

ISSUE 9.22

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 6, 2002



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WAVE AWARDS 2002 PULLOUT

*Meet This Year's Big Winners: Lava Lounge Sweeps Central Florida Awards; Urban Body Picks Up Several Honors; Complete List Of Award Winners**On the Cover: The folks from Lave Lounge, Central Florida's "Friendliest Bar Staff." Photos and artwork by Dennis Butler.*

GLBT-friendly supporters joined in the "Give Us The Vote" rally at Orlando City Hall on Oct. 14.



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EDITOR'S DESK

By Scott Jackson Smith

Do you know how hard it is to be so angry all the time? It's exhausting and ulcer-inducing. Why all the rage? Let's get started — I'm in a mood!

Howell. McInvale. Howell. McInvale. Howell. McInvale... seems like six of one, half a dozen of the other if you ask me. I see McInvale as a conservative Democrat and Howell as a fairly liberal Republican. So, really, what's the difference?

The best thing I can say for McInvale is that she doesn't embarrass me. I can't tell you how many times I've groaned over Howell's campaign tactics. I mean, come on. Putting a picture of John F. Kennedy — a Democratic — on his campaign mailer? That's tacky. To be fair, though, I don't think Howell is necessarily a bad guy. I just think he's a little misguided.

And let's talk about being misguided. Did you hear about the ad that ran in the *Orlando Sentinel* urging Orlandoans to rally against equal rights? It was a shameful display.

In it, the "People For A United Orlando" asserted that "militant national gay and lesbian organizations have targeted Orlando as a key conquest." What? There aren't any militant gay groups — hell, gays aren't even allowed in the military.

If we did have militant groups, I still doubt that we would be extremists like the Iranian cleric who called for Jerry Falwell's death after the religious zealot made anti-Muslim statements. And guess what happened in that situation? A few days later Falwell apologized. I love that story.

But calling for someone's death is obviously wrong... funny but wrong. A co-worker suggested that the gay and lesbian community doesn't need militant leaders. Instead, we need our own version of Larry Flynt. In 1998, Flynt set up a hot line and offered to pay up to \$1 million for true tales of adultery with politicians. Flynt succeed in chasing out of office a House Speaker, his heir apparent, and a popular chair of the House Budget Committee.

Using Flynt's controversial model, I will post all the names of the people who signed the disgraceful advertisement on WatermarkOnline. And while I can't offer a cool million for tidbits on these people — who don't like to be referred to as "homophobes" or "bigots" — I'm

certainly curious to see if our readers know anything about them that would shatter their holier-than-thou images.

There is something funny about that frightening ad: the people pictured are not from Orlando. They used a stock photo. I wonder if the shiny, happy models know that their images were used to promote intolerance. Someone should tell them — perhaps they'll sue for defamation of character.

One day after the despicable ad ran, Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood finally weighed in with her opinion on adding "sexual orientation" to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

"I don't believe there is a need to change the law," she said.

Her statement sent ripples though all of Orlando. And, thankfully, the *Orlando Sentinel's* editorial board was brave enough to challenge her.

"It takes real leadership with vision and courage, qualities that Mrs. Hood apparently lacks, to open minds and help a community face and resolve divisive issues," the board wrote.

And speaking of ineffectual leadership, how about those Bush brothers? I hate to break it to you, Barbara, but Rosemary had a better baby than you ever did.

Now do you see why I'm miffed?

Man, I just wore myself out. And now I don't have any room to tell you about this issue. In a nutshell, it's our second annual WAVE Awards issue. Check out the pullout section to see who you voted as the best that the GLBT community has to offer.

Also, we have a voters guide featuring endorsements and profiles (p. 20), an update on Orlando's "Give Us The Vote" rally at City Hall (p. 6), news about Tampa's most successful gay and lesbian film festival to date (p. 12), and we take you inside Orlando's city council workshop where Mayor Hood *finally* scheduled a date to vote on the city's anti-discrimination ordinance (p. 11).

There is so much packed into this edition. As always, we hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Watermark* as much as we've enjoyed putting it together for you. Let us hear from you.

And don't forget to vote on Nov. 5.

editor@watermarkonline.com

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Karen Thurman (D) district #5
Wayne Hogan (D) district #7
Eddie Diaz (D) district #8
Jim Tso (D) district #15
Harry Jacobs (D) district #24

STATE HOUSE

Marni Berger (D) district #35
Sheri McInvale (D) district #36
Jim Martin (D) district #38
Bruce Antone (D) district #39
Jose Fernandez (D) district #49

STATE SENATE

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Linda Stewart district #4

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(NONPARTISAN)

Joie Cadle district #1
Tim Shea district #2

CIRCUIT JUDGE

Alan Apte group 21
Mark Bender group 37

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

YES on #3, 4, 8, 9, 11

NO on #2, 6, 7, 10

*[RDC takes no position on #1 -
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If you support the death penalty vote YES

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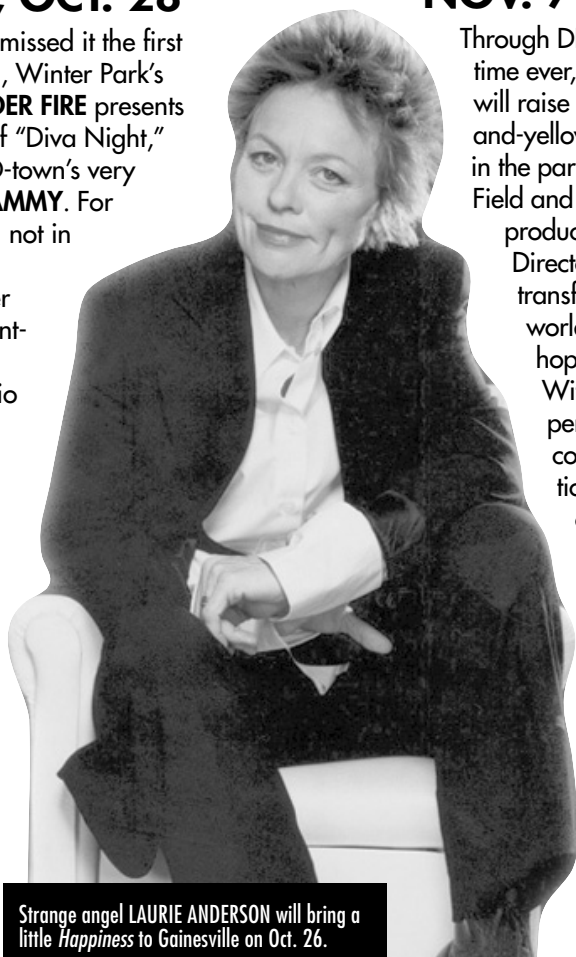
SAT., OCT. 26

One of the premiere performance artists in the world, **LAURIE ANDERSON**, has consistently intrigued, entertained, and challenged audiences with her multi-media presentations. This time around she brings her new show, *HAPPINESS*, to the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. *Happiness* is a distinct change from Anderson's widely known techno-driven sound of the last two decades. Although not entirely devoid of music, this solo piece is underscored by simple, mainly acoustic instruments. A pre-performance discussion, free and open to the public, will precede the concert at 7 PM. Tickets are available by calling the box office at (352) 392-ARTS.

ORLANDO

MON., OCT. 28

In case you missed it the first time around, Winter Park's **GLAZE UNDER FIRE** presents an encore of "Diva Night," hosted by O-town's very own **MS. SAMMY**. For those of you not in the know, Glaze Under Fire is a paint-your own pottery studio and their brand new theme night comes complete with your favorite drag queen comedian, gourmet munchies, all female diva music, and a



Strange angel **LAURIE ANDERSON** will bring a little *Happiness* to Gainesville on Oct. 26.

chance to spin the wheel of prizes. Come dressed in proper diva attire to receive a discount. For more information call (407) 644-8088.

ST PETERSBURG

SAT., NOV. 2

She's zany! She's sexy! She's the all-American lesbian! **SUZANNE WESTENHOFER** returns to the Bay area with her unique brand of comedy for one night only. Her all new *Banned in Pittsburgh* show has left them rolling in the aisles from one end of the country to the other. This special performance, at the **PALLADIUM THEATER**, is a benefit for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. So come out and laugh your ass off for a good cause. For ticket information call (727) 822-3590.

NOV. 7

Through DEC. 8. For the first time ever, **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL** will raise its big top, the blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau, in the parking lot of Tropicana Field and present its live production of **QUIDAM**. Director Franco Dragone transforms an anonymous world into a place of hope and connection. With more than 50 performers from 10 countries, the production is a thrilling combination of acrobatic artistry, technical expertise, extravagant design and exceptional musical inspiration, woven into a seamless whole by an emotional dramatic thread. For tickets call (800) 678-5440.

Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING



IS THE WHOLE WORLD TURNING GAY?

Somebody tell Ellen DeGeneres to call off the toaster oven campaign! According to Gallup poll numbers released on Oct. 7, much of the American public thinks that one in five people are gay or lesbian. We've long known that the old standby 10 percent was steeped in assumptions. And we also know that anti-gay organizations love to distract from the real issues by debating how many of us there are — as if being only two percent of the population means we don't deserve the same civil rights as the other 98 percent. The message that the community should be sending, now that these numbers are sure to be the hot topic, isn't "how many gay people are there" but "how many of us are 'enough' to deserve equal treatment?" Once again, in the media, around the water cooler, and at happy hours from coast to coast, we'll witness another debate about how many gay and lesbian people really exist. What should matter most is that we are treated as equals, not percentages or numbers.



BETTY DEGENERES (R) hosts the documentary "I Can't Marry You," made by filmmaker CATHERINE GRAY.

JUST IN TIME FOR XXX-MAS

Hyperion Interactive Media (H.I.M.) recently announced the launch of their new retail site, <www.LambdaShopping.com>, and their flagship item for the upcoming holidays: Dildoll. Described as "a toy for naughty boys and naughty girls," Dildoll, the softest hard-on ever, is harmless and disturbing at the same time. The toy is handmade of only the finest materials, including sumptuous plush, luxurious fabrics, and the softest leather. Soft stuffing, anatomical details that feel real, heavy beanbag balls and a moveable foreskin make it loads of

fun to play with. Every Dildoll comes with an individual number that is the owner's entry code to the Dildoll "Family Tree," where one can meet other Dildoll playmates. Dildoll is the heart-on of Markus & Markus of Zurich, who started making the phallic toys for the fun of it back in 1998. For more information and to see pictures of what will surely bring new meaning to "Stuffed Toys" check out LambdaShopping.com.

ELLEN'S MOM HOSTS DOCUMENTARY

Why do gays and lesbians want to marry? And why can't we?

Seeking the freedom to marry in the U.S., twenty long-term (10-55 years) same-sex couples from across the country agreed to give a rarely seen glimpse of

their personal lives in the forthcoming documentary *I Can't Marry You*. In the film the couples discuss the many obstacles that gays and lesbians face to substantiate the tremendous need for access to the over 1,000 rights, benefits, and protections that the institution of marriage provides. Betty DeGeneres, mother of Ellen DeGeneres and a gay rights activist in her own right, hosts the documentary. Documentary Filmmaker Catherine Gray says DeGeneres was the perfect choice and that she accepted the invitation to participate without hesitation, saying that she would be honored to host a documentary on this topic. The project is now in postproduction and will soon be scheduled for release at film festivals worldwide. For more information visit <www.icantmarryyou.com>.

HEADLINE NEWS

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ORLANDO'S GAY COMMUNITY RALLIES FOR VOTE

ORLANDO - Several hundred people gathered on the steps of Orlando's City Hall on Oct. 14 to rally in support of adding "sexual orientation" as a protected class to Chapter 57 of the Orlando city code. The protest was organized by the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO), in an effort to persuade Mayor Glenda Hood to bring the proposal to a vote before the City Council.

The well-behaved crowd carried signs that ran the gamut from "end workplace discrimination" to "hate is not a family value." Rainbow flags could be seen being waved everywhere, including some of the historic rainbow banners that were flown throughout downtown Orlando several years ago.

More than twenty speakers addressed the crowd including members of the OADO Committee, Orange County Deputy Sheriff Tom Woodard, Rollins College professor Lisa Tilman-Healy, mental health counselor Nancy Newbie, and openly lesbian City Commissioner Patty Sheehan.

"Equality cannot exist for anyone until it exists for everyone," said Larry Smith, an attorney and member of the OADO committee.

Many supporters of the ordinance believe that Mayor Hood is stalling the vote until after the November elections. The mayor has repeatedly denied these allegations. According to an earlier memo from Mayor Hood to the city council, an Oct. 21 workshop will include an opportunity for council members to move toward a preliminary vote, which could be held Nov. 18. A final vote could then be held in December, the memo suggests.

"The delay has proved to be nothing more than expensive, needless, and divisive," says Smith. "Her actions will speak louder than her words. Mayor Hood needs to lead, follow, or get out of the way."

If approved, the anti-discrimination ordinance would prohibit employers from firing

someone because they are gay. Property owners couldn't refuse to rent or sell to someone because they are gay. And public accommodations such as restaurants or hotels could not refuse service to someone just because they are lesbian or gay.

Troy Newton, one of the speakers at the rally, said that he has experienced workplace discrimination firsthand. Newton spent six months as a fire fighter in Clermont before being fired for being gay. The fire chief told him, "There is no room for females or

faggots in the fire service." The harassment he endured while on the job went as far as having his protective fire gear tampered with by bigoted co-workers.

"We are not asking for special rights," says Newton. "We are asking for the right to be who we are."

A small handful of people protesting



As many as 400 gays, lesbians, and supporters rallied outside Orlando City Hall, demanding that Mayor Glenda Hood schedule a vote on the proposed anti-discrimination ordinance. Photo by Tom Dyer

Continued Page 25



OADO member DEBBIE SIMMONS: "Even though the turnout was good, there could have been more people out there." Photo by John Sullivan

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WORLD NEWS

HUNDREDS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ANTI-GAY PROTESTERS

FORT COLLINS, Colo. - Hundreds of people demonstrated against a handful of anti-gay protesters marking the fourth anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard. The Rev. Fred Phelps and eight others from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., picketed outside Hughes Stadium Saturday during the Colorado State-Wyoming football game.

Phelps held a sign with Shepard's picture and the words "Matt 4 years in hell." "We've got good police protection, there are a lot of people, the weather's pretty good," he said.

Across the street, 300 to 400 attend a counterprotest organized by CSU's Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services. Some signs read "Your Hate is Your Hell" and "Stop Hate." (AP)

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE DROPS OUT OF MONTANA SENATE RACE

HELENA, Mont. - Republican Senate candidate Mike Taylor dropped out of the U.S. Senate race against incumbent Democratic Sen. Max Baucus on Oct. 10, saying a recent Democratic ad insinuated he is gay.

Taylor called the ad slanderous and full of lies, and saying it had irreparably harmed his campaign.

"I simply never thought my opponent would run television ads that lied, assassinated my character and misled the citizens of Montana," Taylor said at a news conference.

The ad, which the Democratic Party began airing last week includes videotape of Taylor from the 1980s in which he is wearing an open-front shirt and gold chains while massaging a man's face. The video was part of an infomercial Taylor had produced.

A Taylor spokesman said the ad clearly was intended to imply Taylor was gay. (AP)

TWO MEN ACCUSED OF HATE CRIMES IN BASEBALL-BAT ATTACKS

LOS ANGELES - Two men accused of separate baseball-bat attacks were charged on with committing a hate crime after prosecutors concluded the alleged attackers thought their victims were gay.

The attacks occurred on Sunday, Oct. 13, just east of the city of West Hollywood, where a Sept. 1 attack on a gay actor is being prosecuted as a robbery and assault. The decision by county District Attorney Steve Cooley not to file hate-crime charges in that case has prompted picketing of Cooley's office and a petition drive to recall him.

Ever Wilfredo Rivera and Selvin Orlando Campos, both 19 and from Los Angeles, were charged with two counts each of hate crime, robbery and assault with a deadly weapon by means likely to produce great bodily injury. The hate crime counts can add up to four years on any sentence. (AP)

WORLD BRIEFS



MOTHER OF SLAIN SOLDIER OPPOSES GENERAL'S NOMINATION

Patricia Kutteles, mother of Private First Class Barry Winchell, appeared in Washington last week to oppose President Bush's nomination of Major General Robert T. Clark to Lieutenant General. Clark is former Commanding General of Fort Campbell, where Winchell was murdered in 1999 by fellow soldiers because he was believed to be gay. The Senate Armed Services Committee has scheduled a closed door session to consider the nomination.

