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VOL. 1, NO. 2 APRIL 1989



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MONDAY

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109

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El Paso Style

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From The Editor

May 6 should be considered by each one of us in El Paso's gay and lesbian community to be the day we can make history. Not by rioting in the streets, shouting slogans or creating a public disturbance. May 6 is the day we can make a very powerful statement without saying a single word. We can improve, protect and defend our lives and lifestyles with one private and personal action. May 6 is Election Day in El Paso.

If you're already saying to yourself that you "can't possibly make a difference" or "my vote won't count anyway" or one of the other million and one excuses you've used in the past not to vote, consider this: For the first time in eight years El Pasoans, especially lesbian and gay El Pasoans, have the opportunity to redirect the course this city has taken under the present administration, whose dismal record on lesbian and gay and AIDS issues is at the very least an embarrassment.

I urge to read the results of the questionnaire sent to each of the mayoral candidates by **El Paso STYLE** starting on page 5. Then run, don't walk, to your voting place on May 6 and help elect Suzie Azar. She is a candidate, and we know, will be a mayor who will be accessible, who will listen and above all will treat us as equals. If you already know Suzie and want to help further with her campaign she will be more than happy to receive your support and encouragement.

Gays and lesbians cannot afford to sit idly by while the possibility of electing an enlightened and open-minded mayor is within our grasp. Each and every one of us can do our part, even is it's only stepping into the voting booth, to create a new atmosphere in this city. Voting May 6 for Suzie Azar is only the beginning.....we CAN make a difference!

☆A former UTEP engineering student was found guilty of the brutal murder and dismemberment of an El Paso accountant and was sentenced to 99 years in a federal penitentiary.

Brian Vincent Russell, 22, admitted to murdering and then severing the arms, legs and genitals from the body of James Norton Byers, 57. In trial the accusations made by Russell's defense counsel which alleged that Byer was "a master seducer" of young men were found to be groundless. Russell also claimed that he murdered Byer because he had AIDS. A Medical Examiner testified that there were no indications that Byer suffered from the disease.

One El Paso gay leader has described the verdict in this case as "sending a strong warning to those who would have in the past thought that such violence against gays and lesbians was acceptable. We live in the 20th Century and this kind of brutality is no longer accepted by the general public."

☆SAFE and two local bars will be sponsoring major benefits for AIDS in April and May. Flamingo and SAFE will bring us "Muscles and Mascara", an evening of "gorgeous guys" and "glamorous girls" featuring many of your favorite male strippers from Flamingo as well as the ravishing Beverly Nicole, Starlet and April Michaels. "Muscles and Mascara" will be presented on April 15 at 8:00 p.m. There will be a \$3.00 donation at the door.

Next get ready to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo (Mexico's Independence Day) with SAFE at the Old Plantation on May 5 beginning at 8:00 p.m. Some of El Paso's most popular illusionists will bring you "La Fiesta de las Reinas". Included in the program are illusions of Lucha Villa, Vicki Carr, Patsy Cline and many more. The donation at the door for this "fiesta" will be \$4.00.

So save up your "tip" money and don't miss either of these wonderful evenings of entertainment for what is such a worthy cause.



Suzie AZAR
FOR MAYOR

**A Mayor who will work for
and with EVERYONE!**



Women and Music (WAM) is proud to present Nancy Scott and the Therapy Sisters in concert Saturday April 15 at 8:00 p.m. at the Southwest Repertory Theater, 1301 Texas. The performers will join us for a reception, party, and dance after the concert. Refreshments will be available at both the concert and the dance. The concert will be interpreted for the hearing impaired, and the facilities are wheelchair accessible.


Nancy Scott, who first appeared in El Paso at the Tenth Annual Women in the Arts, is a singer-songwriter in a country-bluesy style whose following is growing rapidly. She has performed to enthusiastic audiences all over the Southwest, sharing her warm outlook and vision. Her debut album, BOTH SIDES OF ME, will be available at the concert. A native of Tennessee, Ms Scott has lived in Austin for many years, continuing the Texas tradition of importing fine citizens from that part of the country. Her work ranges from haunting love songs to hilarious social commentary, but is always down to earth. Since we've seen Ms Scott last, she's written a lot of new songs. Approximately half her performance here will be songs even those of us who've seen her in concert as recently as last fall have not heard before. It promises to be a memorable performance.

