Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

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Bush Reportedly Supports G/L Marriage Ban

WASHINGTON - President George Bush is expected to come out in favor of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage during an interview with ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer, according to the network's Web site.

The interview is his first since Saddam Hussein was captured on Sunday, December 14, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

ABCNews.com published parts of the interview on Tuesday, December 16, including the president's reaction to the Nov. 18 ruling from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court clearing the way for same-sex marriage.

According to ABC News, Bush told Sawyer he would support a constitutional amendment "which would honor marriage between a man and a woman."

He added a contradictory remark: "The position of this administration is that whatever legal arrangements people want to make, they're allowed to make, so long as it's embraced by the state or at the state level."

His second statement is not possible with the current language of the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), said Winnie Stachelberg, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) political director.

"The amendment pending in Congress would go much further than defining marriage as between a man and a woman. It could strip away any legal protection for millions of hard-working, tax-paying Americans and their children, including the right to Social Security survivor benefits, the right to inherit a partner's property without heavy tax penalties, even the right to visit a loved one in the hospital." Stachelberg said in a prepared statement.

The FMA was introduced in the House on May 21 by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo. The proposed amendment would amend the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex couples from attaining the status of civil marriage "or the incidents thereof." It has 100 co-sponsors and could pass if approved by two-thirds of both the House and Senate and three-fourths of the states.

On Nov. 25, three Republican U.S. senators introduced the proposed constitutional amendment for Senate consideration.

ABC News reported that Bush wanted to reach out to the GLBT community, "but tolerance and belief in marriage aren't mutually exclusive points of view," he told Sawyer.

Stachelberg, however, said there's nothing tolerant about the FMA. "To be clear, it is never necessary to insert prejudice and discrimination into the U.S. Constitution," she said. "Of all people, the American president should know this."

High Ranking Ex-Military Officers Come Out

Blast G/L Military Ban

WASHINGTON - Dealing a big blow to the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, two retired Army generals and a retired Coast Guard admiral came out as Gay in Wednesday's (December 10) New York Times.

According to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), the three officers are the highest-ranking military leaders to reveal they are Gay, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

In the article, Brigadier General Keith Kerr, Brigadier General Virgil A. Richard and Rear Admiral Alan M. Steinman blasted "don't ask, don't tell" as damaging to military readiness and the recruitment and retention of service members.

"I was denied the opportunity to share my life with a loved one, to have a family, to do all the things that heterosexual Americans take for granted," Rear Adm. Steinman told the New York Times. "That's the sacrifice I made to serve my country."

Former President Clinton signed the policy into law on Nov. 30, 1993, as a compromise to permit Gays and Lesbians to serve without being expelled as long as they kept their sexual orientation to themselves.

But Steinman said "don't ask, don't tell" is not really a compromise. "Because Gays and Lesbians are required to serve in silence and in celibacy," he said, "the policy is almost impossible to follow. It has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

Judge Dissolves Lesbian Civil Union

DES MOINES - An Iowa judge's divorce decree for two women has sparked a legal challenge that could help decide whether some states can bar same-sex unions while others permit it, the Associated Press reported.

Gay rights activists say the divorce between Kimberly J. Brown, 31, and Jennifer S. Perez, 26, does not open the door to recognition of same-sex relationships, but a conservative group said Friday it will ask the Iowa Supreme Court to overturn the decree.

"We believe the judge exceeded his authority," said Chuck Hurley, president of the Iowa Family Policy Center, a family advocacy group.

Hurley and other conservatives fear the judge's decree, which refers to the union as a marriage, could be a step toward legitimizing same-sex unions, which are not permitted under an Iowa law passed in 1997.

Brown and Perez, both of Sioux City, entered into a civil union in Vermont in March 2002. Their divorce was granted Nov. 14 in Woodbury County District Court.

Brown's attorney, Dennis Ringgenberg, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Friday. Perez was not represented by an attorney. A listed telephone number for her could not be located.

"I don't think this case sets the basis up for a challenge to Iowa's refusal to marry same sex couples," said Matt Coles, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS projects. "What the judge did here was he effectively said for the purposes of sorting this out and letting people go their ways, we'll recognize the relationship and end it in an orderly way."

Judge Jeffrey Neary, a district judge for Woodbury County, signed the decree without a hearing and has said he did not initially realize he was granting a divorce to two women. Neary has said he had the opportunity to change his mind but decided against it because a constitutional clause requires states to recognize laws of other states.

Neary did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

State Sen. Jeff Lamberti, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the case could set the stage for a federal court ruling on same-sex marriages.

"This one has the potential of kicking it off maybe quicker than people would have thought. It's kind of interesting the way it happened that it would potentially have so much significance, but it may," Lamberti said.

Article IV of the U.S. Constitution established full faith and credit laws that require states to honor the laws of others. However, 37 states have passed laws recognizing only marriages between men and women so they are not forced to accept same-sex unions.

The courts have made some exceptions to the full faith and credit laws. States have been permitted, for example, to set their own age at which marriage is allowed, Lamberti said.

A conservative advocacy group filed an appeal Monday, December 15, with the Iowa supreme court seeking to overturn a district court judge's divorce decree for a lesbian couple. The Iowa Liberty and Justice Center claims that Judge Jeffrey Neary overstepped his authority in approving the divorce. "Judges are appointed to rule according to the law, not create it," said Timm Ried, the lead attorney for the Liberty and Justice Center. "That's essentially what Judge Neary did when he chose to recognize and end a [same-sex marriage] that Iowa doesn't recognize in the first place." The group, an offshoot of the Iowa Family Policy Center, contends that Iowa's Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The group says a divorce cannot be granted to a union not recognized in Iowa.

Mass. Senate Queries Court On Civil Unions

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Senate voted to ask the state high court whether full civil unions will satisfy the terms of last month's same-sex marriage opinion, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Roughly three weeks since the state Supreme Judicial Court issued its ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, Massachusetts Senate President Robert Travaglini and his colleagues voted to ask the court whether full civil unions will satisfy the terms of the opinion.

The vote took place Thursday, December 11, during a special session called during the holiday legislative recess.

The 14-page majority opinion in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health (news - web sites) said that denying access to civil marriage violated the constitutional rights of same-sex couples. However, the court gave the Legislature 180 days in which to take whatever action it deemed appropriate "in light of this opinion."

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

UPDATE

Job Opening At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan is seeking a person to coordinate a cancer education project targeting Lesbian and Bisexual women and Transgender (LBT) people.

This is a part-time (20 hours/week), temporary (one year) position that is grant funded. The coordinator will be responsible for conducting outreach to the LBT community, writing articles on cancer in the LBT community, coordinating a LBT health fair, and organizing trainings for health professionals around LBT cancer. For a full job description see www.wingspan.org. Pay: $15/hour.

To apply, please send: 1) cover letter, 2) resume and 3) contact information for three references to Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 or fax (520) 624-0364 or email office@wingspan.org. No phone calls, please. AA/EOE

Desert Voices At Bookman's Dec. 20

TUCSON - The "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" just got a little better! Desert Voices will be repeating portions of their terrifically entertaining Holiday show, "Home (Oh!) For the Holidays" on Saturday at Bookman's on the corner of Speedway and Wilmot, beginning at 1:30 pm on Saturday, December 20.

Filled with laughter and balanced with just the right amount of tender moments, this holiday show really 'wowed' the full audiences at The Muse this past weekend. But if you missed your chance to see and hear the show, you just got another chance!

The chorus will present the hilarious "Consort of Christmas Carols" by PDQ Bach, as well as several other much beloved holiday songs. Included in the set will be "Holly Jolly Christmas" as performed by Alegria, the Comedic Women's Barbershop Quartet, twisting words to their own devices for the past 10 years... Admission is free, and it would be great to see some friendly faces in the audience! Please come and support the chorus while you get the rest of your Holiday shopping completed at Bookman's.

Jeep Raffle Cancelled

TUCSON - In late October the Observer announced a benefit by Lucinda Holliday (aka Larry Moore). This particular benefit was for Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). The project was a raffle with the prize being a mint condition 1995 Jeep Wrangler.

Last Saturday, Holliday decided to cancel the benefit because of slow ticket sales and the fast approaching deadline. Lucinda cited the rash of benefits that are common this time of year and the urgent demand for funds for needy individuals and families during the holiday season. The TIHAN benefit is cancelled, but probably will reappear sometime in early 2004.

