



Challenge To California Partner Law Denied

SACRAMENTO - On Thursday, December 18, a Sacramento Superior Court shot down the first legal challenges to the most sweeping protections for same-sex couples in California.

Judge Thomas M. Cecil denied requests by state Sen. Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, and the conservative group Campaign for California Families (CCF) to issue a preliminary injunction against the domestic partner law, AB 205.

AB 205 was signed into law by former Gov. Gray Davis in September, giving registered same-sex domestic partners nearly all of the state-level rights and responsibilities that married couples enjoy.

Both CCF and Knight sued, claiming the law violated the bill Knight authored and helped pass, Proposition 22, which states "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in the state of California." Knight's suit claims AB 205 violates Prop. 22 by using "word games" to avoid addressing marriage. CCF's suit is broader, claiming both AB 205, and California's previous set of domestic partnership rights, AB 25, are in violation of the Knight law.

But in shooting down Knight and CCF's efforts, Judge Cecil ruled the two had not shown that it was "reasonably probable" that their challenges would succeed.

Paul Cates, the director of public education for the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, explained why the ruling is so important: "In order to get a preliminary injunction you have to prove that your whole lawsuit is likely to be successful. Essentially what the judge is saying is that their challenges to the law will not fly."

Attorney David Codell, the lead counsel for Equality California and 12 California couples who are defending the new domestic partnership law, said, "Although the lawsuit will now continue, it is very encouraging that the court found at this initial stage that Sen. Knight's arguments were not strong enough to keep the law from going into effect."

As far as the clients Codell is representing, they are holding their breath on what will happen next.

"This lawsuit puts our family in harm's way," explained Kay Smith in a written statement. "I've been with my partner for more than 20 years, but if this lawsuit succeeds, I'd be seen as a legal stranger to the woman I love in all kinds of tough situations."

For Johnny Symons and William Rogers, the suit attacks more than their relationship, but their children. "As parents, we are doing everything in our

power to protect our two young children. But without the protections in AB 205, our family will never have the same security as other families," they said.

Knight and CCF have tried other means to repeal AB 205. On Dec. 4, they failed to get enough signatures to meet a deadline to get an initiative on the March ballot to repeal the law. They have until Dec. 21 to gather enough signatures for the November 2004 ballot.

Cates predicts Knight and CCF will seek a summary judgement, putting the case on a fast-track to be resolved by a judge.

But because CCF and Knight's preliminary injunction failed, domestic partners in California can expect to be notified at the beginning of 2004 of the new rights and responsibilities they will assume in January 2005.

Appeals Court Rules In Favor Of Medical Marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO - A three-judge panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday, December 16, ruled that the federal government's ban on marijuana use is unconstitutional when applied to people who use it for medicinal reasons in states with laws permitting such use, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

The 2-1 ruling says the ban is illegal for those who use the drug under a physician's advice to treat symptoms of such diseases as AIDS and cancer, so long as the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines, or used for non-medicinal reasons. Federal controlled-substances laws ban the use of marijuana in all cases. California is one of eight states to have a law permitting medical marijuana use.

The case before the appeals court involved two California women who filed a lawsuit against U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft and Drug Enforcement Agency administrator Asa Hutchinson to seek an injunction that would allow them to use medicinal marijuana without fear of federal prosecution. A district judge in March ruled against the women, who appealed the case to the ninth circuit court.

The circuit court's decision says the two women's "class of activities--the intrastate, noncommercial cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes on the advice of a physician--is, in fact, different in kind from drug-trafficking" and as such falls outside the federal government's jurisdiction. The court's ruling affects six other states under its jurisdiction--Arizona,

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

Research Links Internet With Syphilis Spread

SAN FRANCISCO - New research appears to confirm fears that easy access to sex partners through the Internet is contributing to the outbreak of syphilis among Gay men in San Francisco.

In a series of surveys, researchers found that the number of infected men who hooked up online rose from just 13 percent in 2000 to a whopping 44 percent earlier this year. That makes chat rooms and Web sites more popular meeting places than bars and sex clubs among syphilis patients, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

It's impossible to know if syphilis rates would have reached such high levels if the Internet didn't exist. But San Francisco's controversial sexually transmitted disease (STD) czar said it's hardly a coincidence that more men became infected as chat rooms and Web sites proliferated.

Without the Internet, "I don't think we would have seen syphilis cases spread so quickly or broadly across the United States and Europe," said Dr. Jeff Klausner, who oversees STD prevention efforts in the city. "For people who are interested in multiple partners, (the Internet) really makes it very efficient and easy and inexpensive."

Doctors can easily treat syphilis in its early stages, and the number of cases among Gay and Bisexual men in the United States, estimated at 2,744 in 2002, is growing rapidly but is still very small. However, public health officials are worried because the rising syphilis rates suggest that Gay men are abandoning safer sex practices.

Also, doctors fear that people infected with syphilis can more easily transmit -- or get infected by -- the AIDS virus.

Canadian Court Approves Pension Benefits To Surviving Gay/Lesbian Couples

TORONTO - In what is being described as a monumental decision for thousands of people in the Gay community, an Ontario court has ordered the federal government to extend survivor pension benefits to Gays and Lesbians whose partners died before 1998.

"It's a gigantic decision, first of all because it's going to make a real difference in the quality of life for thousands of Gay men and Lesbians," said Douglas Elliot, lead counsel for the national class action.

"It is tangible equality."

Ontario Superior Court Justice Ellen Macdonald ruled today that the federal government has discriminated against the survivors of same-sex couples by denying them benefits under the Canada Pension Plan if their partner died before Jan. 1, 1998.

San Francisco reported 495 syphilis cases in 2002, more than 10 times the number in 1998, when most patients were heterosexual. In a report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local researchers said 434 of those cases were among Gay and Bisexual men; two-thirds of them were HIV-positive.

In 2002, the most common places to meet sex partners were the Internet (33 percent), bars (21 percent), bathhouses (13 percent), sex clubs (13 percent) and adult bookstores (6 percent).

Earlier this year, researchers interviewed 151 patients and found that 44 percent of them met their partners over the Internet. Fourteen of the men had no way to reach their partners other than an e-mail address.

Because of the major role played by the Internet, San Francisco public health officials often use e-mail to alert the former sex partners of syphilis patients about their risk. However, the officials worry that some of their messages will be deleted as spam, even though they come with subject lines like "Urgent Health Matter."

Klausner said some Internet service providers and Web sites, such as safesexcity.com and Gay.com, are helping the city get the word out about syphilis outbreaks.

"We're trying to work with law enforcement agencies to compel providers to do the right thing when they've been notified that there have been new cases of STDs among people using their services," Klausner said. "They need to make their members aware."

Such benefits will now be retroactive to April 17, 1985, when equality guarantees were included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The decision also entitles the plaintiffs to interest on payments retroactive to Feb. 1, 1992 - a calendar limitation that also applies to heterosexual couples.

Four hundred people have registered for the class action so far, but Elliot estimates some 1,500 Gays and Lesbians across Canada are eligible for survivor benefits - at a cost of \$400 million to the federal government.

Quebec was the only province not represented in the suit because it operates a separate pension plan.

The federal government imposed
CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

UPDATE

Desert Voices Seek More Singers For Spring Concert

TUCSON - Using a working title of 'Songs to Come Out To' (sub-titled 'Songs To Which You Came Out' for the English Majors in the crowd), Desert Voices is busily planning for their spring show to be held April 3rd at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue.

