and a "Summary of Positions" on the relative efficacy of prevention programs, testing, and contact tracing.

"NGLTF will continue its fight against repressive

measures to deal with the AIDS crisis" Levi said. "We are convinced that such measures do not work. Leading public health authorities such as the Public Health Service and the Surgeon General agree that coercive tools are not the way to proceed. We may not win every battle, but we must be relentless in fighting them."

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HUMANSPEACE BOOK

Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present. Lillian Faderman, author. New York: William Morrow & Co. 1981. 415 pages, photos, notes, index. \$10.95 paperbound.

The information and philosophy in *Surpassing the Love of Men* is an essential and major component of feminism. From the back cover blurb: "She shows... how... feminist values have always played a role in women's passions for each other and in men's reactions to them, from ridicule to admiration to revulsion... *Surpassing the Love of Men* is a quietly revolutionary book that brings together forgotten and ignored strands of history in an unexpected new synthesis."

The key word up there was "quiet". Faderman began researching a paper about Emily Dickinson, and ended up doing her thesis on romantic friendships between women; she's now a full professor of English. Her work is copiously documented, with the notes at the end so they don't interfere with reading pleasure, and they're fascinating reading themselves, as is the introduction. Professional level academic work for public consumption occasionally hits the jackpot — interesting, relevant and accurate, and this one does it, along with *American Couples* and *The Male Couple*.

Faderman began wondering what was going on between Emily Dickinson and Sue Gilbert — if the relationship was lesbian, as Faderman understood "lesbian", why was there no indication of secretiveness, anxiety, guilt? Her further research turned up an elegantly simple explanation: romantic friendship and love between women doesn't necessarily include sexual expression, and it's the sex that gives people connotations.

Or maybe it's the label "lesbian" that's been creating some of the fuss. Faderman inundates us with evidence that romantic friendship and love between women has always been around, and frequently as open and unremarkable as any other relationship; she reminds us of the term "Boston marriage". Faderman leads us persuasively to her implication that the popular association of "lesbian" with sexual expression isn't doing any of us any good, but instead confuses the universality of love by dividing people into categories. As a non-lesbian reader, I found this intuitively right.

If you're a feminist reader, male or female, gay or not, you know that you'll find this book enjoyable, rewarding and affirming. It's simply fun to read. And this is the book to give to people who are partway along the path to acceptance of alternative ways, and need to know what they are.

Sudden Death. Rita Mae Brown, author. New York: Bantam, 1983. 241 pages. \$3.95 paperbound.

The phrase "roman a clef" (literally: keyed novel) has no English equivalent; the closest is "expose", which is also French. A few centuries back, these novels were even more common in French literature than they are here and now. (My college major was French literature.) These novels describe the unpublicized or scandalous activities of well-known people as barely fictionalized major characters. The writing quality varies wildly, but people usually read these books for the gossip and sex anyway.

Brown had a huge and devoted following before she wrote *Sudden Death*; it made the New York Times bestseller list for reasons beyond its titillating implications. I consider Brown a master writer —

her writing shows not only her control of her medium, but also her pleasure in using it. Her characters play with words, and I laugh out loud at some of the tricks she coaxes out of simple English.

The phrase "sudden death" is associated with tennis. The tennis players in *Sudden Death* are some of the women who work the professional circuit. Brown focuses our attention on Carmen, a champion at her peak, and the people who affect her most. Carmen's lover is Harriet, a vulnerable and supportive professor and effectively a kept woman. Susan is Carmen's first lover and current professional rival; Susan's the one who spills the beans about Carmen and Harriet. Miguel is Carmen's brother, coach and financial manager, who attempts to rearrange her commitments for his own purposes.

I learned a little more than I wanted to know about professional tennis. Concessions to advertisers and financial supporters, technicalities of court surfaces and playing strategies, and other unpublicized considerations are necessary to the players and the story itself, and may be more inherently interesting to you than to me. The personal motivations and interactions, the character development of fictions who became real in their own rights, and the pleasure of good writing kept me turning the pages.

If you like tennis, or tennis players, keep in mind that *Martina* will be available in paperback by the time you read this. If you like Brown, you'll want to pick up a copy of *High Hearts*, currently available in hardback.

Spring Forward/Fall Back. Sheila Ortiz Taylor, author. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1985. 257 pages. \$7.95 paperbound.

Taylor's other novel, *Faultline*, was fairly well received for its competent writing and offbeat, humorously treated subject matter — in a nutshell, it's about rabbits. It was very heavily promoted by Naiad Press; Naiad's owner intends to get books about lesbians into mainstream consciousness.

Spring Forward/Fall Back is another moderately successful investment in pleasing everyone... okay, would you believe giving everyone some point of identification? Okay. Would you believe throwing in enough diversity that everyone will recognize something? This one wanders off in several directions at once and keeps us busy trying to remember the landmarks.

Think of something of current interest to you or someone you know, and you'll find it in *Spring Forward/Fall Back*. Convolved relationships among past, present and future lovers. Teenage coming-out. Fascination with strong, famous women. Running a mixed gay bar. Death from cancer. Age difference between lovers. Friendship between gay women and nongay men. How to leave your husband and buy a house. Goddesses. Stereotypes perpetuated and overturned. Etc. This is lots of fun, entertaining and absorbing, and you won't remember anything about it when you're finished.

We meet Elizabeth when she's seventeen, finishing high school and falling in love with her English teacher, about to spend her last summer on Catalina Island before going on to make her place in the real world. At the same time, Marci is twenty-nine, and leaving her husband and buying a house on the California mainland. Ten years later, Elizabeth and Marci meet, and may or may not live happily ever after.

REVIEW

Meg Umans

Meanwhile, all kinds of interesting things are happening with them and all the other characters. They move in and out of each other's houses and love and lives, they give birth, they die, they have boring or cataclysmic interludes with their families, they attribute various events to various causes.

Spring Forward/Fall Back is divided into three "books" — major sections — and Taylor coordinates this three-ring circus competently. She provides diversions for whenever the main action may get boring for her readers, and even when it's not boring, there's something to distract us, and we come back to find that we've missed something that may have been important. That's what this book feels like — we never know what was supposed to be important. So we stop wondering what to keep track of, and we relax and enjoy the literary overstimulation. And when we're finished, we realize that we've forgotten our own distracting concerns and we're ready to get back to the important stuff.

Meg is a counselor in private practice in Phoenix, and owner of Humanspace Books, Inc. These books are available from the publishers, and can be ordered through Humanspace.

ARIZONA STOP AIDS PROJECT BENEFIT ART SALE TO BE HELD AT NEW CAMEL CLUB

Tired of the everyday bar fare? For those of us looking for more than a cold beer in a serene atmosphere, The New Camel Club has tapped a new resource for the Phoenix Community.

On January 24 and 25, Saturday and Sunday, The New Camel Club (in association with Phoenix Wall Designs) will present a brunchtime art sale between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to benefit the Arizona Stop AIDS Project.