Anyone who had purchased tickets for the Jeep raffle fear not. Holliday is currently sending refunds to each and every one of you. "I want to thank all of those who purchased tickets for the Jeep Raffle, and hope you have not been inconvenienced by the change in plans. Because of slow ticket sales it would not have been possible to even purchase the Jeep, not to mention any proceeds to TIHAN," Holliday said.

Navratilova Honored For Career Achievement

LONDON - Tennis star Martina Navratilova was honored Sunday, December 14, by the BBC with a lifetime achievement award to mark one of the most successful tennis careers in history.

The multiple Grand Slam winner was given the honor on the U.K. network's Sports Personality of the Year show by her doubles partner Leander Paes, who is recovering from a serious illness.

While the Czech-born American called the award "an honor," she seemed more impressed at seeing her tennis partner being fit and well.

"The most amazing thing is Leander being here," she said. "It wasn't the icing on the cake, it is the cake."

The openly Gay Navratilova, 47, became the oldest Wimbledon champion last summer when she and Paes won the mixed doubles championship. During her three-decade career, she won a record 167 singles and 173 doubles titles.

Despite retiring in 1995, she came back to the sport and broke more records as a doubles competitor.

Navratilova officially came out in 1991, when a court case involving her ex-partner was held in the United States. After this, she became an outspoken supporter of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual rights and even set up the Rainbow Card, a credit card that raises cash for nonprofit rights groups.

The card has so far raised $1 million.

Detroit Lions Exec Apologizes For Gay Slur

DETROIT - The president of a pro football team called a player a "faggot" during a verbal spat on Sunday, December 14, and publicly apologized the next day, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Matt Millen, president of the Detroit Lions, said in a statement that he was expressing his "frustration and disappointment" at being ignored by Kansas City Chiefs receiver Johnnie Morton after the Lions-Chiefs game. (The Chiefs won, 45-17).

According to the Kansas City Star, Morton walked past Millen and ignored his greeting. The player had been cut from the team by Millen in 2001.

Millen first responded with sarcasm to Morton's silence, then after a brief exchange yelled, "You faggot! Yeah, you heard me. You faggot!"

"Unfortunately, I retaliated with a derogatory term directed toward Johnnie," Millen said. "I apologize if I offended anyone."

"What he said is demeaning and bigoted," Morton told the Star. "It's totally unacceptable. I have Gay friends, and I don't even joke around with them like that."

Two similar flaps over anti-Gay speech have erupted in the National Football League (NFL) during the past year. Last season San Francisco 49ers running back Garrison Heart upset fans when he told a reporter, "I don't want any faggots on my team." The remark followed a former pro football player, Esera Tuaolo, revealing that he is Gay.

In August, New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey was quoted in a magazine calling Bill Parcells, coach of the Dallas Cowboys, a "homo." Shockey denied saying it, however.

Last year the Human Right Campaign, the nation's largest GLBT political group, called on the NFL to address homophobia and anti-Gay discrimination as part of rookie players' training.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year for you and yours.

Thanks for your support.

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Bi-National G/L Couples Have Hard Choices

NEW YORK - The choices can be wrenching: skirting the law, leaving one's country, splitting up with one's lover. Under U.S. immigration policy, those are the options facing many same-sex couples when one partner is American, the other a foreigner.

"They're in a double closet of being Gay or Lesbian, and being an immigrant — people don't feel safe talking about it," said Sophie Fanelli, a French woman unsure if she will be able to remain with her American partner in California beyond next year, reported the Associated Press.

When a binational couple is heterosexual, the foreigner can emigrate to America as a fiance or spouse. Not so with Gay and Lesbian couples: Under policies adopted with bipartisan support, they have no status in the eyes of U.S. immigration officials, even if they had legal same-sex marriages in the Netherlands or Canada.

Gay rights groups are trying to change the policy, backing a measure in Congress called the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. It would treat same-sex partners the same as heterosexual spouses for immigration purposes.

The act has nine co-sponsors in the Senate and 118 in the House, but supporters doubt it will advance while Republicans are in power. Any loosening of immigration laws has been a tough sell since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, and some GOP leaders want to strengthen — not weaken — the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that denies federal recognition to same-sex unions.

"On both issues, the opposition is vehement," said Leslie Bulbuk, a California activist. "It's like we're fighting up two different hills simultaneously."

Though the Permanent Partners act hasn't yet been subject to hearings, it has drawn fire from some conservative groups. Glenn Stanton, director of social research for Focus on the Family, said the bill's central flaw is that it "looks at all relationships as equal."

"Marriage is more than simply a close, committed relationship between two people," Stanton said.

Said Robert Knight of the Culture and Family Institute: "Homosexual activists are nibbling around the edges, trying to validate their version of marriage without confronting the public head-on."

It's not known how many Gay couples would benefit from the bill; Bulbuk said many such binational couples keep a low profile because of uncertainty over immigration status.

During years of legal limbo, Bulbuk and her partner, Brazilian-born Marta Donayre, considered moving to Canada — where immigration officials recognize same-sex relationships even between two non-Canadians. Donayre eventually obtained political asylum in the United States; the two now run a support group, Love Sees No Borders, that helps other binational couples.

"Some people try to smuggle their partner into the country after failing with every legal avenue," Donayre said. "People's lives are on hold, they can't have a pet, buy a home, adopt children."

A decade of uncertainty was enough for Tony Eitnier, 33, and his German partner, Thomas Arnold, 34. They have abandoned hope of a swift change in U.S. laws and decided to live in Berlin, to the dismay of Eitnier's family in San Diego.

"I'm very close to my family, and it was extremely traumatic to have to leave," Eitnier said in a telephone interview during a visit home. "My parents are bitter at the government."

Eitnier plans to teach English in Germany, one of 15 countries with immigration policies that recognize same-sex couples. Though sad to leave his American friends and relatives, he is comfortable with his decision.

"It was a mental battle not to go crazy, never knowing if your partner is going to have to leave tomorrow," he said. "You become paranoid."

Sophie Fanelli and her partner, Molly Sides, hope to avoid moving to France, but Fanelli is uncertain how long she can stay in the United States.

"We bought a house; we'd like to have a child and start a stable life," she said. "But it's difficult not to know where you're going to go next year. It's emotionally and financially draining."

Yet a group that favors tighter border controls, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, is skeptical of the proposed Permanent Partners act.

"Supporters of Gay marriage are trying to use it as a vehicle for legal recognition of a status they've been unable to convince the public of," said federation spokesman David Ray. "The real battle for them is the right to marry, and the Permanent Partners act shouldn't be used to sidestep that debate."

Ray also said Gays and Lesbians might misuse the act the same way some heterosexual immigrants make use of fraudulent marriages.

In addition to the position regarding same-sex couples, the U.S. immigration policy for people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, also is criticized by Gay-rights organizations.

The policy — in place since the late 1980s, and affirmed by both Republican and Democratic administrations — bars people with HIV from the United States, though waivers are available for brief professional visits and for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

Victoria Neilson, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, denounced the policy as discriminatory. She said immigrants with other serious diseases, such as cancer, are allowed in while people with HIV are rebuffed even if they have a job lined up that includes private health insurance.

Doug Ireland, a New York City journalist, still seethes at the anguish caused by the HIV policy when his partner, Frenchman Herve Couergou, was dying of AIDS in 1994. With Couergou barred from the United States, Ireland had to fly back and forth to France to be with him sporadically during his illness, and was not there at his death.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

Estranged Lesbians Battle For Custody Of Twins

SAN FRANCISCO - It's a King Solomon tale with a 21st century twist – two women battling in court over the same children.

Science says both women are the biological mothers of 7-year-old fraternal twins – one provided the eggs, the other carried the girls to term. And the women raised the twins as a couple until they broke up nearly two years ago, reported the San Francisco Chronicle.

While science sees it one way, the courts see it another and so far have awarded parental rights and custody solely to the birth mother.

But come January, the issue lands in the lap of the California Court of Appeal, and observers say the court's ruling could have far-reaching implications for Lesbian rights, in vitro fertilization and parental custody laws.

The appeal stems from a ruling in October, when Marin County Superior Court Commissioner Randolph Heubach found that the egg donor had made an express promise before the babies were born that her partner would be the sole mother.

She even signed a hospital document waiving her right as a parent. For that reason, Heubach ruled that the donor, identified in court records only as K.M., had no standing. (To protect the privacy of children, family court does not release the full names of parties involved in cases.)

K.M. is challenging that ruling to the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco. And Dr. Marcelle Cedars, director for the Center for Reproductive Health at UC San Francisco, where K.M. and her partner E.G. were patients, is closely watching to see what the appeals court does.

