

PHOENIX RESOURCE

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 26

DECEMBER 23, 1987 - JANUARY 7, 1988

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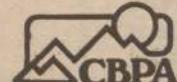
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LYNNE HARRIS MECHAM UPDATE

SILENCE IS GOLDEN?

Governor Mecham has been conspicuously silent over these past few weeks. No doubt, the instructions of his attorneys and the Grand Jury not to comment on the current legal proceedings concerning the governor have left Mecham pressed for topics of conversation. He has, however, managed to further confuse, irritate and alienate his constituents at least twice in the past seven days.

During an appearance at the Ahavat Torah Synagogue in Scottsdale on December 13, Arizona's bastion of sensitivity made the statement that the United States is a "great Christian Nation," where "Jesus Christ is the lord of the land." Mr. Mecham was either unaware of where he was speaking, or is unaware that Jews do not recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ and would find the suggestion of same highly inflammatory. Maybe he believes that Jews, as well as the Pope, do not speak English.

Equally offensive to the "thinking" persons of our state was Mr. Mecham's reiteration of innocence concerning the allegedly illegal misrepresentation of the Barry Wolfson campaign loan. In a prepared speech delivered to the press and public on October 26th, Mecham stated, "An honest mistake was made and it has been corrected." In a characteristic display of amnesia, however, the governor stated on December 10th that "I didn't make a mistake, I never said it was a mistake." Such shenanigans don't inspire confidence in our governor's integrity.

This very lack of honesty will surely prove to be Mecham's ultimate downfall. At present, at least 73% of the recall signatures gathered have been pronounced valid, an exceptionally high percentage in light of the quantity gathered. The recall election seems now a virtual certainty.

A recent survey of 236 republican activists

showed that 70% believe Mecham's ability to perform his job has been impaired, and 75% of that group believe that Mecham's failure to disclose the campaign loan by Barry Wolfson has caused him serious harm. This unusual sense of realism by Republican stalwarts was overshadowed by other poll results, however. When asked which option they would choose to resolve Mecham's difficulties in office, a combined total of 30% supported resignation, recall, or impeachment. Another 26% believed Mecham should win in a recall election, and an astounding 36% believed the recall and investigations should be dropped. This is a frightening commentary on a party which holds to right-wing, conservative, law-abiding principles. It seems that a large number of those polled, allegedly representing average republicans, have an obscure understanding of the concepts of right and wrong.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the poll is the fact that 78% of those questioned believe the drive for recall is inspired by simple personal dislike, and 78% of those people believe that homosexuals are at fault. If so, then there must be 400,000 voting-age homosexuals in Arizona. It must be amusing to Mecham's own attorney, Rick Miller, to be included in this category — equally so for Judge Thomas O'Toole and attorney William French, who have both admitted to signing recall petitions.

Mr. Mecham will continue to hail himself as the leader of the "good people" of Arizona, and some will surely follow him to the bitter end. A prophetic note may have been sounded for us all last week when a hit-and-run driver felled the stone pillars standing outside Mecham's Glendale home. Proof that any pillar will fall when pushed hard enough — even the self-appointed pillar of the "good people."

R | E | S | O | *Phoenix* | R | C | E*arizona's premier gay news/magazine*

NEW AIDS FUNDRAISING GROUP FORMS —"Sharing Weekend" controversy ends

A new gay and lesbian group has formed in the valley, the latest development in the on-going effort to deal with AIDS in Arizona. The new organization, under an agreement with the Arizona AIDS Project, will be responsible for that project's fundraising efforts within the gay community. The volunteer group, *The Gay and Lesbian Community AIDS Council*, was established December 14th by representatives of twelve area gay and lesbian organizations, in a meeting at the home of valley businessman Bob Aronin.

It was Aronin who founded and organized the AAP's "Sharing Weekend", as part of his work with the AID Project's fundraising committee this past year. "Sharing Weekend" is a project designed to involve as many people from the gay and lesbian community as possible in the fundraising effort, by setting up collection posts at community bars the third Friday and Saturday of each month. Aronin has drawn attention and praise from community leaders for his work on the project, which has united all valley bar owners and patrons under a single effort.

Recently, however, Aronin received criticism from several AAP board members for his role in the handling of the funds from the November Sharing Weekend. Apparently, Aronin was dissatisfied with the amount of money AAP was directing to persons with AIDS and those infected with the virus. Board members say he convinced several bar owners and their representatives to temporarily withhold donations from the November weekend until his concerns over the distribution of funds could be heard.

"The problems between the fundraising committee and the board were problems of poor communication and misunderstanding", says Kirk Baxter, AAP Executive Director. Baxter was present at the meeting at which the new council was established, and is optimistic about the formation of the group, whose chairperson will be a voting member of the AAP board. In this way, the council will serve as a gay and lesbian advisory group to the AAP, as well as being a fundraising organization. "We need to find the best way to open lines of communication, to get the best account of our division of funds to those concerned," says Baxter, adding, "We feel we've done an outstanding job in the area of client services."

Baxter also states that, with the formation of the new council, the fundraisers should now feel comfortable in turning over all donations raised at December's Sharing Weekend to AAP. After December, the sharing weekend will be a part of the new council's activities.

"The council will work closely with, yet be independent from AAP," says Aronin, explaining that the funds raised by the new group will be directed toward organizations including, but not limited to, AAP. "We need to be open to supporting any group who is helping persons affected by this crisis."

"The issue is not what the AAP board is doing or is not doing, the issue is what gays and lesbians are doing about AIDS", Aronin adds. "I believe too many people in our community have been dealing with this crisis as another social issue, like a pride parade, rather than as the serious

matter of life and death that it is."

"The real success of the meeting on the 14th," Aronin continues, "was that concerned people who were not a part of the decision-making process before, now are. We encourage anyone who wants a voice in this community's effort to deal with this disease to join us."

The council's next meeting is set for January 5th. The group's founders hope to become fully organized and to be able to elect a chairperson at that time.

Aronin is clearly enthusiastic about the formation of the new council. "By increasing community support, by increasing the base of people working to combat this crisis, and by increasing the number of people involved in decision-making, we will also increase tremendously the amount of money we will be able to raise," he says.

"In this year of working with the fundraising committee," Aronin concludes, "I have met so many talented and hard-working people. There are clubs and organizations out there that many of us don't realize exist, and there is such a richness of talent and good people in this community. If we can get all of these people and their good ideas involved in this effort, we have the potential, within six months, to make Phoenix one of the most advanced cities in this nation in its ability to deal with AIDS.

— Allen Kalchik

BRITISH GOV. MOVES ON AIDS

London — The British Government has made two public policy decisions, specifically concerning doctors and hemophiliacs with AIDS, but addressing issues of confidentiality and financial assistance for people with AIDS more generally, *The New York Times* reports. The British Health Department has said that doctors with AIDS should be allowed to continue practicing and that patients do not have the right to be told their physician has the virus; the only exceptions are those doctors whose specialization involves a risk of "blood to blood" contact with patients, such as some surgeons. In addition, a grant of about \$18 million has been provided for the 1,200 hemophiliacs who have been infected with the AIDS virus from contaminated blood.

Nicholas Partridge, administrator of the Terrence Higgins Trust, the largest AIDS charity in Britain, said "these decisions are to be welcomed. The government is beginning to recognize the special needs of AIDS victims." There have been 1,123 cases of people with symptoms of AIDS reported in Britain so far. Partridge said that "this government has taken a pragmatic approach to AIDS...It's certainly been much more effective than the American Federal Government."

The British Government's public education campaign has included television advertisements about AIDS, as well as distribution of leaflets about AIDS to every household in the country. The official policy statement concerning doctors' right to practice came after much debate on the issue sparked by two media reports of doctors who continued to practice after being diagnosed with AIDS. Christine Murphy, a department of

NGLTF LAUNCHES \$1.46 MILLION BUDGET FOR 1988 Organizing, development and education programs expanded

On November 16, 1987, the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) approved a record \$1.46 million dollar budget for the nation's oldest and largest gay civil rights advocacy organization. The 1988 budget calls for the expansion of a number of existing NGLTF programs, and the beginning of several new grassroots organizing projects. NGLTF Executive Director Jeff Levi described the landmark budget as "a solid, fiscally sound program which will aggressively expand our work for gay and lesbian civil rights at both the local and national level."

The NGLTF 1988 budget contemplates expansion of NGLTF's grassroots organizing, development, and public education programs. NGLTF currently houses three major organizing projects — the Privacy Project, which works to repeal sodomy laws; the Anti-Violence Project; and the State Action Lobby, which works closely with state and local activists to advance gay and lesbian interests on a full-range of issues, from AIDS-related bills to local gay rights ordinances.

Under the 1988 budget these programs will be strengthened with additional staff and resources. Two new organizing projects will be launched in 1988: the Campus Project, an effort to work with gay and lesbian students across the country, and the

Gay and Lesbian Families Project. The Families Project is proposed as a joint undertaking of NGLTF and the Lesbian Rights Project (LRP), the San Francisco-based public interest law firm. It would organize for recognition of gay and lesbian relationships as well as seeking to expand parenting and reproductive options for gay men and lesbians.

Development and public education are also slated for expansion in NGLTF's 1988 plans. The cornerstone of the budget increase is an aggressive membership development and fundraising program. Noted NGLTF Development director Kimberly Webster, "More and more gay people are actively supporting our community's organizations because every one of us realizes how critical our political situation is today. Our 1988 budget is built upon this growing reservoir of support and commitment."

Other highlights of NGLTF's 1988 budget include: plans for a National Conference of NGLTF Cooperating Organizations; a national voter registration drive; a joint organizing project with the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG); staff increases from the existing level of nine to fifteen; and a detailed process of budgetary monitoring and evaluation to insure that new commitments are not undertaken without financial support.

NINETY PEOPLE ATTEND FAMILY LIFE HEARING

Alexandria, VA — More than ninety people attended a public hearing to discuss a family life curriculum proposed for the Virginia public school system from kindergarten through high school by the State Board of Education. Testimony was heard on sex education issues, including such topics as homosexuality, safer-sex practices, and the risk of AIDS.

The Board's proposed curriculum does not mention homosexuality. Jay Clark, president of the Alexandria Gay Community Association, spoke for revision of the curriculum. "By ignoring homosexuality and emphasizing heterosexual marriage as the only model for happiness and fulfillment," said Clark, "the proposed curriculum will further the negative attitudes which are by-products of the conscious and unconscious fears that have come to be known as homophobia."

A pediatrician and a family life specialist reiterated the need for more AIDS education and the inclusion of such topics as abortion and homosexuality in the curriculum. Two high school sophomores spoke for a more comprehensive curriculum, including discussions of safer sex, homosexuality, AIDS, and "different lifestyles."

Parents argued that sex education should be taught at home and not in the schools.

News source this issue:
Washington Blade, Montrose Voice, San Francisco Sentinel.

MARCH COORDINATOR LEE BUSH TO HEAD FAIRNESS FUND

Washington—Lee Bush, the first staff member and a principal organizer of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, has been named National Field Director for the Washington, D.C.-based Fairness Fund, the organization announced today. "Lee brings to the Fairness Fund expertise, commitment, and a wealth of fresh contacts with some of the best organizers in our movement from his experience with the tremendously successful March," said Kate McQueen, Chair of the Fairness Fund Board of Directors.

"The Fund is pleased to announce that he has accepted responsibility for organizing our field program, including securing participation in our National Mailgram Campaign, and we're confident his efforts will be every bit as successful as his tireless work with the March on Washington," McQueen added.

One of Bush's first moves as the new National Field Director was the selection today of 20 State Coordinators,

many of whom played key roles in local March organizing efforts. The new State Coordinators will work with Bush on the Fund's grassroots programs. Bush said he will select the remaining state coordinators by the end of the year.

The Fund also announced the appointment of Steven Dwyer-Chigos as the organization's Administrator. Dwyer-Chigos, a former bank officer, was the office manager for the March on Washington. He has also been active in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches where he was involved with the financial administration of the 1985 UFMCC general conference in Sacramento, California.

Fairness Fund State Coordinators will identify local Congressional district organizers, known as Field Associates, who coordinate constituent lobbying and the development of the Fund's National Mailgram Campaign in their districts. A similar system of local organizers had previously proven very effective for the

then-vigorous Gay Rights National Lobby and is often adopted by a range of lobbying groups. However, the strategy has been noticeably absent from the lesbian and gay lobbying scene for the last few years, it was noted.