According to Michael Stedman, art consultant and owner of the eight-month-old enterprise, Phoenix Wall Designs has within its inventory original oil paintings of over 2000 artists worldwide.

"There are 3 distinct lines of oil paintings that will be featured in the show at the New Camel," says Michael. "The regular line, priced \$50-\$105, the crest line whose artists are better known, priced \$60-\$145; and the collectible line, individually priced between \$145-\$950."

According to Michael, the collectible line is generally the most sought after by the investor, as these oil paintings come from estate sales and other private sources. This line contains the works of Bogard, Edward Horan, Hargrove, Carson, Garcia and the like.

"In order to sell paintings at wholesale prices, all of our oils are sold either in shows such as the one at the New Camel Club or in private home presentations," explains Michael. "Each painting is sold unstretched and is priced to include your choice of frame."

The New Camel showing will be set up gallery style for better viewing. A cross-section of art styles being presented will include Southwestern, abstracts, pointilism, contemporary and

character studies.

"There are as many styles as there are individual buyers' tastes, and Phoenix Wall Designs has attempted to set up operation in order to serve the greatest number of first-time and seasoned buyers' interests," Stedman explained.

All paintings are registered in the buyer/owner's name at the time of purchase (in part, for insurance reasons; also due to the fact that the purchaser of any piece of art is actually making a long-term investment).

For those of us who have trouble parting with a dollar for the right reasons, consider this: the average lifespan of an oil painting is at least 150 years; if you need further incentive, what better cause could you invest in than that of eradicating AIDS?

For further information, call Phoenix Wall Designs at 973-5078 or The New Camel Club at 841-6693.

— Nancy Rosenquist

ASAP ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS

Keeping with its commitment to broad-based community education, the Arizona Stop AIDS Project will present its first in a series of educational town meetings, scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 North 14th Street, Phoenix. The event will feature a free film and panel of experts to answer risk reduction and myth dispelling questions concerning AIDS. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

In a second event, ASAP will honor Brent Nicholson Earle, as he passes through Arizona on his 10,000 mile run for the end of AIDS.

A cocktail party hosted in Mr. Earle's honor will be held Friday, January 30, 7:30-10:00 p.m. at the ASAP office, 736 East Flynn Lane. Proceeds from this event will benefit ASAP at a cost of \$10.00 per person.

For further information on either, contact Maxine, ASAP Volunteer Coordinator at 277-1929.

"THE SCRIPTURES AND GAY SEX" TOM HORNER TO SPEAK AT HUMANSPACE

Reverend Dr. Tom Horner, a non-parochial Episcopal priest and Biblical scholar, is best known for his book, *Jonathan Loved David: Homosexuality in Biblical Times*. In it, Horner examines every Biblical reference to homosexuality, the stories of love between men and between women, and Jesus' public pro-

nouncements on the subject (none).

Horner will tell us about his research, and sign copies of his book for purchase, on Sunday, January 25, at 3 p.m. Humanspace Books is located at 1617 N. 32nd St. #5. As always, the event is free and everyone is welcome. Call 220-4419 for more information.

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LOVE MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY

In 1977 the quickly slapped-together rock group, The Sex Pistols, was riding the crest of media hype surrounding the "punk" movement. The adolescent British underclass embraced their anti-establishment philosophies as a means to make blunt statements of social protest.

As with every musical group, there are groupies. Nancy Spungen came to London from Pennsylvania. Her high-strung determination attracted the alienated Sid Vicious and rekindled his sexual appetite, as well as his drug usage; Nancy was a heroin addict.

Often one may not care for the content of a movie. With subject matter so unpleasant and people so disagreeable, it would be easy to dismiss this film — if it weren't so well made.

Sid and Nancy is a stunning experience. I was alternately impressed and revolted. The acting is superb — at one point I forgot I was watching *performances*. The cinematography and art direction are first rate. Scene after scene, one is drawn inexorably into a world of drugs, violence and misdirected affections.

Sid and Nancy is a love story. The film's original title was to have been *Love Kills*. It would be easy to blame the couple's demise on Nancy, were it not obvious from the beginning that Sid was ripe for her particular kind of exploitation. Believe it or not, the story has a good mix of irony and humor, although the situations are hardly glamourized.

At the beginning of the movie a charac-

ter entreats passers-by on the street to enter his nightclub by saying, "Come see the slimy underbelly of London. Is it fucking worth it?"

Yes, it is.



One-time Sex Pistol bass player Sid Vicious (Gary Oldman) re-records his version of "My Way" in *Sid and Nancy*, a Samuel Goldwyn Company Presentation.

(*Sid and Nancy*; a Samuel Goldwyn Co. presentation, a Zenith production in association with Initial Pictures. Directed by Alex Cox. Screenplay by Alex Cox and Abbe Wool. Starring Gary Oldman and Chloe Webb. Now playing at the Los Arcos Cinema.)

ALL ABOARD!

It is always strange — and often difficult — to view a story in different incarnations. Having read *The Shining*, I was devastated (read: disappointed) by Kubrick's interpretation on the screen (although the casting was curiously correct). And, after being entertained by the movie version of *Boys in the Band*, it was a troubling experience to witness the local Janus group spread the dramatics out on the stage. (An odd contradiction, since most plays are automatically 'opened-up' for the movie treatment.) When I went to see the Janus Theatre Company presentation of *Bus Stop* the other evening, I was worried by the thought that I had already seen the motion picture. I need not have been concerned.

A bus pulls up to Gracie's Cafe on a stormy winter day. Grace and her employee, Elma, are ready for their customers. The first to enter is a distraught blonde, Cherie. She is followed by an aging ex-professor, Dr. Lyman. Carl the bus driver and Will, the local sheriff, are next.

Finally, Virgil and Bo make their entrance. Bo, the younger of the two cowboys, has kidnapped Cherie with the intention of marrying her and taking her to his ranch in Montana. His victim is not



amused. The sheriff plays referee. Grace feigns a headache and rushes off to her upstairs apartment. Carl excuses himself and joins her. Dr. Lyman makes passes as naive Elma. Bo and Cherie spar. Virgil plays it cool.

Bus Stop is a story about relationships. People doing whatever it takes to involve themselves with others — in this instance hetero coupling — and the personal sacrifices or compromises that are made.

Grace had a husband, doesn't know or care what has become of him, but continues seeking personal satisfaction in her encounters with bus drivers. Elma is young, smart and optimistic. She is easy prey for the lascivious advances of disillusioned Dr. Lyman. He has married three times and now spends his days traveling, drinking too much and hanging around schoolyards. Will doesn't have a relationship. His commitment is his job. Cherie has been around, if you know what I mean, and fancies herself a successful nightclub singer. After so many one night stands, she can't imagine anything more enduring. Bo is loud, aggressive and too

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single-mindedly obnoxious to be believed. His behavior is a cover for his insecurities. He was a virgin before he met Cherie. Now he can't imagine life without her. Virgil is the only loner. He has resisted the changes required to develop a relationship. Some folk never Fall In Love.

