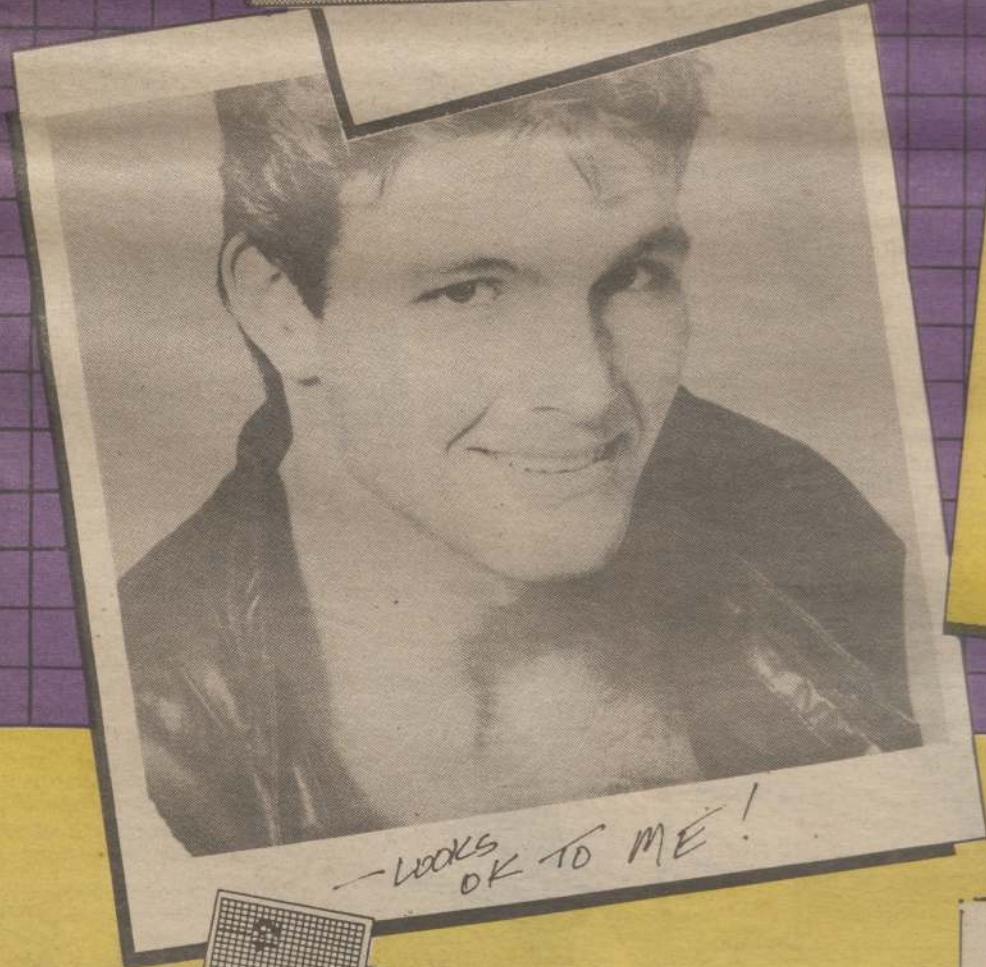




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INSIDE:

PR GOES TO THE DESERT STATES LESBIAN
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PG. 6

MECHAM WATCHDOG:
AN INTERVIEW WITH ED BUCK

PG. 12

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Volume III

Issue 8

FEATURES:

MECHAM WATCHDOG:
An Interview With Ed Buck
PG. 12

DESERT STATES LESBIAN
& GAY CONFERENCE:
A Report
PG. 6

COLUMNS:

Humanspace Book Review	Meg Umans	4
Ticket Stubs	Paul King	8
Valley Cruisin'	Mangum & Lash	10
No Fluff	Coulter & Christopher	7
Trivia Twist	Trish	7
Business Resource Guide		18
Classifieds		19

STAFF:

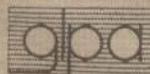
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter To: The friends, supporters and
members of Arizona's Lesbian and Gay
Community

Dear Friends-

If you have growing concerns about the quality of the lives of Lesbians and Gays in Arizona, I encourage you to read this letter.

I am taking this opportunity to tell you about the current status of the LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY SWITCHBOARD, INC. and ARIZONA AIDS INFORMATION LINE. I want to share with you the Vision of our organization, of our community, and of our State, and I want to encourage you to share in this Vision.

We are a diverse people. We are male and female. We are of different nationalities and religions, different backgrounds and geographic origin, and many of us are gay and lesbian. However, underlying all of the characteristics that make us unique is common ground. We are all human beings wanting to love and be loved. We want to understand, and to be understood.

I am suggesting that, now, more than ever before, we need to join together and embrace a uniting issue: we are all fundamentally the same. We need to communicate this to those who do not know or who do not understand. I know this letter may sound idealistic, but if we don't have our ideals, what do we have?

Many people do not realize we can experience tremendous unity in diversity — their vision is blurred, their eyes are closed, and in many cases, they are looking away, denying the fact that we are all connected. Many of these people are powerful and influential, and they are damaging our lives by perpetuating myths about lesbians and gays.

The American Psychological Association (APA) says that lesbians and gays are faced with "patterns of thought-control inhibiting open education, research, and the free exchange of ideas concerning homosexuality." These inhibitors are everywhere and most frequently illustrated by Gov. Mecham. A recent letter from the Governor's office referred to lesbians and gays as "abhorrent", and went on to say that homosexuality was "punishable by death among the Children of Israel." We all know that "abhorrent" more accurately describes the homophobia that is prevalent in Arizona. A slick cycle is in place — ignorance breeding homophobia breeding ignorance breeding homophobia — and that cycle needs to be broken, but how?

I know that many of us are hurt, frustrated and angered by the homophobia originating from the Governor's office, from the electronic pulpits, and from a myriad of other sources. I know that we are all growing weary of not being able to live full and complete lives because of supreme ignorance. Is there something that we can do to end this cycle of bigotry?

I believe so. The APA says, "There is a clear need for open education which will allow public access to reliable information (about lesbians and gays) which has been widely censored and suppressed." It would be nice if reliable information just appeared in the system, but that doesn't seem likely.

There is a need for change. We can continue to wait for that change, or we can create it.

Now is the time for us to put our differences aside. Now is the time for us to realize the importance of unity in diversity. Now is the time for us to pick up the pieces of ourselves, our community, and our state. Now is the time to embrace wholeness.

We need to *Catch The Vision* of a unified and communicative Lesbian and Gay Community. We need to lay the foundation for what can become one of the most progressive and organized lesbian and gay communities in the United States. This is what the evolution of the LGCS, Inc. and AAIL is all about.

At a recent Board meeting, we adopted the following organizational statement of purpose:

"To serve as an educational, informational and networking resource center with the purpose of carefully, continually and thoroughly assessing, addressing and communicating the growing and changing needs of Arizona's Lesbian and Gay Community."

We are currently taking the following steps to assure that we will be fulfilling our organization's purpose:

1. Creating the "Community Committee", consisting of representatives from every lesbian and gay organization in Arizona. The Community Committee will facilitate cohesiveness in the community, and will ensure that The Switchboard is truly a voice of the community as a whole.

