

# GIFT WRAPPED.

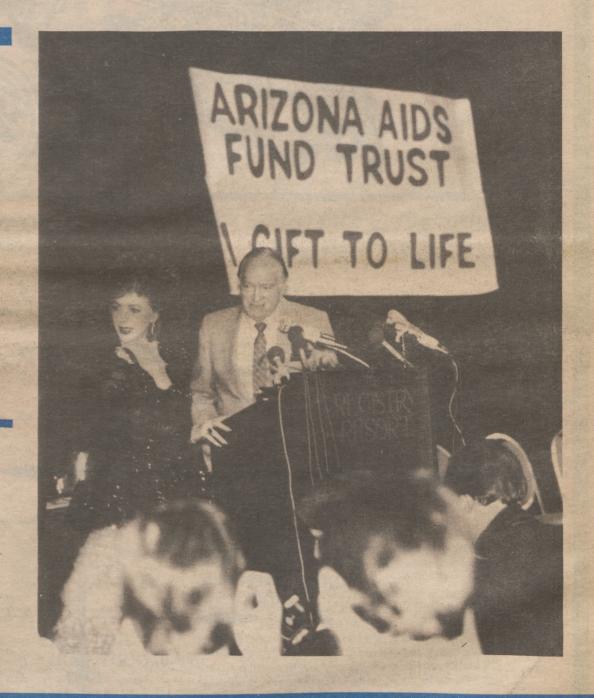
The Benefit of the Year... and a Press Conference that almost forgot the issue.

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# PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE.

So what do you call a bunch of gay college students?

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# In Defense of Caring.

Meg Umans has something to say.

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### **VOLUME II, ISSUE 5**



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Editorial

I am continually surprised at the very diverse attitudes and personalities I encounter within our community. I suppose this surprise could be attributed to my having bought into beliefs about "how we all are," and thereby not allowing for the truth of individuality. Humility is not my long suit, I stand corrected.

Assumptions about my friend Meg Umans (I can't help, when I speak her name, but to run it all together as if it were one word) led to my surprise in discovering who and how she really is. Similar community assumptions about Meg have led her to write a piece which, without being defensive, explains her position in, and desire to be associated with, our community. Do yourself a favor — read what Meg has to say.

If Meg's article is written out of a sense of oppression, then it is ironic that a non-gay person should feel the squashing normally reserved for those of us who are truly "factioned." Donna Taylor, who organized the recent Gay and Lesbian Student Conference at ASU, spoke with me about gay oppresion. "The people who attended (the conference) from California didn't believe us about the restrictions we experience here in Phoenix," Donna told me. "These people left believing, and remembering what it felt like to be held back." Sad that conditions and attitudes we might consider passe' still matter; sadder still that we often forget — or are unaware — that they do.

"Does my sexual preference matter?" Christine Madonia, who covers AmFAR's Gift to Life benefit in this issue, wanted to know if the fact that she is heterosexual mattered in her writing for a gay newspaper. "Not," I told her, "unless you tell any homosexuals."

-Robrt Pela

### "WHY ARE YOU HERE?"

#### Meg Umans

**Editor's Note:** Among the many things that Meg Umans does and has done in her lifetime, it is the proprietorship of Humanspace Books for which the Phoenix Gay Community recognizes her.

Humanspace is billed as an "alternative lifestyles" bookstore, which means that you won't find someone dropping in to pick up a copy of the new Stephen King or the latest Harlequin Romance.

Thanks to Meg's knowledge of gay and feminist literature, Humanspace offers us a means of reinforcement via an assortment of books, records, and periodicals. Moreover, Humanspace operates (perhaps unintentionally) as a sort of Community Center; rather like an extended Information Booth for the Gay Community. Meg shares information without dishing; she shares herself as well.

Despite the energies Meg has put into the Gay Community, and because she works within our community without claiming a sexual position, she is often the recipient of critical brickbats.

In compiling a book of "Coming Out Letters" (to be published this summer), Meg has received response similar to that which her other endeavors have brought her. "Why is a straight person doing a book on homosexuals?"

Meg's reply, written three years ago in response to a similar question, is neither defensive nor heavy with excuse. She wants, like all of us, to be understood.



People in minority groups have natural and social characteristics that are attractive to some outsiders. Outsiders who are eventually accepted, involved and active have usually had a probation period. One form of my probation by gay people has been questioning, the same questions from different people, the same interest, whether hostile or friendly, in my motivation and sincerity. Now you want some answers from me: here are some that have helped in the past.

I was immobilized by surgery for a lot of my childhood, and learned to read when I was three. My parents never censored my reading, and one of the books that crossed my path was **THE WELL OF LONELINESS**. Powerful—read it if you haven't, and give it to the stragiht people who matter to you. (Written by Radclyffe Hall, 1928.) I was too young to have any defenses against it, and it poured through me. I was accessible, and Stephen became as real and normal and valid and comprehensible to me as I was to myself. That book has been part of my mind since childhood. I reread it, to write this, to see how it would affect me thirty years later. It poured through me the same way. Read it again.

That was all, for several years. Through high school, college, marriage (three years), hitchhiking around Europe (two years), graduate school at Columbia...l didn't know that I knew any gay people. This was before Stonewall, and the references were to queers, fags, homos: strange, frightening, comical. My "playing doctor" experiments were with girls only.

Late 1960's, early seventies. I lived in Manhattan, and I couldn't help knowing that I knew gay people. In retrospect, my interest shows up as impersonal: I liked the people as people, but the part of them that was gay was separate, an object of my curiosity. I was fortunate—my questions were answered honestly and with good will. Still, homosexuality was a real part of real people. I had my first same-sex experience during this period, and that wasn't real either. We reassured each other a lot that we were just experimenting, and we had a man in bed with us, so we felt legitimate. The sex was tepid—an okay appetizer, but nowhere near a main course. During this time also, experiments with different combinations of two straight men. Straight men won't do as much with each other as straight women will.

Mid seventies, Phoenix. More mixed threeways, all straight—I was hoping to develop the taste, but no luck. Homosexuality in real people was still incomprehensible, and therefore uninteresting. The people were fine,

as long as we met on common ground—I wasn't any more interested in gender preference than I was in religious or political preference, when it didn't match mine.

Then things started happening. I was a librarian, and reviewing books about homosexuality was a small part of my job. By that time, I was ready for it, found the books interesting, read everything I could find, asked my gay acquaintances for more. Did a bibliography for the library that drew fire from the Bible thumpers, the City Council and the Mayor. The library director refused to withdraw it, and told me, "You queers have a right to be understood." He wasn't the only one - the whole library decided I must be gay, and the gay underground made me feel welcome. I liked these people, and finally got around to integrating gayness and personness. I was introduced to the bars, the newspapers, the signals, the rituals, the jokes.