BRITISH LEGISLATORS NIX GAY ADOPTION

British government plans to let unmarried couples — including gays — adopt children were thrown out on Oct. 16 by the upper house of Parliament. Opposition Conservatives in the House of Lords and independents combined to defeat the government by 196 votes to 162. The bill now may bounce between the upper and lower houses of Parliament until a compromise is reached.

PARIS MAYOR LEAVES INTENSIVE CARE FOLLOWING STABBING

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe was transferred out of intensive care on Oct. 11, five days after being stabbed in the abdomen during an all-night public party at City Hall. The mayor underwent emergency surgery shortly after being attacked. The 52-year-old mayor suffered injuries to the stomach, the intestines and the major vein that brings blood from the lower body to the heart. Delanoe is expected to be released from the hospital in about five days but won't be back on the job for several weeks.

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STATE NEWS

LESBIAN SERIAL KILLER EXECUTED DESPITE QUESTIONS OVER HER SANITY

STARKE, Fla. - Aileen Wuornos, a hitchhiking lesbian prostitute who killed six men along Florida's highways more than a decade ago, was executed by injection on Oct. 8 after dropping her appeals and firing her lawyers.

Wuornos, 46, became the 10th woman executed in the U.S. since capital punishment resumed in 1977. In her final statement, she referred to Jesus the blockbuster movie, *Independence Day*.

The execution had been delayed while

experts evaluated her mental health. Gov. Jeb Bush lifted his stay last week after three psychiatrists concluded Wuornos was competent to choose execution.

Wuornos shot to death at least six middle-aged men along Florida highways in 1989 and 1990. She initially said the killings were in self-defense after she was assaulted by customers who picked her up. But she later said the self-defense claim was a lie and she intended to rob and kill the men. (AP)

BUSH, MCBRIDE CLASH ON FLORIDA'S GAY ADOPTION BAN

ORLANDO - Republican Gov. Jeb Bush accused his Democratic challenger of making empty promises, but Bill McBride said Florida was going down the wrong path under Bush's leadership during an Oct. 15 debate.

The one-hour debate, broadcast statewide on radio, touched on sales tax exemptions, gay adoptions and growth management, and education.

The candidates differed on whether gay and lesbian couples should be able to adopt. Florida is the only state in the nation that has a blanket prohibition against homosexuals adopting.

Bush said he doesn't think gays should be allowed to adopt, while McBride called such a policy discrimination and said, "It's not the American way and it's not the right way." (AP)

CONVICTION OF PANHANDLE BOYS THROWN OUT

PENSACOLA - Calling the case of two teenage brothers convicted in the fatal bludgeoning of their father "unusual and bizarre," a judge tossed out the convictions and ordered prosecutors and defense attorneys to try to resolve the case in mediation.

Circuit Judge Frank Bell said on Oct. 17 that the boys' rights were violated in part by the way prosecutors simultaneously presented two contradictory theories of the crime.

Prosecutors won the conviction of Alex, 13, and Derek King, 14, last month by arguing that Derek swung the aluminum

baseball bat that killed their father. In a trial that ended a week earlier, the prosecution's star witnesses — Alex and Derek — testified an adult friend committed the crime.

The boys' adult friend, convicted child molester Ricky Chavis, was acquitted, but the verdict was sealed until the boys' trial was over. It remains unclear if Chavis had a sexual relationship with one or both of the boys.

Jurors in the boys' trial said they believed Chavis was the real killer and that the brothers had only helped him commit the crime. (AP)

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ORLANDO NEWS

MAYOR SAYS THERE'S NO NEED TO CHANGE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

ORLANDO - Orlando's City Council held another workshop on Monday, Oct. 21 to decide the fate of the proposed amendment to Chapter 57 of the Orlando City code. This meeting was a follow up to the September presentation by the city's Human Relations Board in which the board unanimously suggested that the city add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected classes that are already a part of Orlando's anti-discrimination ordinance.

In front of a crowd of over 250 people, Mayor Glenda Hood asked each of the city commissioners to weigh in on whether or not this should move forward through public hearings and an eventual vote.

Commissioner Phil Diamond said that the issue was something that the council should definitely consider and vote on. Commissioner Betty Wyman suggested just the opposite, stating that this is not something that the city council should decide but that it should be voted on by the citizens of Orlando through a referendum.

Commissioner Vicki Vargo, the council's most vocal opponent of the proposed ordinance, again claimed that there is a lack of evidence to show widespread discrimination.

"We already are a progressive city, and I don't believe we need to divide our community," she said. "There is a lack of evidence to show that there is broad-based discrimination by the marketplace against gays in the city of Orlando."

Openly lesbian City Commissioner Patty Sheehan said that the amendment is not divisive as suggested by Vargo and Wyman.

"It is divisive to allow discrimination against gays and lesbians," Sheehan said, speaking candidly of her fear that a city like Orlando would deny basic rights to the gay population.

After seeing the anti-gay full-page ad in the Oct. 20 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*, Sheehan admitted that she was "horrified to live in a town that feels that way." Sheehan said that she was fearful of one day returning to a workplace where gay people have no protections whatsoever. Sheehan also presented hundreds of postcards from the ordinance's detractors.

"These are the people who would

deny me a job," Sheehan said.

Commissioner Daisy Lynum joined Sheehan in voicing her support of the amendment

"The same arguments are now being made against gay people that I have heard about black people," Lynum said. She went on to point out to the church leaders

in attendance at the meeting that she has her own personal relationship with God, and that nowhere in the New Testament of the Bible did Jesus say anything against gay people. She did point out, however, that Christ became angry with the church leaders for wrongdoing.

"This is a human rights issue," Lynum told them. "And I will not be intimidated."

The only commissioner who did not offer his opinion on the matter was Ernest Page, although he did

say he supports a future vote on the issue by the council.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the day came when Mayor Hood actually ceased her waffling and stated that she is against adding "sexual orientation" to the city's anti-discrimination policy.

"As an elected official I have looked at this issue from a personal, legal, and community perspective. Our community does support lifestyle choices," said Hood. "But I do not see evidence to warrant this, there is not a demonstrated need to change the law."

The following day, the *Orlando Sentinel*'s editorial board lambasted Hood for her statements.

"Mrs. Hood gave in to small-minded thinking when she formally expressed her opposition to a city ordinance to protect gay people from discrimination," the *Sentinel* board wrote.

Hood's sentiments did not come as a surprise to many in the gay community. Hood is a Republican and a Bush supporter. She is also a member of the congregation of First Baptist Church of Orlando, and her own pastor has spoken about opposing the measure.

The next meeting on Chapter 57 will take place on Nov. 18 at 2 PM when public comments will be taken. A second hearing and the vote are scheduled for Dec. 2. ▼ *John Sullivan*



Orlando Mayor GLENDA HOOD: "Our community does support lifestyle choices, but I do not see evidence to warrant this."

ANTI-GAY AD IN THE *SENTINEL* SPARKS CONTROVERSY, QUESTIONS

ORLANDO - Orlando's gay and lesbian community was shocked by an advertisement that ran in the Sunday, Oct. 20 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Opponents of the proposed amendment to add "sexual orientation" to Chapter 57 of the city anti-discrimination code placed a full-page ad denouncing the language change to the ordinance.

Calling themselves People For A United Orlando (PFAUO), the group paid \$14,000 for the ad that is signed by roughly 500 people including pastors, business people and local politicians.

The ad claims that gays and lesbians in Orlando do not need to be protected from discrimination because it doesn't exist.

Alan Chambers, spokesperson for PFAUO and executive director of the ex-gay ministry Exodus, says that the proposed amendment is nothing more than a launching pad for other pro-gay legislation and the legalization of pedophilia.

"I believe the gay community is a good group of people but with groups like

NAMBLA riding on their coattails," Chambers said.

The ad also claims that "this is a campaign being promoted from afar, by militant national gay and lesbian organizations."

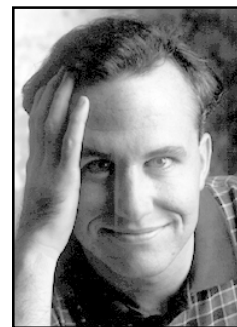
When Chambers was asked about the identity of the "militant" group he said that he had no idea, that was a question he thought the Liberty Council could answer.

The Liberty Council, a branch of the Jerry Falwell ministries with offices in Leesburg, turned up nothing on the supposed militant national gay group. Not one person in their offices — including two lawyers — had

any idea about the identity of the group.

Chambers says that PFAUO is for discrimination in housing, jobs, or public service, except for where religious organizations are concerned.

"But as an owner of property in downtown Orlando, I wouldn't rent to someone who is gay any more than I would rent to a person who is a practicing witch," Chambers said. ▼ *John Sullivan*



PFAUO spokesperson ALAN CHAMBERS: "I wouldn't rent to someone who is gay any more than I would rent to a person who is a practicing witch."



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TAMPA BAY NEWS

MAKING GAY HISTORY AUTHOR PART OF FESTIVAL OF READING

ST. PETERSBURG - Acclaimed author Eric Marcus will participate in the *St. Petersburg Times* "Festival of Reading" on the campus of Eckerd College on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Marcus has penned eight books, including *What If Someone I Know Is Gay?*, *The Male Couple's Guide*, and *Together Forever*, as well as the best-selling *Breaking the Surface*, which he co-wrote with Olympic diver Greg Louganis.

Marcus' latest book is *Making Gay History: The Half-Century Fight for*

Lesbian and Gay Equal Rights, which features interviews with more than sixty people who have contributed to the transformation of gay men and women. Historian Studs Terkel hailed the book as "one of the definitive works on gay life."

The Times Festival of Reading, now in its tenth year, celebrates the spoken and written word. More than 30 authors, including two Pulitzer Prize winners, will participate this year. For more information, and to find out when Marcus will speak, visit www.festivalofreading.com.

FILM FAST ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

TAMPA - After twelve days of films and more than 12,000 attendees, the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival wrapped its thirteenth year at a Sunday, Oct. 13 Closing Night Party at Chambers nightclub. That day, hundreds listened to campaign speeches and milled about in front of the Tampa Theatre at the Equality Florida Street Fair and Candidates Forum. Afterward, they lined up around the block to gain admission to the all-but-sold-out closing night film, *All the Queen's Men*

starring Matt LeBlanc.

One of the vendors at the Street Fair was Connie Kurtz, who was selling her art and promoting the documentary, *Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House*. The film,

which depicts the sacrifices and personal growth of two Jewish housewives who fell in love, won the festival's Audience Award. The first-ever Connoisseur Award went to the stunning *Karmen Gei*, a musical based on Bizet's opera *Carmen* that was confiscated by the Senegalese government and held in a vault for two years.

On closing night, Film Fest board member Jim Harper asked audience members to help with the estimated \$10,000 deficit from this year's event.

And *Watermark* and Stephanie Shippae presented a surprised festival director Margaret Murray with flowers for what all agreed was a job well done. ▼ *Tom Dyer*

TAMPA BAY BRIEFS



UNITY LEADERSHIP TAMPA BAY RECEIVES GILL FOUNDATION AWARD

The Gill Foundation has presented a \$1,000 Local Community Organizing Leadership Award to Unity Leadership Tampa Bay. The award was presented at the group's biannual meeting on Oct. 19 at the Doubletree Hotel on Cypress St. The Gill Foundation is a Colorado-based charitable organization that funds worthy glbt initiatives. Unity Leadership Tampa Bay is in its third year of gathering community leaders together to network and identify common goals.



LORENZO ROBERTSON

ROBERTSON PRESENTS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ONE-MAN SHOW

Tampa author, poet and activist Lorenzo Robertson is staging his one-man play, *Me, Myself & I: Searching for Solace* at St. Petersburg's Central Stage Theatre at 8 PM on Friday, Nov. 8 and Saturday, Nov. 9. The challenging, uplifting show takes a poignant look at one man's journey as he seeks inner peace and his greater self. Tickets are \$15, and can be reserved by calling (727) 327-7529.



STEPHANIE SHIPPAE drops to her knee to present MARGARET MURRAY with flowers and thanks. Photo by Rex Maniscalco.



RUTHIE BERMAN (left) and CONNIE KURTZ (right) with Film Fest volunteer coordinator MAX MORRIS. Photo by Rex Maniscalco.

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SARASOTA NEWS

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON NON-DISCRIMINATION

SARASOTA - "This may well be the most important ballot initiative ever for our community," said Triangle Democratic Caucus president Rev. Jim Merritt. "And we need to make sure it passes *this* time."

Merritt was referring to the upcoming ballot referendum that would give Sarasota residents non-discrimination protections — including discrimination based on sexual orientation — for the first time in the city's history. The ballot initiative was unanimously approved by the Sarasota

City Commission earlier this summer, and will be decided by voters on Nov. 5.

If passed, discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation and veterans status would be prohibited in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodation.

The Sarasota Equality Project is spearheading a drive to get out votes for the referendum. To volunteer, call (941) 928-2606

GAY CAMPGROUND OPENS NEAR SARASOTA

VENUS - With the success of the Sawmill Campground, northeast of Tampa, it was just a matter of time before more outdoor recreation facilities targeting gays and lesbians opened in Florida.

Camp Mars, an hour east of Sarasota in the tiny hamlet of Venus, opened two weeks ago and already 200 campers have used the facility. The six owners, all frequent visitors to Sawmill, purposely placed their campground further south to take advantage of warmer winter weather and proximity to Sarasota, Ft. Myers,

Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

Memberships are \$10 per year, and campsites then range from \$10 (rustic) to \$30 (motor homes) per night — more for a two bedroom cottage and "yurts" or heavy-duty tents with skylights and a/c.

There is a small spring-fed lake on the property, as well as a rustic rec hall. According to Simpson, a swimming pool and general store will be added soon.

For more information, call (863) 699-6277 or visit www.campmars.com.

SARASOTA BRIEFS



BUSINESS GUILD, TRIANGLE DEMS HOST CANDIDATES FORUM

The Southwest Florida Business Guild and the Triangle Democratic Caucus will host a Candidate's Forum for those seeking elective office in the Sarasota area. The forum begins at 7 PM on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at the Sudikoff Center at New College.

OFF-WHITE PARTY BENEFITS UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

Sarasota's gay and lesbian community is coming out in force to benefit the local chapter of United Cerebral Palsy. The "Off-White" Party beings at 9 PM on Friday, Nov. 8 at Michael's On East Ballroom. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door. Attire is limited only by creativity — and it must be off-white.

BRUNCH BY THE BAY BENEFITS ALSO, PFLAG

A Nov. 10 brunch at beautiful Marina Jack's will benefit the Sarasota chapter of PFLAG as well as ALSO for Gay Youth. The cost is \$40, and Harry May and Larry Thompson are sponsoring the fundraiser. Call (941) 365-4232 or (941) 252-2576 to make reservations by Oct. 25.

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HEADRESS WINDFALL COMES JUST IN TIME FOR HOPE & HELP

ORLANDO - The Hope & Help Center of Central Florida netted a nifty sum as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the successful 2002 Headdress Ball. The HIV/AIDS organization said that they were awarded a check for \$203,000 from the producers of this year's annual event.

The monies, it turns out, came just in time. On Sept. 10, Hope & Help and other area HIV/AIDS centers lost a significant amount of Ryan White Title I funding. In all, \$1.2 million was cut by the Orlando EMA HIV Health Planning Council, effecting 20 agencies whose missions are to serve people with HIV disease.

Hope & Help said that these cuts to their budget will affect all of the services they provide, including food pantry, transportation, case management, health education, and adherence counseling. In addition, Hope & Help's consumers' drugs and co-pays may have to be cut and there is concern that HIV patients may have to be put on a waiting list for medications.

Central Florida HIV/AIDS agencies are asking Orange County Chairman Richard Crotty to investigate the funding cuts and the actions of the Planning Council. Concerned citizens can also contact Crotty at (407) 836-7370 or by e-mailing chairman@ocfl.net. ▼ Scott J. Smith



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FLORIDA AIDS ACTION EXPANDS TO MEET NEEDS OF HIV/AIDS COMMUNITIES

TAMPA - Florida AIDS Action (FLAA) recently announced a series of proactive enhancements that are a result of the agency's strategic planning process intended to deal with the ever-changing face of AIDS and other healthcare issues now facing Florida and the nation.

