

THE

WESTERN EXPRESS

FROM THE SOUTHWEST

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 26
NOVEMBER 24, 1982

GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . .



Photo by Paul Schroeter

THE DESERT SKY SINGERS

by Bob de Brecht

With a song in their hearts and a smile on their faces, The Desert Sky Singers continue to bring enjoyment to all who hear them perform. Currently preparing for their 2nd Annual Christmas Concert, this group of very talented men, about fifty in number, rehearse weekly, study nightly, and shine daily. In getting to know this group, I had the opportunity to attend several of their rehearsals, and talked with many of their members.

What I found upon entering the Metropolitan Community Church, where they meet every Monday evening, was a group of men dedicated to the professional performance of a large variety of vocal exercises and works that should make each and everyone of them proud to be a part of this chorus. The no-nonsense attitude of Musical Director Barry Stein both commands and expects attention, respect, and results. He achieves this from the participants, and they appear to be happy to oblige. Once achieving his goals, he is able to loosen up a little and make this not only a meeting with many accomplishments, but also a fun experience for all.

The Desert Sky Singers first appeared publicly in July of 1981. This was after the germination of the chorus when a handful of men gathered together in February of that year to "plant the seed" and give birth to one of the Valley's finest entertainment groups. Since this first appearance, the group has performed fifteen times including two performances at the Phoenix Civic Center. They have lugged their sheet music, their accompanist, and their smiles to two conventions, a large retirement center and several area churches. In May of 1982, the group presented "A Salute to Musical Theatre" with a program that covered almost 200 years of theatre history. A huge success, this concert emphasized their goal, and threw the members full speed ahead into preparing for this year's Christmas show.

To underline the professionalism of this group, they have enlisted the musical direction of Mr. Barry Stein since May of 1981. Mr. Stein holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from California State University at Fullerton and cur-

Continued on page 12

FIVE NEW YORK AREA MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS AWARDED MORE THAN \$30,000 BY GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Five New York City area medical research projects aimed at combating the devastating effects of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), have been awarded research grants totalling more than \$30,000.00 by Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), it was announced here today.

"We are living in the midst of a major health emergency," said Larry Kramer, Chairman of GMHC's Medical Jury Committee in announcing the grants. "New York is the hardest hit of all cities and the AIDS epidemic is the worst medical emergency in the country since polio. As of October 21st, there were 319 cases in New York and 665 nationwide. One year ago, there were only 100 cases in New York. Forty-one percent are now dead.

"That the gay community is funding a small portion of research, is a testimony to the community's growing sense of responsibility for caring for its own."

Institutions where grants have been awarded include: St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center; The Mount Sinai Medical Center; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Metropolitan Hospital Center. Dr. Joyce Wallace, Ginny Lehman, C.S.W. and Noreen Russell, C.S.W. were also awarded grants.

NEWLY-PUBLISHED LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE REPORT CHALLENGES NEW RIGHT ANTI-GAY LEGISLATION

Via GPA Wire Service

New York — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation's oldest and largest gay legal defense organization, has just published a pioneering report on court strategies for combating the recent wave of anti-gay legislation. Titled Anti-gay Legislation: An Attempt to Sanction Inequality?, the 230-page report analyzes the constitutionality of federal and state laws that bar public funding of gay-related activities, said Rosalyn Richter, author of the report.

"Very little research has been done in this area," said Ms. Richter, the project attorney. "The report is certainly the first of its kind, the only legal analysis of the important issue of these funding cuts as they affect gay rights."

The Family Protection Act, a pending congressional bill that would bar the use of federal funds "for the purpose of advocating, promoting or suggesting homosexuality," is one such law, said Ms. Richter. Another is the proposed version of the McDonald Amendment prohibiting the Legal Services Corp. from representing a client in any gay rights case.

Continued on page 12

Movies Reviewed
Page 8

Happy Thanksgiving
From The Staff Of
The Western Express

Doing America With
Bob Damron Page 10

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

REFORM OF NORTHERN IRELAND LAW

by Lindsay Taylor

NORTHERN IRELAND (IGNA) — More than fifteen years after sex between gay men over the age of 21 was legalized in England and Wales, a similar law has been passed in Northern Ireland by the House of Commons.

The change, which occurred on October 25, followed an appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights by Jeff Dudgeon, a gay man from Belfast, and a subsequent ruling by the Commission that the rights of gays in Northern Ireland were being violated by discriminatory laws.

Reform was approved by a majority of 168 to 21, after all parties gave MPs a free vote on the issue. Most of the opposition came from the right-wing Unionist Party of Northern Ireland. The Rev. Ian Paisley said that the move attacked "the very cement of society." He claimed that it could lead to demands for a reduction of the age of consent from 16 to 14, with the possibility of children becoming involved in homosexual activity.

Northern Ireland's Secretary James Prior, speaking for the British Government, was unenthusiastic in his defense of the change in the law. His statement that "Northern Ireland is bound by the international obligations that apply to the UK made it plain that the Conservative Government was acting out of a desire to avoid international criticism rather than from any real commitment to gay rights."

With this reform of the law in Northern Ireland and a similar change in the Scottish law in 1980, there are now only two small parts of the UK in which gay sex is completely illegal: the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Change of the law in these areas is complicated by the fact that they have their own parliaments and are self-governing. It is expected, however, that further appeals will be made to the European Commission by the gay residents of the islands.

BRITISH PARTIES PAY ATTENTION TO GAY ISSUES

by Lindsay Taylor

LONDON (IGNA) — For the first time, gay activists were visible at the conferences of all four major political parties this year. Even the Conservative Party — traditionally the strongest opponent of gay rights — now has a Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality, which has applied for recognition within the party.

During the Tories' conference in the first week of October, the CGHE organized a teach-in on the myth of gays as security risks. Among the speakers was former MP Ian Harvey, who denounced Home Secretary William Whitelaw's statement that no Conservative government would ever reduce the age of consent for gay men.

Gay groups within the Labour Party and the Social Democratic Party organized similar meetings. Among the MPs who spoke was leading Labour left-winger Tony Benn, who had originally declined an invitation because of a previous engagement. Benn said that he changed his mind because of his anger over the "vilifying and trivializing" campaign that some newspapers had waged against supporters of the gay movement.

At the conference of the Liberal Party, which already supports full civil rights for gays, a majority supported lowering the age of consent for gays, as well as lowering the voting age to the same.

The Liberals also numbered gays among the ethnic and minority groups that the police force should be required to consult in an effort to improve relations between the police and the community.

GAY LIFE IN SURINAM

SURINAM (IGNA) — According to an article in a Surinamese newspaper (*De Ware Tijd*) life for homosexuals in this Dutch protectorate is not very good, especially in contrast to the Netherlands itself, which has one of the strongest gay rights movements in the world.

According to activist Humphrey Goes, there are three major attitudes toward gays in his country.

The first attitude is to ignore gays and act as if they don't exist, refusing to think or talk about gays. The second attitude is that there is no need for such a group as his Surinam Working Group on Homosexuality. Goes feels that this attitude subtly represses homosexuals, especially when it is held by social

workers and others who should at least be neutral in helping people cope with social realities.

A third reaction is that of homophobia — putting homosexuality in the same category as drugs, crime, and rape.

Prejudice throughout this South American nation is strong, according to Goes. "Homosexuality is not an individual problem, but a social one," he says. "We are what we are, and some parts of society have problems dealing with us, especially in work situations and in social activities. The SWH tries to establish a change in atmosphere."

Goes says his organization is not striving for confrontation, only integration into society.

SOUTH AMERICAN GAYS

BOGOTA, COLUMBIA. The principal gay publication of Colombia, *Ventana Gay*, is planning to begin a scientific nation-wide study of sexuality, including an investigation of what heterosexuals think of gay people. The investigation will search for the total image, one that is real, to be used as a starting point for future actions. A group of sociologists, psychologists, attorneys and philosophers will assist with the project.

BOGOTA. The gay community celebrated its Gay International Day on June 28 by papering the city with informative leaflets and posters so that everyone would know why there is a Gay Day. On June 29 the community celebrated a day of laughter and love, with games, therapeutic groups, a picnic, and boating in the Parque de Sopo.

PERU. The lesbians of the women's prison in Chorrillos (near Lima) have formed a powerful soccer team that until now has defeated all of their masculine opponents, including the prison guards.

CARACAS, VENEZUELA. The Grupo Entendido has adopted, as one of its chief projects, the fight against police repression of gay people. It has set up a Legal Matters Section to receive and process complaints of police misbehavior. A Caracas attorney, Edgar Carrasco, provides free consultations on behalf of Grupo Entendido. (IGNA)

GAY BOOK BAN URGED

NILES, MICHIGAN (IGNA/UP) — A minister and a conservative congressman are trying to have four books that deal supportively with homosexuality removed from the public library.

Representative Mark Siljander (R-Mich), who describes himself as a "born-again Christian" sent a letter on congressional stationery on October 6 to the head librarian of the Niles Community Library, saying such books "would be better found in an adult bookstore."

Library board members said that they will prepare a written statement for Siljander and the Rev. David McQuade, who is the promotion director for Siljander's re-election campaign.