The Fairness Fund's National Mailgram Campaign is focused on generating Public Opinion Mailgrams (POMs) to Congress on AIDS and fairness issues. The Fund sponsors toll-free Action Hotlines on these issues. In addition, it has now established a pre-authorized subscription mailgram strategy, where individuals authorize the Fund to send mailgrams at key times in their names to their representatives in Congress as lesbian and gay lobbyists identify the need.

Bush will be charged with expanding the national grassroots network to collect subscriptions in the mailgram campaign and generate other forms of constituent pressure. State Coordinators and local Field Associates will coordinate constituent lobbying with

their states and districts, oversee drives to expand participation/subscription in the Fund's National Mailgram Campaign, and mobilize local constituents in response to the Fund's congressional action alert system. In addition they will serve as liaisons with local lesbian, gay and non-gay groups as well as key opinion leaders.

Bush, a former southern California resident was involved in women's and peace activism before opening the March on Washington office in March 1987. He worked with the Feminist Women's Center in Oakland for two years. He was Northeast Field Director for the Great Peace March last year, opening a Manhattan office and coordinating involvement from New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for the highly successful event. He is a member of Black and White Men Together, and has been involved in the Metropolitan Community Churches since 1972.

BLACK WOMAN, PROMOTING GAY RIGHTS, SEEKING PRESIDENCY

John Hanrahan—Montrose Voice

Washington (UPI) — An independent seeking to become the first black and first woman on the presidential ballot in all 50 states has asked a government agency to declare her campaign eligible for federal matching funds.

Aides to Lenora Fulani, a New York City developmental psychologist, said her campaign filed with the Federal Election Commission Monday documents showing it has raised more than \$186,000 from some 10,000 contributors. The campaign's goal is \$2.5 million, with half of that from federal matching funds.

Fulani, 38, who received 25,000 votes last year as an independent running for New York governor, is a leader of the New Alliance Party, which describes itself as the only nationwide progressive electoral party.

The party, which claims 14,000 members, will formally nominate a presidential candidate in an August convention, but Fulani is the clear frontrunner, aides said.

An FEC spokeswoman said that to qualify initially for matching funds, a candidate must raise at least \$100,000 with a minimum of \$5,000 raised in 20 states in individual amounts no

greater than \$250. FEC action on the Fulani submission should come in January, she said.

Fulani aides said her campaign had passed the \$5,000 figure in 23 states and had raised lesser amounts in other states. They said the campaign has already met qualifications to get on the ballot in 14 states.

In some states with especially restrictive election laws on third party candidates, Fulani is seeking to be listed as an independent, while in other states she plans to use the New Alliance Party designation, aides said.

Gary Sinawski, general counsel for Fulani's campaign, said the various states' "anti-democratic, discriminatory laws" thwart candidates of parties on the left or right from getting on the ballot, thereby limiting voters' choices.

He said this lack of choice is the primary reason the United States has among the world's lowest turnouts in nationwide elections.

Sinawski said Fulani supports legislation pending in Congress to make it easier for independent candidates to get on the ballot in the 50 states. At present, he said, most states either require an unusually high number of petition signatures, limit the time period in which signatures can be gathered or impose high filing fees for independents.

In her campaign literature, Fulani calls for higher taxes for corporations and big landlords, a national health care program, full civil rights for lesbians and homosexual men, a cure for AIDS, an end to discrimination against victims of AIDS, an end to U.S. aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and full sanctions against the South African government.

She also said it is important to have a black presidential candidate on the 1988 general election ballot and has said she would withdraw her candidacy should civil rights activist Jesse Jackson win the Democratic nomination.

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COUPLES, INC. LISTS PARTICIPANTS AT THE WEDDING

Over eleven hundred couples signed up as Official Participants at The Wedding on October 10, 1987 in Washington, DC. The District Police, the National Park Service and Couples, Inc., the organizers, all estimated the number of participating couples exceeded two thousand. The Wedding was an officially sponsored event of the March on Washington.

According to Walter L. Wheeler, President of Couples, Inc., "There are several reasons why people are not registered. First, many of them just did not know that there was a registration table and that we were gathering a list of participants. Second, this was the first time that many of the participants attended a public gay event. We have also learned that many were concerned about the future use of the information."

The final list of Official Participants (names only) is to be bound with copies of the Certificates of Participation and deposited with three lesbian and gay archives.

ARRESTS IN UCSF MEN'S ROOM

San Francisco — Campus security officers stopped thirty-nine people, giving them warnings for loitering, and arrested four men on charges of lewd conduct after staking out two rest rooms in the Medical Sciences Building at the University of California-San Francisco medical center, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Plainclothes officers patrolling the area as part of an investigation of wallet thefts in the area reportedly observed sexual acts and cruising. According to Joseph Cowan, UCSF assistant chancellor for legal affairs said "we began to make arrests to give notice that this had to stop." The Gay Men's Support Group, a campus organization, criticized the university for acting suddenly. "That particular bathroom has been notorious for years... for the university to up and do something without fair warning is ridiculous," said David Goldberg, a member of the organization. Goldberg added that the group is now meeting with university officials to deal with the issue.

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MEG GUMANS REVIEW



Choices: A Classic Lesbian Love Story. Nancy Toder, author. Boston, MA: Alyson, 1980. 258 pages. \$7.95 paperbound.

Leave a Light On For Me. Jean Swallow, author. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1986. 292 pages. \$8.95 paperbound.

With some novels...not many...you know right away that they're going to become classics; it's as true of the genre "lesbian novel" as of any other kind. They're the ones that transcend genre, and in fact are especially warmly received by people whose interests lie elsewhere — these are the novels that show realities in a way that anyone who's interested can find out how some kinds of life feel.

Choices and *Leave a Light On For Me* are, so far, the only novels by each of these writers, although both of them have written nonfiction in their fields of expertise. I hope to see more fiction from both of them, and meanwhile these two books stand up very well to rereading year after year.

Nancy Toder is a psychotherapist who specializes in work with lesbians; *Choices*, as a title, catchphrase and concept, lets us know right away what this novel and this life are about. We meet Sandy as she leaves home for college, and we're drawn into her thoughts immediately. We follow her through her relationship with her roommate and everything else that's part of everyone's college life; we know her situation inside out, and we recognize her feelings as variations of our own. We follow Sandy away from Jenny, into another relationship, into her practice as a psychotherapist, into her reunion with Jenny — first roommate and first love. How is this different from any other story? The same way it's different from any other life: all the way through Sandy gives herself the permission to find out what she wants and to go for it.

Jean Swallow is familiar with the effects of alcohol on lesbians and the people lesbians live with and love; she wrote *Out From Under: Sober Dykes and Our Friends*. *Leave a Light On For Me* tells of relationships that endure through hard times we've all had in these or other forms, and of how these varied and ordinary women create their own pathways through their varied and ordinary lives. Friends help friends deal with pain: they tell stories for diversion and example, they open their homes, they open their lives. Swallow has a gift for portraying patterns of speech and patterns of thought that keeps us shifting gears as we move among viewpoints, and she has a way of sliding profundities into spurts of mostly superficial chatter that keeps us paying attention.

I found myself doing a lot of thinking and reliving and reexamining as I read each of these books, in addition to wallowing in the skill of each author's presentation. Save them for when you have time and space for some absorbing reading.

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

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ROUNDTABLE:

A National Leadership Dialog

by Don L. Volk, GLPA News Service

The following dialog of leaders of national gay and Tuesday, October 6, 1987, just prior to the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, to address issues important to the lesbian/gay community.

The group was specifically asked not to address AIDS issues, because we know the community needs to continue taking a leadership role in that area; and we wanted to focus on other community concerns.

Moderated by Gay and Lesbian Press Association (GLPA) President **Don L. Volk**, the meeting included **Vic Basile**, executive director, Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF); **Jeff Levi**, executive director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF); **Renee McCoy**, executive director, National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG); and **Tom Stoddard**, executive director, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (Lambda). **Jean O'Leary**, executive director, National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), was unable to attend, but has been allowed to comment on the various issues addressed.

"Roundtable" is part of a new GLPA project designed to provide coverage of unique events to the gay and lesbian media. "GLPA's Got It Covered!" was commissioned by GLPA through a grant from Media Fund for Human Rights, GLPA's tax-deductible, educational organization.

Volk: Do we need a National Association of National Associations to say this is how we can divide this up, or is this what we should be working on, this is the issue coming up that might destroy us? Is there a need for that or are you doing that?

Levi: On a national basis that is happening. The groups lobbying Washington get together to figure out what the next steps ought to be. Various national organizations get together around specific issues and try to figure out where we are going.

Stoddard: Our lawyers have monthly conference calls and meetings two or three times a year in different parts of the country. People often say there should be one massive umbrella organization rather than an assortment of different organizations reflecting different points of view, constituencies and concentrations. I think not. It is a too diverse community. We need our distinct and diverse voices. I don't see any great need for an over-arching organization to impose views and hierarchies on everyone. In fact, that might be a serious problem and would not enhance our political success at all. It might very well impede it.

McCoy: There is something extremely beautiful about each group we represent, and each group wants that autonomy and to celebrate it. Ideally what we want is an arena where there is time-sharing for that celebration. We don't have that. What we have is whoever has the most money or the greater visibility or whoever controls the media celebrates their particular brand of being lesbian or gay the most. I would welcome an opportunity to work with other groups in doing grassroots organizing on a local level. Yet I am very possessive of NCLGB. It is a part of my soul, it speaks from my soul, and hasn't been developed enough yet to risk its being overshadowed by another organization. At the same time, there are resources that my community needs from your organization's experience as well as resources we have that would certainly enhance other organizations. I would like the opportunity to come together to do that, maybe once a year. There are things that you know that we need to know. There are things that we know that you need to know. Like grant writing and leadership training. We have skills that can teach you how to survive oppression that we need to throw into the pot—real basic skills that come from 400 years of being oppressed while white gay men only realized that in the last 20 years. There are some survival skills that we bring to that pot; and at the same time, the stuff we need to know, like a level of sophistication of dealing with a capitalist system.

...talking and thinking of new ways to brighten our future!

O'Leary: I agree. It would be impossible for everybody to agree on one super-agenda unilaterally. We need the same basic shared goals and to understand what they are and clearly share those. The diversity of our organizations—even when they are in the same field—is important because the more minds you bring to the table, the more different angles you can look at is part of the process of having multi-organizations working on our agenda. Oftentimes, I hear the complaint from major donors that they would like to write out one major check to such an organization. That may be a part of the motivation, but it would just never work that way. It gives people in our constituencies choices and that is very important. That is the one beautiful thing about our movement right now. We are in a place that we have never been before; we have had to band so tightly together to fight the outside enemy of AIDS. In all my years working on that national level, I have never experienced such cooperation and harmony. Healthy competition is good, as long as it is healthy. It adds to the process. There is a real sharing and caring, and I think a genuine liking of each other in the national organizations.

Volk: What about leadership in the community? We hear a lot about "I didn't vote for these people."

Stoddard: That is exactly the point. No movement elects its leaders; it just doesn't happen.

Volk: Should we be training leaders?

ALL: Yes!

Stoddard: I am distrustful of having one overall leader who speaks for all people at all times, because this is a movement about diversity. We shouldn't destroy that diversity, we should celebrate it.

Levi: There is a real difference between saying who elected these leaders and talking about leadership training. If we are going to be successful in organizing at this level, we have to do more to make sure we develop a strong cadre of leaders and provide them with the skills from the get-go, so that the ones who end up at the top of organizations are not just the ones who can survive the internecine warfare and have the stomach for putting up with all that can sometimes be involved in becoming part of the political entity. Survival should not be the definition of a leader. In too many organizations that is the case.

Basile: We need training camps to teach people how to run for office and be successful. There are a lot of places where leadership can be taught, and it is not just the organizations.

Volk: Is it just providing the opportunity for experience or to learn those management skills? Can you really train leaders?

ALL: Yes.

O'Leary: My particular background is organizational development and that included lots of leadership training and workshops. I know this can be done. We are not developing our leadership qualities the way we should in our community so that we always have a constant flow of leadership moving on all levels.