During last year's reorganization, one of the new approaches adopted for the group was the collaborative creation of shows. Rather than the director choosing all of the music, or deciding themes and titles for upcoming shows, all Desert Voices members share this task. New director, Chris Tackett, is enthusiastic about the process.

"The sharing of our common experiences is part of what makes us a family," stated Tackett. "We bring these shared experiences together to form the skeleton of a show, then we add songs that evoke the same feelings and emotions we have shared. It's a very meaningful process for the group."

The chorus will begin rehearsals for the show in January of 2004 and is actively seeking new members to join them. There are no requirements for auditioning or singing with the group. Reading music is not required, though Music Committee chair, Lou Ann Darras did note that "all music is performed 'off book', requiring memorization of words and music". The group supplies rehearsal CD's to members to assist with learning and memorization of music. The audition process is painless and non-threatening. "The so-called 'audition' is more like a voice check," adds Tackett. "I need to hear the singer's voice in order to know in which section to place them."

Auditions will be held on Monday, January 5th, 12th and 19th, 2004, starting at 6:30 PM, at Water of Life MCC, at 3269 N. Mountain Ave, North of Ft. Lowell. For January 5th auditions, interested singers should call the Desert Voices Office at

791-9662 to schedule an audition, or on the 12th or 19th, just stop by to audition, and see what the fun is all about. And be sure to go to the Desert Voices website at desertvoices.org for all kinds of information about the chorus.

Arizona Heat Update

TUCSON - The Arizona Heat selected UCLA pitcher Keira Georl with their No. 1 pick in the National Pro Fastpitch senior draft in Montgomery, Texas.

Georl was the No. 5 player taken overall. She will be a senior for UCLA this season, then play professional softball in Tucson if she signs.

In the elite draft, the Heat picked DePaul shortstop Liz Bouck in the first round. Arizona chose Olivet Nazarene outfielder Amanda Jensen in the second round, Long Island outfielder Rosette Rough in the third and Judson College shortstop Tiffany Maddox in the fourth. The senior draft lasted six rounds. The Heat chose Georl's UCLA teammate, first baseman Claire Sua, in the second round. Other senior selections were: Arizona first baseman-pitcher Wendy Allen (third), Washington middle infielder Amanda Oleson (fourth), Florida State outfielder Jessica van der Linden (fifth) and Point Loma Nazarene shortstop Cheryl Bolding (sixth).

Heat managing partner Jim Tiggas said the Heat would pursue a trade for Arizona's Makenzie Vandergest. She was drafted No. 7 overall in the first round of the senior draft by the Texas Thunder.

In other Heat news, Nancy Evans signed with The Heat. "This is huge for us, Nancy comes with talent, experience, dedication, and an affinity with Tucson fans" said Tiggas. Nancy will pitch to her college catcher Leah Braatz, the two are expected to be one of the premier pitcher/catcher duo's in the Professional League. Both Braatz and Evans were recently inducted into the University of Arizona Athletic Hall of Fame.

Other players signed to The Heat

include: Erica Beach (ASU), Leah Braatz (U of A), Crystal Draper (Oregon State), Amy Hillenbrand (U of A), Jane Teixeira (Texas-Austin), Becky Newbry Turi (Washington), Leigh Ann Walker (Nebraska), Becky McMurtry (Louisiana-Lafayette), Lisha Ribella (U of A), Tamara Ivic (Cal State Northridge).

National Pro Fastpitch is the only professional women's fastpitch softball league in the U.S. Major League Baseball is the official development Partner of NPF. For more information about the Arizona Heat, call (520) 296-9595 or go online to: profastpitch.com.

Lesbian Who Accused Deputy Of Rape Arrested For Stalking

ATHENS - A Georgia woman who accused a Gwinnett County deputy sheriff of raping her because she is a Lesbian has been arrested for allegedly stalking her former lover while armed with a handgun.

Athens-Clarke County police said the 21-year-old woman—who the Athens Banner-Herald was not identifying because she is an alleged rape victim—was arrested outside her ex-girlfriend's place of employment early Tuesday morning, December 16. Police say she used her car to block another vehicle, in which her ex-girlfriend was either the driver or passenger, to prevent it from leaving. A search of the woman's car turned up a .357-caliber revolver concealed beneath clothing on the front seat, according to police. During questioning, the woman said she planned to shoot herself in front of her former lover, who ended their relationship a week earlier, police said. The woman told officers she was in therapy for suicidal thoughts she'd been having since the alleged rape.

In October, prosecutors filed notice that they planned to seek extra prison time under the state's hate-crimes law in the case of Derrick McGriff, the former deputy who the Athens woman claimed raped her after they met in an Athens restaurant on June 9. She alleges the then-deputy forced her at gunpoint to her apartment, where he raped her after making threats and derogatory references to her being a Lesbian. McGriff, 25, was suspended and then resigned from the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department following his arrest. He is free on \$100,000 bond and under house arrest at the home of his parents in Hawkinsville. His defense attorneys have said the alleged victim made up the story to conceal from her lover that she had consensual sex with a man. McGriff was indicted on August 6 on charges of rape, false imprisonment, aggravated assault with intent to rape, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and violation of oath of office. His trial is yet to be scheduled.

In Loving Memory

Lynda S. Pass

Deep in the court
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Yielding shadows from
Oft bare boughs
Fragrant in sage and
Juniper berries.
Summer goes out . . .
With the softness
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Equal Rights For All

By Howard Dean

I'm proud to say that as Governor of Vermont, I signed legislation to grant same gender couples the right to enter into civil unions. This law, the first of its kind in the United States, guarantees Lesbian and Gay couples the same basic legal rights that married couples enjoy: the right to inherit property, obtain child custody, visit a partner in the hospital, and control a partner's affairs upon death.

The Republican Party seems eager to run against me because of my role in enactment of this historic law. I welcome that debate -- I can't wait to ask the President of the United States why he doesn't support equal rights. I can't wait to ask him to repudiate the GOP-authored Defense of Marriage Act, an unconstitutional, mean-spirited law that stoked fears of homosexuality and pitted one group of Americans against another.

I'm tired of being divided. America is better than that. In this election, I promise that when Republicans pander to our lowest fears, I will fight back by speaking to our highest aspirations. I will offer the American people the chance to choose hope instead of fear, community instead of division, healing instead of hatred.

I'd like to tell you about my vision for an America that includes every one of us. As President I would:

Work to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employment discrimination based on race, religion, sex, and national origin. But nothing in federal law prevents an

COMMENTARY

employer from discharging or refusing to hire someone because of sexual orientation. I will fight for enactment of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to remedy this gap in federal law.

Strengthen federal protections against anti-Gay violence. The murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming was not an isolated incident but part of persistent anti-Gay violence in the United States. I support enactment of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act to help states investigate and prosecute bias crimes and to add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories in the federal hate crimes statute.

Give federal employees the right to name same-sex partners as beneficiaries. Major U.S. corporations, such as Boeing, Ford Motor Co., and AOL-Time Warner, have adopted human resources policies to allow employees to designate a domestic partner as a beneficiary of health and other employment benefits. The federal government should do the same.

End bias in the immigration laws. Current law authorizes family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents to obtain immigrant visas, but the Immigration and Nationality Act's definition of family does not include same-sex partners. I support enactment of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act (H.R. 832) to add the term "permanent partner" to the statutory list of family members eligible to obtain immigrant visas.

End the military's "Don't Ask, CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

Equal Rights For All Should Mean All

By Wesley Clark

The ink was barely dry on the Massachusetts State Supreme Court's Gay marriage decision, and the Republican Party was trying to use it as an election year issue to divide Americans. But this issue should not be a polarizing one. There's no reason why we shouldn't treat all Americans equally no matter what their race, religion or sexual orientation. That's why I welcomed the Massachusetts court decision with open arms.