2. Launching a statewide, grassroots educational effort to ensure the dissemination of honest, accurate and positive information addressing lesbian and gay concerns:

A. *Speaker's Bureau* — members, friends and supporters of the lesbian and gay community who continually address classes in educational institutions, government organizations, business and civic groups, congregations of churches, religious leaders, public forums, etc.

B. *Media Task Force* — members, friends and supporters of the lesbian and gay community who continually participate in ongoing media relations with radio and television stations, and with the press. Activities of the task force include monitoring and addressing the media, and networking among members and supporters of the lesbian and gay community who are willing to be public in addressing the community's concerns.

C. *Arizona AIDS Information Line* — a service which provides AIDS information and referral, not only to the lesbian and gay community, but to the public at large. The AAIL allows us to continue to be leaders in the battle against AIDS, and offers us opportunities to speak openly and candidly with government and educational leaders addressing lesbian and gay concerns.

3. *Business and Professional Referral Service* — puts members, friends and supporters of the lesbian and gay community in touch with supportive doctors, lawyers, counselors, nightclubs, social groups, religious support

continued on page 5

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HUMANSPACE BOOK REVIEW

Meg Umans

The Gentle Art Of Verbal Self-Defense. Suzette Haden Elgin, author. Dorset Press; © 1980 Prentice-Hall. 305 pages, index. \$12.95 hardbound.

The ambiguous publishing history of *The Gentle Art Of Verbal Self-Defense* is deliberate. Prentice-Hall books are of uniformly high literary and material quality — the most familiar example will be their *The Male Couple* — and Prentice-Hall is consistently courteous and cooperative with small bookstores. Good products and good service are rare among major publishers.

So why did a wonderful book turn up in an icky reprint from an unknown press? (It's easy to read — it just looks icky.) The missing link is Barnes & Noble — they sell good literature to New York intellectuals at reasonable prices, and they're doing well, to put it mildly. So well that they write off some of their profit through their own presses. What this means to us is that I pay less, so you pay less...for books I want you to have that aren't available in paperback.

I do want everyone to have *The Gentle Art Of Verbal Self-Defense*. Elgin is an applied psycholinguist and teacher of linguistics, so I like her, and she writes excellent science fiction, so many of you like her, and she's a confident and assertive woman, so we'll all enjoy watching her think.

She fooled me. I bought this title for Humanspace because I like her background and her writing, and I get many requests for books about assertive behavior that apply to men and women. And then she started talking down to me, telling me things I

knew, using simplistic language, giving me orders, telling me what I'm thinking...annoying me.

Which is exactly what she intended to do, without excuses or explanations or apologies. My options were clear: I could keep reading and feeling frustrated, or stop reading and consider the time and gut reaction wasted, or I could pay attention. If Elgin hadn't been sure enough of what she was saying to act like a royal pain, I wouldn't have been involved enough to see that she was teaching me how to prevent verbal pain.

By the time I finished reading, I was *high*. If you've ever felt helpless or inept under verbal attack, you'll feel the same way. This book works, in the most effective possible way: not by telling, but by showing. And you'll find yourself using this information automatically, and feeling increasingly better about your ability to defend yourself.

In Heat: A romance. Larry Mitchell, author. New York: Gay Presses of New York, 1985. 146 pages. \$6.95 paperbound.

It seems to me that there are two possible literate responses to Larry Mitchell's writing: either you love it or you haven't read any yet. If you haven't read any yet, please remedy that situation. The guy's a terrific writer. He's not for everyone, though, so you may as well decide at the outset whether you're willing to expand your reading pleasure to include him. You've got to be willing to read about men loving men, and you've got to be willing

to recognize the interplay of thought and action in your leisure reading, and good writing has to be important to you.

In Heat takes place during a heat wave in the early 1980's in New York City. If you come from, or live in, a part of the country where summer is a continuous heat wave, you may find the unaccustomed responses of big-city northerners surprising each time they hit the media. But relentless heat is rare where I come from (which happens to be New York City), and when you're surprised by it, you find your own responses surprising.

That's what happened to the people who populate *In Heat*. Best friends fall in love, and in the same process they both fall in love with a mysterious old man. Mitchell assembles a collection of strongly developed secondary characters who wander in and out of the primary action and leave their influence in your mind. All of this is real, mostly because of Mitchell's quick and vivid descriptions — you've suspended disbelief before you know it.

As important to the story as the confusing eruptions of love are the confusing eruptions of sex. Who does what with whom, and how and when and why, gave me frequent jolts out of the various mindsets Mitchell encouraged. The transmission of AIDS is controversial among the male characters, and prevented (most of the time) in a way we all need to know about. They used condoms, which we all know about anyway. But Mitchell's description told me something I hadn't thought of, so that now I look forward to the experience. (Did you think I was

going to tell you why it sounds attractive to me now? This is one of many delights the book will provide.)

Mitchell has written other books: you can start here or anywhere.

Meg is a counselor in private practice in Phoenix, and owner of Humanspace Books, Inc. All of the above books are available from the publishers and at Humanspace.

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continued from page 3

groups, etc. 4. *Community Artist Series and Community Lecture Series* — provides opportunities for members and supporters of the lesbian and gay community to utilize their talents while helping to raise much needed volunteer and financial support for The Switchboard.

We are close putting together a fundraising committee, a facility development committee, a grants task force, and advisory board, and we will be having regular volunteer get-togethers.

We have worked to develop a strategy to change the environment of Arizona, and we are actively seeking your participation in bringing this Vision into reality. The Vision needs your participation, your inspiration and the contribution of your resources.

We have a new strategy, new energy and new direction. We have a Vision, and it's changing. We are already sending representatives of our Speaker's Bureau to speak to college classes, volunteer participation is on the upswing, and I am currently working closely with a reporter who is doing a comprehensive story on Arizona's Lesbian and Gay Community.

The Switchboard has been around for ten years this month. We are leaving the childhood stages and entering adolescence, and by the time you read this, we'll be preparing for our first date! Please don't stand us up. The Switchboard needs to grow. We are becoming an "educational,

informational and networking resource center with the purpose of carefully, continually and thoroughly assessing, addressing and communicating the growing and changing needs of Arizona's Lesbian and Gay Community."

Here's what we need from you to continue in our maturation process:

1. Your energy and your expertise. Review this letter and let us know what areas of our organizational blueprint interest you the most, and give us a call to join the "building crew." Our next volunteer potluck and pool party is soon, so don't delay — call today. Call 234-2752.
2. If you are a member of a lesbian and/or gay organization, please call me to come and share the Vision with your group. Please write about us in your newsletter, and send us a representative for our Community Committee.
3. It is crucial that we receive your generous financial support. Don't just think in terms of reviving The Switchboard. Think in terms of securing the future of the organization that will positively impact all of our lives. *Make your tax-deductible donation today.*
4. Please join with me in *Embracing Wholeness*

Nicholas Snow,
Executive Director
Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard, Inc.
& Arizona AIDS Information Line

CATS IN JULY

Tickets are now available for the international musical hit, *CATS*. Tickets will be available at the Civic Plaza Box Office and all Dillard's outlets.

CATS comes to Symphony Hall for July 28 through August 16 performances. Show times are 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 28 through Saturday, August 8, with matinees at 2 p.m. August 1 and 2, 6 and 8. Tickets are priced at \$37, \$34 and \$25 for all performances.