"The past several months have been a period of growth and positive change," said Dr. Gene Copello, FLAA executive director.

Florida AIDS Action opened an office in Washington, D.C. in August of this year. Presently, the Washington office is staffed by consultants. FLAA also maintains full-time offices in Tallahassee and Miami as well as its administrative center in Tampa.

"Our goal is to be able to advocate for the 100,000 Floridians living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the nearly one million Americans with HIV disease," explained FLAA Board President Valerie Mincey.

As well as opening the Washington office, FLAA also announced its affiliation with the University of South Florida (USF). Florida AIDS Action has launched a new Center for Public Policy Research and Ethics in partnership with the Division of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the USF College of Medicine.

In addition to the work with USF, FLAA has transformed its Southeastern HIV/AIDS Resource Exchange (SHARE) Program into a high-quality healthcare advocacy association that focuses on networking, training and technical assistance to communities throughout Florida and the United States. It is now referred to as the Institute of Healthcare Advocacy Training.

To learn more about Florida AIDS Action, and for more information on how to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, call (813) 232-5886 or e-mail information@floridaaidsaction.org.

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HEALTH BRIEFS



MINNESOTA RESEARCHERS MAY HAVE UNLOCKED A KEY HIV MYSTERY

University of Minnesota researchers may have unlocked another key mystery surrounding HIV. The discovery appears to explain why a quarter of the patients infected with the AIDS virus respond poorly to the powerful drug cocktails while others show dramatic improvements. It still has to be confirmed by a larger study. If the initial findings turn out to be accurate, the discovery could be used to predict how well patients will respond to drug treatments. It also could lead to more effective therapies and potential cures for a disease that currently infects about 60 million people worldwide.

OPTIMISM MAY HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HIV PATIENTS

A new study suggests that optimism often breeds bad decisions, especially within the HIV community. In a survey of 220 people infected with HIV, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found that those with the most hopeful views of the future were most likely to skip doses of AIDS drugs and have unsafe sex. Researchers judged levels of pessimism and optimism by asking HIV-positive people to describe their feelings when first diagnosed, their feelings now and how long they expect to live. Members of minority groups, along with women and drug users, were most optimistic about their futures. White people, those with low levels of education and those with weaker immune systems, were more likely to be pessimistic.



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MY DOCUMENTS GAY.COM IS NOT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE

Queer computing by Erin J. Chisman

I love the "favorites" features in the major Web browsers; a place for every user to house all the sites they travel to frequently and then go back to them whenever they want with the click of a mouse. Being the horrible typist that I am, if I put a site in my "favorites" once, then I don't have to worry about those pesky 404 errors telling me the page is not found. I can't seem to type in a Web address correctly to save my life.

So it was interesting to hear from my editor that Gay.com <www.gay.com> was voted "Best Web site" by our readers in the annual WAVE Awards poll. Gay.com is not only *not* a member of my "favorites" folder, it doesn't even register in my drop-down history.

I decided to see what all the fuss was about and find out why it came in first, ahead of online destinations like PlanetOut <www.planetout.com> or LesbianNation <www.lesbiannation.com>. I assume that LesbianNation didn't come in first due to that site having little content for the gay male community. And PlanetOut — my personal favorite — doesn't have specialized content for its global members nor does it have a particularly eye-pleasing layout.

When you first hit Gay.com you have to choose which version of the site suits you. By making users identify themselves geographically, Gay.com is really subtly boasting that it has a world market.

One look at Gay.com's homepage and I deduced that the majority of Gay.com's users are male. Every graphic on it has two guys cuddling or holding each other. And while this is a refreshing change from mainstream sites, it was a letdown

for this cyber-dyke.

The Gay.com Web site does have some interesting features — aside from the obligatory personals and chat rooms. It has special interest pages on health/fitness and business/finance. A majority of gay sites do not have these pages anywhere, which

shows that the Outandabout Media Corporation, Gay.com's owner, has its finger on the pulse of the gay community.

Featured prominently on the site is a section for

headline news. However, all the content was gay specific, dealing with the meltdown of the Dutch government because of a slain gay member and of two hate crime attacks in Los Angeles. All in all, their news channel wasn't very well rounded.

I went nosing around on the site and was frustrated by the incredibly slow loading pages. I work from a T1 line, the fastest on the consumer market and I should have no delay on pages. Gay.com's pages aren't even graphic heavy so I can't figure out how a global presence on the gay Web wasn't able to get fast enough servers to handle the load of many surfers.

In my search through the site — when all I really wanted to do was close the damn browser — I found out that Gay.com is part of Planet Out Partners Online. So I guess even though it was our readers' choice, the company realizes it doesn't meet the needs of the entire community.

I don't think this site will be going in my "favorites" folder any time soon, but I am not adverse to looking at every now and again. It really is the most visually pleasing gay site I have been to. Now if they could just do something about all those cuddly men. ▼

EVERY GRAPHIC ON IT HAS TWO GUYS CUDDLING OR HOLDING EACH OTHER. IT WAS A LETDOWN FOR THIS CYBER-DYKE.

COMPUTING BRIEFS

NEW SITE UNITES GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELERS WORLDWIDE

A new online community launched on Oct. 9 dedicated to gay and lesbian travel. The new site, Navigaytion.com <www.navigaytion.com> offers news and information related to a wide variety of travel topics, including vacation travel, cruises, adventure travel and more. Navigaytion.com also offers gay travel vacation booking online, as well as a comprehensive directory of gay and gay-friendly accommodations and travel agents. The site is free for all to use.

RAINBOW LAW OFFERS GLBT COMMUNITY POLITICAL RIGHTS SITE

GAYducks.org <www.gayducks.org> is designed as a simple resource and referral site where gays and lesbians can easily access groups and organizations. The site lists information about laws and legislation affecting the GLBT community, voting records and contact information for local, state and national politicians and candidates, information about how gay and lesbian partners can protect their relationships and rights, a lawyer referral service, and links to local and national GLBT organizations.

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Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.


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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafegot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion[®] (triazolam)
Versed[®] (midazolam)
Mevacor[®] (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor[®] (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin[®] (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra[®] (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor[®] (lovastatin) or Zocor[®] (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor[®] (atorvastatin) and Baycol[®] (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune[®] (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva[™] (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan[®] (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir[™] (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase[®] (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. **Do not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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BUSINESS

FLORIDA'S FIRST GAY AND LESBIAN DAY CENTER TO OPEN IN 2003

FT. LAUDERDALE - State officials announced that the state's first day center specializing in care for gay and lesbian elders will open in February 2003 in Ft. Lauderdale. The Area Agency on Aging, which funds eight senior day centers in Broward County, gave \$200,000 in federal seed money this past spring to start the day center at the Sunshine Cathedral.

"We have a lot of gay people here who are entering their senior years, and we aren't really doing anything for them," said Edith Lederberg, the area agency's executive director. About 15,000 gay and lesbian seniors live in Broward County,

Lederberg said, and that number is growing.

The board and foundation of the Sunshine Cathedral, a member of Metropolitan Community Church, approved the day center in January 2002. The day center will be open Mondays through Fridays, and it will provide activities, meals and support for seniors and their families and partners.

"I think gay and lesbian people will be more comfortable putting their family members in a situation like this where the whole family is respected," said Sunshine Cathedral Rev. Grant Lynn Ford.

APPLEBEE'S SAYS AD ON GAY WEDDINGS RAN BY MISTAKE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The Applebee's restaurant group, which drew fire from a conservative Christian organization for advertising on the Bravo reality miniseries *Gay Weddings*, said on Oct. 1 that the ad ran by mistake.

A spokeswoman for Applebee's International said the company specifically asked the cable television channel not to run the spot during *Gay Weddings*.

"As an advertiser, we — like most companies — prefer to stay with non-controversial shows," Laurie Ellison said.

The ad ran once during the first episode of *Gay Weddings* on Sept. 2. The show ran for four nights, each time profiling a gay or lesbian couple preparing to exchange vows.

Cathy Renna, a spokeswoman for the national Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said she was disappointed with Applebee's.

"This is a lost opportunity for Applebee's, not to support a show that promotes understanding," she said. (AP)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

THEATER COMPANY EXTENDS INVITATION TO PARTY

The new Suncoast Theatre is set to open in St. Petersburg in November and the first show will be *Party*. The theatre is operated independently of the resort by DH Productions, a company formed by *Party* playwright David Dillon and director Nic Arzen. DH Productions is inviting Tampa Bay Business Guild members and other businesses to join them in sponsoring the new theater and the production of *Party*. Earlier this year, *Party* opened at Central Stage and the gay community embraced the show quickly and enthusiastically as evidenced by the run being consistently sold out. *Party* is reopening by popular demand and expects to run at the Suncoast Theatre indefinitely. To find out more about the benefits of sponsorship, contact Daniel Harris at (727) 867-1111 ext. 302 or e-mail SuncoastTheatre@yahoo.com.

WINDOWS MEDIA SAYS FINANCES ARE STABLE

Despite rumors indicating that its demise is inevitable, Window Media, the largest GLBT newspaper chain in the nation, insists it is financially sound and will continue to publish in a slow-moving economy. "The status (of Window Media) is good," said William Waybourn, CEO of the company that publishes *Washington Blade* and *Southern Voice*. "We're dealing with the same issues as everyone else in media." Waybourn said that the company has seen a 12 percent increase in advertising revenue during the last year, its overall circulation is growing and there are plans to acquire other papers in other cities.

PLANS DROPPED TO OPEN GAY RETREAT IN TENNESSEE

A North Carolina businessman has dropped plans to open a gay retreat in Grundy County because the site was vandalized on Oct. 10. "This is a place I'm asking friends and guests to come to, and there's no way I would do that without knowing they would be 100 percent safe," Allan Winkler said. "I've already received 10 death threats by e-mail." The security gate system was stolen, and the office building was demolished. Winkler said he called the ACLU and HRC about the vandalism.

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ELECTION PREVIEW

2002 ELECTIONS VOTER'S GUIDE

By Tom Dyer

Although this is an off-year election, the decisions we make on Nov. 5 may be seismic. On the national level, a shift of just one seat in the Senate and six seats in the House would change the parties in power and substantially impact the nation's agenda for the future. Statewide, we face the prospect of electing a new Governor and Attorney General, and determining the makeup of a legislature that will soon consider gay adoptions and the Dignity for All Students Act. Locally, county commissions and school boards will determine whether those communities will embrace or reject gay equality.

Meanwhile, gays and lesbians are increasingly important — and apparent — as a voting bloc. Four percent of voters identified themselves as gay in a national exit poll conducted in 2000, and few elections are won by that margin or more.

Equality Florida asked most Florida candidates to respond to a number of questions pertinent to our community. The results of that questionnaire were considered in the voter's guide below,

and particularly in making endorsements. But we are mindful that GLBT issues will not always determine your votes, nor should they.

The 2000 election in Florida vividly revealed the importance of each individual vote. Voting is one of the great privileges and responsibilities of being an American. We hope that the guide below will help you in reaching decisions, but we encourage you to investigate each candidate and reach your own informed voting decisions. ▼

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

* **bold** denotes incumbent.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 3: Corrine Brown (D) v. Jennifer Carroll (R). Brown's term in office has been diminished somewhat by personal troubles and ineffective staff, but she is developing into a good representative for this serpentine and largely African-American district that stretches from Orlando to

Jacksonville. Brown supports ENDA, hate crimes legislation, and a domestic partner registry in Washington D.C. Her opponent favors none of these initiatives.

Watermark endorses Corrine Brown.

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 4: Ander Crenshaw (R) v. Charles S. Knause (I). Although we're not happy about it, conservative incumbent Crenshaw is sure to be re-elected. He opposes ENDA and every other pro-gay measure that ever saw the light of day. Knause is a write-in candidate — start practicing your handwriting. **Watermark endorses Charles S. Knause.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 5: Karen Thurman (D) v. Ginny Brown-Waite (R).

Thurman has represented this district for 10 years, but it was recently redrawn and Republicans smell blood. "There will be about two dozen races that determine control of Congress," said the nonpartisan *Cook Political Report*. "And Florida's 5th is absolutely in the mix." The district now stretches north from Pasco and Lake Counties, but no longer includes liberal Alachua County. It does, however, include Brown-Waite's entire state senate district. Thurman supports ENDA, hate crimes legislation and a domestic partner registry. Her opponent does not, and is further aligned with the most conservative elements of the Republican Party. Re-elect Thurman to a sixth term. **Watermark endorses Karen Thurman.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 6: David E. Bruderly (D) v. **Cliff B. Stearns (R)**. Bruderly is mostly unknown, but incumbent Stearns is on record opposing ENDA and all other federal pro-gay initiatives. The office needs new blood. **Watermark endorses David E. Bruderly.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 7: Wayne Hogan (D) v. **John L. Mica (R)**. Mica's influence in the House increases with each re-election. Now in his fifth term, he's been a strong and effective advocate for solving Central Florida's traffic problems. He also enacted an anti-discrimination policy within his office that includes sexual orientation. But he opposes ENDA and other pro-active gay initiatives. His well-funded Democratic opponent — who earned much of his money taking on tobacco companies — has been mostly silent about gay issues, and trails by a wide margin in recent polls. **Watermark recommends that you be informed and choose wisely.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 8: Eddie Diaz (D) v. **Ric Keller (R)**. First-term Keller leads Diaz by a wide margin in the polls, and is expected to win. But the choice is clear. Dumpy and unimpressive (he and Mica have the worst toupees in Congress), Keller is aligned with the most conservative wing of his party. He will vote against us at every turn. Diaz, a former policeman who was shot while on duty, is a steadfast and increasingly

articulate supporter of gay equality, and actively courted gay votes along the campaign trail. **Watermark endorses Eddie Diaz.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 9: Chuck Kalogianis (D) v. **Michael**

Bilirakis (R). Incumbent Bilirakis is on record opposing ENDA, hate crimes legislation, and other gay equality measures. Newcomer Kalogianis supports both, and deserves our support. **Watermark endorses Chuck Kalogianis.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 13: Jan Schneider (D) v. Katherine Harris (R). As Florida's Secretary of State, Harris became one of the most recognizable — and heavily made up — figures in state politics when she supervised the presidential recount to ensure the election of George W. Bush. She's now running for Congress, but against a surprisingly strong Democratic challenger. Schneider is a Yale Law School graduate who's as impressive as she is likeable. "She demonstrates in her own life a commitment to inclusiveness and diversity," says Triangle Democratic Caucus president Jim Merritt. Schneider supports ENDA, hate crimes, and the other things that matter to us. Harris has been mostly unresponsive on issues relating to the gay community... but her most influential supporters have not. If elected, Schneider could prove to be one of Congress' brightest stars. Let's give her the chance. **Watermark endorses Jan Schneider.**

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 15: Jim Tso (D) v. **Dave Weldon (R)**. Weldon co-sponsored an unsuccessful bill that would eliminate domestic partner benefits within the District of Columbia. The four-term Congressman, who is reneging on a promise not to seek a fifth, is no friend to our community. Tso has not addressed glbt issues during his campaign, but he's intelligent, likeable, soft-spoken... and can't be any worse. **Watermark endorses Jim Tso.**



U.S. House District 8 candidate EDDIE DIAZ with supporters JEFF MILLER (left) and TED MAINES (right).



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ELECTION PREVIEW

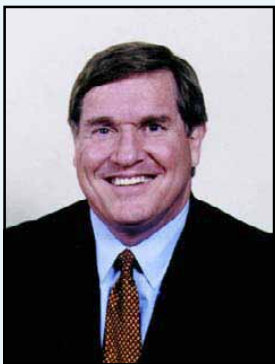
U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 24: Harry Jacobs (D) v. Tom Feeney (R). This district was crafted by the Republican State Legislature so that Feeney — Florida's Speaker of the House — could make the leap to national office. Jacobs is doing everything he can to prevent it, and we should join him in that effort. Feeney opposes ENDA and hate crimes legislation, and is arrogant about it. He once described an opponent as "anti-family, pro-gay... launching a full scale attack on decent values in America." Jacobs, who has an openly lesbian daughter, actively supports gay equality and would make an impressive legislator for North Central Florida. **Watermark endorses Harry Jacobs.**



U.S. House Dist. 24 candidate
HARRY JACOBS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Buddy Dyer (D) v. Charlie Crist (R). Crist is the state's current Education Commissioner — 'nuff said? That office is being eliminated, so he's hoping to shift to another cabinet post. But it took Crist three attempts to pass the bar exam, and his undistinguished career makes him unqualified to be the state's top legal authority and advocate. Dyer was editor of the Law Review at the University of Florida, made the highest score in the state on his bar exam, and had a distinguished career as an attorney and state senator. To make the decision even easier, Dyer has consistently reached out to the gay community and supports glbt equality. Crist hasn't and doesn't. **Watermark endorses Buddy Dyer.**

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 19: Gary Siplin (D) v. Anthony (Tony) Suarez (R) v. Beulah Farquharson (I). Suarez, a former Democrat, supports the Dignity for All Students Act, hate crimes legislation, and ending the ban on gay adoption. Siplin, currently a State Rep. in District 39, has been largely silent on gay issues. **Watermark endorses Anthony (Tony) Suarez.**



Florida gubernatorial candidate
BILL MCBRIDE.

STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

GOVERNOR: Bill McBride (D) v. Jeb Bush (R). Recent polls place this race dead even, and it should be no surprise. Our first-term governor has the Bush political machine behind him, but there is clear evidence that Florida is in worse shape now than it was four years ago and voters have noticed. Bush has squandered budget surpluses with tax cuts for the wealthiest. In spite of an outcry regarding Florida's inadequate schools, he has fought increases to the state's education budget. And he's indifferent to gays and lesbians, supporting the ban on gay adoptions and ignoring harassment of gay schoolchildren. Folksy Bill McBride isn't the most polished candidate, but he's a smart guy with an impressive record of integrity and achievement. He's unequivocally supportive of gay and lesbian equality in every important context — adoption, anti-discrimination, non-harassment, domestic partnership — and named Tampa's Ted Howard as his liaison to the glbt community. Vote Bush out, and McBride in. **Watermark endorses Bill McBride.**



State Attorney General candidate
BUDDY DYER.

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 36: Sheri McInvale (D) v. Patrick Howell (R). For gays and lesbians, this race poses intriguing and defining choices. Both are charming, articulate candidates who

openly support gay equality. Howell's candidacy is particularly tantalizing, however, because if elected he would be the first openly gay man in Florida's legislature... and a Republican to boot. But therein lies the rub. Howell needs Democratic votes to win in this downtown Orlando district, and it may be difficult for Democrats to vote for an unabashed advocate of Reaganist trickle down economics that many believe have seriously damaged our state and nation. Howell has proven to be an energetic, driven campaigner, and he would likely be an effective legislator. A boost for gays and lesbians in Tallahassee? Much would depend on his priorities, but his experience would be instructive and fascinating to monitor. More soft-spoken, McInvale's intelligence, palpable integrity, and impressive record of service to her community would also make her a standout representative for District 36. **Watermark recommends that you be**



State House District 36 candidates SHERI MCINVALLE (left) and PATRICK HOWELL (right).

informed, use this race as a tool with which to define your individual political priorities, and choose wisely.

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 38: Jim B. Martin (D) v. Fred Brummer (R). Brummer blocked voting on the Dignity for All Students Act during the last legislative session. Martin, on the other hand, supports gay equality in all contexts short of marriage and state-recognized civil unions. He's reached out to local gays and lesbians during his

campaign, and would make for an honest, affable representative for this West Orlando district. **Watermark endorses Jim B. Martin**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 39: Bruce Antone (D) v. Janet Buckles (R). Antone was Buddy Dyer's legislative aide for years, and shares the same liberal view on gay equality. Buckles is a former

Continued Page 22

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ELECTION PREVIEW

2002 Elections from Page 21

chair of the local Christian Coalition. **Watermark endorses Bruce Antone.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 40: Andy Gardiner (R) v. John T. Conway (L). Neither candidate is appealing. Incumbent Gardiner toes the conservative Republican Party line, and Conway is a Hillsborough County libertarian who is inexplicably running for this Orange/Osceola County seat and has little chance of being elected. **Watermark recommends that you be informed and choose wisely.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 49: Jose Fernandez (D) v. John Quinones (R). Fernandez is one of the most exciting candidates to enter local politics in years. The story of his parents' immigration from Nicaragua is moving, and so is his clear and heartfelt commitment to equality of opportunity for all people, including gays and lesbians. **Watermark endorses Jose Fernandez.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 50: Kai Rush (D) v. **Kim Berfield (R)** v. Brian L. Gilbert (L). On the basis of his responses to the Equality Florida questionnaire, **Watermark endorses Kai Rush.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 52: Christopher Eaton (D) v. **Frank Farkas (R)** v. Alison Lipscomb (L). None of the candidates is supportive of our issues, nor do they make particularly appealing candidates on any other level. **Watermark recommends that you be informed and choose wisely.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 54: John Carassas (R) v. Kurt Gratzol (G). Gratzol, a candidate from the Green Party, has little chance of unseating Carassas, but he actively supports our community and has sought our votes. Carassas has done neither. Let's go Green with our votes in this district and send a message. **Watermark endorses Kurt Gratzol.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 55: Frank Peterman Jr. (D) v. Vincent K. Hopkins (R) v. Thomas Kilmon (L). Hopkins has a seriously questionable legal record, including a recent arrest for non-payment of child support. He is patently unworthy of our trust in elective office. **Watermark endorses Frank Peterman, Jr. .**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 56: Sandra L. Murman (R) v. Mark Howard (L). Even though she represents a Tampa district with a high concentration of gays and lesbians, Murman has done nothing to advance gay and lesbian equality during her term in office and is undeserving of our support. Howard, one of just a handful of openly gay local candidates in this election, is running on a shoestring budget. But he is bright, likeable, and would be a riveting voice for gay equality. Send a message and send him your vote. **Watermark endorses Mark Howard.**



State House District 56 candidate
MARK HOWARD.

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 57: Scott Farrell (D) v. Faye Culp (R) v. Tyson Richmond (L). Another intriguing local election, this one in what may be Tampa's gayest state electoral district. Culp, a former state legislator, has a gay son and the steadfast support of Tampa Bay's Log Cabin Republicans. With a wink and a nod, she professes her support for gay equality. But she calculatedly refused to answer Equality Florida's questionnaire for fear of alienating conservative voters. This begs the question of where her loyalties and priorities will lie if elected. Farrell, an attorney with an impressive record of volunteer activity, is a political newcomer. Charming and telegenic, he has been accused of being "Candidate Lite." But he is likewise clear in supporting the Dignity for All Students Act, hate crimes legislation, domestic partnership and gay adoption. **Watermark endorses Scott Farrell.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 60: Sara Romeo (D) v. Ed Homan (R) v. Ryan C. Corley (L). **Watermark endorses Sara Romeo.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 61: Pat Burke (D) v. **Ken Littlefield (R)** v. Joseph Frank Preta Jr. (L). On the basis of her responses to the Equality Florida questionnaire, **Watermark endorses Pat Burke.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 68: Arlene Sweeting (D) v. Bill Galvano (R) v. James Donald Sallace (L). On the basis of her responses to the Equality Florida

questionnaire, **Watermark endorses Arlene Sweeting.**

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 69: Ken Shelin (D) v. Donna Clarke (R) v. William D. Van Allen Jr. (L). Shelin, another openly gay candidate, has lived in Sarasota with his partner for 20 years. He champions strategic growth for Sarasota that is less based on tourism, and a re-evaluation of current education measures. He is invested in gay equality, while none of his opponents is even supportive. **Watermark endorses Ken Shelin.**

LOCAL ELECTIONS

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 1: Kathy Castor (D) v. Chris Hart (R). **Watermark endorses Kathy Castor.**

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 2: Ron Dyser (D) v. Ken Hagan (R) (was Jim Norman-R). **Watermark endorses Ron Dyser.**

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 5: Susan Valdes (D) v. Jim Norman (R) (was Chris Hart-R). **Watermark endorses Susan Valdes.**

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 7: Pat Frank (D) v. Brian Blair (R). An interesting race: the much-respected Frank – a consistent supporter of gay

equality – is being challenged by former professional wrestler Brian Blair. In fact, he sounds like a wrestling commentator – or Jesse Ventura. "I have no strings attached – I am only a puppet of the people. I am open-minded but not empty-headed." Blair has courted gay votes, but has also accused Frank of being ultra-liberal and has cited her support of the gay community as evidence. Frank is the strongest and most consistent voice for our community on an otherwise indifferent county commission. We need her back in office. **Watermark endorses Pat Frank.**

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4: Jennifer Faliero v. Larry Martin. **Watermark endorses Jennifer Faliero.**



State House District 69 candidate
KEN SHELIN.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6: Caronly Bricklemeyer v. Melissa Hernandez. **Watermark endorses Melissa Hernandez.**

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1: Joie Cadle v. Barbara Trovillion Rushing. Trovillion-Rushing has been ineffective in this position, and supported her father's infamously outrageous homophobic comments to a student lobbyist two years ago. Cadle has reached out to gay voters and is sensitive to the issues of gay students – "No child should be afraid to go to school." She would be a much-needed spark to the school board. **Watermark endorses Joie Cadle.**

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2: Tim Shea v. Ray Lord. Likeable Tim Shea has expressed his support of protection for glbt students and for non-discrimination protections for gay teachers and school administrators. **Watermark endorses Tim Shea.**

ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4: Clarence Hoenstine v. Linda Stewart. Incumbent Hoenstine is ineffective, malignantly tethered to development interests, and indifferent to glbt constituents. Stewart has proved to be a quirky campaigner who is not cut from the usual political mold. She has expressed support for glbt issues. It will be interesting to see how she works with the good 'ol boy County Commission. **Watermark endorses Linda Stewart.**

9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: Jim Henson v. Mark Bender. **Watermark endorses Mark Bender.**

PINELLAS COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 6: David Buby (D) v. John Morroni (R). Buby, a retired oncologist and another openly gay candidate, has run before and is committed to improving the quality of life in Pinellas County. His priorities include health care, transportation, and community safety... and he would be a persuasive voice for gay equality measures. **Watermark endorses David Buby.**

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4: Mary Brown v. Tiffany Todd. **Watermark recommends that you be informed and choose wisely. ♡**



NOVEMBER 5TH 2002 Voters Guide

Governor's Race 2002-You Decide



"The state should not be in the business of actively sanctioning this particular lifestyle." - Jeb Bush

Repealing Florida Anti-Gay Adoption Ban?

NO - Bush has reaffirmed his support for the ban and publicly applauded a court ruling that upheld the anti-gay adoption law. Bush refused requests by the Department of Children and Families to use his authority to suspend enforcement of the ban.

Enacting A Statewide Non-Discrimination Law?
NO - Bush describes such laws as "special rights"

Passage of the Dignity for All Students Act?

NO - Bush has actively opposed the measure and has ignored requests to investigate the problem of harassment and violence on school campuses.

Domestic Partnership
NO - Bush opposed efforts to pass a state Domestic Partnership policy and has stated that he continues to oppose laws that legally recognize same-sex partners.



There is no place in our democracy for treating one group of citizens as less than any other. I have always spoken out against discrimination and I always will." - Bill McBride

Repealing Florida Anti-Gay Adoption Ban?

YES - McBride has taken a stand against Florida's anti-gay adoption ban.

Passage of the Dignity for All Students Act?

YES - McBride has pledged his support for the bill.

Enacting A Statewide Non-Discrimination Law?
YES - McBride has worked successfully to institute gay-inclusive non-discrimination policies in the workplace.

Domestic Partnership
YES - As managing partner of Holland & Knight, McBride pushed successfully to get the firm to extend healthcare benefits to same-sex partners in 1995.

FEDERAL RACES

| District | Code Key Supports EOFL position Opposes EOFL position No Record/No Response Candidates in bold indicate sponsorship of pro-gdl legislation | ENDA | Gender Inclusive Policy | Hate Crimes | Staff Non-Discrimination Policy | Faith Initiative Exemption | Domestic Partnership | Boy Scout Funding |
|----------|--|------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 001 | Miller, Jeff (REP) Oram, Bert (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 002 | Boyd, Allen (DEM) McGurk, Tom (REP) | | | | | | | |
| 003 | Brown, Corinne (DEM) Carroll, Jennifer (REP) | | | | | | | |
| 004 | Orenshaw, Ander (REP) Knause, Charles S. (WRI) | | | | | | | |
| 005 | Thurman, Karen (DEM) *Brown-Waite, Ginny (REP) | | | | | | | |
| 006 | Stearns, Cliff B. (REP) Brudery, David E. (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 007 | Mica, John L. (REP) Hogan, Wayne (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 008 | Keller, Ric (REP) Diaz, Eddie (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 009 | Bilirakis, Michael (REP) Kalogianis, Chuck (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 013 | Harris, Katherine (REP) Schneider, Jan (DEM) | | | | | | | |

| District | Code Key Supports EOFL position Opposes EOFL position No Record/No Response Candidates in bold indicate sponsorship of pro-gdl legislation | ENDA | Gender Inclusive Policy | Hate Crimes | Staff Non-Discrimination Policy | Faith Initiative Exemption | Domestic Partnership | Boy Scout Funding |
|----------|---|------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 015 | *Weldon, Dave (REP) *Note: Sponsored a Bill that would have banned domestic partnership benefits for the District of Columbia. The measure was defeated. | | | | | | | |
| 016 | Foley, Mark (REP) McLain, Jack (CPF) | | | | | | | |
| 017 | Itelle, Michael (WRI) *Week, Kendrick (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 018 | *Note: While in the FI Senate, sponsored the Domestic Partnership Bill Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana (REP) Chole, Ray (DEM) Opperman, Orrin (NPA) | | | | | | | |
| 019 | Wexler, Robert (DEM) Merk, Jack (REP) | | | | | | | |
| 022 | Shaw, Clay (REP) Roberts, Carol A. (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 023 | Hastings, Alcee L. (DEM) Laure, Charles (REP) | | | | | | | |
| 024 | Feeney, Tom (REP) Jacobs, Harry (DEM) | | | | | | | |
| 025 | *Belancourt, Annie (DEM) *Note: As a State House member co-sponsored the Domestic Partnership Bill in 2000 and the Dignity for All Student Bill | | | | | | | |
| | Balat, Mario (REP) | | | | | | | |

STATE RACES

| District | Code Key Supports EOFL position Opposes EOFL position Did Not Respond | Q1: State Non-Discrimination | Q2: Office EEO Policy | Q3: Dignity For All Students | Q4: Health & Sex Education | Q5: Adoption | Q6: Domestic Partnership | Q7: Civil Unions | Q8: Repeal DOMA | Q9: Pro-Choice | Q10: HIV / AIDS Prevention | Q11: Formularies | Q12: Voting Rights | Q13: Charitable Choice | Q14: Sodomy Repeal |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Florida Senate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 008 | King, Jim (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 008 | Wojcicki, Andy (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 019 | Farquharson, Beulah | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 019 | Suarez, Anthony (Tony) (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 023 | Millford, Lawrence P. (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 027 | Archberg, Dave | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 034 | Wasserman Schultz, Deb (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State Representative | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 002 | Bajak, Barbara J. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 007 | *Kilmer, Bev (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 009 | *Kilmer supported an anti-gay legal brief defending Florida's ban on gay adoption | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 009 | Covington, Mitch (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 010 | McEligott, John (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 012 | Balard, Joseph F. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 013 | Mejias, Ricardo (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 015 | Norwood, Adam H. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 020 | Personett, David A. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 022 | Johnson, Ronald B. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 026 | Perris, Carl (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 030 | Doyle, Tim (GREEN) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 035 | Berger, Marni (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 036 | Howell, Patrick (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 036 | McInale, Sheri (D EM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 038 | *Brunner, Fred (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | *Blocked vote on Dignity For All Students Bill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 038 | Martin, Jim B. (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 044 | Williams, Gregory L. (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 046 | Florentino, Heather (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 046 | Kuerry, Jon M. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 050 | Rush, Kai (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 054 | Gatzel, Kurt (GREEN) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 056 | Howard, Mark A. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 057 | Farrell, Scott (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 057 | Richmond, Tyson (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 060 | Conley, Ryan C. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 061 | Burke, Pat (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 065 | Clifford, James C. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 068 | Sweeting, Aylene (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 069 | Shelin, Ken (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 087 | Evangelista, Neil J. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 088 | Brandenburg, Mary (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 089 | Shaw, Elliot (REP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 095 | Greenstein, Ronald Ron L. (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 097 | Richt, Nan H. (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 105 | Gottlieb, Kenneth (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | *Gottlieb is the prime sponsor of the House Dignity For All Students Bill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 107 | Velasquez, Rafael Antonio (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 116 | Vilar, Patrick (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 119 | Eckert, Mark S. (LIB) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 120 | Maurer, George (DEM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Visit the Equality Florida Online Election Center at www.eqfl.org
For a full list of questions asked and all candidate responses in both Federal and State races, for last minute additions, changes or breaking news about the election, additional information, including Third Party, write in, and unaffiliated candidates, please visit our website www.eqfl.org

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HEADLINE NEWS

Continued from Page 6

the ordinance were on hand displaying signs that read "say no to special rights." Opponents of the measure say it is unnecessary, claiming that protections for Orlando's gay and lesbian citizens already exist under the constitution.