I wish it could be said that all the performances were grand. For the most part they were just fine. What distracted the most — I wanted desperately to overlook it but the companion kept elbowing me — was the costuming of Bo. The actor was visually appropriate for the part. His outfit was not. This dude was decked out in tight faded jeans and a plaid shirt (so far, so good). Top this off with brown belt and boots, a black hat (?) and a pink hanky around the neck (!). If that weren't enough, the poor guy sports a wig and matching moustache. (If they're real, my apologies.)

Back to why I was ultimately (about halfway into the evening, to be precise) unconcerned about having seen the film before seeing the play: I don't remember the movie at all. The only scene that easily comes to mind is the one where M.M. sings "That Old Black Magic" and changes her spotlight by stamping her foot on a floor control. That's it. Wanna know why? *Because it's a boring story!*

The Janus Theatre Company has undertaken more challenging projects

than this and have done quite nicely. Here's to the future!

(*Bus Stop*, a Fifties comedy(?) written by William Inge. Starring Cindy Wynn as Cherie — *Speak up girl!* — Jim Cody Williams as Bo — *Lower the volume Dude!* — Delia M. Booth as Elma — *Loved her, reminded me of Vera* — Dolores West as Grace — *Very adequate performance* — Jack Lombard as Virgil — *Another good performance* — Alan McClintock as Will — *Good guys get no respect* — Norm Brim as Carl — *He had the easiest job of all* — and Louis Wefers as Dr. Lyman — *A pretty decent lush*. Presented by the Janus Theatre Company in their wonderful new location at Metro Tech, 1900 W. Thomas Rd. Performances continue January 23rd and 24th, the 29th, 30th and 31st. Remember that mine is just another opinion. Live theatre is a treat. Check it out!!)

THE SMALL SCREEN

Next week the afternoon television show *Hour Magazine* features a wide variety of topics: Marriage after fifty, Generic drug dangers, Vitamins and illness and an appearance by actress Dorothy McGuire. The following week the show visits Lauren Bacall, covers teen pregnancies and looks at "Songs We'll Never Forget."

ACCOUNTING PLUS TO DONATE SERVICES TO AIDS PATIENTS

(Phoenix) Local accounting firm Accounting Plus has made an announcement that it will donate its services to the benefit of persons with AIDS and ARC.

Owner Joe Marino, with twenty years of experience in accounting, feels that this is his best possible contribution to these clients. "I wanted to contribute my services to assist individuals with AIDS or

ARC in the greater Phoenix area," says Marino. "The average tax preparation charge last year for Federal and State came to \$110.00. I'm sure that someone with AIDS or ARC is not in a position to pay this expense when they have day-to-day survival to contend with."

Marino can be reached at Accounting Plus. (602) 978-6337.

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PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CALLS FOR AIDS FUNDING INCREASES; TASK FORCE TERMS FUNDING LEVELS "STILL INADEQUATE"

President Reagan's fiscal year 1988 budget, released this week, calls for a \$118 million increase in AIDS funding over Fiscal 1987. AIDS was one of the few non-defense programs slated for increase by the Reagan Administration. Under the proposed budget, AIDS research and prevention would be increased from \$436 million in the current fiscal year to \$534 million next year.

"In the current budget climate, the fact that the Administration requested an increase reflects a recognition — belated and inadequate as it may be — of the magnitude of the AIDS crisis," commented Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "However," Levi continued, "this request still falls dramatically short of the funds needed, particularly in the area of prevention."

The Task Force will lobby for funding levels near \$700 million for AIDS research and prevention in the next fiscal year. Such a level, Levi explained, "would allow us to move in even increments to the \$2 billion a year figure that the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine report recommended recently."

NGLTF finds the most serious deficiency in the budget request to be in the area of prevention education. The Centers for Disease Control, the agency spearheading the prevention programs, is given only a \$23 million increase in a budget, which covers prevention, surveillance and epidemiology.

"Absent a vaccine, education is our only prevention tool," Levi said. "Few would argue that we now have an adequate prevention program. Even if all \$23 million of the increase for CDC went to education, we would be nowhere near what is needed for an effective campaign. The British are spending \$30 million on a mass media campaign alone in a country

a fraction the size of the United States and with a much smaller AIDS problem. To gear up toward a significant prevention program in this country, the CDC should be given at least another \$100 million."

As in previous years, the AIDS budget is limited to research and prevention. It does not address the important issues of health care costs and impact aid for communities that have been hardest hit by AIDS. "The federal government can hide from these issues for just so long," Levi said. "The more they delay, the more costly the solution will be, and the more lives will be lost."

The Task Force will lobby Congress to provide significantly increased sums for AIDS programs, in cooperation with other gay/lesbian, AIDS, and other interested organizations. Later in January, NGLTF will issue a Counterbudget, detailing all the areas of the federal budget where gay/lesbian concerns ought to be addressed but have not been in the Reagan Administration's budget.

AIDS Funding: 1987 and 1988
(in millions of dollars)

Agency	FY 1987	FY 1988
Health Resources & Services Admin.	1.9	6.6
Centers for Disease Control	89.007	112.5
Nat'l Inst. of Health	247.943	343.5
Alcohol, Drug Abuse & Mental Health Administration	47.553	54.5
Office of Asst. Secy. for Health	—	0.8
Gen'l Dept. Mgt.	16.0	—
Food & Drug Admin.	14.3	15.7
TOTAL	416.703	533.6

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LETTERS FROM THE FARM

SHINE A LIGHT ON THEE

I don't lose things. Really. I may misplace them for extended periods of time — like weeks or months — but I don't lose them. I'll walk around the house muttering, "I don't believe this. I don't fuckin' believe this! It was here a minute ago." It could be car keys, the shopping list, the overdue library books or the column I was editing just before the phone rang and is now nowhere in the house. Today I lost a window fan, the top of the gift box for a Christmas present, the Readers Digest, and a bunch of other stuff. It's not that I'm forgetful ... well, maybe I am a little but I'm also ... uh, not neat. As Dear Old Mom used to say, "There's a place for everything and everything in its place." Hated when she said that. Been rebelling ever since.

I don't really want all that clutter on my desk or the kitchen counter — it just sort of "grows". One day it's clear and everything is organized and then somehow it gets away from me and the next thing I know chaos reigns. Life is like that. Just when we think we've got things under control first one thing happens, then another and another and before you know it we're up to our asses in alligators. Last week a guy came to visit who was feeling pretty low — like he could kiss the underside of a clam. In addition to a mess of family problems and no job, the night before he got here his car was broken into and everything he had was ripped off. He arrived with a shaving kit, some dirty laundry and \$35.00. He was so down his chin was banging his knees. Sitting at

the kitchen table, while the exhaust fan sucked every ounce of heat from the room along with his cigarette smoke, he chattered, I could've handled any one or even two of those things alone — but all at once — it's just too much. I don't think I can make it." True, this was a lot of shit to get hit with at one time but I knew this guy — he'd been here before and he had the balls to make major changes in his life at 37, a very traumatic age as anyone who's been there can tell you, so I knew he'd make it through this ... if he could just focus his energies on one thing at a time.

