



One of Us (a Northern AZ LGBAT Newsletter)

March 2010

Volume 7, Issue 10

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PFLAG of Prescott Valley is now offering regular peer support meetings for local families who are dealing with gay and lesbian issues.

PFLAG Peer Support Meetings

Mondays, March 8th & April 12th, 6 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7763 E. Long Look Drive, Prescott Valley

For more information, contact the Prescott Pride Center at (928) 445-8800.

Come OUT!!!

- Closets are for hangers
- Be honest with yourself and loved ones
- There is nothing to fear, You are not alone.
- Support is available (friends, family, community members and online—www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp)

Prescott Pride Center



Connecting Our Community

Northern Arizona's
only GLBT
Community Center!

(928) 445-8800

Warm, Welcoming
Safe & Supportive
Environment

P.O. Box 3765, Prescott, AZ 86302

info@prescottpridecenter.com • www.prescottpridecenter.com

AIDS IS NOT DEAD, Play safe Always

- Know your partner
- Use condoms and/or gloves
- Don't mix excessive amounts of drugs and/or alcohol with sex, keep a clear upper head
- STDs (and babies) are other risks of unsafe sex
- Get tested often—stay healthy

KNOW YOUR STATUS!!

Free HIV Counseling and Testing

Call Cher at 928-679-7276

Feedback. / Comments / Submissions / Suggestions

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Articles may be edited for space or clarity. If you would like to place an ad, send the ad by e-mail to devi3ant@hotmail.com

Get Involved!! Health Sites:

Parkinson's:

<http://www.parkinson.org/>

HIV and AIDS:

<http://www.hiv.com/>

Male Depression:

<http://www.maledepression.com/>

Diabetes:

March 2010 Events

- **Every Tuesday at PJ's in VOC 6:30-** Contact Greg at luckyredrocks@gmail.com
- **Every Wednesday at Red's in Sedona 6:30-** Contact Sedona Pride at info@sedonapride.org
- **Every third Saturday at the Mile High Grill in Jerome 7:00-** Contact Dennis at dizzybear73@gmail.com

- **Wednesday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** - Regular DFA Meeting. This event repeats every month on the first Wednesday at Bigfoot BBQ in the Old Town Shops (Leroux and Birch), 120 N Leroux St # 123, Flagstaff, AZ, (928) 226-1677. For more info about our hosts: <http://www.bigfootbbq.com>



- **Friday to Sunday, March 5th-14th**– The Laramie Project, one week only. For more information, go to <http://www.phoenixtheatre.com>ShowGP.aspx?id=65>

- **Saturday, March 6th, 10:30 am** – The 40th Annual Sedona St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival. The parade starts from Jordan Historical Park and proceeds south on Jordan Road to Mesquite Avenue. Parade entrants include dignitaries and civic, social, cultural and religious organizations and businesses from the area. The Festival begins immediately following the parade, featuring live entertainment, free children's and family activities, food vendors and, of course, a Beer Garden....In Pride, Sedona Pride Association. Please check out our website, Myspace and Facebook pages for updates www.sedonapride.org



- **Saturday, March 6th, 2 - 6 PM**– MOONBURN Men's Spanking Play Parties (First Saturday of each month) Party details, contact: MoonburnLA@sbcglobal.net
- **Sunday, March 7th**– Gay Day at the Renaissance Fair! For more information, go to www.royalfairs.com/arizona
- **Friday, March 12th, Every 2nd Friday each month, 9PM - 1AM** – SO. CAL. BONDAGE NIGHT. Details: www.SoCABondage.com
- **Wednesday, March 17th**– St. Patrick's Day! Mmmm, green beer!



- **Saturday, March 20th**– Spring begins. Let the prancing begin!
- **Saturday, March 20th**- 6th Annual HRC Arizona Gala Dinner at the Phoenix Convention Center. There is a lot of hope and excitement in our community for the coming year. It is time to take action, move forward and to come TOGETHER as each of us can make a difference on the important issues that affect our lives. Don't miss the chance to be part of a memorable celebration of fine dining, entertainment, an extraordinary silent auction and important guest speakers. For more information, go to: <https://robot.boxofficetickets.com/800-494-TIXS>

March 2010 Events

- **Saturday, March 20th, 12-7PM** – Bound Los Angeles Rope Conference. www.boundlosangeles.com \$40/person. This day long event consists of education based seminars as well as a series of demonstrations. Various members and educators within the rope bondage community will teach classes on a variety of bondage topics from safety, to partial suspension, harnesses, basic ties, predicament bondage to rope specifically for sex. Afterwards, a rope centric play party (\$10) from 10pm-4am in a nightclub atmosphere to expose the audience at large to our teachings from the day and to allow attendees to practice what they learned in an interactive environment. Tix Pre-sale: paypal through www.boundlosangeles.com Fetish Valley Studios: 15821 Stagg St., Van Nuys, CA 91406
- **Saturday, March 20th**– X-Chain-G of Flagstaff bdsm monthly play party. For more details, contact Craig at railman3@hotmail.com
- **Sunday, March 21st**– Jazz Cabaret, see details on the flyer below.