The Therapy Sisters, who will be opening the show for Ms Scott, are long-time Austin friends who performed on her album in various back-up capacities. They will back her up in her performance here with vocal harmonies, lead guitar, and bass. The Therapy Sisters have recently formed as a group in their own right, and their debut

album has been recorded. We hope it will be hot off the presses in time for purchase at the concert. Their style is unique, funny, and almost indescribable in variety. Their excellent guitar leads interweave with their close, beautiful vocal harmonies. Some of their songs are as Texas as mesquite, while others are simply outrageous. As their name implies, they speak to many of the issues that trouble us as individuals and as a society, with grace and humor. They avoid the dull extremes of commercial escape and preachiness, while offering beautiful music, and wit with a message.

Tickets are priced at \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door and there is no additional charge for the reception and dance. You may purchase advance tickets until April 8 from any WAM member, or by calling 581-4272. Since seating is limited to 100, we recommend advance purchase.

WAM looks forward to sharing its first Saturday night concert, its first concert at the SRO, and some wonderful home-grown Texas music with you. See you there. ☺



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SOUR GRAPES DEPARTMENT: It seems that our recent bump and grind specialist from the Sun City is P.O.'d because someone "cut" the screen test without his consent. The accused party was cornered by the hot-headed hunk (no pun intended) who proceeded by threatening the miniature queen with physical violence. Now really, dear, isn't that carrying homophobia just a little bit too far? After all, if you're going to drop your drawers for the "QUEERS" you've got to expect us to act a little sex-starved. Isn't that the whole point? Is it considered "de rigueur" nowadays to corner some strumpet and threaten her with your trupmet? (and a-uh and a-uh and a-uh-uh-uh)... Besides, with a dearth of XXX-Rated videos (Church Lady Town) you can't blame the horny bitch for getting excited..... At our fabulous Easter Show we were surprised to see a number of

CIA personnel (G-Men for you, jotas; no not as in G-string, girls) posted at strategic corners of the Sun City's Den of Iniquity. The mystery was finally cleared up when MISS CALLAS (a dead ringer for our country's new First Lady) waddled on-stage to entertain the queens and lesbians with her renditions of Emily Latella and Rosanne Rossanadanna..... **TRIVIA QUESTION:** Which bar owner was seen replacing O.P. flyers with Brand X flyers? If you know the answer write to: 1313 Mockingbird Lane. Hint, hint...his favorite saying is "P.O.S." (and if you figure that out, you get a year's supply of Charmin)..... Ta,ta!



THE OLD PLANTATION

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Beer Bust 8 pm to 10 pm
SHOW 10:30 pm

4/2 Candy Domino/
Moella Bowie/Desiree
4/9 Whitney Paige
4/16 Kelly Lyons
4/23 Mona Williams
4/30 Lindsey Love

WEDNESDAYS

LADIES NIGHT
Female Review & Show
\$1.50 Well
NO COVER

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

.50 Well & \$1.25 Longnecks
FREE DRAFT 8 pm-11 pm
AFTER HOURS

THURSDAYS

Male Dance Contest
CASH PRIZES
Anyone can enter
NO COVER



Friday May 5
SAFE presents
a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

**LA FIESTA
DE
LAS REINAS**

El Paso's Mayoral Race: A Guide for El Paso STYLE's Readers by John Sutton and Glen Carlson

Suzie Azar appears to be the candidate that the El Paso lesbian and gay community should support. Recently, representatives from El Paso STYLE and the Southwest AIDS Committee and other concerned individuals formulated a questionnaire which was submitted to the following mayoral candidates: Suzie Azar, Ed Elsey, Mary Haynes, Paul Moreno and Ray Pearson. Due to late filing on his part, Carl Vizcarra was not furnished with a questionnaire. The questions covered a wide variety of issues which are of concern to the gay and lesbian community. For example: Would you support a city ordinance dealing with discrimination based on race, religion, gender, physical handicap, or sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations?

Of all the candidates who received the questionnaire, Ms Azar was the only one to respond. Her answers all

showed a willingness to work with the lesbian and gay community in terms of AIDS issues, anti-discrimination, board appointees, and sensitivity training for law enforcement personnel. It should also be noted that Suzie Azar had contacted leading members of the gay and lesbian community prior to receiving the questionnaire. Ms Azar initiated this contact to familiarize herself with lesbian and gay concerns. This is a very positive move in our behalf on the part of an El Paso politician.