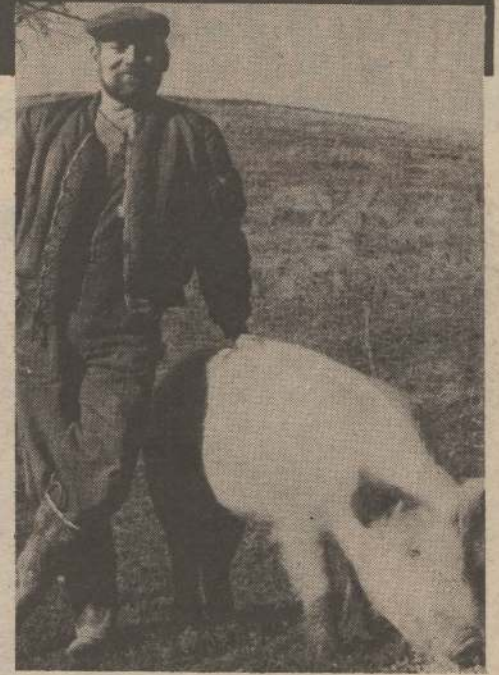
That reminded me of something that happened to me years ago while living in New York. I had a pet boa constrictor who was about four feet long and lived in a tank in my office. One day it got out and much as I searched I was unable to find that sucker. Panic set in when I realized he might have crawled into the hole where the heat pipes entered the apartment and who knew where he could come out. I called my attorney brother-in-law who had a wonderful time enlightening me about my liabilities, the consequences, the lawsuits. I used to think he was a horse's ass — now he was horse-shit! I went nuts and tore the apartment apart. I looked in places a fart couldn't penetrate but no snake. Hours later, exhausted, defeated and anticipating the worst I collapsed at my desk and waited for the super, who hated me, to call to ask if I was missing anything because, "A very pregnant Mrs. Shultz just found a big snake under her electric blanket — and is now on the way to the hospital — in shock!"

Accepting my fate I began planning my

prison wardrobe when I got this funny idea. "What if his eyes glow in the dark the way my dog's do?" Hey, it was worth a shot. I turned out all the lights and searched with a flashlight. Sure enough — he glowed! There he was wedged between the tops of some books and the shelf above — not six feet from the tank. I'd looked right at him but for all the confusion and clutter that exists in my office my eyes couldn't focus on him. Once narrowed, my field of vision saw only what was in the beam of light and everything stood out distinctly. My problem was solved — the snake was back in his tank and I was spared. Ever since then I use a flashlight to search out missing items.

Are you ready for the moral to this little tale? Here goes: It's easy to become overwhelmed with events and circumstances ... so overwhelmed that any attempt at rational thinking — much less action — stands as much chance of success as a Preppie in a leather bar.

When things start to mount up and you feel yourself going under, get thee to a dark room with a flashlight and see how clearly everything stands out. Look at details, in the paintings, fabrics, stuff on your desk or your dirty socks on the floor. By the light of the flash pick up your socks, put away the dishes, rearrange a few things and while in that frame of mind examine your problems — one at a time. Write them down on separate pieces of paper. Focus on each one as an individual entity as if you were seeing it in a beam of light. Then pick one and push the others away ... for now. It doesn't have to be the biggest or the most important —



Lee Lawrence

just pick one. Actually, it's a good idea to start on the little ones first — to get the feel of it and then work your way up to the big stuff. Solutions are almost always close at hand — you just can't see them for all the clutter. In time you'll find you

continued on page 12

Lee appreciates feedback from our readers: contact him at Lee Valley Farm, Rt. 9 Box 223, Rogersville, Tn. 37857.

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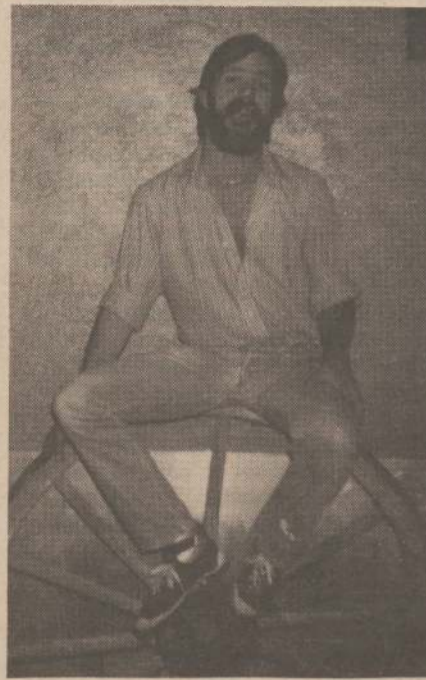


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VALLEY CRUISIN'



Grand Opening: New Camel Club



Bartender of the Month: Johnny at Trax.



5:01 ARTIST HOLDS SHOW AT PREMIERE

(Phoenix) Carol Dahl, whose *The 5:01* has "become my trademark — I call galleries and tell them I'm the one who did 5:01, and then they know who I am," recently made a Phoenix appearance at Premiere Art Gallery.

5:01, which depicts rush hour in New York City, has appeared in numerous movies and television shows, and is Dahl's most famous piece to date. "(The painting) really pokes fun at what some people consider very serious. Rush hour traffic isn't very funny when you're caught in it," says Dahl. This tongue-in-cheek attitude is prevalent in Dahl's work, and reflects her attitude toward her life. "Life is so serious! My paintings suggest a grey area that people don't usually allow themselves. Fun."

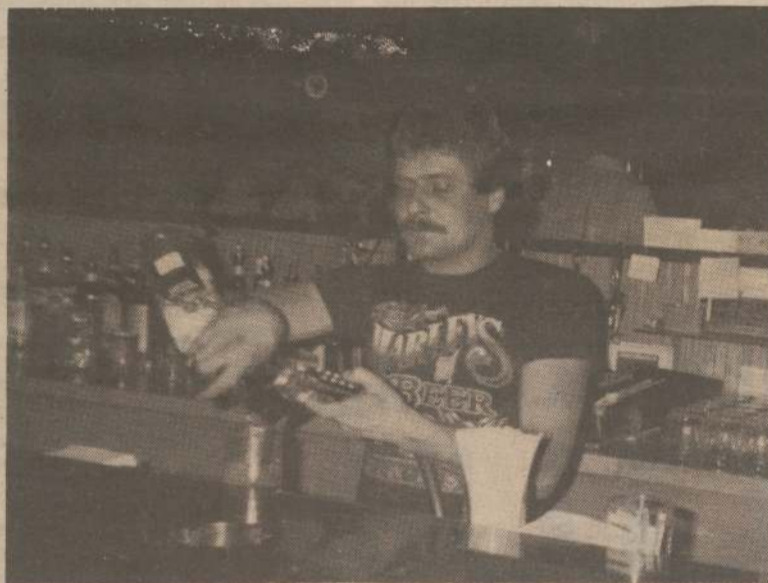
Dahl is a New Yorker who says that she eventually would like to make her home in Phoenix. Reprints of her acrylic paintings are available at Premiere Frame and Picture Gallery, 2210 N. 7th Street.