Presented by Cameron Mackintosh, The Really Useful Company, Ltd., David Geffen and Shubert Organization, *CATS* is directed by Trevor Nunn, with Gillian Lynne as associate director and

choreographer. Sets and costumes by John Napier, with lighting designed by David Hersey.

CATS was originally produced in London's West End, where it opened at the New London Theatre on May 11, 1981. On October 7, 1982, *CATS* opened at Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre, where it won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The national touring company bringing *CATS* to Symphony Hall is one of a group of companies presenting the show in cities across the United States. The show plays Denver before opening in Phoenix, then moving to San Diego. For ticket information call 262-7272.

NGLTF MAKES PAYMENT FOR AZT TOP PRIORITY

Declaring that "bankruptcy should not be the price for prolonged life," the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is pressing Congress to make an emergency appropriation to pay for AZT for those persons not covered by third party plans. "Achieving federal funding for AZT treatments will be a major priority of the Task Force in the months ahead," stated Jeff Levi, NGLTF's Executive Director.

The recently licensed drug AZT, marketed as Retrovir, is estimated to cost \$7-10,000 per year. It is the first drug licensed to treat AIDS and severe ARC. Some 5,000 persons with AIDS were receiving the drug free of charge prior to licensing; they must now pay for the treatment as well.

Levi said that it is "unethical to withhold treatment from individuals who have been receiving a life-prolonging drug and outrageous that people whose lives could be prolonged will die prematurely because they cannot afford a drug. We must not wait for the first person to die unnecessarily before taking steps to assure that those who cannot afford AZT are provided funds by the federal government to pay for treatment."

The Task Force has called on Congress to add emergency funds in the current fiscal year (1987) and

include monies in the upcoming fiscal 1988 budget to create a special fund for new treatments for AIDS. Because of the progress that has already been made on the supplemental appropriation for fiscal 1987, this addition will probably be made on the floor of the Senate or House. The Task Force therefore urges all interested persons to write to their representatives and Senators in Washington to support such funding. Estimates are that up to \$30 million will be needed in fiscal 1987 and \$60 million to pay for treatment of those on AZT not covered by private health insurance or Medicaid.

There are two compelling arguments to be made to Congress, Levi said. "The first is a moral one — we cannot allow people to die prematurely when there is a licensed treatment. The second is financial — by paying for AZT for those affected individuals, the government will actually be saving money by keeping them off Medicaid and other forms of public assistance — when they would have to pay for both the drug therapies and all their other medical costs."

Action by Congress on the supplemental appropriation is expected after the Easter recess.

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DESERT STATES CONFERENCE PROMOTES 'GAY HARMONY'

Jeff Coulter

"If I am not for myself, who is for me? and if I am only for myself, what am I? and if not now, when?"

This quote, by Rabbi Hillel, provided the theme for the Third Desert States Lesbian and Gay Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 10 - 12. The theme, "If not now, When?" seemed to dominate the conference; time and time again, it was obvious that those attending were asking themselves this very question. The Desert States Conference provided the answer: Now.

From its opening speech until the last goodbyes, this meeting of gays and lesbians from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah provided answers, inspiration and new questions for the participants. To say that the conference was a success would be an understatement. For those 200 men and women who attended, the conference was more than a success; it was a triumph. Besides its' educational workshops covering everything from Imperial courts to the National Sexual Privacy Challenge, the atmosphere of the meeting itself was exactly what conference planners had hoped for: a place for gays and lesbians to be themselves with pride, dignity, and openness.

The opening keynote speaker Kathy Sarris, founder of Justice Inc., a political advocacy organization for gay and lesbian people in Indiana, was the first to speak on this harmony. "In the heart of America's Southwest, lonely voices have spoken of self respect, equality, and the right of gay and lesbian people to love. Not as strident as the voices of other cities and regions, and without the booming projection of celebrity and culture, the gay and lesbian voices of the

Southwest have steadfastly challenged the fears, myths and ignorance which have prevented self acceptance and denied the justice of equality. The Desert States Lesbian and Gay Conference has brought these voices together. It has given them the harmony borne of different experiences and environments around the region."

Ms. Sarris, by recounting her



personal struggles as a lesbian and an activist, reminded the gathering of the harmony created by pain and struggle toward a goal worth struggling for; pride and equality. The workshops covered subjects such as: *Gay vs Homosexual: Defining Gay American culture of the 1970's - 1980's; Lesbian Leadership; Conquering AIDS Anxiety; In defiance of despair; Rural Gays and Lesbians; If Not Pride, What?* and many others reminded the attendees of the harmony of growth and awareness.

Closing keynote speaker Julian Rush, the nation's only openly gay Methodist minister, spoke of hope, persistence and faith and the blended harmony of the three.

Even the entertainment portion of the Conference spoke of harmony. Romkanovsky and Phillips, well-known gay musical comics, used their humorous harmony to remind us to laugh at ourselves occasionally. Excellent harmony was also provided

by lesbian singer Caryl deGroot and Phoenix's lesbian band Limerance. The conference also provided the opportunity to create a board of directors to represent the southwest region in political and social affairs. One of the issues that the board hopes to address in the first year of its conception is Arizona's Governor Mecham. The plenary section of the conference, held after the closing speaker, saw Denver Colorado chosen as the site of the Fourth Desert States Lesbian and Gay conference. Other issues voted on included the National March on Washington scheduled for October of this year.

For the Southwest, the Desert States Lesbian and Gay Conference was and will continue to be, a chance to develop local and regional approaches to the

special conditions found in its' member states. Extensive isolation for rural gays and lesbians, the beliefs of elected officials that they have no gay constituents, and the blending of several cultures and social systems contribute to the unique environment of the Desert States region. Declining to rely solely on the experience and solutions of large cities on the East and West coast, the past and future conferences seek to develop ideas suited to our region. This kind of grass roots involvement is the reason the conferences are presented. They enable gays and lesbians to meet with their counterparts from surrounding states in an atmosphere of love, acceptance and concern. These gatherings strengthen the voices of equality and self acceptance that are so desperately needed by gays and lesbians everywhere.

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FOX APPEAL



Brantley (yes, that's really his name) Foster is a college graduate from Kansas who wants to go to the Big City and seek his fame and fortune. Mom and Dad shake their heads in disbelief, but wish him well and give him the number of a distant uncle — just in case.

The job that was waiting for him in New York is no longer available. He makes the rounds of personnel departments, hearing over and over: "Too experienced. Not experienced enough. Wrong sex. Wrong color."

His uncle turns out to be the head of a huge conglomerate and Brantley secures a position in the mail room where he reads all the interoffice memos and discovers the company is in disarray. He moves into a vacant office under an assumed name and becomes one of the suits — as his buddy in the mail room refers to executives. Everything seems to be going his way until his uncle's wife takes an amorous interest in him, while he has fallen for Christy Wills, a junior executive in the same building. When a corporate raider comes calling, the charade starts to fall apart.

There is really no secret to the success of *The Secret of My Success*. It's not the kind of film that will change the world, but who wants to sit through heavy movies all the time? Its pleasantly diverting story mixes verbal humor with enough social comment to make it relevant and the occasional sight gags work effectively to sustain the frivolity. Particularly well executed is the sequence where the wife of the boss seduces the young newcomer in a car and finally in a swimming pool. *Jaws*-like music in the background. The musical soundtrack, as a matter of fact, contributes considerably to the playful energy of the picture. There are enough places in *Success* where plot progression is handled with visual action alone that an adequate soundtrack had to be a vital ingredient. David Foster's score is aggressive and

complimentary. This is the twentieth feature film for director Herbert Ross (*The Turning Point*, *Footloose*). He describes the production as a "comedy of manners, criss-crossing romantic interests and mistaken identities."

