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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | DECEMBER 3, 2003 | ISSUE 1011

Tucson's Domestic Partner Registry Launched

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) - During a get together at Sunset Park, Tuesday, December 2, the most common question posed was "What number are you two?"

With that question, Tucson became the first city in Arizona to have a domestic partner's (DP) registry for committed Gay and Lesbian couples who can't presently marry, as well as opposite-sex couples who can't marry or choose not to and be recognized as such by a governmental entity. Tucson is one of 60 cities across the country to have such a registry.

"This is the first step towards bigger things for our community and another step closer to equality," a beaming Bertie Lozano, member of the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues, said.

Many months of hard work by the Commission, as well as Wingspan and the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the statewide GLBT rights organization, paid off when more than 80 couples attended the celebration to mark the new ordinance held at Sunset Park, showing they "stand out, are proud to be counted and on the map, taking live and love seriously and having a family."

In addition to the couples, there were many supporters as well as supportive elected officials who were present to witness to the launching of the registry.

State Rep. Ted Downing, D-Tucson, commented that "Tucson is a space that is safe, a place of love and commitment and relationships." He joked that being a politician, that "there was no place to be with so much commitment around."

Tucson Councilmember Steve Leal, D-Ward 5, said he was honored, that the Mayor and Council were allowed to help these and other couples out with the registry.

TUCSON - Scott Sawyers and Mark McCaw, pictured above, were among the eighty some people who registered as Domestic Partners Tuesday, December 2nd, during the inaugural celebration of a newly passed ruling by the Tucson City Council. It made Tucson one of 60 cities in the country to have a Domestic Partners Registry. See accompanying story about this historic event for Tucson. More photos on pages eight and nine.

Tucson Councilmember Carol West, D-Ward 2, said she was proud of herself and colleagues for "opening some doors" for couples with the ordinance.

Tucson Vice-Mayor, Fred Ronstadt, R-Ward 6, said that December 2 would be a very special day for the Mayor and Council, and hopes it is for those couples who signed up.

Couples could register their relationship on Tuesday, December 2, even past the usual hour, 5 p.m., when most of city government has closed down. A Lesbian couple was doing that and ask the clerk why she was working past her usual work schedule, 5 p.m., when most people leave at that time. The clerk responded that 5 p.m. was the time she normally leaves but she wanted to help out with this exciting, historical event in Tucson.

The Tucson DP Ordinance is a city law enacted September 15, 2003 and effective December 1, 2003, that provides a registry for domestic partners who wish to register. This is a means by which unmarried couples who share a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment may document their relationship. This is the first domestic partner registry law in the State of Arizona.

Who are domestic partners? Domestic partners are two people who sign a statement affirming that they:

are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the State of Arizona;

are not married to another person in a marriage expressly recognized by the State of Arizona or in any domestic partnership and/or civil union with another person;

are both 18 years of age or older;

are both competent to enter into a contract;

both declare that they are each other's sole domestic partner;

both currently share a primary residence, are in a relationship of mutual support, and declare that they intend to remain in such for the indefinite future.

Registrants may go to City Hall to register in person, or may mail in their registration form to: City of Tucson, Finance Department, attn: DP Registration, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson AZ 85726.

The registration form is available to pick up in person at City Hall at the first floor payment windows, or may be obtained by calling the Finance Department at: (520) 791-4566. Each registrant must sign the registration form before a notary public. Registrants who turn in their properly attested registration statement in person at City Hall will receive a certificate of registration in person. Registrants who mail in their properly attested registration statement will receive a certificate of registration by mail.

The cost of registering is $50.00. Checks should be made payable to the "City of Tucson". Under this ordinance there is no requirement for residency within the city limits of Tucson.

Tucson's ordinance lists two rights or benefits for registered partners in the City of Tucson: (1) a right to visitation of one's partner in a health care facility, as long as the patient consents; and (2) extending use of and access to city facilities to a registered domestic partner as if the domestic partner were a spouse.

Unlike other ordinances, it is up to the couple if they split up, to notify the City of Tucson of the termination of the relationship which costs $10.

Boy Says Mom Is Gay, School Rebukes Him

YOUNGSVILLE - In an extraordinary case of discrimination by public school officials, a 7-year-old Louisiana boy was scolded by his teacher, sent to the principal's office and required to attend a discipline session after he told a classmate his mother was Gay, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, Marcus McLaurin was in line for recess on Nov. 11, when a classmate asked about his parents. Marcus explained that he had two mothers, because his mother was Gay. When asked what that meant, the boy replied "Gay is when a girl likes another girl."

Later that day, Marcus' mother, Sharon Huff, was concerned after receiving a call from the assistant principal, who informed her that Marcus was in trouble for using a word so bad that it couldn't be repeated over the phone. But her concern, Huff said, "was nothing compared to the shock I felt when my little boy came home and told me that his teacher had told him his family is a dirty word."

Marcus came home with a "Student Behavior Contract" for his mother's signature, where he had been obliged to detail his transgression. "I sed bad wurds," wrote the second-grader under the heading, "What I did." Under "What I should have done," Marcus wrote: "Cep my mouf shut."

At the top, teacher Terry L. Bethea wrote: "He explained to another child that

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Report: Half Of U.S. HIV Cases Are In 15 Cities

NEW YORK - During the observance of World AIDS Day, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) announced on Monday, December 1, that 15 of the largest U.S. cities were home to more than half of the nation's HIV/AIDS cases between 1986 and 2001, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

During that period, 816,149 infections were reported.

The study also said HIV infection rates have shown "alarming" increases recently, with some trends nearly mirroring the high infection rates in the early 1980s.

According to NYAC, AIDS is one of the leading causes of death for young people, with more than half of all new infections occurring in people under 25. In major cities, the study noted, the infection rate for sexually active young Gay men is greater than 10 percent.

"Our national response to this pandemic has been inadequate," said Craig Bowman, NYAC's executive director, in a prepared statement. Bowman added that efforts to fight HIV/AIDS must be "dramatic" and need to focus on young people.

"Most clinics and testing sites across our country are still not testing young people without parental permission, and few test youth under sixteen years of age," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

UPDATE

Jamie Anderson Returns To Tucson December 5

TUCSON - Nationally touring lesbian singer-songwriter Jamie Anderson returns to her home state of Arizona for a show at Pima College's Proscenium Theater on Friday, December 5, 8 p.m, in a double bill with Alix Dobkin.

Growing up in the Phoenix area, her first performance was at a talent show at McClintock High where she tied for third with a modern dancer. Winning the event was a group of football players who covered their heads with their t-shirts, painted faces on their stomachs and "lip synched" to a bad 70's rock song. Jamie's career could go no where but up.

Billboard says Jamie's show features, "... solid song writing and engaging stage presence." Touring nationally since 1987, Jamie Anderson is known for a voice as smooth as Shawn Colvin and a sense of humor as wacko as Ellen Degeneres. She's entertained in hundreds of coffeehouses, concert halls, colleges and festivals all over the US. Jamie has seven recordings including the newest one, Listen. In the rare time she's not touring, Jamie teaches song writing and other classes at Duke, arts centers and festivals.

For tickets call (520) 297-9133, or go online to dotucson.com. See www.jamieanderson.com for more information.

Creating Change Conference Forum December 9

TUCSON - Wingspan staff members, and participants from Eon, attended the annual National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Conference, "Creating Change."

Now in its sixteenth year, the Creating Change Conference is the country's most unique and stimulating gathering of the political movement for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender justice, freedom and equality. Conference attendees chose from more than 100 sessions on a vast array of topics important to our movement and communities.

From ageism to youth activism, from anti-violence projects to community-building projects, from anti-racism work to legislative action, Creating Change is a virtual one-stop shop of cutting edge information for activists and organizers in our movement. Thousands of people attended this year's conference.

Please join in on a special Community Forum: Report Back from Creating Change, Tuesday, December 9, 7 to 9 p.m., Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth St. Conference highlights, information, and dialogue about the national LGBT scene from Wingspan staff, volunteers, and participants who attended Creating Change will be discussed . A free reception will follow.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Play Safe!

Desert Voices Concert Dec. 6 - 7

TUCSON - "Home (Oh!) For the Holidays", presented by Desert Voices takes place this weekend, on Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Ave.

Both performances will be interpreted for the hearing impaired by students from Pima Community College.

Tickets are still available from Desert Pride at 300 E. Sixth Street, (520)388-9829, Antigone's at 411 N. Fourth Avenue (520)792-3715, and online from www.DoTucson.com, and cost $12 in advance (Seniors and Students (with ID) for $10) and all tickets will be $15 at the door.

Reveille Concert December 12 - 13

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus kicks off their 2003-04 season with "Peace on Earth," the annual holiday concert to Southern Arizona, December 12-13. 8 p.m., at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams.

Reveille's "Peace on Earth" will present holiday and other celebratory music from around the world and a selection of American favorites in both traditional and new arrangements - and, of course, some adaptations that only a Gay men's chorus cane sing with a "straight" face!

Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door. Season tickets for this concert and the "All About Love" concert, May 21-22, are now available for $25. Go online to starnet.com/nonprofit/reveille to purchase tickets.

North Dakota Man Victim Of Apparent Anti-Gay Assault

FARGO - The beating of a Gay man in Fargo, N.D., is being classified as a hate crime, police said. Derek Puttbrese, 20, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., has been charged with felony aggravated assault and felonious restraint.

He's accused of beating a 44-year-old man in an apartment on November 18. It is the first hate crime related to sexual orientation that Fargo police have reported to the FBI since reporting began a couple of years ago, said Lt. Tod Dahle.

Dahle said the victim told Puttbrese he was Gay, and both the victim and the suspect said that led to the assault. The man is still recovering from head injuries. The victim told authorities that Puttbrese had stayed at his apartment as a guest and attacked him after the two drank some wine, police said.

Man Who Ripped Cover Off Loses Library Privileges

WILLIAMSBURG - A library patron who ripped the cover off a copy of The Advocate in Williamsburg, Va., had his privileges revoked for a month, reported advocate.com.

The patron, John Callaghan, was offended by the cover of the November 11 issue, which pictured two bare-chested men, both performers with Cirque du Soleil, leaning in to kiss each other. Outraged that the library was using taxpayers' money to carry the periodical, Callaghan tore off the cover and took it home.

Callaghan, 77, could have been charged with destruction of library property, a Class 1 misdemeanor that carries a $2,500 fine, 12 months in jail, or both. The library sent Callaghan a letter Friday, November 21, informing him that his privileges will be suspended from November 24 to December 24. Callaghan said he won't contest the decision. "If that's what they wish to do, that's their business. It's their library," he said. "I've made a point, and I'm not a rabble-rouser. I'm not trying to cause trouble. I did what I thought was right."

Colorado Springs To Offer DP Benefits

COLORADO SPRINGS - Parents, adult children, and straight and Gay partners of Colorado Springs, Colo., city workers could get health benefits as soon as next year.

City council members voted unofficially Monday, November 24, to extend benefits to one person per household other than a spouse or child. Coverage is contingent on the employee paying 100% of costs. Council members are expected to officially approve the move at Tuesday's council meeting. The vote could make Colorado Springs one of the first cities in the country to offer coverage to such a variety of live-in relations, although some corporations already do. It also brings back in a new form a policy that became a key issue in April's municipal elections--same-sex benefits--although council members tried to downplay that aspect of the proposal. "I would still stand against a program that provides health care insurance only for same-sex partners of city employees," councilwoman Margaret Radford said. "This isn't that. This provides insurance for everyone." As with the same-sex plan, employees must prove that anyone they sign up lives with them and is financially dependent on them.

A divided council extended benefits to live-in partners of Gay and Lesbian employees last year, but the issue stoked the ire of conservatives and helped lead to the election of a more conservative council. That council voted at its first meeting to repeal the benefits as of January 1. A small group of community activists presented the new proposal to the council this summer. The idea was to meet the objections of opponents to the same-sex plan by taking away city contributions and broadening the scope of recipients. Supporters said the proposal increases health coverage to all families at no proven cost to the city. Several said it proves the same-sex repeal was about business and not morals.

Latvia's First Gay Union Planned

RIGA - The first same-sex commitment ceremony to be held in Latvia will take place this month, reported 365Gay.com.

Oskars Krumins and his longtime partner Aigars Rubezis will exchange vows in a ceremony conducted by Maris Sants, a former priest from the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church who was excommunicated after he came out.

It is not possible to officially register a same-sex marriage in Latvia, but Krumins said that with the ceremony, the couple wants to confirm their feelings for each other.

Latvian Family and Children's Affairs Minister Ainars Bastiks said he doubts the government will recognize same-sex relationships any time soon. Gay couples are not allowed to adopt children in Latvia. Bastiks called homoexuality "an unnatural practice."

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G/L Couples Respond, 'I Do', 'I Might', And 'I Won't'

BOSTON - No sooner had Massachusetts' highest court ruled that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry than Mike Sullivan's sister was on the phone volunteering to be the flower girl at his wedding, reported the Boston Globe.

After all, Mr. Sullivan and his partner, Ed Barton, have been together since 1981, they wear rings to symbolize their commitment, and they jointly own a home north of Boston.

But if the state issues marriage licenses to Gay men and Lesbians, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Barton will not be walking down any aisle. They believe that Mr. Barton's family would disapprove, and they feel marriage would complicate their finances.

"It's great that some people might be able to marry," Mr. Sullivan said. "But it's not the right thing for us."

In the aftermath of last week's court ruling, which could mean that same-sex marriages can take place as early as May, Gay couples in Massachusetts and elsewhere are considering whether or not to wed.

The response is hardly monolithic. In interviews with about 20 couples and people who study Gay culture, those most interested in marriage had children or pressing concerns about health or mortality. Younger couples, from an era when Gays were less closeted, were inclined to consider marriage an entitlement that would erase their perceived second-class status. And couples who came of age in the 1960's and 1970's were more likely to see marriage as a heterosexual institution, symbolizing a system that they could not, or would not, want to be part of.

Of those who rejected marriage, some felt it would be superfluous, and the offer of marriage even a little insulting, considering the length of time they had been together. Others felt that even though their relationships had lasted years, they might not be ready for such a step, or they were soured on the idea by previous, heterosexual marriages.

Many who wanted to marry said they hoped to eliminate the awkwardness of having the trappings of marriage without the title. Although couples from New York to California cited practical concerns, like tax laws and health benefits, few considered them the sole reason to wed. Sometimes those issues did not argue for marriage, especially if couples already shared property and had domestic partner benefits.

"I don't think you're going to see Gay people doing what some nonGays do: meet, have a wild weekend together and run off to Vegas to get married," said Steve Smith, a political consultant and Gay advocate in Los Angeles. "For those who do get married it will mean a whole lot."

Mr. Smith and others who study Gay issues said fewer couples than expected — about 6,500 in three years — had taken advantage of Vermont's civil-unions law, and fewer than expected had registered for domestic partner benefits. In Canada, where Gay marriage became legal in June, 1,547 couples had received licenses by Oct. 31, 638 from the United States. Many Gay Canadians have shied from marriage, preferring to stay in the counterculture.

"For all of our lives, getting married was not something that Gay people were expected to do," Mr. Smith said. "For straight people you grew up with that expectation. A lot of friends I'm talking to are saying, hey, we think this is a really important principle but we're not ready to do it yet. Gays will be more cognizant that it's not just a slip of paper."

Couples that would marry often cited multiple reasons.

"A lot of it is our fiscal responsibilities," said Jennifer Hess, who with her partner of 18 years, Jennifer Bragdon, is raising a daughter, 19, from Ms. Bragdon's long-ago marriage, and a son, 10. Ms. Hess noted that the couple, of Cambridge, Mass., were ineligible for the income and inheritance tax benefits of married couples. She also says that marriage would be easier for their son, Emmett, whose fear of being teased makes him reluctant to talk to children about his Lesbian parents.

"It's also just the clarity of our relationship," said Ms. Hess, who works at a software company. "It's so unclear when you say your partner, your lover, your roommate, your friend. When you say marriage, everyone knows what it means. It's what they've got and I don't have."

Chuck Colbert and Troy Golladay are so gung-ho on marriage that "the day the decision came out, I asked him and he said yes," said Mr. Colbert, 48, a writer and theology student. The Cambridge couple are already thinking of wedding dates: Patriot's Day, Halloween or July 11, Mr. Colbert's parents' anniversary.

Their financial incentives include the ability of Mr. Colbert to get health benefits and use of the car provided by Mr. Golladay's employer, Hallmark. But, Mr. Golladay, 34, a marketing manager, sees marriage as a statement that "whatever misconceptions people have about same-sex relationships, we're here to say that we're just as normal as everyone else."

Some couples do not want to be like "everyone else." Kenneth Sherrill, chairman of the political science department at Hunter College in New York and a specialist in Gay issues, said that when he and his partner of 36 years, Gerald Otte, were married in Canada, they could not persuade their friends to do the same.

"I had friends who had ideological reasons for not wanting to get married," said Professor Sherrill, 61. "There are a lot of people, particularly who were activists in the 60's and early 70's, who view marriage as an instrument of an oppressive system, symbolic of many of the bad things that happened to women."

That is why Joan Tronto, 51, also a Hunter political science professor, would not marry her partner of 10 years, Anamary Oakes, 54. "Marriage is such a patriarchal institution in its history," Professor Tronto said. "I don't need the imprimatur of the state, and I don't want it. Gay marriage will make the movement more effective in the short run, and it will make its goals more narrow in the long run. You can imagine a situation in which Gays would go along with restrictions on sexuality because, after all: 'If Gay people really wanted to have sex, they could just get married like everyone else. What's wrong with those drag queens?