Recently the Christian Coalition sent out a mailing to registered voters in Orlando claiming that the purpose of Chapter 57 is actually to legalize gay marriage. Maitland-based Rev. John Butler Book even went so far as to give the Orlando City Council a tape of a gay street party in California that showed some unflattering behavior. Book claimed

that the same behavior would run rampant in Orlando if gay and lesbian citizens were protected.

"I would like to ask the heterosexual community, is Mardi Gras or the prostitution along Orange Blossom Trail indicative of the normal behavior for your community? Then stop judging mine by extremes," City Commissioner Patty Sheehan said to a cheering crowd. "It should be our goal as civilized people to assure the fair and equal treatment of

"IT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL AS CIVILIZED PEOPLE TO ASSURE THE FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF EVERYONE." - PATTY SHEEHAN

everyone. We should be less concerned with whom we add to protective legislation than the character flaws in humanity that make this legislation necessary."

Many local political candidates were on hand to show their support of the language change to Chapter 57 including Jose Fernandez (State

House District 49), Patrick Howell (State House District 36), Jim Martin (State House District 38), Sheri McInvale (State House District 36), and Tim Shea (Orange County School Board District 2). The Orlando Gay Chorus and the Infinite Tribe Drum Corps also entertained the crowd.

Orlando activist and rally organizer Debbie Simmons called the event a success, saying that the turnout really exceeded even her own expectations.

"Even though the turnout was good, there could have been more people out there," Simmons said after the rally. "I understand though, many people didn't come because they are still fearful of being outed or seen on the news and then fired from their jobs. It just reinforces the whole idea that we need this kind of protection to begin with." ▼ John Sullivan



The crowd cheered as speakers urged Mayor Hood to recognize gay and lesbian rights as human rights

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VIEWPOINTS



WHAT WOULD GREG DO? GAY MARRIAGE: WHAT THE HELL?

Viewpoint by Greg Triggs

Do we anticipate anything more than meeting the person with whom we are going to spend the rest of our lives? We fantasize. We hope. We bargain with God, and then it happens. Love comes a-knockin' and we open the door and the real work begins.

You can't run to the store and buy

Romance for Dummies. Each relationship is unique and ultimately between the two people involved as Senator Mrs. Hillary Clinton reminded us. How do she and Bill endure each other and the scrutiny their marriage receives? Well, perhaps because it is not all that unusual. They're married. We do that to people who have said, "I do."

Some relationships survive cheating. It's true. I used to think I would walk the minute I knew my lover was sleeping with someone else. Now I'm older. Please don't let it happen, but I'm not certain what I would do.

I am, however, not so wishy-washy when I look at the relationships of others. Everyone knows a particular couple and thinks, "What the hell are they thinking?" The relationship works for them but the world wonders why. And whether we realize it or not, we have all been part of the couple under scrutiny. Each of us has been looked at and someone thought, "Thank God it's not me. Why do they stay together?"

For the straights, it usually has to do with marriage and property rights. We all know a couple that stays together for the

sake of the mortgage. They are bound to each other by law rather than by a choice they renew everyday.

That's one of the reasons I always get a little uncomfortable around people rallying for same sex marriage. Part of me says, "Yeah! We deserve everything they've got. Screw the hetero-hierarchy and their attempts to keep us down."

And part of me thinks, "Shut up! If we don't say anything, they won't realize we have it better than they do." I want the commitment because I choose to be

committed, not because there is some piece of paper I signed a million years ago that says I am committed by penalty of losing half my stuff. And I want to know that my boyfriend is

with me because he loves me — not because he's scared that I will get the Saab and he will be stuck with the Neon. I want him to want to be stuck with *me*.

That's probably what straight people want too. We all want to know that we have made the right choice. We want to know that we are where we are going to stay.

Every once in a while I look at my boyfriend and wonder what the hell I am thinking. He stresses out about the same three things over and over again. He won't agree on the kind of puppy we are

going to get. I can't get him to agree that Señor Ocho is the best dog name *ever*. I can't get him to simply acknowledge that I know best and that if everyone just did as I said the world would be a much better place.

The world is a better place because he is part of it. That's what I know late at night, when we get to spend the night together. He usually falls asleep long before I do — probably because he is much older than I am. I'm in my thirties. He's not. He is lying there on the left side

of the bed surrounded by tissues that he will never pick up himself but desperately needs because he's allergic to the cat he lets sleep in bed next to us.

I look at my left index finger where my Dad's wedding ring can always be found and I know that someday I want it on his finger. I want to see that ring dirty with the clay that he works with everyday. But for some reason a big portion of the world has a problem with that. They want us to feel like we aren't worthy. But we are.

And we don't need their permission to know that. They may look at us and think, "What the hell?" but it just doesn't matter. ▼

**I CAN'T GET MY BOYFRIEND TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IF EVERYONE
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MAIL



NO "T" IN EQUALITY

I participated in Orlando's "Give Us The Vote" rally on Oct. 15. I was shocked to find myself in a sea of trans-phobia. All I heard that night was that attempting to add gender identity or gender expression will kill "our" chances for adding "sexual orientation" to Orlando's anti-discrimination law. The "T" magically disappeared from the GLBT community. I do hope that the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO) will start work on protecting me from discrimination as a trans-woman.

Janice Josephine Carney
Executive Director of FORGE

A GRIZZLY COMPLIMENT

I am the publisher of the German *Bear* magazine. Each year when I visit St. Petersburg or other cities in Florida I pick up *Watermark*. Unfortunately we were not able to stay for Bear Bust in Orlando this year, but I enjoyed your article on "Bears" very much, and especially Dennis Butler's cover photo.

Thomas Schwartz
Cologne, Germany

STICKIN' IT TO THE MAN

Regarding "Editor's Desk" in issue

9.20, it truly is a shame and a disgrace to our Constitution that gay people are not afforded the same rights as heterosexual people. I believe that a gay or lesbian couple should be able to go to their local courthouse, fill out the paperwork, pay the fee and be married — just like any heterosexual couple can, with the same rights, privileges and responsibilities. Thanks to *Watermark* for continuing to challenge the status quo.

Stephanie Bashein Emerson
Sarasota

A DIGNIFIED THANKS

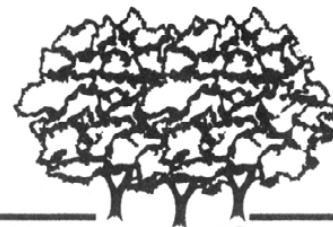
Thank you for including an article about Dignity of Sarasota's one year anniversary in *Watermark* [Spirituality News: Issue 9.21]. As it turns out the celebration was a major success.

Bart Coyle
Sarasota

LIFE ALTERING CINEMA

The Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival was spectacular. Those people that didn't attend missed a truly inspiring, educative, and life affirming opportunity. Special thanks go to Margaret Murray and the entire staff.

Patrick A. Kranz, via e-mail



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Clones Send in the

Australian band Bjorn Again pays a lighthearted tribute to Swedish supergroup ABBA. By **Scottie Campbell**

We've heard it said that imitation is the highest form of flattery. Then again there is a fine line between mockery and homage.

Take for example the genre known as the tribute band. You know you have made it as a musical artist when there is a tribute band touring the globe playing your tunes and doing impersonations of you. KISS has had several. Elton John has had one. Phil Collins, Genesis, Alice in Chains, Van Halen, AC/DC, Guns 'n' Roses, Alice Cooper, Pat Benatar, Blondie, Grateful Dead, Neil Diamond, Garth Brooks... you get the idea.

For the most part it seems that the impersonated artists are indeed flattered and in some cases actually endorse their tribute band. To wit, ABBA tribute band Bjorn Again was given the super trooper seal of

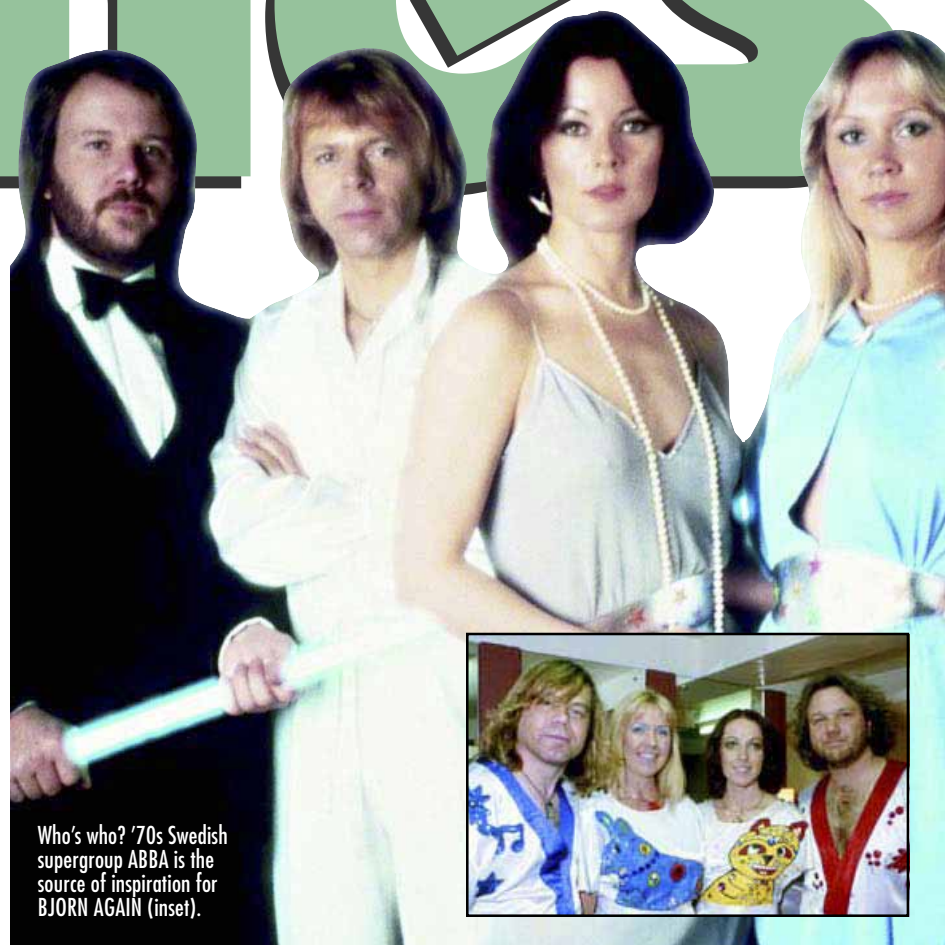
approval by Benny Andersson, one of the founding members of the Swedish group.

"Fans had better make the most out of Bjorn Again because that's the closest they are going to get to seeing ABBA," Andersson said. "ABBA will never reform!"

One senses that Andersson's statement probably speaks more to the bitter divorces of the two husband and wife duos that made up the ABBA quartet than actually complimenting Bjorn Again. But a quote is a quote and it really dresses up a press kit.

"Anyone who looks like me ought to have a successful career," proclaimed the other ABBA male, Bjorn Ulvaeus. A quick peek at photos of Ulvaeus reveals that he likely lives in a house with no

Continued Page 36



Who's who? '70s Swedish supergroup ABBA is the source of inspiration for BJORN AGAIN (inset).



New York comedian MICHELE BALAN will headline the Withlacoochee Womyn's Fest at Sawmill Camping Resort

LOADED WITH LA COOCHEE

Sawmill Camping Resort is gearing up for the Fourth Annual Withlacoochee Womyn's Music & Comedy Fest. By **C. Byrne**

DADE CITY - From Nov. 1-3, the Withlacoochee River will live up to its name as the Sawmill Camping Resort hosts the fourth annual Women's Music and Comedy Fest.

Women from all over Florida will make the journey into the depths of the wilderness. Hair will flow wildly in the wind. Naked feet will pound out exotic

rhythms around blazing campfires. Mysterious tribal symbols will adorn the bodies of hundreds of women. And music will be heard long into the night.

Well... at least the music part is true. It's rather doubtful that with Sawmill's cute little cabins, beautiful pool, and Cabana bar that there will be much need for women to rough it. Instead, the festival

will be a celebration of women performers in a cozy and inviting atmosphere. The resort spans over 100 acres in Dade City.

As the years have progressed, the festival has gotten bigger and better. Sawmill's promotions manager, Shannon Woodrum, is confident in this year's show. Guessing from the fact that the resort is already sold out for the weekend, that's a fair assumption. But don't worry if you're not one of the lucky ones with a cabin roof over your head. According to Woodrum,

Continued Page 42

LIFESTYLES



WATERCRESS SHAVED CATS AND REPUBLICAN POODLES

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

NIGHT WALKERS. David Almeida and I had a great dinner at Logan's Bistro recently. Afterwards, there were still bags of time to rummage through so we drove over to tour the homes in a brand-spanking new neighborhood which we will call "Tasty Meadows."

By the time we parked, the night was barely moonlit, but — as there were no fences to bar our merry way — we simply strolled in as if we were dropping in on the inhabitants of Manderley. There were quite a few houses to tour we discovered, and a lot of intact stairways and temporary banisters which the construction workers had thoughtfully provided for our comfort.

We had a lot of fun figuring out the layouts of the different homes, the largest of which have been provided with maid's rooms and back staircases. We said things like, "They must be going to put a breakfast nook here," and, "This must be the bathroom" when we spied fixtures such as kitchen sinks and bathtubs. We peered into pitch-black corners and imagined where we would put a

chifforobe, a dresser, or Grandma.

Priding ourselves on our probable ability to translate blueprints, we tramped along the streets and up the sandy rises, chatting and catching up, not so much dissecting our friends as attempting to analyze their various personality flaws... and quite anxious to see the subdivision completed. Are we going to buy houses there? Probably not. But we would like to see how they're built just in case. And what better way than to snoop around finding out for ourselves — from the ground up?

FLORIDA has more gay people per acre than anywhere else in the world, so much so that they've had to turn over entire neighborhoods to us — like Wilton Manors, South Beach, and Thornton Park. In fact, sometimes you can go an entire day without seeing any straight people at all, which can

actually be very disconcerting — like something's missing. (Mom?)

Occasionally, and especially in Miami, one of those thin, unusual, and perpetually-smoking married French women will show up to hang with the boys, but that's probably because she's doing some sort of vague research for the Gallic version of *Vogue*. We must not forget, however, that for every rainbow flag that flutters proudly from the front porches of the gentrified central and southern parts of the state, north Florida is

rife with the sort of people who would egg those very houses at the drop of a hat. In fact, it's been said that if you dig down three inches anywhere above Ocala, you'll find Alabama!

But it's a good life; I've been here 24 years. I came down to Winter Park on a one-way bus ticket when I was eleven and I like it more with each passing year. Is that maybe because my last gay nerve was worked during the summer of 1982 and I just don't feel anything anymore? Whatever. I wouldn't live anywhere else, except maybe Tuscany.

"PLEASE COME TO BOSTON," the song says, and so we did last weekend to see John and Chris. They have a lovely

old house in Lexington, complete with cannonballs embedded in the bedroom walls. We stayed at a guesthouse in Cambridge, however, so as to be farther from the action.

Have you ever noticed how odd out-of-town television is? I found Kirk watching a British show called *Vets In Practice* one afternoon when I woke up from a nap; let's just say there were a lot of cats being shaved and some horrifyingly-detailed scenes of breech lambs being forcibly born. Ewe!

Oh, Rally! I managed to attend the anti-discrimination rally on the steps of City Hall on Oct. 14, huffing and puffing my way down the avenue after closing up shop. It was so nice to see so many of you there... thanks for the phone calls encouraging my presence. I was happy to be in such good company, and I smiled when I found myself surrounded by representatives of all the major political parties. Who knew there were so many gay Republicans?

