Issue 700 And Still Ticking - Season's Greetings Again!

Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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LA NOCHE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tis the night before Christmas
And all through the casa
Not a creature is stirring
Caramba! Que pasa?

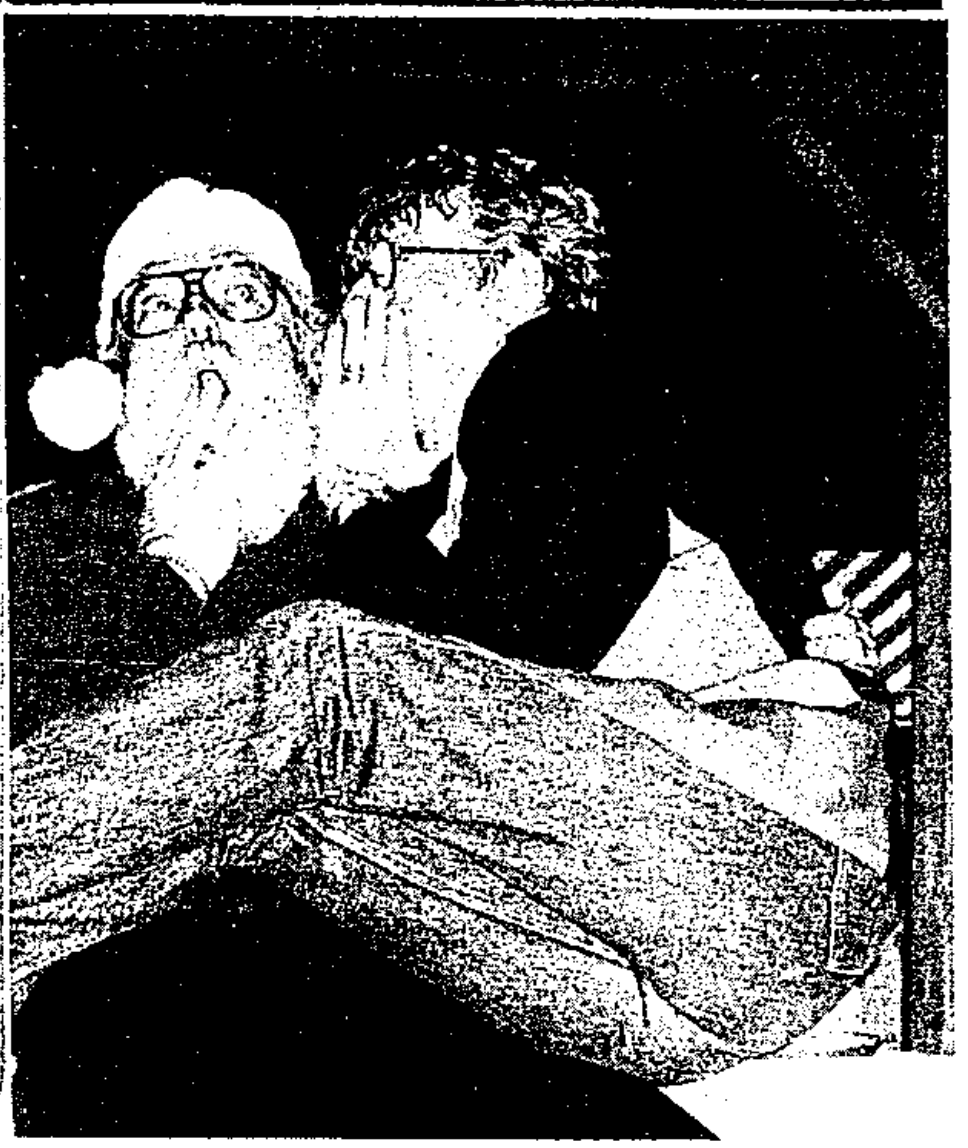
The stockings are hanging con mucho cuidado
In hope that St. Nicholas will feel obligado
To leave a few cosas aqui y alli
For chico y chica (y something por me).

Los Ninos are snuggled all safe in their camas
Some in vestidos and some in pajamas
Their little cabezas all full of good things
They all esperando que Santa will bring.

Santa esta at the corner saloon
Mui borracho since midafternoon.
Mama is sitting beside la ventana
Shining her rolling pin para manana

When Santa returns to his home zigzagedando
Lit up like the Star Spangled Banner cantando.
And Mama will send him to bed con a right
Merry Christmas a todos, y a todos good night!

Author Unknown



Observer Entertainment Editor, Gary Clark sits on Santa Jim Shafer's lap and from the looks of things he's asking for some mighty interesting presents. Merry Christmas!

Pima County Domestic Partner Update: New Judge To Hear Case

by Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) -- Here comes another judge!

The lawsuit over the extension of benefits to the domestic partners of Pima County government employees has been reassigned to Visiting Greenlee County Superior Court Judge Allen G. Minker.

Pima County Superior Court Presiding Judge, Michael Brown, made the decision to reassign the pending litigation from Judge Bernado Velasco and entered a ruling December 10.

Judge Minker will hear the case in Pima County.

Court sources said Brown made the decision because Judge Velasco is an employee of Pima County, and he may personally know the county employees involved in the suit; the County Board of Supervisors and the County Attorneys, the defendants and plaintiffs respectively.

Judge Allen G. Minker is Judge of the Superior Court for Greenlee County. A native of Pennsylvania, Judge Minker was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada.

He attended Stanford University as an undergraduate. After completing his law degree at the University of San Diego in 1973, Minker was admitted to the bar in both California and Arizona.

In 1974, Minker moved to Tucson where he began practice with the public defender's office. From 1983-84, he was in private practice in Tucson.

Governor Bruce Babbitt appointed Minker to the Superior Court bench in Greenlee County in 1985.

Since his appointment, Judge Minker has presided over cases in 13 counties and one tribal court.

Judge Minker has heard cases in Pima County. Some notable cases were the Biosphere 2 and the Tucson City Magistrate Rita Jett trials.

"I was happy with Judge Velasco. I am happy that Presiding Judge Michael Brown brought in Judge Minker, both are

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

New Faces In Colorado, Same Battle

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (NP) -- Executive directors on both sides come and go, but the issues that made Colorado Springs "The Vatican of Fundamentalism" will probably go on forever.

Look for old battles and new faces in Colorado Springs in the coming year: the anti-Gay organization Colorado for Family Values has hired an executive director for the first time since 1996, while the executive director of the Gay and Lesbian group Ground Zero has stepped down.

Both groups are based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, sometimes known as "The Vatican of Fundamentalism" because it's home to the headquarters of Focus on the Family and other national right-wing Christian organizations.

Colorado for Family Values was the sponsor of the 1992 statewide ballot initiative Amendment 2, which would have overturned and prohibited any laws by local governments recognizing Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals as a minority group.

Although Amendment 2 succeeded at the ballot box, court orders prevented its enforcement until it was finally struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in an historic decision last year. The group has not attempted anything on the same scale since, although it has been visible on more local issues, notably creating a flap last year when a high school newspaper featured a cover story on Gay and Lesbian youth.

But CFV hasn't had an executive director since Kevin Tebedo's resignation in 1996, and now Paul Jessen, pastor of the Colorado Springs Restoration Fellowship Foursquare Church, has been appointed to the post. Although Jessen has only been in Colorado Springs for about a year, he's a volunteer chaplain for the Colorado Springs Police Department, as well as a member of the Colorado Springs Association of Evangelicals.

Previously, he served for almost 10 years as pastor of the Foursquare Church in Long Beach, California, where he was an active opponent of a domestic partners registry (which was eventually adopted).

In making an acceptance speech, Jessen promised renewed activism opposing "the forced affirmation of homosexual

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

UPDATE

Candlelight Christmas Service At MCC

TUCSON -- You are all invited to "Come Celebrate Christmas" at the Candlelight Christmas eve service at Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), Wednesday, December 24, 10:45 P.M.

The service will include familiar carols and readings, and will conclude with the candlelight ceremony.

In extending an open invitation to everyone, newly elected Pastor Joyce Cook noted that "We will celebrate Christmas is an exciting time of the year, and since many in our community lack the biological family celebrations, we will have a glorious celebration of Christmas at MCC."

Well-known soloist Sandy Dods of Phoenix will be the church's special guest at the Christmas eve Service. For more information, call the church office (520) 292-9151.

Elton John To Be Knighted

LONDON, UK (NP) -- The crusading rocker will be dubbed -- no, they won't be changing his voice, just his title.

Elton John is slated to be knighted with the annual New Year's Honours list, according to reports which has been widely circulated even though the list has yet to be officially published.

Two years ago, John was made a Commander of the British Empire for his services to music, but the latest award is said to be more in honor of his extraordinary fund-raising for AIDS through his Elton John AIDS Foundation and through sales of his tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, "Candle in the Wind '97."

John said, "I'm thrilled. This is a great honor." Oh, but don't call him Sir Elton -- he's being knighted under his birthname, Reginald Kenneth Dwight.

Request For Proposals For HIV/AIDS Services; $600,000 In Funding Available

TUCSON -- The Tucson Community Foundation (TCF) is requesting proposals to deliver HIV/AIDS services under Title II of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

TCF anticipates that approximately $600,000 will be available through this program for fiscal year 1998-99 to deliver health care and support services to eligible Pima County residents living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Ryan White CARE Act, amended and reauthorized in 1996, is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Named after Ryan White, the Indiana teenager who became an educator on HIV after he contracted the disease, the Act aims to improve the quality and availability of care for people with HIV/AIDS and their families. Title II of the Act is channeled through the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), which has recognized the Pima County HIV/AIDS CARE Consortium as the Title II planning body for Pima County.

Proposal applications will be available after December 15, 1997 from TCF, 6601 East Grant Road, Suite 111, 85715. Telephone inquiries should be directed to Caitlin Gannon, 722-1707. Proposal development assistance will be provided for applicants at a technical assistance workshop, Friday, December 19, 2:00 to 3:00 P.M., at TCF.

The deadline for submitting proposals to TCF is 4:00 P.M., January 20, 1998.

SAAF Food Pantry Holiday Drive

TUCSON -- Many local businesses will be participating in a holiday food drive for clients of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

The next time you're in Ain't Nobody's Bizness, the Graduate, Hours, IBT's, the Neon Moon, or the Venture-N, make sure to make a donation of non-perishable (canned preferably) food in one of the receiving boxes.

The food will help restock the SAAF Food Pantry which will be pretty well emptied by the Holiday food boxes prepared for clients.

For more information call SAAF, (520) 322-6226.

'Ellen' Losing Local Ads According To Affiliates

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) -- The ABC network has not been drawing in big viewer numbers for several years now, and its affiliates were displaying distinct restlessness at their board meeting in Los Angeles held recently.

While most of their irritation was directed at the network's news division, newspaper reporters said that some were "angry about the creative direction of the sitcom 'Ellen' and charged that regular story lines involving Ellen DeGeneres' character in Lesbian dating situations are chasing away" their local sponsors, leaving them with empty ad slots.

While no indication was given as to just how many affiliates were actually involved in the protest, they were said to be mostly smaller markets in the South. ABC had already made adjustments so that "Ellen" has fewer spots open for local advertisers than previously.

The network reportedly told the affiliates that they have had "an ongoing battle" with DeGeneres, who you may recall had assured everyone before the season began that the sitcom would not be "the Lesbian dating show." Some executives left the meeting believing ABC will take a tougher stand with DeGeneres on the show's content."

But meanwhile, as DeGeneres accepted the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California's Bill of Rights Award at a dinner, she said, "There's still a lot more to do. There's a warning label on my show sending a message that there is something wrong with me."

Team Arizona Meeting Dec. 17

PHOENIX -- The next Phoenix meeting of Team Arizona will take place, December 17, 8:00 P.M. at the Valley of the Sun Community Center in Phoenix.

Tucson meetings will be on Saturdays at Wingspan. For more information about the Tucson meetings, call (520) 327-3591.

Quote Of The Week . . .

LOS ANGELES, CA (WS) -- Gameshow host Bob Eubanks was asked the burning question at the top of everyone's "Gay agenda": "If same-sex marriage is legalized, will you allow Gay couples on [the new syndicated revival of] 'The Newlywed Game'?"

Eubanks responded, "Absolutely. If that's what society permits, who am I to be judgmental?"

Discharge Upheld By Appeals Court

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) -- A U.S. appeals court ruled that seized love letters from an Air Force officer's home revealed "a direct admission of homosexual activity" and constituted grounds for his discharge -- even though the letters were not addressed to the Air Force.

U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Jackson's 1989 discharge for homosexuality was unanimously upheld by a panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Jackson's 1989 discharge was honorable, although involuntary, but because it came just 11 months before his 20th anniversary in the service, he lost a $500,000 pension, according to his lawsuit.

In 1988, while Jackson was heading up the Small IBM Guidance and Control Division at the Norton Air Force Base in Southern California, police from the city of Redlands investigated his civilian roommate on suspicion of child molestation.

Those police officers were accompanied by Air Force personnel as they searched the two men's home, where they found an assortment of materials including videos, magazines, the American Civil Liberties Union publication "The Rights of Gay People," a pride button, and six greeting cards Jackson had given his roommate.

Although Jackson's filing charged several problems with the search and seizure process, the court found Jackson's statements in the greeting cards to constitute "a direct admission of homosexual activity" that is prohibited in the military, even if all the other evidence were to be discounted.

The panel also rejected Jackson's claim of discrimination. The statements in the cards included referring to his roommate as a "beautiful and sensitive lover" and, "The nights are lonely and I really miss holding, cuddling and looking at you."

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Play Safe!

IBT's News Gay-zette

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There's still time to register to WIN - But please, only one entry per day per visit.

Wednesday, Dec. 24th, 9PM

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- **Reveille Cook-Out**
- **Murder Mystery Coming in January**

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Sunday, Dec. 21

ANNUAL MPS CHRISTMAS BENEFIT

Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Featuring the Norman Tabernacle Choir along with Mr. Kenneth Blake, Felice Renard and Ajia Simone. Plus the live vocals of Pete Lara and Special Guests.

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MCC's Troy Perry To Visit Tucson January 11 and 12

TUCSON -- The Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), will visit Tucson on January 10-11, 1998.