I remember a conversation I had with a fellow Army officer a few months ago. He hadn't thought through my position supporting equal rights for Gays. I asked him, "If you had a Gay child, would you love that child as much as your other children?" And he said, "Yes, of course." And I asked if he would want his child to have the same rights and opportunities as every other child. And again he said, "Yes, of course." When we look at it in human terms, we recognize that this issue is about how we want our children to be treated. In America, every child should be equal in the eyes of the law, period.

Throughout the course of American history, too many groups have struggled for equal rights and opportunities. Growing up in Little Rock in the 1950s, I saw first-hand how wrenching the fight for civil rights was. In fact, I went to school for a year in Tennessee because they had closed the schools in Little Rock.

In too many ways, the struggle for equal rights is still on-going. Today, one of the frontlines in the civil rights struggle runs through the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. We must always stand by the principle: every American should enjoy the exact same rights as every other American.

The right wing says that the LGBT community wants special rights. But that is not true. Gay Americans want the same rights that all Americans enjoy: rights to form personal, legal relationships that confer benefits and obligations. It is high time for the LGBT community to enjoy these rights as well.

The American people are fair-minded. They understand that two people who have been together for twenty-five years should be able to visit each other in a hospital. They understand that couples should be able to leave property to one another without crippling tax consequences. And they also know that the legal status of Gays and Lesbians has nothing to do with "protecting" traditional marriage.

Whether we call civil unions "marriage" is a decision best left to churches and state legislatures. The concept of marriage has always been thought of as a union between a man and a woman. Such deeply embedded traditions are not easily changed. As we debate and discuss this issue, we must be mindful that people of good will can disagree without demonizing each other.

This is why we need new leadership in Washington, leadership that will bring us together.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

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Positions Open At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan is now accepting résumés for three staff positions with the Youth Program:

The Education Specialist is a full-time (40 hours per week), exempt employee housed at the Eon "Lounge" Youth Center and works flexible hours, including evenings and weekends. Qualifications: Experience providing awareness trainings to a variety of audiences, including social service providers; Spanish-speaking preferred; Knowledge and experience working with people of other races and ethnicities (particularly Hispanic and African-American); Experience working with youth; and, Knowledge of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues. Salary of \$22,000 plus health benefits.

To Apply: Send cover letter, résumé, and three references to Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 or fax (520) 624-0364 or email, see Website for E-mail. No phone calls, please.

The Youth Outreach Specialist staffs the Eon "Lounge" youth drop-in center during evenings and weekends and is responsible for outreach, education, and advocacy for youth, especially surrounding issues of homelessness. This position is 30 hours/week, including evenings and weekends, \$9/hour.

Qualifications: Knowledge about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities and relevant issues; Experience working with youth; Good interpersonal skills and ability to relate to youth; Availability on evenings and weekends; Ability to pass fingerprint clearance; Reliable transportation; Must be 18 or older; Experience with homeless issues; Knowledge of local services for homeless people; Public speaking skills or experience; and, Bilingual English/Spanish Ability to provide culturally competent

services to people of color.

To Apply: Send cover letter, résumé, and three references to Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 or fax (520) 624-0364 or email, see Website for E-mail. No phone calls, please.

Youth Empowerment Summer, a new collaboration between Wingspan, Border Action Network and Tucson Community Food Bank, is seeking a part-time project coordinator, 15-20 hours weekly, \$12/hour.

This position is funded from January to August 2004. Modeled after the Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Movement, Youth Empowerment Summer is a six-week school to train young organizers and activists. Young people, age 13 -18, will attend classes to learn movement building skills and intern with a collaborating organization to get hands-on experience fighting for justice.

Qualifications: Experience working with youth of color and LGBTQ youth; Volunteer management and/or supervisory experience; Detail-oriented; Basic computer literacy; Candidate must have own car and be willing to travel throughout Pima County; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Self-motivated; Demonstrated commitment to social justice; Bilingual Spanish/English; Event planning; Experience teaching or training youth; Ability to budget time and resources; Fund raising experience; and, Experience in community organizing and/or political campaigns.

Send a cover letter and résumé via email (as a Word attachment) to JC Olson at jco@wingspan.org.

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U.S. HIV Policy Shift Kicks In; Critics Worry

WASHINGTON - A government-ordered shift in how money is spent to prevent the spread of HIV has begun, leading to cuts in programs that target Gay men who are at risk of contracting HIV, and raising concern among AIDS activists, the [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://www.Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) network reported.

In one recent example, the District of Columbia's HIV/AIDS Administration (part of the Department of Health) cut 55 percent out of next year's allocation for a program aimed at Gay and Bisexual white men, reducing the budget from \$440,000 to \$200,000 in 2004. The program, known as "G-Net," is run by the Whitman-Walker Clinic, which serves the GLBT community in the Washington, D.C., area and is especially committed to fighting HIV/AIDS.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) sets the guidelines for how money is spent on HIV prevention efforts. Last April, the CDC announced a shift to focus more on people who are already HIV-positive.

The CDC wants the money to be used to track past sexual partners of people who are HIV-positive and make sure they are warned and tested, as well as to educate HIV-positive people on safe sex to protect future partners. The "HIV-positives" population, CDC officials have said, is pivotal to the transmission of the AIDS virus.

The move is controversial because many believe it could be dangerous to pull back from efforts that target people who are not yet infected with the disease.

"We don't believe you can trade one for another," Whitman-Walker Clinic spokesman Michael Cover told the [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://www.Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) Network.

"We believe the HIV epidemic in this country requires us to focus both on those who are HIV-positive and those who are at risk," said Cover. Shifting the preponderance of funding from at-risk and instead to HIV-positive individuals, we believe, will still result in unacceptable numbers of new HIV infections."

Washington may be one of the first cities in the country to experience the substantial changes in how government HIV-prevention funding is allocated. But it won't be the last.

"This is the kind of challenge faced by health departments around the country," said Shana Krochmal, communications manager for the Stop AIDS Project, which works to prevent HIV transmission among Gay and Bisexual men in San Francisco.

Krochmal said the situation appeared even grimmer when the CDC released its first draft of the new guidelines. Since April, she said, the agency has responded to input from HIV activists about the need to keep targeting at-risk groups.

"I think in comparison to what was initially released, we won a lot of concession from the CDC to restore funding to reach high-risk negatives," said Krochmal.



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of my gross income generated by members & friends of the Gay & Lesbian Community will be donated to local AIDS service organizations.

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POLITICS 2003
by Mark R. Kott

So Where Do They Stand On Line?

For the past eleven weeks, this column has featured the candidate responses, or lack thereof to the Human Rights Campaign questionnaire, as well as their records on issues of concern (Dubya), of those wanting to be President of the United States in the upcoming 2004 general election, as well as one who wants to be elected, not selected (Dubya).

nothing about GLBT issues that could be found from his Website, sharpston2004.org.

Recently, the individual who supposedly invented the Internet, former Vice President Al Gore, endorsed the candidate who discovered it, Howard Dean for the 2004 Democratic nomination, the question arises of how these campaigns, Democratic and Republican treat Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) voters.

Former Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun's site, carolfbrun.com, features links to sites, such as the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, as well as her responses to the Human Rights Campaign fund questionnaire, under the section entitled "equality" but nothing else.

On the Republican side, on Dubya's Web site, georgewbush.com, when one enters the words, Gay or Lesbian while using the search mechanism, nothing comes up to the surprise of nobody. ...

