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AGRA Awards TIHAN $3,000 Rodeo This Weekend

TUCSON - People living with HIV and AIDS in Southern Arizona will again benefit from the volunteer efforts of the Gay rodeo community.

The membership of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) voted to award $20,000 from proceeds of last year's Phoenix rodeo to four Phoenix-area charities and to the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), the only southern Arizona non-profit selected.

On behalf of the members of AGRA, Bob Pimentel, AGRA's 2003 Rodeo Director, presented the check for $3,076.92 at Charlie's, the popular country-western bar in Phoenix where AGRA holds its monthly meetings, to TIHAN's Executive Director Scott Blades, shown above..

The grant comes from the proceeds of last January's very successful AGRA rodeo held at Rawhide in Scottsdale. After the rodeo, the group members nominate worthy charities, and there is a long nomination and selection process, with a final vote of AGRA's membership determining the final disbursement of rodeo proceeds.

Last month, TIHAN sent two volunteers and persons living with HIV to the AGRA meeting to talk to the members about what TIHAN does and the impact it makes on the lives of people living with HIV in Tucson. The membership then chose to make TIHAN one of the five organizations receiving money from the rodeo.

Contributions to non-profits are based on involvement with AGRA, support of the rodeo, and contributions to the LGBT community.

"We're grateful to the members of AGRA and the Gay rodeo community in Arizona," said Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN. "These funds represent the hard work of AGRA volunteers and contestants at last January's rodeo, and we're honored to be chosen to receive this grant. And TIHAN and our friends will be at this year's rodeo next weekend helping make it a success once again!"

The 2004 Road Runner Regional Rodeo takes place Saturday and Sunday, January 17-18, 2004 at Rawhide in Scottsdale. For more information about the AGRA Phoenix rodeo and schedules and host hotels, the AGRA hotline phone number is (602) 265-0618, or their website, agra-phx.com. With its beginnings in Reno in 1976, the Gay rodeo movement has grown substantially, and raises thousands of dollars for charity each year. The Arizona rodeo is among the longest-running and best-attended on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit.

GLBT Political Forum Jan. 25

TUCSON - So where do the presidential candidates stand on GLBT issues? In light of the upcoming Arizona Presidential Preference Primary, a political forum for the GLBT community will take place Sunday, January 25, 3 to 6:00 p.m., at the Muse Cultural Arts Center Auditorium, 516 N. Fifth Avenue in Tucson.

This political forum is sponsored by Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, the Arizona Human Rights Fund, Southern Arizona Caucus and The Observer, Tucson's Weekly GLBT newspaper.

Candidates running for the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Green Party presidential nominations have been invited to participate in this forum, and as of press time, the following campaigns will have representation at the event: Senator Joe Lieberman, D-CT; Senator John Kerry, D-MA, Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-MO, former Governor Howard Dean, D-VT and General Wesley Clark.

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Poll: Arizonans Opposed To Anti-G/L Amendment

PHOENIX - More Arizonans oppose a constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage than favor it, according to a poll conducted by The Arizona Republic.

People were asked, "Do you favor or oppose a constitutional ban to prohibit the marriage of Gay and Lesbian couples?"

Among 600 respondents, 51 percent opposed such an amendment, 39 percent favored it, and 10 percent either did not respond or weren't sure.

The results of the poll garnered mixed reactions.

"Well, that surprises me," said Arizona House Speaker Jake Flake, who has supported a planned legislative resolution urging Congress to pass the proposed amendment. "I didn't know there were that many confused people in the state. . . .

"Most of the people that I surround myself with agree with me that marriage is a sacred institution and it should be entered into between man and woman. And one of the purposes is procreation, and that's pretty hard to do in same-sex marriages."

Michael S. Ryan is the attorney who represents a Gay Arizona couple challenging the state's marriage laws.

"I think it shows that sometimes the population is not as conservative, especially in Arizona, as our elected representatives," he said of the poll result. "And I think it shows that people are thoughtful about altering the Constitution to address an issue that would only touch a fairly small portion of the population."

The poll results did not vary significantly by age group, by gender, by county or by income, though when the responses were broken down by political party, Democrats were more likely to oppose an amendment and Republicans were more likely to favor it.

Margin of error for the poll was 4 percentage points.

The poll did not measure how many Arizonans favor or oppose same-sex marriage itself, and some respondents said they were against Gays marrying but still didn't think the Constitution should be altered.

Polls conducted by USA Today from March to December 2003 consistently indicated Americans as being opposed to Gay marriage, and a December poll conducted by the New York Times indicated Americans as being opposed to Gay marriage and supportive of a constitutional amendment prohibiting it.

Rep. J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz., who will co-sponsor the amendment in Congress, pointed to those polls.

"I'm seeing widespread support," Hayworth said. "There's not been a groundswell of negativity surrounding it. By and large there's support there for the effort to offer a constitutional amendment."

He blamed the Republic poll result on its wording.

"I think if the question were re-asked, you'd see very different results," he said.

And his opinion was echoed by Len Munsil, president of the Center for Arizona Policy, a Scottsdale-based conservative family group.

"I suspect the result would have been nearly exactly opposite if the question had been 'Do you favor or oppose preserving marriage as the union of one man and one woman in the Constitution?' " Munsil said.

Gov. Janet Napolitano has gone on the record to say that she opposes same-sex marriage, but she told The Republic, "Any time you're talking about amending the Constitution of the United States, you need to approach that very, very carefully."

President Bush has said that he would support such an amendment, "if necessary," but was not opposed to "whatever legal arrangements people want to make" in state laws.

But even Gay advocates are skeptical that a favorable poll result means that the general public supports Gay unions.

"My feeling is the majority of Americans oppose changing the Constitution," said Buddy Early, managing editor of Echo magazine, a Gay biweekly publication. "Whether or not they think same-sex couples should have all the same marriage rights is maybe a different story."

The Republic poll respondents were not afraid to split hairs.

Wallace Nelson, 78, a Republican in Mesa, told Republic pollsters that he favored an amendment against Gay marriage.

"I'm for letting them get their legal rights, but I don't want to call it marriage," he said.

Phil Davis, 34, is a Republican from Glendale, and although he waveringly said he opposed Gay marriage as a concept, he also opposed changing the Constitution to prohibit it.

And Sheila Vinson, 46, a Democrat from Tucson, thought that people who love each other should be allowed to do what

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UPDATE

Alleged Hate Crime Near Gay Bar

TUCSON - Daniel Fontes says his 21 year old brother Mark, who's openly Gay, was having a few drinks at IBT's on Fourth Avenue, a known Gay bar, on Monday night, January 12, while waiting for a friend. Daniel says his brother left the bar around midnight with someone, but he says he doesn't know who, reported KVOA TV.

It was 2:30 a.m. Tuesday morning (January 13) when Tucson Police discovered Fontes laying unconscious on the ground near IBT's. Fontes was rushed to University Medical Center where he is suffering from multiple fractures to the face and head.

Police are investigating the incident as an assault, but Fontes' family says it was a hate crime, "I'm wearing his watch right now this is a very nice watch, he loves this watch. I don't see why they wouldn't take it if it was a robbery, and it just seems like it was a hate crime my brothers a very happy person, very outgoing, some people just don't get along with him and people are just really cruel," says Daniel Fontes.

Last Audition For Desert Voices
Next Show January 19

TUCSON - If you're looking for a way to meet more people and be more involved in the Tucson community in the New Year, read on! Desert Voices, Tucson's only Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight chorus, now in its 15th Season, will be holding open auditions on January 19 for their upcoming show in April of 2004.

Desert Voices is a friendly group of singers who plan and create their shows together. The group sings music that is familiar, entertaining and hopeful for the future. Desert Voices is seeking new members who will fit the open, friendly style of the chorus, and who also have a passion for music and singing.

If you would like to get more information about the chorus, please call (520) 791-9662 or check out Desert Voices' website at www.desertvoices.org. Walk-in Auditions are also welcome on the 19th of January. All auditions begin at 6:30 p.m. at Water of Life MCC, 3269 N. Mountain Ave, just North of Ft. Lowell. This year, be a Voice! Get Out, Be Out, Sing Out and Share the Fun!

LGBT Youth Benefit January 19

TUCSON - Openly Gay singer, songwriter Eric Himan will be performing at Wingspan, January 19, 7 to 9 p.m., as part of his West Coast tour to raise awareness for LGBT Youth Centers.

Himan is celebrating the released of his third CD, "All for Show," and is looking forward to his first performance in the Old Pueblo.

This show is free for LGBT Youth and a suggested $5 donation for those over 22. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Volunteer Orientation At Wingspan

TUCSON - Resolved to get more involved in Tucson's LGBT community this year? Have you thought about volunteering for Wingspan, but didn't know what it might involve? Here's your chance to find out. A Volunteer Orientation will take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 24.

This orientation is geared for new and potential Wingspan volunteers, and is open to anyone wanting to learn about Wingspan's history, organizational structure, and the many opportunities to volunteer. It's also a chance to see the 13-minute video documentary about Wingspan's history that screened at last year's 6th Annual Wingspan Benefit Dinner. Whether you want to volunteer intermittently, on a regular basis, or for a specific project or committee, Wingspan can accommodate most levels of commitment.