A gay co-worker and I shared a house for a year. More intense relationships with him and his friends, more bars, more newspapers and books, my belated introduction to gay porn. Evenings of visiting each others' homes. My discomfort, at first with being the only straight person, and almost always the only woman.

"Some of my life choices find more validation in the gay world than in the straight..."

My ex-lover's son is gay. When I met him, I found him...strange. At his father's wedding, we discovered a common resentment of his new stepmother, and a common interest in the new gay community center. Both of us needed the moral support, so we went together to check it out. The center was looking for crisis line volunteers, so I started working the lines and training new volunteers, and discovered some kindred spirits who are still friends.

One of my early trainees had a friend he wanted me to meet, so he sent her to the library to look me up. We went out for my coffee break, and stayed for two hours. She's bright and beautiful and friendly and open, and if I

were going to fall in love with a woman, it would be her. I hit her that way too, and she was willing to take the risk of getting involved with a straight woman. We tried. For a few months, we did our best, used lots of her wisdom and patience and my courage and determination...and that just wasn't the hand I was dealt. That friendship remains.

I thought being gay would solve a lot of my problems with men. (Or make them moot, which would be just as good.) At least half the straight people I knew thought I was gay anyway, and I had gay friends already, so I didn't see social isolation as a problem. I'd already decided not to have children. I'm strongly feminist, a rebellion against my traditional family as well as my traditional society. But when I'm emotionally vulnerable, when I'm in love, my atavistic submission comes out, and I defer unconsciously and unnecessarily, and then I'm annoyed with the man and with myself. With a woman, a gut-level equal, I felt that whatever emotional conflicts might arise, my right to personhood wouldn't be undermined. I still do feel that

Meanwhile, some of my life choices find more validation in the gay world than in the straight - being single, childless, androgenous, independent and happy aren't yet quite okay with traditional society. Gay women, gay men, gay couples have mannerisms and attitudes that are tradition free in a way I admire and enjoy, and I feel alive and at home when I'm with you.

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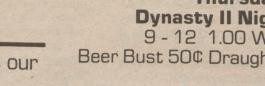
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### LAVENDER NOTES

We all have friends, don't we? Webster's New World Dictionary defines friend as: 1. a person whom one knows well and is fond of; intimate associate; close acquaintance; 2. a person on the same side in a struggle; one who is not an enemy or a foe; ally; 3. a supporter or sympathizer 4. something thought of as like a friend in being helpful, reliable, etc. 5. a member of the Society of Friends; Quaker. For the purposes of my column this week, the first four definitions are applicable.

Until this past week, I thought that I had more friends than my recent experiences lead me to believe. Friendship, to me, is a valuable phenomenon of human relationships. I'm sorry it is not as valuable to some of my "friends."

The definition of friendship in the Webster's New World Dictionary is 1. The state of being friends; 2. attachment between friends; 3. friendly feeling or attitude; friendliness. All of these definitions are agreeable to me, although I think they lack a certain amount of depth.

In my book, friends don't rip-off friends. Friends don't intentionally manipulate and use their friends. Friends don't lie or steal from friends. A friend is someone who is trustworthy and doesn't take advantage of the trust that is placed in him or her.

This past week has scarred me in my relationships with others. I have been lied to, stolen from, and manipulated by a trusted friend. I'm not sure why it happened and the reasons, even if I knew them, wouldn't lessen the pain I feel. Friends can disagree and remain friends, but I don't think lying is permissable.

Now potential friends will take far longer to earn my trust. And although I know that not everyone will do what my "friend" did to me, there will always be a part of me that doubts the sincerity of friendship and waits for the day when deceit will again surface.

Maybe I was too trusting in this relationship. But after

#### ON FRIENDSHIP AND TRUSTING

more than a year, I thought this friend trustworthy. I was wrong. I could have had a written agreement with my "friend", as this concerned the rental of some of my property, but I didn't feel it was necessary to do that. Instead I trusted - and felt that the trust was deserved until recently.

If I were a separatist lesbian, I would simply say that the rape of one friendship was due to my having trusted a man. Since I am not a separatist I can only blame myself for trusting a fellow human being with my friendship. I've learned some lessons from this experience, and I hope I won't soon repeat my apparent lack of good

Next time, I won't trust as easily. When I do trust, I'll take into account Webster's first definition of the word enemy, "a person who hates another, and wishes or tries to injure him; foe" knowing that it might someday define my "friend."

Rae Fritz





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#### Lesbian and Gay Student Conference

#### "WE ARE NOT JUST

#### 'SEXUAL PEOPLE'"

The Western States Lesbian and Gay Students United held their annual conference Feb. 14-17, 1986. This group traditionally holds the conference at a university. The site for this year's conference was ASU. The W.S.L.G.S.U. picked ASU because of the problems both Lesbian and Gay groups (L.G.C.C.O. and LGAU) at ASU are having over funding.

This year's conference coordinator was Donna Taylor, a student at ASU and President of LGCCO. Ms. Taylor has been active in the local gay community since 1977. Donna is a lesbian parent, and her son and her lover are frequently seen together at many activities. She is a communications major (oral interpretation) who is minoring in business and Women's Studies. Since receiving an A.A. degree in business at Phoenix College, Donna works and attends school full-time. She has recently been elected a Mobilization Director for the WSLGSU, which will involve travelling to other universities to help resolve problems for lesbian and gay students.

Several first time events occured this weekend — the first time a lesbian and gay dance was held at ASU, the first time a Reader's Theatre production involving lesbian and gay literature was held at ASU, and the first time either group at ASU conversed with the student body president over his funding policies. The weekend featured many workshops that showed what life in Phoenix is like. Four professors, three teachers, the ASU Chief of Police, and local Lesbian and Gay organizations were workshop presenters. The keynote speakers were Gary Allhiser from the Camelback Business and Professional Association, and Carl Brown, an appointed member of the City of Phoenix Human Relations Commission.

# The first lesbian and gay dance was held at ASU.

Ninety students from 3 states attended the conference. Students from 23 universities in Colorado, California and Arizona comprise the WSLGSU. Started originally as a network for California universities, the WSLGSU has grown to a full-fledged organization, soon to be tax-exempt. The WSLGSU now is able to help students with a myriad of problems, ranging from discrimination in the dorms to AIDS-related problems.