Starting with the Democrats, former Governor Dean's Website, deanforamerica.com, a GLBT Americans for Dean page, GLBT blog, position papers, press releases and news articles are many of the items one will find.

Midnight Monday, January 5, 2004 is the deadline to register to vote for the Arizona Democratic Presidential Primary. This primary is a "closed" primary, meaning that only registered Democrats may vote in the election, set for Tuesday, February 3, 2004. For more information, call your local County recorder's office, in Pima County (520) 740-4330, the Pima County Democratic Party (520) 326-3716, or go online to sosaz.com to register or get the phone number of your County Recorder for those readers, both print and online who may not reside in Pima County. A voter registration drive is continuing at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, every Sunday afternoon until January 4, 2004. ...

General Wesley Clark's site, clark04.com, has a GLBT group page and blog as well, many position papers covering different issues including GLBT, articles, op-ed pieces.

Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman's site, joe2004.com, only offers position papers, testimonials but no GLBT group page or blog, leading one to question whether it is buried on the site which some campaigns will try to do or otherwise.

On Saturday, December 27, 10:30 a.m., Democratic Presidential candidate Wesley Clark will be in Tucson, speaking on health care at a public event at Kino Hospital, 2800 E. Ajo Way, North Side Courtyard in front of the statue of Father Kino. Later on Saturday, Clark will be in Phoenix, 3:00 p.m., speaking on health care at a public event at the Wyndham hotel, 50 East Adams, on the corner of First Street and Adams. For more information, call (602) 340-9222.

Another Senator, John Kerry of Massachusetts, johnkerry.com, has the GLBT page in it's communities section, featuring his voting record, position papers, articles as well as links to national GLBT rights sites.

North Carolina Senator John Edwards site, johnedwards2004.com, has no community pages and in fact, one has to utilize the site's search mechanism to find the two documents pertaining to the candidate's stances.

On Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt's Web site, dickgephardt2004.com, testimonials, an article, position papers and an item on the Congressman's GLBT voting record are present but an individual must utilize the search mechanism the site offers.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich's Website, kucinich.us, offers a GLBT page, articles on GLBT issues/events, information on the campaign's outreach coordinator, as well as the Congressman's views on GLBT issues of concern.

Public education, health care and voting rights are the main platform planks for the Rev. Al Sharpton but there was

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The Time For Change Has Come

Majority Of Americans Support G/L Marriage Ban, New Poll Says

NEW YORK - A recent poll conducted by The New York Times and CBS News found that a majority of Americans support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would permanently ban Gay marriage.

The nationwide poll found that 55% of Americans favor an amendment to the constitution that would allow marriage between only a man and a woman, while 40% oppose the idea. The findings come after the highest court in Massachusetts ruled 4-3 last month that the state's ban on Gay marriage is unconstitutional, ordering the legislature to come up with a solution within 180 days that would grant same-sex couples the rights of marriage.

According to the poll, support for a federal constitutional amendment comes from a wide range of people. Many are those traditionally viewed as supportive of Gay rights, the paper said, including Democrats, women, and people who live on the East Coast. Attitudes on the subject seem to be inextricably linked to how people view marriage itself. For a majority of Americans--53%--marriage is largely a religious matter. Seventy-one percent of those people oppose Gay marriage. Similarly, 33% of Americans say marriage is largely a legal matter and a majority of those people--55%--say they support Gay marriage. The most positive feelings toward Gay people were registered among respondents under 30 and those who know Gay people.

Political experts are citing the new poll as evidence that the Gay marriage issue will likely become a divisive one for the Democrats and an opportunity for the Republicans in the 2004 election. President Bush had avoided taking a position on the proposed amendment, versions of which have been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. But last week Bush for the first time voiced his support, saying, "I will support a constitutional amendment which would honor marriage between a man and a woman, codify that."

The poll was conducted from December 10 through December 13 in telephone interviews with 1,057 people. It carries a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. Responses about Gay rights tend to be influenced somewhat by the wording of the questions. This poll and other surveys show that as the courts have extended legal rights to Gays this year, Americans have become increasingly uncomfortable with same-sex relations. For decades, a majority of Americans have not approved of Gay

relations, the Times said. That had begun to change, until the U.S. Supreme Court's pro-sodomy ruling in June and the Massachusetts ruling in November. A New York Times/CBS News poll conducted in July found that 54% of respondents said Gay sex should be legal. Only 41% of the respondents in the latest poll said it should be legal.

Richard Waters, 71, a retired elementary school teacher in Little Valley, N.Y., and a Republican, said in a follow-up interview to the latest poll that he strongly supports a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage. "I think any kind of amendment that says 'You shall not' will help," Waters told the Times. "I just don't think it's right for two men to go parading around in public or for two women to be doing the things they do. It's against God's law. That's right in the Bible that it's wrong." Theresa Eaton, 49, a financial analyst in Corona, Calif., and also a Republican, agreed. "I still believe that marriage should be between a man and woman," she said. "If I knew that we had a neighbor who was Gay, I would not let my nieces and nephews go close by there. I don't want to accept their lifestyle. It can be acquired and it is not right."

Gay rights groups expressed dismay with the poll results but said they doubt that a constitutional amendment would pass the initial stage through Congress. "The Republican House leadership is having its own internal fight to determine what to do," Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Gay rights group Human Rights Campaign, told the Times. "There is no consensus among conservatives, libertarians, and Republicans. Many of them say they don't support marriage for same-sex couples, but to amend the Constitution for social issues is a very bad idea." The last time the Constitution was amended for social purposes was in 1920, when alcohol was outlawed, but that prohibition was repealed in 1933. Sanford Levinson, a constitutional expert at the University of Texas Law School in Austin, said it is extremely difficult to amend the Constitution. If the ban on Gay marriage were to pass the House and Senate, he said, opponents could stop it by getting the support of one house of the legislature in just 13 states. Levinson said President Bush's support is "a free pass" because he probably knows how difficult it would be to get through Congress, let alone through 38 states. "The idea is for Bush to throw red meat to the Republican right, secure in the knowledge that this is not going to go anywhere," he said. "If it did go anywhere, it would tear the Republican Party apart."

Medical Marijuana

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Oregon, Washington State, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii--that also have medical marijuana laws.

Federal officials in California said they are now awaiting direction from Washington, D.C., as to how to enforce the federal Controlled Substances Act while the case is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which already has rejected some medical marijuana rights. The high court ruled in May 2001 that there is no exemption in federal drug laws for the use of medical marijuana and that growing, possession, or use of the drug is always illegal.

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HOROSCOPES

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If the temperature begins to rise on your winter holiday, warm yourself in the glow of Sun in Capricorn. Optimism soars and you feel that you can get exactly what you want. Is it in the stars? Retrograde Mercury still has a few tricks up its sleeve so you better check Santa's list.

settle down on the home front ... or so it seems. Count one, two, three before taking action and even then, do nothing. Things will have a way of quieting down on their own. So will you be naughty or nice?

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Your corporate stock begins to rise as the Sun buys into Capricorn. Proud Rams take on the world one bloated pinstriped shark at a time so pack your harpoon and go fishing. Spread the holiday joy by making an appearance at any office party but keep your opinions to yourself. Retro Mercury continues to find creative ways to spit in the eggnog if you begin to shout.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

While retro Mercury continues to make your holiday getaway plans a game of chance, the Sun now enters Capricorn and turns mishaps into merry making. Continue to check and recheck all plans, queer Bull and be flexible. Santa and retro Mercury take a tightly wrapped package from under your tree and hide it in your luggage. Unwrap it. Aha! So there are the Christmas balls!