The books in dispute are *The Homosexual* by Alan Ebert, *The Gay Report* by Karla Jay and Allen Young, *View from Another Closet* by Janet Bode and *The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay* by Troy Perry.

GAY SOLDIER RE-ENLISTS

FORT LEWIS, WA (IGNA) — Sergeant Perry Watkins, a 14-year-Army veteran, and openly gay, has been allowed to re-enlist over Army objections after a federal court battle.

But the Army has served notice that it will appeal the court ruling that forced it to permit Watkins to re-enlist. If it wins on appeal, the sergeant's re-enlistment will be "null and void."

"I'm very pleased at this action," the soldier said after he signed up for another six-year hitch. The Army conducted re-enlistment ceremonies with Watkins at the commandant's office of the 168th Attack Helicopter Battalion.

The U.S. military has a policy that maintains that homosexuals cannot be members of the armed forces.

CONGRESSMAN GETS APOLOGY FOR BEING SHOWN GAY

CHARLESTOWN, W. VA. (IGNA/AP) — The publisher of the *National Lampoon* humor magazine has sent an apology to Representative Nick Joe Rahall for an article that satirically depicted the West Virginia Democrat as being sexually involved with a congressional page.

Rahall called a special news conference to read a statement signed by the publisher, Julian Weber. Rahall said the magazine promised to publish a "full retraction" and apology for the satire in its January, 1983 issue.

Continued on page 4



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CHARTER MEMBER

GAY PRESS ASSOCIATION



An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information
about hepatitis B and the
vaccine to prevent it, contact
your doctor, clinic, or the
American Liver Founda-
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation

Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.

VALLEY
ARTS

WEEK STARTING NOV. 26

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WEEK STARTING DEC. 3

**IT'S COMING OUT
TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT!**
BASKET CASE

FRI/SAT/SUN NOV. 26, 27, 28

Harold and Maude
 PETER SELLERS
 SHIRLEY MacLAINE
BEING THERE
 8:00
 6:00
 9:30

 CLASSIC MATINEES
 SAT/SUN \$1.50
 13:30 2:15 4:00

CASABLANCA
 HUMPHREY BOGART
 INGRID BERGMAN
 PAUL HENREID

 MARILYN CHAMBERS
Insatiable
 8:30

 MON/TUE
 NOV. 29, 30
 RATED X
 HIGH SCHOOL
 MEMORIES

WED/THUR DEC 1, 2

THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY
BODY HEAT
 7:00
 9:05

AUSTRIAN FILM FESTIVAL
FRI/SAT/SUN
DEC. 3, 4, 5
"GRAPHIC EROTICISM."
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 WINNER
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**Gentlemen
Prefer Blondes**

 YOUNG MEN
 TORN BETWEEN
 PHYSICAL DESIRE
 AND RELIGIOUS
 DISCIPLINE
The Devils Playground
 Fred Schepisi's
 Winner of Every Major
 Australian Film Award

6:00 8:00 9:55

 CLASSIC MATINEES
 SAT/SUN \$1.50
 12:45 2:20 4:00

Tim
 8:15
 WITH BACKROADS
 7:00
MON/TUE
DEC. 6, 7
 Richard
 Chamberlain
THE LAST WAVE
 8:10
 WITH PETER WEIR'S
 HOMESDALE
 7:00

Congressman Gets Apology continued from page 2

The article in question, which appeared in the November issue, recounts a fictional visit by the author to the home of a male congressional page. At one point it quoted a relative of the page as saying that Congressman Rahall and boy engaged in oral sex.

The magazine said the piece was meant as a parody about the congressional page scandal under investigation by the House Ethics Committee, of which Rahall is a member.

Weber's statement further said: "We are sure there is no basis in fact and not one shred of evidence in our possession that you have been involved in the kind of conduct described in the editorial."

Although Rahall has never been under investigation by the ethics committee, he felt it necessary to demand the apology and to hold a press conference exonerating him of accusations of gay sex.

HOTEL CASA LOMA IN SEX DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

San Francisco — A complaint filed earlier this month against Hotel Casa Loma alleges "Rental practice that discriminates unlawfully against females" by denying "all women . . . an opportunity to rent one of the respondent's units." The complaint also cites a sign on the side of the building announcing that the Hotel is "Exclusively for Men." The complaint is signed by Joanne A. Lewis, director, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

George E. Roll, Hotel Manager, states that the Hotel is a Turn-of-the-Century, European-Style Hotel with an insufficient number of private baths, even with a lavatory in each room, and other modernizations, to qualify under San Francisco Housing Code to rent to both men and women. In fact, Roll was required in 1978 to file an affidavit with the Department of Public Works consenting to rent to one sex only before a Certificate of Occupancy would be issued.

Roll pointed out that most hotels advertising for gay business must rent to straight couples and families in order to comply with the law, and therefore, cannot legally be exclusively gay. Hotel Casa Loma has never rented to other than men since 1978. To prevent inconvenience and embarrassment to the public, especially straight couples and women attempting to register at the Hotel in violation of City Codes, according to Roll, the sign outside and most advertising identify the Hotel as "exclusively for men."

"The state seems to be willing to permit us to discriminate by renting only to men - if that is what you call complying with City Codes," said Roll. "They just don't want us to rock their boat by advertising it. Isn't that a bit hypocritical?" Incidentally, women have always been welcome in the Hotel's Alamo Square Saloon.

Hotel Casa Loma has until November 5, 1982, to answer the complaint and presumably to remove their sign. But, will they modify their rental practices? Roll says, "We'll become a private Men's Travel Club before we remove the sign."

GAY POLITICS IN SAN FRANCISCO

by Daniel Curzon

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA) — Gay candidates were prominent in elections held in San Francisco November 2, although no openly gay politicians were elected to any offices.

Surprising everybody, because of the substantial vote of over 23,000 that she received for a seat on the Board of Supervisors, was Sister Boom-Boom, a 27-year-old male who dresses in a mini-skirted nun's habit and sports white-face makeup and gigantic eyelashes. Sister Boom-Boom came in 9th out of a field of 23. Five people, four of them incumbents, were elected to fill the contested seats on the Board, which is a major source of political power. Sister Boom-Boom campaigned on a progressive ticket.

Grey Day, another progressive gay, came in in the top half of the balloting, with virtually no campaign money to spend.

Dave Wharton, another gay man, though less openly so than the previous two, got the most votes of all the candidates known to be gay.

In the contest for Community College Board, considered a stepping stone to higher office, gay candidates Sal Rosselli and Carole Migden both lost to incumbents. Some experts have said that the two competing — and even fighting — helped defeat each other since they divided the gay vote.

In the race for the 5th Congressional district, both incumbent Philip Burton and Republican challenger Milton Marks heavily courted the gay vote, making personal appearances and shaking gay hands. Burton retained his seat, although he faced his toughest challenge in 18 years in the House of Representatives.

Barbara Boxer won the 6th Congressional district seat over Dennis McQuaid. Again both candidates, especially Boxer, worked hard for gay support.

San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt was cheered by the passing of City Proposition A, which established a modified citizens' review board for police misconduct. The police won on Proposition J, which will give them overtime pay for overtime work, but they lost on Proposition I, a police retirement plan. Britt was heavily criticized for his efforts to get a trade-off with the police department for these propositions.

Many candidates acknowledged and actively sought the substantial gay vote in the San Francisco Bay Area with advertisements in gay publications and appearing at political functions.

DESERT ADVENTURES SCHEDULES DANCE

Women of Phoenix, here is your chance to work off a few 'Turkey Holiday Pounds' and to join in on another festive occasion - a pre-Christmas dance. "A Mid-Winters Eve Dance", exclusively for women is being presented by Desert Adventures.

The dance is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, at 8:00 P.M. and will be held at the Alternative Relations Center, 2602 E. Clarendon. The hall will be decorated for the season and the music will be tailored to please the many moods of the crowd.