We wish to emphasize once again that the other four mayoral candidates chose not to take advantage of the opportunity they were given to address the concerns of a significant segment of the total population of this City. Notwithstanding their qualifications for the position of mayor, this attitude calls into question their concern for ALL the people of El Paso.

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☆ In significant votes in March, committees in both the Texas Senate and House of Representatives have recommended passage of bills to prohibit real estate brokers from disclosing the diagnosis of persons with AIDS.

"This legislation arose from the Texas Association of Realtors recommendation to local Boards of Realtors that brokers inquire whether a person with AIDS

lived in a house and suggested that the broker disclose that information to potential buyers", explained Glen Maxey, Executive Director of LGRL (Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas).

"These hearings were significant for their educational value alone," explained Maxey. "It was a wonderful opportunity to educate these (House and Senate) members about the problems faced by PWA's."

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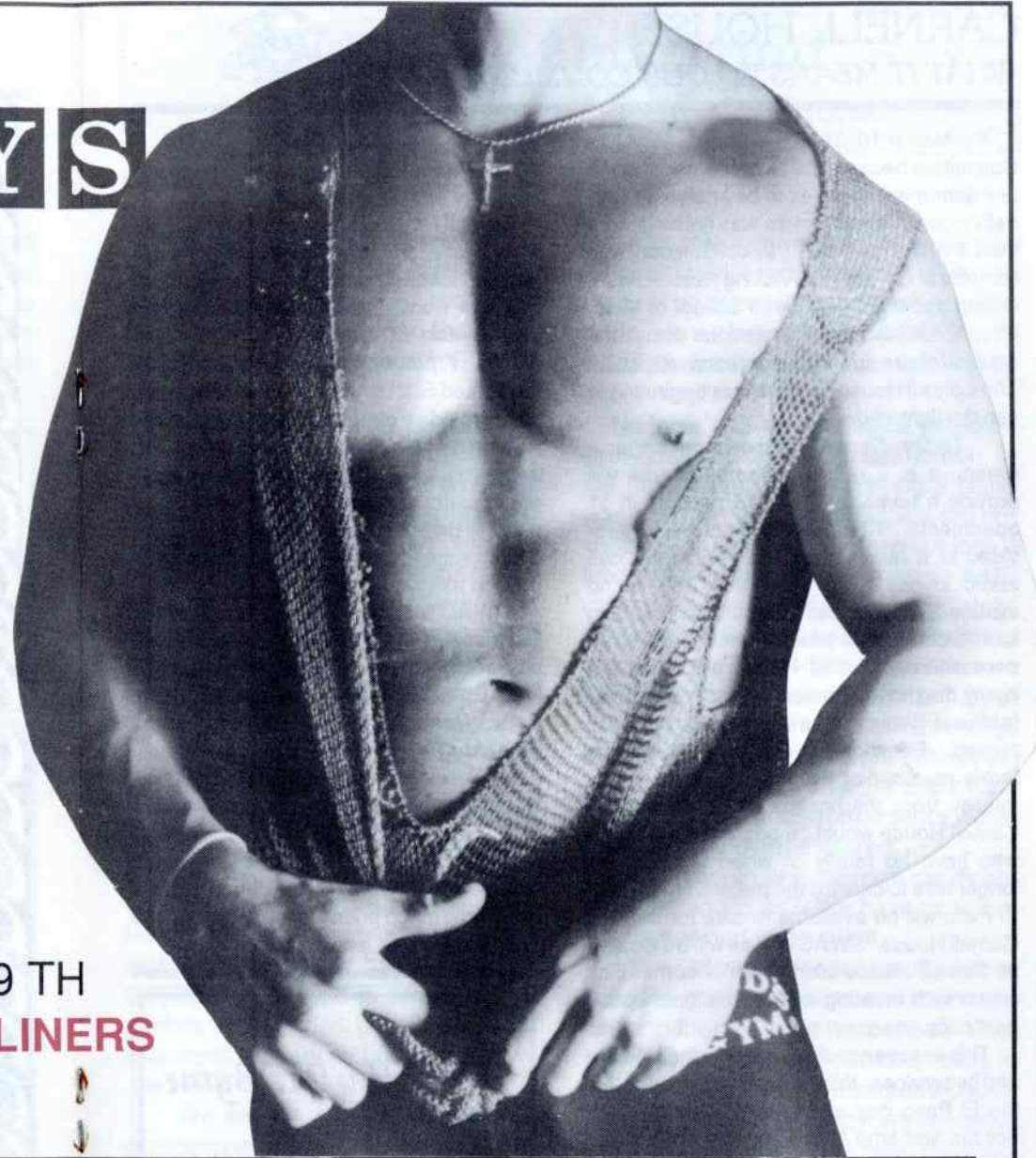
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APRIL 22 ND
MUSCLES IN MOTION

