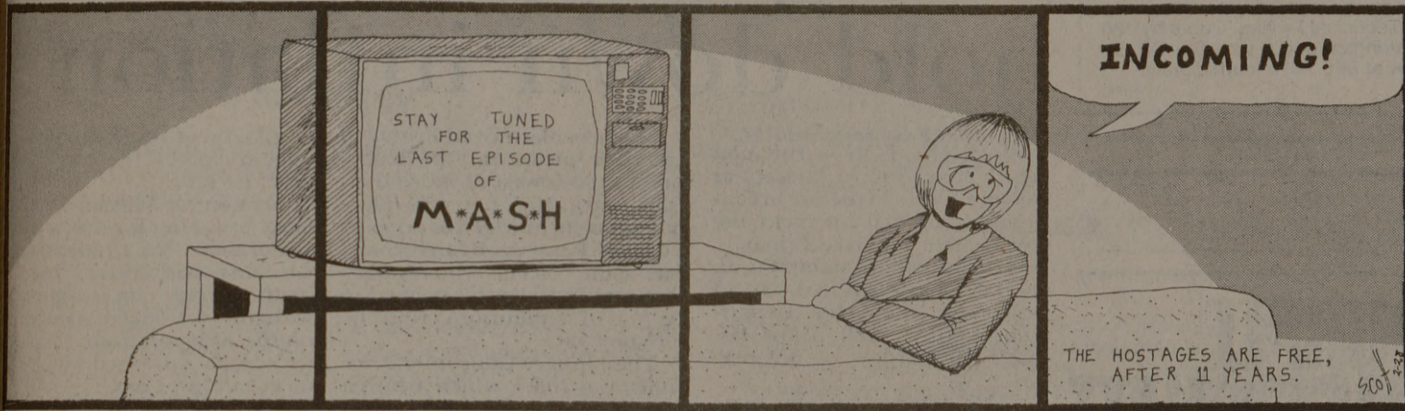


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Investigation to continue

Casino-brothel plans cut

United Press International
GALVESTON — A Phoenix man said he has scrapped plans to operate a floating casino-brothel off the Texas Gulf Coast, but an Arizona prosecutor said the state intends to continue its investigation of the operation.

Walter Plankinton, 54, of Phoenix, had planned to operate a cruise ship catering to males and anchor it nine miles off the coast of Galveston. But he said opposition from Arizona officials has forced him to change his mind.

"It was a good idea and it was going to be a fun thing to do, but I don't need to hassle with every-

body in the world just because they have different moral standards," Plankinton said Friday.

"We've got so many problems with the state of Arizona," he said.

Plankinton said he hopes to sell the British cruise ship Shacelton, which he was buying for his brothel-casino.

"I just want to get my money back. That's what they really want — our money," Plankinton said.

Arizona officials have been investigating the legality of the proposed floating brothel, but Plankinton accuses state officials of overzealous prosecution.

Plankinton, who once owned

the Chicken Ranch brothel in Nye County, Nev., argues the cruise ship brothel would have been legal because it would have operated outside the jurisdiction of both state and federal authorities.

He said the female services aspect of his business proposal has been blown out of proportion, and that he preferred to call the women he planned to have employed as masseuses and hostesses.

Despite Plankinton's intentions to drop the idea, Deputy Maricopa County Attorney Jim Keppel said his office would continue its investigation of Plankinton's planned business venture.

"He's trying to assert his moral standards on the rest of us," Keppel said.

Keppel has alleged Plankinton and another man formed a Panamanian corporation that was selling limited partnerships to investors, but Plankinton claims he was the only investor in the cruise ship operation.

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