"It's unfortunate that one of the problems with our specialty is that it presents complex issues without a societal road map," she said. "The outcome of this case may better prepare us for these types of issues in the future."

On a day in 1995, K.M. sat in a reception room at the UCSF clinic waiting to have her eggs harvested for the in vitro procedure. An administrator handed her a clipboard with a few routine documents, including information about her medical history, to sign. At the bottom of the stack was a form waiving her right as a parent. K.M. says she unthinkingly signed it.

Her partner had been trying to get pregnant for some time and couldn't produce eggs, K.M. said. Because of fibroid cysts on her uterus, K.M. wasn't able to carry a child. So the women's doctors suggested that E.G. consider in vitro fertilization with her partner's ovum, said K.M.'s attorney, Jill Hersh of San Francisco. And the women agreed.

"We were so involved in the process that when you're told to sign something, you do it," K.M. said the other day, referring to the waiver. "We were planning our life with children and not thinking that we would ever break up."

The women met in 1992, moved in with each other two years later and registered with the city of San Francisco as domestic partners. By the next year, they were turning the dining room in their one-bedroom flat into a nursery, painting baby furniture and picking out wall colors. They were also searching for a larger house to buy for their new family, which they eventually purchased in Marin County.

When the babies were born four weeks prematurely, the couple stayed with them in the hospital around the clock, K.M. said. On one of those days the women managed to break away for a few hours, walked over to the gift center and purchased wedding rings. They exchanged them on Christmas day.

"It was the most significant time in our relationship," said K.M., a 42-year-old president of a nonprofit organization. "We were having a family, and were bringing our girls home."

During the next six years, the girls grew up in Marin County surrounded by friends and family. They collected American Girl dolls, watched the television show "Lizzie McGuire" and called both women "momma." But by 2001, the relationship had grown rocky and the birth mother, who declined to be interviewed for this article, moved with the twins to Massachusetts.

"Slowly but surely she began limiting my contact with my daughters," K.M. said.

After she sued to be recognized as a legal parent and lost, K.M.'s contact with her daughters was curtailed. Her former partner, E.G., disconnected her phone in Massachusetts, K.M. said. Even when she is allowed to have brief visits with the girls, K.M. said, the meetings are painful.

"From the moment we're together, we have to anticipate saying goodbye," she said as her eyes welled up with tears.

But the birth mother's attorney, Diana Richmond, tells a different story. Richmond says that at least two months prior to the pregnancy, E.G. and K.M. agreed that her client would be the sole mother. During the trial in Marin Superior Court, the birth mother testified: "I told her that I would not be willing to consider an adoption until five years after the children were born because I didn't know her well enough. The relationship was too young. I didn't want to be in a custody battle."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

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Louisiana School Board Won't Apologize To Lesbian Mom

YOUNGSVILLE - The Lafayette Parish school board in Louisiana has refused to apologize to a mother whose son was punished for telling another child that the mother is Gay and insisted the child was disciplined for behavioral problems, not because he used the word Gay.

The incident attracted national attention after the mother, Sharon Huff, complained to the American Civil Liberties Union. Schools superintendent James Easton has maintained that the boy's teacher was not at fault, insisting the boy wasn't disciplined for saying Gay. But that's the reason spelled out on a form Marcus McLaurin took home to his surprised mother in November. The ACLU demanded an apology, saying the child's free-speech rights had been violated, and asked that the incident be removed from record.

On Thursday night, December 11, however, the school board wouldn't back down, insisting again by a vote of 5-3 that it was "never the intent or purpose" to discipline the child for having used the word Gay. An ACLU lawyer from New York who attended the meeting, Ken Choe, expressed disappointment and suggested a lawsuit could be in the works. Choe said no new evidence had been produced to suggest that the boy had been punished for any reason other than the one spelled out on the form. "We're disappointed in the school board's action. We feel this is revisionist history," Choe said. "There was no documentation to support the school board's position—no evidence that that's the case."

The school board members met in a private conference room for nearly four hours to debate the matter, but "nothing came out in any way that fundamentally contradicted the notion that Marcus was punished for what he said," Choe told reporters after attending much of the meeting. "That's not constitutional. Litigation is certainly an option." Along with all the national attention, the incident has aroused great curiosity in this mid-size city, the capital of Cajun country, and the meeting room here was crowded with citizens eager to hear the board's decision. Huff appeared on Good Morning, America last week, and newspapers from around the country have carried her story.

According to the ACLU, Huff's son was standing in a line with other children when he was questioned about his parents. He explained that his mother is Gay, and his teacher overheard him. Marcus was scolded in front of his classmates, sent to the principal's office, and barred from recess. And he was ordered to attend "behavior clinic."

The school board upheld the teacher's decision. "To the extent that the student or mother misunderstood or was left with the impression that disciplinary action was taken for use of the word Gay or any reference to sexual orientation is regrettable," board member Mike Hefner said in a statement. But neither he nor any other member produced documents other than those already made public, both of which indicate the boy was punished only for using the word Gay. Some in the crowd Thursday wore white ribbons to indicate solidarity with Huff and her son. But not everybody was sympathetic. "I didn't send my children to school to find out about our sex lives," said Joseph Stutes. "I don't want my children exposed to that." One of the school board members who voted against the majority's position, Rickey Hardy, expressed anger, saying: "I personally want to apologize to the parent. I hope and pray that we can follow policy and procedures better than we have done. You just can't add evidence to an existing document."

Judge Tosses Criminal HIV Infection Case

SAN FRANCISCO - On Tuesday, December 9, a judge tossed out a grand jury indictment against a former San Francisco health commissioner for intentionally infecting sexual partners with HIV, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

This was the first time a judge has ruled on the 1998 California law against deliberately infecting partners.

On Sept. 12 police arrested Ronald Gene Hill after at least two men testified he deceived them about his HIV status. One of those men, Thomas Lister, said he learned about his ex-lover's status by reading a newspaper. While Lister said Hill wasn't forthcoming with him about his infection, Hill did reveal his HIV status to fellow commissioners and the media.

A judge awarded Lister $5 million in a civil case against Hill. Lister claimed he tested positive for the virus just two months after the couple broke off their monogamous relationship.

During the criminal case against Hill, prosecutors said he used his position as a health commissioner to evade questions about his infection with sexual partners.

But Hill's attorney, Peter Fitzpatrick, argued that even if Hill lied, that did not meet the threshold of proof required by the law.

Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin agreed, ruling that prosecutors did not meet the legal burden in the face of a "very marginal amount" of evidence against him.

Matthew Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project described Hill's behavior as "reprehensible."

"The question is whether he violated the specific HIV law," Coles told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network "This law has a high standard of proof on it. But it has a high standard, so you don't wind up prosecuting people who don't disclose. Because in any act like this you have two people and those people have a responsibility to ask. But our understanding is this guy could have been prosecuted on assault."

Thomas Lister, however, thinks the law should be changed. He told the San Francisco Chronicle that this case will not end in the courtroom, but in the California Legislature. "It's a law that is not working -- and we need to change that," he said.

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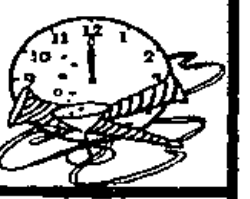

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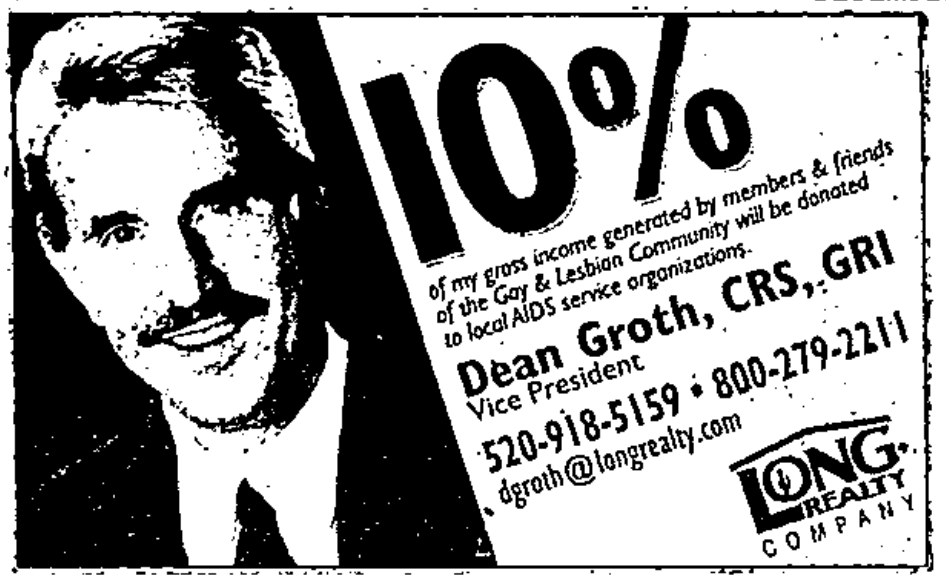

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Who Should The GLBT Community Vote For February 7th

On Tuesday, February 3, 2004, Arizonans will go to the polls to cast their vote for their preference for their party's standard bearer for the 2004 Presidential election.