Perry will be speaker at Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), 3269 North Mountain Ave, Saturday, January 10, 7:45 P.M., and Sunday, January 11, 10:45 A.M. The Sunday morning service will focus on the vision for the future, and will include an installation service for the local church's newly elected pastoral leader, Joyce Cook.

Rev. Elder Perry is in the midst of a tour of UFMCC congregations around the world to announce the acquisition of a $3.8 million building complex in West Hollywood, California as part of a strategy for continued rapid expansion of the denomination.

The facilities comprise the UFMCC World Center offices and Resource Center, and home of UFMCC's historic founding church, Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles.

Rev. Elder Perry comes to Tucson after his visit to the White House, where he served as a consultant on President Clinton's Commission on Hate Crimes. Rev. Perry also is just returning from a visit to MCC's in South Africa, where he also had a consultation with Bishop Desmond Tutu.

The UFMCC is an international Christian denomination which, while open to all people, serves the people in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community. Founded in 1968 by Rev. Perry, UFMCC now numbers 300 congregations in 19 countries worldwide, including Water of Life of Tucson. The UFMCC is the largest organization of any kind serving Lesbians and Gays in the world.

The theme of Rev. Perry's visit will be "Vision...For the Next Generation." He will be speaking about the new Spiritual Center and the future of the Christian ministry to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people around the world. The Capital Campaign seeks to full an ambitious redesign plan and to pay off the property completely in the next three years.

According to Rev. David Farrell, Campaign Co-Chair and former senior Pastor of MCC San Diego, the theme of the fund raising drive "For the Next Generation" was chosen both to emphasize the church's mission of reaching out to young people throughout the world offering the Christian gospel and the strength and joy of Christian fellowship, and also to reflect the continued growth and development for the 27-year-old denomination as it moves into new phases of its mission and ministry."

Rev. Perry states: "For too long, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Christians have faced systemic alienation, rejection, self-hatred, illnesses, and brokenness. Only the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has delivered a consistent message of acceptance, affirmation, self-esteem, confidence, healing and renewal to all people.

"We are committed to doubling our membership within the next decade, and serving the next generation of the Lesbian and Gay community, by being a church that reaches out to all people with the message of God's love."

All are cordially invited to attend and meet the Founder of the UFMCC. There is no admission charge for the events. A love offering will be received for the UFMCC Capital Campaign. For further information, please call (520) 292-9151.

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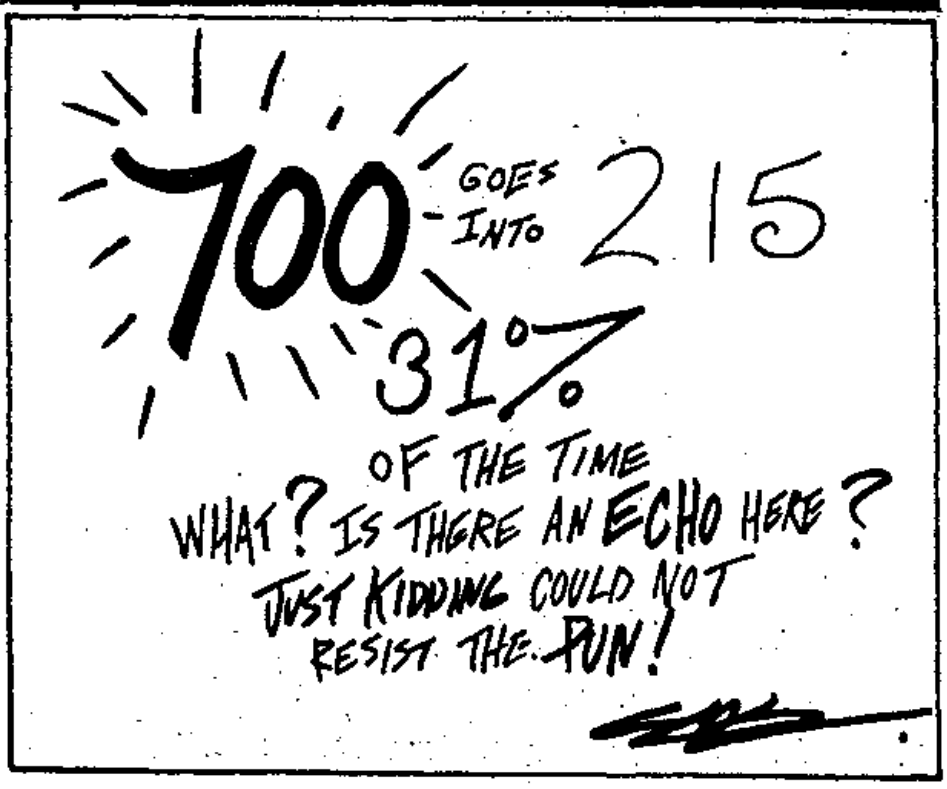

Gay Rights Everywhere - The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

No Florida Gay/Lesbian Rights Soon

TALLAHASSEE, FL (NP) -- A committee to recommend changes to the state constitution has decided not to risk the infamous wrath of Florida voters by daring to suggest a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A proposal to amend Florida's state constitution to add sexual orientation as a category protected against discrimination has been rejected by a committee of the Constitution Revision Commission by a vote of 6 to 2. The state constitution is due for its regular 20-year review in 1998.

During the last review process in 1978, a proposal to add sex (gender) as a protected category proved so divisive that it ended in voters defeating all the amendments proposed at the time, and a number of the commissioners -- including at least two who claim to support equal rights for Gays and Lesbians (one of them the chief justice of the Florida state Supreme Court) -- feared a similar outcome next year if they proposed the sexual orientation addition introduced by Judy Riley (Fort Walton Beach).

Article One of the Florida constitution currently provides protections from discrimination based on race, religion and physical disability. Human Rights Task Force of Florida executive director Nadine Smith had hoped the proposal would prove to be "an important, tangible step" for the state's Gays and Lesbians, who currently have no protections from discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations.

Newfoundland Rights Passed

ST. JOHNS, Newfoundland (NP) -- The third reading proved to be the charm for Newfoundland's LesBiGay human rights bill, as Prince Edward Island promises action and Alberta remains obstinate.

The addition of sexual orientation as a protected category under the provincial Human Rights Code was passed on its third and final reading by the Newfoundland House of Assembly, and now requires only the formality of a signature from the Lieutenant Governor to become law.

The measure had passed on its second reading last week. Gays and Lesbians will be protected from discrimination in areas including employment, housing, literature, and public accommodations and services.

Newfoundland Gays and Lesbians for Equality co-chair Brian Hodder credits the ascension of provincial premier Brian Tobin for finally moving Bill 21, which made little progress previously when Clyde Wells headed the ruling Liberal Party.

Hodder also noted that the bill includes a clause which will automatically offer participation of Gay and Lesbian domestic partners in pensions whenever the federal Income Tax Act is amended to allow it.

Another member of Newfoundland Gays and Lesbians for Equality, Ron Knowling, pointed to a 1993 case as having called public attention to the need for the law. At that time, Brian Nolan was arrested in St. John's for public drunkenness by two constables.

Those officers were suspended last year after a police complaints commission adjudicator found that they made the arrest with insufficient grounds and one called Nolan a "faggot," although a prison warden was acquitted of charges of assaulting Nolan. The media coverage of this situation encouraged others to come forward who felt their civil rights had been violated.

Newfoundland's action leaves Prince Edward Island and Alberta as the only Canadian provinces without civil rights protections for Lesbians and Gays. Prince Edward Island has been promising the move, but a bill has yet to be introduced in its legislature.

Alberta continues to use the courts in an effort to defend its right not to enact such a law, preferring a generic civil rights law the provincial government believes "protects everyone" but which academician Delwin Vriend found denied him recourse to the provincial Human Rights Commission when he was fired from King's College for being Gay.

U.S.: Poor Human Rights Record

WASHINGTON, DC (WS) -- Human Rights U.S.A., a national consortium of rights groups, reports the United States, which frequently lectures other nations on their human rights abuses, received low marks from Americans for a wide range of human rights failings.

According to a survey conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, 63 percent of respondents said the poor were regularly discriminated against in U.S. society.

Half or more of the 1,004 adults polled last month also named the disabled, the elderly, Gay men and women, and native Americans as routine targets of discrimination.

A smaller percentage of those questioned (41 percent) said black Americans routinely suffered discrimination, while 70 percent of blacks themselves said they felt discriminated against, the report notes.

The poll was commissioned by Human Rights U.S.A to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948. "The survey shows we have human rights problems right here in the United States," a Human Rights USA spokesperson said.

Research director Hart said a majority of Americans felt U.S. social programs failed to provide affordable health care, environmental protection and help for the poor.

A summary of key findings said a majority of Americans polled felt the U.S. was a place where people "lack respect for one another, are intolerant of those who are different from themselves, and who fail to stand up against racism and prejudice," Hart said.

Stonewall/Eagle

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DART TOURNEY 8:00 IN THE EAGLE
FREE POOL ALL DAY

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HAPPY HOUR 2-8
MILLER & MILLER LITE $1.75
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WEDNESDAY
HAPPY HOUR 2-8
BEST KARAOKE IN TOWN
HOSTED BY BILLY DEE
9PM

THURSDAY
HAPPY HOUR 2-8
LATIN DANCE PARTY
9-CLOSE WITH EDUARDO

FRIDAY
HAPPY HOUR 2-8
HOR D' OEUVRES 5PM
HIGH ENERGY DANCE MUSIC W/ RAYNMAN

SATURDAY
DANCE PARTY WITH RAYNMAN
9PM TO CLOSE

SUNDAY
FREE BURGERS 2-7
BEER BUST 2-7
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-UPCOMING EVENTS-
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Seasons Greetings from the Staff at Neon Moon

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MONDAY Drink Specials to pool and dart players.
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POLITICS 1997

by Mark R. Kerr

Stumbling Through A Winter Blunderland!

Arguments over parking spaces. Fighting over the latest "fad-gift" for an ungrateful relative. Was the receipt saved? Cards and packages blocking up the "postal arteries." Reunions, dysfunctional or otherwise taking place. Stressed-out travellers fly the unfriendly skies. Cigarette?

Electric bills and profits go up, up, up as neighbors try to "keep up with the Jones'." Holiday meals and fruitcake galore! Tagamet? Don't forget the 236 "Kathie Lee Gifford Specials" on the idiot-box. Watch them, Cody needs a new pony!

The holidays. Christmas, Hanukkah and of course New Years! Whoopee! People take time off to be with friends, relatives, a joint, a good bottle of booze, etc. Though some members of the Inquisition, err Arizona Legislature are "working" through the holidays prefiling legislation for the upcoming session. Is the infamous "Dildo Bill" being reintroduced?

Anyhow, take State Senator John Huppenthal, R-Chandler, who has prefiled legislation to make the dilophosarus the "official state dinosaur." Gee, I thought it was the Arizona Democratic Party but we digress.

Allegedly this big lizard is the only known dinosaur that is unique to Arizona; plus its remains never have been found anywhere else. This lizard could only pluck meat from the bones of an already dead victim. What about former (IMPEACHED!) Gov. Evan Mecham...and his hair? He is still alive!

This alleged idea, according to Huppenthal came from a Phoenix mother of two. Sure! At first the Chandler Republican thought this was trivial. No! Then he found out the bones were found only in Arizona. Gasp! So he drafted this waste of taxpayers monies for the youngsters of the state. Ah!

According to Huppenthal, "the legislation could be educational...it's the kind of measure that children might care about and follow, especially with much of the legislative agenda available statewide on the Internet."

Right! With no computers, textbooks outdated and/or in short supply in schools with asbestos in the ceilings being taught by severely underpaid teachers!

How about honoring items with the "official state" tag, such as: mountain - former Gov. Rose Mofford's bee-hive do; air freshener - Freon and; endangered species - politicians, which leads to...

Rep. Richard Kyle's, R-Chandler, piece of legislative tripe. His measure, HB 2020 for those playing the home game, would exempt the poor political candidate from paying the state's five percent sales tax on campaign purchases. As Marie Antoinette said it before the blade fell, "Let them eat cake!"

According to Kyle, "it isn't fair to force candidates and the people who contribute to their campaigns to shell out extra money for the state budget."

He rambles on, "A campaign is also a non-profit corporation. We don't benefit from our campaign funds personally." Sure! Tell that to the person living with AIDS, or perhaps the family who can barely make ends meet!

Kyle recently headed the Epilepsy Foundation until he resigned amid charges that he used a foundation credit card for personal expenses. Yes, a kiss on the hand is quite continental! But credit-cards are a boy's best friend!

He added that he saw nothing invalid about equating political wannabees with charities. "We do provide a public good. Our whole job is supposed to be for the public benefit." Gays, Lesbians and people living with HIV/AIDS buy that, huh!

Their job is supposed to be for the public benefit, but in a lot of cases for gain, political, especially during election time or otherwise. For example, State Senator Scott Bundgaard, R- Glendale, who's afraid the state may follow California's lead. Like it never has before!

Bundgaard will introduce legislation to place on the 1998 ballot a measure to end affirmative action for minorities in recruiting practices and education in the state.

According to the "boy-blunder," "Affirmative action causes further division among the races. I'm not out to step on minorities. I would rather give them a hand up." Up what?

Affirmative action in Arizona? Please! Affirmative action does not exist in the state.

According to Joe Dean, Gov. Hull's small business advocate, there are racial set-asides or minority set-asides for state contracting. Minority scholarships at the three state universities makes up 1.1 percent of the total. Minority waivers, which make up three percent of the total. Affirmative action?

Bundgaard's boondoggle would prevent cities, counties, local school boards from using race or gender as a consideration when hiring promoting or offering contracts. You thought Republican's did not support the "Big Brother" approach to government? Viva local control! Viva Baja Arizona!

Lastly, due to complaints received from a whopping three constituents, State Senator David Peterson, R-Mesa, is drafting a bill that would allow sex-offenders the right to refuse court-ordered treatment for, get this, religious reasons. Or as Maricopa County Attorney Richard Romley called it, "the rapists' relief act." Check please!

Will legislation banning "simulated sexual acts" be reintroduced? Perhaps.