Among the many workshops presented was one hosted by Dave Varnell, President of the Associated Students of ASU. Mr. Varnell has denied funding to any Lesbian and Gay group on campus, based on a vague policy. Simplified, the policy states a qualifying criteria — education, the denial criterion is sexual preference. The two groups on campus, LGCCO and LGAU, clearly qualified under the first criteria, especially when compared to other clubs that were funded. But when confronted with this, Mr. Varnell vehemently denied that his decision was based on personal prejudice. Yet, in

# Varnell has denied funding to any Lesbian and Gay groups on campus.

the same speech, he frequently contradicted his position. "Under the current executive policy, I would not be allowed to do it, otherwise, I would be violating ASASU policy. I do agree with this policy." Mark Conclasure, Pasadena City College, best stated the feelings of the gays and lesbians in the room when he said, "It is not a choice (to be homosexual)... Nobody in their right mind on this earth would put themselves through this hell. Do you think we would choose this lifestyle?" Dave Varnell's response was unclear. There seemed to some confusion between his personal beliefs and a desire to let the people in the room know that a close relative was gay. He expressed that being gay was a choice but

being heterosexual was not. He seemed confused about the issue.

What was clear, however, was that students, professors and concerned professionals from the Western States rallied to ASU's Gay and Lesbian cause. Their overwhelming support could not be ignored.

Many students attending this year' conference were housed with local people who gave of their time, hearts and home. As Donna Taylor, coordinator, stated. "These students are our future leaders in the lesbian and gay community. They are important. The network that they have created is important."

Lisa Kirmsse of Deanza College summed up the weekend. "We are not just 'sexual people'. Our culture is over one thousand years old. We are rich in our own cultures and traditions. That we are here and have participated in this weekend is evidence of this."

The next conference wil be held President's Day Weekend at Deanza College near San Jose, Ca. A travel fund to send Arizona students is being set up.

-Stephen Cronk



Donna Taylor.

# COMING EVENTS AT HUMANSPACE BOOKS

DISCUSSION OF MALE HOMOSEXUALITY IN FOUR SOCIETIES

Dr. Fred Whitam, associate professor of sociology, and Robin Mathy, graduate student of sociology at ASU, will give an informal talk and answer our questions about their comparative study of male homosexuality, at Humanspace Books. Come talk with them on Sunday, March 30 at 3pm: admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Fred and Robin wrote MALE HOMOSEXUALITY IN FOUR SOCIETIES, published by Praeger; you can order your signed copy at Humanspace on March 30. The four societies are Brazil, Guatemala, the Philippines and the United States. One of their important conclusions is that some elements of sexual orientation have a biological basis. This promises to be a lively discussion!

#### READERS' THEATER

Humanspace will host a performance of Readers' Theater on Sunday, March 16 at 3pm. The event is free, and everyone is welcome.

Donna, Steve, Thom, Belinda and Michelle will give us 45 minutes of insight into gay life; their theme is a poem about a gay pride march. The poem is background to a story of a heterosexual couple living in a gay society...running from everything...and to the "Lesbo" poetry...a collage of the three parts of a lesbian...and to the other funny and sad and true facts of life that everyone should know.

Phone Humanspace at 956-6336 for more information on these events.



#### HUMANSPACE BOOK REVIEW

**Meg Umans** 

Best Little Boy In The World. John Reid, author New York: Random House, c1973. 210 pages, afterword. \$2.50 paperbound.

John Reid is a pseudonym, used by the author to spare his parents, although they know he's gay and still consider him the best little boy in the world. Reid wrote this story in a few weeks of vacation time between jobs, and that's what gives it the zest that makes it a best-seller. When writers write fast, they write like they talk, with all the incomplete sentences and second thoughts

and slangy descriptions and gut reactions they don't take time to edit out. That kind of writing can be boring or confusing or frustating to read, or it can work, and this time it works. Reid just talks about his experiences, and occasionally addresses a remark to an unidentified "you". As I read, I felt honored to be his partner in this conversation.

The New York Times said, "One reads this utterly honest account with the shock of recognition...". Yes it's a constant reminder that being gay is no different from being human, and that growing up and discovering love and sex involves a lot of internal conversation, no matter how you look at it. Reid's story is tremendously reassuring to everyone, gay and straight, who's ever felt like the only one. Reid - in his late thirties now grew up in a family that doesn't talk about personal things, and doesn't question the standards for acceptable behavior. This kine of family produces conventional good citizens...rebels and cowards...anorexics and addicts...and the best little boys and girls in the world.

And Reid reminds us that we're not the only ones. How do you find out how to masturbate when you're not supposed to even think about those things? Talk about shocks of recognition! And what happens when you realize that you don't like the kinds of sex that your friends seem to spend their lives pursuing? Gay or straight, everyone is supposed to like what everyone else is supposed to like. How many of the best little boys and girls in the world convince themselves that they choose to follow the leaders, and never figure out what they want?

Well, this review is turning out more philosophical than the book. THE BEST LITTLE BOY IN THE WORLD shifts gradually from the actions of childhood to the feelings of adulthood, with thoughts always based in specific experiences. Impressions of bars, baths, relationships and relatives are startlingly familiar to anyone of good breeding, but we're not supposed to know that.

Meg is a counselor in private practice in Phoenix and owner of Humanspace Books, Inc. **THE BEST LITTLE BOY IN THE WORLD** is available (when it's not out of print!) from the publisher and at Humanspace.







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#### Leathernotes

Well, boys. This is it. It has been a real good time. This past year has been one of trial and error. Progress and some disappointments. But all-in-all a year of positive changes. For us it has been very good. A big part of it has been the P & R newspaper. Just how many times are you invited to write about absolutely anything and have it printed every two weeks? We have been fortunate to have the means to air our views. Sometimes they were views that many agreed with, and many times not. Both of those situations are good, though.

If, at any time, anything that we wrote made you think about and understand leather, masculinity, and just being a gay man, we feel that we have accomplished our goal. And what has been our goal with these articles? Not to force our point of view or our attitudes on you, but to encourage you to form your own. Never to settle. Never to do things the easy way if it is not the way you want it done. To stand up for yourself and your brothers. To believe in yourself and all those men who live and work and love right here in Phoenix with you.

We are complex and interesting men, all of us. Our private selfs, our public selfs. The way we deal with the disparity between our views of ourselves and the way others view us. All these things and more, merging into the complete and masculine men we are. We love our town and find great satisfaction in the men that live here. A good town full of good guys. We have been accused of being less than supportive at times, but have always wished only the best for you, our community and ourselves. As we have said in the past, we have very strong feelings about attitude and behavior. We don't expect, never have, ours to be the only way to go. But it is one way. A good way, we feel.