In Arizona, there are four recognized political parties: Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Green. From this list, the Democrats are the ones holding a presidential primary, the Republicans are not and the other two parties haven't submitted candidates to the Arizona Secretary of State's office, according to their Web site.

Arizona's primary is the fourth on the calendar list so the eyes of the nation will be observing the state to see who will win the February 3 election, so the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community must come out in force with the knowledge needed at the polls but to accomplish this, The Observer has a challenge for readers for the February 3, 2004 presidential primary election: We want submissions from open and out local GLBT supporters of the respective presidential candidates, letters/op-ed pieces on why the GLBT Community should vote for the candidate they support.

Here are the guidelines to be followed:

1) The letters/op-ed pieces must be E-mailed to: No faxes or snail-mail will be accepted.

2) Open and out local GLBT supporters means living within the boundaries of the state of Arizona, and from people who can vote in the February 3, 2004 primary.

3) Name (First and Last), address, city, zip code and most importantly, phone number (with area code) must be submitted for The Observer to be able to verify. Only the name (First and Last) and city will be published. Submissions from people who don't want their name published won't be accepted.

4) Due to space limitations submissions can't be more than 600 words. Any lengthy diatribes won't be used, no exceptions what so ever.

5) In order to avoid multiple submissions for one candidate or another, the Observer will run one piece per candidate. We will pick the most interesting one, if several are submitted. The Observer will not edit the piece and will be printed exactly as received.

Arizona's GLBT community has a role to play in the 2004 elections and it is time to get started, get active and get writing!

ETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLE TTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLET

EDITOR:

First, I want to thank Mark Kerr for covering the Democratic presidential candidates' GLBT-related positions and for his work over the years as a political reporter for the Observer, and to thank the Observer for supporting Mark's work.

However, I have a bone to pick over Mr. Kerr's last article, "Politics 2003 February 3, 2004"; specifically, the first paragraph. I believe everyone, including Mark Kerr, has a right to express his opinion. I also believe a political reporter is assumed to have some biases, but to present political opinion in an article that might be interpreted by your readers as objective reporting when it is in fact written by someone actively campaigning for a candidate, without acknowledging that fact, is misleading.

Furthermore, the statement "vote by mail request form from the Howard Dean campaign, ...is very questionable, full of inaccurate dates and comments, and possibly in violation of state law" should be backed up by a fact here or there. For example, the form has passed legal review, and many completed forms have already been accepted by the Pima County Recorder's office. One of Howard Dean's personal attributes, and one which extends to his campaign, is willingness to listen and correct mistakes. I would be happy to pass along any suggestions for improvement to the form to the Dean campaign staff.

Lastly, I would encourage a separate section of the Observer to include editorial comment, political opinion and discussion. Hopefully we can raise the level of discourse to substantive policy issues. There I would welcome Mark's opinions on his preferred candidate, with similar pieces written by folks supporting other candidates as well.

Sincerely,
T. Stephen Cody,
(Campaigning Actively for Dean)
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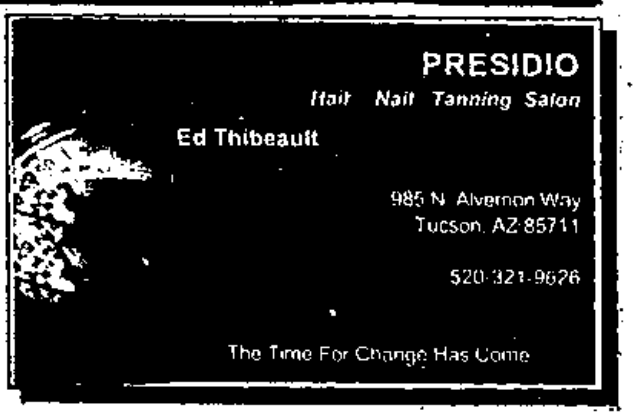

Gay Press Pioneer Bob Ross Dies At 69

SAN FRANCISCO - Pioneering Gay journalist Bob Ross died Dec. 10 from diabetes-related complications at Davies Medical Center. Ross was 69, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

As publisher of the Bay Area Reporter (BAR), one of the nation's first Gay newspapers, Ross helped transform San Francisco's burgeoning Gay community in the late 1960s and '70s into an organized political and cultural force.

In its coverage of everything from the anti-Gay Briggs Initiative in the mid-70s, to the political life and death of Harvey Milk and the relentless toll of AIDS throughout the 80s and 90s, the paper remains a significant source of information for Gay San Franciscans.

"Bob Ross' contributions to the development of a strong and independent Gay press were remarkable," said Steven Petrow, president of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, in a prepared statement. "Through his efforts, he had a significant impact on the San Francisco community and the larger, national LGBT community."

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown called Ross a "great San Franciscan and a dear friend" in a San Francisco Chronicle report on Ross' death. "His immense contributions to the city is epitomized by the Bay Area Reporter, but his gifts go beyond that groundbreaking publication. He was an early and sensitive chronicler of the AIDS epidemic and a tireless warrior in the fight against that disease."

In 1971 Ross and a friend, Paul Bentley, started the BAR to provide political news and information to Gays that went beyond the tabloid-like gossip sheets found in Gay bars.

"The BAR represented a strong voice for the community at a time when the community did not have that much definition," Petrow told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "That paper, though Bob Ross' efforts, really helped to cement that voice."

Ross has been credited with helping openly Gay Harvey Milk get elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978, and had been named by Milk as a possible successor. But, according to Randy Shilts' biography of Milk, Ross' name was dropped from consideration by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein because Ross had been elected "emperor" of San Francisco by the local drag community.

Throughout the AIDS epidemic, Ross helped chronicle the disease's impact on the community by publishing in the BAR obituaries with photos of people who had died of AIDS each week. During the height of the epidemic, the obituaries sometimes occupied two entire pages, occasionally spilling over to a third. For thousands of San Franciscans, reading the weekly obits became a painful ritual.

In November 1989, Ross published an eight-page supplement to the BAR titled simply, "AIDS Deaths," containing hundreds of photos of men who had died of the disease. In another memorable issue, in August 1998, he ran the headline "No obits," marking the first time in 17 years the paper had not published an AIDS-related obituary.

As with most Gay leaders, Ross was not without his critics. In 2002 he was nominated for a "Gay Shame" award by a group of Gay activists angry with his paper's endorsement of Willie Brown over Gay candidate Tom Ammiano in the mayor's race.

Born in New York City on April 2, 1934, Ross moved to San Francisco in 1956 and remained active in Gay and civic organizations until his death. He was on the board of the AIDS Emergency Fund, was president of Meals on Wheels and was a director of the Gay Games. A January memorial service is being planned.

Mass. Senate

Continued from Page One

From the start, many state politicians speculated that the court would not have left this window of opportunity open if there were no room for the lawmakers to maneuver around marriage. Some have decided that the court really meant to guarantee same-sex couples the rights and benefits of civil marriage, and not civil marriage itself.

While Gay activists winced and constitutional experts such as Harvard Law's Laurence Tribe disagreed, the governor, the attorney general and a host of state representatives took turns analyzing the intent of the court and pronouncing the decision open to interpretation. To date, Travaglini, a Democrat, has not joined the civil union chorus, and he is the first to take the obvious step of simply asking the justices to clarify this point.

"This is probably the most significant decision rendered by the Supreme Judicial Court in 50 years," he told the Boston Globe. "And there is a significant difference of opinion among legal experts. We need clarification."

Travaglini said that the lawmakers would breath a collective "sigh of relief" if the court gave the green light to civil unions. Nonetheless, although Travaglini said he thought the Senate would pass a civil unions bill, he thought passage in the more conservative House would be more difficult. House leaders plan to introduce their own civil unions bill next week, the Globe reports.