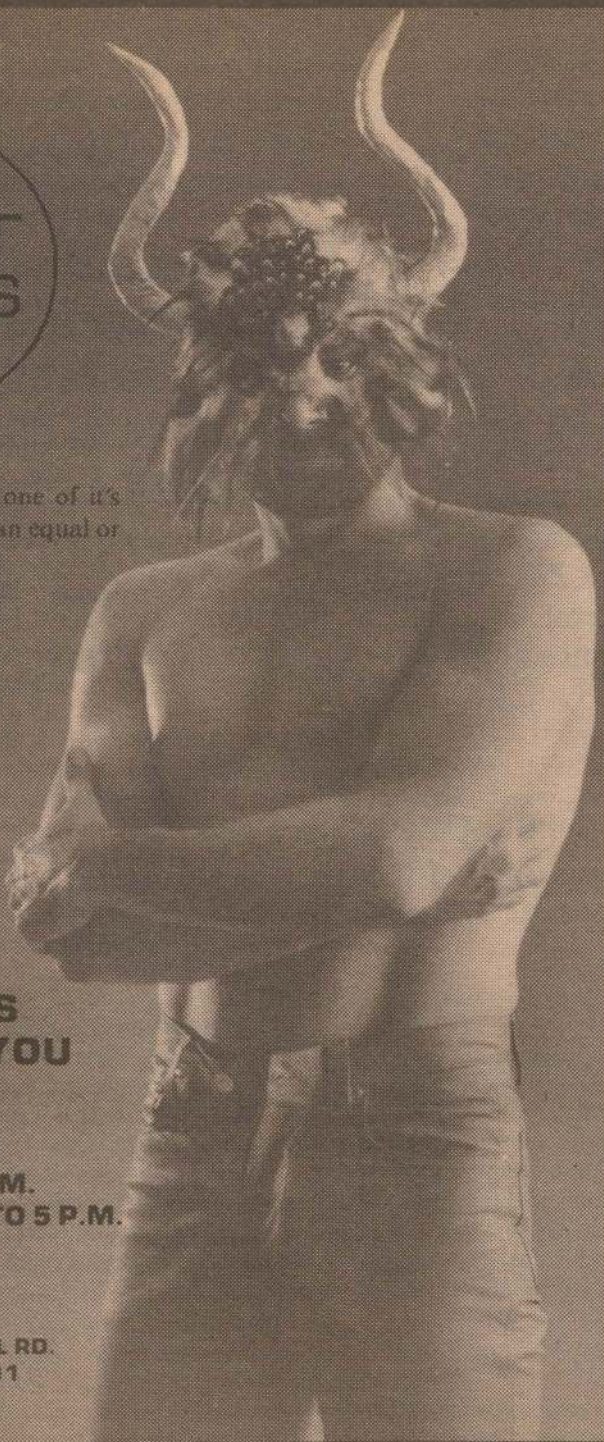
Over 300 women are expected to attend. Tickets are \$2.50 for Desert Adventure Members and \$3.50 for non-members.


unique (yoo'-nek')

adj. 1. Being the only one of its kind. 2. Being without an equal or equivalent.

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 HOURS: MON-FRI
 10:30 A.M. — 9 P.M.
 SAT - 10:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
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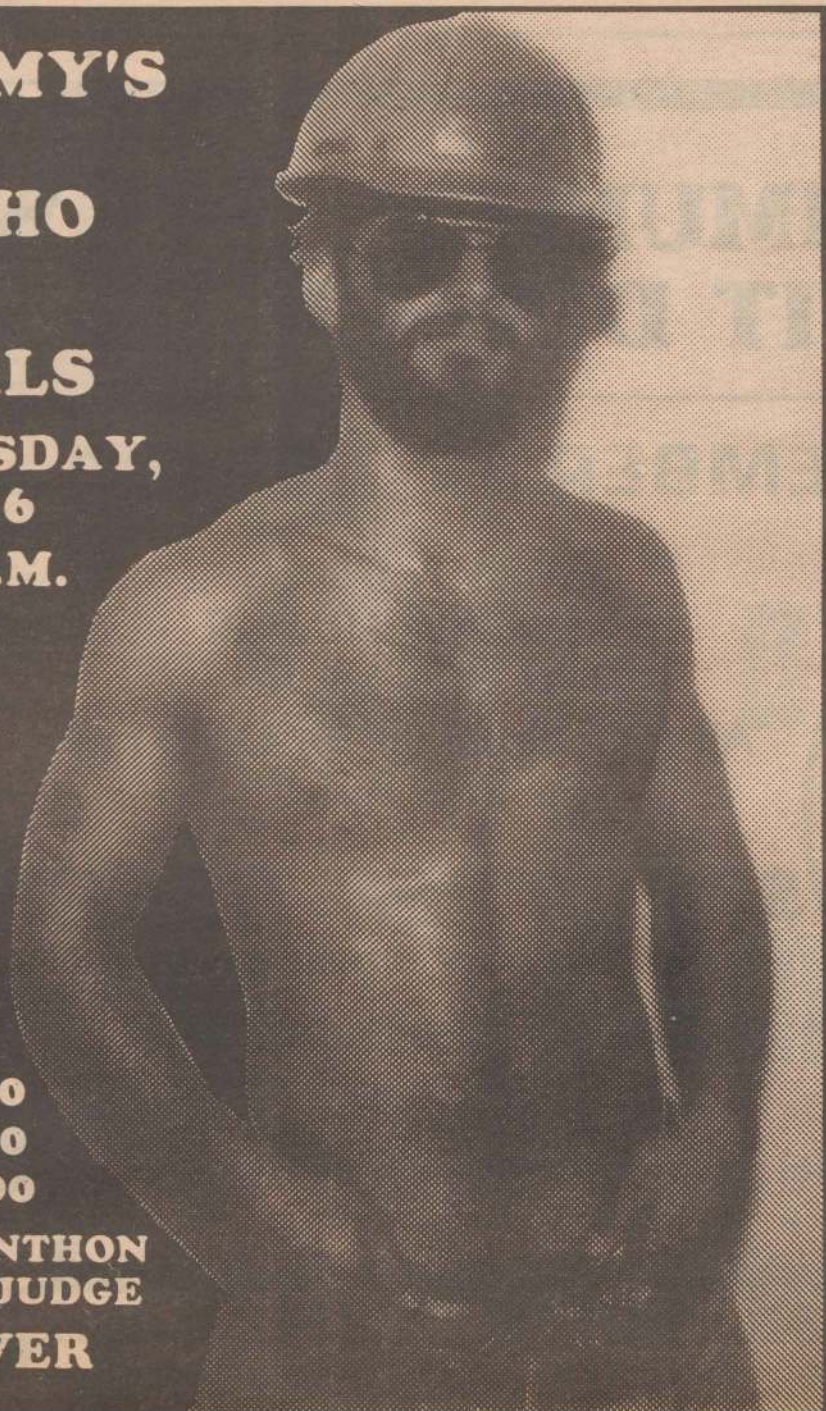
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THURSDAY,
DEC. 16
9:30 P.M.

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3rd PRIZE	100

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WESTERN EXPRESS COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS® ANNOUNCED

In its issues of December 22 and January 5 *The Western Express* will print the ballots for its readers to vote for their favorite places, people and events of 1982. Categories will be announced by Charlette Montez, awards director, in the issue of December 8. Votes may be cast on official ballots only and must be mailed between December 22, 1982 and January 19, 1983. The winners will be announced on February 2, 1983.

The awards ballots will be dual for voting favorites in both Phoenix and in Tucson and will be available both in the newspaper and through its distributors. Those include all gay bars and many gay and non-gay owned businesses throughout Arizona. While the awards are geared primarily toward the gay community picking its favorites in many areas, it is anticipated that recipients might be from all segments of lifestyles throughout the state.

Winners of each category will receive a framed certificate and recognition through news and feature coverage in *The Western Express*.

The Western Express Community Choice Awards® have been instituted to give credit to persons, businesses and organizations both in and supporting the gay community of Arizona for outstanding accomplishments. Organizers of the awards urge all readers of the newspaper to be sure to cast their ballots and thereby state their opinions.



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FBI FILES SOUGHT ON 32-YEAR SURVEILLANCE OF GAYS

by Johannes Stahl · Montrose Voice · Houston TX

via GPA Wire Service

A request to obtain Federal Bureau of Investigation files on Gay political and social groups from 1950 to present was filed October 20 by Dr. Dan Simonoski, a political science lecturer at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

He filed his request to the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act.

If the FBI releases this information, Simonoski plans to publish two books. "One book," he said, "about the history of the surveillance, and the second, hopefully, an edited and annotated documents book."

Simonoski said, "My filing is important, I believe, because it will lead to the broadest body of material yet made available to document the extent of government surveillance against a primarily private, harmless, and law-abiding community."

The law requires that the FBI respond to the request within ten days, he said. "I think they're going to turn me down cold."

In his request to James Hall, Director, Freedom of Information Privacy Unit of the FBI, Simonoski stated, "I do expect to appeal any denials, and am prepared to litigate the matter if necessary."

Because of "red tape" delays within the Freedom of Information Act procedure, Simonoski said he does "not expect a substantive report before the end of the year and it's probably going to be negative."

Simonoski expects his request eventually will have a great impact on the national gay rights movement. "First of all, gay people, to a considerable extent, operate within an insufficient sense of their own history. Gay people, because they operate for so much of their lives in the closet, and because the (gay rights) movement has been closeted as a whole from the public before the late 60's, gay people aren't aware of their history."

"We have little sense of importance of the fact that the FBI spent so much time and energy in surveillance of what I imagine will be a large number of people and organizations over a long, long time (and) indicates to what extent the federal government views the gay movement as a threat. To be viewed as a threat is an empowering discovery."

"Another way I think this will benefit the (gay rights) movement is that, at present, a good number of national organization and local organizations are beginning to sense that there may be a history on themselves and are beginning to use the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to get their own local history."

Simonoski said he is hopeful his action "will encourage people to use the FOIA... because it will help to get the book out before the 1984 elections, which is quite important to me. I want to have an impact on the elections and it will be luck to get it in time for me to go through the information and prepare a book by that time."

The FBI made an attempt, he said, to be exempted from compliance with the FOIA during the last legislative session. He expects them to try a similar move in the next session. "There will be a fight on the subject in Don Edwards' subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee," he said.