To continue their commitment to diversity, Wingspan strongly urges people of color, Lesbians, bi women, Gay and bi men, people with disabilities, bilingual and bicultural folks, transmen and transwomen, sign language interpreters, people living with HIV/AIDS, youth, older adults, and straight allies to volunteer.

Drop by Wingspan for a volunteer application, or contact Mark, Wingspan's Volunteer Programs Coordinator, at (520) 624-1779 ext 15, or mark@wingspan.org, and he can email you one. More information about volunteering for Wingspan can be found by visiting Wingspan's website, www.wingspan.org, and clicking on "Get Involved" at the top. Internships are also available.

Fiesta De Los Osos January 16-19

TUCSON - Bears gather to celebrate once again in Tucson. The weekend of January 16-19 will be the eighth annual "La Fiesta de Los Osos," a party and gathering for those who are bears or are friends of bears.

Los Osos has become one of the premiere events for the Bear community. This year's theme is Mardi Gras. Activities include day trips to nearby attractions, and a Saturday afternoon cookout. Tucson's Bears of the Old Pueblo are the sponsors of the event.

For more information, go online to botop.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward 'Big Ed' Walls

'Big Ed' passed away on December 27, 2003 in Denver Colorado. Complications set in after a stroke he suffered in August of this year.

Ed was an active member of the Tucson Gay community. He was owner/partner of the Hides Leather shop at the Venture-N. Also, he was an officer in both TKO (Tucson Knight Owls), and Desert Leathermen.

Ed showed all the joy of life, fun, and challenges one could have. He loved to paint, play piano, read, and animals. He is survived by his sister, Betty Mills of Seattle. Ed was 76. He will be put to rest in his home in Portland, Oregon.

Donations can be made to: Dumb Friends League of Denver, (which is a homeless animal shelter), 2080 S. Quebec St. Denver, CO 80231-3298.

Please contact his friend Robert, (303) 246-8026, if more information or answers to questions are needed.

Tom Winters

Tom was born in North Tonawanda, New York on February 5, 1950, and died January 3, 2004 in Tucson.

He served with U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. While living in Tucson Tom became a member of MSN.

Tom is survived by his Brother, Father, Grandfather and dear friends.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for him.

Like To Read?

TUCSON - The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them.

The group meets once a month, on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Magpie s Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

Some of the books that have been discussed in 2003 include "At Swim Two Boys", "Confessions of a Mask", " Death in Venice", "Two Flutes Playing", "A Single Man", and others, both fiction and non-fiction. TGBC book for January is Paul Russell s "The Coming Storm". The group will meet to talk about it on January 19.

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Showtime Seeks Broad Audience With G/L Programming

NEW YORK - After letting them redecorate their living rooms, will American viewers follow queer TV characters into their bedrooms?

The appeal of Gay-themed programming in the wake of the Bravo hit Queer Eye for the Straight Guy is a question of keen interest to Showtime. This month the premium cable network is unveiling The L Word, TV's first ensemble drama featuring Lesbian characters, while preparing to relaunch returning series Queer as Folk with a new creative focus and promotional campaign.

Both series will be introduced into a cultural climate markedly different from the one Folk first entered in 2000. While its graphic depiction of male sex kicked up considerable controversy then, it paved the way for the current Gay-friendly programming wave epitomized by Queer Eye. And with issues like Gay marriage making headlines, Word and Folk couldn't be more relevant, according to out Showtime Networks entertainment president Robert Greenblatt. "People are much more open to these issues," he said. "The timing is right to get more attention on these shows."

But to court wider audiences, Showtime won't make its marketing efforts as steamy as the one that ultimately overheated for Folk, which has since seen its ratings decline. The new efforts represent a strategy shift for Showtime under Greenblatt, who envisions the next wave of Showtime programming aiming for a broader audience. His predecessor, longtime president Jerry Offsay, catered to distinct audience segments with series like the Hispanic-themed Resurrection Blvd. and black family comedy Soul Food. "The niche strategy is one that can work, but I want to go beyond that," said Greenblatt, a former Fox executive who joined Showtime in July after a successful run as an executive producer of HBO's Six Feet Under, among other shows. Establishing both Word and Folk is crucial as the network's reliance on original programming increases because of the dry spell of hit films coming from its main theatrical supplier, Paramount Pictures. Adding to the pressure is the impending departure of several other Showtime series, including The Chris Isaak Show and Food, which end this year after their third and fifth seasons, respectively. "I don't want to look to next year to launch a whole new slate," Greenblatt said. "You need carryover and stability."

Folk, which revolves around the lives of a group of Gay friends living in Pittsburgh, was originally touted by Showtime with a $10 million promotional budget that flaunted the flesh and invited viewers to glimpse what all the fuss was about. (The drama is based on a British series of the same name.) But as the opening hype for Folk waned, so did the ratings, which have dropped from season to season. (Showtime does not disclose Nielsen figures.) Folk drew some critical acclaim but was ignored by Emmy and Golden Globe voters. Showtime cut its marketing expenditures for subsequent seasons as well as its episode order, which dropped from 22 in its first year to 14 in its third and upcoming fourth seasons beginning in April.

Ron Cowen, co-executive producer and creator of Folk with Daniel Lipman, believes all the hubbub over the sex on Folk eclipsed the series's more substantive attributes. "I think a lot of other aspects of the show—the characters, the issues--were overlooked because people were so shocked by the sexuality of the characters," he said. After experiencing the TV equivalent of a one-night stand, Folk is now going a more respectable route in hopes of a long-term relationship with viewers. The upcoming season will feature more story lines highlighting the maturation of the characters, shifting focus from the perils of promiscuity to the complexities of relationships. Showtime will support Folk with a new marketing campaign that will spend millions more than it did last season.

To hear Showtime tell it, the changes are not an intentional outreach to a broader audience but an organic outgrowth of the Folk narrative. But Greenblatt acknowledged that less clubbing and more cuddling will appeal to more viewers. "I'm hoping the stories will be seen as a bit more universal," he said. "A lot of people look at the show and think it's a crazy Gay sex club show, but it's not." Folk won't stray too far from its raunchy roots either; that would risk alienating not only its core fan base of Gay men but straight women who enjoy the series' steamy side. "Folk will still be sexy and audacious," Greenblatt said. "We're not turning into The Brady Bunch."

Like Folk, Word is a drama offering an authentic slice of Gay life in America, but it focuses on a group of Lesbian friends in West Hollywood, Calif., with only slightly less sizzle. Showtime will promote Word, which debuts January 18, in both mainstream and Gay-oriented media, but the message will not emphasize the bawdiness that overwhelmed Folk. Instead, Word will play off its coy title by highlighting other "L words" in its ad copy--including liberty, love, legs, and lunch—that convey the universality of the show's themes. "We're trying to market it in a way that feels inclusive and relatable but with a twist that makes it fresh and unique," said Stephanie Gibbons, senior vice president of advertising at Showtime. Given the hetero male species's notorious fascination with all things Lesbian, Word might seem poised for greater crossover appeal than Folk. But while the campaign promoting Word certainly won't hide its comely female cast, it will not go too over the top. "We're not going after the salacious element," Gibbons said.

It remains to be seen whether too much sex will sink Showtime's efforts to sell Folk into syndication--an important revenue source for the network in the face of declining subscriptions. Cleaning up the content may be a little easier with the new creative direction of the fourth season, but Greenblatt rejects the notion that Folk is upgrading its image for syndication. "Making it network-friendly hasn't crossed our minds," he said, pointing to HBO's recent off-network sale of Sex and the City episodes to TBS. "We have some content issues to deal with, but I don't think they're insurmountable." Whether on Showtime or in syndication, Gibbons believes series like Queer Eye have whet viewer appetites for deeper explorations of Gay life. "It opens the door for increased sampling," she said. "People's minds are more open than they were four years ago."

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New Jersey Passes Domestic Partners Law

TRENTON - The New Jersey Senate passed a statewide domestic partner bill on Thursday, January 8 "without a word of opposition," the Associated Press reported, on a 23-9 vote.

Gov. James McGreevey signed the measure into law, Monday, January 12. It was passed by the state Assembly with one vote to spare last December.

The partnership plan provides same-sex couples, and seniors over 62, with certain survivor rights, hospital visitation and control of each other's medical decisions. Domestic partners of state employees will receive workplace benefits, and state insurance companies will be obliged to make partner coverage available to private companies as well. (Private companies, however, will retain the choice of whether to offer partner perks.)

As in California, the very existence of a statewide registry creates an infrastructure for expanding benefits. California's statewide registry began as a mostly symbolic institution, but will rival Vermont civil unions when the most recent domestic partner law takes effect (barring a successful court challenge) in January of 2005.

New Jersey joins a few states with a statewide system of recognizing same-sex couples.

Although the new plan was initiated by the Legislature, one could argue that New Jersey's hand was partly forced by the courts. Lambda Legal is pursuing a freedom-to-marry case against the state, which is expected to wind up before the state Supreme Court within a year or two.