We can develop training programs particularly with the emphasis on the technical aspects of how to deal with the problems we have and politicizing our issues. You can train leaders with skills that are needed for leadership. Leaders are not born. It takes an effort, people have to want to do it, they have to have the courage, and they have to be affirmed by others that this is wanted and needed. Leadership is a skill that can be developed.

continued next page

MORE: ROUNDTABLE

continued from previous page.

McCoy: We need structured and directed leadership training. Those who are not leaders will not make it through. We have got to do that if for no other reason than to stop the "melt-down" of our present leadership.

Stoddard: Renee touched on an issue I think gets neglected a lot and this is the predicate for all of this training, that is dealing with the inherent feelings of self-hatred that any person growing up as a lesbian or a gay man must inevitably feel. Even those of us who deal with these issues all the time and are publicly identified with them have some degree of it, speaking for myself.

McCoy: Yes.

Stoddard: Those are issues that must be dealt with particularly if one is going to go forward in a public way and put oneself up for scrutiny. That issue gets ignored a lot. As a result, many meetings of gay people, both national and local, tend to result in screaming. Screaming that often doesn't come from issues.

McCoy: That's right.

Stoddard: It comes from anger at being hurt by a society that doesn't get talked about very much, and it might seem overly vague for most people to understand; but is very true. It must be dealt with before anything else; and we don't talk about it very much.

McCoy: I have been out for a long, long time, and when I cashed my first paycheck that said "National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays," I came out all over again.

Stoddard: Absolutely.

O'Leary: We are talking about self-love and self-esteem and a sense of values. Certainly the individual work people are doing on themselves to make themselves more whole is needed in this community. We have suffered with people telling us that we are psychologically and morally wrong for so long, that it has to have an impact. You have got to rebuild that, face those issues and the pain that it causes and work through it.

Levi: No matter how far out we are, every day we are doing something else where it becomes an issue. It can be as simple as meeting strangers and they say, "where do you work?" Then you make this sort of an assessment, I am too tired for this today, I'll just say, "I am a lobbyist."

Stoddard: You know what I do. This is the way I figure I can cushion it a little bit. I say "some people think this is very controversial, and you may be surprised by this but this is what I do." If you give them that little predicate, then it is not a thunderbolt.

McCoy: I got a check in the mail yesterday, and as badly as we need donations, they had stamped "Gay Money" on the check. I said "oh, shit." It was like I just didn't want to deal with that today. So I went to the drive-in deposit, but it was like I just did not want to deal with it. I mean they had stamped it all over the check saying "gay money," "gay money." I just wanted to send it back saying "I am just a kid from a small midwestern town, please be careful."

Basile: It is troublesome to do that. I was coming back from New York last week where I had a big anti-Bork meeting. This man next to me said, "What do you do?" I told him. Then I said, "What do you do?" and he said, "I am the president of a polling company, the Wirthlin Company." Wirthlin is the President's pollster.

The place where we need to do that is not with the conservatives, we need to do it with the liberals. We need to constantly remind them that there is a gay and lesbian community here that needs attention and has equal standing with the oppression around us. They just forget, and I see that all the time. I saw it last week on the Helms' amendment vote on the Hill, where we lost several of the "liberal darlings." The senators who should know better, and they don't think about us. What is worse, I don't think that anybody in the liberal/progressive community called them up to say that that wasn't acceptable.

Stoddard: Last night I got home and played my tape machine. There was a message from a journalist friend of mine, who said that he had just gotten a phone call from a very famous journalist friend of his. She said to him, "I just found out about this gay march and it is going to jeopardize the Bork nomination and you have to call it off." He was calling me to relate that she had told him this. She is a "liberal darling" and a good friend on all sorts of other issues, but she would immediately sacrifice any concerns that we have if she thought it would somehow jeopardize her principal concern. I am no Bork fan, but I just thought this was so mindless and so selfish.

O'Leary: Nobody entirely loses their internalized sense of homophobia. It is a constant that we are always working on because it is just too hard to be out there as a gay person all the time. You have to make choices as to when you want to expend that energy and when you don't and when it will have the most impact. I always like to examine myself to see if I am really doing it this way or do I just want to avoid discussing the fact that I am gay at this particular moment. I always think it is funny when the head of a national organization says something like that.

But it is very real when you walk into a health club and there are a number of people surrounding you as you sign in and they move away when you say you are a head of National Gay Rights Advocates or something. All you wanted to do is exercise in peace.

Levi: There is still a tremendous paternalism in the traditional civil rights community toward gay and lesbian issues; that we are expected to be there...

Stoddard: Talk when we tell you to talk.

O'Leary: It happens too, too often. We are the first issue to be sacrificed if a compromise has to be made. We are the first to go and always seem to be a low issue on the totem pole. This is what has got to change. As we become strong and more vociferous in working and dealing with these coalitions, this will gradually be eliminated. In the minds of so many, however, we have an uphill battle to fight because they feel that we are expendable. I saw that over and over again in the women's movement. At the International Women's Year in Houston, we had to battle for over a year to get sexual orientation included as one of the 26 agenda items. It was not easy and we had to fight that on a state-by-state basis as well as fighting at the commissioner level.

Levi: We were expected to be there as good soldiers fighting Bork and getting the grass-roots together. Yet, they are extremely nervous about our March. I have two reactions: One, they shouldn't be so nervous. They should recognize that we are just as concerned and just as responsible as they are and were when they were marching in the streets. But I think that many of these people don't have the

credibility to come to the table and ask anything of us in terms of how we frame our arguments, because they haven't been there for us.

McCoy: That makes organizing in the black lesbian and gay community extremely difficult because we are continuously asked, "What comes first, racism or homophobia, which is more important?" I find many potential black gay and lesbian leaders who chose to work against issues of racial oppression and just do not see how they are connected. It really lessens the numbers of individuals.

Stoddard: I saw a fascinating transformation in New York last year when the city council finally voted on the gay rights bill. There were a number of black politicians within the city council who would not commit until the last moment. The public debate at that point had become so hysterical, the opponents were so hateful, so nasty, so angry and so inhuman, that suddenly it hit a lot of those black leaders. It hit them viscerally and you could just see it. It also happened with Hispanics. They could finally put themselves in our shoes and realized that the same arguments were being turned against us. There was a sudden, internal sense that anybody who hates is capable of hatred toward any group. I saw an enormous swing of sentiment, and that was what really eventually won the bill. It made me realize that ultimately if we can all have that shared concern and share visceral response to hatred, we can work together.

McCoy: At the same time, right after that vote, the *Amsterdam News* ran letters and articles and there was a lot of conversation/dialog in Harlem that said because the bill has passed, what will happen now is that black people will be replaced by gays because we have equal rights. There was no consciousness about the black gay/lesbian individual. Nothing. What that said to me was that there should have been a real effort to educate the black and Hispanic communities about homosexuality at the same time that we were educating the community at large about homosexuality, and that didn't happen.

They had no concept that it was empowering black lesbians and gays at all. That certainly is the job of our community, but it is also one that says that the white gay and lesbian community has got to work closer with us, because it really puts a lot of hard work in jeopardy and makes it even harder. Because the liberals are looking for "civil rights" as the word. They don't say "human rights" too tough any more or yet. When it comes down to a racial thing, it goes back to that we have to work more closely together.

Basile: What you don't see is other liberal groups coming forward and saying we will support you on gay issues. As movements go, you would never see a progressive group, even an environmental group say, support an openly racist candidate for office. They would say he is great on the environment, but it is not acceptable to do this. But when it comes to us, they just don't come forward and say "gay is not our issue, but this isn't acceptable." They just don't do it. We have just got to be there every single day raising their consciousness. It is not just with candidates, it is with the groups, the PACs, the other groups that would just as soon forget about us. ▼

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AT WORK

STEPHEN DOLAINSKI & STEPHEN HUSA

A CLOSETFUL OF STRESS: Minimizing the effects

Being in the closet at work is a given for some of us who are gay, because of the kind of jobs we have, the people we work with or the communities we work in. Leading a double life is a stress-filled situation that many of us feel unable to change without threatening our job future and economic security.

Even if the daily pressures of the job are minimal, the stress of being in the closet is something we can all do without. Stress, as we all know, can seriously impair our health and job performance, as well as strain our personal relationships. So it is important for us, personally and professionally, to find ways of coping with and minimizing the effects of stress, including the closet-induced kind.

Whenever you experience stress, you should first identify the causes. Of course, not all stress is gay-related; the daily pressures of the job and the demands of everyday living play a big role in the stress we experience. If you determine that these pressures are part of the problem, then it may be time to reevaluate career or personal goals, reduce your work load, take a vacation, or find someone pleasurable, healthy activity that will help relieve the tension.

If you are closeted at work and you identify that as a cause of your stress, there are steps you can take to reduce it and minimize its effects.

According to some researchers, it is the fear of harm rather than actual first-hand experience of harm that keeps many of us in the closet. Given that, perhaps you should reevaluate your work environment. Maybe it isn't as rigid as you once perceived, and it's now possible to relax your guard a bit. That doesn't mean you should wear drop earrings to work, but it does mean you can consider going stag to a company social, without the cover of a "date." It also means that you can begin to be more honest about who you are by not preemptively denying your gayness.

(It should be understood that coming out is not a one-shot announcement, nor a panacea for gay-related stress at work. The process of coming out can be difficult and stressful, with its own consequences, and should be considered carefully.)

Having someone to talk to can be extremely valuable in stressful situations. This is the time to develop and utilize your support network at work and outside work. You may be adding to your stress by trying to deal with the situation all by yourself. If there are other gay people working in your company, talk to them, and find out how they cope with being in the closet or being gay in a nongay work setting.

If you don't know other gay people at work and you don't have a trusted colleague to confide in, exploit the resources of the gay community outside work. Gay community organizations frequently offer seminars or workshops in stress management. Getting involved with a gay business or social group will give you the opportunity to share your experiences with others who have been through the same thing and who have found ways of coping. Another resource is the gay bookstore where you can pick up a book about gay-related issues, such as coming out of the closet. (You can also pick up a book about stress reduction.)

The closet is an insidious syndrome of secrecy, denial and fear that robs us of our positive self-identity. Unfortunately, not all of us have access to the many gay-oriented resources that can help counter this negative, subtle and stress-causing condition. And not all of us will be able to relax our closet posture at work. If you determine that it simply is not safe at this time to relax your guard, so be it. Don't reproach yourself for something that may be out of your control. Instead, explore whatever options you have available, such as transferring to another department, or another job with inherently less stressful responsibilities. You may even want to consider moving to another city with a large gay population and a more enlightened attitude. What is important is to recognize what you can change and to take the appropriate steps to minimize the stress you're experiencing.

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ATTITUDES



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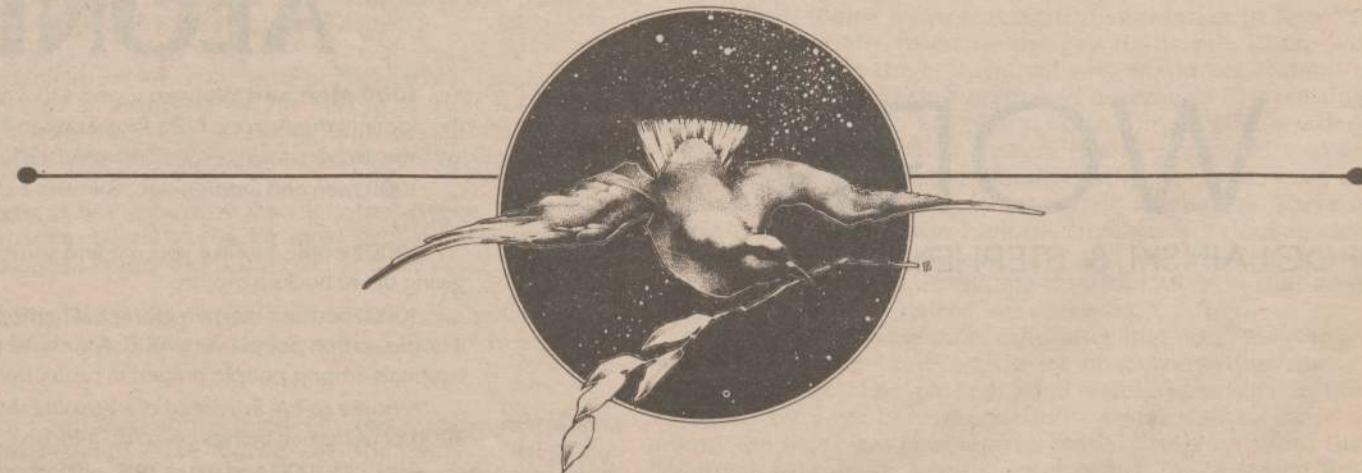
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SONIA JOHNSON: HOUSEWIFE TO HERETIC

By Ken R. Wells

Sonia Johnson does not believe gays and women can improve their status in American society by working for change from within the political system, which she sees as dominated by white, heterosexual men.