"It does have to be done now," he emphasized. "We can all play a part in seeing to it that the House of Representatives and the Senate don't exempt the

FBI from the act. Secondly, in the last session of Congress, there was a concerted effort sponsored by the administration through the Attorney General and Senator Orrin Hatch, who is chairman of the Senate subcommittee on surveillance over the FOIA, to substantially limit the FOIA, in particular, to exempt the FBI and the CIA from the requirements to give information to the public," he added.

Simonoski said he would be "lucky" to get through the court process he expects in obtaining these files, in less than a year.

A beneficial impact to the gay movement, he said, could be realized without ever obtaining all the information requested. He expects that he, as well as others filing under the FOIA, will be able to testify at Congressional subcommittee hearings concerning exemption of the FBI from compliance with the act.

He expects some impact with Congress because "it is fairly liberal in regards to information questions. We can still be regarded as a pressure."

Simonoski is not receiving funding for this process. He said he has the use of telephone and limited travel expenses with his Texas Tech department as with any research project. He indicted the availability of legal services when the request enters litigation.

According to the letter sent to the FBI, Simonoski has requested "all materials documenting FBI investigations of these groups (including communities with field offices and with pertinent Congressional committees) in cities including but not limited to New York, Boston, Baltimore, District of Columbia, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles."

"I request all materials on the investigation of particular lesbian and gay organizations (incl., but not limited to: The Mattachine Society; Mattachine Society/New York; The Daughters of Bilitis; Individual Rights (sic); Gay Liberation Front; Gay Activist Alliance; Gay Task Force (sic); National Gay Rights Lobby (sic); and the Gay Academic Union)."

Simonoski has offered assistance to any individual or group desiring to file a request under FOIA. He may be contacted by writing Dr. Dan Simonoski, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 4290, Lubbock TX 79409. He may be reached at his office phone: (806) 742-3121.

GAY ANTHEM RECORDING SELLING WELL

Bill Folk's recording of "We Are Here", a 45rpm single from Bright Moon Records, is selling well across the country. The record is now available in gay bookstores in New York City, Washington, D.C., Charlotte, N.C., Los Angeles and Phoenix. Mail orders have been received by the company from all over the U.S. and Canada. Additional orders have been received from Sweden and West Germany.

"We Are Here" was written by Folk for Phoenix' first Lesbian and Gay Rights March in June 1981. A recent review in IN TOUCH FOR MEN stated, "We Are Here" is a beautifully recorded gay anthem... just perfect for thousands of people with candles on the White House lawn."

Folk believes "We Are Here" is "an important message for the 1980's from all lesbian and gay men to the world." Already busy on his album of the same title, Bill hopes to expand the ideas of Gay Pride and hope for individual and social change through a positive, unified gay identity.

The "We Are Here" single is available by mail order for \$2.50 from Bright Moon Records, P.O. Box 44654, Phoenix, Arizona 85064-4654.

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MOVIES REVIEWED

GANDHI: THE TWENTY YEAR FILM

by John W. Rowberry/IGNA

We still have something of a wait, but Richard Attenborough's film biography of Mahatma Gandhi has all the earmarks of being well worth the twenty years it has taken the English actor to realize his dream of bringing the story of the Indian leader to the screen. Attenborough directs nearly-unknown Ben Kingsley in the title role of *Gandhi*, with Candice Bergen playing legendary photographer Margaret Bourke-White, and with Martin Sheen as a journalist who follows Gandhi's political rise. Edward Fox, John Gielgud, Trevor Howard and John Mills, all golden names in cinema, fill out the cast as the British official and royal presence in India during Gandhi's lifetime.

Gandhi began attracting world interest the day filming started. Shot entirely on location, Attenborough has labored to recreate a film portrait of Gandhi that will capture the truth of the man without falling into pits of cliché-ridden sentimentality. It is well-expected that *Gandhi* will have more than an artistic impact on audiences — for a whole new generation of politically sensitive filmgoers, it signals a renewed interest in the pacifist leader who overthrew the British rule of India completely through non-violence.

Attenborough worked from all the major biographies that have been published since Gandhi's death, and a number of those books will be reprinted about the time of the film's release. However, Attenborough has strictly forbidden a 'novelization' of the film itself to appear — only further evidence of his sensitivity to the subject of the film.

Ravi Shankar, best remembered for his extraordinary contributions to music in the 1970s, has composed an original score for the film.

Gandhi will be released at Christmas in a few American cities after its world premiere in India. General release is slated for late January/early February 1983.

FITZCARRALDO: EVEN GOD DID NOT FINISH

by John W. Rowberry (IGNA)

Werner Herzog's epic and all-consuming film about the ordeals of Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald, also known as *Fitzcarraldo*, opens with a saying of the Cayahuari Yuca Indians, that Gog did not finish his creation of Peru, and only after man disappears will he come back to complete the task. If God, in his infinite patience, could defer whatever dreams he had for the Amazon jungle, then it is seemly that *Fitzcarraldo* might compromise as well his desire to bring the world of European opera to the jungle village of Iquitos. After all, how can man be expected to exceed his god?

Fitzcarraldo is a dreamer, like many of the Spanish and European settlers in South America at the turn of the century. Like them, he came looking for wealth.

But *Fitzcarraldo* is slightly out of step with the capitalistic ethic of his contemporaries; exploitation suffers at the whim of the dream. He loves opera, which he says lets man realize the highest aspirations of his soul. After travelling 1200 miles up the Amazon to hear the great Caruso — only to arrive during the closing moments of the single performance of the opera — he decides to build an opera house in his rich, but culturally void, and remote village and import these gods and goddesses of the spirit.

Fitzcarraldo, like any bad businessman, sinks too much capital and energy into doomed ventures: a trans-Andes railroad lies fallow at the base of the great mountain range; an ice-making factory trying to fill an unexpressed need. To finance his opera house he hatches his grandest scheme: to exploit the rubber trees in an area of Peru that has been, because of the impossibility of physical accessibility, heretofore untouched. To get there he must move a mountain — or climb it.

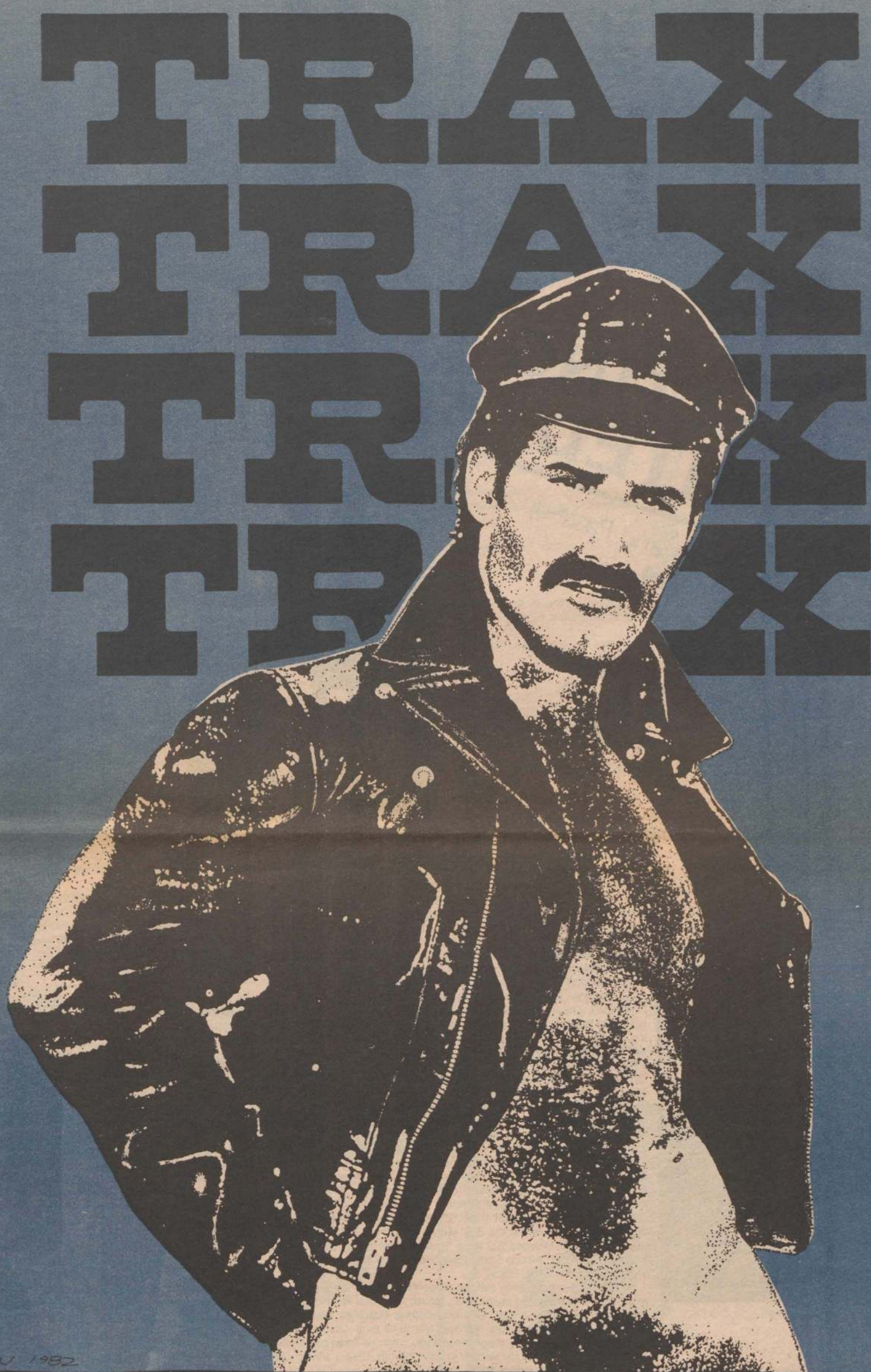
Enlisting the financial as well as spiritual aid of his mistress, a young and chic owner of a fashionable bordello; *Fitzcarraldo* buys a distressed steam boat from another rubber baron and launches on a voyage up the Amazon that is as daring as it is unorthodox. He will pull his steam ship out of the river, over a mountain top, and into another river — avoiding the deadly rapids and killer Indians that have kept this particular parcel of land virginal. This Herculean task, and all it entails, is to earn the money to build an opera house that could not possibly recoup its investment.

