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THE STINKING DESERT GAZETTE

25¢

moab

Monopoly Ends

Moab citizens this week heralded the arrival of the STINKING DESERT GAZETTE, and celebrated the end of a long newspaper monopoly in their town.

Ever since the merger of the two publishing giants, the TIMES and the INDEPENDENT, local canyonland residents have been denied an alternate source of printed news. With the notable exception of TRADEWINDS, a weekly paper renowned for its impeccable journalism and brilliant satire, Moab has been held for decades in the journalistic clutches of this powerful news conglomerate.

The arrival of the STINKING DESERT GAZETTE marks the advent of an alternate point of view for the citizens of Grand.

In the words of GAZETTE president Philmore Banks: "It's time the people in this area had a paper that gets to the story behind the news, the vicious and vile gossip the other paper leaves out".

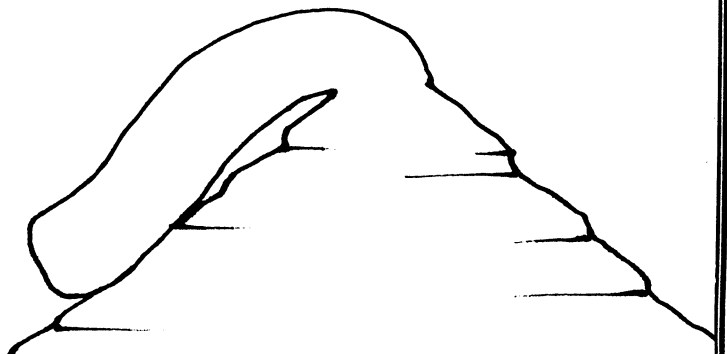
Banks spoke from behind his desk in the executive offices high above the buzzing nerve center of this publishing empire, a horse pasture in Spanish Valley.

"We will check no sources nor will we overburden our staff with investigative reporting, as that kind of thing only ruins a good story. We will print no signed letters. An unsigned letter is juicier.

"We intend to print what sells. Look at the National Enquirer. They make millions. My mother reads it. If it's good enough for her, it's good enough for the people of Moab.

The STINKING DESERT GAZETTE, Banks added, will be available at all the finer retail and merchant establishments about town.

Live Rock



New facts have come to light recently that will surely fuel the ongoing and sometimes tense debate over whether or not the local sandstone formations have a "life" of their own.

Randy Floater, our itinerant reporter and devout adherent of the small but vocal group known as the "Black Pantheists", revealed today some new, soft evidence that seems to support that group's beliefs.

Floater, convinced that even sandstone needs some occasional rest, maintained a 24 hour vigil at the base of Castleton Tower, a well-known local spire located in scenic Parcel Valley. Said Floater: "I chose this particular formation as the one most likely to tire."