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Remembering And Rededicating On World AIDS Day

By Elizabeth Birch

For too many people, AIDS is a disease of the 1980's and 90's - a recent nightmare which robbed us of millions of souls while we discovered prevention methods and treatment options. It was a time when "safer sex" came into the vernacular and therapies became available for people to live with the disease. But the nightmare is not over. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that new HIV cases have gone up 5.1 percent overall in the past 4 years, with a staggering 17 percent increase among Gay and Bisexual men. This is a sobering reminder that we continue to battle this disease, despite advances in prevention and treatment.

Back in 1981, the CDC published reports of an unidentifiable illness that had affected five Gay men in California. Little was known about this disease, which had not even begun to be called by the name by which we know it today - AIDS. This disease wreaked havoc in the Gay community in the early 1980's - a fast-acting and fatal illness that robbed many of us of beloved partners, family members, friends, and colleagues.

More than 20 years later, we know much more about AIDS, as well as the virus that causes it, HIV. We know how HIV is transmitted and we know about prevention methods that have been proven to be effective. Further, we have had our share of successes in this otherwise grim journey. Brave activists have provided the nation with a template for health advocacy and innovative community organizing. Persons living with AIDS have shown us grace, courage, and humanity under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. AIDS galvanized a nascent sense of politics in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community and strengthened the intensity of our movement. Brilliant researchers and scientists have brought us drug treatments that have extended and improved the lives of countless individuals.

For as far as we have come, there are many miles to go in our fights against HIV/AIDS. The attendant danger of complacency looms large in this country and the world. AIDS, unfortunately, is still very much with us and remains incurable. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for coordinating global efforts to fight AIDS, the disease has killed more than 3 million people and infected another 5 million in 2003 alone. The same sources indicate that as many as 46 million people are living with HIV. In the United States, roughly 40,000 new infections occur each year. The CDC reports that HIV infections are once again on the rise among youth and young adults and communities of color continue to be disproportionately ravaged by the virus. The treatments that hold so much therapeutic promise are also out of reach for many who need them most.

AIDS can no longer be considered a GLBT disease. However, it is undeniable that in the United States, AIDS has taken a staggering toll on our communities. Thus, we must maintain our focus and redouble our efforts to eliminate this disease. We must support the need for comprehensive sexual education, which includes truthful information about the role that condoms can play in preventing HIV transmission. We must implement the full array of strategies that have been proven to be effective in stemming transmission, including needle-exchange programs. We must support research on new treatments, but also work on ensuring meaningful access to these treatments. We must ensure that states have the ability to provide therapies for the most vulnerable HIV-positive individuals through legislation like the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA).

We must support community-based organizations as they work to prevent HIV among those most at risk for the disease. We must understand how homophobia, racism, and sexism compound the risks of HIV transmission. We must make sure that adequate federal resources are devoted to HIV/AIDS through programs like the Ryan White CARE Act. And lastly, we must continue to work for a cure.

One day soon, perhaps there will be little need for a World AIDS Day. Until then, we pause to remember, renew our focus, and redouble our efforts.

[Elizabeth Birch is the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.]

You Better Watch Out

by Harvey Fierstein

According to legend, New York lore and two major Hollywood flicks, Macy's Santa is the real deal. And tomorrow, to the delight of millions of little children (not to mention the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court), the Santa in New York's great parade will be half of a same-sex couple.

And guess who the other half will be? Me! Harvey Fierstein, nice Jewish boy from Bensonhurst, dressed in holiday finery portraying the one and only Mrs. Claus.

Won't America get a kick out of that? But what if Santa really was Gay? Could there be a another Mr. Claus? Would those grinches who, as we speak, are fashioning legislation to deny marriage to Gay and Lesbian Americans make an exception for the jolly old soul? What has Santa ever done except bring joy and gifts to all? Just the sight of his face is enough to bring a smile to the Scroogiest of politicians. Would his gifts of love and goodwill be answered with exclusion and derision?

The answer, history tells us, is "of course." Consider the Americans who have rained nothing but glory on our nation. Think about the magnificent works of Walt Whitman, James Baldwin and Hart Crane. They're just a handful of writers who shaped the American vision and yet could not achieve full citizenship because they were homosexual. How many wedding parties have walked down the aisle to the music of Virgil Thompson, Stephen Sondheim, Jerry Herman or Aaron Copland? Yes, we get to provide the music, but we are not allowed to get married ourselves. The next time you stand, hand on your heart, and sing "America the Beautiful," remind yourself that we owe those towering words to Katharine Lee Bates, a Lesbian.

Remind yourself, too, of the Rev. Mychal F. Judge, the fire department chaplain who was killed on September 11. There was hardly a religious leader in our city who did not glorify his name and hold

Developers Take Notice Of Gay and Lesbian Seniors

PHOENIX - Vern Johnson listened as the Gay couple described their friend's fear of being outed in Sun City, the Arizona Republic reported.

The two men met Johnson during their visit this month to a renovated central Phoenix hotel turned Gay and Lesbian retirement resort. In his 20-year health care career, Johnson heard familiar stories that inspired him to turn the outdated hotel into a retirement home that embraces Gay or Lesbian elderly residents.

"He didn't want his friends over anymore because he was afraid they (neighbors) might figure out he was Gay," Johnson said. "People want to be accepted, and coming out is not an acceptable thing in their community."

Johnson, 39, started his career as a social worker in Sun City after graduating from college in North Dakota, where living Gay wasn't an option in his rural town of 7,000. He ran hospice programs in St. Louis and Boston before focusing on Phoenix, spending 1½ years finding the Les Jardins Hotel and Suites.

Johnson took over the former hotel after it closed in May and spent about $1 million on everything from landscaping, plumbing, painting, and carpeting to updating the 1970s decor of a bar, restaurant and lobby.

He is among a group of entrepreneurs nationwide realizing the potential of serving an elderly population with few options when it comes to Gay-friendly retirement communities.

The Calamus Communities Active Gay & Lesbian Retirement Resort is aimed not only at Valley residents, but also other seniors who are willing to relocate so they won't have to compromise their lifestyle.

A rainbow-colored Gay pride flag stands alongside U.S. and Arizona flags near the entrance of the 110-room resort.

Johnson is counting on the Gay-friendly atmosphere to attract residents who are bored and lonely in their communities.

"What we are hearing so much from folks is living in Sun City is so isolated and everything stops at 6 p.m.," Johnson said.

The resort includes a rooftop patio, a pool and a 75-seat meeting room, and it offers daily meals, housekeeping, transportation to medical appointments and a 24-hour staff. The resort is for residents 55 or older and is designed for those who can live independently, but there will be staff available to help with personal needs like bathing.

Johnson wouldn't discuss price but upper-middle-class residents and will be the first of its kind in the state. He said heterosexual residents also would be welcome.

John DeLeo, a managing partner with Shaman Development Group, is planning Gay retirement communities in Palm Springs, Calif., and in Fort Lauderdale. He thinks 15 percent of the communities' residents will be heterosexual.

There is a Gay retirement community in Palmetto, Fla., and other developers are looking at establishing Gay-friendly communities in cities such as Santa Fe, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston, DeLeo said.

"Straight folks look at facilities within a 25-mile range of where they live, whereas Gays and Lesbians will travel considerable distances to places that are promoted as Gay-friendly," DeLeo said.

DeLeo, 57, spoke last month at the Gay and Gray in the West conference in Denver and told the audience that large developers of elderly housing are not marketing to the Gay and Lesbian community. He also cited a survey that indicated nearly 80 percent of Gay seniors would be willing to move into a Gay-friendly retirement community, but he said developers perceive a hostile environment among the overall elderly population when it comes to Gay issues.

A poll released this month said that about 80 percent of those in their 60s and 70s oppose Gay marriage.

DeLeo himself concealed his Gay lifestyle out of denial. He was married for 18 years and fathered two children before he publicly came out to his family and friends at 47.

After coming out, DeLeo started thinking about growing old and alone as a Gay man. He has been in a relationship with his 52-year-old partner for five years.

"I had a dream where I was dying and the only living thing I could call on was my dog," DeLeo said. "It is so incumbent for Gay folks to take care of themselves, because if they don't, no one will."

Boy Says Mom Is Gay, School Rebukes Him

Continued from Page One

you are Gay (underlined twice), and what Gay means."

On a separate form for the Louisiana Department of Education, Bethea said Marcus "told the other child that Gay is when a girl likes a girl. This kind of discussion is not acceptable in my room," she continued. "I feel that parents should explain things of this nature to their own children in their own way."