Speaking to the Globe, Arline Isaacson of the state Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus said the community was torn about the request for an advisory opinion: "We think it's unnecessary because

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

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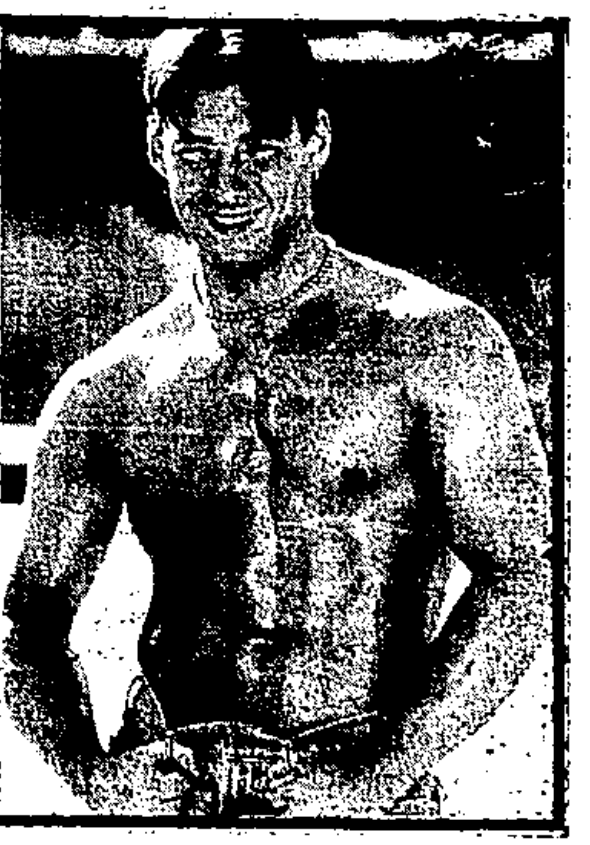

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POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

'He Better Start Listening!'

When this column began on June 22, 1988, one of the first things this writer stated was that it was going to be an opinion piece about politics, nothing more or nothing less and yes individuals who write columns have opinions, their own and express them in the space allotted by the publisher.

On the other hand articles are such to state the who, what, when, where and why of events to get it across to the reader in an unbiased manner, something this writer follows implicitly because with a small publication, such as The Observer, "double duty" comes into play, reporting local and state news stories and delivering opinion pieces such as the Politics column has been for these 15 plus years.

Readers, on occasion have submitted letters to the editor on columns, as well as the articles written on the many subjects, stories and events that have taken place, both supportive and from individuals who question or take exception to something written, a part of the job that makes this writer's heart beat a little faster because these wonderful individuals show that you are doing job, getting people to think about the issues and events of concern through articles and columns in The Observer.

Supportive letters are great but this writer likes the letters that have contrary opinions because they express their thoughts, something we can still do in this country, for the moment, and their writing shows a passion for their beliefs, something in which is very admirable indeed.

This past week, this writer has received phone calls, E-mails and a letter to the editor questioning the column written in edition 1012, entitled "February 3, 2004". For facts, this writer cites the following Arizona Revised Statutes: Title 16, Article 2, 16-120 through 16-125 (Voting); Title 16, Article 4, 16-241 through 16-250 (Presidential Preference Election); Title 16, Article 8, 16-541 through 16-542 (Early Voting), as well as follow up calls to the Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Mohave, Yavapai, Apache and Yuma County Recorder's office, as well as the Arizona Secretary of State's offices.

About the vote by mail request form sent by the Dean campaign, received by this reporter and purported that "the form has passed legal review," one wonders such since the deadline for the voter registration deadline is not correct as well as the deadline to send a vote by mail request form in, something a County Recorder, under state law would point out as incorrect.

Going on, about "truth in advertising," this mailer purports that "there will be fewer polling places than usual" which is not correct since in fact there will be more polling places for this Democratic Presidential Primary because it is a state run election, unlike previous years when the party ran the election, something this writer knows personally since they ran the Pima County caucuses (two polling places per legislative district) in 1992, for which the process didn't change for the next two subsequent elections.

Continuing on in the same paragraph on the mailer, "However, why wait? If you simply fill out the card which is attached below, and return it by mail today, you will be assured of making the required deadlines to vote by mail. Then, after January 20, you will receive your ballot in the mail.", is misleading since the first day people can receive ballots and cast votes is thirty days prior, January 3, and frankly people can request an early ballot now, as of this writing but enough said.

Does this writer have opinions on the upcoming Presidential Preference Primary? Indeed, this writer's first choice for the 2004 Democratic Presidential nomination is the same one that Madonna came out in support of Tuesday, December 16, Wesley Clark. Will this writer express an opinion about Clark? Indeed, as in year's past for this writer's first choice in the presidential contests.

If though this writer's first choice screws up on GLBT issues of concern, it will be reported here as well because one of the tenets that this writer follows is "nothing sacred here," since our rights are paramount over elected officials. Something else to point out, another Observer columnist, Jerry Diaz, supports Governor Dean and is working hard for his bid and has written as such so differing opinions have been and will be presented, thanks to Mr. Bob Ellis, a strong supporter of the First Amendment as well as one's right to express themselves.

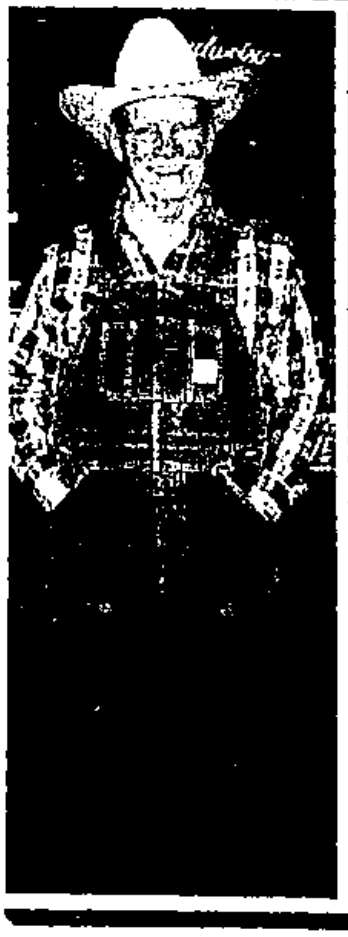
Though if Clark doesn't get the nomination, this writer is prepared to work hard for whomever it may be because the GLBT community cannot take another four years of the "Occupier and Thief" who came out today (December 16), in a television interview supported the proposed anti G/L marriage amendment for the U.S. Constitution. There are nine better choices to serve the nation at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue than the individual installed there now thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This publication will be featuring the opinions of other open and out, local GLBT voters on their choices for the February 3, 2004, something this writer welcomes, the expression of opinion and hopes that the readers take all the opinions to heart and go to the polls and cast their votes, in February as well as in September and most important, the November general election.

Letters to the editor and oped pieces have been welcomed by this publication but due to budget and space constraints in the print edition, not as many are featured which is unfortunate but the saving grace is the Internet, where more articles and oped pieces are featured. Maybe one day, with a rich benefactor or a slew of advertisers the Observer can expand to have more articles and oped pieces in the print edition. Remember that money doesn't grow on trees but digressing.

On Monday, January 5, 2004, at midnight, is the deadline to be registered to vote for the Presidential Preference Primary Election. Every Sunday afternoon, from now until the deadline, at Woody's, 3710 North Oracle, GLBT supporters of Howard Dean are there to register those who are not already signed up, so if you haven't registered, get there and do so. If that is not a possibility, call the Pima County Recorder's office, (520) 740-4330. For those in other counties in Arizona, go online to the Arizona Secretary of State's office at sosaz.com, and click on the links to register online as well.

Whoops.



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SAAF UPDATE
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

By Anne Maley

What a good year 2003 has been for SAAF. Our three major events had excellent community support. Thank you for making each of the events a success. In May, the Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza raised over $20,000 and was matched by a very generous donor. Our October AIDSWALK was a success. With walker sponsorship money still coming in, we are confident the $225,000 goal will be met. The Jerome Beillard Festival For Life held last month exceeded its goal of $85,200, raising over $88,000. These successes would not have been possible without your involvement. On behalf of the people served by SAAF's programs and services, thank you!

This past year, SAAF's client services' programs helped over 1,100 people. Many of our clients are living longer due to the drug therapies; however, their need for support services continues as well. Some of our clients are unable to take these new therapies. We continue to assist all of our clients to the best of our ability. Your support helps.

Late this year, SAAF expanded its housing program by adding a 13-unit complex to the 70 units already in service. This addition will reduce our waiting list to approximately 20 clients.