The noted author, feminist and former presidential candidate had harsh words for people, especially women and gays, who believe they can work from within to change the system.

continued next page.



SONIA JOHNSON: HOUSEWIFE TO HERETIC

cont. from previous page.

"The system changes us far more than we can ever hope to change the system. We can't get elected unless we are saying the things the system wants us to say," she said. "And we can't stay elected if we try to change things for our own group. We then become advocates of the status quo."

Johnson, a lesbian, encouraged other lesbians to put women's rights over gay rights. "Lesbians should identify with the feminist movement foremost. The male system is not going to work for women, whether the system is gay or straight," she said.

"If gay men get any laws or rights, they (the laws) will be turned against lesbians," she added. "We might gain something because we are gay but it will be taken away from us because we are women."

Johnson said this because there is not universal acceptance of women by gay men. "There are parts of the gay movement where men find women totally disgusting and hate us. They feel the women's movement is ridiculous and don't feel connected to it at all." She added, "But the gay men I know are a totally different kind of men."

She also said it is particularly hard for straight men to accept gay men because so many of them (gays) refuse to accept the values a male heterosexual system insists on.

"In a patriarchy, the definition of a man is 'not a woman' and the worst possible thing in the world for a man to be called is a woman. You can call a man a dog and it won't be as bad as calling him a woman. Nothing can be lower," she said.

Johnson said it seems reasonable to assume that many gay men adopt very feminine tendencies as a sign of deep protest because they know that nothing can strike as deeply against the straight, male value systems.

"Laws are worth as much for women as warm spit..."

"That's why so many straight men attack and kill gay men. They (gays) are traitors to the male power system. Homosexuality is terrifying to straight men," she added.

She believes women have gained more rights than gays because a lot of women have sold out their beliefs to men. "Women have got a lot of tokens out there. We've made gains by acting like men. Power is gender based. Men have to be on top of women, literally and metaphorically."

Johnson also believes organized religion has been the biggest force in repressing women and gays primarily because churches are bastions of male power.

She said men see their relationship with God as that of a "boys club" that has male supremacy as dogma. "Religions are becoming obsolete and the men in power in them sense they are losing their grip on people."

In 1979, Johnson gained national attention when she was excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her outspoken views on women's rights, including abortions. In 1982, she went on a 39-day hunger strike to protest the Illinois Legislature's rejection of the Equal Rights Amendment.

She said the Mormon Church, which she calls "The world's pre-eminent university for patriarchal studies," is so politically motivated, it fails to teach members true spiritual values. "I didn't realize I could be a spiritual person until I left the church," she said.

Her first book, "From Housewife to Heretic", deals with her stormy relationship with the Mormon Church and her subsequent excommunication.

Johnson also ran for President in 1984 under a coalition of political affiliations, including California's Peace and Freedom Party. She finished fifth nationally in the popular vote but received no electoral votes. "It's an awfully good forum for people to express their ideas," she said of the Presidential race.

But she is critical of Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) for her failed 1988 presidential bid. Schroeder had considered entering the race after former Colorado Senator Gary Hart withdrew earlier this year. She finally decided against running.

"Patricia Schroeder is a good woman and I like her a lot but she (was) going to have to run as a man," she said. "She couldn't have run as a feminist or as a woman. She wouldn't have been able to talk about women's issues as much as Ted Kennedy would because he isn't a woman. Tokens can't talk about or try to help their own group."

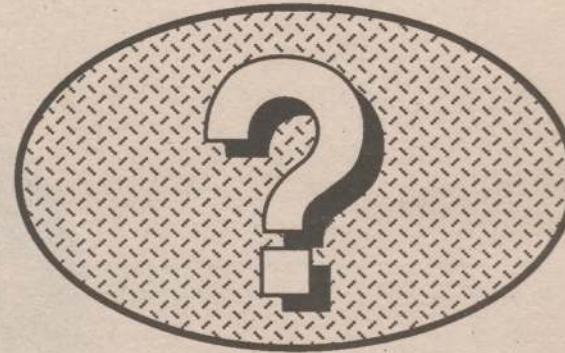
She said that if Schroeder had brought up women's issues forcefully, she would have been seen as a one-issue candidate and wouldn't have been taken seriously.

Johnson was once a strong backer of the Equal Rights Amendment but has since reevaluated her stance. She no longer believes that women can win their rights through the legal or political systems.

"Laws are worth as much for women as warm spit. Men own the legal game and if women start to win, the men change the rules," she said. "It's frustrating to me that a number of feminists still believe that we can change our status by changing laws. Laws always turn on us."

And the status of women, according to Johnson, is drastically low. "Women were the first slaves and have remained slaves for the past 5,000 years. But we have to believe in a deep way that we can free ourselves from this low status."

Johnson was in Arizona recently to promote her new book, *Going Out of Our Minds: The Metaphysics of Liberation*, which details her Presidential campaign and her unsuccessful bid for president of the National Organization of Women.



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DYKE VIEW

Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons, PhD
Martha M. Jones, R.N., BSN

HOLIDAY MALAISE

During the Holiday Season there seems to be for many people a malaise of sadness or depression which clings to them like a phantom shroud. These feelings are often prompted by remembrances of past loves, difficult family situations or distances from loved ones. For many it may be the first "alone" holiday following the death of a significant equal, friend, or other family member.

Each of us brings poignant recollections of joy and sadness as we mark this Holiday Season. Collectively, we as a society seem to find it difficult to enjoy the Holidays once we have grown past Santa Claus and gifts or Hannukah and festive parties. For many of us, those festivities were never part of our "family or origin" personal history.

Rather than staying stuck in the sadness of those memories, we as people of free will can make choices to change our perspective about the meaning of the season. This is not to say that we falsely negate the sadness or try to forget the losses, but instead bring to the forefront the gifts of wisdom and courage acquired through the years from people who have touched our lives.

Let this be a season of renewal. Give yourself the gift of "quiet time" when you can take a deep, introspective view of your own wonderful qualities and attributes. This may be difficult — the reframing of old thought patterns and ways of being means moving beyond our own sedentary, comfortable boundaries. It means detaching yourself from those thoughts which no longer serve you, to make room for your personal process of renewal and creation.

The philosopher Teilhard de Chardin said, "Some day, after we have mastered the air, the winds, the tides, and gravity, we will harness for God the energies of love. And for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."

We believe that our community has discovered the fire of which de Chardin so eloquently speaks.

When you need a source of strength, think of the hundreds of thousands of gay men and lesbian women who marched on Washington this year for the rights of all of us.

If you need a moment of courage, reach out to our brothers and sisters living with AIDS. Join with them in their focus of sustaining the highest quality of life for the present rather than dwelling on the melancholy of illness.

And should you need a piece of the future, look to our local and national organizations such as AAP, VCW, The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and the Mountain and Desert States Gay and Lesbian conference for keeping the vision bright for those of us who choose to see it.

Most of all, look to yourself as a person with pride, with love and with the magic of personal fire that lights your own path of renewal.

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TRISH TRIVIA TWIST

1. Name the former teen idol of the '50's who became the spokesperson for Skippy peanut butter.
2. Who played the Scarecrow in the classic film version of *The Wizard of Oz*?
3. The comedian who played the floating, laughing uncle in Walt Disney's *Mary Poppins*.
4. Who portrayed the legendary Mae West in the TV film of her life and career?
5. Name the Christmas classic that the above-named stars appeared in together.

Answers — last issue.

1. *Man of a 1,000 Faces* (that's Lon Chaney Sr.— our mistake!)
2. "Car 54, Where Are You?"
3. \$500.
4. "Room 222"
5. 1776.



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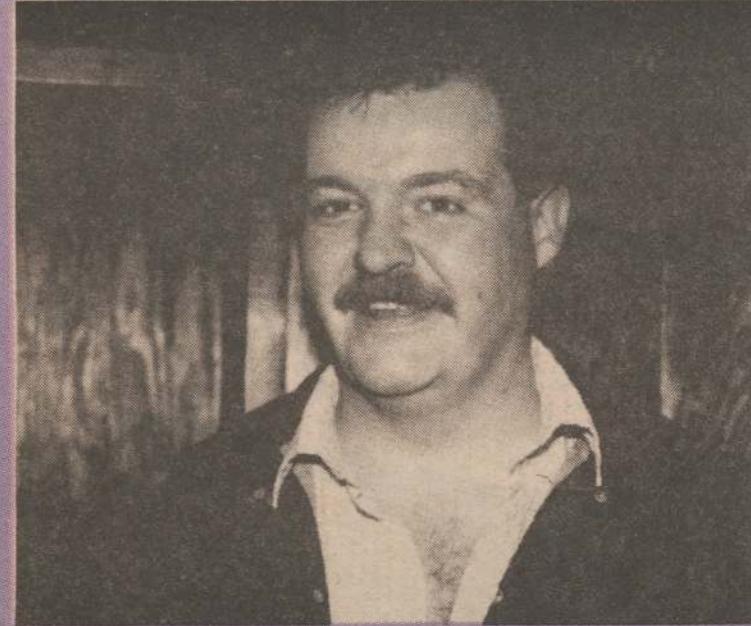
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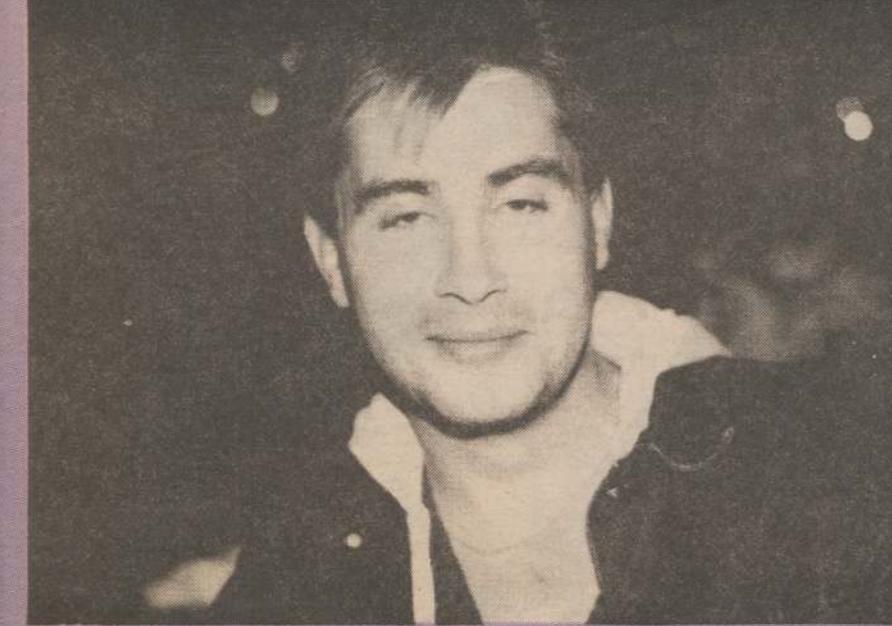
SHOTS IN THE DARK INVESTIGATOR/PHOTOGRAPHER: GREG LUTZ



Bill "Dough Boy": "To stop my excessive partying habits!"