This is just the beginning of the "legislative tsunami." The Inquisition, err Arizona Legislature goes back into session Monday, January 12, 1998, less than a month away. Happy-happy, joy-joy!

Happy holidays and be afraid, be very afraid! . . .

So it goes for now kids!

LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to express my appreciation to Jessie Mae and the staff of the Stonewall/Eagle for their fund raiser for "Children with AIDS Christmas Cheer."

Also appreciated all the efforts of Christina Abratus, Chris of D.C., Celina and Sandra and especially to Vangie for her vocal renditions.

Merry Christmas to all.

Rev. Henry Warner
Director, Pima AIDS Ministry

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GAY COMMUNITY:

The Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) and QueerVoice and Salud Es Poder (Latino men's project) are expanding into a new office space and we are in need of few items to make this room more comfortable for you.

This holiday season please think of us as you are preparing your holiday shopping list. Currently we need a small loveseat or two comfy chairs for our lobby area, as well as an end table, and possibly a lamp and some small plants. We also would like to have a coffee maker, and a small refrigerator. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. And remember all your donations are tax deductible.

We will be having an open house in late January and we would like to invite you to come down and see how your gifts have made this a very special place for all, (any interior decorates out there who would like to help us, we would appreciate your expertise).

Have a wonderful holiday from all the APC staff and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Padilla, QueerVoice
Project Coordinator

Rodney Shanks, Gay Men's Health
Project Coordinator

Ernie Perez, Salud Es Poder
Project Coordinator

Play Safe!

Joyce Cook Elected To MCC Pastorate

Joyce Cook

TUCSON – By unanimous vote on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the founding of MCC in Tucson, the congregation of Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church has extended a call to Joyce Cook to permanently fill the pastoral position at the church.

Since February 1 of this year, Ms. Cook has been serving the church on a time-limited interim basis, but now assumes the full pastoral role. In accepting the congregation's call, Cook noted that "we have much work to do, but it's such an exciting time, building Christian community in Southern Arizona! I eagerly anticipate the challenges and work ahead."

The congregation and Cook will formally celebrate her pastoral call in a ceremony of installation on Sunday, January 11, 1998, at the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service. The Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator of the world-wide Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches will officiate. Other special guests will be the Rev. Bradley Wilson, pastor of Gentle Shepherd MCC in Phoenix, and Cook's parents of Sacramento, California.

A long time member of MCC, Cook has completed her clergy internship at MCC-Las Vegas. Since 1991 she has been active at Gentle Shepherd MCC in Phoenix, and is currently completing her theological studies for ordination in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Ms. Cook earned her Bachelor of Social Work, summa cum laude; from Arizona State University, and has completed the academic requirements at the University of Miami (Florida) for Certification in Chemical Dependency. In addition to serving the church, she is also a substance abuse counselor in Phoenix. Special gifts that Ms. Cook brings to the pastorate at Water of Life MCC include dynamic preaching, teaching, mediation and negotiation, discernment, deep spiritual insight, and a compassionate heart for healing and wholeness individually and corporately.

The congregation of Water of Life MCC is continuing work on broadening and developing the membership base and financial base to provide a full-time pastoral salary for the pastoral position. Ms. Cook will then relocate to Tucson, in Spring 1998, for full-time ministry and community work in behalf of the church, and as the church's spiritual leader and director.

Water of Life MCC of Tucson is located at 3269 North Mountain Avenue, between Fort Lowell and Prince Roads. All are cordially invited to attend to meet and hear MCC's new dynamic pastoral leader! For more information, call the church office at (520) 292-9151.

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."
- Henry David Thoreau

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Eagle Scout Tests Gay Exclusion

TRENTON, NJ (NP) – A New Jersey Eagle Scout and Lambda's legal eagle are arguing that the oath to be "morally straight" doesn't have to mean "straight" the other way.

Whether the Boy Scouts of America's ban on open Gays violates New Jersey's 1992 law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation was considered by a state appeals panel in the case of former assistant scoutmaster and Eagle scout James Dale.

In 1995, Monmouth County Chancery Court Judge Patrick McGann ruled against Dale in a decision laden with Biblical references to Sodom and Gomorrah that called homosexuality "a serious moral wrong." Dale is represented by Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who also represents open Gay Tim Curran in his very similar 15-year-old lawsuit against the Scouts, which awaits a hearing before the California state Supreme Court.

Wolfson maintains that a New Jersey decision in favor of the Scouts would serve to severely limit the scope of the state civil rights law. Nationally, there have been a growing number of lawsuits against the Boy Scouts of America for discriminating against Gays, women and agnostics, but the organization is such a sacred cow in U.S. culture that it has generally been successful in court.

Dale (like Curran) was a stellar Scout who earned 30 merit badges, seven achievement awards, an Arrow of Light Award, and other honors in addition to his Eagle badge, the highest rank in scouting. He became an assistant scoutmaster by his troop's invitation when he turned 18. He had every intention of continuing his association with scouting for the rest of his life, and still hopes with the current lawsuit to win reinstatement.

But when he went to Rutgers University, he became co-president of the campus Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance. That made him a likely source for a July 1990 newspaper story about the challenges facing Gay and Lesbian youth, and a month after Dale was quoted in print, the Scouts ousted him. Negotiations were attempted, but in 1992 Dale filed suit against the Boy Scouts of America claiming sexual orientation-based discrimination illegal under New Jersey law.

Today he is 27 and works for a public relations firm in New York City.

The two main issues that emerged were whether or not the Scouts should be considered a public accommodation (Wolfson offered Little League as an example of a group that is so considered) and whether a "straights-only" policy is essential to the organization's mission. The Scouts argued that they enjoy the same exemption from the state civil rights law as religious organizations do.

Wolfson said that if the court agreed, it "could cripple the reach of New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination."

The argument that the Scouts are not a public accommodation subject to state civil rights laws was successful earlier this year in the California case of openly Gay San Diego Explorers group leader Chuck Merino: although another youth recreational organization, the Boys Club, had been found there to be a public accommodation (and so was ordered to accept girls), the court considered the Scouts to be a private association whose activities primarily went on outside the view of the public.

Much of the argument on the mission question focused on the Scouts' oath to be "morally straight." Wolfson claimed that this is not a statement about sexual orientation, saying, "There is simply nothing in there that relates to being Gay or that says you can't be virtuous if you are Gay."

He questioned how essential the ban was to the purpose of Scouting, maintaining that it was not the ban on Gays but the positive values of the famous oath that drew people to Scouting. Scouts' attorney George Davidson insists there is a sexual element to the oath which is not made explicit so as "not to push that issue in kids' faces."

Davidson further denied that the Scouts had discriminated against Dale, claiming instead that Dale had "brought about his [own] exclusion" when he violated the standing policy against "known or avowed homosexuals."

Boy Scouts of America national spokesperson Gregg Shields described the national policy as holding that, "A person who engages in a homosexual lifestyle is not a role model for those values" held by scouting families.

However, Rutgers law professor Eric Neisser told reporters that in the New Jersey court, "The Boy Scouts would have to show that heterosexuality is somehow an essential job requirement. I think the Boy Scouts are going to have a very hard time justifying this conduct."

Ironically, Scouting founder Lord Baden-Powell's own nephew is a Gay man who has spoken out against the organization's ban, while there have also been suggestions that Baden-Powell himself had at the very least a powerful aesthetic pleasure in the presence of young men.

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UPDATE

Bias Charged In Firing Of 'Out' Editor

NEW YORK, NY (NYT) – Sarah Pettit, fired as editor in chief of Out magazine may bring a breach of contract lawsuit and possibly charge sex discrimination against the magazine and its president, Henry Scott.

Despite increased circulation and advertising revenues, Scott, the president of Out Publishing, announced that he was replacing Pettit with James Collard, the editor of a Gay British magazine called Attitude.

Pettit learned last month that Scott had been seeking a replacement for her. When she finally confronted him, an argument ensued over the terms by which Scott intended to terminate her contract and he issued her an ultimatum: sign the termination document or you are out. She refused and was dismissed.

"Beyond being personally shocked, it is to me extremely unprofessional," Pettit said. "I am contemplating a breach of contract lawsuit and possibly charging sex discrimination."

Many people at the magazine expressed shock and dismay at Scott's handling of the affair. David Mendelsohn, a contributing writer for the magazine, resigned as a result. More are expected to follow his example as the fallout from the firing carries into the new work week.

"I'm just totally flabbergasted," Mendelsohn said. "A founding editor has been unceremoniously thrown in the trash heap. This is not a bunch of people I care to be associated with."

Scott said Pettit did not share his "collaborative" approach to running the magazine. Pettit maintains that at no time did Scott express to her any dissatisfaction with the editorial direction of Out.

Pettit's lawyer, Rosalind Lichter said their case was strong for breach of contract. "There doesn't seem to be any reason as to why she was fired" in the letter of termination, Lichter said. "The only thing I can think of is it's because of her gender."

Anti-Gay Propaganda Video

WASHINGTON, DC (NP) – The revolution may not be televised, but "heaven's revenge" is now available on videotape, brought to you by a small Catholic group warning of the "Devil's plan" for equal rights.

"The Homosexual Conspiracy Against the Catholic Church" is a video now being advertised in a conservative Washington newspaper's national weekly edition by Catholic Counterpoint, a group of so-called "Catholic traditionalists."

The ad's headline calls it "Father John O'Connor's Video, The Priest the American Catholic Church Has Tried to Silence"; the text says,

"Every day the news media carries stories of Homosexuals and Lesbians attempting to change America through indoctrination, legislation, infiltration and intimidation. They want everyone to accept their lifestyle as normal because they claim God made them that way. Sodomy is one of the 4 sins that cry out to heaven for revenge because it is contrary to the laws of nature. This information needs to be known in order to counteract the Devil's plan to bring society to moral collapse."

The 100-minute video is being sold by mail from Broomall, Pennsylvania for $24.95.

Finding that line about "one of the 4 sins that cry out to heaven for revenge" more than a little scary, we looked for more information.

According to their website, in a statement by John Maffei, Catholic Counterpoint believes the Catholic Church has been "headed in the Wrong Direction" for at least the last 30 years, and is seeking to present "the other side of the story...THE COUNTERPOINT...which most Catholics don't want to hear or are not informed about (in some cases we believe this to be intentional)."

They've found videos to be "the easiest and the most cost effective way for us to share our findings," saving them the "considerable danger from some of the overanxious radicals" they've faced in their travels. They say they profit from the videos "barely," but primarily hope "to show anyone who's Catholic faith is important to them that the modern day Church and its current hierarchy are not really living by the Bible's teaching and mandates, and by God's laws."

Moma Tribute To Versace

NEW YORK, NY (NP) – All the glitterati in attendance couldn't outshine the 90 Versace originals on display as the Museum of Modern Art honors the fallen hero of fashion.

A lavish fund-raiser December 8 officially kicked off New York City's Museum of Modern Art's Costume Institute retrospective display of the work of the late openly Gay designer Gianni Versace, who was killed in July allegedly by open Gay Andrew Cunanan.

The $2,000-a-plate dinner was a major social event of the year, whose 900 attendees included designers John Galliano, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Calvin Klein, Oscar de la Renta, Ralph Lauren, and Miuccia Prada; models Kate Moss and Claudia Schiffer; actors Hugh Grant, Helen Hunt, Liz Hurley, and Gwyneth Paltrow; and singers Courtney Love and Cher.

An even larger number of people turned out for the $200-per-head dance following the dinner. Sting sang for the diners, and he, Madonna and event co-chair Elton John all completely denied a story charging that they had argued as to which of them would perform at the event.

Versace's sister, Donatella, was the other event co-chair, and brother Santo was present as well. They suggested that their future products may be toned down to be more "wearable" than Gianni's more flamboyant designs, and said they are renewing plans to go public with their family company's huge international holdings.

Versace's niece and chief heir, Allegra, was able to privately tour the Costume Institute's tribute display of Versace's works last week.

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Life Is A Drag . . . .

By Elise Barbara Fox

"Don we now our Gay apparel..."

Carolers sing it. We live it. It's not easy to be different. You need to be fearless.

"Bimbos 4" held a Christmas party Saturday night at Amber Monroe's downtown apartment. The highlight was a private drag show by Shaundriana. Granted, she only did a couple of numbers for the purpose of being videotaped by Charlene. But it was a spectacular Dolly Parton. If you have a chance to catch her act on stage, do so. She's a pageant natural so look for her to wear more crowns.

Shaundriana has a new talent: minicam operator. Charlene, a professional photographer, pressed her into service so Bimbos 4 could do a skit: a lip synch of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." For mimic purposes, Amber had a horn; Zoe, a violin. Charlene and I waved candy canes. We all were in red and looked like darling elves.

My role for this affair: impromptu caterer. If you'll be throwing a party: some observations. Those supermarket shrimp plates are a bargain and by the end of the night nothing is left. (I got mine at Fry's seafood department, $29.99, and beautifully arranged – a credit to union labor.) Deviled eggs proved a winner: two plates; none left. And the plate of black pitted olives and green stuffed Spanish olives disappeared in quick order.

I once helped a neighbor lady, a true culinary artist, do some wedding catering. It was instructive though I'm not sure who would up more tipsy: the guests or me.

Parties have a point: we need to play, to refresh our minds, for the tasks ahead. Each of us is special. We are human. We are courageous. We can do great things. And I hope you know what makes our community particularly special: our ethics, our sense of honor.

Arizona Psychological Association had an interesting press release, not directed at us but possibly applying to some. The counselors say holiday decorations in stores and singing of Christmas carols can send some into depression. The solution: gratitude to others for their many considerations instead of dwelling on things we lack either materially or socially.

It's a magic time. You may not think that if you've been the victim of a verbal Gay bashing or physical harm. But we need to count the people who've been there when we needed them as the best gift ever.

I learned about it second hand. I could have gone to the IBT's Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair shows but, from what I heard, my judgment was right: not like a cutting edge CD but more like a compilation of things you've seen; acts I've reviewed. IBT's shouldn't fret, however. They'll be the focus next week of my version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." It'll be a bit of whimsy. Dave and Frank, who've done so much for us, deserve this tip of the hat. No, I won't even hint: you'll just have to read next week's edition.