SAAF's seven prevention outreach programs continued significant outreach this year. Over 20,000 people experienced the urgently important message of HIV prevention through them. These programs are done in collaboration with many community organizations including Chicanos por la Causa's Calli Ollin Academy, COPE Behavioral Services, El Rio Health Services, La Frontera, Luz Social Services, Navajo AIDS Network, Pima County Health Department, Pima Prevention Partnership, Phoenix Body Positive, Tucson Urban League, Wingspan Community Center, Yavapai County Health Department. We thank them for their support and outreach efforts.

Recently, SAAF was awarded funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a new project. This project will help reduce, delay and prevent the use and spread of "ecstasy" and other club drugs by Gay men, Gay male youth, and their social networks. Watch for more information as we start up this one-year program.

As we look toward the New Year, all of us at SAAF would like to extend happy holidays to everyone in the community. Through your support, SAAF continues to serve the community. Thank you for caring and for being here for those in need. You make a difference.

Here's to next year! A time of blessings for all of us!

Estranged Lesbians Battle For Custody Of Twins

Continued from Page Four

Richmond acknowledged that her client wants to limit the relationship between K.M. and the twins, who will turn 8 this month. K.M. has gone back on her word, the lawyer said, and "there is no trust left."

In some ways, K.M. blames the clinic for the mess. She says the couple's doctors knew they were in a committed relationship, yet no one told her about the waiver form or counseled her on its ramifications.

"Because my client is in a nontraditional relationship, she wasn't the institutional center's idea of a traditional parent," said Hersh, K.M.'s attorney. "That's why we're here today."

Hersh argues that even if the law holds the consent document as a binding contract, K.M. should share legal rights because she helped raise the children from birth until the breakup.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights agrees. Lawyers for the organization have filed a legal brief arguing on behalf of K.M.

"What governs the legal parentage of a child born as a result of a medical procedure is the actual intent of the people involved," said Courtney Joslin, an attorney with the group.

She says the fact that K.M. remained in the home and reared the girls wipes away any contract she may have signed.

Cedars, who was not at the fertility center when the women were patients there, said that even if K.M. had signed away her rights to her children before they were born, it only stands to reason that she would want those rights back. It's not just a biological issue, she said, but an emotional bonding. Cedars said that in the 2 1/2 years she has been at the clinic, it has not required Lesbian couples to sign the donor form that K.M. was given. And if she had been there when K.M. and E.G. were patients, she likely would have turned them away.

"I would have problems with a donor who signed away her rights but had an intent to rear the children," she said. "It's a disconnect. I think if it's your eggs and you reared the child for nearly seven years, who can say who has the greater legal bond."

Hersh says she's optimistic that the higher court will rule in their favor.

"We're hoping the ruling advances the law so that the children of Gay families have the same legal protection as the children of heterosexual families."

In the meantime, K.M. hopes for the best but is prepared for the worst.

"I know that for nothing else the girls will turn 18 in 10 years, and I will keep this up until then," she said. "I know that in their heart of hearts they know that we will be reunited at some point."

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Aggressive Mars careens into randy Aries while Mercury retrogrades in Capricorn. Can you control your actions? Sulking and petty tantrums take on new dimensions, if you allow. Before you crash into a red zone, use the Mars heat to create a lavender lift. Anything is possible to a willing heart, cousin.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Mars in your own sign makes you more sociable than usual. Gay Rams are raring to get Out and about as the world demands your fabulous presence. But let's see where all this wilde activity takes you as retro Mercury leads you down primrose professional paths. Remember to keep your sunny side up. Sometimes enthusiasm alone makes a lousy idea seem like a slice of genius.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Independent Mars in Aries goads queer Bulls into acts of courage that require increased risk. Examine every action before you charge ahead cousin, especially as Mercury changes direction. There may be a huge pothole that upends your graceful stride. Big game hunters would love to have a stuffed bull head hanging over their mantel. But let's see who gets stuffed first!

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Rampaging Mars in Aries enlivens your social life and sends it into a frenzied overdrive pace. Pink Twins are elected "Most Likely To Do Anything" thanks to retro Mercury. Why not tempt fate and plan a prideful basheroo with all the holiday trimmings. Your dance card quickly fills to the brim. Dance the nights away and pack cabfare for the morning after.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Did someone light a fire in your career? Thank fiery Mars in ambitious Aries for giving you incredible insights into the motives of others and the opportunity to make things happen. Proud Crabs can use this energy to strengthen their corporate positioning. But avoid letting your emotions carry you away; Retro Mercury has you saying one thing but meaning another.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Planning an especially exotic vacation or launching a great Gay global enterprise? Mars in Aries catapults all proud Lions into the Outer limits of their potential. Retro Mercury suggests that you plan your course very carefully as Mars goads you to implement all plans with high energy and intense emotions. The sky is the limit, pardner. Watch out for low ceilings. Ouch!

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Queer Virgins are not the most sensual of folks but now, with feisty Mars traversing Aries, your emotional payload hits pay dirt. Sexual relationships become more intense and satisfying so enjoy the planetary spurt if you're in the flow. What you lack in discretion you make up in unbridled energy. Retro Mercury makes you the life of the party. Well at least you think so.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Relationships take center stage when hot Mars enters bold Aries. You want what you want and the harder you push, the harder partners push back. Retro Mercury suggests that you avoid ultimatums. Gay Libras should maintain their cool balance. Use wile and guile rather than bile. With a little sage advice, even Libras can cook. Do I smell something delicious?

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Proud Scorps focus on the job when aggressive Mars traipses into Aries. If your workplace environment is not quite right, retro Mercury tells you to make "improvements". This is fine as long as you plan a careful course of action rather than rush into battle with your flank exposed. Sometimes exposed flanks are alluring. This time it will be used for BBQ.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Gay Archers can make a personal statement when feisty Mars inspires Aries. Take the old and dreary and make it new and refreshing again. New approaches devised from creative thinking can have great long term impact so put your mind to work. You may be tempted to take a risk on a game of chance but retro Mercury won't increase your luck, only your risk.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps turn most of their energies to home or family oriented activities this week as Mars pushes into Aries and Mercury retrogrades in their own sign. It's time to take inventory and get rid of the dreary or depressing. Redecorate and spruce up your space, entertain a few close pals or clear up any familial cloud. A new broom sweeps clean sweetheart so start swinging.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

It's not what you say but how you say it when Mars marches into Aries. Aquecrians are naturally eloquent. Now, feisty Mars helps you score points in any argument. Make the moment count. Get the proud word Out even if you have to rampage a few political china shops to make the point. And rampage you will; retro Mercury ruffles the feathers of a few hidden turkeys.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Watch your wallet; You're a sucker for a sob story when feisty Mars enters rash Aries and Mercury retrogrades. Guppies can't spend it fast enough with friends encouragement. Remember that money rarely buys happiness. Cheap thrills and sorted romps perhaps but not happiness. Wise Fish pace themselves and their bank accounts for when the real thing comes along.

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"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."
John 3:16

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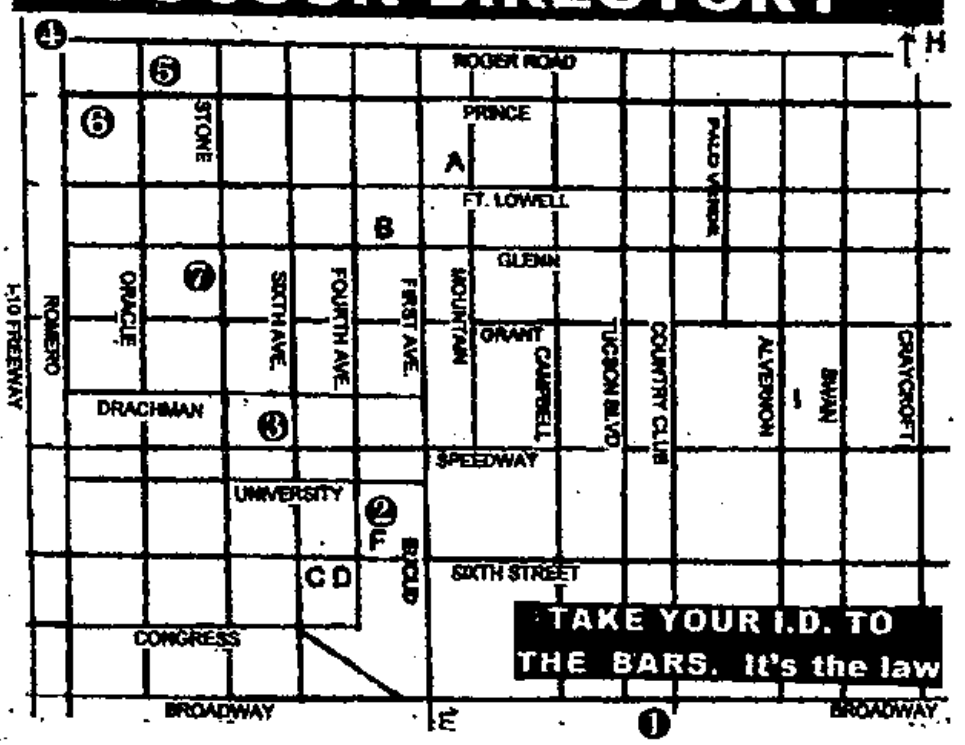