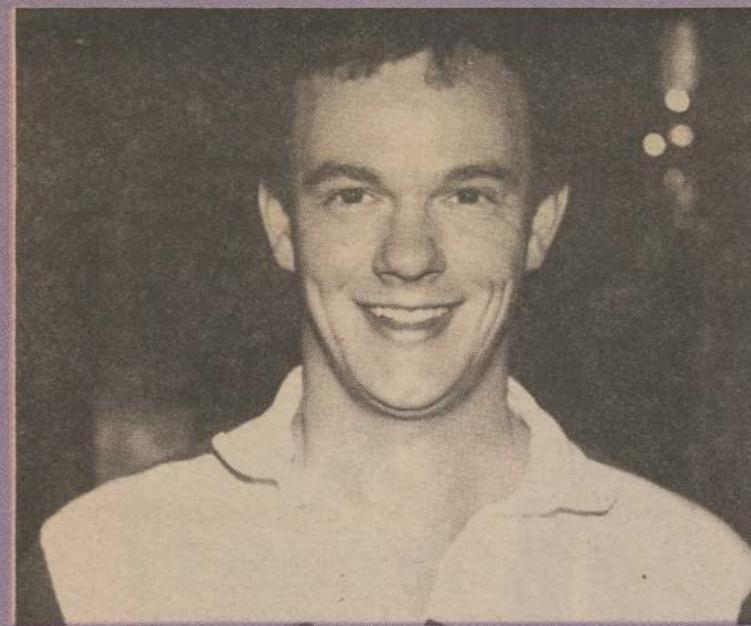
Sherri Maki: "To stop smoking



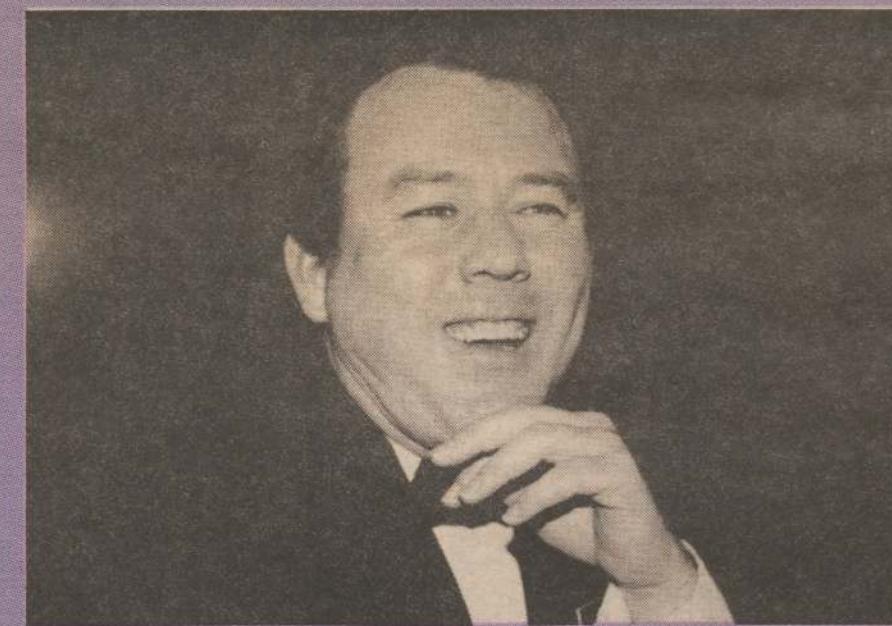
Ken Solis: "To go to Jamaica



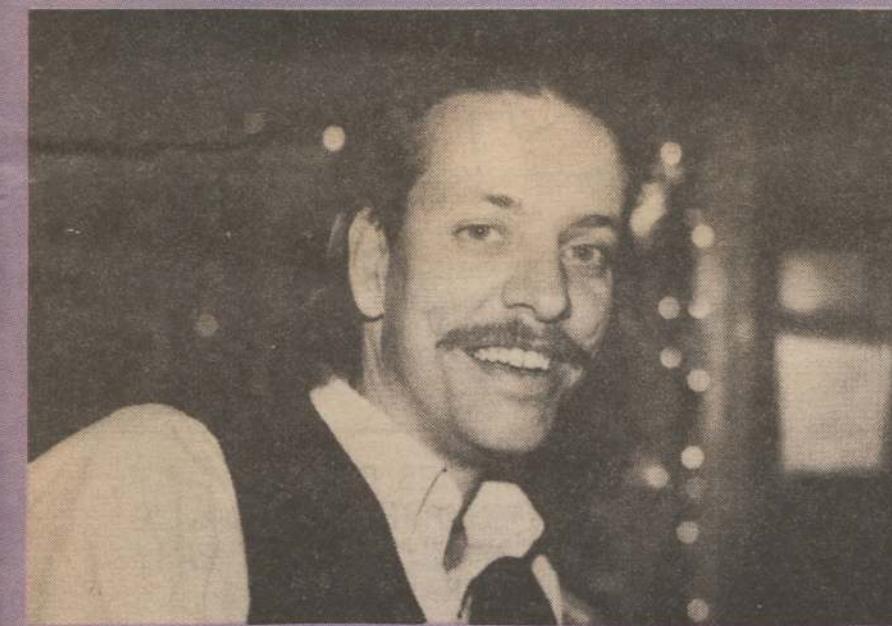
Mark Conboy: "To stop drinking."



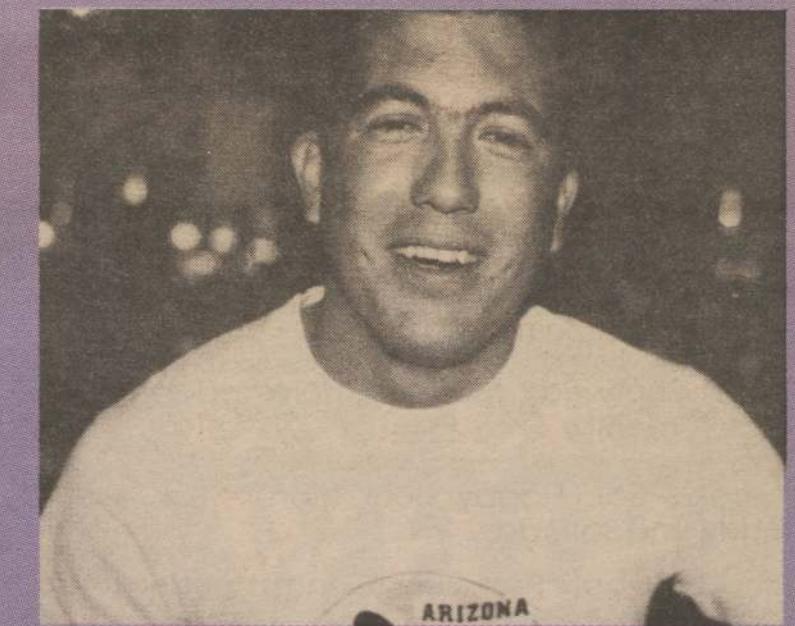
David Neuman (Mgr, Nutowne): "To find a blonde boy friend."



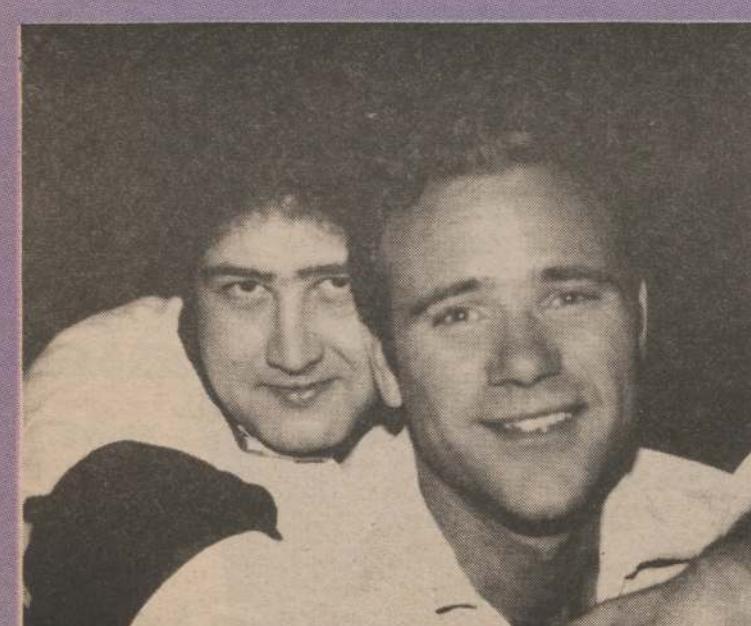
Jesse: "To get Mark into bed.



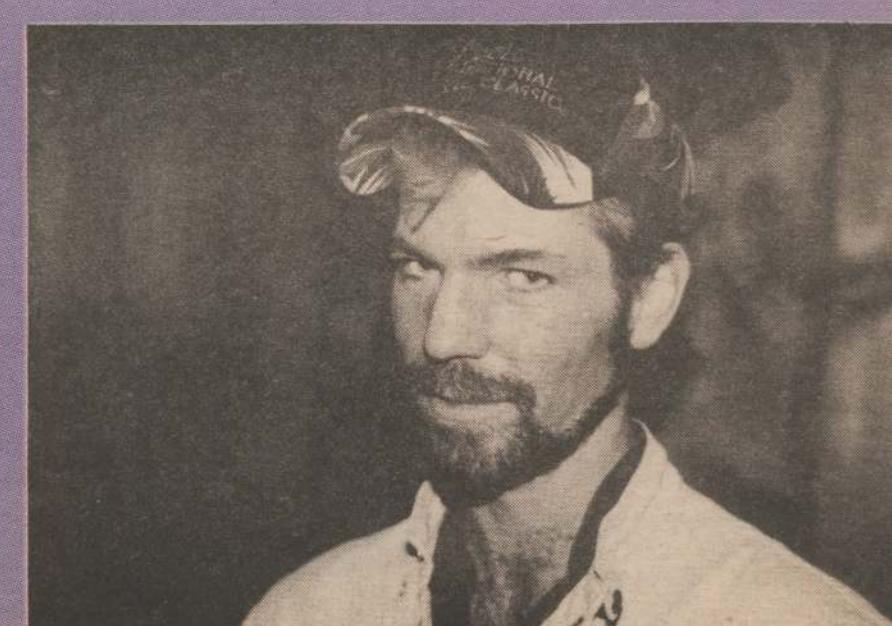
John Vicari: 'To be celibate.'



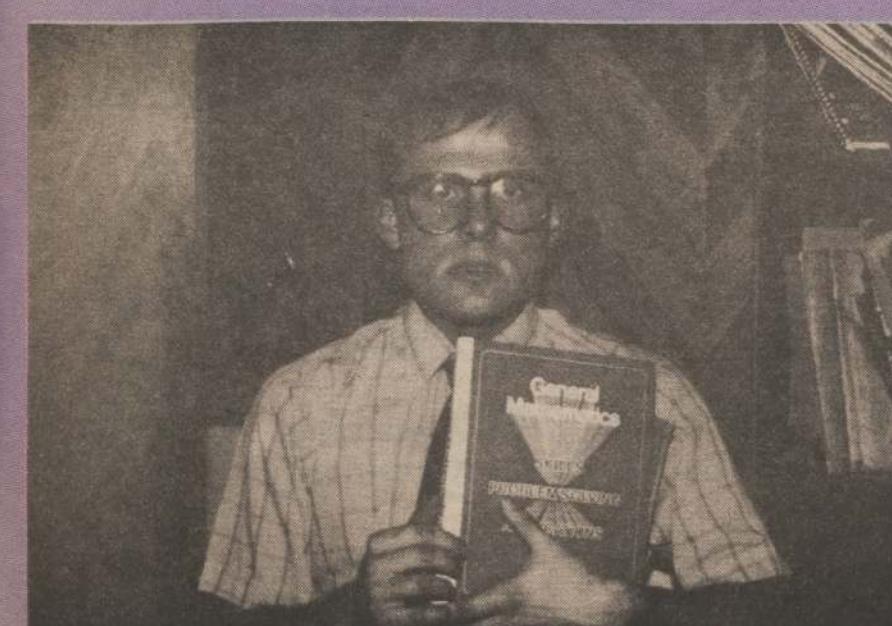
Tony Miyamoto: "Not to come in your mouth."



Tom Ferguson (owner of Fergy's, formerly Network): "To stick to my diet."
Kirk Ellis (bartender, Fergy's): "Have more sex."



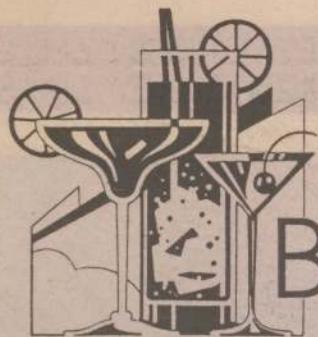
Wade Cuban: "To stop thinking. It hurts too much."