Fitzcarraldo is a film about passionate obsessions: the title character's for his opera house, the colonialists for their wealth and power, the Indians for their cultural identity. Even the obsession of Peru to retain its unfinished state of grace.

For Werner Herzog the filming of *Fitzcarraldo* matched the labors of the film's character step by step. The film took five years to complete, with a change in the two major roles, with the mistrust of the local Indians who claimed — perhaps rightfully so — that they were being exploited by the filmmaker, with the actual reconstruction of the steam ship that dominates much of the film (and the sheer near-impossibility of dragging it over a mountain range); the obsession of *Fitzcarraldo* becoming the obsession of Werner Herzog. In fact, given the history of the making of *Fitzcarraldo*, this is more than a narrative film, it becomes a metaphor for itself.

An American filmmaker, Les Blank, documented the entire struggle of Werner Herzog to bring *Fitzcarraldo* to the screen. His film, *The Burden of Dreams*, illustrates Herzog's premise that some men live at a personally dangerous edge of life; while it is the premise of Herzog's film, it is also the foundation of the celebrated filmmaker.

Klaus Kinski, who plays *Fitzcarraldo*, has appeared in a number of Werner Herzog's other films. He was the title character in *Aguirre, The Wrath of God*, *Nosferatu* and starred in *Stroszek* and *Woyzeck*. While he is perhaps one of the most intense actors living, his performance, which is itself at the very heart of *Fitzcarraldo*'s power, matches the sweet madness of both Herzog and the character he plays. While both he and Miguel Angel Fuentes were replacements for two other actors, neither of their characters could have been better realized. The entire cast, as well, breathes the raw air of authenticity and place into this film. But as much as Klaus Kinski is *Fitzcarraldo*, *Fitzcarraldo* is Werner Herzog.



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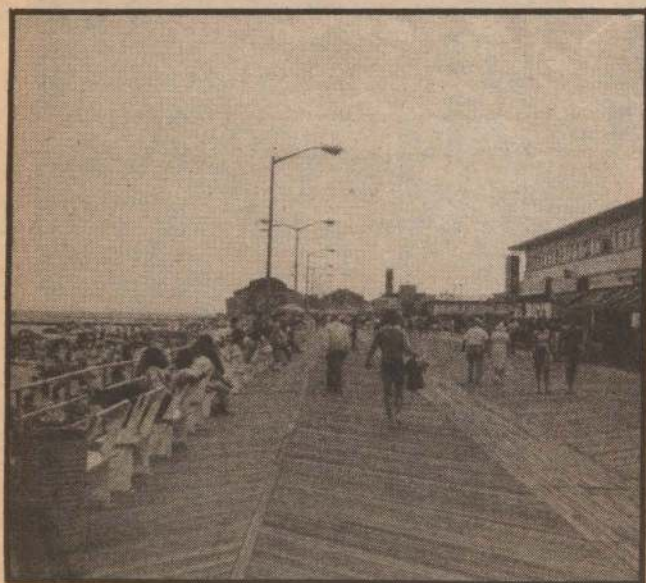
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DOING AMERICA WITH BOB DAMRON



ASBURY PARK

Asbury Park may have seen better days . . . but what the hell hasn't? It was settled in 1871, by a wealthy New York brush manufacturer, who planned a summering spot for Temperance advocates. It was named after Francis Asbury, who was the first known Bishop of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in America. Once known as the "Duchess of the North Shore", Asbury Park has undergone many changes. I suspect the founding father would be spinning in his grave, if he knew his beloved shore town had become one of the gayest resorts in New Jersey.

Within a dozen years of its founding, Asbury Park was attracting 600,000 summer visitors by train alone. No one remembers, but I doubt they were all that temperate. Today, you can still get there by train from New York, via bus from N.Y. and Philly, or on weekend commuter flights from Washington, D.C. The easiest way is to drive, as N.Y. is only 55 miles north, while Philadelphia is about 70 miles west.

On weekends, accommodations should be secured in advance. The Gardiner and Drake are older, but relatively clean hotels catering to gay men, while the Key West Motel is favored by Lesbians. The old Cookman-Plaza has just reopened, and while not the "Ritz" . . . at least the price is right. Personally I prefer to stay at Howard Johnsons at Asbury Circle. You may well want to stay at the Colony Club, the "hottest" bath in all New Jersey. It is centrally located at 500 Summerfield, just off Cookman Avenue.

The bars are open nightly until 3:00 a.m., and 'the place' is the Odyssey at 427 Cookman. This super disco attracts the macho,

muscular young jocks. Ray, one of the friendly owners, has recently purchased the old M&K, a disco around the corner at 611 Heck St. I am assured we can anticipate some pleasant surprises. Boots, at 224 Cookman is the best levi and leather bar in Jersey, especially when the N.Y. or Philly M.C. clubs make their summer 'runs'. The Owl & Pussycat at 109 2nd Ave. is equally popular with women. After the sun goes down, many guys leave the beach, and head for Archie's, with similar ideas in mind. This cruisy pub is located at 312 Cookman. The Blue Note at 707 Bangs (love that name) is often jam-packed with more mature, action-motivated men.

The only gay cafe is the Press Box Coffee Shop, a.k.a. the Stonewall. They serve breakfast and lunch, but close for dinner. However they do reopen after hours on weekends. For straight dining try Christie's (Italian) or Cypress Inn (Steaks) . . . both of which are just north of Asbury Circle. Within a ten mile radius are Evelyn's (Seafood) in Belmar, Fromagerie (French) in Rumson, Old Orchard Inn (traditional) in Eatontown, the charming Old Mill in Spring Lake, or Shadowbrook, which occupies a elegant Georgian mansion in Shrewsbury. Speaking of edibles, some years ago, an enterprising merchant, saddled with a slow-moving candy concoction, renamed it "salt water taffy" . . . and generations of tourists have been 'stuck' on it every since.

Club owners are trying hard for an all-year resort, but obviously, most gay visitors arrive in the late spring, summer and fall, when the nearby Gulf Stream helps to warm the chilly Atlantic. The local/focal point is the world famous "Boardwalk", which is quite cruisy early evenings, near the 5,000 seat Convention Hall. It was near here in 1934, when the S.S. Morro Castle ran aground after a tragic fire which claimed 122 lives. Today, tourists may want to visit historic Freehold, Allaire State Park, Sandy Hook Lighthouse and Monmouth Park Race Track.

This little resort really swings on good nights as the disco beat resounds, and passions surge. You ignore the once luxurious, now decaying old resort hotels, the boarded-up buildings and seedy Black ghetto. Gambling has restored some of rival Atlantic City's long-lost lustre . . . but may consume it too, and pre-empt gay life? If so, Asbury Park will be the winner in the long-run. Give it a look, and maybe you'll find a winner too?

For more detailed information, pick up a copy of the **BOB DAMRON ADDRESS BOOK '83** — America's foremost travel guide — available at most better bars, baths and book stores throughout America. Or send \$11. for your copy (which includes packing and shipping) to Bob Damron Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 14-077, San Francisco, CA 94114.

SPOT SHORTAGES OF 'HEPTAVAX-B' HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, MSD REPORTS

WEST POINT, PA. — November 5, 1982 — Supplies of 'Heptavax-B', the new hepatitis B vaccine, are now available in adequate quantity to vaccinate the people considered to be at greatest risk for contracting the serious liver infection.

Merck Sharp & Dohme, the developer of the vaccine, announced today that no shortages have occurred and none are expected at this time. At the time of the United States introduction in July, the company had warned that large initial orders could lead to

"spot shortages" since the vaccine wasn't being stockpiled but moved directly into distribution channels upon government certification.

The initial concern that unusually large requests for the vaccine might conceivably lead to short supplies in certain locations was largely based on the lengthy and complex manufacturing and testing process, which requires 65 weeks.

More than 600,000 doses of 'Heptavax-B' have been distributed to date.

COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDY PUBLISHED

A cost-effectiveness evaluation of the vaccine published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in September shows that it would be most beneficial to screen everyone for immunity to hepatitis B virus in the male homosexual population — which has a high prevalence of hepatitis B and is at high risk of contracting the disease — and to vaccinate only those without evidence of immunity as a result of prior exposure to the virus.

Costs are lowered by screening homosexuals first to eliminate the large number of persons within the population who already have been exposed to the virus and, therefore, would not benefit from immunization. In that way, only persons who need the vaccine would receive it, while persons who already are immune need to bear only the lower expense of the screening process.

The authors of the study reported that, for surgical residents, bypassing the screening process and simply vaccinating every member of the group would yield the greatest savings in medical costs. Pre-vaccination screening would eliminate fewer members of this group, which has a low prevalence of the disease but faces a relatively high risk of exposure in the hospital setting. The net cost of screening would simply be added to the cost of the vaccine for those persons screened and found not to have immunity from prior exposure to the virus.

Neither screening nor vaccinating was recommended for the general population because prevalence of hepatitis B and the risk of encountering the virus both are extremely low in this group. The almost negligible medical benefit derived would not justify the cost of either option.

INTERAGENCY GROUP AFFIRMS SAFETY OF VACCINE

Also in September, the Federal government's Interagency Group to Monitor Vaccine Development, Production and Usage reported that its findings support statements by another advisory committee that the vaccine is safe and efficacious. The report was published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* of the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

The group reviewed available data on the vaccine in response to requests for additional information and concluded that: "1) immediate side effects are minimal after receipt of . . . vaccine; 2) no long-term reactions have been reported; 3) the purification and inactivation process is known to inactivate representatives of all known groups of animal viruses; 4) each lot is safety tested in primates; 5) no known cases of hepatitis B or non-A/non-B hepatitis have been transmitted by the vaccine and no known occurrence of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Disease Syndrome) have been associated with the vaccine."

Representatives from the Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health made up the inter-agency group.

OUT AND ABOUT

by Gary Mangum

I've never been partial to rain.

These old gray clouds come drifting in and then they squeeze up and rain on your parade. And usually with the dampness comes the "rainy day blues."

This isn't a new brand of music. It's just the plain and simple blues - depression. I've been depressed for so long now that it has given me a headache. It's not as if I've given up hope; hopeless as it is, I do try.

I've read *The Power of Positive Thinking* and as in most inspirational books geared to brighter horizons, it did work, at least during the time it took to read it from cover to cover.

"I'm the best. I'm special. I'm extra-special," I told myself. "This is going to be a great evening." I stared confidently into the mirror. "Great! Great! Great!" I dressed for the night out on the town, and with my pockets full of money I felt especially special.

"I'm handsome. I'm witty. I'm special," I sang, as I walked down the sidewalk. It was a dark night and the clouds were low and close, but I was a shining star. "Star! Star! Star!" I shouted. "And Rich! Rich! Rich!"

I was so entranced with my bubbling new outlook and the outgoing new me, that I didn't notice the lone figure following me. When I did notice, I wasn't too concerned. But then I stopped - he stopped. I turned onto a new block - he turned, too. I stepped up my pace - he stepped up his. I ducked into an alley and stood very still in the darkness. "He's not a mugger. He's not, he's not, he's not," I said firmly.

"So there you are," said the mugger.

I hate Norman Vincent Peale.

Someone told me once that a "best friend" is more comforting and helpful, more kind and considerate, more loving and much more sincere than any psychiatrist could ever be. Mine died.

He left me his scrapbook filled with countless memories, a photo album containing favorite pictures of himself and me, and a pocket watch handed down from his great-great grandfather and a bottle of Boone's Farm apple wine. I cried all the way to the dumpster in the alley, and although I've never been overly sentimental, I kept the wine.

Having no other alternative, I decided to see a psychiatrist. I made an appointment at Rupert's Health Clinic and Leather Boutique.

I suppose I should have been suspicious right from the start when I read the diploma hanging on the wall *Mail-Order College of Psychiatry* printed in crayon on the backside of a Jack-In-The-Box carry out bag, but I was just too distraught to care. I simply took a seat and stared at the floor. "I need help," I sighed desperately.

Rupert, himself, studied me from head to toe. "That's obvious," he said, resting his chin on his index finger. "I would suggest a western outfit, chaps, vest, hat - with just enough pearl buttons to give contrast to your dark features. And of course those tacky patent leathers must go."

I looked at my Gucci's. "I came for psychiatric help," I said.

"That's obvious, too," said Rupert. He pressed the button on his stop watch.

"Well, I've just been so depressed lately."

Rupert nodded his head sympathetically. "I know the feeling. Nobody seems to care, do they?"

"No," I sniffled.

"You feel like it wouldn't matter if someone came up and slapped your face."

"That's right," I sobbed. "I just don't care what happens to me anymore."

"And someone could tie you up and do all sorts of abusive things to you and you wouldn't even lift a finger in protest because nothing really matters."

"Exactly," I said, clenching my handkerchief in hand and wiping at the tears.

"And you wouldn't even make an effort to report them, either."

"Of course not," I cried. "Why should I?"

I shudder now when I recall how I dangled from Rupert's ceiling, tied and drawn. Later that evening after he had tried all his little toys and unamusing little scenes with me, I was finally unstrung. I fell to the floor.

"You were wonderful," he said. "I'll never leave you. We'll have fun like this every night of our lives."

"A real rat!" I thought, looking for a heavy object to knock him out with.

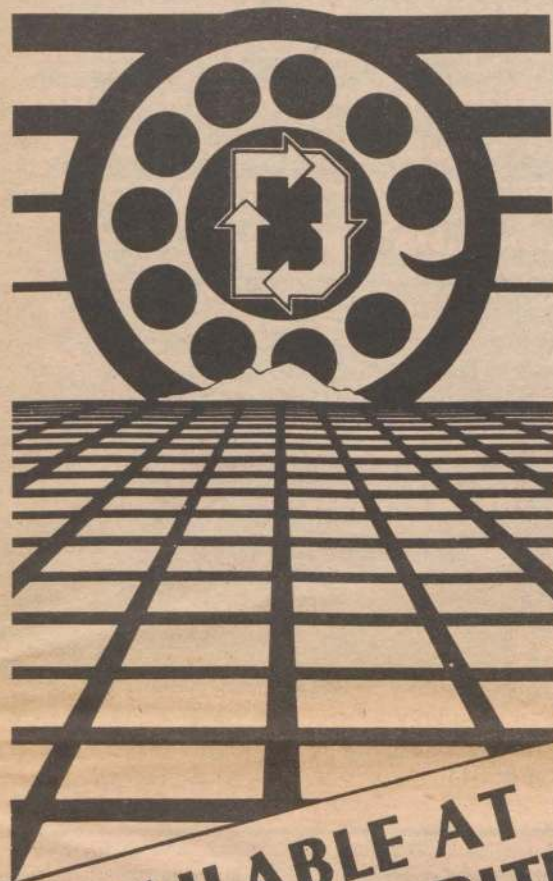
Thinking back to all these horrible memories merely adds to my depression and sharpens my headache. God, what I'd give for an extra strength Tylenol, a video tape of *Bambi* and perhaps one ray of sunshine.

But even amidst all this depression things keep happening - life goes on and I write about it all.

It seems there is yet one more bar on The Phoenix scene, with the unpublicized but well received opening of the CATTLEMEN'S EXCHANGE CLUB. Check out BRONCO'S Saturday night Steak Fry for \$4.95 from 7 PM to 10 PM. A real good deal! Stick around for some good sounds. Currently playing Friday and Saturday nights is Speakeasy, featuring that remarkable songbird Lisa. She's wonderful! HOTBOD'S will be playing host to Vickie Sue Robinson

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tonight and tomorrow evening (Nov. 24 & 25) with after hours till 3 AM. Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at THE LIBRARY on Thursday from 1 PM to 10 PM. Reservations are suggested. TAYLOR'S has announced Wednesday is Buddy Night with two people paying only half price for the second dinner. Friday and Saturday nights are \$1 Wine Special nights. Don't forget the Video Vignettes on Thursday nights at 10 PM and first run movies on Mondays at 8 PM. SAMMY'S will host Winter Festival 1982 on December 4 from 2 PM till 7 PM featuring show-stopping entertainment, games, door prizes, raffles, food and beverages. It looks like the sun may be shining soon - good! Don't hesitate to say hello if you see me out and about!