Duet presents the 29th Annual
Jazz Cabaret
 featuring **The Reed Family**
 Francine, Margo, Mellody and Michael



Music • Silent & Live Auction
 Wine • Sumptuous Food • Dessert
 Sunday, March 21, 2010 • 1:30–5 p.m.

The Arizona Biltmore
 2400 East Missouri Avenue, Phoenix
 \$85 per person • Reservations required
 Master of Ceremonies – Blaise Lantana, KJZZ Music Director
 Event Chairs Adero C. Allison & Miri Palmer
 Auctioneer Rabbi Marty Scharf
www.duetaz.org • 602-274-5022
 Proceeds benefit Duet



- **Friday to Sunday, March 26th-28th**- Mr. LA Leather 2010. www.MrLALeather.com Mr. Christopher Street West 2010 -- Louie Pacheco, Mr. Regiment 2010 - - Brad Taylor, Mr. Pistons Leather 2010 -- Marcus Hopkins, Mr. Ashram West Leather – Chewy Morin, Mr. Bullet Leather Weekend – Lloyd MacDonald, Eagle LA Mr. Leather – Tom Pardoe, Mr. Sanctuary Leather – Russ Coleman, Mr. LA Leather Bear @ Pistons Bar – Manuel Ramirez. 3/06/10 - Mr. Sister Leather @ Eagle LA Bar (www.LASisters.org) 3/21/10 - Introduction of LAL 2010 Contestants @ Faultline Bar, 3/26-28/10 - LA Leather 2010 Weekend (www.MrLALeather.com)

los angeles leather coalition proudly presents

2010
 los angeles leather
 march 26 - 28
www.mrlaleather.com



**Business owners, event organizers, and bar owners-
 Advertisements are free to post- any size!!!**

Humor for the Masses

TWO METHODS TO SEPARATE STUCK GLASSES

When two stacked glasses get stuck so they can't be pulled apart, fill the top one with ice, then put bottom one in warm water. The contrast in temperatures will cause the seal to break.

Or another way is to fill the top one with ice, then scotch. The warmth of your hand on the bottom one while you drink the scotch will cause the seal to break. If it does not come apart right away repeat the above until it either comes apart or you don't care anymore

Dear Murray,

I hope you can help me here. The other day, I set off for work leaving my husband in the house watching the TV as usual. I hadn't driven more than a mile down the road when the engine conked out and the car shuddered to a halt. I walked back home to get my husband's help.

When I got home I couldn't believe my eyes. He was in our bedroom with the neighbors daughter. I am 32, my husband is 34, and the neighbor's daughter is 22. We have been married for ten years. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted that they had been having an affair for the past six months. I told him to stop or I would leave him. He was let go from his job six months ago and he says he has been feeling increasingly depressed and worthless. I love him very much, but ever since I gave him the ultimatum he has become increasingly distant. He won't go to counseling and I'm afraid I can't get through to him anymore..

Can you please help?

Sincerely,

Sheila

Dear Sheila:

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine... Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold and also check all grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the injectors.

I hope this helps,

Murray

Quotes of the Month

Church Signage: Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

Miscommunication in Advertisement: When Gerber started selling baby food in Africa, they used the same packaging as in the US, with the beautiful baby on the label. Later they learned that in Africa, companies routinely put pictures on the label of what's inside, since most people can't read English.

Hollywood Squares Moment: Q: True or False, a pea can last as long as 5,000 years.

Answer by George Gobel: Boy, it sure seems that way sometimes.

“Kind, intelligent, loving and hot
This describes everything you are not.”
-unknown

“Solitude, though it may be silent as light, is like light, the mightiest of agencies; for solitude is essential to man. All men come into this world alone; all leave it alone.”

- Thomas De Quincey, writer (1785 –1859)



Marriage. What Could It Be? (Part Three)

Minor Details By Bob Minor

Marriage can't bear the weight of our culture's expectations for sex today. Sex as defined in America is ruining marriages.