In November, Superior Court Judge Linda Feinberg ruled against Lambda's Gay and Lesbian plaintiffs, but hinted heavily that same-sex couples deserve at least some rights, and that the Legislature should consider their dilemma. A few days later, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalized same-sex marriage in the Bay State, leaving lawmakers scrambling after the fact to contrive a compromise plan.

Aside from California's domestic partner registry, Hawaii has a scheme called reciprocal beneficiaries, which evolved during the Island State's marriage lawsuit in the mid-1990s. Vermont civil unions, which were effectively ordered by the state Supreme Court, provide all the benefits granted to a "spouse" under state law, without exception.

No state, however, goes as far as the upcoming situation in Massachusetts this May, when the high court has ruled that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry under the state Constitution.

Activists Prepare Mass Valentine's Day Rallies For Same-Sex Marriage

LOS ANGELES - Lesbian and Gay rights groups announced on Thursday, January 8 plans to fight for same-sex marriage during the week of Valentine's Day, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

During what they've called "Freedom to Marry Week" (Feb. 9-15), activists from the Equality Campaign, DontAmend.com and Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) plan to hold rallies across the country and flood marriage bureaus with same-sex couples eager to tie the knot.

"It's time to start acting instead of reacting," explained Robin Tyler, co-founder of DontAmend.com.

Tyler's Web site is devoted to stopping the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), which would ban same-sex marriage. Tyler is also the executive director of The Equality Campaign, an activist organization that coordinates GLBT activism. Previously she helped start StopDrLaura.com, an organization that successfully countered anti-Gay radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger's national television program.

The activists list more than 20 cities as organizing civil rights rallies and other events for Freedom to Marry Week. Tyler hopes that number will grow.

"If they've never done a rally, we'll teach them how. We'll show them 'Activism for Beginners 101,'" she said.

"We are not asking for special rights, we are seeking equal rights," said Rev. Troy D. Perry in a prepared statement. Perry, the founder and moderator of MCC, made headlines for being one of the first Americans to marry his longtime partner, Philip Ray DeBlieck, in Canada last June.

"We plan to use the events of Valentine's Week as educational events -- we're inviting the media and the press to join us all across the country, and we plan to use this opportunity to explain why God's Gay and Lesbian children should be entitled to full equal rights, including marriage rights," said Perry.

Both Perry and Tyler stressed the importance of same-sex couples applying for marriage licenses.

"Marriage bureaus are the new lunch counters," Tyler said, comparing the struggles of Gays and Lesbians to the time when African Americans held sit-ins at restaurant lunch counters that refused to serve them during the civil rights struggle.

Moreover, Tyler demanded that the GLBT community accept nothing less than full equality. "I don't want our community to settle for second-class partnerships like civil unions that don't give us any federal rights whatsoever. Why do we think its progress to be offered less?"

"I think it's a really important issue for us; I don't think we should apologize for this," Tyler said. "Marriage is a human right, not a heterosexual privilege."

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Cheney Flip-Flops On G/L Marriage

WASHINGTON - Vice President Dick Cheney says he will support a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, a reversal of his stand during the 2000 presidential campaign.

In a nationally televised debate in 2000 with then Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Sen. Joe Lieberman, Cheney was asked about Gay marriage.

"The fact of the matter is we live in a free society, and freedom means freedom for everybody," Cheney said. "And I think that means that people should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into. It's really no one else's business in terms of trying to regulate or prohibit behavior in that regard.

"The next step, then, ... is the question you ask of whether or not there ought to be some kind of official sanction, if you will, of the relationship," said Cheney. "That matter is regulated by the states. I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions, and that's appropriate. I don't think there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area."

But that was before the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled the state cannot prevent Gays from marrying, before California and New Jersey passed domestic partner laws, before the extreme right in the GOP lambasted him for his support of same-sex rights (albeit limited) and before a Colorado Republican drafted legislation in Congress last year restricting marriage to a "union between a man and a woman."

Now, Cheney says he will support President Bush if the president pursues a ban on Gay marriage." Obviously, the president is going to have to make a decision in terms of what administration policy is on this particular provision, and I will support whatever decision he makes," Cheney said in an interview with the Denver Post.

Cheney would not say whether his changed opinion was the result of White House pressure or if he, as the parent of a Gay child, has discussed same-sex marriage with the President.

Cheney's daughter Mary is a Lesbian and served as an advisor in the 2000 campaign. Prior to that she worked for the Colorado Rockies and the Coors Brewing Co. where, among other duties, she worked on outreach to Gays and Lesbians. During the 200 campaign the fact she is Gay and has a committed partner became national news.

So far Mary Cheney has not commented on her father's new stance on Gay marriage or said if she will be involved in his 2004 campaign.

Many Gay Fathers Opt To Stay At Home

MINNEAPOLIS - Demographers say there is an emerging population of Gay men who are not only raising children, but who are also committed to the idea that one parent should leave the workplace to do it, the New York Times reported.

Of 9,328 same-sex couples with children whose census returns were randomly selected for analysis by the Census Bureau, 26 percent of the male couples included a stay-at-home parent, according to Gary Gates, a demographer with the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington.

That figure is 1 percentage point more than for married couples with children and 4 percentage points higher than for female couples, said Gates, who performed the analysis.

The percentage of men who stay at home is significantly smaller among married heterosexual couples, Gates said.

To some Gay men, the idea of entrusting the care of a hard-won child to someone else seems to defeat the purpose of parenthood.

Same-sex couples with a stay-at-home parent are doing this even though census figures show that their median household income, $35,000, is lower than the $45,000 for a heterosexual married couple with a stay-at-home parent, Gates of the Urban Institute said.

"There's a preponderance of evidence that shows Gay men make less than married men," he said.

The 2000 census found that there were 60,000 male-couple households with children in America, and close to 96,000 female-couple households. Those figures are about 20 percent of all male couples and a third of all female couples.

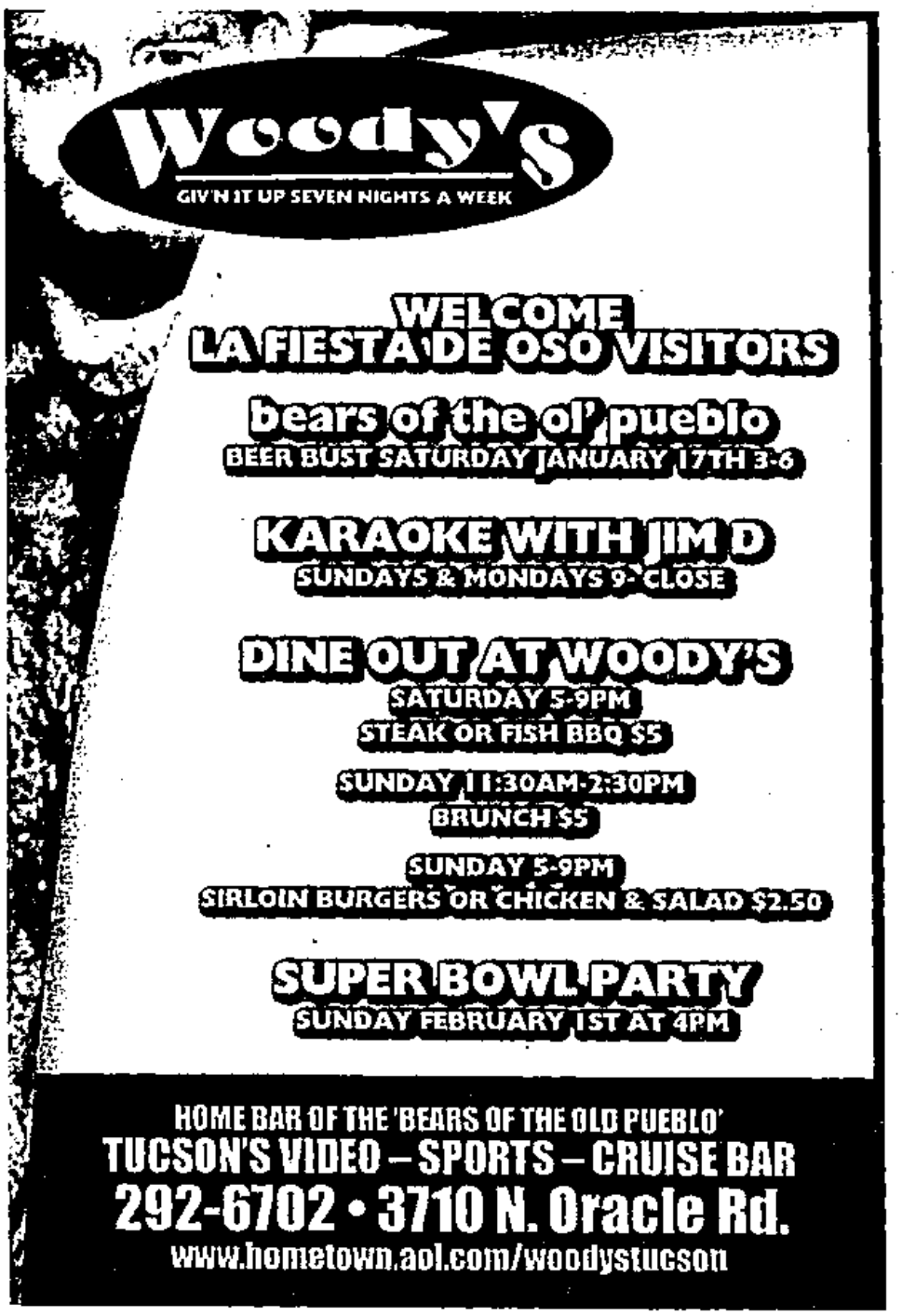
Sociologists, gender researchers and Gay parents say that because Gay men are liberated from the cultural expectations and pressures that women face to balance work and family life, they may approach raising children with a greater sense of freedom and choice.