As seen through the eyes of a babe from the woods, New York City is shown in immense and overwhelmingly frantic fashion; tall buildings and throngs of workers moving like cattle. Director of photography Carlo Di Palma lends his skills to the film. He has been a very busy man, having recently completed work on *Hanna and Her Sisters* and *Radio Days*.

Michael J. Fox stars as the kid with 'the sweet un wrinkled eyes.' Though hardly what people think of as the typical romantic leading man, it is indisputable that he exudes a certain charm. The supporting cast seems, for the most part, to be walking through their roles. The exception is Margaret Whitton, who plays the part of the lecherous aunt with real gusto.

As is the case with so many comedy features, the story is wrapped up quickly. Too quickly. Companion commented that *Success* reminded her of a stretched-out Diet Pepsi commercial and uttered the word usually reserved for puppies and babies: *cute*.

So what is the secret of Brantley's success? Boyish hormones.



(*The Secret of My Success* is a Rastar production released by Universal Studios. Produced and directed by Herbert Ross. Screen play by Jim Cash, Jack Epps Jr. and A.J. Carothers. Music by David Foster. Director of photography, Carlo Di Palma. Starring Michael J. Fox as his usual spunky self, Helen Slater out of her supergirl costume and into a business outfit as the love interest, Richard Jordan as the nasty uncle, Margaret Whitton as the horny wife. Predictable moviemaking with flair. Now showing at a variety of AMC and Mann locations, Blair's Westridge Park, Harkins Kachina, the GCC Paradise Valley theatre and the Drive-ins.)



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WARNING ON TRANSFUSION RISK STIRS CONFUSION, FEARS

Bayer Sued Over Contaminated Blood Product

An advisory issued by the American Red Cross urging those who received blood transfusions between 1978 and April 1985, estimated at about 9 million (30 million may have received blood, but only about 9 million would be alive today, the remainder having died from the diseases that made the transfusions necessary), to undergo the HIV antibody test, followed by estimates from the CDC that about 12,000 Americans probably are infected with the virus because of the transfusions they received during that time, has stirred a high level of anxiety among blood and blood product recipients and prompted confusion about the actual degree of risk associated with a transfusion. The Red Cross advisory was issued on March 17 in anticipation of the CDC's report, published in its weekly bulletin on March 19.

The American Red Cross acknowledged that the risk of infection from contaminated blood was slight. But officials expressed concern that some who had received blood and

blood products before the mass blood testing program began in April 1985 may be carrying and, perhaps, transmitting the virus. The Red Cross said that the risk of infection was higher for those who had received multiple units of blood, who received blood or blood products in late 1984 and early 1985, and who received blood in areas with high prevalence of AIDS. The CDC report recommended that physicians should consider offering the test to "some" patients. The Red Cross, however, recommended that anyone who received blood during the critical period and was concerned about the risk should be tested.

The American Medical Association tempered this warning, noting that a very small percentage of the people who received blood transfusions would actually fit into a high risk category, and that the odds were 0.06% that a person would have been infected. Steven Joseph, M.D., New York City Health Commissioner, also notes that the actual risk is very low, especially for those transfused in the early period

or older people who received one or two units in 1978 or 1980, and that such a blanket statement advising all recipients to be tested has caused a great deal of unnecessary anxiety. Most people, he noted, who received large numbers of units because of critical illnesses or injuries have not survived because of the seriousness of their condition. He said that in New York City, 60% of those transfused with multiple units do not survive a year after the transfusion because their situation was critical.

The phones have been ringing off the wall, Joseph said, and there is a great deal of confusion in the hospitals about this issue. As a result, the city has taken three steps. First, the availability of area hot lines has been increased. Second, hospital blood banks are now permitted by the Department of Health to conduct diagnostic testing in relation to transfusion risk. Third, the city is finalizing a short-term contract with the New York Blood Center to handle the overflow of diagnostic testing that it expects. However, Joseph cautioned that we should not be advising anyone to come and be tested. What we should be doing, he suggests, is telling people to seek

advice from their physicians. This is especially true for younger, sexually active people who received a large number of transfused units between late 1984 through early 1985. This would also include women contemplating pregnancy or in early pregnancy. The question of testing must be individualized, he stated, and we must consider the individual's circumstances rather than issuing blanket statements about testing everyone who has been transfused.

At the same time, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) warned that the government does not have the funds to conduct mass HIV testing or counseling that must accompany testing. He also cautioned that there are no confidentiality safeguards in place for such a large-scale testing program.

In a related development, Bayer A.G. is being sued over its sale of the Factor VIII hemophilia drug made from blood plasma. Liability claims filed in both the U.S. and West Germany contend that the drug may have been contaminated by the HIV virus. Bayer representatives would not comment on the case, since it is in a pre-court phase.

MINNESOTA SODOMY REFORM LEGISLATION STALLED IN HOUSE COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, Mn) — A bill to reform the Minnesota statutes regulating private, adult, consensual sexual activity stalled on April 7th when the House Judiciary Committee by a 14-11 vote refused to report it out for a floor vote in the House of Representatives. On the previous day, the Senate Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of openly gay Senator Allan Spear, approved a companion bill, 11-4.

The reform bill could be revived through a motion to reconsider by a House Judiciary Committee member. House sponsor Rep. Lee Greenfield (D-Minneapolis) may move to reconsider the bill.

The bill received endorsements from a broad range of organizations in the

state, including the Minnesota Medical Association; the Minnesota Public Health Association; the Minnesota Council of Churches; the Minnesota Bar Association; the Lutheran Church in America, Minnesota Synod; Minnesota NOW; and the Lesbian and Gay Community Action Council, Hennepin County.

The bill was the result of the efforts of the Hennepin County Sexual Assault Task Force and the Coalition for Privacy, an ad hoc group whose goal is to protect "sexual privacy between consenting adults." If enacted, the bill would abolish the crimes of sodomy, fornication and adultery while at the same time, establishing a new crime of public sexual conduct. The public sex

provision defines as criminal any penetration in a place in which the person engaging in it may reasonably expect to be observed by individuals not engaged in the conduct. It sets out escalating sentences: the first offense would be a misdemeanor; the second within three years would be a gross misdemeanor; and the third within five years would be a felony.

The public sex proposal drew criticism from some members of the gay and lesbian community. At committee hearings on the bill, two gay men testified to support sodomy law reform, but to oppose the public sex provision. Backers of the bill failed in their attempt to withdraw the felony/third conviction portion of the

bill.

Other witnesses supported the bill from public health, civil liberties, and progressive religious perspectives; while opponents vilified the effort on grounds that homosexuality is immoral, unnatural, perverse and wrong.

Senator Spear, moving force behind the legislation, said, "We attracted a broad base of support for the bill. We built a coalition that had not existed before and put together a professional lobbying campaign, but we needed more letters and phone calls from constituents. We'll be back for the next legislative session in 1989."

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VALLEY CRUISIN'

Garry Mangum

My friends call it "bar burnout." My mother says it is a "mid-life crisis." My other half calls it being "on the rag." My editor claims I'm suffering from "chronic laziness."