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The Sun in Capricorn pokes you in the Yule log and stirs your passionate embers. Pink Twins are awash in good cheer and are not above turning up the heat on any lukewarm relationship. But your words of lust may fall flat and deflate any heightened expectation. Remember that actions speak louder and prouder than words when Mercury retrogrades.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Celebrate the holiday with a certain special someone, especially when the Sun cheerily enters Capricorn. Single queer Crabs are poised to make a merger if they seek such a relationship. But remember to keep your sunny side up and refrain from complaining to partners about holiday slights. Santa may just leave a lump in your stocking. Or maybe that is the plan?

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions think they are hot shots but may shoot themselves in the foot with retro Mercury's careless office talk. Thank goodness the Sun in Capricorn comes to the rescue and provides less chit chat and more action. As the holiday (and the Sun) progresses you are tempted to taste every cookie tray and eggnog pitcher. So what is so bad about looking like Santa?

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Are you on the A List for the holiday party scene? Will your best moves rock the house? The stars will check the invitation list when the Sun ambles into Capricorn and Mercury continues to retrograde. Gay Virgos may feel like party hounds until their tails get caught in a vise. Disentangle and wait until next week when you can bag your prey at a few select new years parties.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Your domestic agenda was waylaid by a pack of marauding lobbyists thanks to retrograde Mercury but now the Sun in Capricorn comes to the rescue. Things

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Retrograde Mercury has made a series of diplomatic blunders on your behalf as the holiday week progresses. Oops, did you really mean to say that? Don't panic, proud Scorp, the Sun enters Capricorn and makes any foul remark very fair. Better deliver your gift of gab in carefully crafted small packages and avoid that water squirting mistletoe lapel pin.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

The party season has begun with a flourish. Proud Archers spend spend spend like fiends thanks to retrograde Mercury but manage to have a rowdy good Gay time anyway with the Sun in Capricorn. Do you feel the earth move? No doubt, lover! The Sun provides a champagne bath to any dirty minded Sadge. Rubadub, bub. Which way to the Pole?

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

What can you expect when the Sun enters your own sign this week? How about a load of opportunities to strut your stuff with the beautiful people. But watch where you step as retrograde Mercury continues its trek and makes most of your first impressions rather ...er...interesting. Better bottle all that charisma and give it away as a gift of cheap cologne.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Expect a barrage of happy, serendipitous surprises as the Sun strides into Capricorn and Mercury continues its retrograde. Aquarians are due for a pre-spring cleaning of their closets as a bunch of closely guarded secrets are unwrapped and displayed. What is all that commotion in the back of your closet, cousin? Looks like eight tiny reindeer in leather chaps pulling a sled.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies find more pals to pat around with than ever before when Sun enters Capricorn. But brief discussions can turn into misunderstandings as Mercury continues to retrograde. My advice: join new social groups and keep opinions under wraps for now. There is plenty of time to steer the group dynamic to your way of thinking by new years. For now, hot toddy hot tub anyone?



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thom

Star Over Tucson

This meditation is occasioned by the approaching anniversary of an international superstar being arrested in Tucson for extreme DUI. The case still hasn't come to trial. More on that issue in a bit.

Although I generally find the whole notion of celebrity to be the most boring product that our society concocts, the idea of an international superstar who thinks very highly of herself locking horns with a town that thinks very little of itself seems fraught with dramatic potential.

When the case first broke the star's attorneys made some truly preposterous privacy claims that I debunked in this column. And then nothing seemed to happen for the longest time.

Looking back with the perspective of a years passage, and leaving aside the legal absurdities of the privacy claims, I wonder what could have been more shameful about the star's interaction with the police -- which is what she wanted suppressed -- than the act of extreme DUI in itself is shameful. Granted that I have a more sinister mind than most, it seems to me that, unless our star did or attempted to do something very naughty indeed, she was ill served by whoever advised her to attempt to cover it up.

After a few months of delay in the case I wrote the City Attorney to ask if he could assure me and my readers that our star was being given the same treatment that any other extreme DUI suspect would be given. He didn't answer.

When we were coming up on this one-year anniversary of the incident I called a daily paper and asked what they thought about the case and specifically about how it's been drawn out. The reporter I talked to said the delay wasn't unusual for someone willing to spend a lot of money on lawyers.

I don't consider myself an anti-drunk-driver zealot, but a years reprieve on a simple DUI case stinks. The defendant deserves a speedy trial. Why doesn't the public deserve one? The public was put in danger. The public was wronged. Why

should we have to wait a year for that wrong to be redressed?

And what possible excuse could there be for a one-year delay? The only one that I can think of for a DUI case is that the defendant has been in a coma for 51 weeks and needs a week to confer with her lawyers.

This is DUI, not some endlessly complex corporate phony accounting scam with shell companies and offshore hanky-panky. If our Tucson judges and prosecutors can't get a DUI case started in a year's time, we ought to fire them and find some judges and prosecutors who can.

Thinking about all this and talking to a very nonchalant reporter about it made me mad, so I called MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. To my astonishment, MADD wasn't at all upset about the year's delay. The lady I talked with said it wasn't unusual. She said that sooner or later the alleged drunk driver will have her day in court and MADD will be there.

I asked the patient lady if MADD had any particular interest in this case and, if so, what kind of outcome they'd be looking for. It kind of surprised me when she told me that they'd be more interested if there had been a victim, but that makes perfect sense when you think about it.

As for the outcome, she said that if our star was found guilty of extreme DUI she should do ten days in jail. I asked her if there was much variation in that ten-day term and she said that it was the very well established minimum.

I asked what MADD would do if our star was found guilty but didn't have to do any time. She said they'd raise a fuss in the press.

So here's where the drama comes in. You know, gentle reader, as well as I do that no international superstar is going to do ten days in a Tucson pokey in this particular millennium. The question thus becomes what kind of contortions will our judges and/or prosecutors have to execute to avoid the dreaded outcome. And how many points for form and difficulty will they be awarded?

You may have noticed that I've not mentioned the name of the star in question. That's because I'm not writing about her. I'm writing about us.

[Thom 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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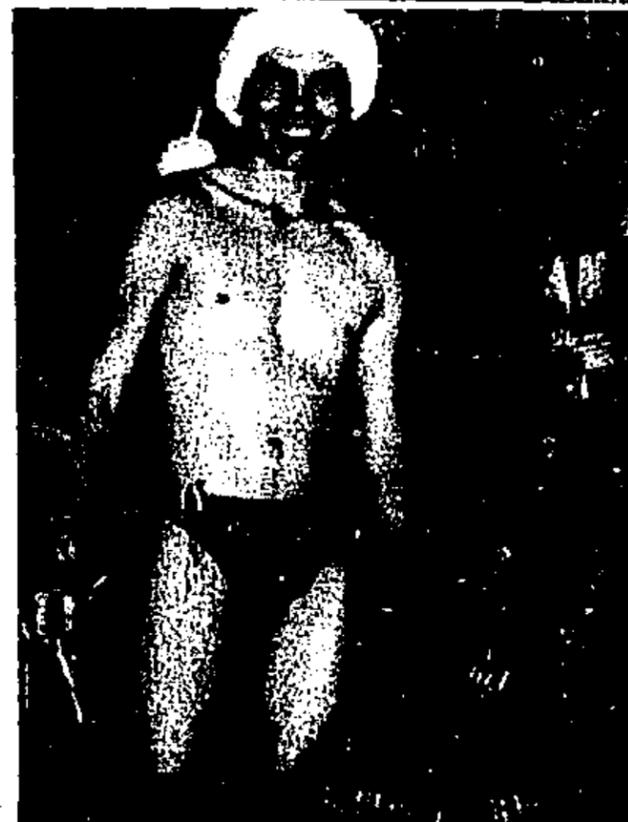
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Indiana Lesbians Seek Civil 'Divorce'

WARSAW - Another Lesbian couple, this time in Indiana, is facing the end of their Vermont-based civil union, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

According to the Wednesday edition, December 17, of the Warsaw Times-Union, Kimberly Granger's suit for dissolution in Kosciusko Superior Court seeks palimony and a division of the couple's real estate.