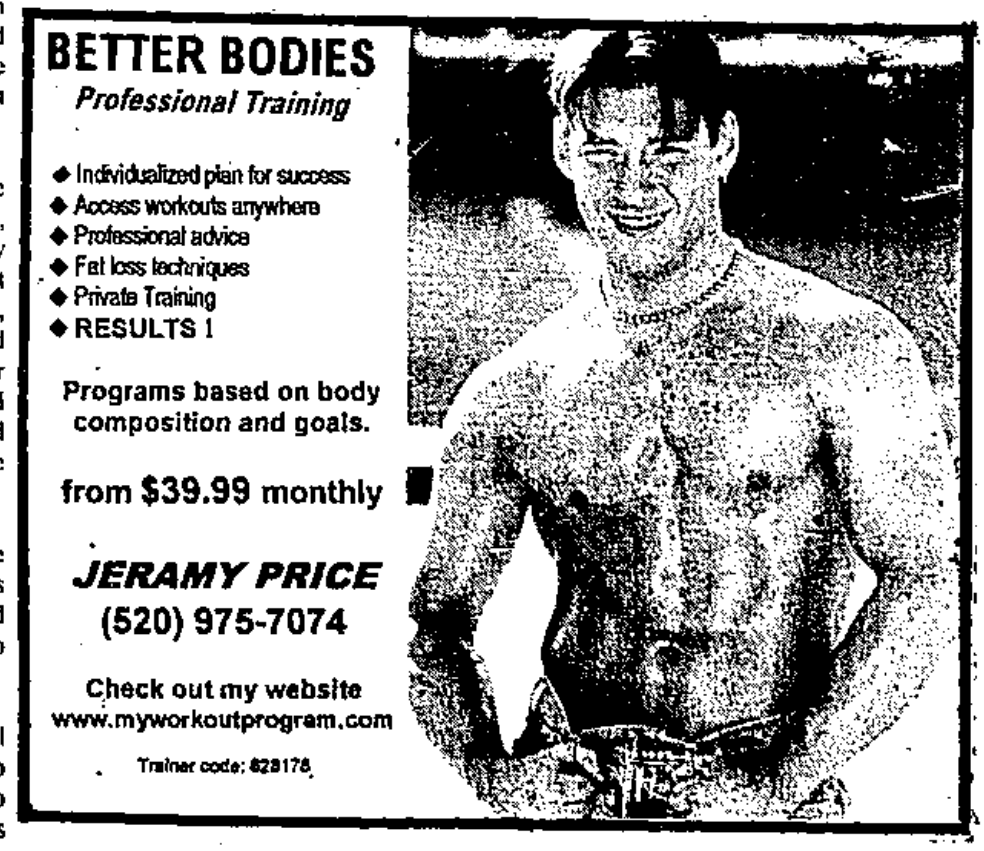
Marcus's final humiliation came during a one-hour "behavior clinic," where he was obliged to write repeatedly: "I will never use the word 'Gay' in school again," the ACLU reports.

"At the ACLU, we often deal with schools that mistreat Gay children and children who have Gay parents," said the ACLU's Ken Choe in a press release. "But this is beyond the pale."

On Monday, December 1, the ACLU sent a letter to Virginia Bonvillain, principal of Ernest Gallet Elementary School in Youngsville, demanding that Marcus's disciplinary record be expunged, and that officials apologize to the boy and his mother. Further, the ACLU asked for "assurances that (school officials) will neither engage in such censorship and discrimination in the future, nor retaliate against either Marcus or Ms. Huff."

"To tell a 7-year-old boy that he can't talk about his family not only makes that child feel confused and hurt," said Choe, "it violates his constitutional right to free speech and equal treatment."

Although the ACLU told Principal Bonvillain that it seeks "to work with you to resolve this matter without resort to litigation," the cases cited in the ACLU's letter suggest that the law is on Marcus' side.



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

JFK As Hero

It seems like every television network felt the need to do a show on the Kennedy family to mark the 40th anniversary of JFK's assassination. The shows generally said nothing new, but the familiar old nonsense was somehow comforting. I suspect that their aim was to comfort.

Two themes were repeated often enough to get my attention. One was the high ranking JFK's presidency gets nowadays in public opinion polls. The other was the question of what Kennedy would have done if he had lived longer.

The TV commentators, scholars and journalists mostly, did a lot of head scratching about the discrepancy between the high ranking that polls award JFK and the meager historical accomplishments of his unfinished term.

The discrepancy isn't all that hard to explain. Americans generally don't read books, and we especially don't read books on American history. If you added Alexander Hamilton to a list of presidents for some poll to rank, I'm sure he'd do splendidly.

The business of what JFK would have done if he'd lived longer made me cringe. I saw professional historians going on about this subject and spouting exactly the sort of romantic twaddle that their educations should have trained them to eschew. Historians of all people should realize that there's no way to comment intelligently on what Kennedy would have done.

If you have a dog that loves to chase rabbits and he dies, you can safely say that he'd have chased more rabbits if he'd have lived longer. The opportunities and exigencies of world affairs viewed from the presidential level are a bit more complicated.

The relentless unoriginality of the television shows and the wistful what-if's of the usually rigorous history professors finally opened my eyes to what people want from JFK today. They really don't care about the actual flesh and blood guy doing actual things in history. They just want a hero.

And the more I think about the essential harmless of hero worship, the less I object to it. Why not leave history to those of us who like to read it and let everyone else have a regular old hero? Take some of the load off Washington's shoulders. What's the harm?

A young friend recently asked me to recount the Cuban missile crisis for him and in doing so I realized that this is the perfect story for someone who wants to have JFK as his hero. For one thing the stakes were high – the continued existence of our species. For another, Kennedy rose to the occasion.

His real heroism in the missile drama was first of all that he didn't panic. With the species on the line, a situation when you'd expect everyone to panic, Kennedy stayed cool.

His next real heroism was that he wasn't impressed by his generals. He could easily have rationalized risking the start of World War Three by saying to himself, "These generals are the experts. I can reasonably rely on their judgment. Who can blame me if I do rely on them and it goes badly?" He listened to the generals' arguments and evaluated them without regard for all the stars and stripes on their uniforms.

The third really heroic thing he did was to continue his creative thinking. He needed to keep working the problem while under the gun, the biggest gun in history, and he did. He eventually found a way for the Russians to back down without losing face. It involved taking down some of our missiles in Turkey for the Russians taking down theirs in Cuba, an obscure but undisputed historic fact.

Kennedy was also heroic on a much smaller scale after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. He essentially told the press that it was his fault and that he didn't want to talk about it.

Most of our presidents would have tried to construct elaborate cover stories or phony explanations that would keep them at arms length from responsibility. Then the press would spend months or years to get the truth. Kennedy bravely and reassuringly obviated that squalid process.

As for declining to talk about it, he knew that he could face down the press and he felt that this was a reasonable time to do it. Today's press wouldn't stand for that from a president. Times change.

So, for anyone who needs a hero, there are good solid historically accurate grounds for using JFK to that purpose. I still find the real guy, warts and all, a lot more interesting. Once again, I'm in the minority.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

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POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

G/L Bait And Switch

During a recent interview on the David Letterman Show, Gen. Wesley Clark, running for the Democratic Presidential nomination said that Dubya's policies dealing with terrorism, Afghanistan and Iraq was one of the "biggest bait and switch campaigns foisted on the country which got huge laughs and a bigger round of applause.

Indeed, that's what the American public will be force-fed, through the gazillion-dollar election bid of Dubya's (I indeed wrote election, since it was the Supreme Court who installed him as the "Occupier and Thief" at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in December 2000, after the people had made their choice.) next year, despite the reality and the ballooning federal deficit.

Are we, as a nation: better off; able to go out and buy things in the stores; have more or less unemployment; respected throughout the world; and, feel that our security is as safe, that we're as strong as we were four years ago?

Of course the answer is a resounding "no" but the GOP, with their bucks, consultants and media whores (Fox News Channel) for one will try to show otherwise, with lies and distortion and many "bait and switch" efforts, getting away from their record and going for the issue to give them the "sure fire, quick-fix" at the ballot-box, like the recent court decision on same-sex civil marriage in Massachusetts, handed down by the state's Supreme Judicial Court.

Coming soon, heaping servings of "Gawd", "Homosexuality", "Traditional Family Values", "Special Rights", and "Imposing Their Lifestyle", brought to you by the GOP. Who cares about the economy, the environment, unemployment, or for that matter, basic civil rights, since it's them "homosexuals imposing their lifestyle" which is a bigger threat! Osama who?

Yes, those folks in the "Lily-White" section, also know as the GOP caucus on Capital Hill, have the sure fire answer, a proposed amendment for the U.S. Constitution banning any government recognition of same-sex relationships.

A "G/L Bait and Switch" has started, just in the nick of time with the calendar getting ready to change to 2004, a federal election, despite the facts, something Republicans just love to overlook, ignore, or for that matter, lie about. Got WMD's?

Massachusetts decision, and the other in Vermont showed what civil-marriage is, a state issue, so the battle will be long and arduous but the community will prevail in the end on this issue, despite all that will be thrown against the effort by opponents, including amending the U.S. Constitution, something attempted thousands of times and only succeeded on seventeen occasions.