We all have so much to offer each other, so many important things to share. The men that we have come to know and care for over the past few years have contributed so much to what you have read in these articles. Their insights combined with ours to form something important to all. None of us is an island. Over the years we all use the input of others to shape ourselves. The men I meet seem to all have stories of those in their past that were important to who they are today. I guess where all of this is going is simply to say you guys are important to us and we hope that our articles have been of some importance to you.

We have seen Phoenix grow over the past few years and can see many good things still to come. There is a youthful vitality in this city, and it is important to make sure that that vitality is part of our community, also. We are an energetic group of guys. Together almost anything is possible.

If this sounds like good-bye there is a reason. In a way it is. This will be our last regular article for the P&R. We have been writing an article every two weeks for almost a year now and feel that most subjects that can be discussed in public have been. From the practical to the fanciful. From how to wear it, to how to live it. We have enjoyed writing the Leathernotes and if your letters, discussions at the bar and visits to the shop are any indication, you have enjoyed reading them. It feels good to get people talking and thinking. And though nobody likes to be on anyone's "shit list" it has even been good when you have disagreed with us. Even those times have made for good conversation. And that is where we grow. That important and challenging interaction between men.

Sometimes growing can be painful and there are times when you learn more from the one man who argues with you than the fifty men who don't. We face some difficult changes in the future and will need each others support to see us through. There is strength in numbers. Be there for those who need you and they will be there for you.

Well, I can keep on ramblin' along here but I think you have heard some of this before. We will finish by repeating some things that we have found important over the years. Be yourself, be positive, be attentive. It is fine to demand the space needed for your feelings and ideas as long as you in turn respect the space of others. You can express any point of view you want as long as you are not putting down someone else's in the same breath. Don't be afraid of your manhood, revel in it. And finally—

It is not the length of your journey but what you

see on your way.

It is not how many men you know but what each has meant to you.

It is not the length of the day you die but each and every minute

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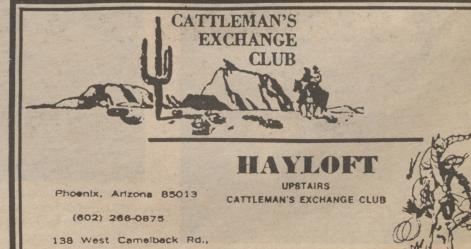
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# A GIFT TO LIFE

#### AmFAR Event Nets \$700,000

Some are calling it the Event of the Year. Others are referring to it as merely another excuse to hype everything under the sun at the expense of an "important" issue.

While most fund-raising events involving Hollywood personalities are subject to the call of "over-hype!", that old adage about money talking and bull-shit walking ought to quell the grumblings concerning the recent Gift To Life Fundraiser held at Scottsdale's Lasma Farms.

The event, staged by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), and overseen and organized by Elizabeth Taylor (founder of AmFAR) and AAFT chairperson Grace Haynes, was preceded by a press conference presided over by Miss Taylor and Bob Hope.

Taylor, Hope and numerous other celebrities fielded questions concerning their involvement with the fundraiser. Responses ranged from banal ("I think AIDS is a good cause to be behind.") to touching (Taylor saying, "I felt that my fame could finally be used to someone else's advantage.")

Dr. Mathilde Krim, noted biologist and trailblazer in the field of AIDS research, noted that "AIDS is not just a gay disease. Homosexuals are taking 'blame' for the disease while no one but those knowingly spreading the disease are responsible."

Following the press conference, a gala dinner was served, followed by live entertainment featuring the talents of Melissa Manchester (herself instrumental in raising money for AIDS research). An Awards Presentation named Miss Taylor Woman of the Year for her efforts in having raised over one million dollars for AmFAR. First Lady Nancy Reagan was presented with the AAFT Humanitarian Award, with the award being accepted by Dorothy Wrigley Chauncey in the First Lady's absence. Dr. Eugene La Croix, in recognition of his having donated use of his facilities as well as three of the horses to be auctioned, received the AAFT Man of the Year Award.

The horse auction following the awards ceremony saw the sale of noted Arabian horse breeder Tom Chauncey's Queen Bask; this sale alone netted the function \$350,000. Celebrity auctioneer George Hamilton then oversaw the sale of a number of fine Arabians, eventually purchasing two of the mares himself.

Thirty-five percent of the \$700,000 raised by the Gift To Life benefit will be donated to the Arizona Aids Fund Trust. "The remainder of the monies go to AmFAR," explains Grace Haynes, "in order to continue research of the disease.

R. Pela



Dr. Mathilde Krim: "AIDS is NOT a gay disease..."



Sawyer Brown



Elizabeth Taylor and Dr. Eugene LaCroix



"Our Gracie" - Miss Grace Haynes.



### LIZ WASN'T THE ISSUE.

A press conference that nearly forgot the issue.

Last Monday evening, I was given the opportunity to experience firsthand an example of Arizona's version of social consciousness. I was asked to report on the first annual Arizona AIDS Fund-Trust (AAF-T) Gala Benefit dinner which was to be held at the Lasma Farms in Scottsdale. Seeing this as a privilege, I was looking forward to observing our local media representatives in action at the press conference, held at the Registry Resort, preceding the festivities. Both television and print "personalities" were to be in attendance.

I would hardly consider myself an experienced journalist, and yet having witnessed the professional innerworkings of the media in attendance, I can only conclude that many of my most horrifying fears were realized that evening. For a brief moment I was certain that the joke had been on me and that I was a victim of Alan Funt's concealed camera, or could it have been that the circus was in town and I had not been informed?

The function coordinators could not seem to maintain a smoothly flowing format. My annoyance as to the initial delays of the press conference was only compounded by the ignorance that was paraded before me. Several celebrities of stage and screen were on hand to "support" the AAFT in their efforts to bring the AIDS issue into a stronger focus and to appeal to a larger audience for help. Unfortunately, very few of them had any valid statements to make on the subject. In some cases, AIDS was not even named by the participating speakers. I will refrain from printing the names of these seemingly familiar faces, for I'm certain that is precisely what their press agents hoped to accomplish. Be it good press or bad press, as long as you're in print.