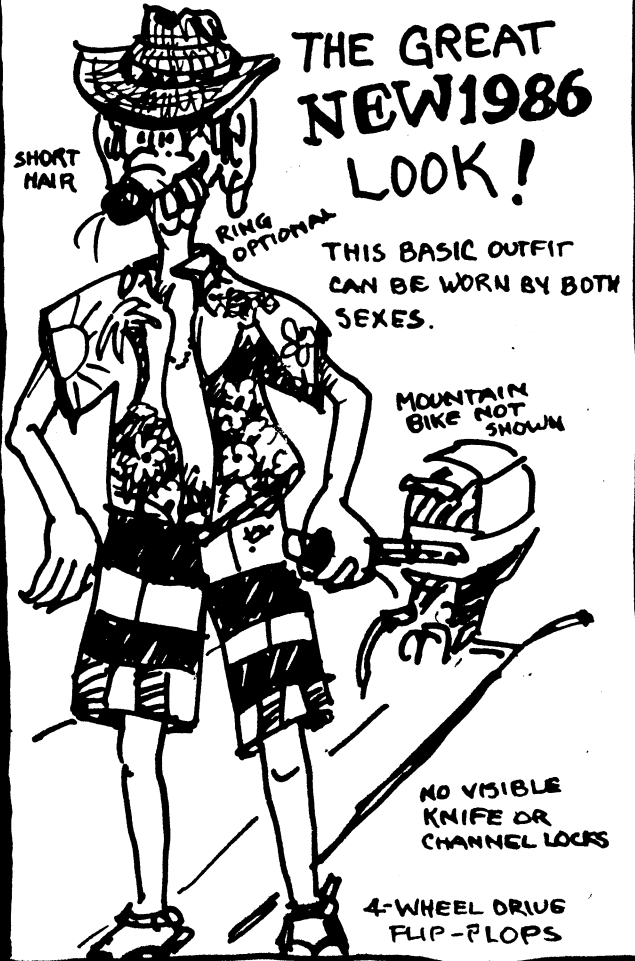
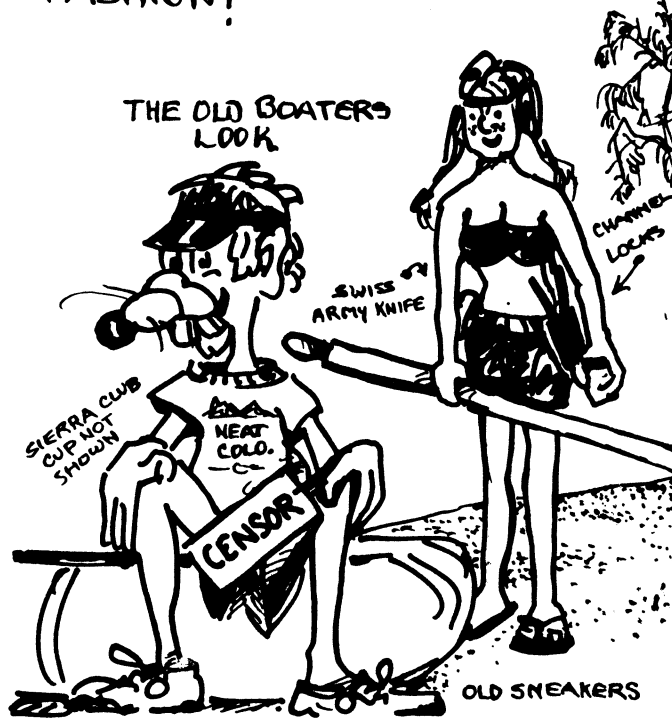
Sure enough, last Saturday, in the wee hours of the dawn, our tireless reporter was on hand to witness the incredible spectacle depicted in the sketch above, a flaccid Castleton Tower.

Said Floater: "I wish I had remembered to put some film in my camera, but even if I had gotten the picture I don't think you people would have printed it. Take my word for it, it was just too, too real."

BACKWATER

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DON'T BE ONE OF THOSE
'UNTRAINABLES' —
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FASHION!



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Poplar Place Pub & Eatery

11 East 1st North
Moab, Utah 84532

259-6018

THE STINKING DESERT GAZETTE

The STINKING DESERT GAZETTE is a monthly journal of nonsense and satire, and any resemblance in this material to persons living or dead is purely intentional.

Contributors to this issue, in no particular order, are: Nik Hougen, Lola Wright, Jane Harrold, Dave Everist, Serena Supplee, Paul Frisbee, Yuban coffee, and Robert Dudek.

Contributors are welcome. Address your material or ads to: The Gazette
Box F
Moab

STROKES and POKES



Bobby Bloat

Used to be, not too long ago, that an evening out in Moab was about as exciting as a trip to the laundromat; you know, drink a few beers, sort it all out, run it through the wash, fold it up and go home.

It was getting so bad that even the bartenders were getting grumpy. Squeezer told me about the time he went to town to sip a cool one and tell the bartender his troubles, as he was suffering from a mild case of the River City blues. He wound up having to sit there listening to all the bartender's problems, and went back home more depressed than when he started.

Yep, this town needed a little more nightlife, some live music, some dancing and frivolity. That's one of the reasons a lot of us settled here instead of, say, Blanding. This town was positively jumping back in the seventies.

Besides, this is a tourist town, isn't it? I think we've established that. And all good tourist towns offer their visitors places to go to kick back, tip a toddy, show off their sunburns, and check out the local talent.