NOCTURNE II A SUCCESS

Another in a series of fundraisers to benefit the Lesbian and Gay Community Switchboard, *Nocturne II* tossed off the usual all-night dance party, raising \$1,703.00 before the sun came up. Trax hosted the party, which featured guest DJ Stewart Barkal from LA's *The Probe* and a late-night breakfast (one denizen marvelled: "These drugs are better than I remember them! I smell bacon cooking!")



Linda's other half Graces the dance floor at *Nocturne II*.



Donny at C.C.'s.



Old Mother Nature has certainly shown us Her cold shoulder of late! The icicles outside the kitchen window and the extra blanket on the bed were both firsts for this longtime resident of the Valley of the Sun!

Luckily, action around town this past weekend had people and events moving fast enough, so that no one had time to think of the cold, excepting perhaps **Keith Morris** (aka Cissy Goldberg) in that announcer's booth high atop the rodeo arena! He claims frostbite was close before the heater was installed!

Speaking of the Rodeo — that is, the Second Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo put



on by the **Arizona Gay Rodeo Association** — AGRA once again brought hundreds of out-of-towners into Phoenix for one of the nicest events of the year.

Charlie's was the home base for many of the rodeo adventurers, but they spread out across the city to experience nearly every style of nightlife offered. Of those we talked with, all were pleased and commented on the hospitality and warmth shown by Phoenicians! So, hats off to everyone for showing that Phoenix knows how to do something right — especially to the **AGRA** and all their support groups for a well-organized and well-run event!

written and photographed by
Charlie Lash and Gary Mangum



Speaking of **Charlie's** and the AGRA, there's a big "congrats" party tonight up at that "country waterin' hole" on Camelback for the AGRA... and for those of you always wishing you knew how, but were afraid to try... new beginning Clogging Classes instructed by Marque Bobier begin on Friday, February 6th at seven o'clock. Bring your own boots — Happy Trails!

Another big weekend event was the grand opening of the **New Camel Club** on the westside! Lots of partying out there for four straight (?) evenings — and lots of entertainment. Congrats to **Phil Mabel** and all the crew — it was fabulous! Coming up tonight and tomorrow night will be shows featuring the recently returned Phoenician c&w song stylist **Gaylia Young** and Madame Letharge herself. **Bonnie Bitch**. The Bitch will present her usual brand of comedy, magic, and illusion; showtimes are 9:30 p.m. sharp...

Look for the return of a popular evening event as the Camel welcomes the return of those fabulous Wet Jocket Shorts/Wet T-Shirt contests every Thursday with two first-place prizes of \$50. Contests are at 9:30 p.m. as well... January 25, **Arizona Stop AIDS Project** will have an art show and sale from two o'clock until 6:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to help these wonderful people in their work with local AIDS patients.

Farrah's has totally changed its format, and from most obvious appearances is no longer the "showbar of the Southwest." Owners **Ron and Lon** and manager Rick Riggs are doing their very best to bring the westside the best dance bar in Phoenix! With the talented Mr. George Hill spinning the vinyl, there should be no problems! So remember, the shows every night of the week are gone, other than the Male Revue night on Fridays and an occasional special event! The main concentration is on "dance party" and the Farrah's crew will serve you up a good slice of both!

Where to go for Super Bowl Sunday? Check with **Wink's** for a fun crowd with which to rub elbows... and lunch on the house!

Shamoo's is gone! Well, sort of... the club is now known as the **Network** — look for the same quality shows on Friday and Saturday evenings, those gorgeous men on Sunday afternoons, and the return of Wednesday evening talent search — plus a brand new dance floor! Perhaps we will see the birth of a new crazed place to boogie. Grand Opening for this newly named Phoenix Landmark will be Valentine's Weekend; February 12th through the 15th.

A weekend-long party is on tap next week at **Trax** as they celebrate the Chinese New Year starting Thursday, January 30, and on through Sunday, February 1. This weekend includes the first monthly New Moon Party on Thursday (if it's anything like full moon's eves, watch out!); "New Year's Day" on Friday (with 85¢ beer and well); Saturday an "Oriental Buffet" will be served at four p.m. and eleven hours of continuous dance music will take partiers right through afterhours! Sunday the music starts at 4:00 p.m. with Greg Mayes spinning until closing and a late night oriental buffet at 10:00 p.m. A second chance at starting off the year right!

Down the street at that party palace, **The Dimestore**, everyone is preparing for its least-asked-for event — the **Big Diana Show** on Saturday, January 31. Yes, back from Denver for this one-night event will be Big Diana herself. She will be joined by the fabulous Dinettes (at least, she told us they were fabulous) in this nine p.m. revue which will rock McDowell with God knows what!

Seems that there has been a change of owners out at that Scottsdale trend-setting bistro **JR's**! Before next issue, all the dirt on what's happening out east!

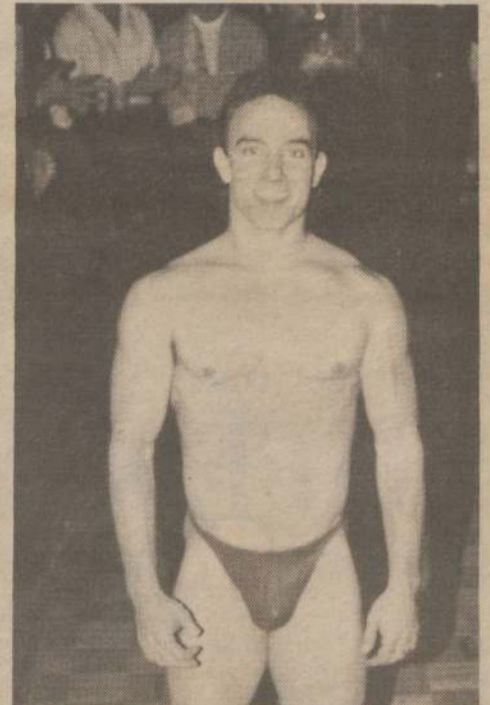
NOTES JUST LAYING AROUND DEPARTMENT: Question: which Drag persona recently has been ordering rounds of drinks in more than one watering hole without the proper monies to pay for the libations? Answer: stay tuned... Saw **Cissy Goldberg** recently, and apologized for the Typo That Ate Phoenix personally, but now in print we say "sorry" as well... typographical errors happen so infrequently because we are so perfect. ha! ha! Speaking of Cissy, seems she's sporting a new watch — or at least has one coming to her — eh, **Moosala**?... What's this about **Lady Cassandra** at Charlie's in a hassle with an Oklahoma Drag who reportedly burned her wig in the parking lot? More to follow... Speaking of Moosala, seems she has decided to hang up the silks and satins for awhile as she's tired of performing — I could say something nasty, but I'll refrain — and needs the rest (again I could speak!). Hope your hiatus is pleasant and you return with an entirely new act filled with freshness and flash... And speaking of flash! **Pussy Le Hoot** has announced that she also is retiring from the stage to revamp her act and wardrobe and will not appear until her annual pilgrimage to the Western Express Reader's Choice Awards in March. Just in time for the Spring thaw!... Bobby Bridges of **307** informs us that he dyes "everything" every other week just to keep that "young" appearance...