This week, I'm sending all of you holiday greetings. You know why we have nightclubs: adults trying in some small measure – at least for a few hours – to erase the tears the cares of life have cost us. They're our sandbox. So thank you to all.

Here's a Christmas card:

Christina de Alexis: a true inspiration. Other show producers: Larry Moore ("Lucinda"), Ms. JODY, Sabrina, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Rodney ("Gilda Fatale") – ditto to each for making our nights better. All the bartenders, DJs and security people: for contagious courtesy that will leave you smiling.

Shaundriana, Victoria du Puis, Crystal Abrams, Truly Fabu, Felice Renard for talking with me as I held a pen and notepad. If I missed your name – and there are so many high-profile performers – I apologize. But Bob Ellis won't let me go on forever. Editors have a red pencil for writers who extend their welcome.

Vanilla Star and Rosa, for their cordiality. A special tribute: to Felice. I know of no one who can do Broadway so well. To Maya Erection: for recreation Samantha Fox, my namesake, on stage.

And there's Mark Kerr. An amazingly good reporter. Thanks to him you're up to date. He tracks this "Alice in Wonderland" thing called a state Legislature.

To pageant producers: for giving us colorful events that showcase the best established talent and introduce us to new performers.

Our agencies: a class act -- Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation directed by Anne Maley. Anne has done a marvelous thing; blend three agencies into one, sort of like making an omelet. And Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, teaching us that spirituality can help us weather the storms.

But most of all: you, the reader.

I salute all of you good hearted people: Gays, Lesbians, Drag Queens, Leathermen, Bisexuals, Transgenders, agency workers, nightclub owners, church people and any others who've extended a helping hand along life's journey.

You are the stars of this show to end all shows – our part of planet Earth. I hope this column continues to amuse, entertain and create awareness of things that should be important to us.

And, of course, Bob Ellis. Without his commitment, we'd be walking blindfolded.

Lastly, greetings, to the rest of "Bimbos 4" – Charlene, Zoe and Amber. I am the least of these but I'm proud to call them my friends. Without their encouragement, I never would have written one column inch.

The holiday period is more than parties, gifts, trees, lights, egg nog, post-season gridiron end New Year's confetti and noisemakers: it's about friendship.

Bravery and commitment are qualities inherent in humanity and date to the dawn of time. Just a few examples: the son of that carpenter from Nazareth, Joan of Arc, John Peter Zenger, Mother Teresa, Princess Diana, Ryan White. Some rise to the world state but there's not shortage of need for local courage – and volunteers.

AIDS is the Black Death of the 20th Century. I hope you know it's pandemic. The President's own 32-member advisory council on this issue criticized the administration for failing to take a strong leadership role. Among other things: our nation's funding for HIV prevention, treatment and research fails to address the needs. We can't have a vibrant society or economy if our citizens are ill.

The various drag troupes that perform at our nightclubs have done wonders this holiday season to raise funds to help the afflicted: it's an act of love.

The Pharaoh wants us to build new pyramids and feeds us crumbs. Exodus, my friends, regardless of your political affiliation, is at the ballot box.

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Salud Es Poder

Latino Men's Health Project

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Tardeada-Latino Dance Party featuring "Fuerza Latina" and "Proyecto Latino"
Showtime 10pm. DJ Eduardo and Dancing follow till 1 am.

December 31 - Stonewall Second Annual New Years Eve Fiesta. Buffet From 7 to 9:30 pm. DJ Eduardo and DJ Raynman mix the tunes till 1 am.

"Salud es Poder" is a project of the AIDS Prevention Collaboration: Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Pima County Health Department and Wingspan.
Funded by ADHS/CDC

Update

Continued from Page Nine

MoMA expects more than 300,000 visitors over the next four months to attend the display of 90 Versace creations, leading the Costume Institute to consider questions of crowd control and security for the first time in its history.

The display is divided into sections including "History," "Dream" and "Landmark," representing respectively Versace's homage to his Italian heritage; his creations for rock, opera and ballet productions; and some of his most- publicized works, including the famous "safety-pin" dress Elizabeth Hurley wore to the Oscars and an embroidered dress Princess Diana appeared in on the cover of "Harper's Bazaar."

School Districts Wrestle With Lesbian Teacher's Suit

SPANISH FORK, UT (DN) – The Nebo District school board has no idea how to handle a lawsuit filed by Wendy Weaver, a teacher dismissed from her position as the girls' volleyball coach and ordered not to discuss her sexual orientation with anyone related to the school.

While the district is expected to officially respond to Weaver's lawsuit before the end of the month, school board president Kaye Westwood admitted that the district's decisions were now "out of the board's hands" and were being made by district counsel.

Westwood said, "We as board members don't know what the district's actions will be. Our attorneys will speak for us on Dec. 29."

Weaver's suit contends the school's blanket demand she not discuss her sexual orientation either on school grounds or off, with students, teachers, friends, or anyone associated in any way with the school, is a violation of her free speech and privacy rights.

The fight over whether Weaver would be allowed to stay with the school turned increasingly ugly over the last several weeks as conservative parents organized to insist Weaver be dismissed. School board meetings demanded by angry parents turned into shouting matches between Weaver's supporters and her opponents.

"She must be removed," said Gae Grunander, an area resident. "This is a battle we need to keep fighting even if there is no way we can win."

"Take no prisoners," said another. "We are talking about a behavior that is illegal. There is no constitutional right to be a homosexual. It is not a protected category."

School officials and conservative parents have also said that for Weaver to sue the school, to "rob the district of a million dollars of taxpayers' money that was supposed to go to educating kids," demonstrates her contempt for her profession and the children she educates.

This brought a furious response from Patricia Woodard, a Weaver supporter. "If the school district hasn't got the money to throw away on lawsuit awards, they shouldn't be doing things that deserve to get them sued. If Wendy Weaver wins her lawsuit and the children and taxpayers of the Nebo School District suffer the consequences, it will be the fault of the people who broke the law, not the person they persecuted."

Gay/Lesbian Award Winners

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) – The ACLU sends Gay Christian activist to India...Heche wins award so that Ellen's won't be lonely...Elton's "Candle" melts Billboard competition...

Mel White Honored by ACLU: Open Gay Dr. Mel White, now serving as Justice Minister for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (and formerly a speech and ghost-writer for right-wingers Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and others), was presented with the American Civil Liberties Union's National Civil Liberties Award for effectively advancing civil rights for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgendered people through principles of non-violence.

The award allows White to undertake a five-week course of study in India with Gandhi's grandson and other nonviolent justice movement leaders, while travelling to various historic and academic sites there.

White is also announcing the release of "How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me, Too?" a new video he and his partner, Gary Nixon, made as their "soulforce" response "to those who misuse the Bible to make God's Lesbian and Gay children feel like outcasts." Copies can be obtained by sending a check made out to "Video 2" for $10/copy (for duplicating, packaging and mailing costs) to Soulforce Videos, P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652.

Heche Honored by Film Review Board: The National Board of Review handed out its annual film awards, including a Best Supporting Actress prize to open Lesbian Anne Heche (Ellen DeGeneres' partner) for her work in "Wag the Dog" and "Donnie Brasco."

"As Good As It Gets" brought a Best Supporting Actor to Greg Kinnear for his role as a Gay artist, as well as a Best Actor for Jack Nicholson. Gay-friendly actor Richard Gere shared with Jon Avnet in the Board's "Freedom of Expression" award for 1997.

Elton John Honored by Billboard: Elton John picked up still more awards for his record-breaking tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, "Candle in the Wind 1997," at Billboard's annual music awards in Las Vegas.

Since Billboard awards are based on record sales and radio airplay as compiled from the last 12 months' Billboard charts, there was no stopping "Candle" from taking Single of the Year or John from taking awards for Singles Artist and Singles Sales Artist of the Year, but Billboard threw in an additional special award for John and lyricist Bernie Taupin for creating the biggest-selling single of all time.

Earlier, John handed over the first "Candle" royalties check of $33-million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, in a presentation to Diana's sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale at Kensington Palace. "Candle" will further benefit the fund when a hand-written copy of its lyrics, signed by both John and Taupin, is auctioned off next December.

Among Diana's favorite charities benefitting from the memorial fund is Britain's National AIDS Trust. "Candle" has now reportedly reached worldwide sales of 33 million copies.

Boy's Night Out

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White elephant gift exchange!

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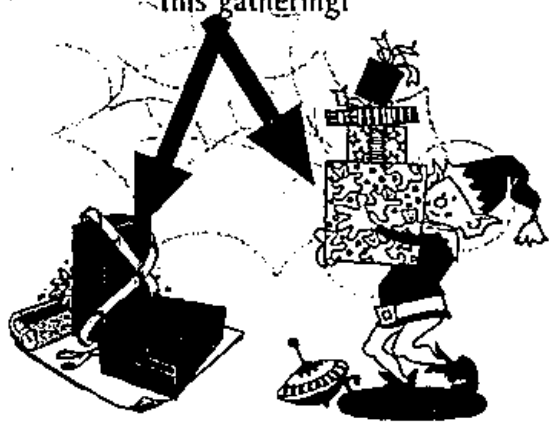
December 20, 1997

Food Served at 5:30!

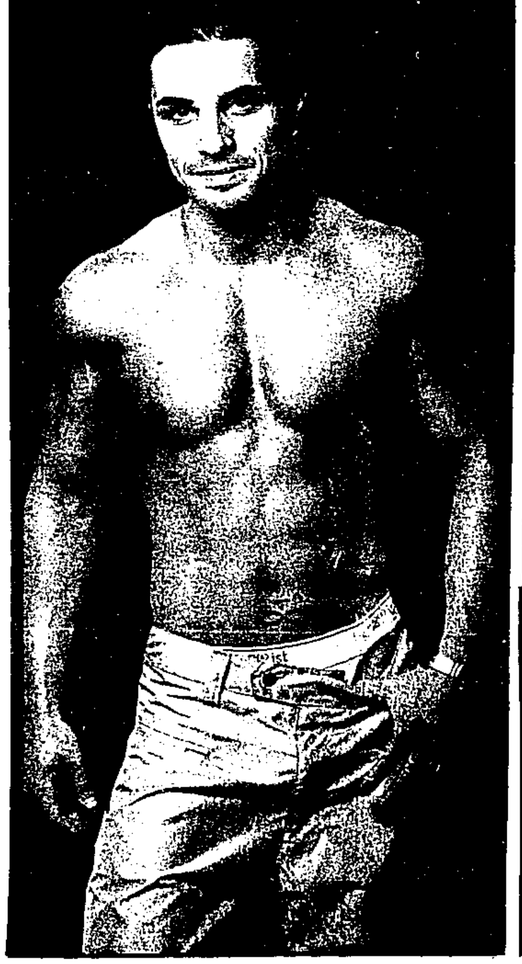
White Elephant: a gift that you have received that you would like to burn, trash, or give to an enemy qualifies as a white elephant. Bring it to exchange at this gathering!

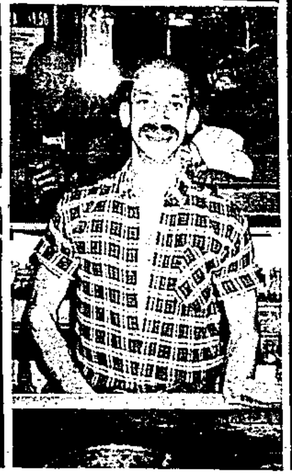


Call Arthur at 322-6226 for more information and directions to our host's house!

the best times always begin with...

Chow





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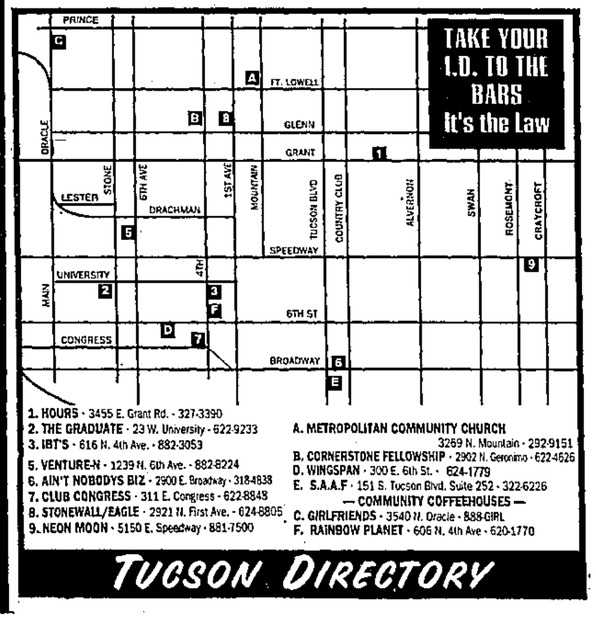

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TUCSON DIRECTORY

Salt Lake City Approves Protections For G/L City Employees

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (NP) -- Protection from job discrimination for Lesbian and Gay Salt Lake City employees wasn't easy to win...and may not last.

The Salt Lake City Council voted 5 to 2 to adopt protections for city employees from job discrimination based on sexual orientation, becoming the first municipality in Utah to enact such a measure (although Salt Lake County and the University of Utah have similar policies).

The more vocal of the two Councilmembers opposing the bill, Bryce Jolley, has been angered by what he sees as the "railroading" of the ordinance at a time when three Councilmembers are about to be replaced by newly-elected members, particularly since two of the outgoing members were appointed rather than elected.

After unsuccessfully trying to delay the bill's passage and to replace it with a more generic measure against discrimination based on any characteristic not related to job performance, Jolley is now determined to move to repeal it once the new Council is seated.

Although Jolley says he is morally opposed to homosexuality, he also says that he believes that all job discrimination is wrong and that people's private lives should be their own business.

Over 30 local residents gave more than two hours of testimony before the vote, much of it so virulently homophobic that the bill's sponsor, Council Chair Deeda Seed, declared that her "heart was broken" and that she was left more discouraged than when she determined to pass this measure two years ago, although she added that, "These comments have amply demonstrated the need for this ordinance."

Some of those testifying against the measure felt that as parents they had a right to know if their children would be coming in contact with Gay or Lesbian city employees, while others railed against the sinfulness of homosexuality; some believed the bill would grant "special rights" to Gays and Lesbians, while others believed it could potentially be interpreted to cover all employers in the city and even establish an affirmative action program for hiring Gays and Lesbians.