Next year is important, the Presidency, every seat in the U.S. House (435), and one-third of the U.S. Senate (33), is up for election in 2004, so give your time and money to those candidates who don't practice the "G/L Bait and Switch" and who believe in and will support equal rights for all under the laws of this nation.

G/L Couples Respond

Continued from Page Three

I didn't fight to get married so that they could parade around.' "

David Gorman, 42, of Jackson Heights, in Queens, said marrying would be "aping a heterosexual convention" that would not strengthen his commitment to his partner.

Mr. Sullivan, 43, and Mr. Barton, 45, reject marriage for more practical reasons. "My partner's family is very traditional, very Southern," Mr. Sullivan said. "I won't say they hate me. One year for Christmas they gave us bath towels with his initials and my initials. But a wedding would push them over the edge."

What is more, Mr. Sullivan, an assistant manager for a convenience store, said that Mr. Barton, a software developer, "is way more financially responsible than I am. I like to give presents, I like to entertain, I like to charge my credit cards. He likes to save and save and save. We've tried hard to keep our finances separate, and if we got married, he'd be assuming my debt."

Some couples said they would marry largely for symbolic reasons.

"To me it makes very little difference economically, but I think it's important to show people that there's nothing they need to be afraid of," said Steve Ginsberg, 48, a screenwriter in California.

Jim Griggs, 45, who lives in Iron Station, N.C., near where he and Lane Lu :ceford own True Colors Carpet and a leather bar, said, "We have a lot of friends who, not to sound big-headed, kind of look up to us since we've been together 24 years, and we'd probably do it for them."

Marrying would be a low-key affair, Mr. Griggs said: "Go do the legal paperwork and have a hug and a kiss, and then go back to work."

Mr. Colbert and Mr. Golladay have a more traditional wedding in mind.

"The tricky part is I'm Catholic and Troy is a secular Mormon," said Mr. Colbert, who, perhaps in a fit of optimism, is writing his thesis on "the Catholic case for same-sex marriage."

At least they know they would register at Pottery Barn, Crate and Barrel and Restoration Hardware. The wedding would be "an emotional thing that will connect both of us and our families more," Mr. Golladay said. "Plus, hopefully we get some good stuff."

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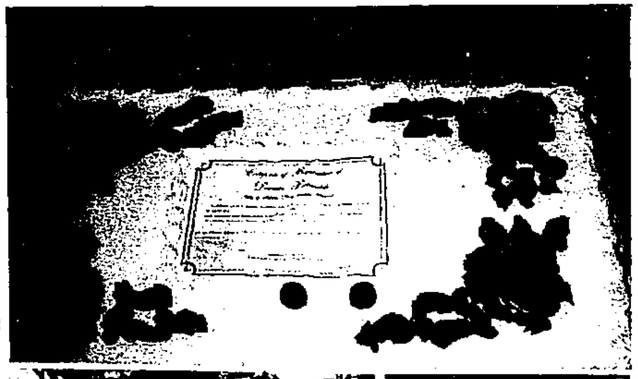

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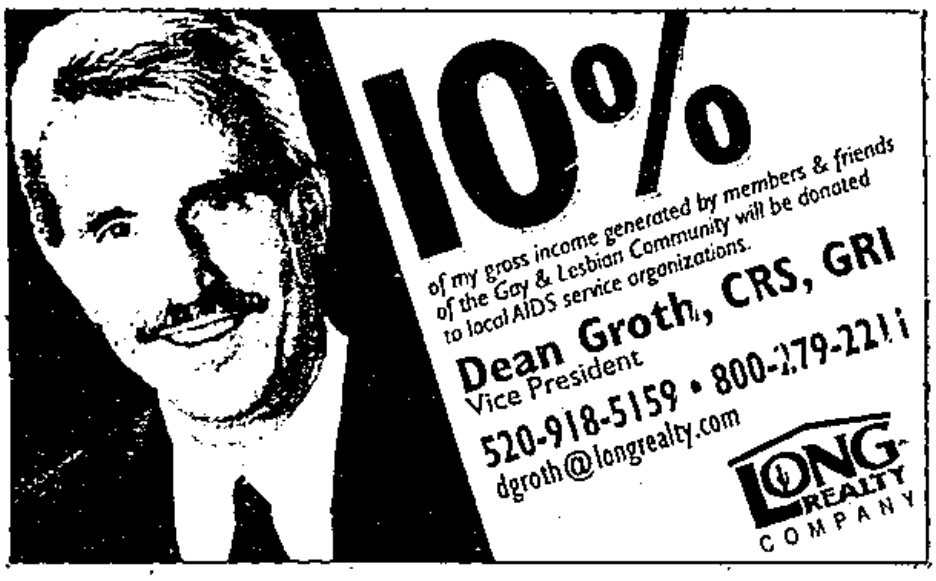

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G/L Tucsonans Speak About Changes

TUCSON - Gays and Lesbians living in what has long been a heterosexist world are thankful for a monumental year of change, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people began celebrating in the summer when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Texas sodomy ban. In September, the Gay and Lesbian community in Tucson scored a victory when the City Council approved the state's first domestic partnership registry, which took effect, December 1.

Earlier this month, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made what may prove to be the most significant decision of 2003 for homosexuals when gave Gay couples the right to legally marry.

Although many religious bodies including the nation's largest - the Roman Catholic Church - continue to define marriage as being solely between a man and a woman, the legal changes are confirming what local members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community say is an inevitable social shift.

"I think there's a tremendous amount of progress, both as a psychologist and also as a mother of Gay children," said Jean Baker, a Tucson psychologist and chair of the Arizona Psychological Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues Committee.

"Kids now still don't have it easy, but it's easier than it has been at any other time."

One need only go Downtown to Tucson's Eon youth lounge for kids who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, questioning or straight to observe change.

Among those who gather at the lounge are teen drag queens, leaders of high school Gay-straight alliances, and few question their ability to one day have a same-sex partner and raise a family.

The existence of Eon is a far cry from what 77-year-old Tucsonan Don Sullivan encountered as a young, Gay man in California. He and his partner never considered having a family. They supported the now-defunct Mattachine Society with cash only, for fear of having their names associated with a group that lobbied for Gay rights.

"I watch "Will & Grace" occasionally and I get a kick out of it. Maybe it's not realistic but it's not bad. Back in my time, my Lord! There have been positive changes since then," Sullivan said. "The fact that people now can be comfortable with who they are, that is so important. Of course, there's still a long, long way to go."

Sullivan's story and that of two other generations of Tucsonans from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, illustrate rights the Mattachines began fighting for 50 years ago are becoming a reality:

Growing up on a rural ranch in California, during the 1930s and 40s, Don Sullivan never heard the word "Gay" or "homosexual." He didn't know anything about same-sex attractions at all.

After a short stint with the military during World War II, Sullivan attended the University of California at Berkeley where he had a romantic relationship with a fraternity brother. The affair traumatized Sullivan so badly that he left school and delayed his graduation for five years while he went home to ponder what had happened.

"I didn't deal well. My mother knew something was wrong and we eventually talked about it," Sullivan said.

In 1952 Sullivan met Gene Verhaagen in what he called a "terrible" Gay bar in San Francisco. Both men were 25 and they began living together. They remained together until August 2002 when Verhaagen died of bladder cancer at the age of 75, just two months short of a planned celebration to mark the couple's fiftieth anniversary.

Now 77, Sullivan, frequently speaks to the local Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) organization. "When Gene and I were young most of our social activities centered around home," Sullivan said.

"Gay bars were unsafe. They'd bring paddy wagons and raid the place and then your name would appear on the front page of the paper."

Sullivan still refers to Verhaagen as his "friend" and says the couple, who moved to Tucson in 1978, never showed affection in public, nor did they ever present themselves as a couple aside from when they were with other Gay people. As young men working for big companies, Sullivan and Verhaagen teamed with a Lesbian couple who acted as their "girlfriends" for holiday parties and other business functions.

"You used cover all the time," said Sullivan, who is a board member for the local Primetimers, a group of about 80 older, Gay men. "We were always fearful because we saw so many people lose their jobs. It was a time when you were very, very careful. But at the same time we had a lot of cameraderie. This was the way it was and you conformed. We didn't dwell on things. We created a life and we had a good, grand, magnificent life together."

Though they didn't know one another at the time, both Amy S. Cramer and Amelia Craig Cramer began their "coming out" process as Lesbians when they were college freshmen.

"It was 1978 and I was at Dartmouth. I heard negative comments and I had some rejection by acquaintances and friends and temporary rejection by family members," said Craig Cramer, a Phoenix native who now works as a prosecutor for the Pima County Attorney's Office and has volunteered thousands of hours to the cause of equal rights for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender individuals, as well as people with HIV/AIDS.

Craig Cramer's partner, Amy S. Cramer, is an instructor at Pima Community College. The couple, both now 43, has been together for nine years and is raising a 4-year-old daughter together. When they met, Amy Cramer was Amy Silverstein and Amelia Craig Cramer was Amelia Craig.