Seems **Tony Bartoli** (formerly of **Shamoo's**, now at JR's) has taken to tending bar with his zipper down for hours. Is that bait for tips or tricks? Not to worry, what can't get up, can't get out!... Downtown's least kept secret, **Donny Nelson** of C.C.'s, thought of moving uptown to the Network but is staying downtown. Smart move on his part — two weeks at the Network and he'd be in a dress, doing shows!... **Miss White** was concerned about her name not appearing in the last issue, which must have been a mistake on our part because we always like to mention our favorite tax-deduction!... A Point to Ponder: Did you know that every sixty seconds chickens lay 129,840 eggs?

The first **Bartender of the Month** for 1987 is **John Gabrielson** of Trax. Friendly, and always smiling, we love you John!

Until next issue, keep on Cruisin'!



SHAY DOES FORTY

Shay Patterson, the Queen of Kitsch, celebrated the Big Four-Oh this past Tuesday with a surprise soiree tossed her way by hubby Doug. The theme? Tacky. The Surprise Guest? Elvis himself, looking suspiciously like Doug in a lacquered pompadour.

The guest of honor (who, along with Doug, owns Doo Wah Diddy — the place to see, be seen, and buy great stuff from the recent past) held court over a gaggle of friends and local celebs, and even managed to maintain her equilibrium during a slide show chronicling her life in pictures.

Congrats to Shay for having retained her youth and vitality through such a long haul. Gee, Shay! You don't look a day older than Annette!



Before hitting the forty yard line, Shay did High School.

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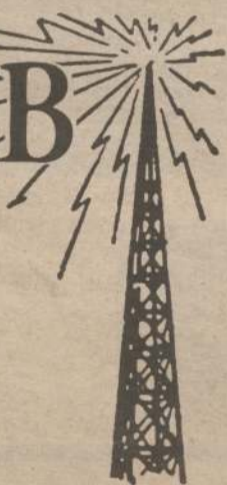
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TRIVIA TWIST with trish

1. What was the name of the box-office-flop remake of "The Bride of Frankenstein"?
2. Name the modern-day vampire film that starred Susan Sarandon as a scientist and included an explicit lesbian love scene.
3. This 1975 horror film starred Katharine Ross and dealt with the occult and a gift passed on by the dead. What was its title?
4. Name the 1983 David Cronenberg film that was set in the world of TV broadcasting at a cable station.
5. What, besides the fact that they're all horror films, do all of these films have in common?



Answers — last issue

1. Anthony Newly
2. Star Trek
3. Dynasty
4. Playboy
5. Joan Collins.

Trish,

Who sang the original, "Ghost Riders in the Sky?"

Christopher Gohr

Chris,

The original "Ghost Riders" was recorded by the Sons of the Pioneers, and released in 1953. Cover versions have since been recorded by the Outlaws and Pure Prairie League in the '70s.

Letters from the Farm

continued from page 9

won't let yourself get swamped anymore because you'll know how to focus your energy on one thing at a time. I know it sounds simplistic — but it really works. Besides, what the hell did you expect from a flashlight, The Force?

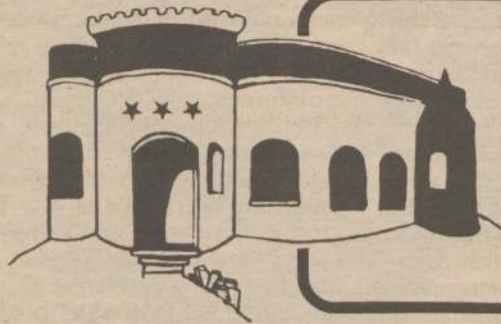
Well, that's it for now — I want to get back to this really sleazy magazine I was reading when my editor called to tell me my column had to be in the morning mail. Uh, umm, where did I put that magazine? Never mind. I'll just get my . . . OK who's got my damn flashlight?

ACTIVISTS, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GROUP TO FORM — With the urging "Are you a frustrated activist? It's time to take action!" organizers are asking those who fall into this category to join with other activists in forming a new organization. The formation meeting will be held on February 5, at 7:30 p.m. Discussion will involve guidelines, purposes and goals and is open to all. For location information please call 956-0535. Join — be involved!!



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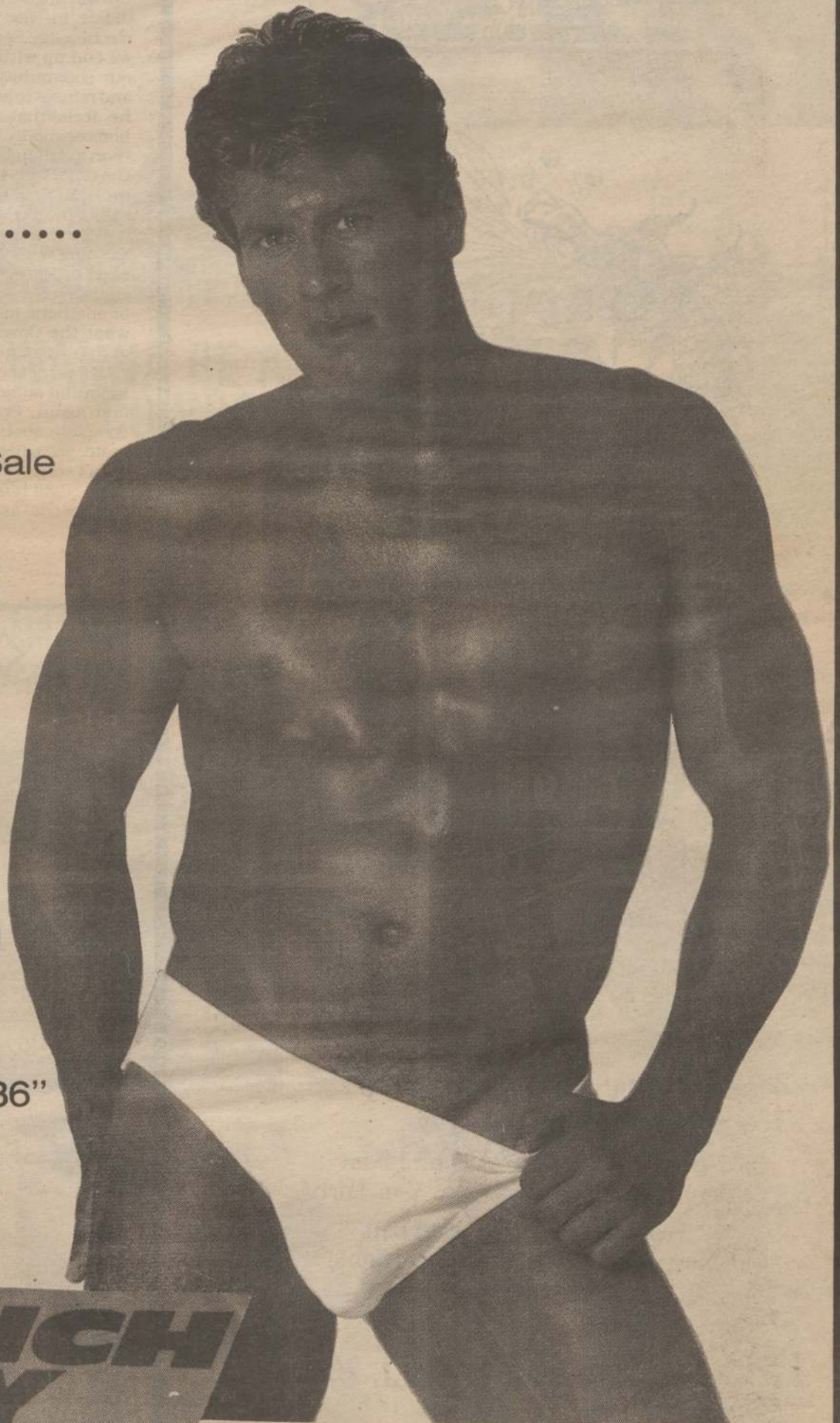
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NO FLUFF