Hey, you won't hear any of that self-righteous preaching against drinking in this column. Some of the world's greatest people have been known to indulge occasionally. Why, Jesus himself was known to produce a stash of home-brewed wine on occasion. Do you think he said: "Now boys, those jars of wine are just for the photographs. Don't you dare touch any of it!?" Of course not. He probably said something more like: "Drink up, boys, there's plenty more where that came from!"

I'm not talking about getting drunk. Drunks are boring. Besides, we can't afford to go beyond .07% in Utah or it's time to mortgage the house to pay the fine. (Actually, the only constitutional way to test for impaired ability is a reflex test, because .08 alcohol in the bloodstream means different things to different people. A full-blood Indian or Eskimo might be

falling down drunk at that level because tolerance to alcohol is partly a genetic transfer, and their cultures produced no fermentations or distilled spirits. A full-blood Russian, on the other hand, is just beginning to relax at that point. This is, incidentally, the reason that offspring of parents who drink have an increased tendency to drink. They have a stronger genetic tolerance passed on to them that abhors a vacuum, that looks for alcohol. The irony is an increased propensity to addiction. See footnotes, Page 9).

So anyway, the tourists love to slide into their glad-rags and glide on down to a saloon with some live music and a few members of the opposite sex. It helps ease the sting of getting their room rates jacked up on busy weekends by the Rammit Inn.

Speaking of ripoffs, how about the recent movement by a few community leaders to disallow camping along the banks of the Colorado River, to drive those people like cattle into the local camp parks so they'll have to pay the city head tax. Pretty tacky. Why not look for positive ways to generate revenue, like maybe entertaining our visitors and making them happy to spend a little dough.

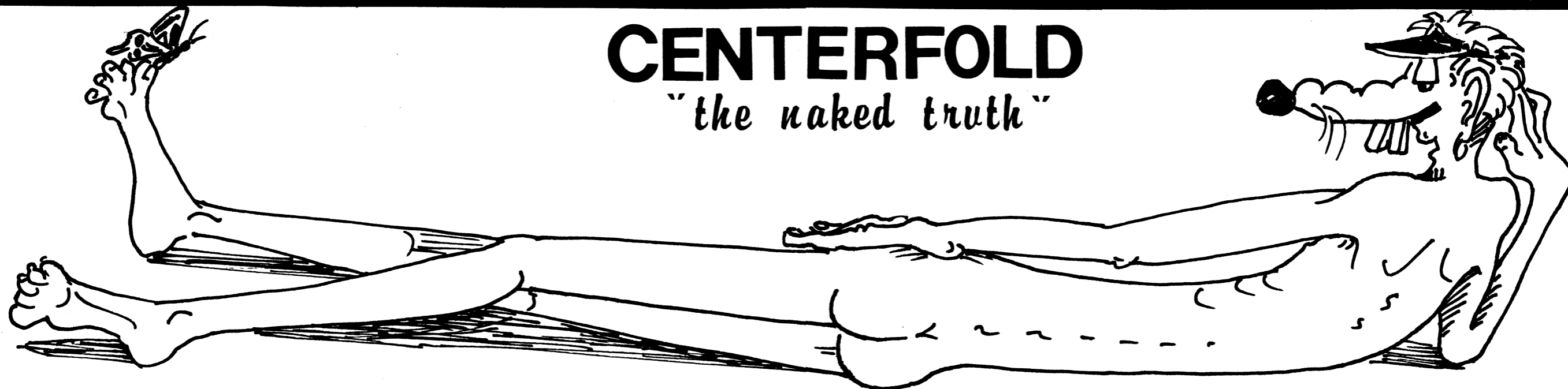
Well, it's happening. We've got a brand new saloon, The Hideout, that's generating a lot of merriment down on Main Street with live music and a dance floor. The Lost Springs Chuckwagon has music, and melodrama on Saturdays. The Hitchin' Post is back in the cabaret business with unusual live entertainment, and the Sportsman is having bands again.