I couldn't put my finger on the exact problem until I sat for nearly two hours with pen in hand, staring at a blank piece of paper. When I finally did realize what was causing my brain to draw blanks, it didn't get any easier. To explain:

Every gay community in America has its own specific problems. Every gay person has his or her own specific lifestyle, and with that, their own problems.

People don't read this column to read my lengthy dissertations on the values of being a card carrying homosexual: they read it for information, humor and to see if their names are mentioned. My column isn't read because of the solutions I offer to others problems either. Being a "bar person" (that is, one who frequents the bars), and also a bartender, as well as being a female illusionist (okay, a Drag Queen!), I know most of the things happening (or at least hear about them) before, during, and after the fact. This makes reporting the "news" easy — not always.

I used to call and call. I talked to this person who said call that person who in turn would either have me call someone else or never return my call. So I took to visiting the bars for my information. A person's liver is not intended for this abuse.

Now I keep a calendar — a large calendar. With the help of other periodicals, posters, word of mouth, smart editors etc. etc. the finished product usually looks like I ran my legs off, instead of working my brain to fits trying to write about something of which I really knew nothing.

All this worry, every other week, to make individuals aware of what's going on in the valley and give out a little free advertising is a big pain in my hind quarter.

Oh sure! The big guy wants a pat on the back! Not actually, because I get enough of those. Then he must be mad because he doesn't get paid for the hassles. Not really, because I knew that when I started writing columns like this fifteen years ago. I really don't know what I want. I know I'm really fed up with the entire picture as it stands right now.

I've always marveled at people who could exist outside the bars — never going near them. With me, as with others, nightclubs are like an addicting drug.

I've wondered also how any self-respecting gay person could avoid involving themselves in one or more organizations or movements; that's also part of being gay. There are those who have never joined anything but a book-of-the-month club. There are organizations and clubs screaming for members, just like there are bars screaming for customers. The same are screaming for money too. Every organization has benefits and fundraisers to assist in their endeavors. Some organizations even do charity work for other organizations: bars do the same. Seems hardly a week goes by that we aren't asked to dig into our pockets and give, as we all "should", as no one else is going to help us but ourselves.

Yet sometimes, organizations or bars, in their haste to push a worthy cause, or in their zeal to raise a buck, make

mistakes. In this same haste, toes are stepped on; even broken. I've promised myself I won't say "no" when asked to do a benefit. It has always been my way of saying "thanks" to the community and my good fans for supporting my craziness on stage. But lately I've really had to stop and think about this.

Especially when, for recent example, a worthy organization in real need of funds didn't bother to have members present at a benefit in which I and several other entertainers took part. They had been notified weeks in advance — advertising was out for at least three weeks; still, no one from the organization was present to take a voluntary contribution at the door.

The bar personnel were upset and decided it just "wouldn't be a benefit." But wait a minute, what about the eight entertainers donating their talents to raise money for the "worthy cause?" What about the audience, who thought they'd come for a benefit? The bar was definitely busier than it normally would have been on an off night, and obviously no one got paid; no money went to the cause.

A week or so after the fact, after investigating and complaining, a check was written for \$100 and sent to the organization. Much more than \$100 could have been raised, and should have been donated.

That's only one incident that has caused me much soul-searching of late. Maybe my other half is right — I am on the rag! However — when I donate my time free of charge, and see this type of confusion I get rather angry.

I'm not writing any of this to get people upset at the afore-mentioned organizations or bar; it's too late for that now. I can guarantee you that in the future I'll be very careful when doing benefits, to check out details before I say "yes."

What worries me is the apathy that plagues our community. What a difference two members of that organization could have made at the benefit. One would have been able to ask for a voluntary donation at the door. And why couldn't the bar have put someone on the door themselves to collect the donation? All unanswered questions just because someone didn't care.

It is no wonder our Governor of 100-plus days says our is not a legitimate alternative lifestyle. I think that's why people like Ev Mecham come into power, because no one cares enough to get involved or think or read.

I now find it easy to understand a personal ad that says: "GWM, not into bar scene, seeks same etc. etc..." Has to be another fairy like me...on the rag!

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Valley Cruisin" will return in its usual format next issue.



Two Tons of Fun: The Weather Girls will appear at Connection's Luau May 24th, along with singer Pamala Stanley.



The new staff of Dimestore. They're celebrating their first anniversary!



Jon at Trax Tattered and Torn Party

THIS IS THE EASTER WEEKEND, AND MOST OF THE BARS ARE HAVING SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION. DO YOURSELF A FAVOR — CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WHILE YOU'RE OUT CRUISIN' THE VALLEY. WE GUARANTEE A GREAT TIME!

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BUCKING MECHAM

As there are two sides to every story, I met recently with the 'flipside' of the Mecham Recall coin: Ed Buck, the organizer of the Mecham Watchdog Committee. Buck is a well-versed multifaceted individual. He welcomed the opportunity to set straight current misconceptions about his life and his lifestyle.

Throughout the past few months, Buck has been assailed from almost as many directions as has Governor Mecham. However, it appears that where competency and sincerity have been the considerations when speaking about Mecham, in Buck's case his homosexuality and his presumed activist stance in forming the Watchdog Committee have been the topics in question.

Buck does not consider himself an activist (which, by his own definition, is one "who has a sort of addiction to being involved in one cause after another"). Prior to forming the Mecham Watchdog Committee, Buck was a prominent area businessman, involved in numerous professional concerns. When he made the decision to become involved in the recall effort, Buck chose to sell his businesses and remove himself from all entangling alliances in an effort to devote his time, energy, and resources solely to campaign for Mecham's removal. He is adamant in stating that at all times his interest is in retaining Evan Mecham as the issue and dissuading his detractors from prevailing in making Ed Buck the focus of any attention.

In almost any media description of Ed Buck, his homosexuality has been presented as a consideration. Buck has not denied his homosexuality since having come out to his parents at sixteen. Says Buck, "It's absurd to suggest that I know what the inside of a closet looks like!" He hastens to add that the charges that he is a gay



activist is wishful thinking on the part of those who are suggesting as much; Buck feels that gay rights are the same as human rights. "If the issues are focused on the word *gay*," he says, "only then do the issues become narrow, offensive, and self-serving. In order for the issues being discussed to remain palatable, they must be discussed as if for all people."

Buck feels that with the Mecham administration's help, the gay community in Arizona has been identifiable through misconceptions, and that the inactive segment of the community seems to have stood for the total representation. "In fact," says Buck, "the percentage of what I call 'bar people' amounts to perhaps one-tenth of Arizona's gay population." "It's safe," says Buck about his being the first openly gay businessman in recent memory; he wishes that those who are comfortable in "professional and personal closets" felt the same.

Despite the possibility of anti-gay response due to Buck's heightened visibility, he reports that in fact he has received numerous supportive phone calls and no 'fag bashing' mail. Buck says that his response to detractors follows a simple formula, explaining that "an individual must maintain his strength of character...any attack will expose the weak character of any carper." Buck's position is that "the attitude is not being gay, it's being who you are."