As I stood there politely wearing my McBride sticker — courtesy of Bill Pease — a gentleman standing next to me instructed his poodle *not* to be nice once he ascertained my political affiliation. But little Fifi continued licking happily like I was a Milk Bone. Does this mean the Grand Old Party has gone to the dogs? I never said that! ▼

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VIEWPOINTS



THE LIBERAL ARTS LESBIAN THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF GAY MALES

Speaking Out by Sarah Viren

I didn't realize until this weekend that I am gay-male illiterate. I had thought because I have "gay friends" that I am familiar with gay male culture. But I'm not — at least not in the same way I am knowledgeable of heterosexual culture.

The situation that precipitated this whole revelation was a weekend spent with not one but two gay boys, and two gay boys hooking up at that. It was just them and me all weekend long. Me, a girl who likes country music, has no flair for fashion, and knows little about theater. But I learned that one thing overcame our differences: sarcasm. We were all three sarcastic bitches and got along merrily.

In our merry-making I got a chance to see and feel what it's like to be the girl among a group of gay men. Before — as I realized in retrospect — it had always been me, a bunch of my dyke friends and one of our gay male buddies. I was in the majority. Or it was just little old me in a group of straight folks. Then I was in the minority, but I was also used to it.

I had never really hung out with a group of gay men, let alone a gay male couple. It is hard for me to admit but I think I have fag-hagaphobia. I am scared of being labeled a "fag hag." I don't want my identity dependent on other people, especially other men.

I admit I was wrong and prejudiced. And I have suffered from this bias.

Hanging out with this gay male couple last weekend I realized how most of my life experiences have been limited to straights and lesbians only. I know a lot about straight people. I have to see them day in and day out — on TV, on the streets, in the grocery store. They are always kissing, grabbing each other's asses and in general making a bad name for their sexuality.

Lesbians I am with constantly as well. But I love them! They are a part of me: my culture, my friends, my past. To me the lesbian lifestyle is rich and textured. I revel in its intricacies.

Gay male culture is totally a foreign world. I know gay guys, I hang out with them, but I have never truly had a good gay male friend. And I think that this is often the case for many gay men as well.

My new gay buddy from this weekend was constantly surprised when I talked about hot women.

"I am so used to hanging out with other gay guys or straight girls," he said.

"I keep thinking you're straight. I can't get used to you talking about women."

But now we are friends and learning about each other bit by bit. It's a wonderful change. It makes the word "queer" a rounder, deeper word to me. But it also

causes me to question why. Why, if we are all queer, do gay men and lesbians keep separate so often?

Our separateness stops us from knowing each other,

from learning interesting tidbits like, Do gay men have as many categories for themselves as lesbians do? As dykes we have the lipstick lesbian, the butch, the sporty dyke, the chic dyke, the Chap-stick lesbian, the Birkenstock/granola lesbian, the mullet lesbian, the nun lesbian and on and on.

So my deep but entirely superficial question of the day is, "What are the categories for gay men?" Is there a hippie fag, a theatre fag, a butch gay man, a flamer? And what do these categories mean? They may be superficial and totally unrealistic but they give culture and texture to this random group of people called queers.

These classifications help us to read and understand ourselves. If I am forced, because of the reality of our society, to know so much about straight people, I might as well try to learn equally as much about gay boys. They're cuter and more interesting if you ask me. They are my sisters — and my brothers.

They and all other transsexuals, transgendered people, bisexuals and questioning people of the world are my family. Alone we are ostracized and stigmatized. But together we are colorful, powerful, wonderful and queer.

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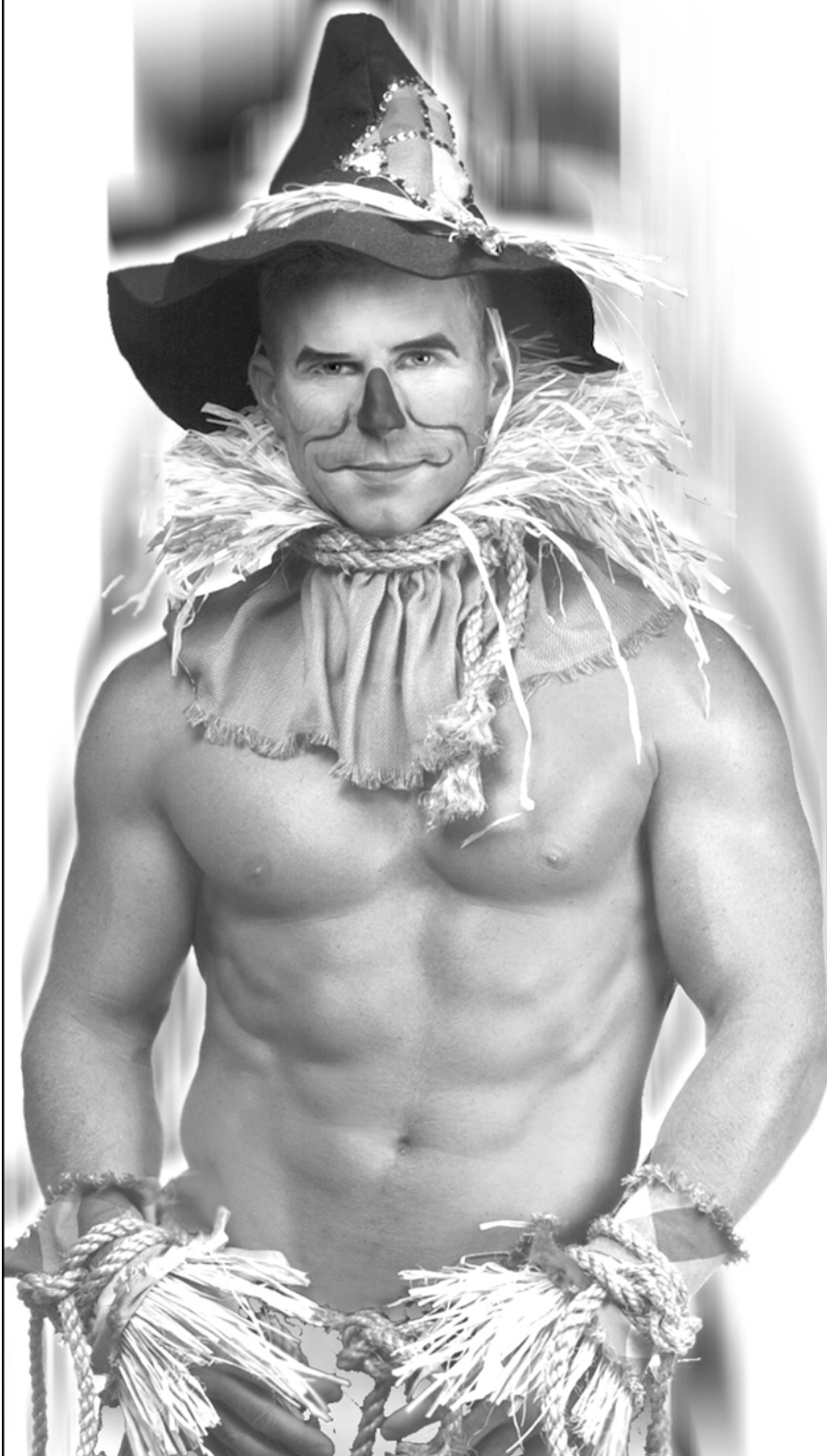
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Nov. 5 - 10 at the King Center for the Performing Arts. It's comedy to die for as *Zombie Prom* mixes together equal parts *Grease*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. For more information call (321) 242-2219 or visit <www.zombieprom.com>.

ORLANDO

RENT

Through Oct. 27 at the Carr Performing Arts Center. The musical that took the world by storm is back. Come see — and hear — what all the hoopla was about. For ticket information call (407) 839-3900 or visit <www.rentthetour.com>.

FAME: THE MUSICAL

Through Oct. 27 at the University of Central Florida, Orlando. It's the hot new musical stage version of the hit film; a bitter-sweet but ultimately inspiring story of a diverse group of students as they follow their hopes and dreams of artistic success. For more information call (407) 897-0265.

MURDER MOST D'VINE

Nov. 3 at the D'vone Cafe and Wine Bar. This fun evening will include a classic "who-dun-it" murder mystery featuring the "d'vine family vineyards." The evening includes a delicious dining experience, prizes, an Italian sing-a-long and your first glass of wine. For more information call (407) 296-9690.

TRAINED HUMAN CLUB

Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at 8 PM at Parliament House's Footlight Theater. Get ready for juggling, percussion, music, and physical comedy combined with high-tech special effects to cre-

ate a mesmerizing spectacle that's as funny as it is awe-inspiring. For more information call (407) 293-8978 or e-mail jugglermat@aol.com.

THE KING AND I

Oct. 26 - 27 and Nov. 1 - 3. The Celebration Players will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic at the Celebration School's Black Box Theatre. For more information call (407) 528-3588.

PRIVATE EYES

Through Nov. 2 at Theatre Downtown. A play within a play, a young actor suspects his wife is having an affair with their director. For reservations or more information call (407) 841-0083 or visit <www.theatredowntown.net>.

GUYS AND DOLLS

Through Dec. 1 at The Mark Two Dinner Theatre. The quintessential Broadway musical is based on the stories and characters of Damon Runyon. For ticket information call (407) 843-6275 or visit <www.themarktwo.com>.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Through Nov. 2. Presented at the Moonlight Warehouse in Clermont. See the play that spawned the cult-film and dance and sing along to "The Time Warp." Reservations are required so call (352) 319-1116 or visit <www.moonlightplayers.tripod.com>.

THE FANTASTICKS

Through Oct. 27 at the Mad Cow Theatre. A musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt that is the longest running off-Broadway show ever. For ticket information call (407) 297-8788 or visit <www.madcowtheatre.com>.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

HACABARET

Through Nov. 3 presented by Central Stage Theatre. A fiendishly funny musical revue by Scott Keys and Robert Hartmann. For more information call (727) 327-PLAY or visit <www.centralstagetheatrecompany.com>.

ME, MYSELF & I: SEARCHING FOR SOLACE

Nov. 8 - 9 at the Central Stage Theatre. Stars Lorenzo C. Robertson. A poignant look at one man's journey as he searches his soul on his quest for inner peace and his greater self. For more information call (813) 873-1888.

BROADWAY CAFE SOCIETY

First Monday of each month at the IMPROV, located inside Centro Ybor. Just think of it as a bunch of friends gathering around the piano and entertaining each other with Broadway Show tunes. The Broadway Cafe Society is strongly committed to supporting the fight against AIDS and all door and collected donations go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the PWA Coalition of Tampa Bay. For more information contact Michael Senesac at (800) 943-5592.

OLYMPUS ON MY MIND

Through Dec. 2 at the Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota. This musical romp shamelessly spoofs the Greek myth of Amphitryon. For more information call (941) 366-9017.

SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE MAGIC BOX

Through Nov. 25 on the IMAX screen at Channelside Cinemas. Narrated by Anthony Hopkins, this film features the dynamic duo of illusions and their beastly companions. (813) 221-5882.

MUSIC & DANCE

DAYTONA/SPACECOAST

PETER, PAUL AND MARY

Nov. 7 at the King Center for the Performing Arts. Forty-two years ago in a Greenwich Village coffeehouse, three folk singers combined talents to harmonize their way into our hearts. For more information call (321) 242-2219.

FLORIDA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Nov. 1 at the Peabody Auditorium. Part of the Daytona Beach Symphony Society's International Series. Featuring David Jolley,

horn, and Maximiano Valdes, conductor. For more information call (386) 253-2901 or visit <www.dbss.org>.

ORLANDO

INDIGO GIRLS

Nov. 6 at the Hard Rock Live at Universal Orlando. Amy and Emily are back with an acoustic show that is sure to please their fans. For more information call (407) 351-LIVE.

THE SONGS OF RICHARD RODGERS

Through Nov. 2 in the Mad Cow Theatre at Avalon Island. Rick Stanley sings and Jason Wetzel plays the music of one of the last century's greatest songwriters in this intimate look at romance. For more information call (407) 297-8788 or visit <www.madcowtheatre.com>.

BACH FESTIVAL CHORAL SERIES: THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

Oct. 26 & 27 in the Knowles Chapel on the Rollins College campus. A treat for the senses with a 150-voice choir, orchestra, and visiting soloists. For more information call (407) 646-2182 or visit <www.bachfestivalflorida.org>.

ZOA

Orlando-based, alt-glam band Zoa celebrates their first anniversary with a busy week of concerts. Catch them for an acoustic set at the Peacock Room on Oct. 29. On Oct. 30 they plug their instruments back in and blow the roof off of Will's Pub. On Halloween catch them as they open for the Genitorturers at Cairo's Hellaween Ball. Later the same night they will be playing at The Social. For more information call (407) 925-1320.

STARBUCKS' OPEN MIKE NIGHT

Every other Saturday night at the Starbucks in Thornton Park. Signup starts at 7:30 PM with performances beginning at 8. Open to all poets, comics, musicians and hosted by Downtown Silas Brown. For more information call (407) 648-2591.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

INDIGO GIRLS

Nov. 9 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. America's favorite lesbian musical duo returns with an acoustic show that will have the womyn at the edge of their seats and hungry for more. For more information call (813) 287-8844.

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Oct. 30 at 7 PM in the Atlantic Center at Harris House Annex. Part of the Autumn Lecture Series: Celebration of Voices. Free and open to the public. For more information call (386) 423-1753.

MARK CATESBY'S *EXPLORATION OF LA FLORIDA*

Through Nov. 24 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Forty facsimile prints of Catesby's illustrations from the 1754 publication *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* from the Florida Atlantic University. For more information call (386) 255-0285 or visit <www.maos.org>.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK MITCHELL

Ongoing exhibition at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in the Hester Merwin Ayers Gallery. Mitchell is well known for his photos of celebrities as well as dancers. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call (386) 427-6975.

SOUTH PACIFIC SELECTIONS: WORKS BY PAUL JACOULET

Through Nov. 3 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona. Selections to complement the Micronesian folk art exhibition. (386) 255-0285 or <www.maos.org>.

ORLANDO

THREE WOMEN OF TASTE AND STYLE

Through Sept. 28, 2003 at the Morse Museum of American Art. Twenty-two hats from the Morse collection, spanning some 70 years in time, tell a story of fashion tastes of bygone eras and of three women who enjoyed selecting styles that best suited their own views of themselves. For more information call (407) 645-5311.

MIXED EMOTIONS ART EXPLOSION

Oct. 26-Nov. 26 at the Art Bazaar. A mixture of art media and artist. Artists include Audrey Phillips, John McCarey, Brenda Hofreiter, Scott Haaland, Abe Fried, Jon Miller, Claudia Pandolfi, Tera Staples and many more. Paintings, photography, art furniture, sculptures, mosaics, and more. For more information call (407) 898-8737.

10TH ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA JURIED ART SHOW

Through Nov. 8 at the Mount Dora Center for the Arts. The exhibit will feature original work by Central Florida artists from 11 counties. The media includes painting, drawing, pastels, photography, digital, sculpture, fiber, mixed media, and hand-thrown or hand-sculpted ceramics. For more information please call (352) 383-0880.

HOLOCAUST PROJECT: *FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT*

Through Nov. 3 at the Orlando Museum of Art. This exhibition takes visitors on a journey into one of the darkest periods of modern history through a series of works that include a tapestry, two stained glass pieces and 13 large-scale tableaus. (407) 896-4231 or <www.OMArt.org>.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

PETER W. BROWN: *WALKING DREAMS*

Through Nov. 16 at the Clayton Galleries on South MacDill Avenue. The show consists of oils and watercolors completed by the artist over the past two years while he resided in Sarasota and Portland, Maine. For further information call (813) 831-3753.

RED GROOMS: SELECTIONS FROM THE GRAPHIC WORK

Through Jan. 5, 2003 at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Pete. Features 130 prints and a number of three-dimensional and large-scale works. Grooms is known for his installations of city scenes and taxis, buses, and subway-cars crammed with people. For more information call (727) 896-2667 or visit <www.fine-arts.org>.

OUTDOOR SHOW

Through Oct. 31 at the L'attitude Gallery in Sarasota. The best of steel, glass, and stone to turn a corner of your yard or patio into a focal point. For more information call (941) 373-0767.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ORLANDO

REAL ESTATE MARKETING

Nov. 4 at the Embassy Suites Downtown. Roger Butcher, internationally recognized real estate trainer and speaker will be conducting his highly effective three-hour training program. This presentation contains valuable information on using the Internet to benefit your career. Roger will also share his time-tested methods regarding listing, selling, time-management and self-promotion. For more information call (800) 422-1462.