#### ...in some cases, AIDS was not mentioned by the participating speakers.

"Hollywood" never ceases to amaze me in their capability to fill one room in one afternoon with more insincerity than most people can muster in a lifetime. The cast of merrimakers assembled sauntered across the Registry stage, only to approach the numerous microphones with a redundant air of paranoia. "Why am I here?", "Let me tell you why I'm here...," "Don't you know why I'm here?", "Don't you have any questions for me?", etc., etc., etc. And of course, only to reinforce the hysteria, the news media came totally unprepared for the subject at hand as well. I realize, to most, AIDS is a delicate issue. Yet I might hardly consider that justification for the apparent refrain of the audience. These people, voluntarily choose to take the responsibility of filtering the current and prevalent social issues to the masses. In this reporter's opinion, one roomful of pseudo-intellectuals impersonating a concerned public cannot depict the valid representation required to address this issue.

It was difficult to tell where the greater indifference of the media lie. Was it the disease itself or "the cause" which has materialized from it? There did seem to be one united concern that ran consistent throughout the audience. "When was Elizabeth Taylor going to arrive?"

Keeping with an obvious attempt at a free-form press conference, we were not privy to this clock-stopping event for several hours. While it appeared to me as though all time had actually stood still, I was unmercifully subjected to the prior-mentioned cavalcade of second stringers. How refreshing to examine commercial hype in its finest form right here in our fair city. Hollywood's latest bandwagon puts the Purex mule-team to shame.

There was a saving grace in Mathilde Krim, Ph.D., one of the co-chairs on the Board of Directors of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. I found her to be extremely informative and consistent in her concerns in reference to the public's lack of information and/or

Christine Madonia is an out-of-work actress struggling to establish a full-time waitressing career. This is her first piece for P&R.

knowledge on the subject of AIDS. She reinforced the urgency of all Americans' need to identify with the disease and its epidemic potentialities. Krim was greeted with such comments as, "This appears to be such a freak thing, what are the possibilities of this happening again?" Forget evolution, genetic constructions, or germ warfare. These are all myths. Better yet, wake up, smell the coffee, and face facts. This type of irrelevant remark typified the evening — and did nothing to promote elimination of the disease of the day.

one roomful of pseudointellectuals impersonating a concerned public cannot depict the representation required to address an issue as important as AIDS...

As our local traffic chose to conveniently disperse, the long awaited arrival of Liz and entourage took place. Enter the matriarch herself, Miss Elizabeth Taylor, flanked by none other than the court jester, Mr. Bob Hope. As the two of them tried ever so graciously to approach the stage, lightbulbs flashed - and as true noble decorum should dictate, there were a few moments of silent photo-taking. Some of these aides to the throne did so with bowed heads. As the woman of the hour, not to mention the woman of the year, approached the podium, Bob chose to entertain the troops. As question and answer time had finally materialized I could imagine hearing Don Pardo in the background saying, "I'll take AIDS for \$200.00..." In my opinion, Miss Taylor made some redeeming comments in reference to the bigotry surrounding AIDS that appears evident throughout mainstream America, and our need to ensure its dissolvement. Although, for the most part, her response to her more-than-attentive audience's question of "Why the AIDS cause?" did seem simplistic at best - "Someone should..." And what five minute press conference on AIDS would be complete without your token queen asking Liz T. if the gown she was wearing was a Vickie somebody or other. (To which she replied coyly, "No, is

A cause is a cause, but if you were there because AIDS is a social issue of devastating proportion, or because there are people from all walks of life dying a violent death throughout this country at the hands of one incurable disease, or because you had hoped to heighten your own awareness of an issue affecting not only an isolated group of people (namely homosexuals) who some think deviate from the "norm", or simply because you thought to care, then you were wasting your time attending this forum. If indeed you are more interested in knowing just how tall Liz Taylor actually is, that's an entirely different issue all together.

Christine Madonia



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Covina is ever so pleased to announce her return, after having taken a brisk, altogether too brief vacation

in her homeland Poughkeepsie.
Upon her return, Covina has been deluged with tasty bits of news concerning this charming little "community"

Such news! The changing-of-hands of D.W.'s, Covina's all-time favorite dining establishment — "what a shock," as they say! (Covina hopes that the dashing Arthur Winstanley doesn't stray too terribly far...such a lamb!)

Likewise, Covina hears rumour of the sale of that charming haven known as Shamoo's...and of the impending opening a NEW nighclub very close by...well!

While Covina has been informed of her very own editor's having "patched things up" with his standard beau, she is neither surprised nor especially interested. Covina is, however, quite tickled to hear of the recent betrothal of two of her very favorite ladyfriends. Congratulations, my dears!

And what, exactly, is all this that Covina is hearing about a "girl" by the name of Bonnie who is tearing apart the town without having first announcing her presence to this columnist? Go see her at Farrah's twice a month...and tell her hello from Miss Covina Norfleet, won't you dears?

Speaking of persons of truly questionable gender, as we were, might Covina take this moment to announce her having brought with her a perfectly wonderful gift for each and every one of her faithful readers?

Covina refers to her having "dragged" back with her, her very dear and very very old friend, Miss Headna Moorehead. Headna will, with the very next issue of this periodical, introduce herself in print... and thus begin a regular feature herein, to be entitled "Dear Headna..." Covina is quite sure that each of you dears will give Miss Moorehead a very warm welcome indeed.

With that, I am quite off... Covina has yet to unpack anything but her typewriter, and has only done this in a probably vain attempt to quell the anxious telephone calls of her rather too-dear Editor. And, of course, to inform each of my dear readers that I have, indeed, returned.

Until next time, I remain as ever, Covina



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#### ALUMINUM FOR THE CAUSE



Sourdough Productions' ongoing pull-tab drive has thus far netted a total of 740,000 tabs collected by various bars and individuals.

Each tab represents three seconds of kidney dialysis treatment for persons receiving such treatment who are unable to pay.

Sourdough staged a Benefit Show, in conjunction with Cruisin' Central, on the 11th of this month. Proceeds from the show furthered their cause and enlightened those attending as to what was being done with all those bits of tin.

Special thanks to Lonnie Engel for providing information to Sourdough Productions for the Pull Tab Drive.

#### SOURDOUGH

We would like to thank the huge crowd who gathered together for the KIDNEY DIALYSIS BENEFIT SHOW at Cruisin' Central last Tuesday. It was a star studded and fun filled evening that Halley's Comet couldn't outshine with the bright lights, dynamic songs and sparkling performers! Miss Tiffany Taylor was a perfect hostess and carried the benefit's pull-tab drive with uncanny flair and a lot of care.

We all watched the jug of pull-tabs steadily fill up as the evening progressed. As for the entertainment? It couldn't have been better! All of the entertainers took pride in their participation in this excellent production.