Buck discussed the possibility that if a "gay person simply acted as themselves at work, then perhaps martyrdom might eventually go the way of job

"...If Mecham began a wholesale firing of gays in Arizona, there would be a national outcry..."

dismissal." Buck feels that remaining closeted is akin to playing into Mecham's hands. He believes that in order for the gay community to receive their just dues, they must band together in order to accomplish their own goals as well as those in relation to the Recall effort. "You cannot be fired for being gay," suggests Buck. "If Mecham started a wholesale firing of gays in Arizona, there would be a national outcry." He feels that the bottom line is either loss of job or the loss of a lifestyle, and poses the question, "which would be the lesser choice?"

Ed Buck's original intention, when he formed the Mecham Watchdog Committee, was to put pressure on the Mecham administration. Buck felt that to do so would assist in gaining representation for the sixty percent of the population who did not vote and were not "white, male, and Mormon," and who had pertinent views to be heard.

Mecham is seen as a divisive leader, fast dissembling Arizona. Since taking office, Mecham's administration has seen a 17% drop in Arizona securities and socially, at least, it appears that his intention is to create a closed environment. The governor has yet to return any of Ed Buck's phone calls; when asked what he might say in addressing Mecham, he replies: "Mr.

Nancy Rosenquist

Mecham" (Buck refuses to refer to him as the Governor), "do you realize that you are in office to represent all of Arizona? Why do you find it difficult to include other people's ideas in your decisions?"

Buck feels that Mecham's absolute worst fault is his "myopic view of the world," a view Buck shares with the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Jackson also endorses the recall effort; it is the consensus of both Jackson and Buck that "the Recall effort will succeed in a huge way." Although Buck admits that the first four months of the Watchdog Committee's activities weren't taken seriously, he claims that it now appears that more people have the attitude there *will* be a Recall. Until July, however, when the signatures necessary are officially gathered, this attitude is based on hope and speculation.

There are those who have contributed in obvious ways to the Recall effort, such as Barry Fey of Feyline Concerts, Inc. During the recent concert presented by rock group U2, Fey read a message from the stage indicating that a certain amount of the concert's proceeds would be donated to the Committee. According to Buck, several major acts are being lined up for Arizona appearances, primarily in order to further fund the Recall effort. The next group to appear for this purpose will be popular R & B performers Kool and the Gang, scheduled for May 8.

As a result of Ed Buck's earnest intent to remain 'out of the spotlight,' Grey Panther activist Naomi Harwood has taken over as chairperson for the Committee. Buck says, "It was necessary to perform this 180 degree change; where I am seen as young and male and gay, Harwood is older and an avowed women's activist, and socially very prominent."

When asked to project what a four-year Mecham administration might resemble, Buck suggests that "there would be a weaker economy, and less desire for people to relocate to Arizona. This would create a repressed social progress; also, our tax base would dwindle." Buck claims that, in order to alter this future, gays must "...get involved. Do it — get out there, and don't be afraid to take a stand about who you are."

For further information on the Mecham Watchdog Committee, call (602) 371-1127.



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com•plex (kom-pleks') *n.* 1. a group of related things forming a whole. 2. a grouped assemblage, as of buildings.

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CONGRESS TO ACT ON ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN VIOLENCE

In detailed testimony before Congress on April 2, NGLTF sharply criticized the lack of federal response by the U.S. Justice Department to the alarming incidence of anti/gay lesbian violence. Anti-Violence Project Director Kevin Berrill urged members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and State to make violence against gay people a priority in Fiscal 1988.

"Anti-gay violence is a pervasive problem, one that has been sadly exacerbated by the AIDS crisis," Berrill

told the Subcommittee. "In some communities there are indications that anti-gay violence is increasing. Among groups reporting such violence to NGLTF in 1986, 37% noted that anti-gay violence in their areas was more frequent in 1986 than in 1985."

Berrill outlined the failure of the Justice Department to respond to homophobic violence. "To date, virtually nothing has been done by the federal government to study or remedy this problem. Indeed, the federal response to anti-gay violence reflects

much the same denial and neglect that was evident during the initial stages of the AIDS crisis."

"Nowhere has this neglect been more glaring and willful than at the Department of Justice," testified Berrill. "We have appealed for action to the Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the National Institute of Justice, but to no avail. Even worse, the Office for Justice Programs has at times actually sought to prevent its grant recipients from addressing the legitimate concerns of lesbian and gay crime victims."

NGLTF asked the House Subcommittee to: (1) direct the National Institute of Justice to hold a national conference that would set a research agenda on the problem; (2) direct NIJ to include a focus on anti-gay violence in all its law enforcement training programs, publications and forums, with special attention to innovative programs; and (3) direct the Justice Department to address the needs and concerns of gay and lesbian victims of crime and members of other overlooked and underserved victims groups.

DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENT BLACK PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The New Alliance Party, the nation's largest progressive electoral party, on April 10, will begin petitioning in Arizona to get a Black independent Presidential candidate on the 1988 ballot. Jessica Marta and Vandra Thorburn, organizers for the New Alliance Party, will hold a press conference on April 20, at 10 a.m., in front of the Board of Elections, 3111 No. Third Ave., in downtown Phoenix.

According to Arizona's ballot access laws, an independent party must collect 17,340 signatures of registered voters in order to appear on the ballot. However, organizers aim to collect over 35,000 signatures to insure a high validity rate.

The Black-led, multi-racial party expects to get on the ballot in 21 states before their people's convention scheduled for fall of 1987.

As well, New Alliance Party members are collecting one million signatures urging Rev. Jesse Jackson to support this independent Black Presidential candidacy. The party has committed itself to supporting Jackson if he runs for the 1988 Democratic Party

nomination.

"But we must be prepared for the very strong possibility that he won't get the nomination," said Dr. Lenora Fulani, who is leading the campaign for an independent Black Presidential candidate. "We are asking Rev. Jackson to take a position now that he will not turn the Rainbow votes over to a white male candidate — a Gary Hart or a Bruce Babbit — whose policies are in opposition to the Rainbow vision. If he is not selected as the Democratic Party candidate, I urge him to free up the voters of the Rainbow to cast their Presidential ballot for the Black candidate on the independent ticket."

At the University of Michigan, a study conducted by the Institute for Social Research found that 57% of Blacks who voted for Jackson in the 1984 Democratic primary would have voted for him as an independent in the general election rather than Democratic nominee Walter Mondale.

Update: On the morning of the 20th, Ms. Marta and Ms. Thorburn will be presenting their first 2,000 signatures to Board of Elections officials.

COORS EXCLUDES SAME-SEX COUPLES FROM RACE

In another of its continuing attacks on the Lesbian and Gay community, Adolph Coors Company specifically excluded same-sex couples from entering the Coors Couples Run on Valentine's Day in Portland, Oregon. The race was held to benefit the American Heart Association. Catherine Crooker, Special Events Coordinator for the Heart Association, explained that the event's design and promotion was prepared by the sponsoring firm, Coors. She suggested that questions be addressed to them: Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Co. 80407. She added, "the American Heart Association in Oregon does not discriminate against gays or any other group. After all, heart disease is nondiscriminatory."

When the race brochure was printed, stating seven times that same-sex couples could not participate, Ms. Crooker questioned the policy. She was told that the set-up of the race was not adaptable to same-sex runners because two men or two women would not be equal to a mixed couple in running strength. "exactly who does

Coors see as inferior or superior to mixed couples; two lesbian women or two gay men? Did they make sure that all mixed couples were of equal running strength? We doubt it," stated Carey Junkin of COUPLES, Inc. The Los Angeles based group is the National Organization for the Advancement of Lesbian and Gay Couples.