Knowing they wanted to be a family, they adopted the maiden name of Silverstein's mother.

The couple became official domestic partners after a ceremony celebrating their union in Cambridge, Mass., in 1997 and had a civil union ceremony in Vermont in 2000. They plan on joining the Tucson's domestic partner registry and next summer they will travel to Massachusetts to legally wed.

HOROSCOPES

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Hang your festive balls and unwrap your holiday boxes as December gets fully under way this week. The planets weave and bob through the winter signs. But keep an eye on Mercury which flies into Cap only to retrograde back into Sag. Your secret is Out, baby! Ho ho ho. Hey who are you calling a ho?

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Have you been naughty or nice in your career ascent, Gay Ram? Get ready as December sees to it that you get what you deserve professionally. Perhaps that means the key to the starchamber but as Mercury retrogrades on the 17th, it can also mean a key to the utility closet. Don't enter the closet cousin no matter how utilitarian it seems. Friends are a source of surprises. Boom.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Queer Bulls can get their tails into all sorts of mischief as we move into December. Planets hovering in jolly Sag hang your Christmas tinsel all over town. Will you go hooves over horns by New Years? Pluto gives it a possible nod. Yet other surprises are in store too; retro Mercury balls up any jolly holiday travel plans though so check your vacation list at least twice.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Don't be alone when a cavalcade of planets cavalcade through Sag, Cap and Aqueerius this December. Heck, pink Twins couldn't be alone if they tried! Everyone tries to hook up with you and get next to you. How tiring and, according to retro Mercury, confusing. Try not to burn your candle at both ends. You can wind up with a tiny burnt wick and few like it that way.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Stick to the basics pink Crab as December sends you back to school for a refresher course. The elves are talking; don't ignore them. Remember that success is in the details and the best way to see the details is close up and from below. Retro Mercury places one or both of your claws in your mouth throughout the month. Think before you complain ... er I mean speak.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Are you talking to yourself at work? It will seem that way throughout December when Mercury retrogrades through Capricorn. Proud Lions can get bogged down in the day to day grind and need to find a refreshing escape before they go mad. Relationships are a source of surprises. Go go go to far-away climes to jumpstart the heart, mind and holiday spirit. Ho ho ho.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

There is simply too much activity going on at home when December gets fully under way. Queer Virgins are tempted to toss their yule log on the homefire and toast their chestnuts. Invite a certain someone to share the holiday meal, lover. But don't get too creative now; retro Mercury has you eating the finger paints and painting your body with gravy. Well OK!

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Your e-vite is in the email. Holiday parties pile up and spam your schedule through December. Sociable Gay Libras should carefully choose events that provide more punch than eggnog; Uranus has some electrifying surprises in store for you. Even retro Mercury says "Get out of the house" and provides a few choice words to guarantee it. Oops. Hang the mistletoe later.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Proud Scorps are tempted to drop their diplomatic veil this December as planets cluster in Capricorn. But keep your veil on compadre. Pluto makes you reassess your possessions and values while retrograde. Mercury whispers all sorts of nasty things in Santas ear. What is in that gaily wrapped parcel? Wow, a complete set of Guy Lombardo cd classics. How nice.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

First impressions are lasting impressions, Gay Archer so plan your debut as carefully as you would your exit especially in December. You will focus more on finances when Mercury retrogrades through Capricorn. Santa is reviewing your case and measuring your sock for cash or coal. Just how naughty have you been, Gay Archer? I hear the market in coal stock is rising.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps dream of adulation, attention and accolades this December. Dream on darling. There are too many planets tromping though your sign to keep all the messy details in place. Retro Mercury casts a few reindeer droppings in your path that you trudge onto center stage. My advice is to celebrate the holidays at home where you can be as Outrageous as you dare.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Your secret is Out Aqueerius. Stand back and watch the party unfold. Uranus in your own sign delivers one last zetz before ambling to the next chimney and retro Mercury cannot hold back your holiday spirit. December brings dramatic change to the forefront and encourages you to take matters in your own hands. Be sure that you wash your hands before every meal.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

You are a social force this December and your jolly influence is felt far and wide. But Guppies would be mistaken to believe that affable companionship is all there is to this month. Uranus demands that you plan some transformative new years resolutions. Was it something you said to friends? Blame the miscommunication on retrograde Mercury... and the spiked eggnog.

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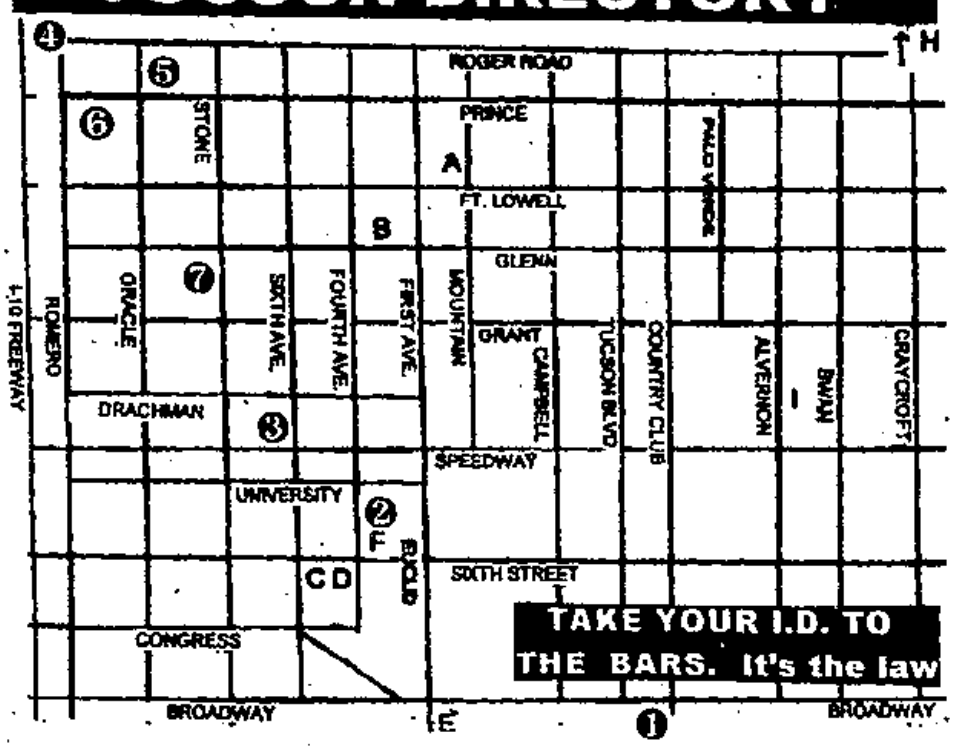

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2. IBT'S: 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
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4. NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL: 4001 N. Romero Road - 407-9622
5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
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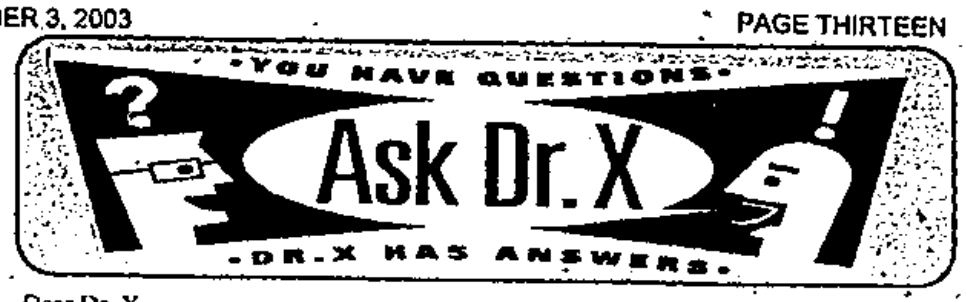


Dear Dr. X,

I feel like I'm growing apart from my friends. I enjoy going to the bar and hanging out with them, but now it feels like that's all we do. It's gotten to the point where they are calling on a Monday night to go drinking. I have a full time job, and can't/don't want to do this every night. When I don't go I look like a chump. I have this horrible vision of all of us at the bar in our 50's, drunk, with nothing else going on in our lives. This is not who I want to be. What should I do?

Signed, Socially Bored

Dear Socially Bored,

You have every right to say no to going out. If you don't want to go out, say so!

I can't tell from the tone of your letter if your concern is about going out too much, or drinking too much. If you want to hang with your friends without the bars, rent a video, go see a movie, or go to dinner. If you do not want to go out simply tell them you're not feeling up to it; tell them you had a long day and you just want to take a shower and relax, or tell them you have other plans. If your concern is about how much you are drinking, then you should take a closer look at that. You may want to talk to a professional in the field and get an opinion from someone not in your immediate social circle. As for looking like a chump, if they're still inviting you out then you're a chump in good standing & you shouldn't worry.