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THE HEADLINERS

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CARNELL HOUSE

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR COMMUNITY



On March 10, 1989 the Southwest AIDS Committee became the proud owner of an 18 unit apartment complex to be known as Carnell House. Carnell House was nothing more than a dream in 1988. In conjunction with Hospice of El Paso, the Visiting Nurses Association and the Texas Tech School of Medicine, SWAC started discussions about the creation of a residence for persons with AIDS. The Carnell House concept was beginning to see the light of day.

Today, Carnell House is no longer a dream, it is a reality. Carnell House will provide a home for 24 AIDS patients in 11 apartments. These apartments will be provided at a minimal cost to those who can afford to pay. For those with little or no income SWAC hopes that sufficient funding can be obtained to provide shelter and other necessities. Carnell House will allow the newly diagnosed person time to get on their feet until Social Security payments are approved. For those in the hospital with no family member or primary care giver, early release from the hospital and treatment at Carnell House would be possible. For those who have no family or when family is no longer able to care for the patient, Hospice of El Paso will be available to care for them at Carnell House. SWAC offices will be located at Carnell House along with a community center with meeting and recreational space next door.

This in essence describes Carnell House and its services. What does it mean, then, for the El Paso gay and Lesbian Community? For the first time in El Paso, an openly gay man accessed the political system with a cause and received wholehearted support from the El Paso City Council. This approval came about as the result of a great deal of lobbying, sharing of information and concerns, and a great big "hammer"; a Federal Grant in the amount of \$488,000 to remodel and furnish Carnell House. Honest, open dialog with the politicians helped them to realize the impact that AIDS was bound to have

on the City and helped them to understand the commitment the gay community here has in the battle against AIDS.

Carnell House should and hopefully will have an even greater impact on El Paso's gay and lesbian community. By the end of this year we will have completed a project that we can all look upon with pride and dignity. A property unlike anything else in the United States. A center that will potentially provide a center of life for the gay and lesbian community. A place where we can freely volunteer our time and share experiences with our brothers and sisters. A place to gather together that will truly make a difference in the lives of all lesbians and gays in this City.

SWAC wishes that all gay and lesbian El Pasoans will look upon Carnell House as a gift to their community. A gift that will help us to remember Javier, Bob, Jim, Brian, Jerry, John, Rick, Larry, Armando, Richard, George, Chris, Rosa, Rick, Kevin, Mark, Robert, Kevin, Renee, Randy, Frank, Arthur and many others who have died in El Paso of AIDS. Let's take pride in SWAC and Carnell House. We have something that we can all work for and support. Let's show how much pride we really have in the El Paso gay and lesbian community. ♦

Timothy M. Byrne

*Attorney and
Counselor at
Law*

*1013 Montana Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79902
(915) 542-1877*

"A Piece of my Mind"

Guest Editorial

by Tony Bengert

In spite of all the talk about "what a great potential" this city has, many gays, it seems, have one foot in El Paso and the other foot on the plane that will take them away from El Paso "forever".

Of course it's not only gays. Long ago the people who created El Paso and brought you such things as Oasis restaurants, Farah manufacturing and various banks determined that El Paso's only future was to exploit cheap labor for the benefit of the few. This city was built by people who were never allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Thanks to earlier "city fathers" we are now a prototype moon colony of Houston and Dallas. Is it any wonder that persons in the 18 to 35 age bracket want to get out? The lack of opportunity we find in El Paso today was planned, it is no accident!

And so, some are overcome by feelings of powerlessness. For the last eight years we have had a mayor, a truly rude man, who is sexist/homophobic, whose idea of a social conscience is a balanced budget. And we are silent.