A big hug to Miss Gay Arizona - TAMARA, Miss gay Phoenix - MISS WHITE, LADY CASONDRA, MISS WEST VIRGINIA, dancers RON and BRENT, and all of the guys at CRUISIN' CENTRAL for helping make this event possible.

It's heart-warming to find so many thoughtful and generous people in our community that support such a worthwhile benefit as the KIDNEY DIALYSIS BENEFIT. Two very special thanks; to "say Goodnight Dick," we love you, and to Robrt Pela of Previews & Reviews for his coverage of this event. Thank you - Thank you!

Sincerely Robert and Fritz

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# THE MUSIC REPORT

 $\alpha$ 



Violent Femmes

#### THE BLIND LEADING THE NAKED

(Slash)

Splash Records of Los Angeles, one-time indie innovator of the L.A. punk scene (now swallowed by media giant Warner Brothers), shows us that they still haven't lost sight of their goals — goals that led them to bring us bands such as X, Rank and File, and Blasters.

Hence comes The Blind Leading the Naked, the third LP by Milwaukee's Viloent Femmes. It's an album that's a little more down the center of the plate than the Femme's first two albums. The Blind lacks Viloent Femmes' rawness and the experimentation of Hallowed Ground. But, hey, don't get me wrong, this isn't for Barry Manilow fans. Produced by Jerry Harrison of Talking Heads, The Blind combines some qualities of the first two albums, but knocks off a few of the rough edges and hones things down. One surprising aspect of this record is the wide amount of the ground the Femmes attempt to cover.

Kicking things off is "Old Mother Reagan", a gritty garage blast at America's highest ranking problem child that contains more power and punch than is usually associated with the oft-acoustic Femmes. A couple songs later is "Faith", a harmonic swamped boogyin' gospel (!) song that brings to mind something like the Rocket '88s on an especially hot night. These boys really do wail the blues. Surprise, surprise! Equally surprising is "Candlelight Song," a tune of mourning in the morning with an appropriately quirky melody that owes a lot to Captain Beefheart and features some interesting lead on jew's harp by Fred Frith. Frith rates a "save" on this album for this quitar work on "Children of the Revolution", a semi'silly tune written by Marc Bolan of T. Rex, that's probably the low spot here.

Jerry Harris keeps a clean, concise sound throughout the album without lots of extra gee-gaws and phasers. He also brings in some outside players who provide some valuable assistance. Besides the aforementioned Mr. Frith, check out Steve MacKay's hot sax solo on "I Held Her in My Arms." MacKay makes the Femmes on this cut sound as much like Southside Johnny and the Jukes as they ever will. Leo Kottke, of all people, shows up on "Cold Canyon" for a slide guitar backdrop. In fact there are so many outsiders making big plays here that I found myself wondering sometimes if the Femmes themselves were doing much except showing up and playing rhythm and singing most of the vocal parts.

Still, Gordon Gano: writing and vocalizing, which sounds like a very young Lou Reed, provides the heart of this record. He's what makes the Femmes sound

unique, and **The Blind Leading the Naked** is a very entertaining record. Be sure to check out the back photo, too, for a shot of spritzing up at the beauty parlor and the creative use of fish! I wonder if they've thought about leg warmers, too?

-Roadhog

Echo and the Bunnymen

#### SONGS TO LEARN AND SING

(Sire)

The reason that Ego, er, Echo and the Bunnymen have released a best of package, in case you're wondering, is that they just happen to be Huge Overseas, as they say, in a way that, to use a lame example, Talking Heads are here. That's to say, they started around the same time, were often labelled new wave, and became surprisingly well-liked by nonegghead, non-new wavey types as well. 'Course the Heads don't have near as much chart clout as the Bunnies (in England, Echo's albums often go number One — in fact, their last LP, **Ocean Rain**, debuted at Number One), but then the Heads don't have the Bunnie's arrogance.

Songs to Learn and Sing is arrogant, at least in parts. The record is enlightening only in its sequence (chronological), and I could have easily made a better tape from my records than the songs they've culled here (minus one). "Rescue," "The Puppet," and "Do It Clean" represent them in their embryonic stage, their insecure, formative years when, in my book, they laboured in the Teardrop Explodes' shadow. Will Sergeant pulled off some pretty sufficient Skids riffs, and lan McCulloch gave the songs the proper big-lipped angst (note: tortured artist). "A Promise", from their second album (Heaven Up Here), shows firmer muscle and less ambivalent feeling, but remains memorable mainly as a



hint at what would come — the glorious Porcupine album.

Porcupine's another story altogether. With a surprisingly fresh warehouse of curious instrumental work, a hammering emotionalism, and McCulloch's most vivid imagery yet, it ushered new hope and life to a band about who I worried. The cuts here, "The Back of Love" and "The Cutter," are both choice, the former a staccato, rumbling mesh filled with raging paranoia, the latter an Indian-influenced, rubbery tale of mental bureaucracy. Whether you buy Songs to Learn...or not, buy Porcupine.

Side two starts off with two songs cut just after the **Porcupine** sessions, "Never Stop" and "The Killing Moon." Both share terrific string arrangements (both violin and guitar). The first is a surprisingly chipper dance number, the secnd a devastating stunner of mood over cntent. Ironically, "The Killing Moon", probably their best song, appeared on their worst album, **Ocean Rain**, and unbelievably vain record awash with the smarmiest of arrangements, the most self-aggrandizing minimalism ("hear me, hear me!"), and the most pretentious lyrical gobbly-gook you'll ever chance to cross. It should have been anticipated after the successes of **Porcupine**, but it still isn't forgiven. The two songs here, "Silver" and "Seven Seas," represent the set well: melodramatic, overblown, and just plain wretched

Yet, just when I was thinking, I'd keep my copy of Porcupine and my "The Killy Moon" 12" press, thank you, and just give this collection the grand raspberry, along comes "Bring on the Dancing Horses." That this song is so enchanting, so disarming is no less than a biblical-scale miracle considering the egotism of this band and the leaden touch of enlisted producer Laurie Latham (Paul Young, Squeeze). But there it lies, a gently-told, but genuinely touching little rocker that shines through like the prodigal silver lining. Is this the most frustrating band in the world or what?