Dear Dr. X,

My boyfriend loves porn! He rents movies, buys magazines, & probably goes to bookstores. I am so upset. I feel jealous and upset when he does it, since I am more than willing to do all the stuff he sees in his porn. I feel like he's almost cheating on me. What can I do?

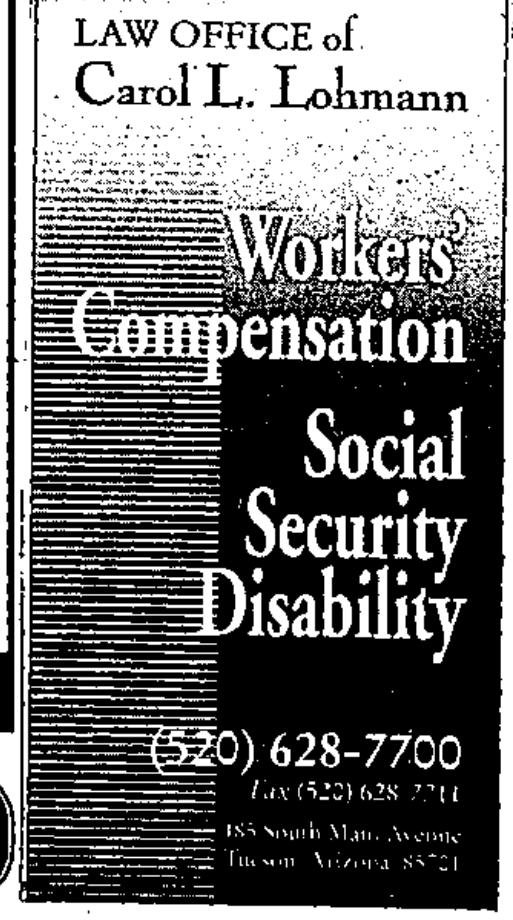
Signed, Porn Widow

Dear Porn Widow,

My first question for you is: have you actually talked to your boyfriend about this? Have you told him how you feel? You need to talk to your boyfriend and express your concern. Second question: can you honestly tell me you've never seen a gorgeous guy at the mall and not wonder what he looks like naked and whether he would be a top or a bottom? It's the same thing your boyfriend is doing. He's probably looking at the guys in the film because, well, ...porn stars are hot!

For a lot of people it's not so much the sex acts that they are looking at, but rather it's the different people in the porn videos that hold the attraction. It's cool that your willing to do what you see in the videos, but that my not be what he wants. Try watching a video with him sometime. You may find out that watching it together will get you more turned on and more into your sex life. Why don't you both take a little trip to a sex shop together? This is a way to show your partner that you can support his interests and you can be more open to other experiences. As for cheating on you, would you rather have him in your bed watching videos, or in your bed with someone else?

[Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]



Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Teri Aki, Ajia Simone and America.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to Reveille Gay Men's Chorus. 8:00 p.m. Sissy Bingo with Ajia Simone and Lucinda Holliday. 9:00 p.m. it's a special Holiday Benefit Show for Lucy's "Families In Need". Show stars Lucinda, Ajia Simone, Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr, Teri Akki and Lady Ashley. (Please bring a non-perishable food item or new toy).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

VENTURE-N - Help Jim and the gang celebrate their 12th Anniversary party with special treats and surprises 8:00 p.m. til closing. Live music with Richard Villa and Friends. Food and other specials.. Stay tuned for more details.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The 'DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

YARD DOG SALOON - Breakfast served from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Benefits the Balboa Heights Community Center for kids.

Non-Bar Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe/Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marty for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marty at 722-8531.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 12:30 p.m. Join Jay for a Lunch Out on 4th Avenue, and then head off to an afternoon of Christmas shopping while you're in the neighborhood. For more information, please call Jay at 624-5304.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the guys for a White Trash Christmas. We'll serve Rack of Spam and other white trash favorites as well as having a White Elephant Gift Exchange, and a showing of the ultimate white trash movie, "Sordid Lives". Seating is limited! For reservations, please contact Les at 690-9565.

Southwest Leather Conference "Second Annual Leather Family Gathering 2004". Phoenix, AZ at the Holiday Inn Tempe/ASU. Workshops, vendors, demos and the Southwest Master/Slave competition. Hosted by the Leather Lords and APEX. www.southwestleather.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Desert Voices presents "Home (Oh) For The Holidays!" concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Muse, 6th Street and 5th Avenue (across from Wingspan). Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 at the door and are available at Antigone's Books or call 791-9662. Come share the holidays with Desert Voices, the chous that tickles the funny bone and touches the heart!

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 a.m. Join Rich & Gene for a morning of bird watching as they go off in search of the Sandhill Crane which is migrating at this time of year. For more information, please call Gene at 625-8109.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Southwest Leather Conference "Second Annual Leather Family Gathering 2004". Phoenix, AZ at the Holiday Inn Tempe/ASU. Workshops, vendors, demos and the Southwest Master/Slave competition. Hosted by the Leather Lords and APEX. www.southwestleather.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Desert Voices presents "Home (Oh) For The Holidays!" concert at 3:00 p.m. at the Muse, 6th Street and 5th Avenue (across from Wingspan). Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 at the door and are available at Antigone's Books or call 791-9662. Come share the holidays with Desert Voices, the chous that tickles the funny bone and touches the heart

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for a Dinner Out at a Tucson favorite: El Corral. For reservations, please call Richard at 579-7291.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Michael hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Michael at 326-3555.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe/Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marty for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 10:00 a.m. Join Karol for a morning of miniature golf followed by a Lunch Out at the nearby Golden Corral. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Hearts Night. This viciously fun game is easy to learn if you've never played before. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Reveille Gay Mens Chorus brings its annual Holiday Concert "Peace on Earth". Everyone is welcome to a memorable evening of holiday music by the TAMMIES award-Winning chorus. Curtain will be at 8:00 p.m. at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams in Tucson, (Northwest corner of Adams and Norton, which is four blocks north oof Speedway and one block west of Tucson Blvd. Www.azstarnet.com/nonprofit/reveille to purchase tickets or for additional information.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff invite you to join them for Dinner & A Movie, as they prepare roasted beef, and show the movie "Boy's Choir". This is a limited attendance event, so be sure to call early. For details and directions, please call Jeff or Art at 762-9135.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:30 p.m. Join Michael for Mah Jong, an ancient tile game similar to rummy. If you don't know how to play, they'll gladly teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Michael at 326-3555.

Reveille Gay Mens Chorus brings its annual Holiday Concert "Peace on Earth". Everyone is welcome to a memorable evening of holiday music by the TAMMIES award-Winning chorus. Curtain will be at 8:00 p.m. at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams in Tucson, (Northwest corner of Adams and Norton, which is four blocks north oof Speedway and one block west of Tucson Blvd. Www.azstarnet.com/nonprofit/reveille to purchase tickets or for additional information

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 10:30 am. Smirnoff Sunday - $2 Smirnoff drinks (Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Greyhound, Sea Breeze, etc.) Watch the NFL on 15 screens. Music from the 50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's from 8-close.

IBT's -Open Noon $1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas.. Sangria Party $2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Bloody Marys $2.00 til 3pm Steak & Shrimp Dinner $6.99, 5-9pm. Karaoke w/Jerry D 7:30 to close. Free pool all day.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. $1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. $2 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws $5. $1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-6pm $2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. $2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers $1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 8pm to close.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, $2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Special drink prices on draft beer all night. Monday Night Football - $2 grilled jumbo dog w/ chips, $1.50 chili.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 'Theme Dance Nite' with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Ladies Nite. Free Pool 8pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs. WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open 5pm.

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, bar matches pot. Country music 9pm to close. $2 bottled Bud products 8 to close.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, $2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. $2 margarita on rocks all night. Pucker Shot Special during UA Ball Games. Music from the 50's thru the 80's.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. $1 Kamakazi, Jellos, Ladies Nite.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls ti drink specials..

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Kennel open at 5pm.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ- Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. Hip Hop or Dance w/DJ Shorty or Senna 9pm - close $1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or $1 Tequila shots 8-1.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, $2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. $2 Smirnoff Ice, hard lemonades, other bottled malt beverages all night. Free pool all night.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am Happy Hour 4-7pm. plus drink specials. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8pm $5.99. Karaoke w/Jerry D 7:30pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm Draft Special 12-4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish-leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. $1 off any drink or bottled beer.(Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex..

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, $2 well, domestic longnecks. $2 Mexican beers all night. Music 80's, 90's, 2k+.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open noon-8pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. .

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry (Pot Matched) Special prices for players.

WOODY'S - Open Noon $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night No cover.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, $2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Beginner country dance lessons 7:30-8:30. Country/Pop/Rock mix 8:30 to close.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GOGo Boys and Dance Party with 'T.C. Wildman' 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Fish or Shrimp Dinner $5.99 11am-8pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 1-4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 4-8pm. Call Martinis $3 from 4-8pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Bar matches pot. $2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close Drink & Shot Specials all night.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 10:30 am. Pucker shot specials during UA games Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close.

