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Letters to the editor for Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004 (Corinne's letter appears on 2nd page)

January 7th, 2004

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Change comes slowly

I think that same-sex couples shouldn't get married. But who am I to judge? Only God our maker can do that. God made man and woman to reproduce on the earth. How do you expect a man and man or woman and woman to do that?

Yes, I know there is adoption. But is that really fair to innocent children being raised without a choice to gay couples? Just because you're proud of what and who you are doesn't mean everyone else has to be. Just remember there are still a lot of old-fashioned people out there with generations of values and morals that they were raised with. But I do wish each and everyone the very best.

Natasha Jackson
Rancho Mirage

Marriage is cheapened

I hope that all the heterosexuals out there are pleased that Britney Spears has taken the sacred wedding vows with her longtime boyfriend -- but, whoops, I hear that they are getting an annulment just a day later. I thought that gay weddings were supposed to cheapen the marriages between straight people. I guess that those wedding vows are just something to toss around, and they can "take 'em or leave 'em."

There are hundreds of gays in California who would dearly love to get married and enjoy the bliss and benefits of a legal wedding -- something that straights take for granted. The fact that at least 50 percent of straight marriages end in divorce shows how little regard the participants value the state of marriage.

Marriage should be a legal institution for the benefit of two people who love each other.

Britney Spears has cheapened the marriage institution for both gays and straights.

Franklin Weston
Cathedral City

Give military discounts

On New Year's Eve, my wife and I went to a movie at Mary Pickford Theater in Cathedral City. Standing in front of us in line was a young man with his wife and two children. When he reached the ticket booth, he asked for the military discount. The girl in the booth said, "No, they don't have one." He paid full price and entered the theater.

My question: Why not give a military discount to our young men and women serving our

country? I would hope theaters and other businesses in our area would provide a military discount to our active duty servicemen and women in 2004.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Ripley
Cathedral City

Anger, but no direction

The "hate Bush" gang, which gets so much exposure in your otherwise fine newspaper, reveals several things. They are misinformed, uninformed, and so very angry that they actually want to see President Bush fail, take down not only him but America as well.

So do those Democratic wannabes including, especially, the great stone face from Vermont who was governor of a state with but 800,000 population (fewer than the city of Detroit) and uses his rolled-up sleeves as a campaign device to prove he's a macho man.

Ernie Kreiling
Indian Wells

Vow to think of others

Craig Wilson's commentary on Sunday really got my attention ("Here's a new resolution: Stop minding your own business"). I thought, "Aha. He's going to talk about being less selfish and more compassionate."

Unfortunately, the story didn't go that way, much to my disappointment.

As part of our PoliteChild program, which is growing in popularity in valley schools, we absolutely encourage a reduction in "misdirected" self-centeredness and self-absorption, but also strongly promote the idea of routinely thinking of others.

Want to make a revolutionary "resolution?" Resolve to do something nice for someone else with no expectations of personal return every day this year. You'd be amazed at the good that would do for humanity.

Corinne Gregory
Woodinville, Washington

A town for everyone

It was interesting to read Alfredo Meza's interview by The Desert Sun's Everyday People staff writer ("**Everyday People: Al Meza fights for his vision of Indio**" Dec. 29). Alfredo, a longtime schoolmate of mine and good friend, was very sincere in his vision for the city of Indio. He has been in Indio forever and knows the land like no one.

The city is growing, slowly, but it's coming along. One objective of his vision was for the Mexican people to have their voices heard. I, as native of Indio for 54 years, can relate. But it is not just us, the Mexicans. It's been the Indians, whites, blacks, the Japanese and all alike. We all have been down and out. It's human nature.

I believe it's time to put all race and color aside and welcome the coming years as good all-American human beings.

Gil Alvarez
Indio

Columnist on target

In reference to the article by Stephanie Salter, RN ("**Retaining workers key to solving nursing shortage**" Jan. 1), I was glad to see the rest of the story.

I have been a registered nurse for 40 years. Women and men who go into professional nursing don't do it frivolously but out of empathy for those who are ill. We put our all into our profession. We love what we do and unfortunately many of us give until we end in "nurse burnout."

I know, that is how my career in nursing ended. I burned out physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. That was two years ago and I still can't return to the profession I loved.

I know other RNs in the same position, with many years of experience, who have turned to other careers or have retired.

Stephanie details solutions with which I agree. Nurses also need to support one another to promote our profession. Where would or will healthcare be without registered nurses? We might soon find out.

Carrol Rathbun, R.N.
Desert Hot Springs

Yes, bring signs down

David Rothstein's comments regarding billboards in his Jan. 1 letter "**Bring them down**" rang a bell with me.

Most of our valley's residents live in communities that have restrictions designed to maintain the beauty of our desert, be it natural state or planted grass and trees. Some of us live on leased land from the tribes.

Large billboards, especially large flashing neon ones, are not compatible with our desert communities. The new Spa Casino's architecture complements Palm Springs, however, its signs are garish. Yes, bring them down.

Patrick Leahy
Palm Springs

Who will be next?

After reading the letter from Mr. Draves a few days ago I started to wonder about some of his statements ("**Board deserves praise**" Dec. 28). He stated that nonsmokers have lost many of their rights.

Let's see: Tobacco users can no longer enjoy a smoke after a nice dinner in a restaurant; they must retreat to the outdoors for a smoke (no matter how hot or cold it is out there).

They cannot enjoy a smoke and a beer while watching a football game in a neighborhood bar or pub. In most instances they must be more than 20 feet from a public building before lighting up. These are all rights most smokers have had for years. They are now gone.

So now nonsmokers want to discriminate against them when considering new job applicants for the sake of a few dollars.

If we allow this to happen, who will be next? There seems to be a lot of interest in overweight people lately. Maybe they are next.

Do I smoke? No. But I do feel that although this might be California, it is still part of America.

Dale D. Michael
Indio

No basis for argument

I am writing in response to the Jan. 2 Your Voice letter, "Not in government," written by Cinda Crosby. In the letter Ms. Crosby seeks to make the point that America was not founded on Christian concepts. My reason for this letter is to correct Ms. Crosby for her historically inaccurate representation of the facts. First of all, the war with Tripoli was not under John Adams but under Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1804. Secondly the only article remotely dealing with religion was article XVI.

ARTICLE 14th: As the Government of the United States of America, has in itself no character of enmity against the Laws, Religion or Tranquility of Musselmen

In this article it merely extends the same protection of freedom of religion to the Merchants of

Tripoli that our Constitution gives to the citizens of the United States.

It is true that John Adams felt very strongly about keeping religion out of government and very well may have made the statement that Ms. Crosby attributes to him, but it had nothing to do with this official government document. This article in no way states that America is not a Christian nation. Ms. Crosby has greatly distorted the facts to make her point.

Michael C. Tyler
Indio

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