Carolyn Warner. Bill Shulz. Evan Mecham. Three individuals who ran for the office of Governor of Arizona. Being a Democratic country, at least ideologically, only one candidate can emerge victorious. This leaves us with a political quandary. Mr. Mecham is Governor. Yet, if one were to ask any fifty people on the street who they voted for, few admit to having voted for Mecham! Someone elected this man.

Perhaps a review of the democratic process is in order. To participate in an election, each of us needs to do three things: Register to vote, decide on a candidate to vote for and, finally, vote on election day. Sound simple? So, what did we end up with? A Governor who ranks our community at the sub-citizen level and refuses to address gay issues because he feels that anything dealing with homosexuality is a "moral" issue rather than a civil rights issue. More simply, our Governor feels that people who sleep with individuals of the same sex have no civil rights protection from people who make it their business to know who we are sleeping with. Surprised? Why? No one need be, except perhaps for those individuals who were too lazy, irresponsible, or apathetic to get involved and find out what the Governor's political stand on gay issues might be.

Call it a pet peeve; one of those endlessly irritating subjects that comes up again and again: People want to bitch and complain about the current political climate, yet when asked, respond with, "I didn't vote." Chances are that this same person will raise hell should the powers that be do anything that affects him

personally. In being forced to deal with such people, one quickly gets the feeling that, intellectually, we are waltzing with porcupines.

Being optimistic by nature, and having a great deal of faith in people in general (specifically people in the gay community), we'd like to quote the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, "I have a dream today." The circumstances and the time may be different, but the principles are the same. An oppressed people are encouraged to overcome their oppression. We, too, have a dream. Our dream is that each and every one of us will have enough pride in our community and in ourselves to give a damn about what takes place in our state and our country, politically. Likewise, we dream of the space to be unafraid to speak up and be heard when these individuals (read: candidates) who feel justified in restricting our civil liberties, in any way, are called to task.

This country has come a long way in establishing rights for its citizens regardless of age, sex, race or creed. It is time to push for the next step — so that our individual freedoms are not violated based on our sexual preference.

Jeff Coulter
Joshua Paul Christopher

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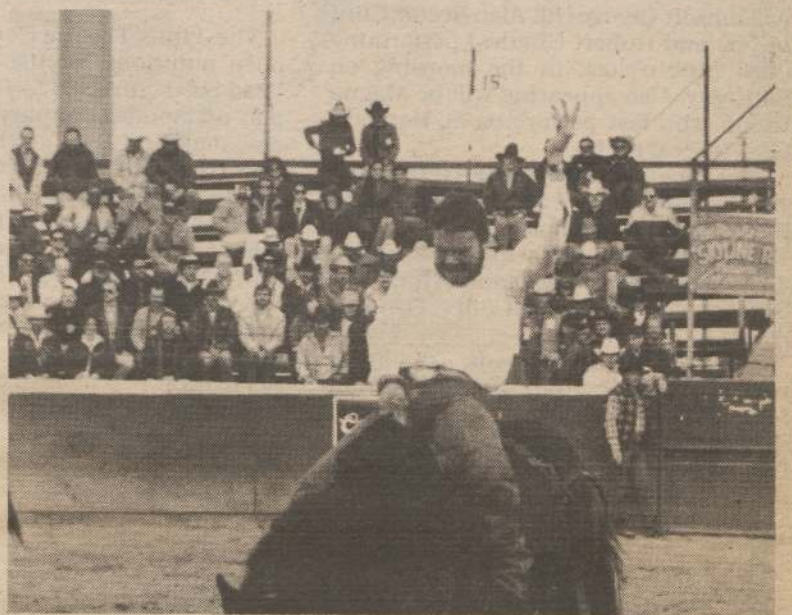
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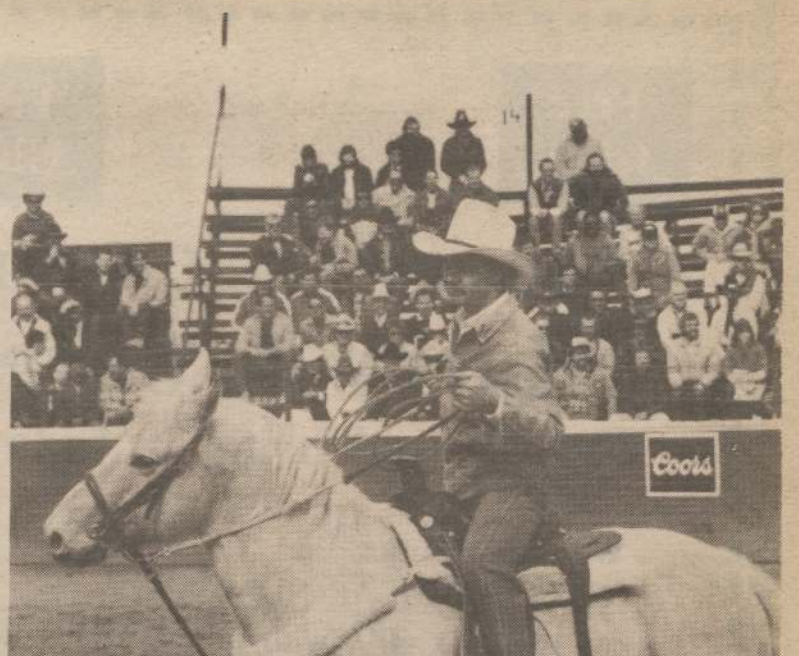
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I WANNA BE A COWBOY



THE ARIZONA GAY RODEO JANUARY 16, 17, 18, 1987



LETTERS FROM HEGYI

Dear Friends: January 21, 1987

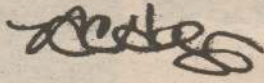
I'd like, first off, to thank those of you who attended Nocturne II — your consistent support, as well as the amount of monies collected (over seventeen hundred dollars) are well appreciated. Thanks also to Linda, Grace, and the staff of Trax for hosting this wonderful night of dancing.