IBT's - 10am-5pm $4 Martinis and Daquaris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 1-7pm. Margaritas $3 6pm-close. Latino Nite. Dancing w/Dr. Carlos. Free SAAF HIV testing.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am $2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings $5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, $2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us!! Call 617-3100 for more info.

TGNetArizona. The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org

"OUT ON THE TRAILS" - EQUESTRIAN FUN!
Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. 4th Ave.

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628-7223.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA). Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTober FEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND. Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easly. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

NOTICES

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 615-3491, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information. Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all – Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2381.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS' Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

NOTICES

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 739 N. 4th Ave. All alcoholics welcome.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC? Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA) Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm, of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemail

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Maria Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgsasoftball.org

LUTHERANS CONCERNED. – Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

PERSONALS

LOOKING FOR A WORKOUT PARTNER. In shape man looking for same to meet 2 or 3 times a week. Can offer accommodations - massage. Call 745-0231 Reed. 1011

HOUSING/FOR RENT

CUTE 1 BEDROOM COTTAGE. Small complex. Large covered porches. Pool - BBQ. $425/mo. + gas and elec. Pima/Swan area. (520)326-1934. 1009

ROOMMATES

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HOME TO SHARE, FOOTHILLS. Rustic setting. Walking distance to National Forest. Great hiking area. Approximately 15 min. to UofA. $425/mo. 297-3127 1012

HOME TO SHARE WITH 35 YEAR OLD GWM. Private entrance. Foothills area, just north of Tucson Mall. Beautiful views of Oth. House keeper included. UofA student or 77, very clean, very open. $375/mo. Call 283-3940 or 861-3557. 1009

EMPLOYMENT

SMALL LANDSCAPE COMPANY SEEKING WORKERS. Salary based on experience. Call 7am - 2pm. 304-6969 1011

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE DOLLS AND COLLECTABLES. Vintage Barbies, Alexander's, Ken. Dandee's Broadway Village Dolls 20% Off Sale 135 South Eastbourne. (Broadway and Country Club). 1015

SERVICES

GREG'S HOUSE AND WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE. Also light hauling. Thorough and dependable. 623-9811. 1011

ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 8p.m. 745-0231 or 891-7859 1011

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish Massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph (520) 883-7496 1020

RELIEVE TENSION AND STRESS. Experience a dual massage by two handsome, virile, clean, safe, discreet, drug free, All American Men. Hourly. You will not be disappointed. Please call Mark or Joe, (520)235-0037. 1009

HEAVEN SENT ME. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, intimate, sacred healing techniques. The strong, gentle hands of a humble angel work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT 907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, intuitive, athletic and kind. 1005

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TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1012

HAVE A GLORIOUS TANTRIC MASSAGE. It is ecstatic. Call ahead. 22 years of quality professional experience. Marc - 881-4582 Licensed. 1012

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced – Economical – Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1015

Third Man Charged In Florida Gay Bashing

TARPON SPRINGS - A third Florida man was charged in the beating of a Gay couple at a Greek restaurant in what police are calling a hate crime. Michael Kitsos, 21, of Tarpon Springs, Fla., turned himself in to police Tuesday, November 25. Kitsos, along with John A. Himonetos, 21, and Stamatio's N. Kannis, 22, punched and kicked two men as they tried to leave Zorbas Restaurant and Lounge with friends, police said.

Peter Malamoutsis, 22, and R. Gregory Hall, 31, both of Bartow, were with a group of about 10 friends early Saturday, November 22 when Malamoutsis was approached by Himonetos, whom he knew. When the group started to leave, they were attacked in the parking lot, where they were called a derogatory name and told not to come back to Tarpon Springs, police said. Police said the attackers hurled insults in both Greek and English.

Mary Klimis Coburn, attorney for Kitsos and Kannis, wrote in a statement that the two men did "not hate anyone.... This case has been overcharged and now sensationalized by the media." Kitsos was being held at Pinellas County Jail on $70,000 bail for three counts of battery and two counts of aggravated battery. Himonetos and Kannis are being held on $41,500 bail each for two counts of felony aggravated battery and three counts of misdemeanor battery.

Report: Half Of U.S. HIV Cases Are In 15 Cities

Continued from Page One

The study also found that young minority Gay men make up 42 percent of all new infections: Rates reach as high as 15 percent with Latino Gay males in some areas, and as high as 30 percent in some African-American populations.

The report's overall numbers break down as follows, with a list of cumulative cases and the number of AIDS cases per 100,000 people:

California -- Los Angeles: 43,488 (14.4); San Francisco: 28,438 (34.3)

Florida -- Miami: 25,357 (53.8); Ft. Lauderdale: 13,594 (41.3)

Georgia -- Atlanta: 17,157 (30.3)

Illinois -- Chicago: 22,703 (12.6)

Maryland -- Baltimore: 15,792 (50.0)

Massachusetts -- Boston: 14,945 (10.8)

New Jersey -- Newark: 7,796 (21.1)

New York -- New York City: 126,237 (65.9)

Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia: 20,369 (26.5)

Texas -- Houston: 19,898 (18.7); Dallas: 13,119 (20.5)

Puerto Rico -- San Juan: 16,372 (35.3)

Washington, D.C.: 24,844 (152.1)

COMMENTARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

him up as someone to emulate. But remind them that he was a proud and openly Gay man and those same moralists will turn their backs in denial.

The unhappy tradition continues today. The Bush administration spends billions spreading freedom abroad while at home it devises legislation to deny equal rights to Gays and Lesbians. What is it with you people, anyway? Are you so insecure about the way you handle marriage that you're scared Gay folk will show you up? Trust me, we will make as much of a mess out of matrimony as you do. Just give us a chance.

In the end all I can say is this: If I really was Santa's life partner, you can believe that he would ask and I would tell about who has been naughty or nice on this issue. Still, as we approach the holiday season I'd like to imagine that fear and bigotry will not prevail in this land. Maybe this holiday season we can toss out some of the intolerance that nests in our hearts and make room for more love and acceptance.

Of course, there will be those who say, Santa Claus lives near Canada and isn't even an American. To them I reply, neither is anyone who would deny a person full citizenship because of whom he or she loves. Besides, we've been looking at a time share on the Cape. Happy holiday and remember to wave to me on my float. I'll be the man in the big red dress.

[Harvey Fierstein won the 2003 Tony Award for his performance in "Hairspray." This editorial is reprinted from the November 26 edition of the New York Times.]

G/L Tucsonans Speak About Changes

Continued from Page Ten

Craig Cramer said when she first realized she was a Lesbian, she believed that having a family was a choice between, "being who I was and having love in my life, or having a family." She was in her 20s when she realized both were possible, though both she and Cramer had few role models of other Lesbian couples who had raised children together.

The Cramers live in central Tucson and regularly attend Jewish services at two local synagogues. Craig Cramer converted to her partner's faith three years ago. They say there is little difference between themselves and heterosexual couples with children, except that they must file separate income tax forms and the law does not consider them both parents of their daughter.

As members of Rainbow Families, the Cramer family has been able to introduce their daughter to other children with two moms, and some with two dads.

The only things missing from their lives are equal legal and policy rights - but both feel such equality is inevitable. "Interracial marriage became legal in California in 1948 and nationally legal in 1967," Craig Cramer said. "I bet in our lifetime same-sex marriage will happen nationally. It's not about your religious institution. It's about legal rights."

Seventeen-year-old David Leimsieder was 10 years old when Arizona Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe, who lives in Tucson, confirmed that he is Gay. A little less than a year later, comedienne Ellen DeGeneres was on the cover of Time Magazine, announcing that she is a Lesbian.

"To have a Republican congressman with that kind of comfort level, that is very big. And then when Ellen came out, it really got me thinking," said Leimsieder, who is president of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Catalina High Magnet School in Tucson.

"I first came out as a Bisexual when I was 14-and-a-half, and to my parents when I was 15. It was kind of hard and kind of easy. My parents grew up in the hippie era and my friends are very accepting except for one friend who is Catholic and I'm still afraid to talk to him about it."

Leimsieder has a boyfriend and says he doesn't hesitate to hold his hand in public, though he said same-sex relationships are not very public at his school, which is only in its second year of having a Gay-Straight Alliance.

Much of Leimsieder's time is spent at Eon where he takes part in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender youth committees.

In the future Leimsieder isn't certain whether he will marry a man or a woman. But it's not something he worries about too much. Either way, he plans on being a teacher and he also plans on having a family.

"The Massachusetts decision tells me that people are beginning to open their minds to what love really is," Leimsieder said. "I do wish that Arizona wasn't such a conservative state. It makes me wonder about staying here. But I'm really trying to be hopeful. My hope is that in the future everyone, no matter where they live, will look at each other equally. In that kind of future, you will be able to hug and kiss whoever you love. It's about what's inside."

Howl at the Moon

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