That staying at home constitutes the just and noble course of parenthood was a sentiment echoed again and again in more than a dozen interviews with Gay fathers.

Mike Farina, 40, left his job as an engineer in Anaheim, Calif., after adopting twins with his partner in 1998.

"In the beginning, I was even pigheaded about it," said Farina, who now has four children with his partner. "I wanted the kids to bond with us. I didn't want any help. In those first few years, I didn't even get baby sitters. I thought, 'That's my job.' "

Though many Gay fathers may enter into domesticity with few conflicts or reservations, the pressures of starting a new life stripped of professional status can mirror those faced by nonworking mothers. The transition may be even rockier, given that male identity is often defined by professional achievements.



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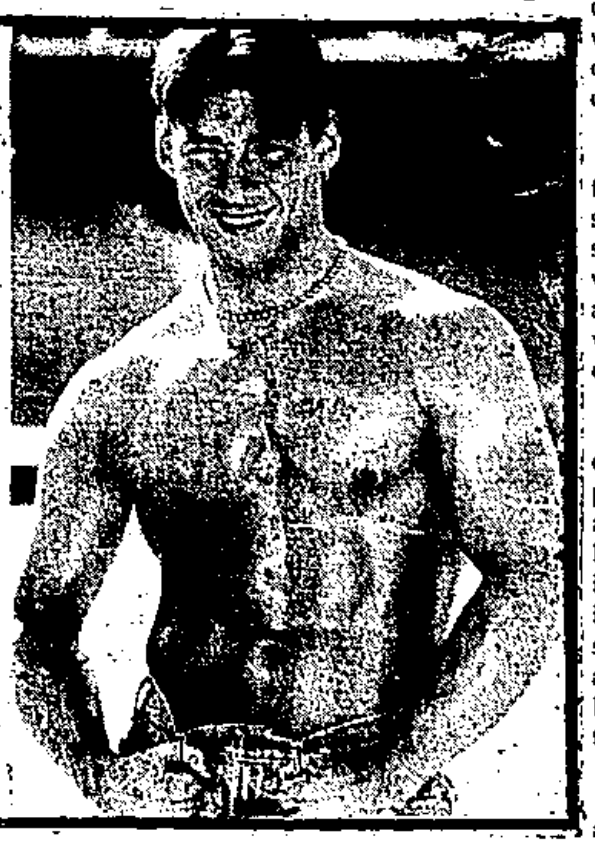

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

Lenny Bruce

The governor of New York has pardoned dead stand-up comic Lenny Bruce for the crime of talking dirty. Bruce died an awfully long time ago, on August 3,1966, but then again he did talk awfully dirty.

The pardon was an act of unparalleled presumption, exceeding even the presumption of the current Pope when he had the temerity to pardon Galilleo for the crime of being right when the Church was wrong. At least the Pope could have argued that Galilleo's being Catholic implied that his spirit would have welcomed the pardon. The governor of New York, however well-meaning, could make no analogous claim.

In life Bruce steadfastly refused to recognize the government's right to control what he said. If he weren't already dead these many years, he'd probably die laughing at the governors preposterous gesture.

The TV news, both cable and broadcast, felt compelled to do a little dance around who and what Bruce was. Their timidity stood in ironic contrast to the comic's bravery. The news people guardedly hinted at Bruce's importance, but not one of them that I heard could nerve herself up to say that Bruce was a "comic genius" and a "great American artist," both of which he was.

It would be impossible to overstate Bruce's influence on stand-up comedy. It's easier to name the comics he hasn't influenced than those he has. Bob Newhart and Bill Cosby come to mind, funny guys but not in his league or anywhere near it.

Anytime you hear a comic who threatens your own cherished assumptions so pointedly that it makes you angry, you're suffering from the legacy of Bruce. Anytime you hear a comic who's willing to risk being booed by his audience, there's Bruce again.

The closest comparison I can think of among comics working today is Bill Mahr, but, except for his flashes of gutsiness, Mahr is no Bruce. For one thing, Bruce was working in what's been called the Age of Conformity, the late 1950s, an era when racial segregation was legal, when people tried to look and sound and think the same as everyone else, when homosexuality hadn't even begin to impinge on the mainstream consciousness.

And Bruce's style was unlike that of anyone working today. It mixed fixed bits with free associations and stream of consciousness and temper tantrums and complicated interactions with the audience.

Everyone makes a big deal of the fact that Bruce talked dirty, but I've yet to see an insightful discussion of the significance of that fact. What does the whole concept of dirty words mean to an artist whose medium is language? What would a dirty note mean to a composer? A dirty color to a painter?

Dirty words in Bruce are a challenge to the authority of whoever presumes to designate them as dirty. They are also intertwined with issues of moral legitimacy, but the nature of the connection is complex and fluid. As a mental exercise, if you contemplate a morally noble sentiment expressed in dirty words and then an immoral sentiment expressed in lofty language, you can begin to get a feeling for the playground that Bruce was operating on.

He was a satirist and a moralist in a time when he thought that our country was a disaster and an outrage, especially in its repression of sex and of individual expression. He was a great artist because of the originality of his ideas, and it's in the nature of art that the ideas can't be extracted from the art itself, in this case the performance.

One of his incredibly original interactions with an audience that I can't remember if I saw on an actual tape of Bruce or as part of a movie made about him involved his asking the males to raise their hands if the answer was "yes" no an outrageously indecent question he posed about their sexual experiences with their present dates. After a silent moment of complete shock at the question, there was an explosion of laughter. A few and then several young men raised their hands. Another explosion. Then some of the women started to pull down the hands of their dates without fully leaving their seats. Pandemonium.

Like many artists, Bruce's personal life was a mess -- both morally and generally, but that's another story.

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

Arizonans Opposed

Continued from Page One

they want.

"Actually, I really don't feel it should have anything to do with the Constitution," she said. "It's more of a religious issue than anything."

Several constitutional amendments are proposed in every session of Congress, but they are seldom passed. The last one, regarding congressional pay increases, was ratified in 1992, and the next-to-last, giving 18-year-olds the right to vote, was ratified in 1971.

GLBT Political Forum Jan. 25

Continued from Page One

Candidates and elected officials from posts ranging from the state legislature to county offices have also received an invitation to take part.

For more information contact Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, or AHRF by email kfelan@ahrf.org or by phone (520) 245-9009, or go online to tucsonobserver.com.

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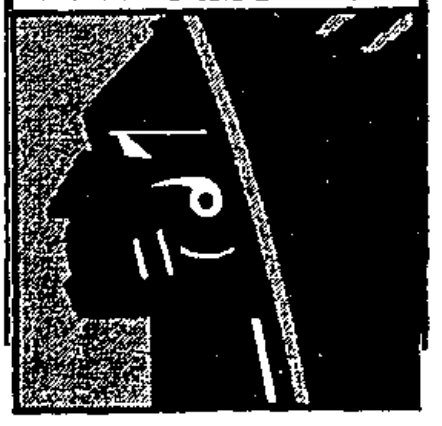

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Dinner Show
(Every 4th Sunday)

MONDAY
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WEDNESDAY
Shrimp Fry

FRIDAY
All You Can Eat Fish Fry
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SATURDAY
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Politics 2004
by Rick Romley

Wesley Clark for President

As the ball dropped in New York's Time Square and the animatronic Dick Clark smooched his wife, to the dismay of those New Years' revelers taking in the televised festivities from the safety of their homes, another year was "in the can" and a "Baby New Year" was born, one for which many have been long awaiting, with a presidential election scheduled to take place. It's been four years since the last election when the current occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Dubya, was selected by the U.S. Supreme Court, and not elected, by the people.

With the coming of the new year is the opportunity to restore democracy in this country, and most important, to make the needed changes in the nation's capital since with the stagnant economy; more jobs lost now than during the Great Depression; a ballooning budget deficit; civil rights being trampled for the sake of security; unilateral invasions of other countries based on falsehoods; and, a bungled foreign policy which has made the United States a pariah nation in the eyes of the world, Dubya's "achievements" during this time, change must take place now and that individual to lead this country out of the current mess and quagmire, is Wesley Clark, running for the Democratic nomination for President.

For this upcoming election, the mainstream media, in their unceasing efforts, would love to have Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) voters believe that there is only one choice for them in the Democratic Presidential nomination contest, an illusion not the political reality. GLBT voters do have an assortment of choices on the Democratic side, compared to none with the current occupant of the White House, and Wesley Clark does stand proud on issues of concern.

