

# The **BRANDING IRON**

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 16363, Phoenix, Arizona 85011



## GRAND OLE OPRY WEEKEND A SUCCESS !

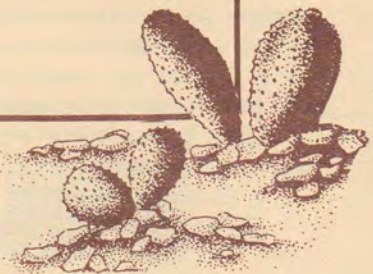
"Charlie's" patio area was filled the weekend of June 14, and 15th for AGRA's biggest, and most successful fundraiser held in quite a while. Estimates of a couple hundred people each evening, contributed over \$1,300.

For those of you keeping track, only 15 more of these functions are needed to pay for our August Unit Rodeo. Course that's assuming we have no expenses.

A brief recap of what went on for those of you not in attendance (and why WEREN'T you in attendance?!)...

Mr. AGRA, Jay Anderson, chats with Miss IGRA, Hollie Woods, on the patio at "Charlie's", during our Grand Ole Opry Fundraiser.

(cont'd. inside)



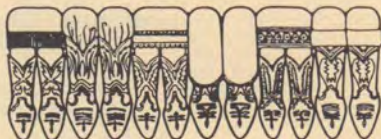
# GRAND OLE OPRY WEEKEND CONT'D.

Lots of newer faces were there which was nice to see. Thanks to all who are getting more involved. Brett Nelson and Tony DeLuca worked all night Friday, with Tony returning for more on Saturday. Four women who are Cash Inn regulars, and apparently not even Members of AGRA came down both nights and worked shifts at our booth and the Dunk Tank. Don't want to mention any names (just in case) but thanks a lot, that was great of you! Saw Rick Creakman out there Sheriffing on Sat., and Kris Eisenhut was stuck up on the follow-spot platform practically the entire weekend. All but one of the Board Members showed up (he had to work so guess we can excuse him) and most of them even worked some! President Dan Iversen worked overtime on Saturday (course he was making up for Friday wasn't he?), even took a turn in the Dunk Tank. That certainly attracted attention as Donna Bell and Carol Shearer literally RAN over to join the hordes massed up for a shot at that event. Also attracting crowds at the Tank were Tommy Read and Tim Versluys camping it up. Tommy looked butch in his scuba fins. Eric Smith modeling his freshly purchased G-String from one of the other booths, and Dino Rosie, trading in leather for spandex. Marquessa, in complete make-up, wig, and tasteful one-piece bathing suit. Her wet wig ended up hanging from an overhead wire half-way thru her set.

Previously mentioned Donna and Colleen Barry held down the "Taco Hut" all weekend. Completely sold out of everything but the corn dogs by Saturday night's end. Don't ya think the corn dogs would have gone faster with all those boys in attendance? We know Max Sutherland spent time "practicing" on them both nights.

Lyle Hedges (with some help from Wayne Rafferty) kept the music going all weekend, while Hollie Woods and Michael Cooney worked their little press-ons to stubs behind the bars. Hollie began Sat. night in a little tom-boy overall outfit. Just so cute, you wanted to eat her, or him, or whatever.

Speaking of bars, the jail was a popular place. Seemed like the majority of entertainers on Sat. night were arrested upon completion of their sets and dragged over there. Turned into quite the party by itself, with Pussy LeHoot at one point trying to climb up and over the fence onto Camelback Road.



Jay Anderson and Consuela Rodriguez co-emceed the shows both evenings with entertainment set up by Consuela. Don't know why Consuela was so nervous, everyone turned out to be wonderful! All the "regulars", plus a lot of "outside" talent she brought in to help support us. Course Merv Griffin was supposed to be the emcee for all of this, but he couldn't make it. He's stuck, in the back of his closet, way back there on the left, behind Eva Gabor's pumps... or are those Eva's?

The entire event was held under a canopy of twinkling lights and streamers, by who else but Ron Erickson, and was put together and kept running smoothly due to the efforts of Woody, L.J., and the Staff of "Charlie's". Thanks to everyone else who helped, as well as those who came out and supported it. Two months left to the Unit Rodeo, what's up next gang?