According to the lawsuit, the two women broke up in October after having been together since 1997. In the suit, Granger claims her former partner, Janua Riley, wouldn't share the property they owned jointly.

Granger's attorney, David Cates, told the Times-Union, "Indiana doesn't recognize civil unions, but that does not mean there can't be a statutorily implied partnership? that does not mean there can not be an equitable division of assets."

Cates told the paper he has already tried and won similar cases in the area.

The topic of same-sex breakups is also causing controversy in Iowa, where a conservative organization and six Republican state legislators are suing to overturn a judge's divorce of two women who obtained a civil union in Vermont.

Judge Jeffrey Neary granted the "divorce" between Kimberly J. Brown, 31, and Jennifer S. Perez, 26, on Nov. 14 in Woodbury County District Court, claiming he didn't notice he was ending a same-sex union. But Neary said the decision should stand, citing the Constitution's clause that requires states to recognize each other's laws.

"Dissolutions are incredibly

important. Just as important as divorce," David Buckel, senior staff attorney with Lambda Legal, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "When a relationship falls apart there should be an orderly way for a separation to take place. It's good for the couple. Good for the children, if there are any. Good for society. Otherwise, it's just a mess."

"But that doesn't mean a state is recognizing same-sex marriage," he added.

Matt Coles, the director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project at the ACLU, said that in some cases a court will recognize a marriage that wouldn't normally be recognized, for the sole purpose of ending it or handling matters of wills and estate.

But that distinction isn't good enough for one of the plaintiffs trying to overturn the dissolution in Iowa. Congressman Steve King, R-Iowa, described the ruling as invalid.

"Unicorns, leprechauns, Gay 'marriages' in Iowa -- these are all things you will never find because they just don't exist," he said, quoted in the Washington Times.

Dave Noble, the executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, fired back: "Leprechauns may not exist in Iowa, but obviously ignorance does. According to the most recent census, there are 3,698 committed same-sex couples in Iowa who lack legal recognition under the law," he said in a prepared statement.

"A freshman congressman who offers such sophomoric opinions does not seem to understand this basic discrimination," Noble added.



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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

A Bad Case Of The "What If's"

Greetings!

While working on this week's article, pondering the many thoughts about Advent and what it means. I contracted a very serious condition of the- "What ifs". While I do not believe that this is contagious, I should caution you about its symptoms; such as sitting very still, staring into space and mumbling to ones self, all the while, pondering the mysteries of life.

What if Macy's decided not to have a Christmas Parade, but what if Wal-Mart or K-Mart did. Would Martha Stewart be the Grand Marshall? Would they even televise the Parade?

What if... Being Gay was normal and straight was not. Would the new hit show be "Straight Eye for a Queer Guy"? Would every house be perfectly decorated? Oh my!

What if . . . The baby in the manger was a girl and they named her Sally Sue. Would we be celebrating SallySuemas? Would they allow her to be Christ?

On a serious note, the point is this; it takes only one person or event to change the course of history. While I can think of

many examples, all you really need to do is read any headline, on any newspaper, on any given day.

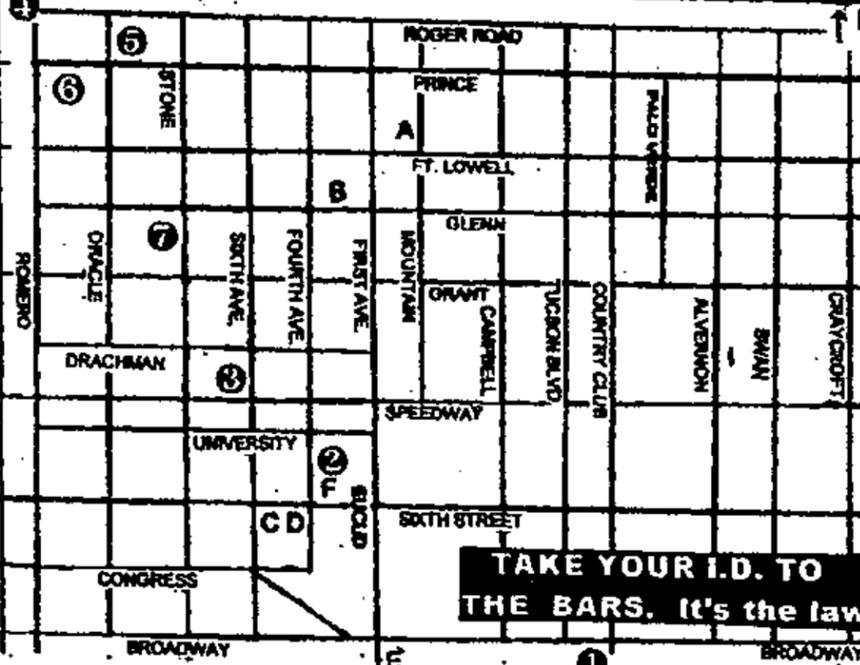
What is so amazing to me is that the birth of a single child has transformed the course of history forever, like none other. A child who's parents fled, not for their lives but for the life of the child. A child who would later hang on a cross, broken and lifeless, so that all may be freed from sin. Once and for all! A child who would be resurrected and sit at the right hand of God! This child shall be called Jesus- Immanuel, which means "God is with us". (Matthew 1:23)

During this holiday season I hope you will take the time to reflect on these thoughts. Remember, the most amazing present you could open this Holiday Season would be the gift of Love. His Love! Your life can be transformed, by simply asking Him to reside in your heart and accepting Him as your Lord and Savior.

Cornerstone Fellowship, will be having a Christmas Eve Service, open to everyone, at 7:00 pm. I hope to see you there.

In Christ's Love, Brian Fox

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Dear Dr. X,

My partner and I recently met a guy, had a three-way, started hanging out and we have now become really good friends. My partner and I are open to the idea of turning our 2-way relationship into a 3-way relationship. This isn't something that we view as trendy or short term, but something different and unconventional, like us. We love each other, but are just thinking outside the box in terms of what a relationship can be. Any ideas how we can make this work?

Signed, Modern Relationship

Dear Modern Relationship,

There is no way to answer this question in short form, so forgive me if I seem long-winded. I think it's great that you and your partner want to share the life you've already established with another person. The two of you must have developed a great sense of trust considering that you mutually want to open up and include someone else in the love you share. I'd hope that the two of you have given it some considerable thought and brainstormed over the pros and cons of such a venture. As is often the case, I have more questions than answers:

How will either of you feel about sharing your partner with your new man? Will either be upset if two make plans to do

things together when the other is not able to attend? What about sex that you miss them having? Will you be a closed monogamous trio or open to outside sex? Will the three of you all live together? Will you have separate rooms or share the same room and bed? What will be your method of dealing with problems and disagreements when they arise? What happens if one of you decides you don't like it? These are just some of the things that you may want to consider, but don't let it stop you!