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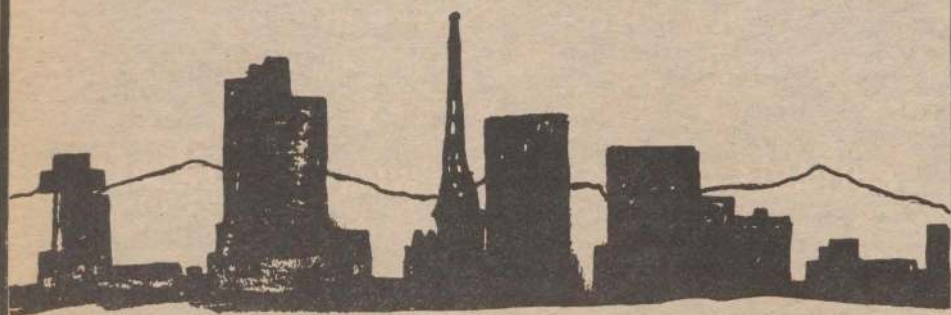
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Getting to Know You... continued from page 1

rently is tenor soloist at the First United Methodist Church in Phoenix and the cantorial soloist at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley. He is completing his Masters Degree in Music at Arizona State University and has previously performed with the Arizona State University Lyric Opera Theatre. His professional goals are to teach voice at the college level and to sing opera professionally. In addition to Mr. Stein's direction, the chorus takes direction from at least two other chorus members who are able to give their listening audience a variation in singing style and a peppiness needed to show their versatility. The gamut of works performed indeed highlight each of the directors as well as the chorus.

"A Desert Sky Christmas - 1981" performed on December 19, 1982 was said to be the inspiration needed to get people attending this concert into the Christmas spirit. With the troubled economic times, this is a major accomplishment that many of the members of the chorus don't realize.

Norman Smith, Development Director, says, "I find myself waking up in the middle of the night making notes. That's how excited I am about the Desert Sky Singers. We have made countless friends in this community, and our spirit, dedication, versatility and general feeling of love is unmatched anywhere in town." As Development Director, Mr. Smith has undertaken the difficult duty of publicizing future concerts, and assumed the responsibility of promoting the chorus in every moment that he is awake. His dedication to this group is sincere, and his concern for their future genuine. The camaraderie felt at each rehearsal explains his and all others feelings for the group as a whole and for each other as single men doing something they feel good about.

In the recent theatrical tradition, a spin-off was inevitable. The Desert Sky Singers accomplished this without losing any of their members, but by creating and supporting an ensemble group entitled, CHAPS. This group consists of ten to fifteen of the regular chorus members who perform choreographed, carefully rehearsed numbers and represent the chorus in situations where it would be impossible for the entire group to appear. Through their expert productions, they both bring recognition to the main chorus, and are able to act as goodwill ambassador for the entire community. Since their inception last year, CHAPS has performed at several different engagements including three retirement centers, and five benefit performances for various community services. Their appearance at the dinner held to benefit the Alternative Relations Center added the final dessert to a great evening.

In discussing the reasoning for the group, and his personal involvement, Mark Niswander, General Manager stated, "What made me go into this? Oh God! I guess it's the sense of sharing, and the spirit of giving that has kept me involved. It is such a positive way to meet people with a common interest. It's a good outlet as opposed to the many other negative avenues people use to make friends. When you see a young man, new to our community, a little embarrassed and timid, show up at a rehearsal and audition, and become a member of the chorus, the transformation this once shy individual makes to a comfortable, important member of the group makes it all worth it. Our audiences seldom realize just what performing in the chorus does for us as well as entertain them." Mr. Niswander is not without dreams for this organization. He would like to see it grow to about seventy-five to a hundred members with at least three major concert performances a year. He would like it to be able to support a paid administrative staff and to be able to participate in some of the national choral festivals. These dreams are pretty much echoed throughout the membership, and not so unattainable.

While the members of the chorus are strictly performing for the enjoyment

they receive as individuals, they pay membership dues and receive no remuneration for their efforts. With an operating budget of approximately six thousand dollars per year, this entire amount is funded through donations, membership dues, and the small amount of profit derived from their public performances. Identically dressed for each of their performances, this cost is often absorbed by the individuals. The major expense of the organization is in purchasing the music and the rights to perform this music, needed for them to appear in public. Many people don't realize that you can't just get the kids together and put on a show like in the days of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. The writers and publishers of music all want a cut, and to put it plainly, the piper must be paid. In order for this group to gain recognition and exposure it is also necessary that they belong to several associations which are additional costs. Through these associations, they find out what material is available, what other choral groups are doing, and are often encouraged to participate in national festivals. There is to be Coastal Choral Festival held in New York City in August of 1983, but The Desert Sky Singers will have to decline because the estimated cost to send this group to New York would be approximately \$25,000.00. These funds just are not available at this time, and it's a shame because our community's singers are every bit as talented as others who will be there.

Presently, as I mentioned in the beginning of this article, all of their efforts are going into the production of their 1982 Christmas Concert to be held December 12, at the Unitarian Church - 4027 East Lincoln Drive - Phoenix, Arizona. Concert time is 3:00 P.M. and admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available at R. Hegyi, Hot Duds, Emerald City Stained Glass, all in Phoenix, and at the Desert Squire and Pavilion in Scottsdale. Tickets are \$4.00 per person. If you can't get to this concert, but are interested in seeing the Desert Sky Singers around for a long time, get out your checkbooks and give them a little Christmas by writing them a tax-deductible donation and mail it to: Desert Sky Singers, Inc., P.O. Box 16383; Phoenix, Arizona 85011.

Lambda Report continued from page 1

Also included in the report is an overview of state anti-gay legislation involving gay teachers and gay students, and appendices on gay teacher and gay student cases and challenges to state consensual sodomy statutes. These are particularly hopeful to attorneys undertaking future challenges to anti-gay laws and doing gay rights litigation in general. But the main aim of the report is the development of tactics to combat laws denying public monies for groups espousing gay rights.

"We need to be very serious in our response to the new right on this issue," said Ms. Richter. "What is particularly frightening about these statutes is that by withholding federal or state funding from gay and non-gay individuals and organizations, legislators are abusing the budgetary process to undermine our constitutional rights."

Funding for the report was provided by the New York University Public Interest Law Foundation, the Playboy Foundation, the Funding Exchange, and Columbia University Public Law Foundation.

Copies of the report — \$10 for individuals and non-profit groups, \$20 for libraries, law firms and academic institutions, plus \$2.50 per copy for postage and handling — can be ordered from Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 132 West 32nd Street, New York, New York 10036. Checks or money orders should be made payable to LLDEF, allowing four weeks for delivery.



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PROFILE PHX

by **Barry Alexander**

Sometime ago someone mentioned to me that I should do interviews with well known people of the community. I liked the idea and out of it has evolved conversations with people you may or may not know personally. Hopefully, Profile Phx will give its readers new insights and in the long run a better understanding of the complexities of our lifestyle.

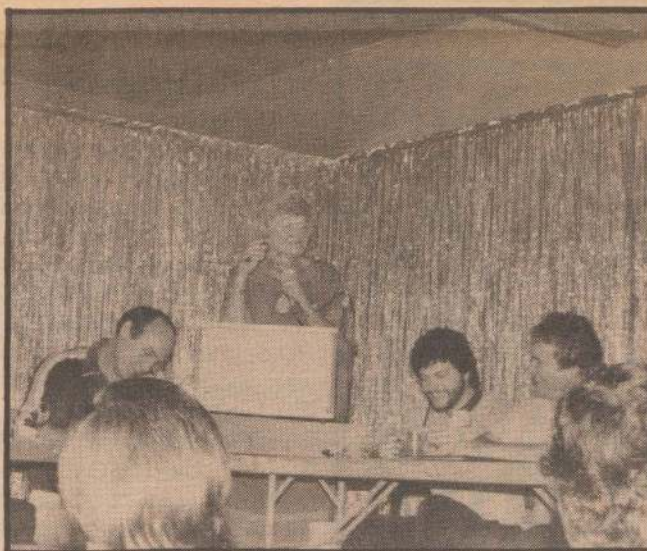
Although many people have known the subject of this weeks profile for many years, I nevertheless found a person determined to improve the quality of his life and others. It is my privelege to present to the community a profile and conversation with Danny Butler.

Sitting lakeside at McCormick Ranch sipping cocktails and enjoying the splendid view was a perfect setting for my conversation with Danny. My many years of acquaintance with Danny lead me to skip the trivial obvious questions. I was interested in how the man thinks and what his objectives in life are. I soon had my answers.

Butler arrived in Phoenix 8 years ago from Erie, Pa. via Colorado. "Dreary Erie" as Danny referred to it was home for a year or so. Prior to that he had come from Cleveland where he was born and raised. At the age of 5 he had polio and started dance lessons to strengthen himself physically. This dancing at an early age lead him later to audition in Las Vegas and Cleveland. He was told he was too short to be a dancer. Danny later signed on with Jeff Kutash and the Upbeat Dancers, a group known for shorter dancers. Even though Danny was told earlier he was too short he was the tallest male dancer in the troupe.

Danny made a career of dancing for several years appearing on the syndicated television program "Upbeat" out of Cleveland, and traveling in dance studios and as free lance dance instructor.

Since his arrival in Phoenix Danny has worked for Sammy and Bill, longtime Phoenix barowners, first at the old Casa de Roma, the Forum/Boardwalk, where I first came to know him, and the bar at one of Phoenix' more popular night spots, Sammy's. Speaking of bartending and his work experience he indicates "I am pretty satisfied with where I am." Danny has been honored three times as Gay Phoenix Bartender of the Year. When asked what advice he would give other bartenders, he said, "Pay attention. Leave problems on the other side of the bar, always smile and even though you are busy, acknowledge a



At The Roast — Keith Morris, Rusty Warren, Danny Butler, Glenn Butler

customers presence and they will stay with you a long time."