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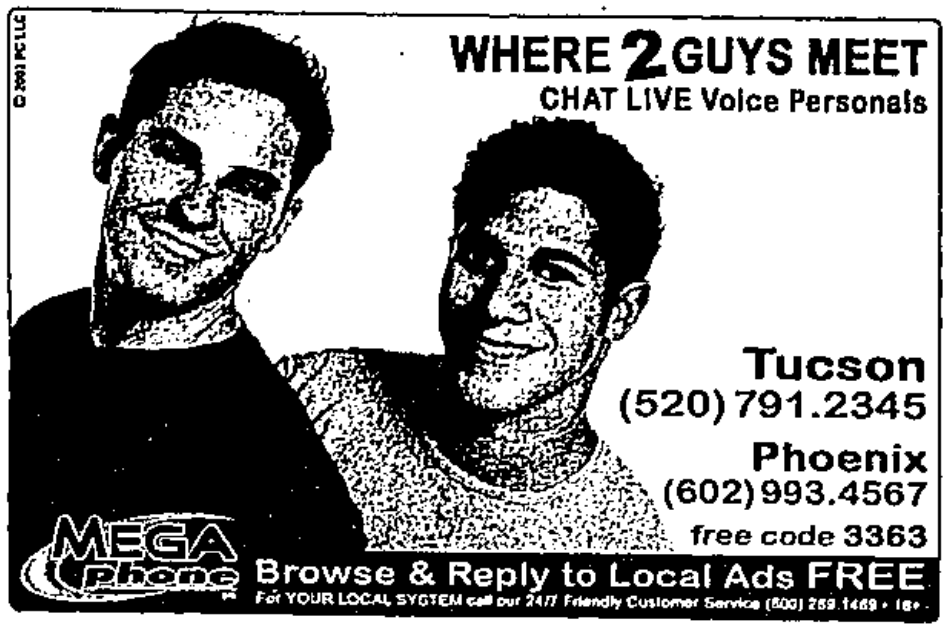

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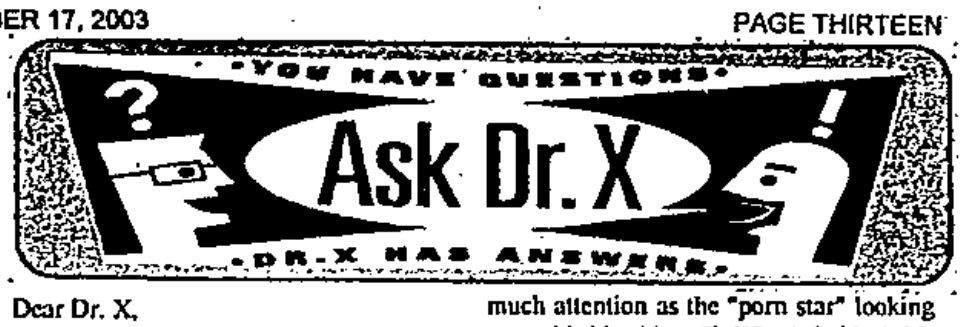

Dear Dr. X,

What's up with all those people flashing pink triangles and rainbow flags? On one side, I think it's cool to express your Gayness, but not so in-your-face and at the same time it seems to me like people are just advertising for a date. What do you think of all this?

Signed, Over it

Dear Over It,

When you fight really hard for something, you want to wear it like a banner. The more triangles and rainbow flags we display the more people will become aware of just how many Gay and Lesbian people are in our community. Many people have a lot of pride and acceptance with who they are and how they achieved it. We also need to remember that a pink triangle was used to racially "out" homosexuals during World War II. By our acceptance of it as a symbol of our pride we are saying, "don't forget and don't be afraid." As for advertising for a date, If Dr. X gets a few looks or winks by displaying his rainbow sticker. I won't be complaining.

Dear Dr. X,

I've been concerned about getting buffed out and trying to "fit in". I think its unnatural to pump up several times a week for a three hour display at the bar once a week. On the other hand I don't get as much attention as the "porn star" looking guy with his shirt off. What's behind this pumped-up perfect body culture?

Signed, Not an Abercrombie guy.

Dear Not,

The first thing I want you to remember is that with any body type there are many people that are your equals or that are attracted to "non porn star bodies". I think the body image your talking about is based on the perfect super human "thing" we've been seeing in magazines, porn movies, and advertising. Do straight boys have the same issues? Sure they do but the reality is that there are only a small percentage of guys, Gay or straight, with abs of steel and pecs to match. I think you should decide how you feel about yourself in general. Your mind, body, and spirit together and balanced. Make some adjustments if you want, but do it for yourself. And realize there are more of us average good-looking guys out there than those overly pumped buff guys. We may have many attributes that they can't compete with. Try presenting your personality and sense of being to people aside from your physical image. Most of what we see is not what we may necessarily want in the long run.

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

Bi-National G/L Couples Have Hard Choices

Continued from Page Three

"There's no question that the damage to his morale from this inhumanly enforced separation shortened his life," Ireland said. "We were kept apart in the most crucial moment in our partnership when we should have been together."

One component of U.S. immigration policy — political asylum — has won praise from Gay activists. Since 1994, persecution based on sexual orientation has been among the grounds for obtaining asylum; scores of Gays and Lesbians have benefited.

However, Gay-rights groups are appealing a Los Angeles judge's recent refusal to grant asylum to a Mexican man. The judge said Jorge Soto Vega didn't seem Gay and could avoid persecution by hiding his sexual orientation.

Jon Davidson, a Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund lawyer who is handling the appeal, assailed the suggestion that Gays should conceal their identity.

"A judge would never tell someone who's Jewish, 'Well, you don't look Jewish — you could go back to your country as long as it's not known you're Jewish.'"

Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

HOWL AT THE MOON - UofA Men's Basketball: UA vs. St. Mary's

IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. The DivaLicious Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Lady Ashley, Janee Starr and Miss Saigon.

WOODY'S - 8:00 p.m. until closing, the Gay Men's Health Project presents "Naughty and Nice"; A Christmas Tribute! Featuring: Condom stocking stuffers; Lick Santa's stick; Spankings by Santa for donations; Sit on Santa's lap for good boys; plus Body Shots 'Peppermint Lick' and 'Reindeer Salt Licks',

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

IBT'S - Winter Solstice Party! Party line-up includes Troy's Get It Up party from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bloody Mary Buffet, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to GMHP. 8:00 p.m. Sissy Bingo with Ajia Simone and Lucinda Holliday. 9:00 p.m. Hot Dance with Guest DJ - also special Go-Go's from 9:30 to closing.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

WOODY'S - Special Good-Bye Karaoke Party for Michael D. from 9:00 p.m. to close.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. The DivaLicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Teri Aki, Veronica Halliwell and Janee Starr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

IBT'S - Miss Gay Teen Pageant fund raiser. Watch for details.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

HOWL AT THE MOON - New Years Eve Party. Make plans now, Champagne at midnight. Country dancing. Party favors. Light buffet and more!

IBT's - Annual New Year's Eve Party and Balloon Drop. See our ad next week!

Non-Bar Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard at 579-7291.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Friends & Family", a comedy about two lovers who also happen to be working for the mafia. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. You're invited to join the MSN family for our traditional Potluck Holiday Dinner. The main dishes are provided. After dinner, we'll bring out board and card games for those interested. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 5:00 p.m. After the Holiday meal has been devoured, we'll put out the leftovers and show a movie. The film is "Holiday Heart", about a drag queen who gets involved in the life of a drug addict and her daughter. For directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marv for an evening of Pinochle. If you don't know how to play, the guys will teach you in a relaxed atmosphere. For directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws $5. $1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm $2 well or domestic beer. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. $2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm.

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

Monday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 8pm to close.

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm, $3 entry, bar matches pot. Country music 9pm to close. $2 bottled Bud products 8 to close.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ- Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. Hip Hop or Dance w/DJ Shorty or Senna 9pm - close. $1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or $1 Tequila shots 8-1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex..