I admire your thinking outside the box. The new experiences will provide some personal growth for all involved and will hopefully bring about a greater appreciation for each individual. Fact is, there are no written rules on how to go about this endeavor. A good start however, would be for all persons involved to openly discuss all concerns so that everyone is on the same page. The most important task all of you will have to do is work on improving your communication skills individually and as a unit. You must be able to communicate your feelings and needs to each other. Communication will make or break you. Make sure that you all plan to come together as often as needed to check in with each other and evaluate how things are working. Therefore, the only rules the three of you need to focus on living up to are the ones that together you mutually decide which set the standard for your new union.

Something else you may want to think about as well is that the new partner should have a respect and appreciation for the history that already exists between the initial couple. The time invested in sharing your history should help the new guy understand just what kind of foundation your relationship is really built on and an insight to where his unique qualities can enhance what already exists. Inevitably, you will be creating a different dimension to that history.

I'd like to ask you to not think that this person takes the place of something that's missing in your relationship. Couldn't it just be possible that your capacity to share the love and the life you have exceeds the box? Perhaps you'd like your life to take a different shape, one without guides or following an expected norm. Perhaps there's a man who just happens to be receptive and open to the unique style of love that you offer. It could turn out to be the best or worst thing you've ever done. If nothing more, you will have experienced it and will know if it works for you.

Only the three of you can decide if this is something you really want to take on. This type of relationship is certainly not for everyone. Ultimately do what works best and makes you happy. Relationships in general are not always for everyone. I admire those who know what they want or don't want as it relates to dating/relationships. I wish you continued success with whatever road you choose. It is great to know that you guys are out there! You're not alone.

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

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Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The Divalicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Teri Aki, Veronica Halliwell and Janee Starr.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY XMAS

HOWL AT THE MOON - Opens today at 3:00 p.m.

IBT'S - Open today at 7:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Open today at 8:00 a.m. Christmas Pot luck at 1:00 p.m.

WOODY'S Opens at 7:00 p.m. today only.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

WOODY'S - Beer Bust for Leather Sic and Leather Boy Southwest. 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

IBT'S - Party line-up 11:00 a.m. Troy's Recovery Bar; 4:30 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio; 5:30 Benefit Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust for TIHAN; 8:30 Special Benefit Show for the Miss Gay Teen Tucson Pageant starring Jessica Devereaux, Teri Akki, Janee Starr and Sade Michaels. Special appearances by Bunny FuFu, Lucinda Holliday, Veronica Halliwell and Miss Saigon.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

HOWL AT THE MOON - New Years Eve Party. \$5.00 includes entry, beverage (no more than two spintous ingredients), champagne toast, light buffet, party favors, country music and dancing. Make plans now.

IBT'S - Annual New Year's Eve Gala and Balloon Drop. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lite Buffet. 8:00 p.m. Special Divalicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr, Teri Akki and Veronica Halliwell. 9:30 p.m. DJ Van Da Belle - Party favors, Balloon Drop and Complimentary Champagne at Midnight.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Ring in the New Year at the newly renovated Bar which tonight features a live band: The Davis Brothers from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then a Dinner Show from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. featuring Heather Boa, Alotta Whoremans and Unique with a surprise guest. Dinner includes Roast Beef with mashed potatoes and gravy, or Lumpia and sauce, Empanada with meat. Dessert. Two for One dinner special only \$5.00 with drink specials all night. Champagne at Midnight. Reservations are suggested.

VENTURE-N - "A Night in Times Square" New Year's Eve Party with Balloon Drop at Midnight and specials and more. 9:00 p.m. to close.

WOODY'S - Spend New Year's Eve with your friends with a Pork Tenderloin or Fish Dinner \$7.50 served from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Live DJ 8:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. Party favors and complimentary champagne at Midnight.

YARD DOG SALOON - New Year's Eve "Cinderella Ball" - 10:00 p.m. Contest! Best Cinderella \$100 Prize and Best Prince \$100 prize.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 -

NEW YEAR'S DAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open today only at 3:00 p.m.

Non-Bar Calendar

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.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1600 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

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 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for a fun alcohol-free evening of board and card games. We'll toast in the New Year with cider. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

#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. Join us for our monthly Polluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and great old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

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

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meals 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 5-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 8pm.

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

Monday

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-11

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

Tuesday

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

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

IBT'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Bare Chest Nite. Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '60s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls it drink specials.

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

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. Hip Hop or Dance w/DJ Shorty or Senna 9pm - close. \$1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or \$1 Tequila shots 8-11.

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 "Divalicious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am

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

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

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

Thursday

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

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

IBT'S - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-11 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.

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

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

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

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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 11. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.

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

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

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

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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 8:30 to close.

IBT'S - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-11 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-11.

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

DECEMBER 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

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, the 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 at 7:30 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.

JANUARY 8-9-11

The Tucson Symphony's Fifth concert in the Classic series begins with George Hanson, Music Director and Conductor and th dynamic guest pianist, Garnick Ohlsson. 8:00 p.m. at the TCC Music Hall.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Metallica with special guest Godsmack "Madiy in Anger with the World Tour" will be at TCC Arena. Tickets on sale and available at TicketMaster 321-1D00 and all TicketMaster outlets.

Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The DivaLicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Teri Akki, Veronica Halliwell and Janee Starr.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY XMAS

HOWL AT THE MOON - Opens today at 3:00 p.m.

IBT'S - Open today at 7:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Open today at 8:00 a.m. Christmas Pot luck at 1:00 p.m.

WOODY'S Opens at 7:00 p.m. today only.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

WOODY'S - Beer Bust for Leather Sie and Leather Boy Southwest. 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

IBT'S - Party line-up 11:00 a.m. Troy's Recovery Bar, 4:30 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio; 5:30 Benefit Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust for TIHAN; 8:30 Special Benefit Show for the Miss Gay Teen Tucson Pageant starring Jessica Devereaux, Teri Akki, Janee Starr and Sade Michaels. Special appearances by Bunny FuFu, Lucinda Holliday, Veronica Halliwell and Miss Saigon.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

HOWL AT THE MOON - New Years Eve Party. \$5.00 includes entry, beverage (no more than two spiritous ingredients), champagne toast, light buffet, party favors, country music and dancing. Make plans now.

IBT'S - Annual New Year's Eve Gala and Balloon Drop. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lite Buffet. 8:00 p.m. Special DivaLicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr, Teri Akki and Veronica Halliwell. 9:30 p.m. DJ Van Da Belle - Party favors, Balloon Drop and Complimentary Champagne at Midnight.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Ring in the New Year at the newly renovated Bar which tonight features a live band: The Davis Brothers from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then a Dinner Show from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. featuring Heather Boa, Alofta Whoremoans and Unique with a surprise guest. Dinner includes Roast Beef with mashed potatoes and gravy, or Lumpia and sauce, Empanada with meat. Dessert. Two for One dinner special only \$5.00 with drink specials all night. Champagne at Midnight. Reservations are suggested.

VENTURE-N - "A Night in Times Square" New Year's Eve Party with Balloon Drop at Midnight and specials and more, 9:00 p.m. to close.

WOODY'S - Spend New Year's Eve with your friends with a Pork Tenderloin or Fish Dinner \$7.50 served from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Live DJ 8:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. Party favors and complimentary champagne at Midnight.

YARD DOG SALOON - New Year's Eve "Cinderella Ball" - 10:00 p.m. Contest! Best Cinderella \$100 Prize and Best Prince \$100 prize.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 -

NEW YEAR'S DAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open today only at 3:00 p.m.

Non-Bar Calendar

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 Polluck 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.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

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 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for a fun alcohol-free evening of board and card games. We'll toast in the New Year with cider. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

#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. Join us for our monthly Polluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

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

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meals 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 meal d'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 5-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm.