Throughout our conversation Danny's always sharp wit was present along with a deep sense of integrity, responsibility and a much thought out personal philosophy. "I've always treated people the way I expect to be treated. I've been very lucky as far as my lifestyle is concerned. It has been very good to me. We must reach out to help others even though we may be 'burned' at times. We have to help those gays not as fortunate as some of us are," Butler said.

He went on to say, "I really hate people talking badly about other people - I don't like gays who gossip just to pump themselves up to make them look good."

There is a definite purpose in Danny's life and he has set very specific goals for himself. "One of my ultimate goals in life would be to own my own club." Danny didn't stop there, "I would like to dance more and check out the arts in school."

During a recent illness he feels that he was given a second chance and plans to make the best of what he's got. The recent roast of Danny at the Grand Camel got this comment, "It was wonderful. I'm very lucky to have as many great friends or they wouldn't get up and do it. I was dragged through the dirt but it was all in fun and I probably deserved it."

After a hectic schedule of bartending and now with his recent recuperation Danny and lover Bob head for the White Mountains and their cabin they are refurbishing. "That's where I get away from it all," He

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went on to say that he enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking and sailing. His love of the outdoors is proven by the fact that he hitchhiked across America and Canada several times. And he also worked a crew on a ship back East. Along with dancing and the great outdoors Danny enjoys 'cruising' (both kinds) on ocean liners.

In concluding our conversation Danny made a point of thanking the entire community for their love, support "and standing by me through all this. Times like this you know who friends really are."

As we departed we briefly discussed the questions I didn't ask like astrological signs, birthdate, etc. Danny volunteered, "I'm a Taurus who hates puce."

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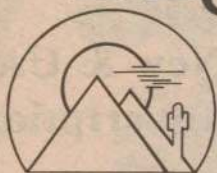
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PUBLISHER'S COMMENTARY

WESTERN EXPRESS PLANS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUES

The Western Express will celebrate its anniversary in two issues in the month of December. As the year was not only our first, but also a year of many firsts for the State of Arizona in gay happenings, we want to address it as exactly that, "A year of firsts".

1982 included attendance at the Gay Press Association Convention by five state journalists where Bob de Brecht was elected the Association's national secretary, the National Gay Leadership Conference and the National Newspaper Association convention, and by many at the Reno Gay Rodeo where Tish Tanner was elected 'Miss Gay Rodeo'. The year saw the establishment of the Gay Barowners Association in Arizona, along with the Gay Businessowners Association, the Gay Community/Police Liaison Committee, the Community Performing Arts League, the Gay Athletes Association and the national convention of Great Outdoors. Ten persons from Phoenix and Tucson took part in the Gay Olympic Games in San Francisco in front of over fifty fellow community members who attended, and they brought home the Gold, Silver and Bronze. The Alternative Relations Center, home of Gay Youth, Parents and Friends of Gays, and Crisis Hotline, and many other functions, found it's new ranch styled four acre home and opened its doors to the community.

Gay men and women were coming out, expressing their need for equality and a recognition of their right to live their own chosen lifestyle and they were willing to work to see those achieved. It might have been best summed up by one who said, "It's like Phoenix and Tucson and gay people throughout the state passed from many years of gay communities in the shadows, if not in hiding, and of infancy in establishing the true 'community', into a first year of maturity." The movement, achieved in other cities many years ago and yet to be achieved in many, finally achieved a foothold in Arizona.

To celebrate this auspicious year for Arizona and the first year of publication of *The Western Express*, the newspaper in its issue of December 8 will feature the writings of its own staff in reflecting on the year and photo recollections of many events. Those staff members have created the image of *The Western Express* and its one-on-one contact with the gay communities of the state which many have been so kind to remark upon. This is their issue dedicated to the gay community of Arizona.

The issue of December 22 marks a first in national gay journalism. The accomplishments in Arizona coincided with accomplishments of organized gay journalists throughout the country in establishing our own network of news and information dispersal in methods ranging from computerized wire services to that most basic one of publishers and writers introducing themselves to one another, shaking hands and agreeing to work mutually. *The Western Express* has invited gay journalists from all major cities to participate in a 'Writer's Forum' on the subject, "A MATTER OF GAY IMPORTANCE IN 1982." These will be their individual observations whether it be an event in Boston, a rally in San Francisco, a meeting in Miami or a health crusade in Denver.

Also in the issue of December 22 the newspaper will inaugurate *The Western Express Community Choice Awards*®, designed to draw attention to persons and businesses in our community for achievements during the year.

We hope you join with us in celebrating the year for so many reasons of great importance to us all and agree that it was certainly "A year of firsts!"

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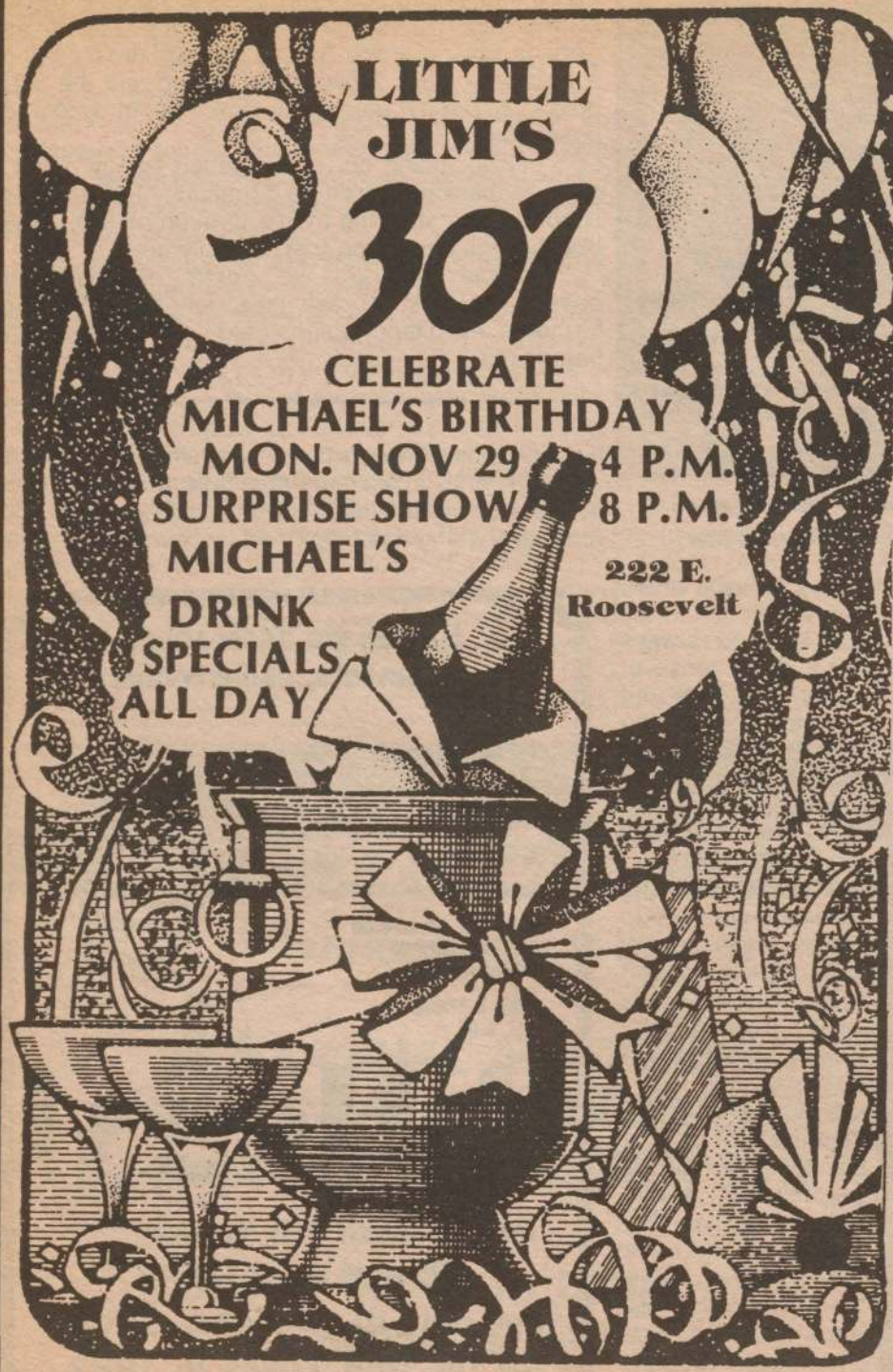
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M.C.C. of Tucson in conjunction with Gay Christian Outreach of Tucson announces its 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 25, Noon to 5:00 P.M. M.C.C. will gratefully accept all financial and food donations for this worthy cause.

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Arizona Gay Youth (Lesbians and Gays under 21) meet every Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. in Phoenix, for discussion, pool, piano and recreation. Call ARC Hotline for directions and more information, 7 P.M. to 11 P.M. at 274-0927.

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