Mr. Junkin addd, "This only confirms the need to continue the total boycott of Coors beer. Coors has a history of homophobia and continuing bigotry towards our community and their employees. This latest action specifically adds same-sex couples to their list of unacceptable groups. These groups include people of color, labor unions and lesbians and gays."

According to Mr. Junkin, "COUPLES, Inc. firmly supports the continuing Coors boycott and reminds all Lesbians and Gays of the need to strengthen our efforts to demand equal treatment. Couples are invited to help us make this demand at The Wedding in Washington on October 10, 1987 and

continued on page 16

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TRIVIA TWIST with trish

1. Which ex-beauty queen had a number one hit single with the song, "Paper Roses?"

2. Who is the scrappy 'fowl' cartoon character that wears a sailor's cap?



3. Who always went 'on the road' with Bob Hope?

4. Who starred on television as John Boy Walton?

5. What do these four stars have in common?

Answers - last issue:

1. May
2. April
3. June
4. Daisy

5. These are the names of Donald Duck's Girlfriend and her three nieces.

DIVINATION DAY AT HUMANSPACE

Michael Ripley is a well-known local practitioner of New Age divination and spiritual wisdom; he's offered his services in the Valley for several years, after training with Bernice Falling Leaves and others.

On Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m., Ripley will talk with us at Humanspace Books, Inc. He'll give a general explanation, and demonstrate a combination for hand analysis and astrology as sources of information about an individual. As always, the event is free and everyone is welcome. Join us at Humanspace, 1617 N. 32nd St. #5; call 220-4419 for more information.

continued from page 15

at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987." The Wedding is a national demonstration officially sponsored by the National March on Washington to emphasize the demand that lesbian and gay domestic partners in committed same-sex relationships be entitled to the same rights as married heterosexual couples.

For more information on the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights contact MOW, P.O. Box 7781, Washington, D.C. 20044, or call (202) 783-1828. For more information on the Wedding and other couples' issues contact COUPLES, Inc., P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

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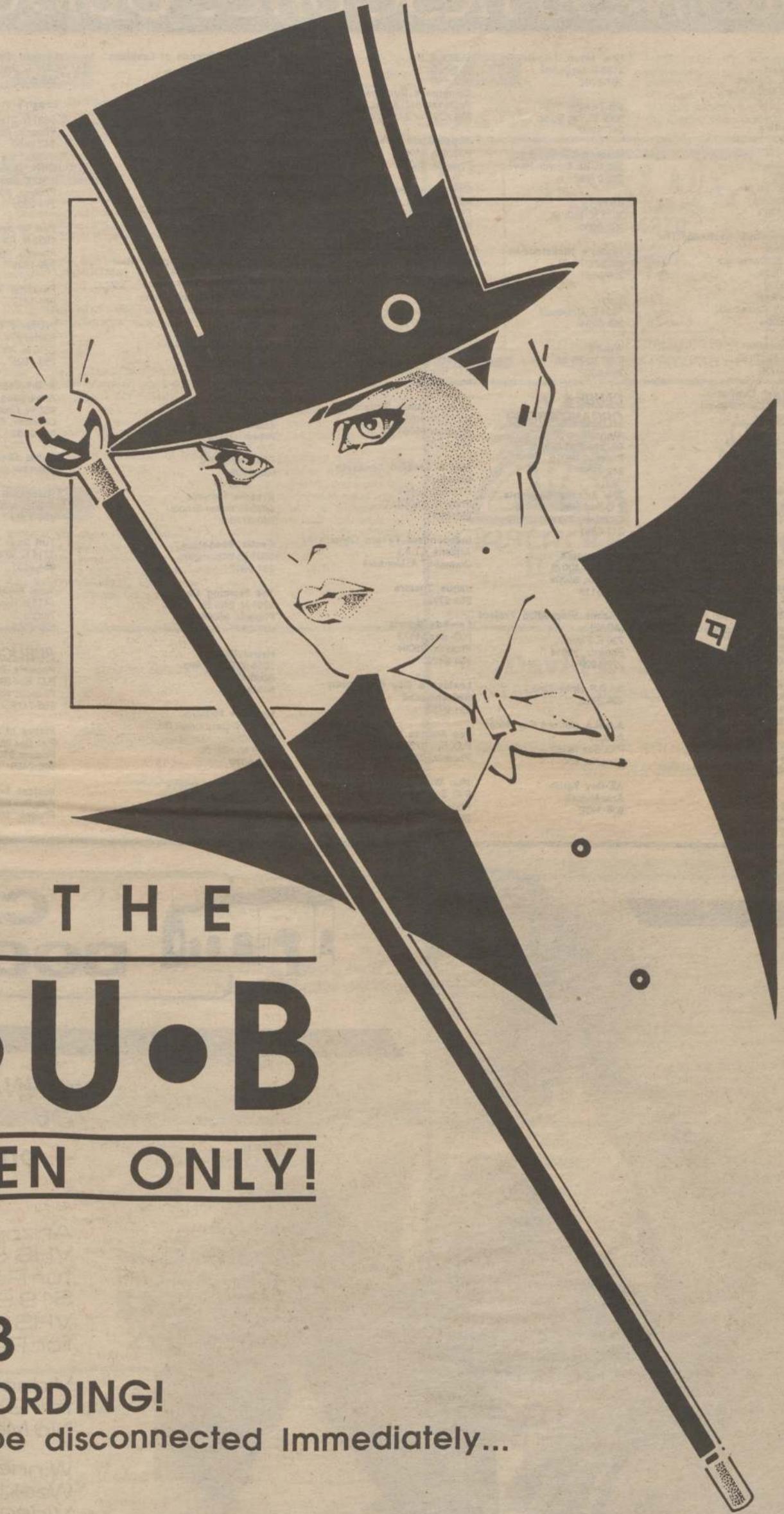
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BARS

AI E. Gators
4739 N. 7th Ave.
274-1218

Apollo's
5749 N. 7th St.
277-9373

Brazil
7232 - 1st St.
Scottsdale
946-9303

Cattleman's Exchange/The
Hayloft
138 W. Camelback
266-0875

Charlies
727 W. Camelback
265-0224

Connection
4211 N. 7th St.
248-9730

Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
253-3376

The Dimestore
1810 E. McDowell
258-9477

Farrah's Club 4158
4158 Grand Ave. N.W.
841-7711

Flex Complex
1517 S. Blk Canyon Hwy.
271-9011

Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
955-9805

Little Jim's 307
222 E. Roosevelt
252-0001

Mr. B's Pub
7125 Fifth Ave.
Scottsdale
945-9028

The Network
3025 N. 24th St.
224-0922

The New Camel
5105 N. 43rd Ave.
841-6693

New Moon Saloon
3108 E. McDowell
267-8707

Nu-Towne
5002 E. Van Buren
267-9959

Ramrod
395 N. Blk Canyon Hwy.
253-0119

Stixx
3015 N. 16th St.
234-0000

Taylor's Nickelodeon
4223 N. 7th St.
265-0851

Trax
1724 E. McDowell
254-0231

Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
265-9002

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Alanon
6829 N. 21st Ave.
Phoenix, 85015
249-1257