Ministers Join Fight Against Michigan Pro-Gay/Lesbian Law

ANN ARBOR, MI (AAN)-- A group of 44 ministers of predominantly black churches in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti have denounced the city's consideration of an ordinance which would bolster anti discrimination protections for Gay men and Lesbians.

The Minister's Alliance of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Vicinity announced it will join Citizens Opposing Special Treatment in seeking a city charter amendment that would block the proposed ordinance. "We felt we should be involved in the process in order to show our continued commitment to what we see as a defense of traditional values," Rev. Levon Yuille said.

Yuille has been an ardent opponent of the Gay rights measure since it was proposed in March. He sharply criticized a recent endorsement of the measure by the Ypsilanti-Willow Run branch of the NAACP.

The Ypsilanti City Council unanimously approved a first reading of the ordinance which would add sexual orientation to 14 classes protected by the municipal anti-discrimination law. A second and final reading is scheduled for this week.

Citizens Opposing Special Treatment last month announced they had received city approval on the wording of a petition to put a ballot measure before voters prohibiting the extension of anti-bias laws to cover sexual orientation. A second ballot measure, if approved by voters, would repeal the City Council's expected passage of the Gay rights bill.

New Coming Out Website Launches For The Holidays

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- Closeted Gays and puzzled parents now have a new resource. AllTogether.com (http://www.-AllTogether.com) became the first free, non-profit, e-commerce website aimed solely at providing safe, confidential coming out answers and resources.

The website launches for the holiday season, often a trying time for families dealing with coming out issues. It is supported with wide acclaim from actors Judith Light and Danny Pintauro, as well as from ten of the nation's leading Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender organizations.

"I have talked to parents who have had no place to go where their anonymity would be respected and their feelings would be responded to," said actress Judith Light. "That's why I'm delighted with the advent of AllTogether.com."

Actor Danny Pintauro, who played Judith Light's son in the hit TV show "Who's The Boss," said "When I first came out, I had trouble finding help, especially when I told my parents. AllTogether.com helps people find confidential answers to their own questions, and allows straight people to ask a lot of the 'dumb' questions they're afraid to ask their Gay children, friends, parents, or co-workers."

Light added, "When Danny was threatened with being 'outed,' I felt as much for him as I would if I were actually his mother. For some parents, the coming out of their child can be a confusing and lonely time."

Sensitive to the many fears and concerns of parents and closeted Gays, AllTogether.com uses "intelligent agent" technology to let people ask questions in their own words.

AllTogether.com is supported by some of the nation's leading Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender organizations, including:

Boston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Speakers Bureau; Community United Against Violence; Digital Queers; Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network; Gill Foundation; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; PFLAG and; PlanetOut.

AllTogether.com is powered by PlanetOut(http://www.planetout.com),the world's premier Gay and Lesbian online community.

To link to AllTogether.com or suggest resource listings, users should access the site at http://www.AllTogether.-com.

Regent Appointees Feel Governor's Wrath

SACRAMENTO, CA (WS) -- While University of California regent Carol Chandler may have scored points with Gov. Pete Wilson in voting against domestic partnership benefits last month, the move may have cost the newly appointed regent her seat on the board.

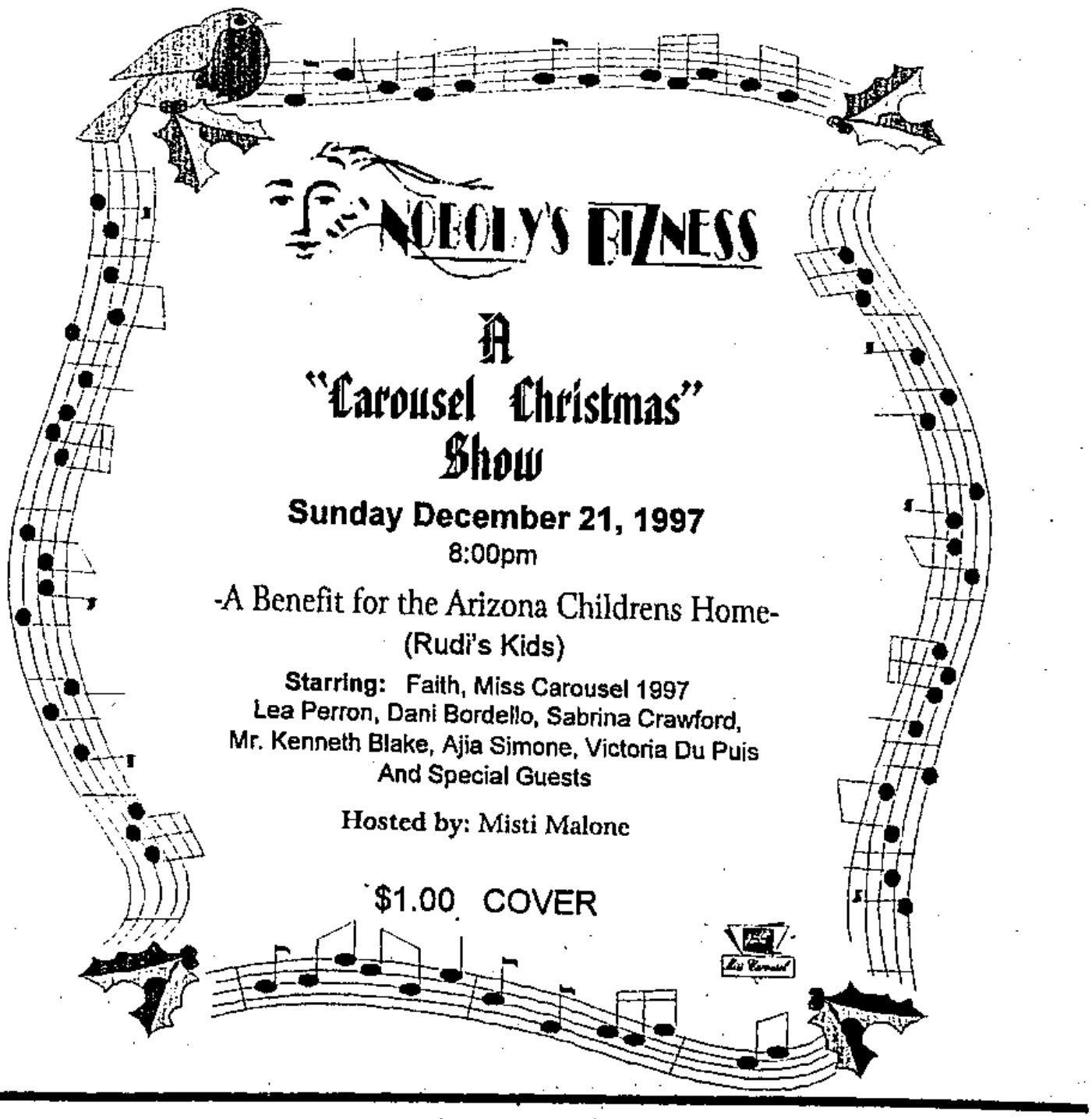
In what was called an "aggressive and bare knuckled attempt" to prevent the measure's passage, Wilson spurned normal nomination channels and appointed Chandler and two other regents to the Board in attempt to pack the UC Board of Regents with "no" votes.

Wilson failed. By a vote of 13-12-the regents approved extending health benefits to the partners of Gay and Lesbian employees.

"More than any other single characteristic that we look for in regents is that they be untainted by partisan politics and willing to manage the university system in as nonpolitical a fashion as possible," Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward), who largely controls the UC regent confirmation process, told reporters.

Lockyer said Chandler's vote showed "a lack of backbone and independence," and he expressed the belief that Wilson had seen his last appointee to the Board. Asked if that means the Senate planned not to confirm any of Wilson's recent appointees, Lockyer said, "There are members of my caucus who believe that would be the appropriate thing to do."

In a broader political context, Wilson's defeat opened the governor to charges that, as with his 1995 battle against affirmative action, he was again using the university as a political stage on which to play out his presidential ambitions. Wilson vehemently denied the charge.



Columna Abierta. . . . .

by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

¿Qué tal?, ¿ya listos para las fiestas de Navidad y de Año Nuevo?, esperamos que sí, y sobre todo que el "Señor Clos" les dé lo que pidieron; y sobre todo, que puedan repartirlo con los demás... y desde luego que nuestro mensaje de Navidad es que: dé afecto no lo compre, y que el año que viene, venga cargado de muchas esperanzas y buenas metas para cada uno de ustedes apreciables lectores... Y no está por demás recordarles que hay que "medirnos" en el número de bebidas al brindar, y si van a tomar, designar a la persona que se encuentre en "sus cinco sentidos" para que sea la persona encargada de hacerla de "jaime"; y se les recuerda que el "TPD" ha estado haciendo sus anuncios que tendrán sus "puntos de chequeo" en ciertas areas de la ciudad.. así que mucha responsabilidad!!! y festejar con respeto y moderación...

Tal como les prometí; pues el 1er. Foro de Consulta comunitaria sobre Integración Familiar que se efectuó en el Auditorio Municipal de Agua Prieta, Sonora el pasado día 10 de Diciembre, fué un éxito, y realmente faltó gente que a la vez se le excusa, ya que la temperatura que tuvimos fué alrededor de los 12°C y el lugar estuvo un poco frio y la gente que participó realmente con mucha participación, ya que el programa se alargó hasta las 10:00 pm y se logró parte de los objetivos, ya que se mencionaron posibles actividades para darle continuidad a estos foros de consulta, y se acordó la siguiente fecha para el segundo, el cual se llevará a cabo el día miércoles 28 de enero y también se mencionó algunos talleres educativos a desarrollar, tales como platicas de padre a hijo, de madre a hija, etc, ya le tendré informado de las actividades a desarrollarse... Por lo pronto, agradecimientos muy merecidos a las personas que hicieron posible esta actividad y a los miembros del panel, que todos ellos estuvieron contestando las preguntas hechas por el público, y algunas quedaron pendientes por el factor tiempo...

Ernie Pérez y Jorge Rascón de Salud es Poder, están un poco "atareados" con la posada que organizarán para los voluntarios y miembros del menciomado proyecto para el día domingo 21 de las 4:00pm a las 6:00 pm en el Stonewall, para continuar con la tardeada de cada domingo y para las 10:00 un gran programa de presentación por Fuerza Latina y Proyecto Latino con la participación de muchos artistas locales e invitados, si necesita más información al respecto, por favor comunicarse con Ernie o Jorge al 322-6226.

Hemos recibido muy buenos comentarios sobre la serie de "Tabaco, puedes vivir sin el"; así es que a continuación otro mensaje de Mónica acerca de la prevención al uso del tabaco:

Queridos lectores, estamos en la epoca del año que invita a reflexionar acerca de nuestros logros y experiencias durante el año que se nos va y en los popósitos que tenemos para el año venidero. También es el mes del año en que las familias y grupos de amigos se reunen para celebrar las fiestas decembrinas. Las conversaciones que son escuchadas en estas reuniones son comúnes, como usted podrá observar como me tocó hacerlo el pasado fín de semana durante una posada que año con año un grupo de amigas celebramos; todas comentabamos entre sí las cartas que nuestros hijos le escribieron a Santa Claus, las cosas que le pedían, las cosas que nuestras casas necesitaban, la cantidad de regalos que necesitabamos comprar para nuestros familiares, compadres, amigos cercanos y encima de todo; los gastos normales de tarjetas de crédito, pagos del carro, renta, servicios, comidas, etc, etc. Cúanto dinero necesitamos para comprar todo!. A su vez, todos nos quejabamos de que no teníamos todo el dinero para hacer todo lo que tenemos que hacer durante este mes.

Pero observando al grupo me dí cuénta que mi amiga Norma se quejaba de que efectivamente los juguetes de sus hijos y necesidades eran bastantes, una televisión de por lo menos $ 500 dlls, una V.C.R, un equipo de sonido, regalos para toda una familia de 6 miembros. Rapido sacó una calculadora y comenzó a sumar y figurar la cantidad de dinero que todo esto le costaría y concluyó que por lo menos ella necesitaría $ 850 dolares más para poder hacerla. Tristemente encendió el ultimó cigarrillo que le quedaba en su cajetilla y me dijo.." si no tengo para los cigarros de mañana, mucho menos para completar los ochocientos y " cacho" de los regalos." Y las pláticas continuaron... de regreso a mi casa y pensando en lo sucedido en la reunión reflexioné en lo siguiente: Norma fuma por lo menos una cajetilla diaria y al multiplicar el costo por cajetilla por los 365 días del año dá como resultado $ 822 dolares anuales...GRACIAS A DIOS QUE YO NO FUMO!!!.

Nece$$$$$$ita alguna otra razón para dejar de fumar??? Llame a Monica al (520) 287-4722 o a la linea de ayuda al 1 800 556 6222.

Por hoy es todo, le esperamos la próxima semana, D. M.

Ernie Perez, Salud es Poder/TAP
151 S. Tucson Blvd. Ste. 252
Tucson, AZ 85716
FAX: (520) 327-9557

Dr. Eleazar Garcia, SEAHEC
1171 W. Target Range Road
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520)287-4722 - FAX: 287-4349

Theresa Mendez, HIV/AIDS Education Coalition, 1852 N. Mastick Way,
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520)761-2147 - FAX: 761-2153

Arizona/Mexico Border Health Foundation
2501 E. Elm St., Tucson, AZ 85716
(520)795-9756 - FAX: 795-1365

National Naval Network Launches Defense Fund

SEARCHLIGHT, NV -- The Naval Network, America's largest club for men who prefer Marines and sailors, with over 2,000 members worldwide, has launched a new "Naval Network Defense Fund" to aid servicemen targeted for prosecution due to their homosexuality or bisexuality.

Dan Devlin, Chairman of the Naval Network, said: "Don't ask, don't tell, isn't working. In fact, the targeting of homosexuals and Bisexuals for prosecution by the military is now worse than in the Bush and Reagan years. Every year new discharges number in the thousands!"