After pouring over redundant discussions about sex, monogamy, biology, evolutionary anthropology, and clinical studies, I'm not convinced that the difficulty is based in something inherent in humanity. There's no reason why a human being cannot be monogamous if it's their choice.

We're not helpless creatures who are victims of our biology. We can, and often do, make choices; and we can, and do, live by them.

But sex is so patterned in our culture that no institution, relationship, or lifestyle (open or not) can provide for us what sex is supposed to give. Why we actually have sex and what sex is supposed to mean to us is a problem.

Sex Is Not a Natural Act, writes Lenore Tiefer in her book by that title (2nd revised edition, 2004). What sex is and should be is defined by our culture with rewards for researchers and therapists who promote the culture's idea of what's normal.

The authority that tells us where good sex resides is no longer religious institutions. It's a "science" that receives its funding from industries that promote drugs and products that promise to get our sexual act together.

What is an "adequate" erection? What is a "healthy" female sexual response? How often is "normal" for having sex?

"The message of the new sexual health centers," Tiefer points out, "really comes from the global pharmaceutical industry that bankrolls them: the proper sexual life consists in perfect, routine, regular desire for 'normal' sexual performance, i.e., intercourse and orgasm."

We worry less about what is morally "good." In the last century we became more likely to ask: What does science tell us is "normal."

"The authority for interpreting deviations of behavior shifted almost imperceptibly, category by category, from the domain of sin and evil to that of disorder and abnormality," she explains. "And once norms become clinical standards, it's very difficult to identify those psychological problems that might not exist if social conformity weren't so important."

Sex continues to be some standard we were to live up to. And it isn't just a "scientific" one. It's also a fantasy that the media (both mainstream and pornographic) set before us that isn't even the lived experience of the actors whose sex we are to idealize.

It's a standard we are to be convinced we could attain. And marriage is the place where all that perfect sex will take place.

It isn't realistic or human, but we are to believe that sex does all that the media portray it doing. And our feelings of failure can be exploited to sell us any product on the market.

So, there's more to it than science's dictation of how sex should be. Sex has become the bearer of a load of cultural messages that have little to do with actual sexual activity and everything to do with what it's supposed to fix about us.

(Marriage...continued on the next page)

(Marriage... continued from the previous page)

Instead of seeing sexual activity as a chosen expression to communicate to another, it's become a place to prove something about ourselves, a basis for getting something. In sex we are to take something we need psychologically that isn't about sex at all.

It's a major substitute that's engaged in with the expectation of fulfilling needs that would only be finally addressed in therapy or support groups, with listening friends, and through other expressions of intimacy. But at least for a few seconds, if not for minutes, it could feel as if these are addressed.

Sex now is something people engage in to -- prove they really are whatever a man is, feel that they are a woman, convince themselves they're still attractive to others (in the face of all the cultural messages of what about us isn't supposed to be attractive), get close to someone, forget their feelings of failure, perform their power over someone, convince themselves someone liked them, get attention, be special, feel wanted, feel less lonely, convince themselves and others they're good lovers or sexers, prove they're loveable, relieve boredom, fight fears about aging, have at least one pleasurable experience in life, feel I belong to a group, and on and on.

Whether one should engage in sex for any or all of these reasons is another question. But to the extent that these are to be accomplished through sex with someone, no relationship will last.

No one act can do this and, thus, no one relationship can be expected to endure this. Yet, somehow that has become expected.

And since it can't, as long as we maintain these expectations, we'll search for another lover who we fantasize will provide a sexual life that will do it. And then on and on unless we settle for what we consider is a disappointing status.

We can go back to that early Christian leader, Paul, whose insensitive recommendation as a counselor to the church at Corinth was to get married in order to take care of your sexual lusts -- "It's better to marry than to burn."

Of course, marriage wasn't about love in those days anyway. A good marriage was an advantageous match between families, with the man thoroughly in the driver's seat of marital sexuality.

But if we want relationships to matter, and even want to save marriage, the answer would not be to accept that sex is to do all the things therapy should address and then wonder why it's failing.

Our country is acutely sick about sex. Getting comprehensive, accurate, and realistic sexual education to our school-age children has been a bust. Fighting messages we get from all over about how sex should be and what it should do is a constant battle against what we've internalized.

And convincing ourselves to define "normal, healthy" sex in our own way for ourselves, is to fight even a mainstream clinical practice that will lead us to pills, and techniques that promise to make us feel that our relationship is what others say it should be. And that's not working well at all.

Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, is author of *When Religion Is an Addiction; Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human and Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society*. Contact him and read previous columns at www.FairnessProject.org.

Where is Everybody?

Speak your mind.

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