-Buckwheat

George Segal and the Imperial Jazz Band

#### A TOUCH OF RAGTIME

(Signature)

Most people know George Segal from his movies. He usually plays light comedy kinds of roles in films like "Where's Poppa"? (Where Ruth Gordon, as George's mother, kisses his ass at the dinner table in front of his girlfriend). George also has a hankering to be a "musician" and has appeared quite a few times on the "Tonight Show," banjo in tow, with his band playing behind him. A couple years ago he even took his Imperial Jazz Band on the road, playing at Gammage Auditorium among other stops.

This brings us to "A Touch of Ragtime" which for my money is primarily a high-dollar vanity album. It's recorded well and features some hot players: Bucky Pizzarelli and John Tropea on guitars, Warren Covington on trombone, Dick Hyman on piano. Perhaps the fact that the album is well-recorded and lovingly produced by jazz buff Bob Thiele is what brings Segal down. When George is on the "Tonight Show," the band can pretty well drown Segal's voice out and the mix will lose most of what's left. On "A Touch of Ragtime," Segal's braying voice is all too apparent. This guy sings like the patrons of half-price beer night at the Organ Stop Pizza Parlour. To wit, "Charleston Rag," a swinging old tune wherein Segal brings new meaning to the term "Shoot out the light!" The addition of Teresa Brewer on two tunes. "Alexander's Ragtime Band "If You Like A Me," unfortunately doesn't help too much as she often sings down to George's level rather than he up to hers. On another tune Harry Nilsson appears but seems only to encourage George.

Don't get me wrong, there are some fine moments on "A Touch of Ragtime," such as the Scott Joplin rags "The Entertainer" and "Maple Leaf Rag," but these are instrumentals by the band that don't involve Segal. My advice? George is a good guy but he should keep his gigs small and never charge more than five bucks.

-Roadhog

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UPDATE

Bob Hegyi

Now that Contact '86 is over with, we are able to relax for awhile and concentrate on day-to-day business at hand.

We apologize for the shortened office hours of late; Bob Hegyi has taken a much needed vacation and is off on a Cruise Ship somewhere with 500 other men.

Bob will return to work on the 23rd, and our 4pm - 7pm operator has returned from having taken time off in order to recover from minor surgery. Therefore, shortly after you read this all will be back to normal with the Switchboard; we will have resumed normal operation.

There is a major fund-raising campaign in progress to raise funds to purchase a computer system for the switchboard. This system will better enable us to serve you. We will also, with the computer, have the capability of documenting every call and referral given.

Of 1,186 calls received in the month of January, 196 bar referrals were made; 16 referrals to attorneys, 67 to doctors, 62 to counselors, and 185 to various clubs and organizations. The remaining calls were primarily AIDS related; from this sampling it is apparent that the Switchboard works... we can work so much more effectively with the help of a computer.

If you would like to contribute to the Computer Fund, please address donations to LAGCS, P.O. Box 16423, Phoenix 85011.

10% of all ticket sales for the "Representations" Art Benefit, to be held at the studio of Mr. Arthur Carner, will be donated to the Switchboard. For further information, contact Billy Leeth at 921-0287, or see the advertisement in this issue of the P&R.

Thanks for all your support!

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## DESERT EXCEL WEEKEND ADVENTURE

The Desert Excel Team would like to invite you to participate in a weekend adventure March 14-16, 1986. The Excel weekend offers a unique opportunity for one to rediscover their spirituality in an open and affirming environment. The weekend experience consists of a diversity of people who are learning, living, worshiping and playing together. Gradually throughout the weekend one discovers a foundation of what is basic or fundamental to being an alive, active and growing Christian

Although Excel is sponsored by area Metropolitan Community Churches, the weekend is an ecumenical experience in building bridges between Christians in a positive way by accenting similarities rather than differences. Excel stands for Excercises in Christian Living and helps one discover the greater area of common ground rather than dwelling on religious differences.

"I encourage anyone seeking spiritual growth and support to take advantage of this weekend experience," says Rev. David Paul, an MCC Minister, member of the Desert Excel Team and Chairperson of Arizona's Lesbian & Gay Interfaith Alliance. "I've found Excel a new opportunity to make new friends and for Churches to work together towards renewal in the Desert States."

The Excel weekend is held at a secluded area of cabins in a Desert setting at Lake Pleasant. The weekend begins Friday evening and finishes Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$40 per person which includes food, lodging and materials. Call or write today for more information and registration: Excel in the Desert - P. O. Box 121 - Scottsdale, AZ 85252. George: 998-9732 or Jim: 279-5542.

# GETS NEW LOOK

The Desert Overture band has a new look. After many months of hard work, the band has purchased spectacular uniforms. These uniforms will be premiered at a joint concert featuring Desert Overture and the Desert Sky singers on April 19th at the Camelback High School auditorium.

The band would like to thank everyone who helped raise the money for this new look. Without the help, support and generous donations received from the community, these uniforms would not have been possible.

The Desert Overture would like to give a very special thank you to Keith Morris (aka Cissy Goldberg) for his outstanding and superb talents in helping to make this dream come true. Keith, the entire band takes their (new) hats off to you.

# "COPPERSTATE COMMUNITY BENEFIT RAFFLE"

The Copperstate Leathermen, as an association, will conduct their "Community Benefit Raffle" through the month of February.

The grand prize for this year's raffle is a 19 inch Magnavox color television which is cable ready. There will be other smaller prizes all of which will be awarded at the drawing on the night of Friday, February 28, 1986, at the Ramrod.

The Copperstate Leatherman are conducting the collection of prizes, the sales of raffle tickets, promotion of the raffle and will deliver the prizes where necessary. However, the physical drawing itself shall be conducted by an independent source to permit Copperstate to purchase tickets as well.

This year's designated beneficiary of the "Copperstate Community Raffle" is the Arizona AIDS Fund Trust.

Tickets are available from Copperstaters everywhere at the rate of 50¢ for a single ticket or three for one dollar.

# POETRY READING AT HUMANSPACE BOOKS, INC.

PHOENIX — Rochele Lynn Holt will read from and autograph copies of her work at Humanspace Books, Inc., 2401 N. 32nd St., #12, on Saturday January 25, 1986 at 3pm. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Dr. Holt has written several books of feminist poetry and other nonfiction, available from the Women's Press, Merging Media and thru Humanspace.

#### ACTORS LAB/DANCE CLASSES OFFERED

The Scottsdale Dance Center will be starting a new session of dance classes beginning Monday, February 17th. Classes will be offered in adult jazz, children's jazz and dance-exercise. To register and for further information call Actors Lab Arizona at 990-1731, 7624 E. Indian School Road in Scottsdale.