Wesley Clark supports full federal funding for HIV/AIDS programs, including the Ryan White CARE Act, Early Treatment HIV Act, and for more research on HIV and AIDS. For the future of our nation, America's youth, age-appropriate sex education courses would be the curriculum with Clark in the White House.

As we have read or seen, the issues surrounding same-sex couples and their rights have come into the forefront on both the political and judicial spectrum and will play an important role in upcoming presidential election. In the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) questionnaire, Clark said of same-sex couples, "Currently, most of our laws extend rights and responsibilities to only heterosexual families and explicitly exclude same-sex couples from enjoying those same rights and responsibilities. It is the best interest of our country to promote stable communities and families, this includes both heterosexual and same-sex families. Accordingly, I believe that same-sex couples shouldn't be denied rights to pensions, health insurance, family medical leave, bereavement leave, hospital visitation, survivor benefits, and other basic legal protections that all families and children need."

Clark's statement on same-sex couples doesn't stop at the local and state levels, since he supports federal recognition, and by: expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover same-sex partners; modifying Social Security to pay survivor benefits to same sex partners; fair and equitable treatment for same-sex couples with the same benefits as opposite-sex couples for federal income tax purposes; and, to expand medical, dental and insurance coverage for the same-sex domestic partners, and their children, for federal employees. "If Fortune 500 companies have adopted policies to permit employees to designate domestic partners to receive employment benefits, so too can the federal government," Clark said in the HRC questionnaire, adding as well, his support for the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, legislation that would enable an American citizen to petition for immigration sponsorship for a same-sex partner, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service would treat the relationships between opposite and same-sex couples in the same manner under the immigration code.

"There are too many children who need loving homes and parents – to prevent able, responsible adults from adopting solely because of their sexual orientation is wrong. I support giving judicial authorities the right to make decisions based on the best interest of the child," Clark said about adoption in the HRC questionnaire.

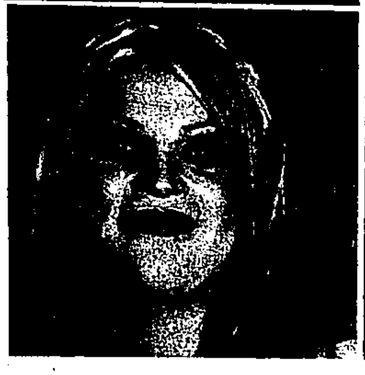
"I believe that the military needs to rethink the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. It does not serve this country to discriminate against people who want to serve in our armed forces . . ." Clark said of the now ten-year policy.

"As a Gay veteran I appreciate that General Clark can say unequivocally that Gays and Lesbians should be allowed to serve their country. I am impressed that Clark's vision of America is not one of our rights versus their rights, but that all of us have equal rights. General Wesley Clark offers vision and leadership that are desperately needed for our time," said openly Gay Arizona State Representative, Wally Straughn, D-Phoenix.

Wesley Clark has the education, first in his class, a Rhode Scholar, like the last successful President the United States had, attending Oxford University, as well as speaking four languages (unlike the current occupant of the White who can barely speak one); the vision and leadership, negotiating agreements with foreign countries as the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, as well as bonafide military experience, successfully leading troops into battle during the Kosovo Crisis and not losing one life during his command, as well as administering policy and running NATO during peace time. He is a contender, not a pretender like the current occupant of the White House, who will get the country out of Dubya's quagmire, both here and abroad. Wesley Clark is a person who has served this nation well, as an honest and able leader that the nation's highest office deserves.

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

cool



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$2 Mexican Beers
UA Men's Basketball vs. USC at 9:00 pm
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FRIDAY
7:30 - 8:30 Country Dance Lessons - Line, 2-step, waltz
Current and Classic Country 8:30 to close

SATURDAY
Pool Tournament at 3:00 pm, sign up begins at 2:00.
$3 entry, bar matches pot.
UA Men's Basketball vs. UCLA at 3:00 pm
UA Women's Basketball vs. UCLA at 4:00 pm
Dance to the best in Country Music 8:30 to close

SUNDAY
$2 Smirnoff Drinks (Bloody Mary, Cape Cod, Greyhound, etc.)
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Carolina Panthers @ Philadelphia Eagles 4:45 pm
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HOROSCOPES

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Magical Mercury finally re-directs and moves on into strategic Capricorn. Our communication has been on a wilde Sagittarian tear for the past few weeks (oops and oops again!) but now we are all buttoned up. Will they recognize you?

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams have the world on a string now that Mercury changes course. Think in the grand scheme and let your best ideas take flight. Pursue a new course of study or travel to some exotic and ... ahem... stimulating locales. Do anything that gets you Out in the world and get ready; Mercury in Cap cranks up your charisma for corporate pursuits. Spread it around and don't slip on it.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

What happens when direct Mercury sparks your imagination? Queer Bulls won't know what hit 'em when they are thrust into the center of the sexy action. What can I say except hang on and enjoy the ride; These opportunities don't come around often enough. Before you know it, Mercury moves on and you'll be just another face in the crowd. Now you are The Face.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

One to one relationships finally begin to show signs of life when Mercury redirects. Use this time to repair the frays and strengthen the bonds between the two of you. It is an opportunity to understand your partner's viewpoint. For those pink Twins who are in the market for a hot tomato, it is a very fruitful time to search. Just don't squeeze too hard when Mercury moves into Cap.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

You can tackle just about any onerous job and conquer it easily thanks to direct Mercury. You now regain your great powers of concentration so put it to good use before Mercury moves on the 15th. Consider revamping your diet and exercise regime. Queer Crabs are apt to procrastinate but don't be tempted to put off to tomorrow what you can take off today.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions have been pulled up by the short hairs while Mercury retrograded. Fun or creative pastimes just didn't have any joi de vivre. Now Mercury changes course and so do you. No longer will you feel like a old bag at a tea dance. You drip with charm and can party hearty. Make up for lost time while you still have your good looks and before Mercury moves on.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

At-home projects may have become more burdensome while confused Mercury retrograded. Now as the mighty orb changes course, you find more joy in your surroundings. It's amazing how much you can accomplish when the planets pull your tide. Redecorate or renovate if the mood strikes you. Of course, you can also just plotz in front of the tube and delegate.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Gay Libras are all sugar and spice in their communication when charismatic Mercury redirects. Use this magnificent energy for the good of our community rather than for purely selfish pursuits. Ask and you shall receive, cousin. When words fail you, which is rather unlikely right now, you can always communicate telepathically. So what am I thinking? (Clean the house...)

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

As careful as you might have been with your money recently, direct Mercury encourages you to open up your wallet and enjoy some of the finer things in life. Careful proud Scorps are always afraid of imminent poverty, but now it may be possible to successfully invest your nest egg. Be sure that you either consult an expert or do your own homework to hatch a winner.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Mercury in your own sign changes direction and infuses Gay Archers with tons of charisma and confidence. All eyes are upon you so don't disappoint the crowd by being silly. Graciousness will win the beauty prize. Smart Sags score a financial coup and take a step towards early retirement as Mercury advances. Pack the habatchi and grill some bull and bear.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Your intuition is at an all time high when retro Mercury redirects this week. Gay Caps are in the pink psychically and can divine the most divine things. But don't just rest on your crystal ball, cousin. Now is the time to explore community Out reach and make a difference for one of our worthy charities. It's never to early (or too late) to pile on the good Gay karma.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aquecrians dive excitedly into the social swim when sociable Mercury redirects this week. Surround yourself with convivial compadres and make up for lost time. But choose your social connections carefully; Be sure that you are truly in sync with the group dynamic and not straining to conform. It would be a shame to be a triangular peg forced into a square hole.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Corporate stratagems fall into place when expressive Mercury flies right this week. Clever and patient Guppies can now put any dormant corporate plan into action with some excellent and self-serving results. Revenge, if you decide to seek it, is yours. Enjoy and savor it with your loyal following when Mercury moves into Cap on the 15th. Some bastards have all the luck.

WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE & READ ALL OVER?
OBSERVER
TUCSON, ARIZONA

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Ask, Seek and Knock

Have you ever had one of those days where all you wanted to do was sit in the mall and watch the people go by; unaware that anybody was watching them. This happens to be one of my most favorite pass times- people watching. I know it sounds a little strange, but it sure is a cheap form of entertainment. Besides, it's amazing what people do when they think nobody is watching; they tend to be a bit more open about expressing themselves when no one is watching. I work downtown by a court house and you should see all the amazing people that walk by my window.

Lately I have been sitting in the back of the church, just so that I can sit and watch how other people worship. Amazing to see how people change when they accept the Lord into their lives. I have found that the have a new bounce to their step. A joy they never knew they could experience. We have this one lady, a very prim and proper sort, who now sings and dances! We have traditional families with children and the children are singing and shaking tambourines. It is quite amazing to watch what the Lord can and has done for all of us, here at Cornerstone.

In closing I want to say it has been a hard year at Cornerstone and we have seen a lot of changes but through it all we have had some amazing experiences. I would like to offer this scripture for anyone who is lost and wants a better life.

Matthew 7: 7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; everyone who seeks finds; and to everyone who knock's, the door will be opened."