## V P ELECTION/ MEMBERSHIP RELIGIOUS EXPERIANCES

As you should all be aware of by now, a high interest, four-way race, resulted in Michael Cooney's accession to the Vice Presidency spot on our Board of Directors.

Treasurer Max Sutherland has since annointed Phil Looby to replace Michael as our Membership person. Phil most recently has been using his dulcet tones to head up our Election Committee.

By the way, the words "accession", and "annointed" are Michael's and Max's. The rest of the Board is more than a little concerned about this possible God Complex.

A quick glance around the Boardroom table shows that... quick Crawford Taylor, grab the Polaroid, it's time for the Annual Board picture, our first full Board since the January Election! And we do mean quick, already hear some talk about future vacancies... like Woody gone in November?!



# UNIT RODEO NOW SET

Is it on? Is it cancelled? What is "it"?! Our Unit Rodeo is "it", and yes, it's "on"! Saguario Regional Unit Rodeo, August 16 - 18th, will be held right here in Phoenix.

After a series of nervous meetings and conversations with people adding up the heat factors, and the possible costs for putting on this Rodeo, the entire issue was again brought before the Membership at our June 9th meeting. The Membership voted to keep it going by a 60% to 40% margin. Lots of work to do now before the fun begins.

Make sure you plan to attend the upcoming Fundraisers we'll need to have, and get in touch with any Board Member to volunteer your time getting this puppy off the ground. Not later... NOW!!

**AUGUST 16, 17 & 18, 1991  
Phoenix, Arizona**



# ROYALTY CONTEST BEGINS

Friday, June 14th, at our Grand Ole Opry Weekend was the kick-off for this year's Mr/Ms/Miss AGRA Royalty Contest.

Signed up so far for the Mr title are, Kris Eisenhut, Tommy Read, and Rob Sherr.

Running for the Miss Crown at this point are, Jacqueline De Savoi, Pussy LeHoot, and Marquessa.

An overall excellent beginning, considering that several year's ago, nobody would be signed up at this early stage.

Speaking of nobody, did you notice a complete absence of Ms Candidates? There aren't any. Now come on ladies, we know that there's any number of AGRA women out there who would be great representatives for Gay Rodeo. Not only for our group, but on the National IGRA level. For instance, who was that short, attractive blond who bumped into us a couple times at our last Membership meeting?

Anyone interested in any of the three titles, contact Ron Erickson at #279-1020.

# SURPRISE WOODY? SURPRISE MOM & DAD!

Ever wonder why the majority of us mentioned in these pages have a first and last name, while Woody is always just, Fundraising Director Woody? It's not that Woody is necessarily closeted, just cautious, after all, his parents live just around the block from him, and they don't know he's Gay. Obviously they've never seen him in that Nun outfit.

The folks do however know that Woody's involved with a Rodeo Organization.

And what do supportive parents do for their children? In Woody's parents case, they've booked a little weekend vacation in September, so they can see their little boy in the San Diego Rodeo!

Maybe we should help Woody out of this by adding his folks to our newsletter mailing list? That way they can get an early clue.

Or maybe we should just alert GSGRA's San Diego Chapter? Don't bother budgeting for fireworks folks, they'll be supplied for you, compliments of Phoenix, and AGRA!

# SAVE A BOARDMEMBER!

It's come to our attention, that there are plenty of you out there who are probably just desperate to become more involved in AGRA by volunteering your time, but just aren't quite sure how to do it.

Let us make it easy for you.

Following is a list of our Board Members who are supposed to have Committees to help them do their jobs. Unfortunately, most of them don't have such helpers, end up doing the work themselves, and as a result, are aging rapidly. Did you know that Michael Cooney is only 23 years old? Stop this premature aging. Save the life of a Board Member. Read the following information, pick an area of interest, and give the doddering old men a call. Hurry!

Dance and Entertainment - Lights, Cameras, Action! All preceded by planning, scheduling, and set-up. Followed by tear-down. From the simplest dance contest, to five days of living at the Arena in January, setting up those shows. Hang a streamer, run a spotlight placate a prima donna performer, all under (and behind) the delightful despotism of Ron Erickson at #279-1020.

