

If a tree falls ...



“If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?” That was the question that philosopher Schlomo Pringler attempted to answer as he patiently stood next to a saguaro in the eastern Sonoran Desert from August 31st to November 2nd of last year. Three problems, however, prevented him from solving the riddle: (1) While the saguaro is tree-like (i.e., arborescent), it is nevertheless a cactus. (2) With no other cacti nearby, it wasn’t in “a forest.” (3) If the cactus did fall while he was there, Schlomo *would* hear it. Soon thereafter, he abandoned his philosophy career for a much more lucrative one in the pet food industry.