Eugene Gleeg: 'To control my asthma attacks and/or to stop my compulsive habit of sitting on the lap of every department store Santa that I see.'



Becky Stevens - bouncer, 307: "To lose weight..."



BAR TABS

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BRAZIL: Mens Bar featuring Monday night beer bust. Sunday wine cooler bust 12-5; Thursday 2 for 1 shots of Schnapps 8-12.

BUM STEER: Country/western Men's bar.

CATTLEMAN'S EXCHANGE: Country/western men's bar. Happy Hour weekdays 4 - 8 pm.

CHARLIES: Country Dance Bar (mixed). Home of Charlie's Country Cloggers and AGRA. Weekly "Mr. Charlie's contest."

CHUCK'S: "The Bar at Flex." Monday Corona Night \$1.25, Saturday barbecue.

THE CLUB: Men's Dance Club. Happy Hour Mon. - Fri.; Thursday and Saturday Pool Tournaments; afterhours Friday and Saturday.

CRUISIN' CENTRAL: Downtown neighborhood pub. Thursday night strip shows.

DIMESTORE: Men's bar. Tuesday Pool Tournaments.

FARRAH'S: Mixed Dance Bar. Thursday night Stripsation strippers and Beer Bust.

FLEX COMPLEX: Bar/health club (men). Monday Beer Bash, "Jacuzzi, Steam Room, Weight Room."

IMPULSE: Show Bar. Male & female strippers Sunday. Illusionists Thurs, Fri, Sat evenings. Pool Tournaments Mondays.

INCOGNITO: Women's bar. Happy Hour Monday through Saturday 4 - 7; dance music nightly.

LITTLE JIM'S 307: Show Bar. Monday Morning Madness first Monday of each month.

MAJIX: Women's Bar. Happy hour Mon. - Sat. Live DJ. Afterhours Friday and Saturday.

MANEUVERS: Mens bar. Best Buns Contest every Tuesday plus \$1.00 Rolling Rock Beer

NETWORK: Show Bar. Monday Male Madness strip show 3:00 - 6:00pm.

NEW CAMEL: Entertainment/Restaurant (mixed). Monday Buffet.

NEW MOON SALOON: Women's Bar. Two-for-one Happy Hour Mon - Fri. 5:00. Nightly DJ dance music.

NUTOWNE: Western men's bar. "Wednesday Beer Bust - 25¢ draft." Sunday barbecue Noon-4pm.

RAMROD: Leather Bar. Tuesday Beer Bust 9:00-12:00. Saturday Leather Night.

STIXX: Mixed Country Bar. Country Dance Lessons Every Monday 7pm and Saturday Noon.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Mixed. Dance Music (DJ).Happy Hour Mon-Fri. 4:30.

TRAX: Levi/leather Dance Club. Home of Copperstate Leathermen. Afterhours dancing Fridays and Saturdays.

WINK'S: Mixed Piano Bar. Live entertainment Fri., Sat. Sun. Sunday Brunch and lunches Mon. thru Fri.



THERE ARE LOTS OF PARTIES GOING ON—AT LOTS OF BARS. ENJOY YOURSELF, PATRONIZE YOUR FAVORITE PLACES, BUT...TAKE IT EASY AND WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

—THE STAFF OF VALLEY CRUISIN'

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Gay Male Couples • Coming Out

For Information, contact:

Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons, Ph.D • David Smith, E.D.D.
(602) 224-1956

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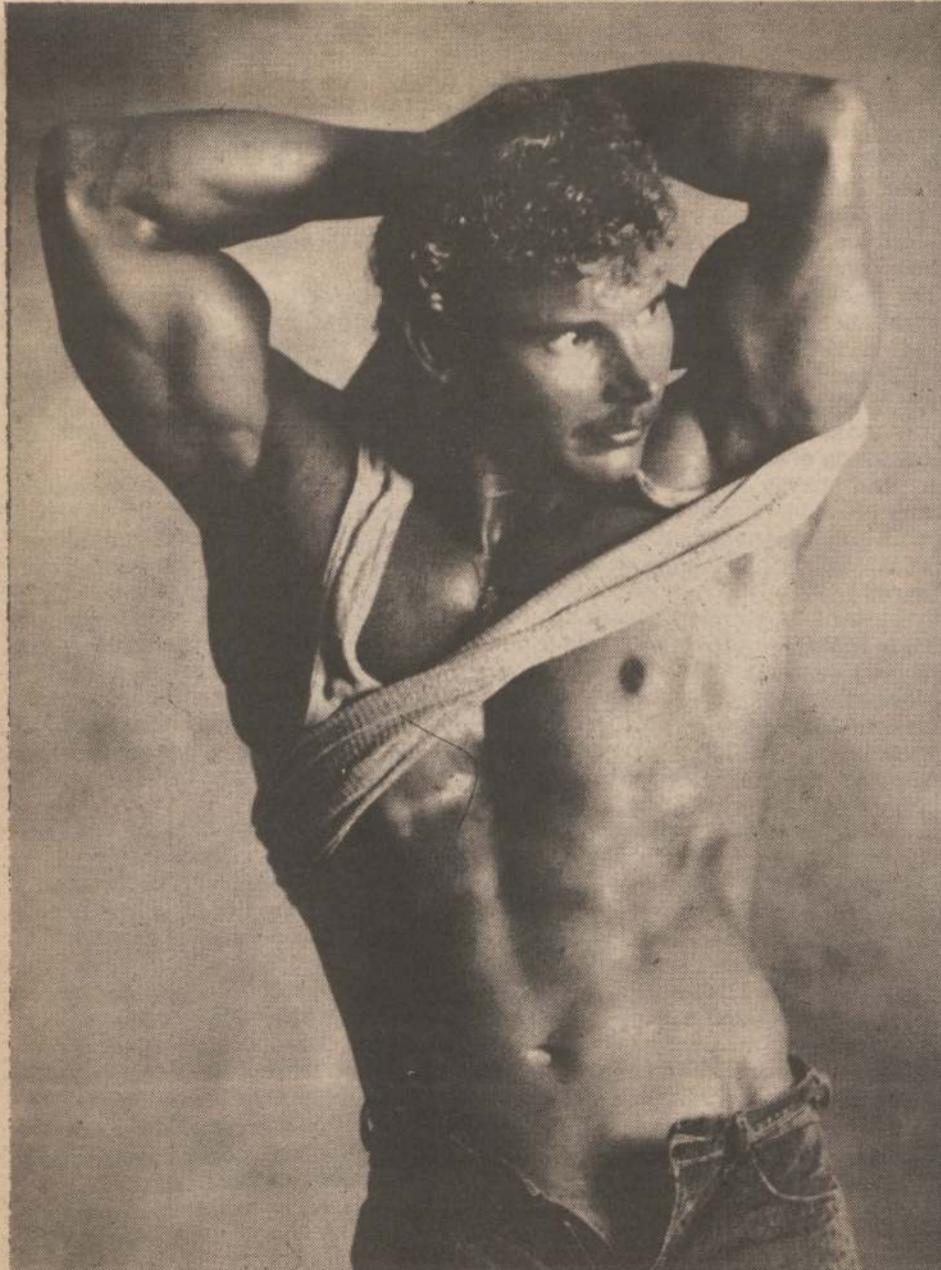
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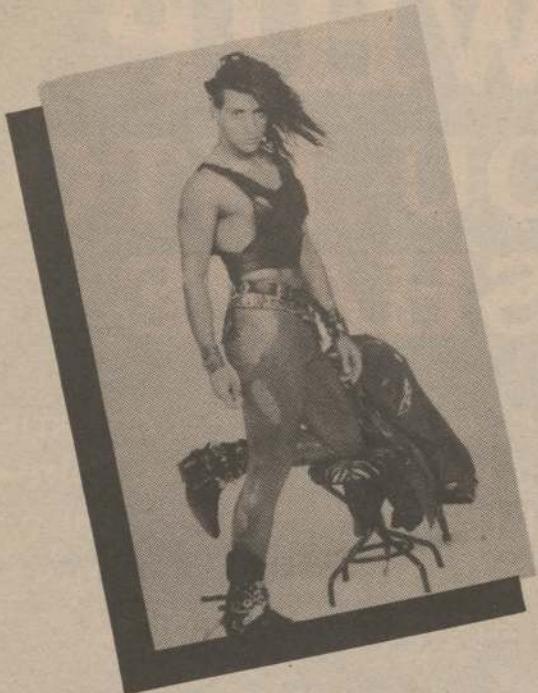
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LEE LAWRENCE LETTERS FROM THE FARM

PART 2: "WHEN THE BUBBLE BURSTS..."

He's arriving in less than twenty-four hours and I am calm...really. At this point whatever happens, happens I thought to myself. I'd spent two months of thinking, dreaming, dieting (!) planning and being scared or excited. All the letters and phone calls; the wooing; the loving gestures which could mean everything — or nothing — based on what happened during the next forty-eight hours. This was not a Sears catalog. Wishing would not make it so. We were dealing with egos, emotions; the chemistry of loving. There really is such a thing, you know — it's as primal as sex and just as intense. Some people do evoke deep seated emotions and psychological responses; a rise in blood pressure, an outpouring of adrenaline, an increase in body temperature. That's the chemistry and what gets most relationships off the ground — and into bed. The man coming tomorrow could change my life — if I let him, if I was ready, if he was Mr. Right, if the chemistry was there, if, if...

Our second meeting had to be special. No simple hugs and kisses would do. Granted, the horse tied to the front gate, with the tape-recorded instructions hanging from the saddle horn and an envelope of pictures may have been a bit much, but what the hell's the sense of having a flair for drama if you don't use it?

I watched from atop the hill as Rand pulled up and pondered the horse (He'd not been on one in about twenty years). He listened to the tape and mounted up. He accepted the "mission". Hashish, my gentlest mare, brought him to the barn where he dismounted. He climbed the hill and breathlessly (him, not me — I was leaning against a tree) we greeted each other. Slow motion and the 1812 Overture as background music would have lent a nice touch as we ran into each other's arms. We hugged and touched and looked to see if we really remembered what each other looked like. We did, so hand in hand I led him to a blanket where pate' and crackers, wine and cheese, fruit and a bouquet of wildflowers were spread out under a sky the color of Paul Newman's peepers. We ate, then walked, talked and swapped dreams. I explained how electric fences work and showed him how to split firewood. He wasn't very good at it — but then I remembered when I first left New York and got a job cutting pulpwood in Nova Scotia where the pay was seven dollars a cord. It took me two weeks to earn \$14.00.

Other guests arrived and our attentions were divided — but he was in my thoughts...constantly. While showing the others around, my thoughts were with him: where is he? What's he thinking? That's when the realization and nagging doubts began to settle in. Is there room for someone else in my life? Am I ready to give another the time and energy that a growing relationship requires? To possibly make writing a sloppy second? I think not. Besides, who would put up with my kinda shit?

Time and energy — now there's an idea! Another person could take so much pressure off. Someone to help with the chores — but a farm hand could do that. Help with the paperwork...a secretary would do. Financial assistance would ease a lot of stress...but so would an investor or business partner. Are you getting the drift here? Let's put it this way: "Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want." A couple of years ago I wanted a love and thought once I had one my needs would be filled. So, I tried it and instead of a love I got experience. That taught me I was now falling into the same trap again. My ex and I are now friends and I love him dearly. Yes, there were times when I could have gleefully peeled his lips up over his eyebrows, but that was before we became friends. A lot of us do that, you know. We find somebody who turns us on, satisfies some needs and, according to "the plan", we become lovers. Maybe we would have been better off remaining friends — even snuggle buddies — but not lovers.

Despite the months we spent writing and talking — or maybe because of them — Rand and I did not become lovers. Were we just two lonely guys blowing pretty bubbles in the air? We sure as hell were — but what's so wrong with that? What I got was more experience. I learned that at this time in my life I'll make him a better friend than lover. And this time it took me only two months instead of two years to find it out. I can be the best damn friend he ever had, love him freely and without reservation. I'll continue to learn and grow and so will he — just not under the same roof. It's been said that lovers come and go but friends are forever — I didn't find a lover but we created a friendship. Are we disappointed that it didn't work for us? Of course. Will I say "That's it for me — I'm tired of the let downs and pain?" Not a chance! If I thought I'd go through the rest of my life and never love, never dream or fantasize about it and never have another man send me a burned honey cake in the mail, I'd pack it in right now. My life isn't perfect and I don't have it all, but it's okay for today and I'll let tomorrow take care of itself.