Plus, the grand old lady, the Poplar Place, has a fresh coat of stucco recently applied by Oldshoeski & Defonz, and new life inside with lots of live music. WallyWorld is rocking out.

Why, it's getting so good that the people in Telluride will be coming here to party. That's good for the town, good for the tourists, and good for the bartenders, who love the old ka-jing of the old cash register. Everyone's happy.

CENTERFOLD

"the naked truth"



BURN BUNDY

Some funloving pagans over in Aspen threw a party two weeks ago that drew the attention of the national press.

Over the objections of many who labeled it "vulgar", "tasteless" and "barbaric", these folks got together to celebrate the execution of that beastly but silver-tongued slayer of innocent women, Ted Bundy.

Our roving reporter Mike Price was on hand for the gala event. He noted that, in spite of the liklihood of a stay of execution, the partygoers were enthusiastic and cheerful.

"May he roast in pieces", shouted the celebrants, as they tossed down "Bundy-Burners", potent concoctions of Tequila laced with tobasco sauce.

The Burn Bundy party kicked off a crowded July calendar of cultural events for which that city has become famous.

INIGMA

Physicists tell us that the prime tendency in the universe is for order to tend towards chaos.

We have noticed here in Moab a major exception to that rule. Anyone who has run the rapids and then listened to all accounts of it later in the bar, will have seen for himself the unusual transformation of chaos to order.

Slam-Dunking

Several brave boatmen have earned for themselves the coveted Dolphin decoration this year by successfully inverting their crafts and treating all their passengers to a rare underwater view of a Colorado River rapid.

Submariners

- Brian Big Drops
- Larry Skull
- Ken Satan's Gut
- Juano Little Niagara
- Joel Big Drops

Honorable Mention

- Mark Slam-dunking a Toyota

Elephant Tamed

An historic ascent of Elephant Hill was accomplished July 5th by local jeepskinner Norm Shrewsbury, when he climbed that well-known bitch of a road with his disabled Suburban in two-wheel drive!

Shrewsbury experienced mechanical problems on the relatively easy road at the Devil's Kitchen, when one of his front U-Joints gave out. He had no choice but to disengage the front wheel drive.

Proceeding bravely onward through the Silver Stairs and "Walker Hill", the intrepid Shrewsbury skillfully nursed his ailing machine safely through all the obstacles to Elephant Canyon, and then valiantly began to make his way up the base of that pachydermal precipice.

Faltering briefly in Scout Slot, where the grade is a reputed 52% in places, Shrewsbury adjusted his headrag, clamped his sheath knife between his teeth, and went for it. Standing the huge vehicle up on its hind legs, he made it up and over on the second try.

Interviewed the next day at Mike Young's, where the faulty U-Joint was being repaired, the soft-spoken Shrewsbury stated that the only damage found after the legendary run was "cosmetic", small rips and tears in the headliner and upholstery left there by the fingernails of his passengers.

Diesel Power

The Stinking Desert Gazette welcomes back to town a charter member of the Moab boating fraternity, Skeeter Irish.

Skeeter, veteran boatman, former tour operator, and the first to row Two Fawns Rapid (Cloudburst) the morning after it was formed in July, 1976, is here for the summer doing whitewater trips for various local companies.

A giant of a man, it was Skeeter who put the permanent bend in all those oars around town that are now being used for spares. Look for the big guy down in Cardiac Canyon, sporting a sun visor wrapped around that blond, Brillo hair, that reads: "Kenworth on the Colorado".

Geek Fratsority

The Stinking Desert Gazette welcomes the arrival of a local chapter of the national fratsority Omega Boata Hi.

A mischievious bunch, they greet one another with their cult salute, a limp hand and forearm dangling wildly from an outthrust elbow. Watch for them at your favorite tavern, and down in Cardiac Canyon.

Dig It

San Juan County residents, angered by recent raids on their homes by Federal agents looking for illegal artifacts, have been seen lately wearing the hottest thing in T-Shirts in that area for quite a spell. Printed on the front is the short but sweet little saying: "I dig San Juan County!".

