

# THANKSGIVING SECTION

## Thanksgiving 1990

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Entertainment Editor

I remember Thanksgiving, 1989 very well.

I had become close with my neighbor who lived downstairs in my apartment complex. Karen was a former entertainer, but she hadn't coped well with life and the aging process. She worked as a maid in one of the larger hotels. Karen was also an alcoholic. She drank when she awakened until she passed out from her favorite vodka.

When she was sober, she was funny, intelligent and interesting. When she was drunk, she was melancholy, depressed and combative. The sad reality was that she was drunk more than she was sober, and I never knew what behavior to expect from her.

We made plans to spend Thanksgiving together. I purchased the food and she was to prepare a meal for five people. Thanksgiving morning, I was in her apartment by 9 a.m. She was roaring drunk by 11 a.m. The meal was a disaster.

One month later, she was fired for being drunk on the job.

She received vacation pay, severance pay and a small bonus to help over the holidays. Karen proceeded to drink through her money and refused to look for employment. By January, 1990, she had been evicted from her apartment.

Karen planned on living in her car in the parking lot. I informed the manager of the situation. We tried to get Karen into treatment, but she refused. She chose to be drunk and homeless, and there wasn't anything we could do.

Karen bunked with whom-ever she could, putting herself into several dangerous situations. She refused help, refused housing at any shelter and refused to look for work. A woman who had been wealthy, married, beautiful and talented, now wandered the streets of Las Vegas, looking for her next drink and deteriorating before our eyes.

I felt both angry and helpless. I could have bailed her out financially, but certainly not for long. I was totally ineffective when it came to helping her. She was lost, and had become another statistic in the homeless population.

I write this editorial not to stereotype the homeless or to say we shouldn't be compassionate and volunteer our time and efforts. I write to say that the problem is complex and one individual's effort is not enough.

We need to address our drug abuse problems, our increasing violence, the economy and other issues in order to address the issue of homelessness. The time for "band-aids" is over. We need to get together and find real solutions to real problems.

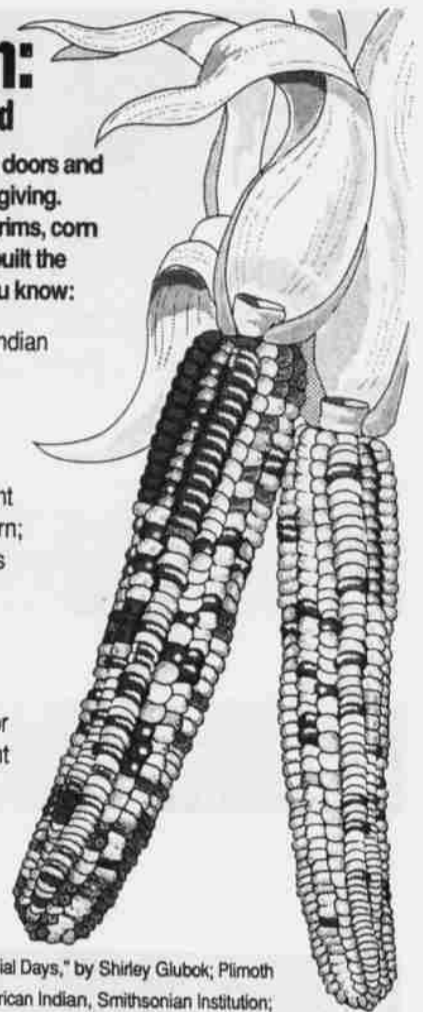
As I enjoy my meal, my home, my friends, my job and the many opportunities I have, I will think of Karen. I know she is still around for I have seen her. She is still drinking and wandering the streets. I look for solutions, yet I know I cannot do it alone.

Remember Karen and all the others during this time. Volunteer your time and money. Most importantly, address the homeless problem as many complex issues, not just "the homeless problem," or worse, "just a bunch of people out on the streets."

## Indian corn: Pilgrims' survival food

Colorful Indian corn hangs on doors and adorns tables around Thanksgiving. Called "Turkie Wheat" by Pilgrims, corn literally saved their lives and built the economy in the 1600s. Did you know:

- 1. Starving Pilgrims robbed Indian graves for stored corn
- 2. In famine, each Pilgrim lived on five kernels a day
- 3. Wampanoag Indians taught Pilgrims to grow and cook corn; dishes still bear Indian names such as hominy, pone
- 4. Kernels were used to vote and to play checkers
- 5. Surplus corn was traded for beaver skins, which were sent to England to pay debts
- 6. First English patent granted to an American was to a Philadelphia woman for a mill to grind corn



SOURCE: "Home and Child Life in Colonial Days," by Shirley Glubok; Plimoth Plantation; National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution; Research by WENDY GOVIER

## What have you really got to be thankful for?

1. When reviewing the situation in the Middle East are you thankful ...
  - A. You don't own a car.
  - B. You decided to come to UNLV instead of "being all you can be."
  - C. The other guy's over there instead of you.
2. When you look at your financial situation you are thankful ...
  - A. Student Government hands out scantrons for free.
  - B. The financial aid director doesn't know you on a first name basis.
  - C. Taco Bell has a new value menu.
3. When you look in the mirror everyday are you thankful ...
  - A. The Oxy-10 your mom sent you really works.
  - B. You didn't inherit the family nose.
  - C. Even after a hard day
4. When you wake up in the morning next to someone are you thankful ...
  - A. It's not Homer Simpson.
  - B. It's not Roseanne Barr.
  - C. It's not Laura Palmer.
5. When you sit down to eat Thanksgiving dinner you are thankful ...
  - A. Mom decided to let Grandma cook dinner.
  - B. Uncle Jerry decided to leave his teeth in throughout the entire meal.
  - C. Grandpa didn't say... "Pull my finger!"
6. When you go out on a date you're thankful ...
  - A. You got one.
  - B. Condoms are free at the Student Health Center.
  - C. Once again, Taco Bell has a new value menu.

## St. Vincent looking for pies

The St. Vincent Dining Room is in dire need of pies for their annual Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. Last year over 1,000 men, women and children had their Thanksgiving dinner at the Dining Room. This year 1,200 are expected.

Two hundred pounds of turkey have been donated by one local restaurant, along with other turkey, potatoes, and vegetable donations from local grocery stores. But, to date, there have been no pie donations. What would Thanksgiving dinner be like without a piece of pie?

To donate a pie, call the Dining Room at 385-7801.



Happy

Thanksgiving



## COCTEAU TWINS

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Aladdin Hotel - Bagdad Showroom



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