Fundraising - Do you realize that Rodeos cost tens of thousands of dollars to produce? With two of them coming up, Woody (give the poor boy a Valium) desperately needs your help. Start with your ideas, and follow through with scheduling, set-up, and running all manner of fundraisers. We'll do anything for money, be creative! Call Woody at #973-5833.

Mobility and Logistics - Charm local businesses into thinking how much fun it would be to have hundreds of Gays and Lesbians descend on their Hotels, Restaurants, Airlines, and Car Rental booths. Also keep us informed on similar information from all the other Associations. Leave a message for Jeff Coon at #265-0618. Note: This is NOT a cost per minute call, that's his other line.

Public Relations - We've got a good reputation here, help us expand it, and draw in more people to our events. You'll work on posters, tri-folds, and advertising, from printing to mailing. Putting together our Annual Rodeo program is a year long process of selling ads to people who need to know about us, and how our Gay dollars can help their businesses. Call Crawford Taylor at #274-5855.

Recording Secretary - Not a position that generally has a Committee, but help is needed these days. Literally hundreds of packets of information need to be put together and sent out to Contestants for our upcoming Rodeos. Call Ron Trusley at #279-4991.

Rodeo Events - Two Rodeos coming up within the next seven months and you expect Larry Jones to do it all himself?! Plan for stock, Rodeo officials, and Arena layout. Set-up and tear-down each event. Roll around in the dirt. In general, keep those Rodeo days running smoothly and safely. Call Larry at #936-5401.

Treasurer - Watch those dollars flow in and out of our Association at alarming rates. Main sub-committee here is Membership. Keep those addresses and phone numbers of our transient Membership updated. Once you find them, keep our people in touch and involved. Max Sutherland awaits your call at #279-9357.

Vice-President's Committee - Little bit of everything here. Duties that the President can't fulfill when he's at ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new Safeways. In charge of selling the Rodeo belt buckles. Also in charge of our Historical Committee, so you'd be able to write your own history in the AGRA Annuals. Call Michael Cooney at #274-5855.

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## BUY THIS SPACE!

Help support AGRA, and your business at the same time, by advertising in these pages. Prices are \$2.50 per issue, for a Business Card sized ad. You supply the camera ready art (okay, we'll help you if you need it). Contact Tim at #892-1183 for details.



## HOTELS SET FOR FINALS

It's coming... faster than you think... IGRA's Annual Final's Rodeo, this year to be held in Wichita Kansas, Oct. 18,19, and 20th. A number of our Contestants are in good standing to receive invitations to this event. You'll all want to go up and cheer them on. Also on-tap is the Mr/Ms/Miss IGRA Royalty Contest, as well as the IGRA Dance Championship, so we'll have plenty of people up there needing our support.

We bring this event to your attention earlier than we normally would, due to possible problems with booking rooms up there. We know how you are... you're going to wait until the last minute, and then want to call the Hotel(s) and book yourself a room the day before you fly out. It won't work that way this time kids, you'll end up being street people. ALL room requests at ANY of the three Host Hotels MUST go through something called their "Housing Bureau". We're not sure why it worked out this way, except maybe that their Housing Bureau is part of their Chamber of Commerce, which wants to keep track of how many dollars different events bring into Wichita. At any rate, doesn't matter why it's set-up like this, it is, and you're now stuck actually having to plan your trip more than a month in advance. Doesn't it just rank you?!

## IGRA FINALS RODEO 1991

Hosted by GPRR

WICHITA, KS

OCTOBER  
18, 19, 20

Here's how it works... You CAN'T contact the Hotels directly, nor can you call their Housing Bureau. All requests for rooms must be in writing, by filling out a form that's part of the Final's tri-fold. Copies of the tri-fold are acceptable. If you don't have one, contact Jeff Coon, our Mobility & Logistics person, or give me a call (Tim @ #892-1183) and I'll send one out to ya. Will also have copies available at our next Membership meeting. These forms must be sent up to them BEFORE Sept., 15th, requesting your preferences for the three Hotels. Then the Hotel where you've been placed (not necessarily your first choice, depending on how late you get to this) will send you a confirmation. If you don't provide credit card information on your original room request, then you must send a check (for the first night) up to the Hotel where you've been placed after you receive their confirmation.

