FACT SHEET -- JACK RABBIT RELOCATION ASU WEST CAMPUS SITE

March 26, 1986

BACKGROUND

In the March 21, Outdoor Notes column of the Arizona Republic, mention was made of the displacement of wildlife, primarily jackrabbits, at the ASU West site.

Interviewed was Terry Johnson, non-game supervisor of the Fish and Game Department. Johnson said, "There is no agency or individual who can provide any assistance to the animals being displaced or to the people who want to help the animals."

ASU or ASU West was not contacted to comment.

The article has provoked some public interest including an offer of help in relocating the animals from the Liberty Wildlife Association (Dr. Kathy Ingram, 998-5550).

In addition, Bob Omark from the ASU zoology department has become involved. In a phone conversation with Carole Novick 3/25, Omark expressed annoyance that he had not been contacted to solve the relocation problem. He would have proposed a weekend round-up of the animals working with the Liberty Wildlife Association.

FACTS:

3/20/86, a contract was signed between Kitchell CEM and Truly Nolen to relocate the rabbits. The animals are to be trapped in funnel pen traps constructed to Fish and Game specifications. The traps will be baited with non-poisonous bait, water and shade will be available for the trapped animals. They will be captured live and released unharmed into a new location off the Carefree Highway.

Bill Sample, general manager of Truly Nolen, has received a permit from the Fish and Game Department to take this action. The release site was one recommended by Fish and Game. Sample expects the trapping and relocation process to take about 30 days.

OPTIONS:
Do nothing

Contact Outdoor Notes columnist with the above facts to amplify and correct public perceptions of the situation. Also respond to call from Republic. There may be a feature done on this. Go out with a press release suggesting the relocation of the animals as a feature story.

RISKS and BENEFITS:
If papers choose to do features they would want photos, if dead animals were found in the traps, and photographed, (and this is a good possibility), this would be negative. Negative comments from Bob Omark (who is known to the press as a wildlife expert) could be damaging.
On the other hand, because of the Easter season we could get good positive coverage.