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night. No cover.

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

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Bar matches pot. $2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 10:30 am. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). $3 entry fee (pot matched). Current & Classic Country from 6:30 to close.

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

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

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

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

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

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THROUGH DECEMBER 20

Arizona Theatre Company (the state theatre) presents It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues" at The Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott. With members of the original Broadway cast, "The Blues" which was nominated for four Tony Awards, is guaranteed to raise the spirits and bring down the house!. For reservations and information: 622-2823.

NOW PLAYING THROUGH DECEMBER 21

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Bullshot Crummond". In 1930s England, all is not calm and tranquil. The evil villain, Otto Von Brunno and his seductive mistress have kidnapped Professor Fenton in hopes of stealing his formula for making synthetic diamonds. Enter the hero detective, Hugh "Bullshot" Crummond. Car chases, plane crashes, sword fights, intrigue and romance! A wild ride you won't want to miss! Thurs., Fri., Sat., 7:30; Sunday matinee only 3:00 p.m. Tickets range from $14 - $12. 5317 E. Speedway. 327-4242.

DECEMBER 16-17-18

UA Presents Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernández 'Navidades' A Christmas Celebration. Centennial Hall at 7:30 p.m. Call 621-3341.

DECEMBER 18-19-20–26-27–31 - JANUARY 1-2-3

The "Laughing Stock Comedy Company" is coming to town on the above dates. The group will be performing an evening of improvisational comedy at ZuZi's Little Theatre (the Historic Y), 738 N. 5th Avenue at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Tickets for all shows is $12 including New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For tickets and information call 520-749-3800. Check out their website at www.laughing.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Mariah Carey in her 2003 World Tour "Charmbracelet" concert at the Tucson Convention Center Arena. Doors open 6:00 p.m. Tickets $35.50 - $55.50 at the TCC Bpx Office or at all TicketMaster locations or call 321-1000.

JANUARY 3 THRU FEBRUARY 8

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

What better way to begin the new year than enjoy the musical talents of three favorite singing groups from the past - The Drifters, The Platters and The Coasters. They'll all be performing at Desert Diamond Casino. Tickets $15-$25 in advance. $20-$30 day of the show. Tickets go on sale Dec. 13 at 10:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Temptations are coming to Desert Diamond Casino's Diamond Center. Call 393-2799 for ticket information.

REGISTER TO VOTE NOW
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NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11.00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 21 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

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

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

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOUSING/FOR RENT

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

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Book: Many HIV+ Gay Men Lie About Their Serostatus

NEW YORK - A new book focusing on HIV disclosure issues suggests that many HIV-positive people fail to tell their sexual partners that they are infected with HIV, with about one-third of the HIV-positive Gay men surveyed for the book admitting to lying about their serostatus, The New York Times reports.

However, the book's writers believe the actual number of HIV-positive Gay men who lie about their serostatus to be significantly higher. "I was horrified by some of the things people told me," psychiatrist Robert Klitzman, co-author of Mortal Secrets: Truth and Lies in the Age of AIDS, told the Times. "At the end of each interview we spoke to the subjects about safer sex and the importance of disclosure. But it led us to think about the importance of a code of sexual ethics."

Klitzman and Ronald Bayer, an ethicist, used oral history interviews of the sexual practices of 49 men and 28 women in New York City as the foundation for the book. Although the interviews were conducted from 1993 to 1996, before the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy, the authors and other health experts believe little has changed since then with regard to disclosure levels. Sharon Byrd of the Michigan Department of Community Health told the Times that her current research showed as few as 20% of HIV-positive Detroit residents tell their sex partners of their infection. Many health officials attribute a failure to disclose HIV status, either intentionally or unintentionally, as a contributing factor to the continued spread of HIV in the United States. Bayer said disclosure issues are affected by many factors, including AIDS stigma and a fear of discrimination, even by friends and family members.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Fine Tuning

Recently some newspaper reporter went all around the country walking into chemical plants where highly toxic stuff was manufactured. He walked through unlocked gates without being observed or opposed. He walked right up to the tanks storing the toxic stuff. In most cases nobody saw him or stopped him.

60 Minutes read this newspaper guy's story and asked if he'd do the same thing and take them along. No problem. They walked right through an unlocked gate and up to a gigantic tank. When 60 Minutes did it they added a little dramatic effect by picking a chemical plant that was surrounded by the homes of about fifteen million people. And then in a matter of days CNN did essentially the same story on chemical plants.

Walked right in. Walked right up to the tanks. Nobody seeing them. Nobody stopping them. In the 60 Minutes piece they strolled around until someone finally noticed them. The guys who did notice them didn't appear to be security types. They looked instead like regular plant employees. They definitely weren't armed.

We get security/terrorism experts on the tube almost every day who are asked the same questions about this chemical plant situation and give the same answers. I'll condense and paraphrase these Q and A's:

Q: Why is there no security at these plants?
A: Costs money.

Q: Why doesn't the federal government mandate it?
A: Congressional lips locked to chemical industry's butt.

Q: How dangerous is the situation?
A: The wrong plant goes up you could be looking at casualties in the hundreds of thousands.

Now here's the question that I've never seen any of these experts asked: If 60 Minutes and some print reporter and CNN can all walk into these places and up to the tanks without anybody even noticing them, why haven't the terrorists walked up to these tanks and blown them up?

How this vital and obvious question has gone unasked in all the dozens of interviews I've seen is a wonderment to me. Are all the journalists simply afraid of embarrassing all the experts by asking a question that can't be answered? Has everybody turned almost morbidly polite at exactly the same moment?

At times like this you almost want to say, "To hell with journalists. To hell with security experts. What would Sherlock Holmes say?" That's right. Sherlock Holmes. The fact that he's a fictional character does nothing to diminish the brilliance of his intellectual methods.

And, being a big fan of his, I happen to know what Holmes would say about the question under discussion. I may not have the quote exactly, but the maestro would say something very close to, "Eliminate the impossible and what's left, no matter how improbable, is the truth."

Is it possible that the terrorists do not know about the 60 Minutes and/or the CNN reports on the complete vulnerability of our chemical plants? Since we know that 60 Minutes and CNN are seen all around the world, we can be absolutely sure that it is not possible for the terrorists to be ignorant of their reports.

The improbable truth that we are left with is that the terrorists do know they can blow up a chemical plant any time they feel like it and inflict massive casualties, and for some reason they choose not to do so!

Why not? Holmes would argue that the terrorists must not want the consequences that killing hundreds of thousands of Americans on one day would bring. Those consequences might best be called "total mobilization."

There would be civil defense groups around every chemical plant within hours. They'd be composed of civilians who wanted to protect their homes and couldn't wait for Congress to get up off its knees. They'd be there with everything from deer rifles to baseball bats.

Everything else that we're already doing against terrorism would be ratcheted up by about a factor often. In other words we'd go nuts on the bad guys.

The conclusion that Holmes would come to is this: The terrorists are fine tuning their infliction of pain on us. They want us to be upset enough to get out of the Middle East. They don't want us to be so upset that we go to a total wartime mobilization. Elemintary, my dear Doctor Watson.

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

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Ex-Military Officers

Continued from Page One

effectively a ban."

According to SLDN, nearly 10,000 service members have been discharged under the policy. And SLDN claims figures from the General Accounting Office show the cost of just training replacements for those discharged as exceeding $300 million in the past decade.

"There is one inescapable conclusion -- 'don't ask, don't tell' does not work and should be repealed," the three officers said in a statement to SLDN. "Today, no credible evidence exists to support a continued ban. Indeed, all studies, including those commissioned by the Pentagon, have come to that conclusion."

SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn praised the officers' honesty and courage.

"From the American Revolution to the conflict in Iraq, Gay service members have shed blood on the battlefield, sacrificed for our fellow citizens and achieved the highest military ranks," Osburn said in a prepared statement. "The Pentagon and Congress should lead the effort to repeal this law. It was a bad idea in 1993, and it is a bad idea today."

Mass. Senate

Continued from Page Seven

the court has been very clear. But we realize it might be unavoidable."

In a parallel effort, conservatives hope that the state Legislature can soon take the first step in the lengthy path to amending the state Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The anti-Gay marriage proposal, which is up for debate on Feb. 11, would have to pass in two successive legislative sessions, and win a majority at the November 2006 polls as well. Unlike the country as a whole, Massachusetts favors same-sex marriage by a 60-40 margin, and opposes a constitutional amendment.