Can you see the planning needed here? No more deciding who's rooming with who on the trip up. Everyone needs to be booked (with names) in advance. If you don't get on this, don't plan on sharing your wardrobe with your buddy in the room down the hall, cause he/she may be down the hall in another Hotel!

Don't know if it's strictly legal, but we're kinda thinking about sending up groups of requests together, asking that if one of us needs to get bumped to another Hotel, that the entire group get bumped, so we can all still be together. Perhaps you need to get on the phone with your own "group" and plan on doing the same? More Final's details in later issues, now book those rooms!

# SHANTI IS NEW FOOD DRIVE FOCUS

We've got a new, more directed, focus for our ongoing food drive project that we're hoping will get your creative juices going a little.

Since Woody first proposed this project, we've discovered that there's only a couple of AIDS service groups in town who have the capabilities of handling food, and one of those, Shanti, has an immense need for it. Shanti also provides us with a creative challenge.

When we talked to Sharon Morgan (who runs their kitchen operations) we learned that she was straining to prepare five meals per day for a near capacity client load of 20 people. Upcoming expansion will eventually take Shanti up to 90 beds, all of them needing 3 major, and 2 snack meals per day, and all on a severely limited budget.

Dollar amounts, per day, per client, fluctuate due to a number of factors, but suffice to say that what Sharon gets to supply 5 meals per person each day, is probably what we'd spend on ourselves for one dinner. Needless to say, that can mean pretty basic food fare. And that's a shame, as the majority of Shanti's clients have no diet restrictions. On one end of the scale, Sharon informs us that they never have enough soups in stock, but the other extreme applies as well, with other clients requesting that more hot sauce be put in those enchiladas! Shanti strives to meet each individual client's wants, and that's where we can help. The more non-perishable basics we provide, the more food dollars we free up so that Shanti can afford more fresh foods, and those extras that their client's request.

The next time you're shopping, remember, a can of soup is great, but so is the even more basic bag of flour, jar of spices, or a package of pasta.

If several of you are coming in to the Membership meeting together, remember to hit the store first, and go together on some theme. Do tacos for instance, bring in the mix, shells, a can of black olives, and don't forget the hot sauce!

Be creative, make it fun, and remember, if you don't already have friends in Shanti right now, you probably will have in the future. Help us give more pleasant meal-times to those friends.

# YOU BE UGLY DRAG!

Now this could be fun/funny. Fundraising Director Woody's latest AGRA Fundraising idea is a "You Be Ugly Drag" Contest, to be held at 10:00 PM, July 28th, at "Bobby's". The campier, and uglier, your "drag" can be, the better, so let your beard grow, and dig out those hideous old dresses Aunt Edna used to wear before you finally had her committed for an over-abundance of fashion violations. Sign-up time that evening will be 9:00 PM. Marquessa is handling all the details, so leave a message for her at #931-4673 for more details, or call Woody at #973-5833.



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# WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!

If you're the type who's gaze first hits about waist-high on the people you meet and/or the type whose gaze rarely gets past waist high... then you're a sick, disgusting pervert, in need of therapy (ie: our kind of people) and boy, do we have a decorating idea for you! Help fashion accessorize those middle sections of the people around you by sponsoring a Winner's Belt-Buckle for our upcoming Unit Rodeo! Cost is only \$75.00 per buckle, and look what you'll get... Your name engraved on the inside of the buckle, so that a small piece of you will always be near the Winner's heart. Well, not exactly near their heart, but closer to where you like it. And you'll get to present the Winner with the buckle at the Awards Brunch, live, in person. Perhaps they'll even let you put it on them! Best of all, you'll be helping to keep your favorite viewing areas beautiful, in Rodeo Arenas and bars all across the Country.

Don't hesitate! There's a wide variety of buckles left for both men and women, but they're going fast, so grab your checkbook and call Michael Cooney at #274-5855.

# TIGHTWAD'S TIP

# "BITS"

Course none of US are tightwads... it's about some of those friends of ours.