We see our gay and lesbian organizations sputter and drift, but we feel that once we get to Seattle or Dallas or San Diego or Albuquerque we'll be able to get involved. And if there is a problem or a challenge or an "Orlandoism" we wonder why MCC or SWAC or the Health Department doesn't DO something, goddamn it! "And anyway I have a few good movies

to watch this weekend and maybe Key West is where I really belong." Yes, too many of us are waiting for someone else to do something to make gay life in El Paso a little better until "I can get the hell out of here".

No folks, this isn't the usual get up off your butts and do something homily. In the past getting up and taking a stand was optional, very optional. It's still optional, BUT I'm afraid El Paso will lose a whole generation of gay men to AIDS unless we do something immediately. *You see, in San Francisco, experts say that perhaps 75 per cent of gay men are infected. In El Paso it may be 15 per cent. And you can bet your last Amigo Man that if the infected were heterosexual males who lived in the 1-2 and 2-5 zip codes, a border health emergency would have already been declared.

Why should any mayoral candidate pay attention to us? We have no voice. We've decided to be silent.

When Orlando Fonseca insulted thousands of gay El Pasoans and their families and friends; what happened? Most cities would have had demonstrators in the streets. But in two subsequent County Commissioners meetings, only five brave people spoke out. One was the MCC pastor, Joyce Setala. Another was an Hispanic businessman who has a gay son. Another was a nurse. Another was a Catholic priest, the director of family life for the Catholic Diocese of El Paso. And another was Terry Call, Executive Director of the Southwest AIDS Committee,

Please see My Mind, Page 14

FRIDA KAHLO, A LIFE IN THE ARTS



A film directed by Paul Leduc, starring Ofelia Medina, with Jose Gurrola as Diego Rivera. **Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., El Paso Museum of Art.**

The question asked by this intriguing film as well as by the amazing, real-life adventures of Frida Kahlo is: What can a very sensitive Hungarian Jewish woman do when she discovers that she is not only attracted to other women but that she has been born in a small Latin American country during a period of violent socio-political upheaval and enormous cultural ferment?

She becomes an artist, that's what, and she marries one of the most famous painter/celebrities in the world of her day. Rich, powerful and very seductive; men and women gather round the couple like groupies, and of these, a select few become Kahlo's "tricks".

As in all exciting stories we need a good villain, and behind the by now legendary images on canvas and the splendid colonial architecture lurks one of the all-time "heavies" of the 20th Century, Josef Stalin. After intimations of a brief "loss in the hay", Leon Trotsky himself is brutally assassinated in the couples house by a Russian agent. Even more romantic, the achingly beautiful and glamorous Tina Modotti (shown briefly in this movie having coffee after "the passion is spent") is herself later perceived as an agent and is destined to disappear mysteriously in Franco's Spain of 1937. The script that does justice to the heroic qualities of Modotti has yet to be seen. Stay tuned.

At the age of 15, Frida had become

the victim in a spectacular traffic accident in which her womb was pierced by a long steel rod and amazingly was not killed. And when, at the end of a relatively short life, she lies in state in the famous Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico's "temple to the arts", covered in the red flag, complete with hammer and sickle, she seems as if impaled by

"What can a very sensitive Hungarian Jewish woman do when she discovers that she is not only attracted to other women but that she has been born in a small Latin American country during a period of violent socio-political upheaval and enormous cultural ferment?"

a shiny pin, like a giant butterfly held fast to piece of red silk, for us to admire in an antique display case called Mexican history. But yet to come was her extraordinary rise to the status of immortal feminist/goddess/muse, and even now as Diego Rivera begins to sink under the weight of his own reputation as official artist of the "revolution", the shadow of Frida Kahlo begins to cover him as well as the rest of us. ♣

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4/9 Whitney Paige
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4/23 Mona Williams
4/30 Lindsey Love

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LADIES NIGHT
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THURSDAYS
Male Dance Contest
CASH PRIZES
Anyone can
enter
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FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
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My Mind

Inc. Why should ANY politician pay attention to us after such a small showing?