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

Monday

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-11.

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-6pm.

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

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

Thursday

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. HiNRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-11 All drink specials not available during special events.

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 8-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GoGo Boys and Dance Party with DJ T.C. Wildman. 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

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

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

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

Saturday

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). \$3 entry fee (pot matched). Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close.

IBT's - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-11 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am. \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-8pm 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

DECEMBER 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 520-749-3600. Check out their website at www.laughing.com

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, the 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 at 7:30 p.m. and 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.

JANUARY 8-9-11

The Tucson Symphony's Fifth concert in the Classic series begins with George Hanson, Music Director and Conductor and th dynamic guest pianist, Garick Ohlsson. 8:00 p.m. at the TCC Music Hall.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Metallica with special guest Godsmack "Madly in Anger with the World Tour" will bc at TCC Arena. Tickets on sale and available at TicketMaster 321-1000 and all TicketMaster outlets.

NOTICES

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

TGN Arizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TG, TG, and Gender-various communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnarizona.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.

TIE 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 7:30-11:00 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, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. 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 TP! 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 Anabel 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@thenetver.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 3:30-6:30pm 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.saaaf.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 575-8560 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome active 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 (GPGCLC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Fri day 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 888-3541

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 881-8850 or Ron 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 749-3247.

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 690-9355 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

NOTICES

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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA) Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Girls (NTE) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Doyz 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/sagaeatmail

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., #172, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-1805.

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 website 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 Mito 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) 745-0715 for current information.

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

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Equal Rights For All

by Howard Dean Continued from Page Three

Don't Tell" policy. Last November, several Arabic and Korean linguists from the Army's Defense Language Institute were discharged for being Gay despite the critical need for qualified linguists in the war on terror. That was wrong. As President, I will offer Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual soldiers the opportunity to serve our country openly.

Ensure access to affordable health care, including AIDS/HIV Services. My health care proposal ensures that all Americans would have access to affordable health insurance. This would be a major step forward for individuals suffering from AIDS, many of whom lack coverage despite the need for costly life-saving interventions. I also support increased funding for public health programs like the Ryan White CARE Act.

As President, I will fight for the civil rights for all Americans, and that includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Americans. No one should be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[reprinted from Gov. Dean's Website, deanforamerica.com.]

Equal Rights For All Should Mean All

by Wesley Clark Continued from Page Three

I know my position will not make everyone happy. I am sure some will think I go too far and others will argue that I do not go far enough. But I can assure the LGBT community that my heart is open to them and to their concerns. And when I am president, my door will always be open, too.

[Former General Wesley Clark of Arkansas was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe from 1997 to 2000 and led NATO forces in Kosovo in 1999. He is now a Democratic presidential candidate. This reprinted article was published in the December 4-10 Gay City News.]

Cirque Du Soleil Defends Prohibition Of HIV Positive Performers

SAN FRANCISCO - In response to an investigation by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission into unlawful discrimination against people with HIV, Cirque du Soleil sent a letter to the city stating that the company would hire HIV-positive workers only for positions that don't involve bodily contact, such as dishwashers, food and beverage staff, office assistants, prep cooks, ushers, and merchandise "hawkers."

The Montreal-based troupe has admitted to firing openly Gay gymnast Matthew Cusick in July solely because he has HIV, prompting a complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission and the subsequent investigation by San Francisco, which is renting out property to the company for its show Alegria. "Even 20 years ago, Cirque du Soleil's comments would be suspect," said Hayley Gorenberg, AIDS project director for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is representing Cusick. "Today, they are shockingly ignorant. If Cirque du Soleil ran the Lakers in the 1990s, Magic Johnson would have been transferred to wash dishes in the

stadium restaurant after he disclosed his HIV status."

In its five-page letter, Cirque said that it contracts with temporary staffing agencies and "there are many employment positions that would be suited to an individual with HIV. Any one of these positions could be filled by an individual with HIV because these jobs do not involve constant bodily contact with others and a high degree of potential injury with possible bodily fluid exposure." Cirque also claimed that it has offered employment to Cusick since terminating him days before he was set to start performing in the Las Vegas-based show Mystere, but the company neglected to specify that it continues refusing Cusick a job as a performer. "We've always said Cirque du Soleil is illegally keeping people with HIV out of certain jobs, despite sound science and common sense, and now Cirque has confirmed that," Gorenberg said. "Whatever Cirque's formal policies are, it blocks people with HIV from positions where they can safely perform, and that's discrimination. There has never been a case

of an athlete transmitting HIV during performance or competition. Our client's dream job is to be a performer, not a dishwasher. Because he's qualified to be a performer and can do that job safely, that's the job he should have."

Lambda, in conjunction with several Gay rights leaders, launched a national campaign against Cirque du Soleil earlier this year, with protests at Cirque shows in several cities and a nationwide petition drive. Next month the EEOC in Nevada is set to conclude its investigation of Cirque in response to Lambda's federal discrimination complaint. That filing, which ignited the current controversy, is unrelated to the current proceedings before the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. In a letter to the public, Cirque du Soleil has claimed that Cusick was fired "solely for safety reasons" and that such action is not "discrimination." Cirque's letter and its other public statements on the issue offer no explanation for how a gymnast could transmit HIV while performing. According to Lambda, mainstream medical, scientific, and athletic organizations say that athletes with HIV should not be restricted from performing or competing.



Canadian Court Approves Pension Benefits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the 1998 cutoff date when it introduced Bill C-23, which granted a variety of rights to same-sex couples in 2000. Although Macdonald's judgment came into effect immediately, the federal government has 30 days to appeal the decision.

The Justice Department is reviewing the judgment, spokesman Patrick Charette said.

"It's not just about same-sex partners," he said. "It's about Parliament's right to establish the date legislation becomes effective."

But for lead plaintiff George Hislop, who stands to collect \$125,000, the decision represented "a blow for equality."

"This case has always been about fairness," said Hislop, 76, who had a 28-year relationship with partner Ronnie Shearer. "When I was denied the survivor pension, I thought the government was treating my relationship with Ronnie as second-class."

The Crown had contended that providing benefits retroactive to 1998 was generous, and in step with the evolving legal status of same-sex relationships.

But Justice Macdonald dismissed that argument.

"I can find nothing generous in codifying a mechanism for discrimination that has been in existence since at least the advent of the charter," Macdonald said.

That sentiment was shared by Hislop's co-plaintiffs across the country.

"It's so hard, it's so invisible to be Gay and grieving, and when you keep running up against governments that tell you you can't apply for these pensions because you are the wrong sex," Gail Meredith, a Gay activist who lost her partner of 10 years in 1992, said in Vancouver.

"The courts ... have agreed that our relationships, my relationship is just as valid as anyone else's and it makes me feel very wonderful."

Albert McNutt, of Truro, N.S., who fought for a survivor's pension after his partner Gary Pask died in 1993, said the decision helps him feel "fully included in the race of human beings."

"When I first applied for my deceased partner's benefits and I was denied I felt I didn't matter, that I didn't count," he said.

His Halifax lawyer, Dawna Ring, said she hoped that under Paul Martin's leadership the federal government would not appeal the decision.

"We hope that Mr. Martin will not choose to have federal government lawyers, paid for out of taxpayers' dollars, fighting against the people of Canada."

"Do the right thing and treat these Canadians as equals under the constitution of Canada."

Same-sex unions have been a contentious topic for the federal Liberals since courts in Ontario and British Columbia allowed Gays to marry in June by declaring traditional marriage laws unconstitutional.

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