The Naval Network, has in the past informally aided such servicemen in need. However, the new "Naval Network Defense Fund" will seek to do even more for legal defense work, and "softer landings" for such discharged men with free housing, education and re-training, and job opportunities.

For further information, contact: The Naval Network, POB 1270G, Searchlight, Nevada 89046-1270.

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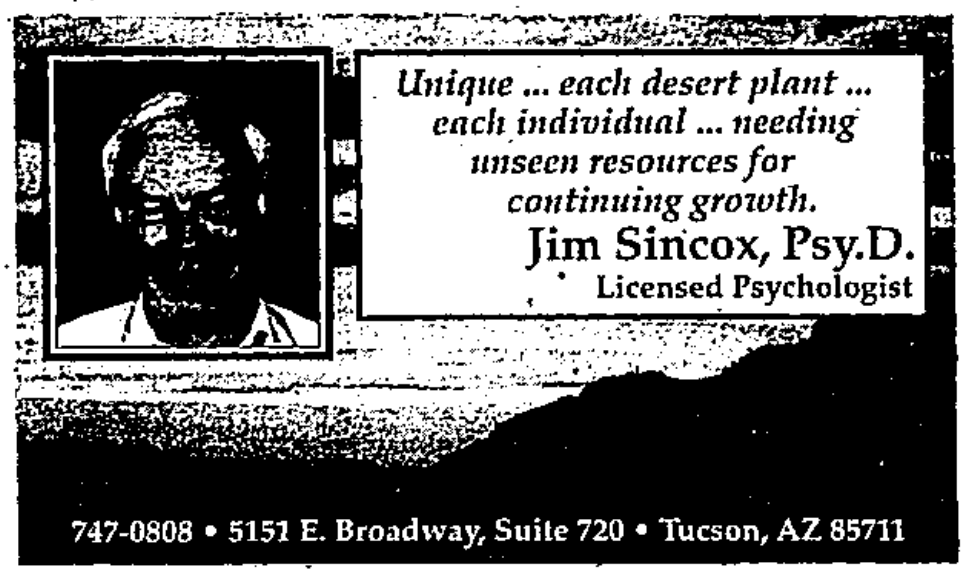

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Gay World In Brief. . . . . .

International Briefs

LONDON, UK (NP) – Aussie Gay-Green Dr. Brown on trial for forest protest...Brit bishop rebuffed for LesBiGay-friendly stance...Oscar (who never wears a towel) upholds bar on "Turkish Bath"...

Australia: The only open Gay now sitting in the Australian Senate, Dr. Bob Brown (Green-Tasmania), faces trial for his part in a June anti-logging protest defending the old growth Goolengook Forest in the East Gippsland area of Victoria.

Brown is entering a "not guilty" plea to the charge of obstructing lawful logging operations, on the grounds that the logging was, in fact, not legal. The Goolengook River is an Australian Site of National Significance, a rainforest housing a number of rare plant and animal species, and only portions of it have been opened to logging through a government memorandum. Brown's attorney says that as much as one-third of the area was being logged illegally.

Brown was one of nearly 180 demonstrators who were charged, 46 of whom have been fined A$1,000 each. Brown has long been the Australian Greens national spokesperson, as an environmental activist for more than two decades and winner of the Goldman Environmental prize and the UNEP Global 500 Award.

Britain: Martin Wharton, the Anglican Church's new Bishop of Newcastle, has now had a second parish formally reject his authority because he has said that committed Gay and Lesbian relationships are not sinful.

Last month, the Jesmond parish in Newcastle upon Tyne wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury to say they could not accept Wharton's authority. Now they've been joined by the parish of St. Mark's and St. Oswald's, also in Newcastle upon Tyne, whose parochial church council issued a statement that, "In the light of his public statements on homosexual behavior we cannot, as things stand, accept the oversight of the new Bishop of Newcastle, Martin Wharton - not on personal grounds, but on grounds of doctrine and morality."

Last month, another parochial church council, that of Saint Margaret's in Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire, decided that Bishop of Oxford Richard Harries' oversight was "absolutely unacceptable" after he declared support for equalizing the legal age of consent for Gay male sex with that for heterosexual and Lesbian acts, even though the Church of England had not yet taken an official position on the matter (Harries is also a member of the House of Lords).

The Church of England has been very firm that it will not celebrate Gay and Lesbian unions, but has become more accepting of those partnerships as long as neither member seeks to be ordained.

Turkey: There's more disappointment for film director Ferzan Ozpetek as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has accepted "Eskiya" ("Bandit") as Turkey's official entry for the 1998 foreign language Oscar award category, rather than Ozpetek's own award-winning, record-breaking Gay-themed hit "Hamam" ("Turkish Bath").

An independent film board selected "Hamam" for the Oscars, only to be overruled by Turkey's Minister of Culture, who set up and chaired another committee which chose "Eskiya." It's generally believed that it was the Gay relationship in "Hamam" that led to the Ministry's unusual action.

Ozpetek urged the Academy to reconsider, but the Academy is continuing to follow the Turkish embassy's recommendation of "Eskiya."

"Hamam" set a record in Turkey when 50,000 people saw it in its first week in mid-October, and has won 10 awards at festivals, one of them at Cannes. It's also facing the threat of a lawsuit from the association of Turkish bath owners, who are not comfortable with the film's portrayal of the baths as a place that married Italian visitor "Francesco" falls in love with the son of his Turkish hosts, "Mehmet."

International Human Rights Day Celebrations

NEW YORK, NY (WS) – ILGA's goal for the 50th celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is to spread the radical idea that Lesbians and Gays are also human.

On December 10, 1948, more than 100 countries ratified the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, moved in part by the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust. While the document hasn't ended torture, hunger or bias in the world, it's generally agreed to bring a sense of moral responsibility to the signatories.

In addition to annual celebrations which have become familiar in many places, this year's commemoration marked the beginning of a series of activities leading up to the fiftieth anniversary in 1998. The International Lesbian and Gay Association's "ILGA 98 Manifesto" project has for some time been planning to make that special anniversary the occasion for presenting the U.N. with a proclamation that, "Lesbian and Gay Rights Are Human Rights," with as many signatures from the international community as they can collect.

The manifesto calls for full equality before the law for Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgendered persons.

Canadian Pride Problems

FREDERICTON, N.B. (NP) – The epidemic of anti-Pride proclamation disease afflicting Canadian mayors has spread to Fredericton.

Mayor Brad Woodside of Fredericton, New Brunswick, is the latest Canadian mayor to refuse to issue a proclamation of Gay and Lesbian pride -- and local residents are already anteing up to help him pay an anticipated fine for illegal discrimination.

First it was Mayor Bob Morrow of Hamilton, Ontario, who was ultimately fined $5,000, and earlier this year Mayor Dianne Haskett and London, Ontario were jointly ordered to pay a $10,000 fine for refusing to issue a pride proclamation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVENTEEN

Gay World Briefs. . .

Continued from Page Sixteen

Ironically in Woodside's case, New Brunswick's Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Roland "Roly" MacIntyre, who is responsible for the provincial Human Rights Commission, himself refused to issue a pride proclamation at the provincial level.

Now MacIntyre is ordering Woodside to explain his position before the NB Human Rights Commission, unless Woodside is able to reach an agreement with the group Fredericton Lesbians and Gays by January 1. Woodside has told the public that he's denying the group's request for a proclamation of Gay Pride Week because he feels sex doesn't belong in the council chamber.

He told reporters, "I've received well over a thousand letters. The vast majority of these people support my position and I would say at least a quarter of them have offered money."

Also, while elsewhere in the world Gays are seeking to lower their age of consent to make it equal with that for heterosexuals, New Brunswick's solicitor-general has been leading a lobbying effort to increase the national age of consent from 14 to 16 as a tool for "protecting" young women from older men.

Baseball Sex Scandal

SANTO DOMINGO, D.R. (NP) -- They say, "You can't walk off the island," but more than a dozen Dominican Republic baseball hopefuls are charging that abuse and bribery, not batting averages, have been determining their careers.

Just as sexual exploitation of young players by a junior hockey coach rocked Canada this year, the Dominican Republic is confronting allegations of similar problems for young players hoping baseball will be their ticket out of poverty.

At the center of the controversy is San Francisco Giants director of Latin American operations and development team manager Luis Rosa, jailed since late October on charges initially filed by 15 players (two of whom have since dropped out) that he forced young players to have sex with him if they wanted any playing time or the chance to visit the U.S. Rosa flatly denies the charges, but they are confirmed by former major league star Joaquin Andujar, who testified under oath that when he served as pitching coach for Rosa's development team in 1996, the players came "crying" to him each night about the harassment.

Although Dominicans commonly begin playing at age 5 and are scouted as prospects as young as age 12, they do not sign formal contracts until they are 16 (and do so at a fraction of the bonuses enjoyed by top U.S. draft picks). There are additional accusations against Rosa of embezzlement from their payments, apparently a fairly common practice not only among scouts for the big-league teams but also by their local freelance stringers, known as "buscones."

Those who are signed play for development teams in the Dominican Republic for about three years before being cut or moved up to the U.S.

No criminal trial date has yet been set for Rosa, who could be sentenced to two years in prison for each count of sexual harassment and ten years for each count of embezzlement of which he may be convicted. The allegations against him are believed to be the first of their kind in Dominican Republic baseball. There are also likely to be civil suits filed against the Giants in both the Dominican Republic and the U.S. at some point.

Ironically, the Giants were the first team in the majors to field a Dominican player. More recently, they were also the first to establish domestic partner benefits. The island nation of 8 million people has sent more than 100 players to the major leagues in the last 25 years..

Former Giant and Hall of Famer Juan Marichal serves as the Dominican Republic's Secretary of Sports and Recreation.

UFMCC's Troy Perry Meets With TuTu

CAPE TOWN, RSA (NP) – Two leaders in faith and liberation, white Gay UFMCC founder Rev. Troy Perry and black South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, prayed together for justice and acceptance.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Dr. Desmond Tutu met in Cape Town with Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Gay-affirming Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Anti-apartheid hero Tutu has long been a powerful advocate of equality for Gays and Lesbians in South Africa, on the international scene, and within the worldwide Anglican Church. Tutu and Perry were joined by Tutu's wife Leah, Perry's partner Phillip DeBlieck, and UFMCC area coordinator for South Africa Rev. Andre Muller.

After cordial greetings, Tutu led the group in a prayer of welcome and affirmation. Perry thanked Tutu in particular for his efforts in seeing that sexual orientation discrimination was banned under South Africa's new national constitution, crediting that historic first with helping to spark new U.S. activism on behalf of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The group went on to discuss their shared opposition to the death penalty, Tutu's current work chairing South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a range of human rights issues internationally, and the roles that religion has played in discussions of Gay and Lesbian issues.

"Some people always try to take the Bible literally and legalistically. Quoting the Bible is not enough," Tutu remarked. He went on to say, "Parents must love their children. It is a shame that fathers still teach their sons not to cry as though that would make them seem like a woman. Fathers teach their sons not to have real feelings. Every human being should rejoice and celebrate both our masculine and feminine sides."

Perry, who was recently honored by U.S. President Clinton, is currently on a speaking tour of South Africa, visiting Gay-friendly churches and human rights organizations.

When he spoke at a Christmas Carol Service held by two Pretoria MCC congregations, Reformerende Kirk and Deo Gloria Family Church, Mayor Nombuyiselo Ngele was one of more than 1,200 attending, although she had not previously had friendly contact with the Gay and Lesbian community.

DJ RAYnman's Top 12 Dance List at the Stonewall/Eagle
December 1997 Week 3

BARBIE GIRL (Perky Park Club Mix) - Aqua - German Import
(Spike's anatomically correct dub)
INERSELF - (Technoix) - Gutiama - Euro Import
SEND ME AN ANGEL - Netzwerk - Euro Import
FANTASY - (Florida House) - Race - SoBe Domestic
ENCORE UNE FOIS - (Future Breeze Mix) - Sash - Europe Import
(That Body Made For) SIN - (House Techno) - Sizequeen - MCA
TUB THUMPING - Chumbawamba - Domestic
DA DEE DA - Jennifer - Euro Import)
CATCH - (Red Jerry Mix) - Sunscream - UK Pulse 8
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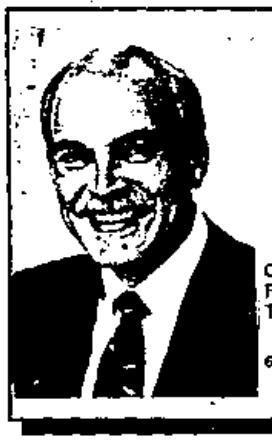

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HOME ON THE RANGE / AGRA TUCSON

by Scott Weldamoyer

Hey Tucson!

This Saturday night, the annual WinterHaven Hayride, be there for a really great time. Tickets are only $10 in advance and can be purchased through any AGRA board member. We are meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the Stonewall/Eagle after the hayride for a benefit show.

The show will feature Eryk Benjamin, a contestant for Mr. AGRA. All money raised will go to benefit his selected charity organization in Tucson, TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). The show will feature the great entertainment of Victoria DuPuis, Eryk Benjamin, Billy Dee, Regina Reid, Ivanna Goodwyn and some other special guests. Come on out and show your support for AGRA and our special guests.

This Sunday will be our monthly Board and General Membership meetings at the Stonewall. Board at 2:00 P.M. and Membership at 5:00 P.M. Please plan on attending. There are some great announcements and business that will be discussed.

The Annual State dinner is going to be held at the T-Bone Restaurant in Phoenix, December 27. Call the AGRA office for details.

AGRA is also selling the '98 Entertainment books at $35 each. Get your Holiday shopping done early this year...the books have many great values as well as a free 30-minute long distance AT&T calling card. Call the hotline for more information.

I am keeping this short and sweet this week because I just realized that there are only seven more shopping days till Christmas.

I hope everyone has a great holiday and a happy and healthy New Year!

Until then, remember to keep your pride and always play safe in the saddle.

[AGRA-Tucson Chapter, POB 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717-0894. Phone: (520) 323-0805.]