What about Rand and I? Did our bubble burst? Yeah, all to hell. But we ain't no dummies — we're special — we're friends. So we just blew us another bubble — bigger, better and longer-lasting. It was worth it.

It's Christmas for people with AIDS, too.

SHARING WEEKEND
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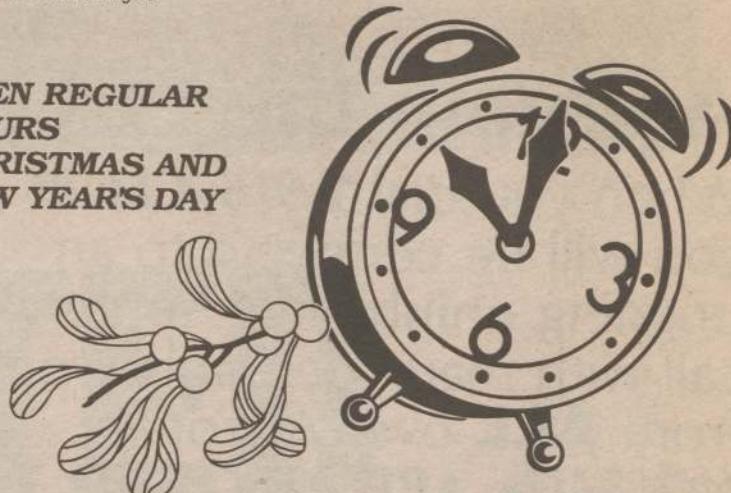
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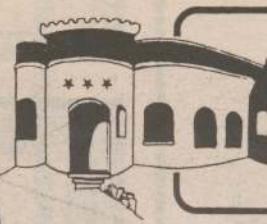
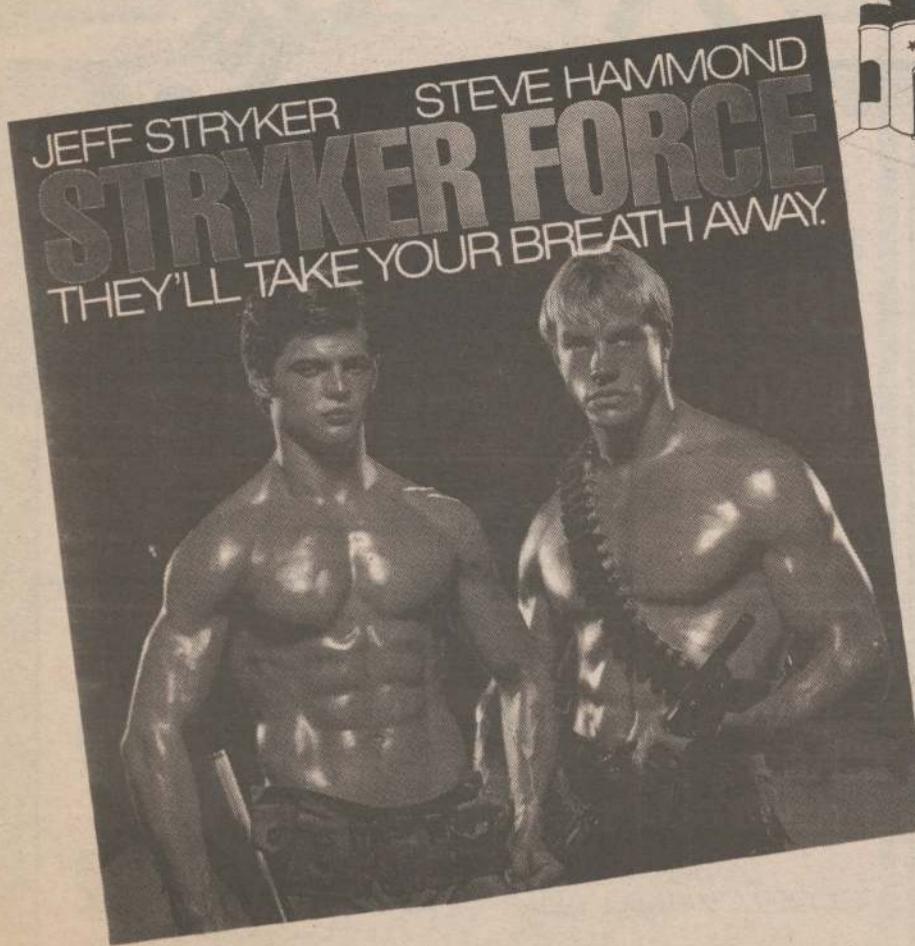
CHRISTMAS EVE SHOW
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NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW, 10:00 PM

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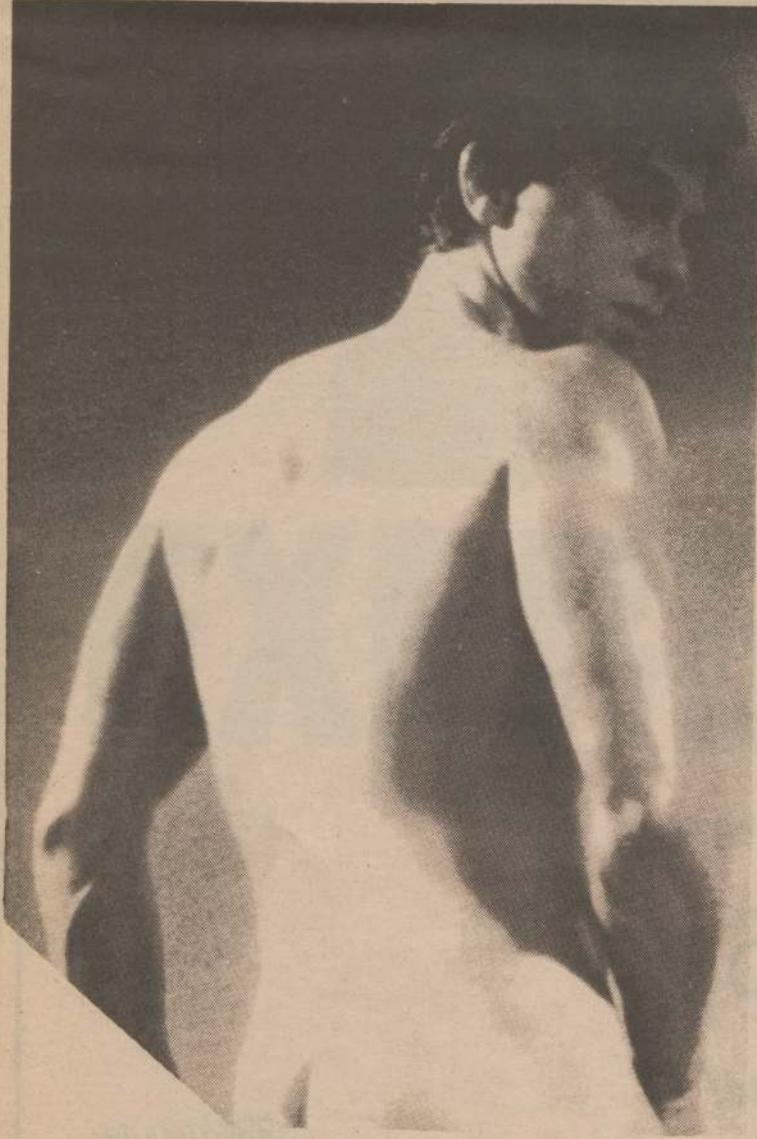
*The original conversation line
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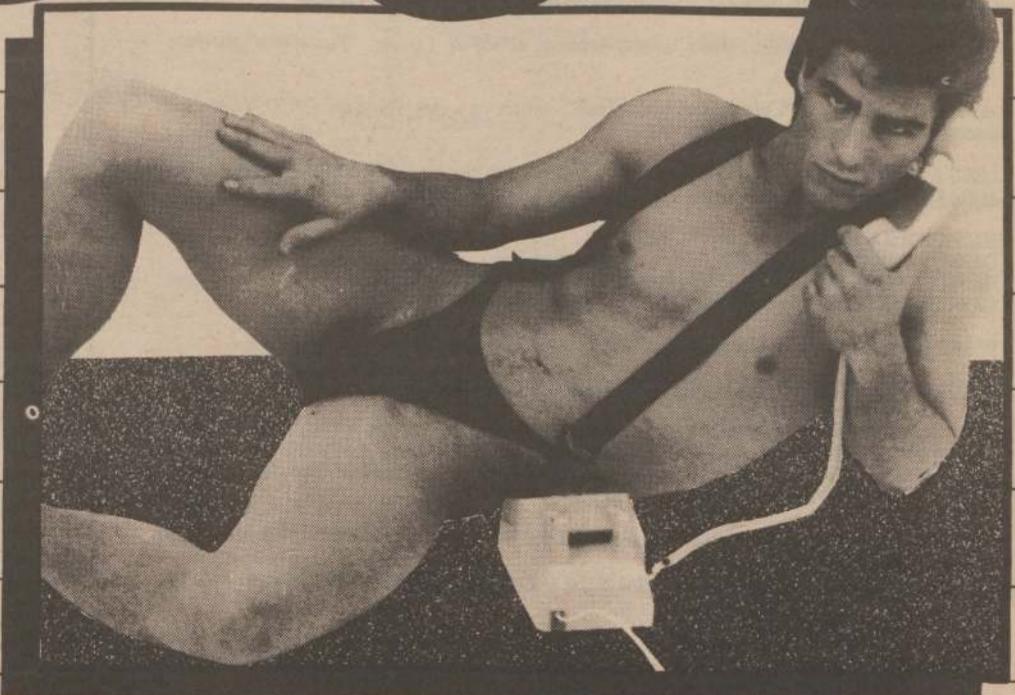
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OUTLINES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

12/12
HOUSE OF THE DAWN: Self-hypnosis workshop with Cal. \$45. Bring lunch. 267-1203.
AGRA: 3RD Anniversary Celebration. Charlies.

12/13
AGRA: Fundraiser. "Casino Night" Talk of the Town. 7pm.

12/14
DESERT OVERTURES: Mini-Concert for the "Days of Christmas", Charlies. Phone for details.

12/17
AGRA: Fundraiser. "Casino Night" Network. 7pm.

12/18-19
AAP: Sharing Weekend. \$\$\$ collected at clubs.

12/19
DESERT ADVENTURES: Hayride and Christmas party (tentative). 995-5021.
HOUSE OF THE DAWN: Self Hypnosis Workshop w/ Cal. Bring lunch.

12/21
COUPLES OF ARIZONA: Annual Christmas party. Non-members welcome! 831-5920/841-0583.

12/22
RELATIONSHIP DISCUSSION GROUP: "Holiday Hopes, Fears, and Fun" 7pm. Unitarian Universalist.
SHANTI: Holiday Party. Indian Hospital (classrooms), 16th St. & Indian School.

1/3
HOUSE OF THE DAWN: "Exploring Within." Workshop w/ Jack & Calvin. 2-5pm. Donation.

1/7
PHOENIX GAY AND MARRIED MEN'S ASSOCIATION (GAMMA): Monthly meeting.

1/8-9 & 15-16
SHANTI: Volunteer Training. Fee. 265-3884.

1/8, 9, 10
AGRA: Fundraiser. "Western Weekend" at the Flex Complex. Details coming.

1/10
AAP: Fundraiser. "Simply Beauty". Hair show — local and national talent.

1/15, 16, 17
RODEO, RODEO, RODEO, RODEO.

ONGOING:
AAP: Surviving Partners Support Group. Tuesdays, 7-9.
PWA/PWARC Support Group. Tuesdays, 2-4. Support for families, friends, significant others.
Wednesdays, 7-9. HLTIV3 test positive Support Group, Sundays, 4-6.

AZ GAY YOUTH: Meets Mondays at 7:30pm.

AFFIRMATION: Family home evenings. 2nd & 4th Mondays.

BOWLING: Squaw Peak Lanes, 32nd St. & Indian School, Mondays, 9pm.
Thunderbird Lanes, Indian School and Black Canyon, Sundays, 10am.