I'd also like to thank Little John and the staff of the Dimestore for their recent benefit, which allowed for a donation of \$267.00 to the Switchboard. We have another all-nighter coming up on Friday, February the 13th at Tommy's. This will again be a benefit for the Switchboard, with six local DJ's (Edwin Bradley, Donna Williamson, George Hill, Alan Rector, Clint Myers, and Hubert Charles) performing until nine o'clock in the morning on Saturday. Also appearing will be Magna Dioni, who last performed at Hotbod's Get Physical party.

I am once again preparing a report this year on Gay violence and harassment in Phoenix for the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force. Anyone with information along these lines, please contact me at the Switchboard that I might enter it into my report.

Speaking of harassment, I'd like to reprise a quote from Governor Evan Mecham, who recently said "Homosexuals should not be tolerated in society, and furthermore they have no place in state government..." In my opinion, this sort of

declaration gives people license to come at us with baseball bats. This man needs to go back to selling automobiles. Until next time,



JANUS AUDITIONS

The Janus Theatre Company will hold open auditions for the chilling drama "Bad Seed", directed by Dean Jones, at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 26th and Tuesday, January 27th at the Lecture Hall Theatre of Metro Tech, 1900 West Thomas Road on the corner of 19th Avenue (please use Thomas Road entrance on the West side of the building). Needed are six men, four women and one girl of about 8 years.

A special audition for the young girl only will be held Saturday, January 24th at 10 a.m. at the Cascades Apartment Recreation Room located at 4502 North 36th Street (at Campbell). This audition is for girls between 8 and 12, able to look 8 years old.

For further information call 371-1927.

THE MOST SEX YOU'VE HAD WHILE LAUGHING

"Who is Bizarro in Love, and why is she going to change lesbian sex history forever?" asks Susie Bright, editor of *On Our Backs*, a lesbian erotica magazine. It's a rhetorical question, and Bright answers it herself. "Bizarro is the leading lady of the most outrageous, explicit, sexy, lesbian novel ever unleashed on a pair of sweaty palms."

Bright is talking about *Bizarro in Love*, a new novella by San Francisco author Jan Stafford. The book is a first in its content and its attitude. It contains explicit sex scenes in fantasy settings. Its characters are almost exclusively lesbians; indeed they seem to live in a world populated only by out-of-the-closet lesbians. And it does this with a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor.

"I just got tired of sickly sweet, flowery erotica," explains the author. My friends were buying heterosexual erotic novels or magazines and renting gay male erotic videos just because there were no lesbian alternatives." Stafford decided to write a lesbian erotic novel for her friends. She would write a chapter a week and circulate copies. This established the format for *Bizarro in Love*, which consists of 18 chapters, each with a different byline. Bylines include humorous pen names such as Penny Trashun and Mary Wanna.

The book chronicles the exploits of Bebe Ziarro, a former world class hurdler who is the *Bay Sun's* ace sportswriter. Bebe falls in love with a married woman. She knows it's wrong for her; but she can't help it. She launches herself into a series of ribald distractions under the alias of Bizarro in Love.

Bizarro turned into erotica with a twist. "It just came out as a comedy," says Stafford. "I was turned off by lesbian novels that take themselves too seriously. I wondered why there were no tongue-in-cheek lesbian fantasy characters, sex symbols like James Bond (without the sexism and violence). As I got into the fantasy of this lesbian superhero, the episodes just got more and more outrageous." Fantasy scenes in the novella include sexual encounters in elevators equipped with trapezes. Characters include the Memphis Queen, a motorcycle mama; mysterious Monica, a megamillionaire; a jujitsu expert; a southern university's head cheerleader; a famous athlete; a park ranger; and many others.

"What I found refreshing about this

book is that all the characters are lesbians," said Bay Area actress Anne Block in an interview with the author which was aired on the Gay Cable Network. "There's no question that they prefer women." This was intentional, according to the author. "Since I began writing the book for my lesbian friends, coming out or sexual persuasion confusion was not an issue," says Stafford. "Most lesbian books and the few movies with lesbian themes have two women engaging in fabulous sex only to beat their head against the wall about their sexual persuasion the next morning. Why are there no books about lesbians who are not confused, ashamed, or unhappy about being a lesbian? For many lesbians, coming out is a dead issue." And for those for whom it isn't, says Stafford, "it may be a dead issue after they read *Bizarro*."

Stafford published and is distributing *Bizarro* with the support of several friends who are partners in Cheap Shots. When she offered the book to several lesbian publishing houses in 1984, one company offered to publish it. That company, which Stafford declines to name, held the manuscript for a year and then returned it. "They decided to go into video production instead," Stafford says. "So I decided to self-publish rather than going through the time-consuming process of seeking another publisher." She would consider selling the rights to the book at a later date, she says.

Response to the book has been good, reports associate publisher Maxine Kincore. Many bookstores have ordered copies and mail order sales are brisk. "We're getting a lot of repeat customers who read the book and want to buy it for their friends," Kincore notes. The book is sold in bookstores across the country, including A Different Light in New York and Hollywood, Oscar Wilde Bookshop in New York, A Woman's Place in Oakland and Portland, Ore., and Good Vibrations in San Francisco.

Although self-publishing and distributing is a tremendous amount of work, Stafford, who in everyday life is a full-time editor for a national magazine, has other projects in the fire. She has completed a teleplay and is at work on the second *Bizarro* novel, entitled *Psychic Sex*.

For more information, contact Maxine Kincore, 573 Chenery St., San Francisco, Ca. 94131; (415) 337-9554.

GAY AND LESBIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT UC SANTA BARBARA

"Continued Struggles ... Future Triumphs" is the theme for the 5th Annual Western States Lesbian and Gay Students United Conference to be held at UC Santa Barbara, February 13-16, 1987. Approximately 200 students from California and throughout the Western Region are expected to attend.

UCSB's Gay and Lesbian Student Union, host for the conference, has organized workshops and guest speakers with topics including political, social,

psychological, and educational issues. There will be over 25 workshops and seminars from which guests may choose to attend. Additionally, there will be a dance Saturday night and a brunch Monday.

Applications are now available; deadline is February 1, 1987. Registration fee is \$10.00. Contact the Gay and Lesbian Student Union, P.O. Box 15408, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93107; (805) 961-4578.

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