RIVER YOGA
IN
10 Easy Lessons
#1
THE PRELUDE TO A MOON
3 EASY YOGA POSTURES

THE DEAD MONKEY:
PURPOSE: A SURE REMEDY FOR TOO MUCH SUN, WIND, AND BEER. BEST PRACTICED IN MORNINGS BEFORE RIGGING

THE PHAROAH:
PURPOSE: TO GRACEFULLY GET OUT OF UNCOMFORTABLE SOCIAL SITUATIONS
NEXT ISSUE! #2 MEDITATION

CC. RITTER © 86

Top Secret

The Grand County Development Council, concerned about the state of the local economy, met behind closed doors to work on a new plan to stimulate an influx of people to this area.

The only official word about the plan was that it would cost somewhere under \$20,000, but would bring in "millions" to the Moab area.

However, GAZETTE reporters learned through informed sources that the plan involves secretly "planting" and then "discovering" a large 1½ pound gold nugget somewhere along the bank of Mill Creek. The resultant gold rush would supposedly stimulate the area's economy.

The success of the scheme depends upon absolute secrecy.

Clear Day Window Washing Co.

For a Clear Today and a Brighter Tomorrow!
Tel. 259-6081 Box 447 - Moab, Utah

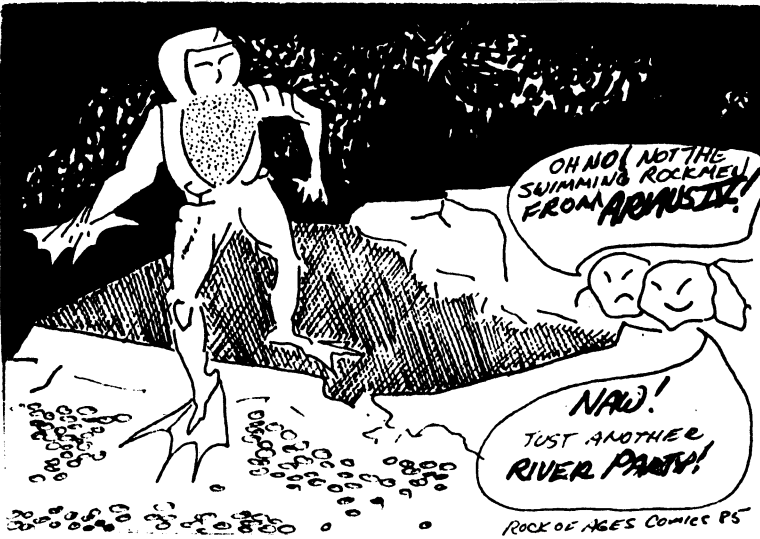
moab wins

The city of Moab was named "Metal Building Capitol of the World" last week by the National Association for Industrial Landscapes.

Spokesman Michael Rivet called the city a "shining example" for the rest of the country.

The Hideout
400 North Main • Moab, Utah
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DANCING
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Serena Supplee



PHONE HIKE

Contel announced today that it was applying for a 32% rate increase to compensate for increased administrative expense incurred due to the latest round of rate increases. Any interested parties who wish to comment on this proposal are invited to write Santa, 1117 Reindeer ave., The North Pole.

Look No Further

A spokesman for the Canyonlands Feel Institute announced a new idea in local hiking, a series of introductory visits to your own back yard.

For a nominal charge, a qualified instructor will show up at your house and guide you through an informative and enlightening tour of your own back yard.

Special emphasis will be placed upon the history of previous tenants gleaned from artifacts and ruins still in place. Students will be schooled in valuable skills like studying pet habitats, neighbor evaluation and, when applicable, wilderness survival.