This is God's Promise! As you can see it say's "everyone", which includes you. Stop believing the lies and accept the Truth! The Truth that there is a better life waiting for you; all you have to is ask and it is yours. There is Hope for a better future, all you need to do is ask, seek and knock.

In Christ Love,
Brian Fox

EDITORIAL

Frivolous Litigation

An attorney filed a federal lawsuit on Monday, January 12, challenging Utah's ban on polygamy, citing the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a Texas sodomy law.

The lawsuit says Salt Lake County clerks refused a marriage license on Dec. 22, 2003, to plaintiffs G. Lee Cook, an adult male, and J. Bronson, an adult female, because Cook was already married to D. Cook. That woman had given her consent to the additional marriage. In denying the marriage license, the county violated the plaintiffs' First Amendment right to practice their religion, attorney Brian Barnard says in the complaint. The lawsuit does not mention what faith the plaintiffs observe, except to say polygamy is a "sincere and deeply held religious major tenet."

The lawsuit argues that the Supreme Court ruling last June in Lawrence v. Texas, which struck down laws criminalizing Gay sex, protects the defendants' privacy in intimate matters. In the Texas case, two Gay men who were arrested after police entered their apartment and found them having sex were "entitled to respect for their private lives," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion. "The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

Lawyers representing polygamists have recently cited the Supreme Court ruling. Last month, the attorney for convicted bigamist and child rapist Tom Green argued his client's convictions should be thrown out in light of the case. Currently, the appeal of another bigamist, Rodney Holm - who was convicted of bigamy and unlawful sexual conduct with an underage girl - questions the constitutionality of Utah's bigamy law in light of Lawrence v. Texas.

Barnard said his lawsuit isn't clouded by rape or sexual misconduct, adding "hopefully, given the way we've framed this, this will be a nice, clear legal challenge as to the constitutionality of that statute" or a waste of the court's time and taxpayer dollars as we believe in this frivolous filing of legal paperwork, for which Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff said the lawsuit goes "way beyond the privacy interest the Supreme Court ruled on."

We wholeheartedly agree and do hope this law suit doesn't see the light of day or time in a courtroom.

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John 3:16

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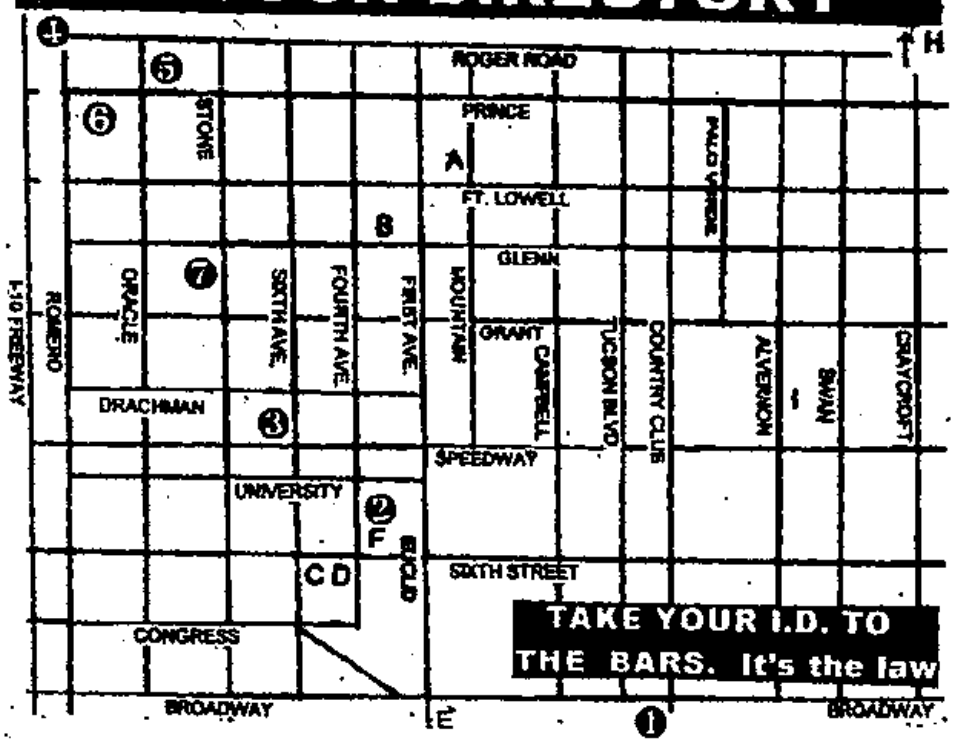

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5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON - 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
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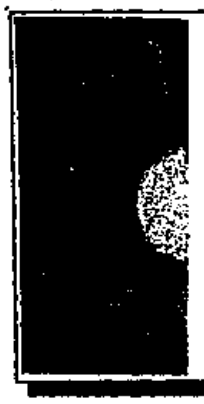

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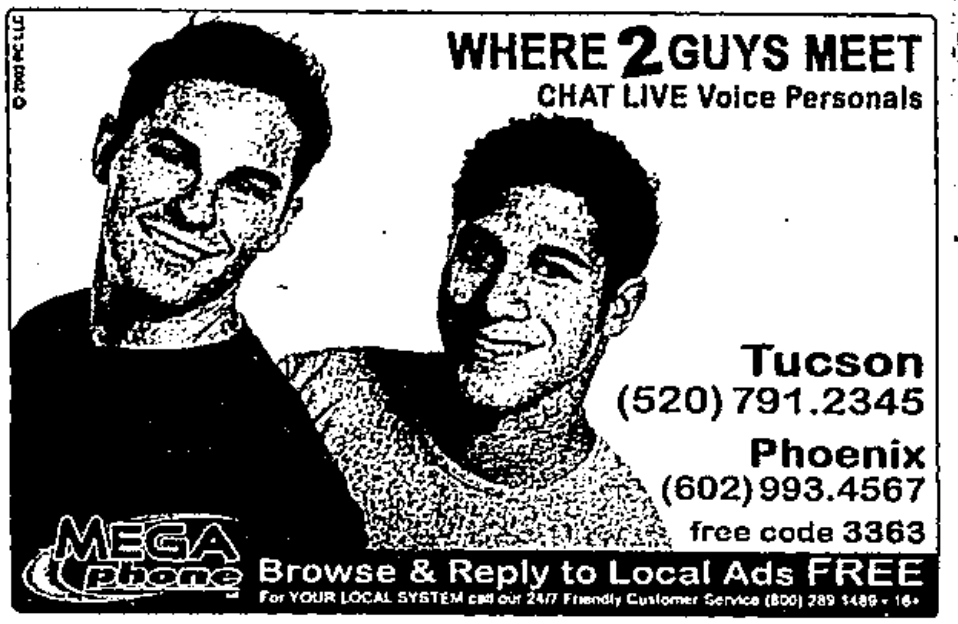

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Dear Dr. X,

I am 32 years old, and I feel lost somewhere in the Gay community. There are all these younger guys that have the ability to flow in and out of Gay/straight culture without a hitch and even meet guys at what I would call straight bars. And then there are all these older guys that treat the Gay lifestyle as if it were a religion-with Gay friends only, talking Gay politics all the time, and they own or work in Gay focused environments. What's up with that? Can't there be a happy medium? I can't seem to connect with any of these people.

Signed,
Isolated

Dear Isolated,

Your connection problem may not be a problem at all. These younger guys have more freedoms because they are benefiting from all the hard work these older guys did to revolutionize Gay culture and make it part of the mainstream. The older guys love to stand around and talk about their war wounds and plan their next assault on homophobia. You are the group that is in transition between them and you shouldn't feel you have to choose an extreme. As a bridge between them, you have your own very important role--to communicate information and ideas from one side to the other.

You should take full advantage and benefit from both the old and the new. Get some of these younger guys to take you to those seemingly straight bars and show you how to meld. Go to one of those political all-Gay parties with some old farts to strengthen your identity as a Gay man and get involved in the next rally. Either way, you can't lose. You'll meet new people and learn how to float in diverse arenas with knowledge and grace. Don't be too quick to categorize people; that's always a mistake. The important lesson here is to keep sampling from all the people you meet in the community until you find that group you feel comfortable with. In the mean time, continue to absorb from everyone around you and develop your own diversity. Peace!

Dear Dr. X,

I am beginning to wonder if I am a sex pig. My friends are always razzing me about getting laid so often and calling me names like "slut" and "whore." It's not my fault they don't hook up. I go out about three times a week and I hook up about two out of the three. Do you think I am over-sexed? Are my standards too low? Please advise.

Signed,
Studly

Dear Studly,

You have a lot of questions to answer before I could rule on that issue. Are you having sex because you want to, or because you don't know how to turn someone down? Do you enjoy these encounters? Do you want sex or intimacy? In any case, there is no magic number.

I think it is great to be active-especially if you are being safe. Sex is a good thing. It can be fun and exciting. It can relieve stress and anxiety. Maybe you just really like men. I can't blame you. Personally, I like to have sex two or three times a week. On the other hand, some guys are happy with occasional experiences, like once a month or less. To each his own. If your friends are giving you a hard time, maybe they are concerned that you are at higher risk for getting HIV from frequent encounters. You could reassure them by letting them know if you are being safe when you engage in anal sex (assuming that you are). They also might be flat out jealous!