A View From The Rock

A Comentary From Cornerstsone Fellowship

I hate Christmas! There are just too many things to do and too little time to do them in! There are special Christmas goodies that I make each year -- there is fudge and toffee and seven-layer cookies -- as well as new recipes that I just must try! There are boxes and boxes of Christmas decorations to be displayed in just the right place throughout the house, and of course there is the tree to put up, and the lights, which never work the first time they are plugged in! Then there are Christmas cards to send. Every year I vow that I am not going to send any, and every year when I start getting some in the mail I feel guilty and decide that maybe I had better send just a few!

Every year it seems that the stores get out their Christmas displays earlier-this year some of the stores were having Labor Day and pre-Christmas sales at the same time! By the time I am ready to go Christmas shopping I feel that all the best bargains are gone, and I am so tired of hearing "Here Comes Santa Claus" over all the stores' PA systems that I think if I see Santa Claus I will choke him!

Have thoughts such as these been going through your mind in the last few weeks? It's very easy to get so caught up will all the Christmas trappings that we forget what Christmas really is all about. It's not about Christmas goodies or trees or lights or cards or even about presents, in spite of those who say that the Wise Men started the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas!

When I start getting the "Christmas grouches" I just stop and think for a few minutes about what is really important at this time of year. Why do we celebrate Christmas? Christmas is about love, God's love for us. John 3:16 reminds us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." At Christmas time we are reminded that Jesus came into this world not as a mighty conqueror, but as a tiny baby. He gave up the glory he had in Heaven to live on earth as a human being for 33 years, and then he died a painful death. Why did he do this? He did it because he loved us so much that he wanted each one of us to be able to live in Heaven with him someday. He paid the price for our sins so that we could have his gift of eternal, heavenly life.

If it looks like your Christmas is going to be just another frantic season, why not accept God's gift of love to you? Then, no matter how overwhelmed you get with baking and buying and decorating, you can have the peace of Christmas which only Jesus can bring.

If you would like to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, come join us at Cornerstone Fellowship as we celebrate Christ's birth with a special musical program on Christmas Eve, 7:00 P.M.

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Pima County Domestic Partner Update:

Continued from Page One

highly qualified and respected," said Grace McIlvain, the Tucson attorney representing the Pima County Board of Supervisors in the lawsuit.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors had voted March 25 to extend the medical and dental benefits to the domestic partners and dependents of county employees. Domestic partners was defined by the Board as both homosexual and unmarried heterosexual couples.

The County Attorney's Civil Division office filed suit to overturn the Board's decision, naming the Board as the defendants.

With the pending litigation, the Board did not implement the new policy. Pima County employees, totalling 88 -- 7 of which were Gay and Lesbian, who signed up were denied the extension of benefits to their domestic partners.

The litigation was assigned to Pima County Superior Court Judge Bernado Velasco in July and the case sat in "legal limbo" since, awaiting the County Attorney's office to file the paperwork to move the case to a formal hearing.

Five Pima County employees affected by the freezing of benefits and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a "motion of intervention" with Judge Velasco to legally join the case. A hearing on that motion was scheduled for January 12, 1998. Questions have arisen over this legal maneuver.

The current parties in the suit have agreed to the intervention, but county sources stated that there may be a holdup on Lambda and the five employees joining the case.

Sources state that the County Attorney's office must sign a written stipulation to allow them to join the case. As of press time, the County Attorney's office has not signed the needed stipulation.

On the other hand, according to a spokesperson for the Lambda, the Judge could rule on the intervention motion without a formal hearing on the matter.

The intervention motion for the Pima County Domestic Partners case is still scheduled for 9:30, Monday, January 12, 1998.

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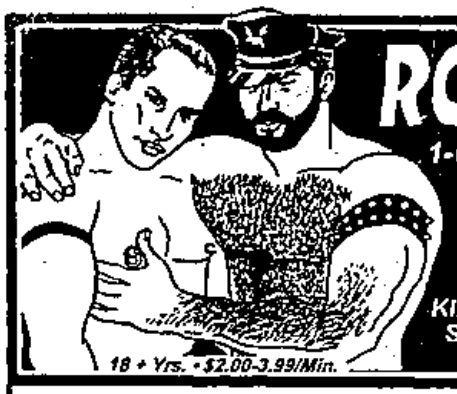
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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Mercury not only retrogrades this week but also backs into the previous sign on the 14th. This means we can insult people and embarrass ourselves in several places at once for the next two weeks. Oh happy day!

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Professional issues heat up to a roaring boil but it is the foolish Gay Ram who bleats while Mercury is retrograde. Your point is not be well taken and it could be turned around to prod you in the rump. This is not a good career move. Then, as if you didn't have enough, Mercury backs into Sagittarius and fouls up any legal proceedings. Take a recess until after the Christmas.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Proud Bulls should double check travel plans this week when Mercury retrogrades. Tickets go astray and baggage travels to the far reaches of the earth when you're stuck in Cleveland. The real test occurs after the 14th when Mercury backs into Sag and deconstructs love affairs. Actions speak louder and prouder than words so don't say a peep. Show them how you feel.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you sleep alone. Retro Mercury can throw cold water on a hot patoot if you allow thoughts to become pubic displays. My advice is to forgive and forget because after the 14th, Mercury's antics go beyond the flesh and could impact the totality of your partnership. Thankfully all is well after Christmas so box and wrap it until then.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

The ying/yang of relationships may become too much to disentangle during Mercury's retrograde. Pink Crabs stir up the embers with a few badly chosen words or blow the whole darn partnership to smithereens if they're too mouthy. It's a relief to deal with miscommunications on the job when Mercury retros into Sag on the 14th. Luckily, Santa stuffs your stocking with a reprieve.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Leos eat crow on the job if they insist on roaring their misguided opinions to all and sundry this week. Retro Mercury advises you to quellow the bellow and take things as they come at work. This too shall pass; After the 14th, Mercury slides back into Sag and dampens any fun endeavor. Yeah, the party was last week! Oh well, at least all is back to normal in time for New Years.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Your Gay muse has taken time off this week so don't try to beat a creative thought out of that stubborn mind of yours. Anything artistic or fun will have to wait until Mercury retros back into Sag on the 14th. At that time, you'll be more concerned with family issues. I'm all for coming clean to relatives but now it's best to wait until after Christmas. Words come Out more effectively then.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Don't deal with home issues during the Mercury retrograde. Proud Libras cannot win with relatives and cannot plan a home improvement project without wasting time and going astray. Communications become more problematic after the 14th when Mercury retros into Sag. Take a breath and watch what you say! Even diplomatic Libras can catch Sag foot in mouth disease.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Expect static on the chat line with retro Mercury. Gay Scorps are not at the top of their expressive form and should avoid any public speaking before the 14th. After that, Mercury backs into Sag and causes some confusion and miscommunication in fiscal matters. The secret is to buy low and sell high, but Mercury may do the opposite. Become well endowed after Xmas.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

A fool and his/her money are soon parted. And that goes double for mouthy Gay Sags during retro Mercury. Let financial matters wait at least until after the 14th, if you can. By then, Mercury backs into your own sign and you clumsily trip your way into center stage. First impressions are lasting impressions, poor thing. Can you avoid wearing plastic wrap until after Christmas?

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

You may not be at your social best with retro Mercury. Gay Caps may be impolitic on the first meeting so try to stick with who you know until Mercury backs into Sag on the 14th. After that, intuition takes off like a rocket booster that can crash and burn. Keep everything and everyone in perspective cousin; there is no need to bite just because someone barks.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Your best charitable Gay efforts may not have the intended effect with retro Mercury, but take heart Aqueerius; what seems like a small gesture now will eventually blossom into something affirmative and strengthening. After the 14th, Mercury backs into Sag and can cause some miscommunication among friends. Don't panic; by Christmas you'll all be bosom buddies again.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

It's possible to push the group dynamic into a wayward action during retro Mercury. Pink Fish can be inspirational leaders but now have a way of turning a march into a riot. Such politics can bring the corporation to its knees as Mercury backs into Sag on the 14th. Don't throw your career offtrack because things are not exactly the way they should be. Let Santa spread good cheer first.

For entertainment purposes only. For best results, read both your Sun sign and Ascendant. For a free ascendant calculation, send birthdate, time, place, name of this publication and s.a.s.e. to: LICHTENSTEIN, POB 1726, Old Chelsea Station, NY, 10011.

CALENDAR of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Selena presents Poison Ivy Production's "A Desert Diva's Christmas Show" Showtime 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

IBT'S - Cruise Nite! 11:00 p.m. The drawing for the RSVP cruise on the Mexican Riviera and Fashion Show. There is still time to register to win this fabulous prize. One entry per day per visit. Ask the bartender. Thursdays are 'Jock Nite' at IBT's. Wear your favorite sport or workout outfit for Happy Hour prices 9:00 p.m. to closing.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Biz Y Bodies Variety Show featuring the Biz's very own all-star cast. 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Join the fun.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Mr. Kenneth Blake presents "Vision of Sugar Plum Fairies". Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Showtime is 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

STONEWALL / EAGLE - AGRA's Holiday Hayride through Winterhaven and then return to enjoy a fabulous show.

VENTURE-N - Tucson Arizona Levi/Leathermen (T.A.L.L.) Beer Bust from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the patio.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Carousel Christmas Show benefit for Arizona Childrens Home. Hosted by Misti Malone and starring Miss Carousel 1997 - Faith; Lea Parron, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Ajia Simone and many other performers. 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. $1.00 Cover.

IBT'S - All-you-can-eat Bar-B-Que and 16oz Beer Bust with proceeds going to the MPS Society from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Then at 9:00 p.m., the Annual MPS Christmas Benefit featuring the Norman Taberacle Choir. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Plus outstanding performances by Mr. Kenneth Blake, Felice Renard and Ajia Simone plus the live vocals of Mr. Pete Lara plus special guests.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Salud Es Poder - Latino Men's Helth Project is hosting a Volunteers/Supporters Posada from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. here. Tardeada-Latino Dance Party featuring 'Fuerza Latina' and 'Proyecto Latino'. Showtime 10:00 p.m. DJ Eduardo and dancing will follow until 1:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Sandra Rogers and Big Idea performing hot blues and jazz from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Cover.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

IBT'S - Special Christmas Eve Girlie Show 'A Family Event' starring Victoria Du Puis, Felice Renard, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Regina Reed and Shaundriana. 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

STONEWALL/EAGLE - The JODY Show at 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

NOTE: All local bars will be having some sort of celebration for New Years Eve. Check next week's calendar for full details.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Stonewall Second Annual New Years Eve Fiesta. Buffet from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. DJ Eduardo and DJ Raynman mix the tunes until 1:00 a.m.

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Join the guys for a relaxed Lunch Out as we eat at Mountain View at 1220 E. Prince. Good food, good conversation, and good guys. What better deal can you get at lunch time? For reservations and directions, please call Jerry W. at 298-7415.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A Discussion Group will read a section from the recent bestseller "Conversations with God", then discuss the reading. For reservations and directions, please call Justin or Gary at 792-4224.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Our monthly Pizza Party will take be held at Bill's house on the east side. Join in for a fun evening of food and good conversation. Salad and dessert are also served. Vegetarian pizza offered as well. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 290-9825. Please note: reservations MUST be made by Wednesday, December 17.

Men's Relationship Meeting at 7:00 p.m. It's a good way to meet other men and to gain some insight in relationship issues. This group is for men in or out of relationships. It is a fun group. Call in advance to reserve a place. Call Marc at 881-4582 for information and sign up. Fee.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Queer Voice is hosting a "Boys Night Out" - White Elephant Gift Exchange and Entertainment! Food will be served at 5:30 p.m. Call Arthur at 342-6226 for more information and directions to the host's house.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. The Hitchcock Retrospective continues with a showing of "North by Northwest." This classic movie stars Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4-6 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, an awareness group, meets to learn and use communication and relationship skills toward developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Bridge night. Bridge for men who may want to refresh their bridge skills; table talk playing. For reservations and directions, please call Jim at 790-8735.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A night is devoted to getting out the MSN newsletters. It's a fun way to help the organization and get to know the MSN guys. Dessert and door prizes are provided. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A Hanukkah Celebration will be held to greet the holiday season. Steve, our host, will serve dinner and light the traditional menorah to usher in this holy season. For reservations and directions, please call Steve at 388-4849.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Merry Christmas! Join the MSN family of choice for Christmas dinner. Jerry and Les will open their home for a wonderful holiday potluck dinner. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565 and determine what your contribution to the dinner will be.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a video double feature with holiday themes. Steve Martin stars in "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." That will be followed by the 1961 classic "The Apartment" that stars Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4-6 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, an awareness group, meets to learn and use communication and relationship skills toward developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Dance 1997 at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne at midnight. Dance to the live sounds of Rare Breed, plus DJ Lucinda Mares. There will be a raffle for a 46" big screen TV and a big bottle of tequila. Call for tickets Tillie 733-9709; Emie 622-2209; Linda 293-8471 or Joanne (602)848-6174.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Have a safe and happy New Year's Eve as MSN has a Game Night devoted to all sorts of games. Play a favorite card game or board game--the choice is yours. If you have a favorite you'd like to play, bring it along, but there will be plenty of games from which to choose. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

Got A News Tip?
Call The
WEEKLY OBSERVER
(520) 622-7176
Or FAX Us At
(520) 792-8382

Tucson CALENDAR

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music 9-1. Shot specials all night.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8 pm all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Drink Specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open Noon. Bloody Marys $1.75 til 7 pm. Pool Tournament 4pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour noon-8pm, $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 Well. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 4:30-7:00pm. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Party with Stan. Complimentary hot dogs.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open noon. Pool Tourney 2pm with Zipperman. Beer Bust 2-7pm$1.50 Pitchers, 50¢ a glass. Free burgers 2-7. Karoke Nite hosted by Billy Dee. Stonewall opens at 9pm, hot sounds with Raynman.

VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. Backside Beer Bust 3-8pm 50¢ draft. 301 Dart Tournament 5pm $3 entry fee. Hot Burgers 5-7, Tuff Stuff Too! 4-11pm.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 2-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Bar/Restaurant Appreciation Night. $1.00 off on all drinks 8-12.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50 Draft $1.75 Domestic. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm - Well and Domestic Beer $1.50. 50¢ Draft Beer 7 to close.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour noon-8pm, $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. 8pm to midnight, $1.50 / 32oz pitchers. Retro 80s Dance 9pm-1am. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 4pm. Happy hour 4-7. Drink specials to pool and dart players.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Monday Night Football. Free pool all day.