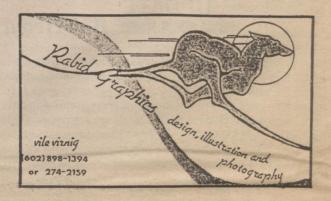
Actors Lab Arizona will be offering an 8 week Beginning Acting Class starting Tuesday, February 25. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. through April 15. Continuing classes in Beginning Acting will start March 10 on Mondays, and Intermediate Acting will continue starting March 12 on Wednesdays. To register and for further information call Actors Lab at 990-1731, 7624 E. Indian School Road in Scottsdale.



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#### SATURDAY, MARCH 1st

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Classified ads may be purchased at the rate of \$4.00 for the first sixteen words and 25¢ per additional word. Sales tax is included in these prices. Please keep these ads in good taste as we reserve the right to edit or reject any submission. All ads must be prepaid and received at least one week before requested publication date. Ads will be accepted only by mail. Send to: PR, P.O. Box 5948, Phoenix, Arizona 85010.

DESERT VALLEY SQUARES WILL HOLD A CAR WASH AS A CLUB FUND RAISER ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1986. THE CAR WASH WILL BE AT APOLLO'S FROM 11:00am UNTIL 3:00pm. THE COST WILL BE \$3.00 FOR CARS, \$4.00 FOR TRUCKS, AND \$5,00 FOR VANS. WHY NOT BRING YOUR CAR BY AND HAVE IT CLEAN FOR THE WEEKEND?

Anyone wishing to donate items to be sold at a garage sale to benefit homeless AIDS patients, please telephone 241-1434.

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# 

St. Patrick's Day is quickly approaching and you don't have a special someone to celebrate with? Well don't just sit there! Grab a pen and write your own personal ad for Lovelines! Send your ad along with your name, address, and payment to "Lovelines," c/o Previews & Reviews, P.O. Box 5948, Phx, AZ 85010. The cost is \$6.00 and payment must accompany your ad. Make checks payable to "Previews & Reviews." You will be assigned a number and your mail will be forwarded to you for 2 weeks. Please keep ads in good taste-we reserve the right to edit or reject any ad.

#### 

Need a Valentine? GWF 50 wishes to meet employed, honest, clean GWF 45-55 for possible relationship. Interests are: sports, outdoors, music, reading. No drugs or smoking. Moderate drinking accepted.

Gay petite female anxious to meet a lady away from bar scene. I am in my late twenties, considered attractive and bright. I like romantic evenings with wine, candlelight and a beautiful woman. If you have similar interests, please write.







#### **COMING-OUT LETTERS**

Coming out to your parents, to your growing or grown children, to other relatives. Coming out to old friends to employers, colleagues, and others.

Your experience can make the process easier for someone else. Many people who have decided to write coming-out letters don't know how to start, how much to include, or even why they're considering the risk. Samples of actual letters can serve as guidelines and reassurance. Your letter can help someone sort, crystallize, and

Please send us a copy of your actual letter(s) for possible inclusion in a book, tentatively called COMING OUT LETTERS. We can't return letters so don't send a copy you can't spare.

Meg Umans, M.C., will edit the book. Meg is a psychotherapist in private practice and owner of Humanspace Books, Inc. Please send your letter(s) by March 31, 1986 to:

Meg Umans, M.C. Humanspace Books, Inc. 2401 N. 32nd St. Phoenix, Arizona 85008

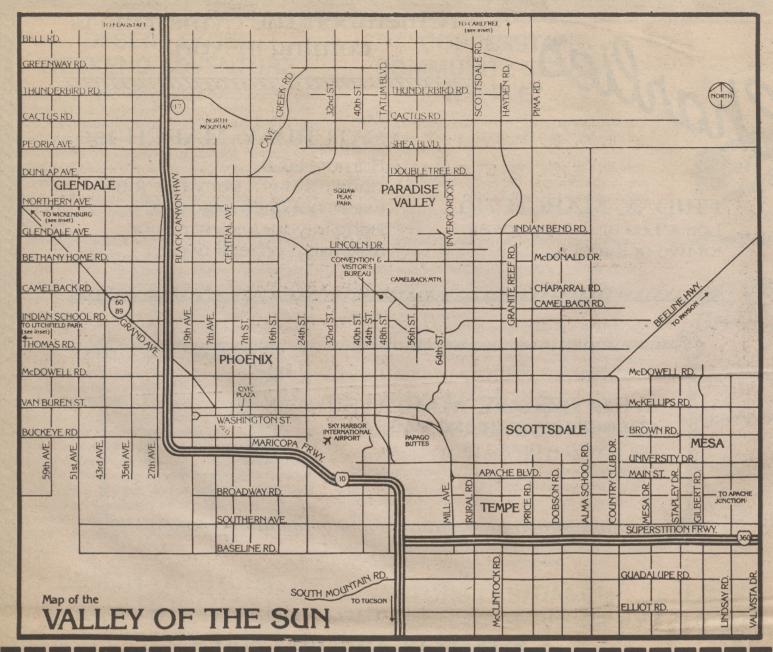
If you have any questions, call Meg at (602) 956-6336.

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234-2752 A.L.G.T.F. Arizona Lesbian & Gay Task Force P.O. Box 1405 Tempe, AZ 85281 244-8220

A.G.B.A. (Arizona Gay Bar Assn.) Contact A.G.B.A. members

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

AZ Gay Youth Artie Michals 938-3932

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

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

Bonnie Bitch & Cindy Snatch Fan Club P. O. Box 44851 Phoenix, AZ 85064

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Janus Theatre 258-9773 Lambda Sports

234-2420 or 897-8539 Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard 234-2753

234-2752 Los Amigos Del Sol (L.A.D.S.) P. O. Box 27335 Phoenix, AZ 85061

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

Mishpachat Am Congregation of Lesbians and Gay Jews P. O. Box 39127 Phoenix, AZ 85069

**Mobilization Against** ALDS P. O. Box 44573 Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-2420 Oasis M.C.C. P. O. Box 10272

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268-5183 Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays P. O. Box 37525 Phoenix, AZ 85069 946-1024 or 939-7807 Pro Music (D.J. Assn.) 225-9343

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#### **RETAIL &** SERVICES

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Mistress of Ceremony — Tamara, Miss Gay Az Co-Hostess — Stephanie Price, Miss Gay Tucson

Also: special guest stars from Tucson

Don't forget — March 1st is the Cocktail Social from 5:30 - 8:00 PM.

Bus tour 8:00 PM.

Sont Pageant ticket before

Please present Pageant ticket before boarding.

Deadline for entry is Feb. 15th, 1986