Tell them you respect their concern, but that if they are just giving you a hard time for the sake of giving you a hard time, it is affecting your self-esteem. I'm sure they don't realize that they are worrying you or hurting your feelings. Maybe if they would call you "stud" instead of "whore" it would feel different to you. Straighten this out so you don't get paranoid. I think that even if you should happen to get laid six days a week (the seventh day set aside to restock supplies) you are doing just fine, if that's what you really want! Keep up the good work, and play safe.

[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 gmhp.org.]

Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. the DivaLicious Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone, Suzette and Diana Flair.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
HOWL AT THE MOON - UA Men's Basketball vs. USC 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
IBT'S - Besides the regular Friday Jazz with Susan Artemis and the Friday GoGo Boys, there will be Domestic Partners registration from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Both the registration forms and a Notary Public will be at IBT's tonight!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
HOWL AT THE MOON - UA Mens Basketball vs. UCLA 3:00 p.m.
UA Women's Basketball vs. UCLA 4:00 p..m.

IBT'S - It's showtime at 8:00 pm. With the "FuFu Revue" starring Lucinda Holliday, Lady Ashley and Diana Flair.

WOODY'S - Bears of the Old Pueblo Beer Bust. Welcome to the La Fiesta De Oso visitors

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JAN 17 & 18
IBT'S - Martin Luther King Weekend Party. Stand by!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
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 TIHAN. 8:00 p.m. It's Sissy Bingo with Ajia Simone and then at 9:00 p.m.There's a 8:30 p.m. it's a special Benefit Show for Bunny FuFu, candidate for Miss Copper State-America. Show stars Bunny with Janee Starr, Teri Akki, Veronica Halliwell, Miss Saigon and Lady Ashley.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
WOODY'S - Leather Sir / Leather Boy Benefit Beer Bust.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
HOWL AT THE MOON - Super Bowl Party 2:00 p.m.

IBT'S - Super Bowl Sunday Party.

WOODY'S - Super Bow Party begins at 4:00 p.m.

Non-Bar Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The 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 Bruce 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

7:00 to 9:30 p.m. the Men's Relationship Group meets. Includes a video on tantra. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 to reserve a space.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry & Les for Pizza Night. $5.00 will get you pizza, salad, and desserts. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 30 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol 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 Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
The original Men's Group Massage meets from 3:45 to 7:00 p.m. Call Marc at 881-4582 for information and to reserve a place.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Openly Gay musician Eric Himan will be playing a benefit concert at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The show will be free for Q-youth with a $5.00 suggested donation for those over 22. Eric is touring LGBT Youth Centers to help raise awareness for the Centers. All proceeds will go to the Center. He is also celebrating the release of his third CD.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
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.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The 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 Karol for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.
Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the Newsletter night and the MSN Premiere of "The Trip", a drama with some comedy about two lovers and their lives in the 70s and 80s. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts 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, Dinner – 6:00 p.m El Greco Grecian Gardens
4635 E. Ft. Lowell Rd. (NW Ft. L and Swan next to Chad's)

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
A political forum for the GLBT Community will be held today from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. to visit and question the Democratic candidates who are running in Arizona's Democratic primary on Feb. 3. All have been invited to this forum as well as other politicians. The point being to find out what each and every candidate stands on issues of importance to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual,/Transgender community. The forum is being held at the Muse, 516 N. 5th Avenue. This political forum is being sponsored by Wingspan, Arizona Human Rights Fund and the Observer. For more information call Wingspan 624-1779 or AHRF 245-9009.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch – 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
#1. 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. Karol 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 Karol at 744-9017.

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.

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 vetennary 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-8pm $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.

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 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.

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 it drink specials..

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

AINT 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

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 pints & longnecks. $2 Mexican beers all night. Music 80's, 90's, 2k+.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, Hi N[illegible] video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.

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 Dj 'T.C. Wildman' 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.

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 9[illegible] close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 10:30 am. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). $3 entry fee (pot matched). 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.

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

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THRU FEBRUARY 8
Live Theatre Workshop presents one of the most romantic comedies of the century "Same Time, Next Year" by Bernard Slade. This timeless comedy follows and affair between two people who meet in 1951 at a California seaside inn. After one evening of passion, these otherwise happily married individuals are compelled to meet once every year. Over a twenty five year span, their liaisons reflect the changing manners, morals and attitudes of our society. However, their transitions are never in sync, making for hilarious contrasts and conflicts. Shows playing at Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway every Thursday, Friday and Saturday ats7:30 p.m. Sundays at 3:00 p.m. only., Tickets are $14 general admission and $12 discount. Call 327-42442 for more information.

JANUARY 16 - 17 - 18
The Tucson Symphony Pop Series presents Peter Nero g[illegible] conductor and piano with "Pops Two: Ellington & Sinatra" at [illegible] p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, at the TCC Music Hall Two-time Grammy Award-winning pianist, Peter Nero and the TSO perform his favorites of Sinatra and Ellington, such as "My Way", "I've Got You Under My Skin", I'll Never Smile Again" and many more. Two wonderful hours of reminiscing and swooning! Tickets $19-$41.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
Arizona Friends of Chamber Music present the second concert in their Piano and Friends Sunday Matinee Series. Pianist Orion Weiss will perform at 3:00 pm. At the Leo Rich Theater at the Tucson Convention Center. General Admission tickets are $20.00. Student tickets are $8.00. 21-year-old Orion Weiss, so young and already recognized as so talented is now studying at the Juilliard School with Emmanuel Ax. He has shown a keen interest in the chamber music repertoire and has been praised for the effortless beauty of his performances. He won the prestigious Gilmore International "Young artist Award" in 1999. Call the AFCM at 577-3769 for further information.

JANUARY 23 THRU FEBRUARY 14
Live Theatre Workshop's Late Night Series presents "Danny and the Dep Blue Sea - An Apache Dance" bu John Patrick Shanley. Danny and Roberta meet at a bar in the Bronx. They are both rubbed raw from difficult lives, and harbor a dangerous secret.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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 299-4647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact 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 OUTobreFEST. 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.

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

LIKE TO READ?
The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Magpie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

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.

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 Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

NOTICES

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

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 43940, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of 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 968-2384.

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.

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

NOTICES

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.

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. Dezert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezert 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 Mirto 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

GLBT SOS (Secular Organization for Sobriety) will begin meeting Sundays, 8 p.m. at the Wingspan Annex, 730 N. 4th Ave. This group appeals to persons who may be uncomfortable "Higher Power" concepts of more traditional, religious groups. 1020

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. 1017

HOUSING/FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX. Glenn/Dodge area. $600/mo., adults only. Many amenities including yard and carport. Centrally located. Water paid. W/D hookup. Call 325-3810. 1016

1 BEDROOM ADOBE HOUSE. Hardwood floors, large fenced yard. Speedway/Alvernon area. $400/mo. + $100 dep. Call for appointment 795-8881 ask for Bill. 1018

ROOMS BY THE MONTH FOR MEN! 4br/2ba, Huge Deluxe House, Country Club/Fort Lowell. Laundry, Carport, Fireplace, Pool/Spa. Private. Must see! Rooms from $275/mo. Share Kitchen/Living. Utilities included. 327-3135 1015

ROOMMATES

HOT EURO BOY LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY, GAY ROOMMATE. 1BR/1BA EXCELLENT APARTMENT. $420/mo. (1/2 = $210/mo + $150 DEPOSIT AND 1/2 ELECTRIC). All other utilities paid. Covered parking, laundry, etc. On bus line minutes from shopping and UofA. Call 370-7162. Please only Gay, serious, friendly people. 1018

SHARE 2 BEDROOM 1 BATH HOUSE. Use of UA rec center. Me: student, Gay friendly. Room: private entry, closet, phone, ceiling fan. $420/mo includes utilities. Kevin 207-2844 1015

HOME TO SHARE, FOOTHILLS. Rustic setting. Walking distance to National Forest. Great hiking area. Approximately 15 min. to UofA. $425/mo. 297-3127 1015

EMPLOYMENT

NOW HIRING! * Night Auditor * Front Desk * Bartender * Excellent wages, benefits, bonuses. Apply in person. Best Western Royal Sun, corner of Stone Avenue and Speedway Blvd. 1017

FOR SALE

PORN CLEARANCE - ALL MALE VIDEOS, DVD'S - $5.00. Magazines 2/$5.00. Wide selection, good condition. Call 327-3135 anytime. Bear/bondage,Latino...& More! 1015

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

SERVICES

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 1024

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway and Swan area. IN and OUT CALLS. 7 days. $30/hour. 548-6314 1022

TANTRIC MASSAGE AND BODY WORK. Various techniques expand your capacity to feel and express pleasure. Reasonable rates. Central location. 540-0441 1019

FOR MEN ONLY! Professional FULL BODY massage. Best deal in Tucson at $30.00/hour. Your satisfaction guaranteed. Call John 327-3135 1015

ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 8p.m. 745-0231 or 891-7859 1017

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

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. 1015

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway/Swan area. IN and OUT calls. 7 days. $30/hour. 548-6314. 1023

COMPUTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE: Your old system giving you trouble? Upgrade it for a reasonable price, or allow us to tailor make a system just for you. For home or business, we come to you with friendly, quality installation, instruction and service. Call Carl today @ 977-2572 and get a free quote! 1015

EXPERIENCE A TOTALLY RELAXING or deep-tissue massage by a trained, caring male therapist. In-home, hotel or resort. Often at a moments notice. (520) 730-7968. 1023

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full000dy rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1020

HAVE A TRUE TANTRIC MASSAGE. It is fabulous!. Call now. 22 years of quality professional experience. Marc - 881-4582 Licensed. 1020

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

AGRA RoadRunner Regional Rodeo 2004 - AGRA Hotline 602-265-0618

GENERAL INFORMATION

You must be 21 years of age *WITH VALID I.D. IN YOUR POSSESSION* to purchase and to consume alcoholic beverages. *NO OUTSIDE BEVERAGES PERMITTED. FIREARMS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE GROUNDS.* The *RAWHIDE WILD WEST TOWN* is located at Scottsdale and Pinnacle Peak Roads in Scottsdale, Arizona. The telephone number is 480-502-1880. The RAWHIDE WEB Site is located at www.rawhide.com AGRA WEB site is located at www.agra-phx.com.