AUDITIONS

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

PARTY

The internationally successful off-Broadway comedy by David Dillon, directed by Nic Arzen, will be opening at the Suncoast Resort in November for an extended run. Needed are understudies and future replacements for all roles. Nudity is required for all roles. For more information please call (727) 867-1111 ext. 318 or e-mail NicArzen@aol.com.

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"Calendar of Events" is provided on a space available basis and events are listed at Watermark's discretion. Press releases may be mailed to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853-3655; faxed to (407)481-2246; e-mailed to john@watermarkonline.com. Deadline for next issue: Oct. 27.

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New York Times



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LIFESTYLES



PAST OUT WHAT'S SO QUEER ABOUT SONNY AND CHER

Gay and Lesbian History by Paula Martinac

Perhaps no celebrity straight couple has found its career as deeply intertwined with gays and lesbians as Salvatore Bono and Cherilyn Sarkisian LaPierre — better known as Sonny and Cher.

The story that the two met in a lesbian bar is probably apocryphal, though Cher has acknowledged erotic relationships with women in her youth, liaisons that, she later recalled, weren't "something that kept my interest."

What did keep the lanky, deep-voiced singer's interest, though, was the short, charming, goofy crooner 11 years her senior who was initially her roommate, but soon became her lover and in 1964 her husband. Sonny and Cher each had found limited solo success, and their first attempt at working together (touring bowling alleys and skating rinks as "Caesar and Cleo") brought little acclaim.

But in 1965, Sonny wrote a simple tribute to '60s-style love, and with "I Got You Babe," Sonny and Cher made it big. For the next two years, they ruled the rock scene, with hits like "Baby Don't Go" and "The Beat Goes On." But by the end of the decade, their music had lost its audience and

two failed attempts at movie making left them deeply in debt.

The duo's romance frayed and their tensions played out onstage. But the audience loved it, so Cher's put-downs and Sonny's bumbling became trademarks. Their act caught Hollywood's attention, and in January 1972 their own comedy-variety TV series debuted. The show was all camp — from outrageous Bob Mackie costumes to sexualized banter. Sonny and Cher began recording again, and their music career was on the upswing just as their marriage could no longer hold itself together.

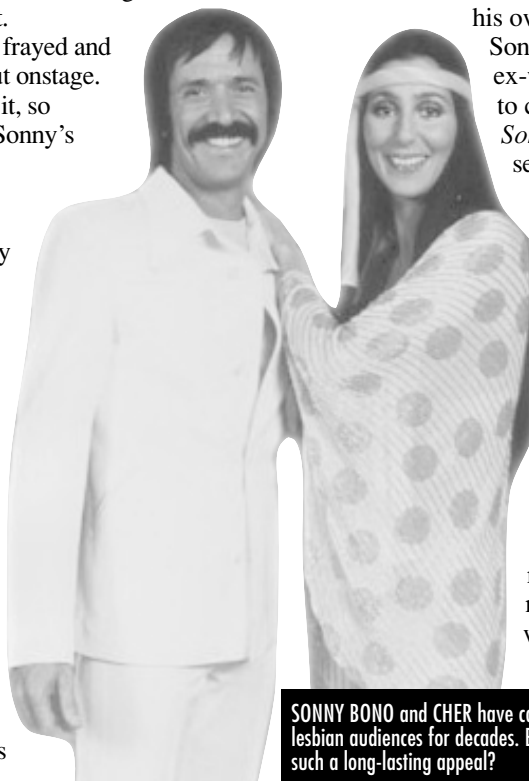
One cause of their breakup was Cher's including with record

producer David Geffen (who came out as gay two decades later) and southern rock guitarist Greg Allman (whom she married five days after her 1975 split from Sonny).

Cher's solo variety show (which had something of a gay sensibility — its debut featured Bette Midler and Elton John) overwhelmed her, and having failed in

his own solo show, Sonny accepted his ex-wife's invitation to create a new *Sonny and Cher* series, which lasted two seasons.

Without abandoning entertainment (he played a theme park owner in the 1988 campy cult film *Hairspray*), post-Sonny-and-Cher Sonny made a bigger mark in the world of politics.



SONNY BONO and CHER have captivated gay and lesbian audiences for decades. But why do they have such a long-lasting appeal?

A successful Palm Springs restaurateur, he was elected mayor of that city in 1988.

Despite having campaigned as a friend of the resort city's visible gay community, the Republican was widely criticized for slighting gays and lesbians personally and legislatively as mayor. In the 1994 Republican landslide, he was elected to Congress, where he consistently voted against the gay community's interests. He died in a skiing accident in 1998, and his wife, Mary, was elected to fill his seat.

Meanwhile, Cher pursued her acting career, nominated for an Oscar for her lesbian role in 1983's *Silkwood*, and winning one for *Moonstruck* four years later.

Cher's music career found new life with upbeat tunes like "One By One" and "Believe" that were embraced by audiences worldwide, but especially by gay men. Her icon status solidified as a VH-1 "Diva," Cher regularly recognizes the "fabulous gentlemen" who flock to her concerts and have consistently boosted her career.

Perhaps the queerest product of the Sonny and Cher partnership, though, was their lesbian daughter Chastity who was outed by the tabloids in 1990, but became a lesbian activist and writer after she came out on her own terms five years later. ▽

"Past Out" has been exploring gay and lesbian history for more than six years. Comments can be sent to Watermark or POColum@aol.com.



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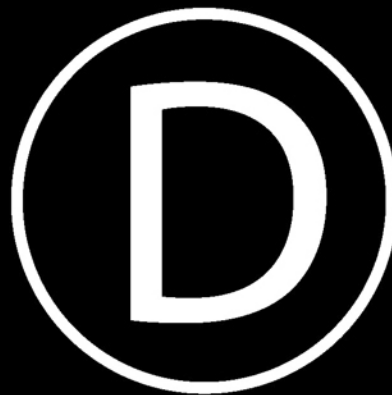
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WATER COLORS

A DIFFERENT SHADE OF JADE

Author Jade Fairall has turned a difficult journey into a successful career. By John Sullivan

LAKE COUNTY - Activist, fruit picker, plumber, bartender, security guard, *Advocate* cover person, journalist, and now published author, Jade Fairall has worn a lot of hats in her lifetime. And they have helped to make her the strong woman that she is today. With the recent publication of *Riddle Maker*, her first book, Fairall finds herself in the spotlight, but not for the first time.

Fairall's journey has not been an easy one. She spent her childhood and teen years in Freemont, Ohio, a less than accepting environment for a young woman coming to terms with her sexuality.

Her parents divorced when she was six and she spent a lot of time with her older sister foraging for food in garbage cans when their alcoholic mother would go on a binge and lock them out of the house.

As she got older, life in Ohio didn't get much better. She was outed in high school and was forced by the school to sit at a desk in the hallway where her peers would spit on her and call her names.

"At my graduation, when I walked up to receive my diploma I grabbed it, turned to face the crowd, and flipped them a double bird before blowing them a kiss," Fairall recalls with a laugh. "I left and never looked back."

Soon after, she decided that Freemont was not the ideal place for a young lesbian, so she packed her life into her van and headed south.

Fairall barely made it to Florida's state line when her van threw a rod. She and her van crawled to Orlando — where she didn't know a soul — at about 40 miles per hour and ended up on Colonial Drive. After finding an ad

for the Parliament House she went there to get a room and something to eat.

"I was broke and didn't know what I was going to do. That's when Bill and Mike, who ran the P House back then, offered me a job," Fairall remembers.

Her friends at Parliament House liked to tease her and say she looked like a little boy. They encouraged her to compete on a talent night as a male impersonator, something she had never done before.

She entered the talent contest at the Palace Club, an after hours bottle club, and barely got a few steps into her act when the crowd swarmed the stage.

"Women and men were tipping me and that was it," recalls Fairall. "I started doing shows at the Palace and at P House. Miss P taught my two left feet how to dance."

Fairall continued to do male impersonation in clubs from Orlando to Houston and even won the Ms. Gay French Quarter New Orleans title in 1979. She was a big part of the gay and lesbian club scene in Orlando for almost two decades at P House, Faces, and the Key Largo Lounge.

Her activism was something that she fell into when some friends heard her ranting and raving about gay rights.

"I was made co-chairman of GRAND, Gay Rights Amendments Never Die. I even went up against Governor Askew asking him at a press conference about gay rights," she remembers.

Writing was something that

Fairall always loved to do. As a child she would write skits for the neighborhood kids to perform. Then in high school she got into some trouble and her teacher told her she needed to write a ten-page fictional piece or she would fail the class.

"I went home and started writing and ended up with over twenty pages. I remember thinking, 'This is punishment?'" Fairall recalls. "I passed her class and she told me that if I didn't pursue writing as a vocation then I was a fool."

Two decades later, when a back injury forced her out of manual labor, Fairall went back to school at Lake-Sumter Community College in Leesburg.

"It was three of the best years of my life. I did

something that I never thought I could do, and that was to go back and get my education," says Fairall.

She became the associate editor and then editor of the college paper and also freelanced for the *Orlando Sentinel Lake County Edition*.

With *Riddle Maker* she decided to take a new approach by having the novel published through Iuniverse.com, a Web-based publisher that prints on demand.

Fairall's says she always has sights on the future. She has completed her second

book, *Alone With Demons*, and has decided that her third book will most likely be autobiographical.

For now, though, she is happy living a somewhat quiet life in Umatilla with Darcie, her girlfriend and public relations wizard. She enjoys her day job as an office manager for Robert Vincent Sims, a.k.a. the Garden Rebel. One thing Fairall isn't ruling out is the prospect of running for political office someday.

"I believe that the only way to change how we are viewed is to speak up and speak out," Fairall says, with more than a

hint of determination in her voice. "If we continue to whisper about ourselves we will never be heard the way we deserve to be heard."

When asked, Fairall says she owes much of her success to her personal philosophy.


"Dream it, see it, do it, be it," says Fairall. "Only you can change the course of events in your life. We are the only ones that change, that can break those chains." ❖

Jade Fairall will conduct a book signing at *Faces* on Nov. 1 at 7 PM. for more information on *Riddle Maker* go to <www.Iuniverse.com>.


WHEN I WALKED UP TO RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA I GRABBED IT, TURNED TO FACE THE CROWD, AND FLIPPED THEM A DOUBLE BIRD



Local author JADE FAIRALL: "If we continue to whisper about ourselves we will never be heard the way we deserve to be heard."



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ST. PETERSBURG

ArtsAlive

Nov. 2 to 10!

Nov. 2

FREE MUSEUM DAY
for Pinellas County residents at seven museums – Florida Holocaust Museum, Florida International Museum, Great Explorations, Museum of Fine Arts, Pier Aquarium, Salvador Dali Museum and Museum of History.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS –
Blue Jeans Concert with the Florida Orchestra at the Coliseum.

AMERICAN STAGE AT THE GARDENS – Theater for children at Sunken Gardens.

ART OF NATURE – Photography exhibit at Sunken Gardens.

FLUX NEIGHBORHOOD ART PARTY – Mirror Lake Shuffleboard Center.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES BROADWAY AT THE BAYFRONT SERIES – Greater Tuna (comedy) at Mahaffey Theater.

Nov. 3
TIMES FESTIVAL OF READING at Eckerd College.

PALLADIUM SHOWCASE – Preview with live performances of the Palladium's upcoming season.

Nov. 6 to 24

AMERICAN STAGE presents *Over the River and Through the Woods* (comedy).

Nov. 7

CREATIVE CLAY CO. presents documentary preview of *Creative Hearts*.

Nov. 7 to 17

ST. PETERSBURG LITTLE THEATRE presents *Sylvia*.

Nov. 8

RHYTHM & BRASS – Music of Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong at the Mahaffey Theater – morning and evening performances.

Nov. 9

PIER AQUARIUM – Make your own arts and crafts at Spa Beach.

JAZZIN' UP MIDTOWN at the Enoch Davis Center with a tribute to Phil Hill.

CREATION ORATORIO BY HAYDN presented by the Florida Orchestra and Master Chorale at Mahaffey Theater.

GALLERY WALK throughout downtown St. Petersburg Saturday evening at 22 participating locations, sponsored by the Downtown Art Association. Don't miss the openings of:

• Annual Holiday Show and Figurative Glass Invitational at the Arts Center; and

• Season of Lights Holiday Show and Teapot & Cup Show at Florida Craftsmen Gallery.

Nov. 10

RED GROOMS: It's Happening! at Museum of Fine Arts, a Nan Colton interactive presentation celebrating current Red Grooms exhibit.

FALL FESTIVAL at Science Center of Pinellas County.

For up-to-date listings or more information on dates, times, addresses, current exhibitions and prices, call 727-893-7111 or visit www.stpete.org.

ArtsAlive Accessibility Ride (\$3 each way) available by calling 727-724-5555. ASL interpreted tours available at museums.

Ask about valuable discounts at art stops!



www.stpete.org

Clones from Page 29

mirrors. Suffice to say that ABBA was probably better off being popular at a time when videos were not prevalent with Ulvaeus' puss prominently displayed.

However, his words have rung true — Bjorn Again has proved quite popular. Since forming in Melbourne, Australia in 1988, the facsimile has amassed more than 2,500 concerts during a career that has spanned 14 years — longer than the original group was together. The doppelganger band has played to sold out audiences at Royal Albert Hall and has recorded several albums.

One clever album, *Erasure-ish*, supplies two covers of Erasure songs as a thank you for Erasure's *ABBA-esque* on which they covered four ABBA songs. Try to wrap your mind around that; the tribute band pays homage to the band that covered the tunes of their inspiration with covers of their songs.

Today Bjorn Again is something of a machine with at least two sets of groups touring the planet. With duplicates of the duplicates, Bjorn Again will be appearing at House of Blues Orlando on November 1... and in the United Kingdom on the same night. In fact from time to time the group holds auditions — if you are musically inclined and look like a '70s Swede, then you too could be a copy of the doubles.

You might think that these ABBA clones treat their subject matter with complete reverence, perhaps keeping an alter with photographs and burning candles, but Bjorn Again does approach their job with a least a little tongue planted in their cheeks. The group's Web site <www.bjornagain.com> tells the tragic tale of how the band members' - Agnetha Falstart, Frida Longstokin, Benny Anderwear and Bjorn Volvo-us — helicopter collided with a giant glittery platform shoe. The accident rendered each of them amnesiac, except for these strange melodies running through their heads.

To the delight of audiences, the four speak with bad Swedish accents.

"I am flattered by everything Bjorn Again do but the accents," weighs in Ulvaeus. "I hope my accent isn't as lousy as his one." (His one?)

Giving credit where credit is due, a tribute band's success is owed in large part to the affection afforded to the original band. According to NorwichBulletin.com: Total U.S. sales of ABBA albums in 2001 were up 32 percent from 2000 sales."



Thank you for the music. ABBA tribute band BJORN AGAIN will play House of Blues on Nov. 1.

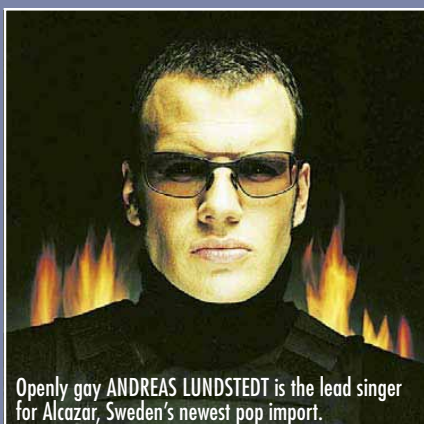


WATER COLORS

Further evidence of ABBA's continuing popularity can be found in the success of *Mamma Mia!*, a musical involving three love stories told through ABBA songs. The musical premiered in London in 1999 then moved to Broadway and is currently touring the United States.

For going on four decades the unlikely chart-toppers have captivated us with their infectious pop arrangements and — with the help of Bjorn Again — we can say “thanks for the music” to this day. ▼

Bjorn Again will appear at House of Blues Orlando on Friday, Nov. 1. To order tickets call (407) 934-BLUE. Tickets may also be purchased at any Ticketmaster. For further information visit <www.hob.com>.



Openly gay ANDREAS LUNDSTEDT is the lead singer for Alcazar, Sweden's newest pop import.