Speaking of Terry Call, he's sometimes criticized for being abrasive. One "gay leader" said "he's from Chicago, he doesn't know how we do things in El Paso". Well, just remember that when condoms were scarcer than an unbiased Diana Washington news story, Terry stormed Austin and demanded that El Paso be treated like other Texas cities. The result...thanks to Terry...El Paso now gets 14,000 condoms a month. Yep, those condoms you stuff in your pockets at the bars are the result of Terry's work. Not to mention the three quarter million dollars he got for the AIDS hospice, plus the tremendous job he and Doug have done with SWAC. We need more leaders like Terry. The other day in New York City (some of you are probably planning to move there) 2,500 demonstrators protested the city's inaction in dealing

with AIDS and its victims. They tied up traffic, sat down in the street and chanted, "we will never be silent again". Well, WE are going to lose many lives

"In spite of our dreams of bliss in L.A., El Paso may be the only city we ever get to live in."

if we remain silent, if we wait for someone else to do what we know in our heart of hearts we should be doing, if we stay in the closet to protect ourselves but witness the holocaust. If we really want to organize, to do something, we can learn a lot from EPISO.

Do we like ourselves enough to survive? Do we want to change the oppressive structures of this City? In spite of our dreams of bliss in L.A., El Paso may be the only city we ever get to live in. ♡

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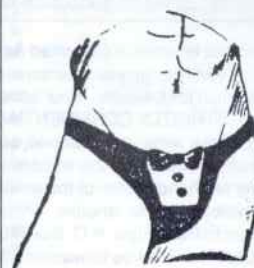
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El Paso, TX 79955.....(915)833-4256

MCC
2201 Mills.....542-1227

Southwest AIDS Committee, Inc.
916 E. Yandell.....533-5003

Tillman Health Center
222 S. Campbell.....541-4511

Las Cruces Services

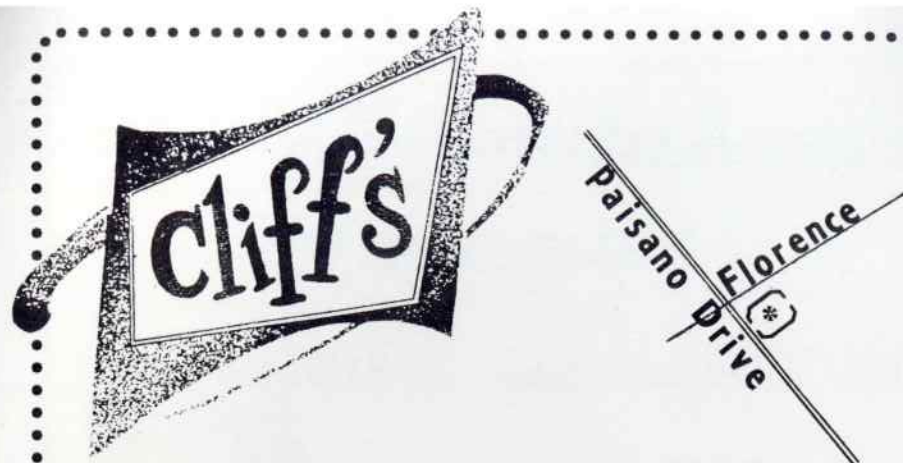
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(within New Mexico).....(505)524-4471

Gaily Forward of Alcoholics
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message and payment(see ad rates in Classified Ads) by the 15th of the month. We will assign you a personal code number and forward all mail for 6 weeks. Your address and identity will be kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. To answer an ad, place your letter in a stamped, sealed envelope with your return address and the ad code number written on the lower left hand corner of the envelope. Place the sealed envelope inside another envelope. Address this envelope to: El Paso Style, P.O. Box 640424, El Paso, TX 79904. Letters will not be forwarded without proper postage.

☆ Twenty-two year old gay, Hispanic male looking for a roommate. M201



SUNDAY

Variety Show 11pm plus BOTANA

MONDAY

Closed

TUESDAY

Free Pool Tables

WEDNESDAY

Free Pool Tournament Cash Awards—Starts at 9:30pm

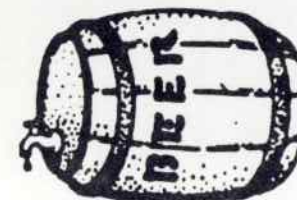
THURSDAY

Romantic Music, Candle Light & Champagne

FRIDAY

Male Zone Show (Male Revue) at
11:30 pm

Have your party at Cliffs for only \$65 a Keg!



701 E. Paisano
533-3558