TICKET INFORMATION

$15 per day for *RODEO ADMISSION*. Children under 12 years of age admitted free to the Rodeo. No Advance Sales. Monday Brunch Admission is $5.00. *TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE*

VOLUNTEERS

Anyone wanting to volunteer to help at the rodeo can contact Richard Tully by email at 2004AGRARODEO@cox.net or call 602-265-0618 & Leave Message.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

No need to rent a car!! AGRA is planning on providing *free* shuttle bus service to and from the host hotels, Rodeo Grounds, and some bars. Bus schedules will be announced just before events.

HOST HOTELS

Hilton Garden Inn Scottsdale - $99.00/night - Scottsdale (5 miles to Rawhide) 7324 E. Indian School Rd. (480) 481-0400
Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Midtown - $99.00/night - Downtown Phoenix - 4000 North Central Ave., (602) 279-9811
WEB links and maps to both hotels and Rawhide can be found at AGRA's WEB site www.agra-phx.com.
Please support AGRA by using one of our host hotels and mention AGRA when making reservations to receive these rates.

RV PARKING

RV Parking is available at the Rawhide Wild West Town with hook-ups (water & electricity) for $15.00 a day. To reserve a space, contact Ron Linsblad at 602-336-0176. Contestants planning on staying in horse trailer living quarters do not need to make RV reservations. AGRA will provide contestants with services for staying in your rigs.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment will be provided inside the pavilion both days from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM with live performances on Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 PM from the five piece all-female band "The Desert Heart Band".

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

This is an IGRA-sanctioned rodeo-all 2004 IGRA Rodeo Rules apply. Entries/fees accepted in accordance with IGRA Rules-all rules enforced. Buddy passes will be available at contestant registration for $35. *CONTESTANT REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 6-9PM on Friday the 16th at Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Midtown, 4000 North Central Ave. Horse check-in will be available starting at 12 noon on Thursday, Jan. 15th from 12PM to 8:00PM. Hay & shavings will be available for sale. Contact persons are Will Lane (623-203-3765 and Alan Tumalavage (602-538-8704*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JAN 15 (CHARLIE'S)
7:00pm Royalty Competition

FRIDAY, JAN 16 (Hilton - Phoenix/Midtown)
8:00am - Vendor & Grounds set-up at Rawhide
6:00pm - 9:00pm Contestant Registration
7:00pm - 12:00am Entertainment
Royalty Competition/Step Downs
& 2004 Royalty Crowning

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JAN 17/18 (RAWHIDE)
8:00am Gates/Ticket Office Open, Rodeo Events Begin
NOON Parade/Grand Entry
1:00pm Entertainment/Dancing Begins
5:00pm - 9:00pm Show/Entertainment/Party

SUNDAY, JAN 18 (RAWHIDE)
8:30pm Rodeo Awards Ceremony/Party Continues

AGRA Royalty due sponsored by Hensley BUD LIGHT to begin at 7PM in the Towers Ballroom

MONDAY, JAN 19, 11am-2pm (CHARLIE'S) POST RODEO BRUNCH - Patsy Lelleot show starting at 2:00 PM

FOR BUCKLE & OTHER SPONSORSHIPS, PROGRAM/ARENA ADVERTISING, DANCE/ENTERTAINMENT AND VENDOR BOOTH INFORMATION, CALL THE AGRA RODEO HOTLINE at (602) 265-0618 or VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.agra-phx.com.

Hilton Garden Inn IONAZ BUD LIGHT ECHO Hilton Garden Inn

Court Rules Boy Should Be Shielded From Dad's Gay Lifestyle

NASHVILLE - A Gay father has been ordered not to "expose" his son to his "Gay lifestyle," a state appeals court has ruled, gfn.com reported.

But in the decision, the Tennessee Court of Appeals said a Williamson County judge was wrong to send Joe Hogue, a Christian music producer, to jail for telling his son people were born Gay. The appellate ruling said Hogue had not gone beyond reasonable boundaries.

In February 2002, Cher Lynn Hogue filed for divorce because she said her husband left because he was Gay. As part of a divorce hearing, the lower court barred Hogue from "taking the child around or otherwise exposing the child to his Gay lover(s) and/or his Gay lifestyle." The court also slapped Hogue with a contempt-of-court ruling for telling his son he was Gay.

Later that year, Cher Lynn Hogue complained that her husband allowed their son to be in the presence of a lover both at his home and in church.

A complaint filed by the wife's attorney said her ex-husband told the boy "when someone is Gay, they are born like that."

Joseph Hogue was sentenced to two days in Williamson County jail in September 2002 for breaking the restraining order. Some of his visitation rights also were stripped away by the lower court.

Hogue appealed the judgment, saying the restraining order on his lifestyle was illegal, overly broad and had expired by the time he told his son he was Gay.

The appeals court said it found nothing wrong with the lower court's shielding the child from the Gay lifestyle. But in the panel's seven-page decision, Judge Frank Clement Jr. said the father had acted reasonably by simply telling his son he was Gay.

Clement wrote the restraining order didn't specifically bar the father from telling his son about his sexual orientation.

"We do not read the restraining order to prohibit a statement by the father that he is Gay," Clement wrote. "Thus, the husband did not have notice that he was prohibited from telling his son he was Gay and therefore cannot be held in contempt for doing so."

www.uniqueoncentral.com

Singapore Ban On G/L Groups May Be Lifted

SINGAPORE - Amid an increasingly tolerant environment for Gay and Lesbian groups in Singapore, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday, January 6, indicated that a ban on Gay activist groups may soon be lifted.

In a speech to the Harvard Club, Lee said the emergence of Gay rights organizations, along with other interest groups, would be tolerated as the government moves to ease curbs on political and social freedoms, Agence France-Presse reports. "There will be other groups formed, I'm quite sure, to campaign for specific issues--Gay rights for example, and that is a sensitive one," Lee said after the speech, according to the Straits Times.

Gay sex is still outlawed in Singapore, but the government's greater tolerance of Gay people was evidenced last year when Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said that Gays would be allowed to work in public service. Singapore's first-ever Gay community center also opened last month, offering phone counseling services and medical and legal advice. And the city-state is gaining a reputation as a Gay entertainment hub with several Gay-friendly clubs, karaoke pubs, saunas, restaurants, and fashion outlets, according to AFP. People Like Us, one of the earliest Gay groups formed in Singapore, in 1992, tried unsuccessfully to register as a society under the Societies Act in 1997.

Goh said in July that although the government intends to relax its attitude regarding homosexuality, Gay sex will not be decriminalized because of opposition from Muslims and the majority of other Singaporeans. "The heartlanders are still conservative," Goh said. "You can call it double-standard, but sometimes it is double-standard. They are conservative. And for the Muslims, it's religion, it's not the law. Islam openly says the religion is against Gay practice."

Gay Dads Flee Due To Death Threats

LONDON - The Gay dads who made British history when they were named joint parents of their surrogate children fled the United Kingdom because of increasing death threats, they reveal in a forthcoming documentary, Gay.com UK reported.

Barrie Barlow and Tony Drewitt, who became well-known faces after they spent 250,000 British Pounds on test tube treatment to have twins Aspen and Saffron, say they received as many as 25 death threats when they lived in Manchester.

Speaking in a new documentary, "Making Babies: The Gay Way," the couple said that some of the threats outlined exactly what the anonymous senders would do to the couple to "save" their children.

One even threatened to kidnap them and only return them when the multi-millionaire couple paid a fee.

"It's scary. We received 25 threats in England, one saying that if we paid ?250,000 on having the twins, how much would we pay to get them back," Barlow said.

"Other letters threatened to break our legs and take our kids off us so they can grow up with a straight couple."

The family has since moved to Spain in a bid to lead a more peaceful life. The fathers still employ bodyguards to protect their twins and their third baby, Orlando, who was born last year.

The two-part documentary airs on Jan. 22 on Britain's Channel 4.

Play Safe!