

The Kids' Table  
by  
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Year End Round Up

A magnificent idea was floated to the group. Since all the Gen X folks boast of having made some serious sartorial gaffes during the 1970s and 1980s, why not have people submit their most embarrassing photographs? This writer was happy to share photos with hideous glasses and hair of many colors. It was an idea that was better in concept. Apparently, no one wanted to publicize their previous incarnations as Pat Benatar wannabes, Gabe Kaplan impersonators, or head bangers with scary hair. There was a whole 'would the people be laughing with me or at me?' theme to their reasons for not sharing. Let me be frank. The readers would have definitely been laughing at you.

Borrowing from other columnists, it seemed a good time to come up with a top ten moments of 2003. After all, the year is practically over, even if I'm writing this a week after Halloween. I'll just assume nothing special is going to happen during the last two months of the year. Should something amazing happen, I'll be happy to amend all 900 copies of the MAAM by hand with a red felt pen. This is my promise to you, but it has to be something of paramount importance to not just the Phoenix Gen X group, but the entire world. Also, it's a highly subjective list. I heard Halloween on Mill Avenue was great fun, but I wasn't present. Just assume that every event not listed tied for number 11.

10. Adult Night at the Phoenix Science Center (May 2003). It was the first outing I planned. That's why it made the final cut. It met the Mensan requirements for a social activity with an intellectual undertone. I know I left the event a better person.

9. Gen X Altruism (Various). The group participated in Bowl for Kid's Sake and the Great AZ Beer Fest, a fundraiser for SunSounds radio. Many of us are participating in the 'GPM Adopt a Family' for the Holiday event. Also, Member at Large Tony helped me with a plumbing disaster.

8. Adventures in International Dining (Various). The group has enjoyed Korean,

Indian, German, Middle Eastern, Ethiopian, Irish and overpriced Scottsdale cuisine. It's hoped that our culinary explorations will continue in 2004.

7. Road Trip (August 2003). George Blombach is the most gracious of hosts. Eight of us caravanned to his house to take advantage of the lovely weather, plentiful food, and his hot tub. Thanks to the recent spate of California wildfires, his neighborhood is currently covered in soot.

6. Games Night Poetry (April/May 2003). We had many of pictures from several events. As a group, we took turns adding lines to best bring to light the experiences captured by digital camera. Plus, we always enjoy Games Night and Gary and Gail's house.

5. Games Night at Gary and Gail's House (Monthly). Where else would you have the choice of playing 12 different games, laughing with friends, people watching, or writing in your notebook? (Okay, the last point only applies to me.) Playing Trivial Pursuit now counts as preparing for Culture Quest!

4. Phoenix Phiesta XXIII RG (March 2003). The spirits were high during the RG Martini party. This led to very spirited karaoke and very public PDAs. Guilty and not sorry about it.

3. St. Patrick's Day at Rula Bula (March 2003). It was certainly the rowdiest Gen X event. Because the place was packed with revelers, small people had to contend with the potential of being crushed by the crowd. Plus, it's impossible to win any of the free items when one is standing behind a man mountain. The vegetarian shepherd's pie was wonderful.

2 The Las Vegas Trip (September 2003). Eleven Phoenix Gen Xers, three Borderline Mensans, and California George met in Las Vegas to celebrate three birthdays. We took a moment to take in The Paris, the site of the 2004 AG. Our beloved mascot, Benigni the Martini Glass, was posed in front of the fake Arc de Triomphe. Vive La Fake France.

1. The First Gen X wedding (April 2003). For those of you who believe in happy endings, this one is for you. Lisa and Greg Webster met at a Gen X bowling event. They were married on April 13, 2003, exactly one year to the day of their first date.

Our December events include a return trip to Zoolights on December 12 and a Sunday Morning Dim Sum brunch on December 28. Please consult the calendar for details. Gen X, often.