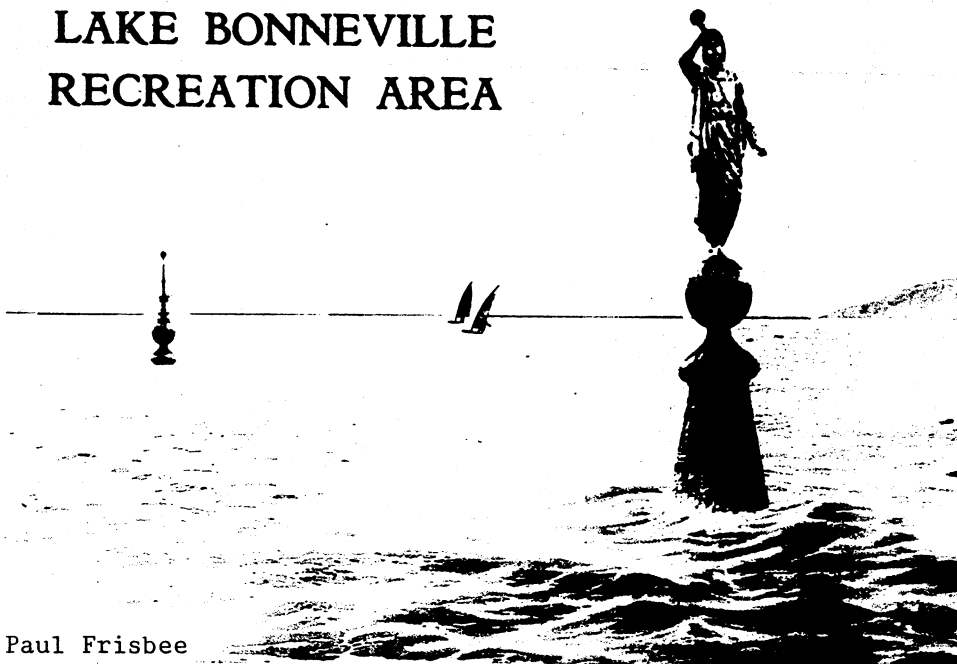
All interested parties are urged to contact the Institute for more on this.

PET POX

For those of you who have noticed a certain lethargy in your pet rock during the past month or so, take heart. Local rock lover and pet rock specialist, Lin Ottinger, told the GAZETTE that there's nothing to worry about.

"It's a minor virus brought on by insufficient contact with the elements", said Lin. "Spray 'em with a little water and pop 'em in and out of the freezer occasionally. They'll perk right up."

LAKE BONNEVILLE RECREATION AREA



THIS SPACE FOR RENT

LANDOWNERS OF GRAND COUNTY

You have rights too!

A suit is being filed against the BLM and the U. S. Forest Service, alleging that they have been negligent and irresponsible in their management practices of public lands adjacent to private property. In their lack of sensitivity to the needs and problems of private land owners in the county, they have knowingly assisted in the infliction of personal and private property damages.

LANDOWNERS

If you have received damage to your property or person due to the policy of grazing cattle next to your private property, please notify: The Coalition for Responsible Management of Our Public Lands, Box 50, Moab, Utah 84532. We are currently gathering data as to the kind and degree of property damage involved. Describe the damages by breaking them down into three groups:

1. Estimated actual property damage, such as, broken pipe, crop damage, water pollution, building damage, etc. This should include cost of repair or replacement. Include your labor at \$10.00 per hour, plus all material expenses.
2. Estimated cost for fencing out livestock being grazed adjacent to your property. Include labor and materials as well as annual maintenance expenses.
3. Personal psychological stress. The continuing destruction of one's homestead can be a very depressing problem in one's life. The court's are often very sympathetic to this type of personal injury.

All claims can be extended back to the 1943 grazing ordinance. This suit may take years to complete, and may go through many courts and appeals. But, should the C.R.M. win this battle, all of your legitimate damage losses will be reimbursed.

PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTHING SACRED DEPT



Cc'Ritter ©86

CLASSIFIED ADS

ART SHOW - CASH PRIZES. Interested artists should contact: Canyonlands Art Council
P. O. Box 315
Moab, Utah 84532

Or Call: Donna Jordan, 259-6092

\$5 entry Fee Oct. 3-5

TRACTOR FOR SALE. John Deere, Model B Runs Fine, Make offer. Bob, 259-6857

Ed Abbey: Thanks for all the great stories over the years. Welcome Home!

Automotive CPR! Learn the latest methods in artificial respiration for Toyotas! Contact Rob, Bob, Mark and Brent for particulars.