Remember how we changed our Membership Dues structure last year? \$20.00 initiation, and \$20.00 more for a year's dues equals \$40. Now, what happens on July 1st? Still \$20.00 initiation, but only \$10.00 for half a year's dues. Equals \$30.00, a \$10.00 savings!

Let those tightwad friends of yours know that NOW'S the time to become AGRA Members and get in on all the fun. Someone please pass this by Terry Barr for his information.

## ALBUQUERQUE WARNING

One of the FIVE votes at last month's Membership meeting (yes it was a rather long meeting) was to elect delegates and alternate delegates for the August IGRA Annual Convention.

Those elected as delegates were:

Tim Dougherty  
Ron Erickson  
Larry Jones  
Greg Olson  
Carol Shearer

Let this serve as official notice to our upcoming hosts in Albuquerque... pitchers of "Frosties" are required wherever Carol travels.

Alternate delegates elected to back everyone up were:

Artie Michaelis  
Joe Rubio  
Bob Ryan  
Rob Sherr

Special meetings are upcoming, to brief everybody on Convention plans and agendas. Contact any of the above people if you've got an IGRA level issue that you'd like to have addressed at this year's Convention.

If you're planning on going along for the party and/or conference, all rooms must be booked through Albuquerque's Bolack Total Travel at #1-(800)258-1424. Be sure and tell them you're booking for the IGRA Convention. The Conference is taking place at the La Posada de Albuquerque Hotel.

For further and ongoing information on the agenda, schedules, and upcoming meetings, stay in touch with Recording Secretary Ron Trusley at #279-4991.

Rod Henry and Andy Caves are back. On a temporary basis for now, but have hopes to make the move permanent.

The straight "Albuquerque Tribune" did a nice article on Gay Rodeo after NMGRA's first Zia Regional. Greg Olson quoted as saying he hoped that someday future Rodeos would be televised! Guess then we'll all have TWO uses for those brown paper bags on our nightstands.

Colleen Barry picked up her College Degree last month, also dumped her State job. Now practicing her newly acquired skills full-time at her and Donna Bell's Antique business. Congrats Colleen!

Paul Ottinger moving to Italy, making AGRA/IGRA a truly International Organization. He'll be working his Chiropractic wizardry on swarthy Italian men for awhile. Wonder if he even bothered asking for a salary for this "job"?

Woody planning a move back up to Denver in the near future? Who's next? We know!

Dino Rosie was, and is, Mr. Arizona Leather. Now he's added yet another sash to his collection after ending up the 3rd Runner Up to the Mr. International Leather Contest, recently held in Chicago. Sashes are better on Dino than tiaras. Most of us can see chest-high on him, only a few of us would be able to spot rhinestones on his head. Congrats Dino!

"Coon Blows Thru Albuquerque While Cooney Sleeps". Now there's a great headline for a story we'll never hear about!

UGRA mentioned us in their last newsletter, so we must return the favor. Howdy Folks! Yes, our Newsletter's been around for awhile, we're just expanding our mailing list. Looking forward to seeing you all down here in January. Please let Wilda Beast know that we're trying to get the Arena restrooms renovated for her. Maybe even a bed?

Ancient news now, (cut for lack of space last issue) but still worth a mention, was "Charlie's", Mother's Day, "Come as Your Favorite Mother" Contest. Brad Lybarger won it with a mean rendition of Tammy Whynot. How else would you do Tammy? Brad says it was his first, and last, time in Drag. We've heard that one before. What about a run at our AGRA Miss title Brad? Also in attendance that evening... Greg Olson as Peg Bundy. David Anaya (never lovlier) as Joan Crawford. Ron "Mother" Erickson as the Queen Mother, and Jack Addington as Ron "Mother" Erickson. Was that pillow big enough Jack? Was that crew sock small enough?

# UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 14th - Sunday - Board Meeting  
3:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- July 14th - Sunday - General Membership Meeting  
5:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- July 28th - Sunday - Board Meeting  
3:00 PM - "Charlie's"
- July 28th - Sunday - "You Be Ugly Drag" Contest  
10:00 PM - "Bobby's"
- AGRA Fundraiser

Remember : Please bring a non-perishable food item  
to the General Membership meeting on the  
14th.  
Help stock Shanti's kitchen.