The Arizona Pageants
P.O. Box 1482
Glendale, 85311
247-0881

AZ Rangers
P.O. Box 13074
Phoenix, 85002
272-5118

Arizona Stop AIDS Project
(ASAP)
738 E. Flynn
Phoenix, 85014
277-1929

A.I.D.S. Info Line
234-2752

A.G.R.A. (Arizona Gay Rodeo
Assoc.)
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, 85011

AZ Gay Youth
Artie Michals
938-3932

B.A.B.E.S.
252-6594

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Professional Assn.
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P.O. Box 7144
Phoenix, 85011
831-5920

Desert Adventures
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Phoenix, 85001
257-9290

Desert Overture
P.O. Box 26772
247-5996

Desert Sky Singers
P.O. Box 16383
Phoenix, 85011

Desert Valley Squares
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Phoenix, 85067
978-3273

Gay & Lesbian Speakers
Bureau
P.O. Box 32441
Phoenix, 85064
265-2831

Independent Tavern Owners of
Arizona (I.T.A.)
Contact I.T.A. Members
231-9837

Janus Theatre
258-9773

Lambda Sports
P.O. Box 44573
Phoenix, 85064
234-2420

Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard
234-2752

Los Amigos Del Sol (LADS)
P.O. Box 27335
Phoenix, 85030

Men With Disabilities
P.O. Box 4432
Phoenix, 85030
252-3328

Parents & Friends of Lesbians
& Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, 85089
946-1024 or 939-7807
942-0417

Phoenix Older/Younger Men's
Social Organization
P.O. Box 10423
Phoenix, 85064
277-2296

Phoenix Shanti Group
P.O. Box 17618
Phoenix, 95011

Pride Riders Ten Speed Club
934-3625

Relationship Discussion
Group
870-9597

Sons of Apollo
P.O. Box 39540
Phoenix
277-9373

RETAIL

Alpha Omega
P.O. Box 30715
Phoenix, 85046
963-2133

Arcadia Flowers
4835 E. Indian School
840-3735

Castle Bookstore
5501 E. Washington
231-9837

The Framing Center
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Phoenix, 85006
957-0877

Hairstylists
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Scottsdale
945-5072

Heritage Hatters
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867-3323

HumanSpace Books
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Phoenix, 85008
220-4419

Places of Interest
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Phoenix, 85069
863-2408

Project Sources
P.O. Box 5948
Phoenix, 85010
265-0666

PUBLICATIONS

Phoenix Resource
P.O. Box 5948
Phoenix, 85006
256-7476

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254-7339

Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell
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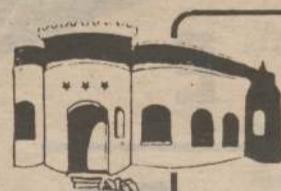
College of Beauty Arts
2158 N. 4th St.
Flagstaff, 86004
528-2627

Desert Typographers
4229 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, 85016
248-8418

Diamond Realty
3404 W. Cheryl Dr. #A-160
Phoenix, 85051
863-3273

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981-0121

BMC (Brethren Mennonites Council)

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Glendale, 85312

Casa De Cristo (MCC)

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Phoenix, 85014

365-2831

Dignity

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Phoenix, 85036

Gentle Shepard M.C.C.

P.O. Box 6261

Scottsdale, 85261

998-2421

House of Dawn

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Phoenix, 85010

367-1203

Lutherans Concerned

P.O. Box 7519

Phoenix, 85011

258-0071

Mishpachat Am

Congregation of Lesbians & Gay

Jews

P.O. Box 39127

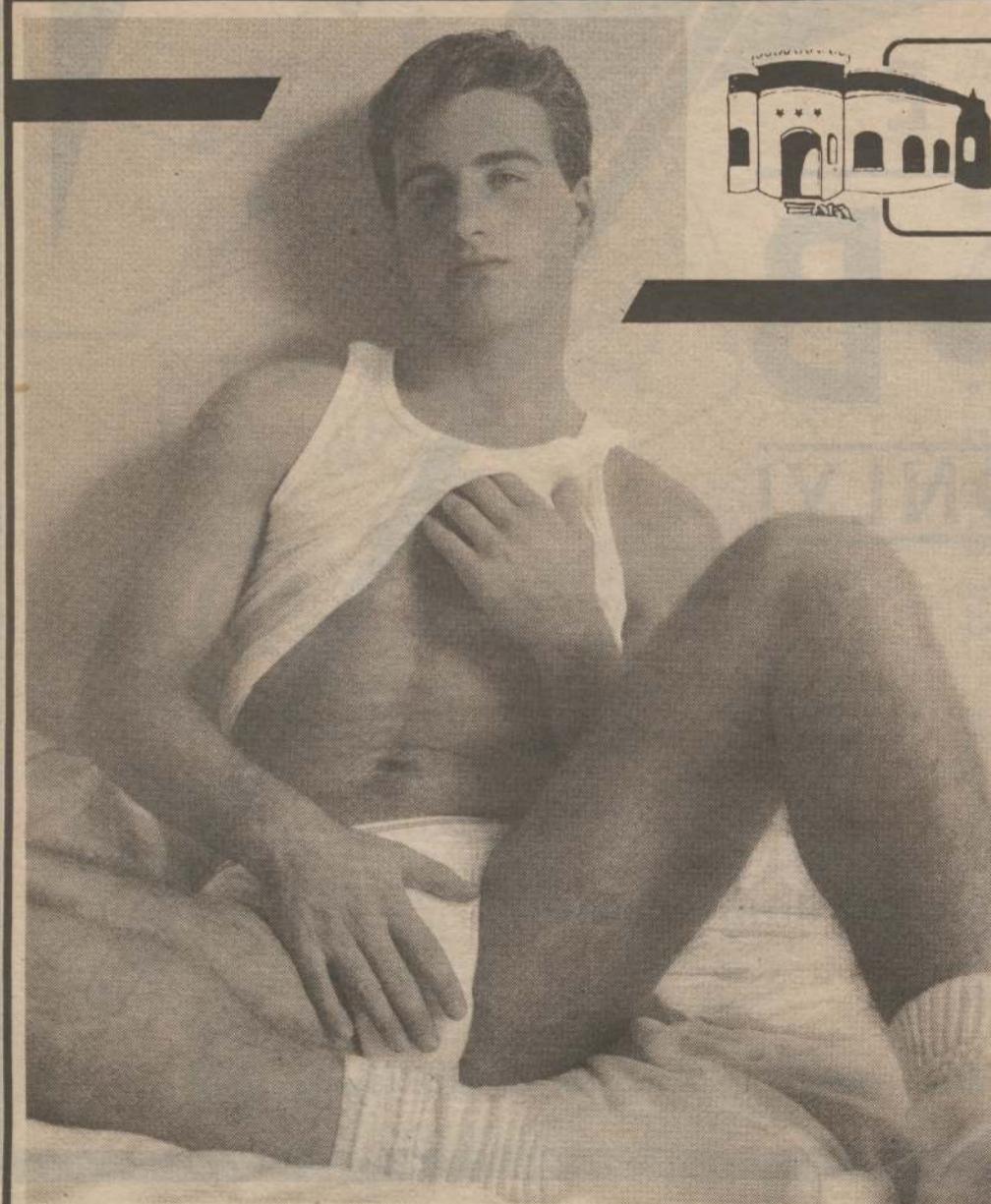
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JAG

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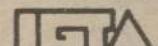
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