CBPA: Meets 1st Fridays, mornings, and 3rd Thursdays, evenings. 244-1658/899-6298.

DESERT VALLEY SQUARES: Meets Sunday evenings at 302 W. Latham. "Fun Nights" alternate Thursdays at STIXX!!!!!!

HOUSE OF THE DAWN: "Lessons with Nikola Tesla" - continuing series, Tuesdays at 8:30. Videos and discussions Mondays at 7:30. Phone for info.

LGCS & AAIL: AIDS Information Outreach w/video presentation, Wednesdays, 6pm, at Chuck's, The Bar at the Flex Complex. Presentation also available by request—contact R. Hegyi, 234-2752/2753.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES:
OASIS: Sundays at 11am. 4229 S. 36th Pl. (off Broadway).
GENTLE SHEPHERD: Sundays at 10:30am. 7655 E. Redfield, Sctsd. Talk Line: 998-2421.
CASA DE CRISTO: Sundays at 8:30, 10:30, and 7pm. Turney east of 7th St.

PFLAG: Meets 3rd Mondays, Mount of Olives Church, 3546 E. Thomas, 7pm.

PHOENIX GAY AND MARRIED MEN'S ASSOCIATION (GAMMA). Meets 1st Thursdays. 435-0828.

PHOENIX SHANTI: Reaching for Alternatives (a "Loving" Support group for PWAs), Wednesdays at 7pm. Women & AIDS, alternate Wednesdays at 7pm. Family, friends, and significant others support group, Wednesdays, 7-9. HLTIV3 "test positive" support group, Sundays at 7pm. Call for info. regarding Welcome Wagon visitation/help line for PWAs.

RELATIONSHIP DISCUSSION GROUP: Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7pm. Unitarian Universalist. 4027 E. Lincoln Drive. 870-9597.

WELLNESS GROUP: Mondays. Contact Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons through AAP or SHANTI.

Phone individual organizations for specifics.

If you have something that needs said, let us know, and we'll do what we can to get the word out.

PHOENIX RESOURCE/OUTLINES
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(602) 256-7476

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Scottsdale
946-9303

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279-3033

Cattlemen's Exchange/
The Hayloft
138 W. Camelback
266-0675

Charles
727 W. Camelback
265-0224

The Club
4223 N. 7th St.
248-9730

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

The Dimestore
1810 E. McDowell
258-9477

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

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

Impulse
2326 E. Indian School
957-3679

Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
955-9805

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

Malix
1019 E. Indian School
241-9122

Menuever
4343 N. 7th Ave.
274-1218

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

The Network
3025 N. 24th St.
224-0822

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. Bik Canyon Hwy.
253-0119

Stixx
3015 N. 16th St.
234-0000

Talk of the Town
4301 N. 7th Ave
248-8573

Trix
1724 E. McDowell
254-0231

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

A.G.R.A. (Az Gay Rodeo Assn)
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011
938-3932

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Omega
P.O. Box 30715
Phoenix, 85046
996-7296

Arcadia Flowers
4835 E. Indian School
840-3750

Bill's Thrift Shop
4422 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix 85014
279-5296

Castle Bookstore
5501 E. Washington
231-9837

The Framing Center
2701 N. 24th St.
Phoenix, 85006
957-0677

Heritage Hatters
15035 N. Cave Creek Rd.
867-3323

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

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

AZ Gay Youth
Arie Michaels
938-3932

Camelback Business &
Professional Assn.
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix 85001
244-1658 or 899-6298

Copperstate Leathermen
P.O. Box 44051
Phoenix, 85064

Couples of Arizona
P.O. Box 7144
Phoenix, 85011

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix 85001
995-5021

Desert Overture
PO Box 26772
Phoenix 85030
381-1311

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

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, 85067
978-3273

Desert Tavern Owners
of Arizona (I.T.A.)
Contact I.T.A. Members

Janus Theatre
258-9773

Lebian & Gay Community
Switchboard
234-2752

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians
& Gays
P.O. Box 37255
Phoenix, 85064
939-7807 or 942-0417

Phoenix Gamma
PO Box 47811
Phoenix 85068
435-0828

Phoenix Older/younger Men's
Social Organization
P.O. Box 10423
Phoenix, 85064
254-1324

Phoenix Shanti Group
P.O. Box 17618
Phoenix, 95011
265-3884

Phoenix Shanti Group
P.O. Box 17618
Phoenix, 95011
265-3884

Relationship Discussion Group
870-9587

Sons of Apollo
P.O. Box 7281
Phoenix 85011
277-9373

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

A.G.R.A. (Az Gay Rodeo Assn)
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011
938-3932

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252-4191 Res.

CamelWest Income Tax Service
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Phoenix 85061
841-5414

Mahpachat Am
Congregation of Lesbian
& Gay Jews
P.O. Box 39127
Phoenix, 85089
966-5001

Oasis MCC
4229 S. 36th Pl.
Phoenix, 85040
437-2629

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Affirmation
P.O. Box 315
Mesa, 85201

BMC (Brehren Mennonites Council)
P.O. Box 5613
Glendale, 85312

Casa De Cristo (MCC)
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix, 85014
265-2331

Dignity
P.O. Box 21091
Phoenix, 85036

Gente Shepard M.C.C.
P.O. Box 6261
Scottsdale, 85261
998-2421

House of Dawn
2141 E. Palm Ln
Phoenix 85010
267-1203

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix, 85011
258-0071

Osiris MCC
4229 S. 36th Pl.
Phoenix, 85040
437-2629

RETAIL

Alpha Omega
P.O. Box 30715
Phoenix, 85046
996-7296

Arcadia Flowers
4835 E. Indian School
840-3750

Bill's Thrift Shop
4422 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix 85014
279-5296

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5501 E. Washington
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Janus Theatre
258-9773

Lebian & Gay Community
Switchboard
234-2752

Los Amigos Del Sol (LADS)
P.O. Box 27335
Phoenix, 85030
265-7476

Places of Interest
P.O. Box 35575
Phoenix 85069
863-2408

The Arizona Transformer
277-4742

Tucson Observer
P.O. Box 50733
Tucson, 85703

Western Express
P.O. Box 32575
Phoenix, 85064
254-1324

Women's Pages
P.O. Box 384
Scottsdale, 85252

Women's Voice
3116 E. Shea Blvd.
Phoenix 85028
493-7276

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7727 N. 16th St. #108
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NOTICES

Tucson nature photographer seeks male models, 18-30, any race. Beautiful surroundings, nice guy. Need photos for anatomical study. Provide models with set of photos. Letter, photo to Geoff, PO Box 2733, Tucson 85702.

Classes in witchcraft soon starting. Join our coven. No sex or satanism involved. More info and application, 251-7633. Leave name, number, mailing address. No fee.

People Who Love Too Much groups now forming. Explore co-dependency in a safe environment. For more information, call 224-1956.

WE CARE! Professional and personalized fitness training — nutritional counseling — women — men — one on one — groups — beginners. Mr. Michael Smith. 254-2052.

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, pictures, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique, and provocative. \$15 yearly subscription or \$5 current issue to On Our Backs, 526 Castro St. San Francisco 94114.

GWM, educated, professional, serious, 31 years old. Enjoy good conversation, films, scuba diving, traveling, dining in and out. Interested in meeting others with similar interests, late 20's to early 40's. I am of medium build; 150#, brown/brown; moustache. Send photo/phone and a few lines about yourself. BOX 104.

Good-looking and fit GWF would like to meet someone with good sense of humor and preferably over 30 years of age. If you don't smoke, have a zest for travel, like to keep physically fit, and enjoy the great outdoors, please write. Will answer all replies. BOX 105.

GWM 52, young; masculine. Want younger permanent friend, who enjoys fishing, camping, sports, motorhome. Clean, mature, sincere. Relationship possible. Photo to BOX 106.

GWM 28 looking for masculine partner to work out with. Also looking for friends to go out jogging, dancing, eating, or just to have a good time with. Please no drugs, fats, or fems. BOX 11.

Thirty and single during the holidays can give a girl the blues. This GWF would like to meet someone interested in a mischievous, easy-going, optimistic, romantic, stable, and intelligent woman. Outdoors or indoors, I can find fun anywhere. If you're tired of playing the bar scene in order to meet new people, why not try a new approach? BOX 110.

Relationships seem to come and go — but a good friend is a friend forever! This GWM 25 is looking for a special friend, someone down-to-earth and drug-free. If you like to dance or jog, or maybe take in a movie and a bottle of wine...like to Christmas shop or do anything on the spur of the moment...if you are simple and honest, maybe I am right for you. Write BOX 107.

Tall, athletic, blue-eyed, handsome married guy, 35, wants to meet GM during business trip 12/5 - 12/7. Like running, skiing. Respond Box 108.

Young Asian wanted by blonde who often visits Phoenix and Scottsdale. I am clean-cut, short blond hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, smooth body in good shape. 5' 7", 138#. Enjoy many activities plus tender love to sensual kinky fantasies. Photo appreciated. Box 109.

GWM living in the social desert of Northeast Phoenix. Am 25, 5' 10", brown hair, blue eyes and moustached. Enjoy dancing, camping, antique autos, movies old and new, concerts, sci-fi/fantasy, rock, clear night skies, thunderstorms and light leather. I'm mostly an aggressive bottom but still like to be on top once in a while. Am healthy and health-conscious (safe sex), looking for an individual with similar interests for serious relationships. Prefer someone between 18-27. health. No one-nighters. BOX 111.

FOR RENT

Student roommate wanted for room in townhouse 1/4 mile from ASU. \$300 mo. includes utilities and basic phone. Rich 966-6427, eves.

1 Br apartment - gay complex - pool, spa. Half month deposit required. 266-6883 after 4:00 pm.

GWM wanted to share a furnished 3 bedroom townhouse in Central Phoenix. No drugs, smoking. \$250 per month plus 1/2 utilities. 277-3977. (3).

Share beautiful home in northeast Phoenix. Pool, cable, fireplace, maid-pool-lawn service. Daytime stable job and references a must. \$225 month plus...840-4048. (1)

Mailbox rentals. \$6.50 mo. Telephone answering. \$12.50 mo. UPS shipping and packaging, keys, business cards, rubber stamps. 3531 W. Glendale. (27)

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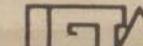
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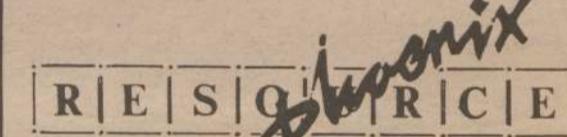
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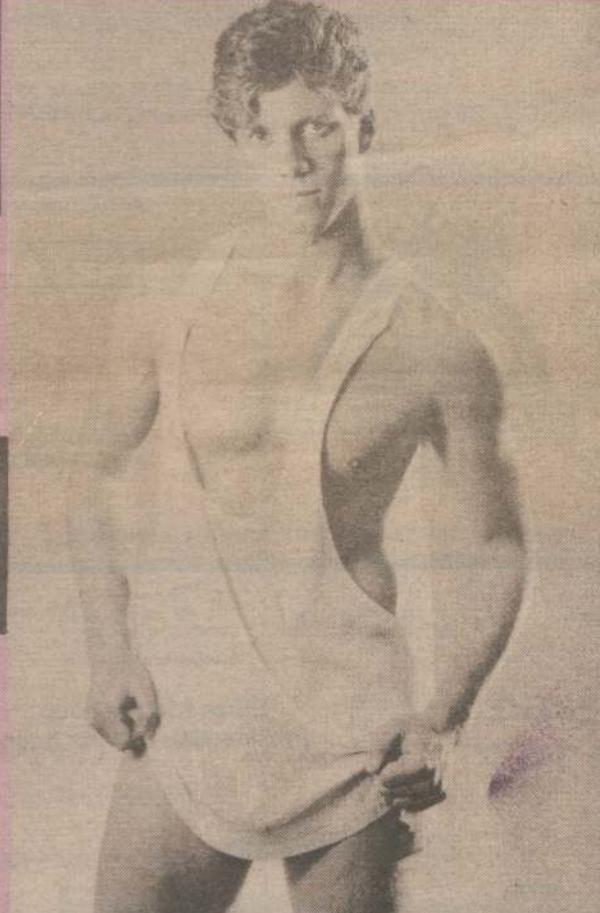
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