VENTURE-N - Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am - 8pm

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 pm 2for1 well and domestic long necks. 2-7 p.m. Pool Tournament 7:30 pot matched. $1 longnecks all night for tournament players. Boys Night Out 9pm to closing. Hot dance music.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50, Domestic $1.75. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.50. Schnapps 75¢ 7pm to close. Karaoke 9pm.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8 pm, $1.75 domestic beer & $1.50 well. 9 pm to close 2for1 well/ Miller Lite. High Energy Dance with David Z.

NEON MOON - Happy Hour 4-7pm. Karaoke with Billy D. $1 off drinks to singers.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Dart Tourney 8:30 in the Eagle. Miller & Miller Lite $1.75 CuervoGold $2 after 8pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour prices 6am - 8pm.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. 2for1 well or domestic beer. $1.25 pitchers from 9 to midnight. Alternative music w/Stephanie 9pm-1.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50; Domestic $1.75. 9 Ball Single Elimination Pool Tourney. 7pm, Pot matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.50. 50¢ off all call drinks 7 to close. Feb. 19 New Pool Tournament Begins 6pm

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour Noon to 8pm, $1.75 domestic beer & $1.50 well. Mystery Night. $1.75 Bud Product Special 9 pm to close. Dance with David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Happy Hour 4-7. 2 for 1 from 7-10. Retro Dance Music all evening.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Karaoke Nite: 9 to close. Stonewall opens at 9:00 p.m. with Raynman.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Cuervo Gold $2 all day/night. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Too! open 8:30pm.

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8:30 pm to close. (New time)

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all Well $1.50, Domestic $1.75. 301 Dart Tournament 7:30pm. Double Elimination. Pot Matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.50. Corona $2.00 9pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon-8 pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Underwear Nite. $1.50 Well and $1.75 Domestic Beer to those in their underwear (pant check available). Hi energy dancing 9-close with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Drink specials to pool and dart players.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Latino Night in the Stonewall.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Pool Tournament 7pm $3 entry fee. Happy Hour prices for Men in Leather 8pm to close. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Too! open 8:30pm

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres. Hi energy dance music 8:30 to close. Drink specials every ½ hour.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.50/ domestic $1.75. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm well or domestic beer $1.50. Dance Music Mix 9-1am.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well... Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1 with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Country/Western Dance Party 9pm to close.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Hors d'oeuvres 5pm. Wear a Stonewall/Eagle T-shirt and receive½ price all night.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ Bar 6am-8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Too! opens at 8:30 pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODYS BIZNESS - Hi energy dance music from 8:30pm to 1am. Drink specials every ½ hour.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well drinks $1.50/domestic $1.75. 8 Ball Pool Tournament 2pm, Double Elimination, pot matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open Noon. Strawberry & Banana Daiquiris, Pina Coladas $3. Dance Music Mix 9-1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 8pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance 9 to 1 with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Star Traxx 9:00 p.m. $2 Cover for the show only.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open noon. Happy Hour til 8pm. Free Pool all day.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Bicher & Bagels w/$1 Bloody Marys 6am-noon. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tiff Stuff Too! Opens at 8:30pm.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED. NO PHONE ADS.

NOTICES

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 211 (The Broadmoor Building). 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. 322-6226. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. *Group meets* in front of the Himmel Park Library (East side), and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 326-3555

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 36254, Tucson, AZ 85740-6254. All replies confidential.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Information and Referral about Al-Anon 881-1794 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men over 30 years old to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men who are or wish to be involved in Gay community activities, issues and organizations. Call 887-7493 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

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 Sunday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road. Room 32. Call the church at 299-5063 for information.

LICHEN HIKING CLUB for women of all ages and backgrounds of life. Hike with other women. Listings in Rubyfruit Journal available at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX. For information and membership write: CBPA at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP addressing a full spectrum of issues, problems and situations. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

L.D.S., EX-L.D.S., GAY LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. 7pm. 326-1319 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday 3 to 5 pm at St. Francis in The Foothills for anyone who likes to play and have a blast call Davey 886-1208 for more info.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0805 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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.

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.

"EVOLVERE" a transgendered Support Group open to all T.V.'s, C.D.'s, T.G.'s & T.S.'s. Dedicated to all our brothers and sisters. Offering our help and support in every way we can. Meetings held on 4th Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Call 884-0541.

BISEXUAL INFORMATION/SUPPORT GROUP for women and men. Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

GAY VOLLEYBALL ON SATURDAYS. Competitive play. BB or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmel Park 10:00 a.m. Check it out!

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.

THE JOHN HANTEN MEMORIAL GROUP, a Catholic support group for Gays and Lesbians, meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1946 E. Lee St. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call the parish office at 327-6015 or Jane Perri at 326-8577.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hollman 577-8333 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. For more information call 622-3200.

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.

TIHAN, a coalition of churches and synagogues committed to providing a compassionate response to the HIV crisis, 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 299-8647.

THIRTY*something* Society - an exclusive society for single Gay and Bi men in or near their thirties. A social society that offers monthly activities including a monthly outing away from Tucson. Call 797-3118 for more information and a membership bio.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm in UMC Dining Room "F". 325-6676 or 670-1954.

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.

NOTICES

SCUBA DIVING CLUB. For information call digital pager 291-9602.

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 3rd Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1600 N. Camino Pio Decimo in the Kino Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Ernie 721-2003 or Anna Marie at the Parish office 885-3573.

COCAINE ANONYMOUS
"The Fruits Of Sobriety" particularly for Gays and Lesbians (but everyone is welcome) meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Hotline: (520)326-2211

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 4th Monday at St. Odilia's Catholic Church, 7570 N. Paseo Del Norte in the Parish Hall Conference Room (Bldg. North of the Church) at 7:30 p.m. For more info call Mary 297-9602 or St. Joan 742-8900.

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 Brenda at 884-9920, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6057 (eveller@ix.netcom.com)

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 each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. This show alternates with "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show.

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

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 618, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5591. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR MEN IN SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS who have ever been physically, verbally or sexually abused, is now forming. Call Randy Oberhoff, Ph.D. at 570-0027 for more

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)327-1620 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, A social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving collectible vehicles. Call 298-9454.

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 Merle at 888-7264.

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 Jeff or Art (520)762-9135.

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

MANE MEN: Long-haired Gay male penpal network. Photo, 3 IRC's to join. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P6C4

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 for more information.

"AT EASE AGAIN", a men's discussion group meets at Wingspan at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. 300 E. 6th St.

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 rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9682.

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., MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

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.

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact. Mary 770-9979 or Bertie 318-3415.

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 299-9063.

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 322-6226.

PERSONALS

FREE CHATLINES! Hottest Action 24 hrs!! (473)441-1146 / (212)796-3382 / (704)319-2071. Free #s: (213)680-7595. Only Int'l blr apply. 18+. 710

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and women as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.movo.com 704

HORNY FRATHOUSE TALK! 1-268-404-5292. Only Int'l blr apply. 18+ 710

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION
Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llame para una entrevista extrictamente confidencial al 322-6226 y pregunta por Ernesto. 696

If you are a Latino man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us to support and expand our programs for Latinos, call for a confidential interview at 322-6226 and ask for Ernie. 696

HOUSING/FOR RENT

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments from $325 - $495. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Mention this Observer ad. 885-6022. 710

ROOMMATES

GAY, OPEN MINDED MALE. Near UofA. Washer/Dryer. Cable TV, own room, phone line. $300 per month plus 1/2 utilities. Deposit negotiable. References requested. Call evenings (520)323-6853. 700

REAL ESTATE

JUST YOU, WILD LIFE AND A WESOME VIEWS at the base of Rincon Peak. 2200 Sq. Ft. custom home with pool on horse property. Jacuzzi and chef's kitchen. 5 miles past Rocking K to Pistol Hill. 17681 E. Gila Monster Way. $218K. Dave 791-0792 700.

EMPLOYMENT

Accepting applications for Bartender. Stonewall/Eagle, 2921 N. 1st Ave. Apply in person, see Jeff. 700.

PAINTER WANTED. References required. Pay depends on experience. Apply in person, Royal Sun Inn Suites, 1015 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ. Check our ads elsewhere in this issue for other employment opportunities. 700.

SERVICES

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS, LET US DO YOUR HOUSE CLEANING. References - reasonable rates. Call 622-1124 or dig. Pager 932-9961. 702

COME RELAX WITH ME. THE NURTURING TOUCH OF ESALEN MASSAGE combined with the healing strokes of Hawaiian Lomi Lomi, deep release and relaxation. In Calls/Out Calls. Discreet/Strong/Sensual. Call Glenn 907-2551 Days/Eve/Weekends. 706.

MASSAGE THERAPIST, 13 years experience. Catering to your needs. Specializing in pain relief (neuromuscular), Swedish. Legitimate, Licensed. Call Terrence 628-8999. 700.

I WANT YOUR BODY - on my massage table. Thorough professional bodywork. Warm, comfortable studio. Evenings and weekends. Mike 531-8844 702

STRESSED? GET A REAL MASSAGE! 16 years experience. Get value and quality. Strong, gentle, tantric, healing sessions. Legitimate. By appointment. Marc Haberman, LMT. 881-4582. 699.

A MAN'S MASSAGE. Sensual and stress relieving. Full body massage in a private setting. Full Hour $35. When only the best will do, call Rick at 299-1792. 701.

CATERING TO YOUR EVERY NEED - Theme Parties, Gift Baskets, Specialty Cakes, Intimate Dinners, Menu Planning. We also make Red Chile and Green Corn Tamales (oh so good, yum.) Call Becka or Craig at Masterpiece Catering 622-4232. 705

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Mr. Merle Hudson, 888-7264 in Tucson. 710

WANTED
AUDITOR, $8.00 PER HOUR. BENEFITS INCLUDE SMALL APARTMENT WITH UTILITIES INCLUDED. ROYAL SUN INN, 1015 N. STONE, TUCSON, AZ

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

New Faces

Continued from Page One

behavior in our communities," along with defense of the "traditional legal definition of marriage" and support to change people "trapped in homosexual behavior." The group was cagey about any further details.

Used car salesman Will Perkins, always the group's leading spokesperson, has been acting as executive director since Tebedo's resignation. He said of the appointment, "We've been looking for the timing. The time is right now."

Frank Whitworth helped found Ground Zero in 1992 in response to Amendment 2 as an educational organization supporting equality for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered people.

As the organization's leading spokesperson, he naturally stepped into the executive director position (which now pays all of $24,000 per year) when the group grew large enough to support it. He's also been the editor of its monthly newsletter. The 1995 Stonewall Award winner denies having any ambition for public office, although part of his desire to leave his job at this time is his chafing at the legal restrictions on the activities of a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Before coming to Colorado, Whitworth was an activist in his native Virginia, where he helped with the incorporation of that state's first Gay and Lesbian rights organization. His civil rights activism has always extended beyond Gay and Lesbian concerns, and he won praise from other Colorado Springs human rights groups for developing Ground Zero's connections with them. Of his resignation effective December 31, he says that he both feels a need for a personal change and believes that Ground Zero should have "new blood." Ground Zero's other paid position is also currently vacant.

SPORTS

Desert Coyotes League Standings

	Won	Lost
Triple T	18	6
Buddies	17	7
Triple Dickys!	16	8
The D's	15	9
Tres Amigos	13	11
Ft. Long Hot Dogs	13	11
Smokin Bears	11	13
Weeblows	9	15
Erratica II	9	15
Prickly Pears	8	16
Six	8	16

Desert Coyotes Looking For Bowlers

TUCSON -- Tucson's Wednesday G/L bowling league are looking for some bowlers to fill openings on a team.

As mentioned, the Desert Coyotes bowls on Wednesdays, 9:00 P.M., at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile. The cost to bowl is $10 weekly, plus an initial sanction fee. The only requirement is that you have fun.

Bowling resumes January 14, 1998. For more information call Mark Rosenbaum, 743-9659.

Lambda Lizards League Standings

	Won	Lost
The Denim Men	31	13
We Suck Good	26	18
Gays & Dolls	20	24
Miracles Happen	11	33

'Sex Panic' Denounced By Larry Kramer

NEW YORK, NY (NYT) -- An editorial written by Larry Kramer unleashed a blistering attack on Sex Panic, a group he called "murderous" for advocating unrestrained sexual freedom in the age of AIDS.

Kramer, the founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis and for years the angry heart and soul of ACT UP, ridiculed the group's call for "unconditional and unlimited promiscuity" as the remnant of a best-forgotten age when homosexuality was defined in large part by frequent anonymous sex.

Sex Panic, a group that says the battle against AIDS has been perverted into a battle against sex itself, was profiled in October by a San Francisco newspaper. The article reported a growing divide between sexually conservative and sexually provocative wings in the Gay community.

Kramer condemned the wall of silence greeting Sex Panic's public calls for more open expression of sexuality. He pointed out "not one AIDS organization or national Gay or Lesbian group has been willing to speak out and condemn or even criticize what Sex Panic is saying."

Sex Panic' activists say ideals such as Gay marriage and an atmosphere of "sex negativity" have arisen directly from a collective guilt complex spawned by AIDS and conservative attacks on the community.

"We feel our community is being attacked the most," Race Bannon told reporters. He belongs to a group that unsuccessfully lobbied for the reopening of private rooms in San Francisco sex clubs. "Certain segments of the Gay community want to assimilate to such a degree that they want to trade off their own sexuality for a smidgen more acceptability," he said.

Kramer labeled these assertions as ludicrous. Speaking of monogamy and marriage, he said, "It is particularly moronic that Sex Panic considers these desires so sweepingly offensive."

"Fortunately more and more Gay people are beginning to realize that it's time to redefine what it means to be Gay. Allowing sex-centrism to remain the sole definition of homosexuality is now coming to be seen as the greatest act of self-destruction. There is a growing understanding that we created a culture that in effect murdered us," he said. "If we are to remain alive [our] redefinition will require nothing less than the remaking of our culture."

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