ABBA-ESQUE ALCAZAR

An openly gay singer fronts Sweden's latest pop music sensation. By Arjan Timmermans

After Abba and Ace of Base, Sweden brings forth Alcazar. The group has stormed the European charts with their debut album *Casino*. The record features an energetic blend of old-school disco, eurodance, and poppy drum 'n' base combined with a heavy dose of camp and confidence.

Lead singer Andreas Lundstedt does not seem reluctant to acknowledge his homosexuality, but he stresses that he is protective of his privacy.

“I am not making a secret of the fact that I'm gay, but I don't want to make it a big deal either,” explains the singer. I get a lot of fan mail from teenage girls though. They sent me teddy bears and letters. I have no idea if they know I am gay.”

Glitter galore, Alcazar has also become a huge smash with gay audiences throughout the world with their flamboyant and kitsch live act. The group headlined Sydney's Mardi Gras in March 2002, and also performed at several Pride events in Europe this year.

“The success is very much about our music, our attitude and our appearance,” says Lundstedt. “We don't mind dressing up provocative, outspoken and show some femininity.”

When it comes to openly showing off his male sexuality, Lundstedt says, “I am very comfortable with that. Nothing too racy though, I am not a South Beach go-go boy. God no!”

ST PETERSBURG

November Sizzles in the Sunshine City

Nov. 1

GET DOWN TOWN!

Free block party, Central & 2nd St., 727-393-3597.

Nov. 2 to 10

ARTS ALIVE!

More than 50 events at museums, galleries, and other arts stops. Museum Day (11/2), Art of Nature at Sunken Gardens (11/2), Florida Orchestra Blue Jeans Classic (11/2); Boyd Hill's Art Arbor (11/2-3), Gallery Walk (11/9) and more. 727-893-7111 or www.stpete.org.

Nov. 2 & 3

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES BROADWAY AT THE BAYFRONT - “GREATER TUNA” (comedy) with the original cast. Mahaffey Theater. 727-892-5767.

Nov. 3

TIMES FESTIVAL OF READING - Annual event for book lovers. Eckerd College, Free. 727-892-2358, www.festivalofreading.com.

Opening Nov. 7

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - “QUIDAM” under the Grand Chapiteau (Big Top) at Tropicana Field. 1-800-678-5440, cirquedusoleil.com.

Nov. 8 to 10

RIBFEST 2002 - Best Bar-B-Q Ribs Contest, entertainment, live bands, and more. Vinoy Park, www.ribfest.org.

Nov. 8

RHYTHM & BRASS - An evening of Ellington and Armstrong classics at Mahaffey Theater, 727-892-5767.

Nov. 9

BUNGALOWFEST - Home tours in Historic Kenwood, 29th St. and 3rd Ave. N.

Nov. 9

GALLERY WALK - Tour two dozen galleries downtown Saturday eve. 727-821-6767.

Nov. 15

BATTLE OF THE BAY CULINARY COMPETITION - among Bay Area chefs. Great food. Coliseum. 727-894-1052.

Nov. 21 to 24

Annual SAIL EXPO ST. PETERSBURG - Sail America hosts weekend sailboat show with on-the-water activities, dock & shore displays, seminars and more. Vinoy Park & Marina. 1-800-817-SAIL (7245) or www.sailamerica.com.

Nov. 21 to 24

ST. PETERSBURG FALL BOAT SHOW - 25th annual, largest in-water boat show on Florida's Gulf Coast at the Bayfront Center. 727-892-5767.

Nov. 22

FOUR BITCHIN' BABES - with contemporary singer-songwriters. Mahaffey Theater, 727-892-5767.

Nov. 23 & 24

BONSAI FESTIVAL - Sunken Gardens. 727-551-3100.

Nov. 29

SNOWFEST - Holiday kick-off, tree lighting. 727-893-7465.

Ongoing

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS - “Red Grooms: Selections from the Graphic Work”; “Famous Faces: Celebrity Portraits in Photography”; “Little Luxuries: Baby Rattles and Teethers from the 18th to the 20th Century”; and its impressive collection of French Impressionism, American art, photography, and Steuben glass. 727-896-2667, www.fine-arts.org.

FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM - “Europe Through Our Eyes: Frankfurt London Vienna” - an amazing exhibition of art, artifacts, photographs and holograms from three European museum collections; Permanent collection highlights History, Heritage and Hope, and includes an original boxcar from Nazi-occupied Poland. The fourth largest Holocaust museum in the U.S. 727-820-0100 www.flholocaustmuseum.org.

Complete listings at
www.stpete.org



ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS & MEETINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

BREAKTHROUGH

Networking organization for gays and lesbians in Seminole and Volusia counties. (407)668-6112.

BREVARD LESBIANS

Lesbian social group. (321)951-2172; <www.brevardlesbians.com>.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Member of HIV/AIDS Florida Community Planning Group. Meets at Volusia County Health Department. (904)238-4727.

DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION

Social group of bears, cubs and other friends who congregate, not hibernate. <www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm> or e-mail at gntlbear@comcast.net.

FUN COAST BEARS

Social group that meets the 3rd Sun. of the month at 3 PM at Rumors on Nova Rd., Holly Hill. E-mail bears@funcoastbears.org or go to <www.funcoastbears.org> for more information.

GALBA

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student group. (904) 226-7222 voice mail 333-3000; <www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html>.

GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

Peer counseling and support group. Meets the last Mon. (407)777-9833.

GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD

Guild of gay-friendly businesses. Meets every third Mon.; 7 PM. (386)322-8003; <www.gaydaytona.com>.

OUTREACH, INC.

HIV/AIDS service organization. Offers testing, counseling and support groups. (904)255-5569; <www.outreachinc.org>.

OVER THE RIVER

GLBT and supporters social group for those living in Volusia and Seminole counties. Meets second Fri. (407)400-2879; <http://hometown.aol.com/nolikehypocrites/index.html>.

PFLAG DAYTONA

Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tues.; 7 PM; Hope MCC in Daytona, 500 South Ridgewood Ave. (US1). (386)322-4169; support@pflagdaytona.org; <www.pflagdaytona.org>.

SPECTRUM

Social group for GLBT and supporters. Meets every other Thurs. (904)228-8187; rapunzel69@hotmail.com.

ORLANDO

AA WAKE UP CALL

Twelve-step program. Meets each Sun.; 10 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social group for bears and their admirers. Meets second Sun.; 4 PM; Full Moon Saloon. (407)896-0239; <www.bocf.org>.

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Social group for black and white men — all are welcome. Meets second Sat.; 2 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

BMCO

Big Mans Club of Orlando. Social club for big men and their admirers. Visit <communities.msn.com/BIGMANSClubOFORLANDO/_whatsnew.msnw> or call Ricky at (407)422-6040 or (407)310-7612.

BOOKLOVERS

American Association of University Women social group for those who love to read and talk about books. Meets first Tues. (407)677-1186.

CENTAUR

Central Florida AIDS United Resources. Offers counseling, support groups, educational programs and HIV testing. Phone (407)849-1452. Hotline: (407)841-2437.

CODA

Twelve-step program dealing with codependency. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

COLAGE

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. A youth support group for ages 13-20. (407)897-2266; BardMerlin@aol.com.

CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

Levi/leather social club. Meets first and third Sun.; 4:30 PM; Full Moon Saloon. (407)647-4604.

EVOLVE

Support group for transgender, transsexual and transvestite persons facilitated by a certified sex therapist. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

FREEDOM OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Twelve-step program for overeaters. Meets second and fourth Mon.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

GALA

Gay and Lesbian Association. Valencia Community College student group. Meets each Thurs.; 1 PM; east campus. <www.geocities.com/vccgala>.

GALIXY

Social/support group for gay and lesbian youth and their straight friends. Call Mike McKee for meeting time. (407)282-9685; <www.galixy.org>.

GAP

Gay Asian Pride. Social/support group for GLBT Asians and Pacific Islanders and their friends. Meets first Mon.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

GAY SKATE

Rollerskating night for GLBT and straight people of all ages. First Mon.; 9 PM; Semoran Skateway.

GIRTH AND MIRTH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social club of big men and their admirers. Second and fourth Tues.; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

GLBCC-THE CENTER

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Community Center. Hosts various social groups and offers programs assisting the GLBT community. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

GLBT PARENTS GROUP

Arranges social events for GLBT parents and their children. Initial meetings GLBCC. (407)301-8070; mbwboyf@aol.com.

GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES

A social group for same-gender couples. Various meeting times and monthly events such as potlucks, pool parties, museum trips, etc. Call (407) 644-4486 or visit <www.couples-national.org>.

HARBOR HOUSE

Orange County Center Against Domestic Violence. Crisis Line: (407)886-2856. Community Outreach: (407)895-6099. Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline: (800)500-1119.

JOYRIDERS

GLBT motorcycle riding group. Meets fourth Mon.; 10 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

LAMBDA CAMPING

Gay and lesbian campers. Camping rallies once a month. (407)831-4926.

LOG CABIN CLUB OF ORLANDO

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." Meets fourth Tues.; 6 PM. (407)923-4000; LogCabinOrlando@iname.com.

LONG YANG CLUB

International friends social group for single men and couples of various ethnic backgrounds. (407)324-1846; ifoflor@aol.com.

MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

Twelve-step program and support group for recovering marijuana addicts. Meets Sun.; 11:30 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8172; <www.glbcc.org>.

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

Support group for men 18 and over dealing with coming out. Meets Wed.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

General meeting first Thurs. (407)420-2182.

MISHPUCHA

Jewish gay and lesbian group. Meets at the Center Monday night, 7 PM. Please call 407-895-0706 or e-mail Mishpuchamail@yahoo.com for info.

OPEX

Pansexual support group. Meets third Sat.; 11 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

Community chorus; welcomes everyone. Meets Wed.; John & Rita Lowndes building. (407)841-SING; <www.orlandogaychorus.org>.

ORLANDO MEN'S DISCUSSION

Discussion group for gay men. Meet Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS

O-QUAC. Social/resources group for GLBT academics and intellectuals. cschippe@mail.ucf.edu; tpugh@mail.ucf.edu.

ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB

A gay men's group to network with other professionals meets monthly at different establishments. Beach outings, parties, and community building activities. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/flausaguy/myhomepage/club.html> for more.

OWLS

Support group for women over 40 and the people who love them. Last Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Wed.; 7:30 PM; First United Methodist Church. (407)236-9177.

POLY-CENTRAL

For the polyamorous, poly-curious, poly-friendly or those interested in the concept of loving more than one person. Meets once a month. <www.polycentralfl.com, (321) 984-8463 or polycentral@mail.com.

POSITIVE SUPPORT

Support group for individuals who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Meets Thurs.; 6:30 PM; Congregational Church of Mount Dora. (352)589-1300.

PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Social/support group for gay and bisexual men over 50 and younger men who admire them. Meets last Sat.; 3:30 PM; Parliament House Footlight Theatre. (407)884-9834; PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com.

PRINCIPLE BEFORE PERSONALITIES

Twelve-step AA program geared towards diversity and fellowship. Meets Fri.; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

PRISM-EA

Emotions Anonymous. Twelve-step program for one's individual progress and movement towards health and emotional recovery. Meets second and fourth Sat.; 9:20 AM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

RAIN

Rights and Integration Now. Social/support group for any gender or orientation 18 and over. Meets Tue.; 6 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

GLBT group of Democrats and Independents. Meets fourth Mon.; 6:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

RAINBOW NA

Twelve-step narcotics recovery program geared toward gay community. Meets Wed.; 8 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

RAINBOW SPIRIT

Discussion group for gay and bisexual men about lifestyle choice and spiritual development. Meets at Center of Light Church & Spiritual Center. (407)228-0101.

REFLECTIONS

Social/support group for men and women of any gender or orientation ages 20-30. Meets Wed.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

S.H.A.R.E.

A Social Forum for Singles: Weekly Presentation, Discussion and Social Exercise. Make new friends, network with singles and participate in monthly outings. Alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays at GLBCC. \$10 fee, \$5 for students. Contact Joe Salg @ 407-716-7207 for information or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/share-orlando>

SISTAH CIRCLE

Support group for lesbians of color. (407)443-6696; <www.mysistahcircle.bizland.com>; littleafrica77@hotmail.com.

SUNSHINE RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Social group for both hearing and non-hearing gays. (407)852-0515.

TEEN ACT (AIDS COMMUNITY THEATER)

Group of teens and young adults 13 and older who use theatre to educate others on HIV/AIDS. Meets Thurs.; 6:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sun.; 2 PM; GLBCC. (321)549-0713; <www.tridentcfl.org>.

UCF GLBSU

University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union. Meets Tue.; 8 PM; Student Union Building on Main Orlando Campus. ucfglbsu@ucf.edu.

WILLOW

Social group for women who live in Lake County. Meets second Sun.; Mt. Dora Chamber of Commerce. (352)383-2165.

THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE

Social/support group for all womyn of all orientations. Meets Thurs.; 7:30 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

WE 2 HAVE PARENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Group formed to bring awareness to same sex parenting issues. Meets bimonthly; 7 PM; GLBCC. (407)228-8272; <www.glbcc.org>.

TAMPA BAY AREA

BAMACT

Bay Area Men of All Colors Together is Tampa Bay's local chapter of the National Organization of Black and White Men Together. We are a gay interracial group with a social, political and educational focus. Call (727)461-2617 or visit <www.geocities.com/bamact_fl> for more information.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Support group for friends and family who've experienced a recent loss of a loved one. Meets second and fourth Thurs.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)871-2232.

BROTASSPEAK

Discussion group that touches on issues that are germane to same-gender-loving men of color. Meets the second Sun. of each month, 5 PM at the Equality Florida Offices, 3708 Swann Ave., Tampa. (813)236-8809.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



ORGANIZATIONS

CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS

Lesbian, feminist chorus. Meets Sun.; 6:15 PM; MCC Tampa. (813)679-7585; CrescendoSings@aol.com.

THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

GLBT community center. Offers phone referrals, meeting space, resource center and more. Located next to Equality Florida, 3708 Swann Ave. (813)875-8116; <www.tampacenter.org>.

EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH

Meets third Thurs.; 6:30 PM; 3708 W. Swann Ave.. (813)870-3735.

EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS

Meets last Thurs.; 7 PM; Positive Expressions. (727)527-3197.

EZRA GROUP

S.A.G.E. sponsored support group for GLBT persons who have experienced a recent death or loss. Meets second Sat.. (813)932-4359.

F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP

Writers workshop for PLWAs. Meets Thurs.; 6 PM. (727)327-2969

FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tues., from 6:30 - 8 PM at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727)895-4439.

FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP

Meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727)895-4439.

FACE TO FACE YOUTH GROUP

Youth group for GLBT and their supporters ages 14-21. Meets Sun.; 7 PM. (813)935-4101; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

FACT TRANSGENDER HIV/ AIDS GROUP

Meets the first and third Friday of the month at 136 4th St. N. St. Pete. For info call (727)895-4439.

FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813)832-2999.

FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. <www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogrp/>.

FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES

Social group for same gender couples. (813)360-6852; (727)347-7412.

FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Pasco County's only AA meeting for GLBT individuals. Meets Sun.; 7 PM; Spirit of Life MCC. (727)849-6962.

FRIENDS CLUB

Gay men's social club for non-alcoholic gatherings. (813)960-1664.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY

Not-for-runners only club orientated to the gay and lesbian community. Meets Sat.; 9 AM; Old Hyde Park Village and Wed.; 6:45 PM; Fred Ball Park. (813)891-7098.

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Wed.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Fri.; 10 AM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets every evening; 8:15 PM; 3644-A Henderson Blvd.. (813)273-8741.

GAY FUN CLUB

Movies, amusement parks, dinig out, water parks, beaches, picnics, etc. 18 and up. Contact Steve at (727)344-0512.

GAY SINGLES

Gay Singles for Health and Monogamy. Social group for sober non-smokers seeking a lifemate. (727)410-6687.

GAY SKATE

Tue.; 9 PM; United Skates of America. (813)876-5826; <members.aol.com/tampagayskate>.

GLBT PARENTS

Support group for GLBT parents. Meets second Thurs.; Equality Florida. (813)831-8207; <www.glbtparents.homestead.com>.

GLSEN TAMPA BAY

Organization working to end anti-gay bias in Hillsborough County schools. Meets third Fri.. (813)872-6393; GLSENTB@aol.com.

GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE

Meets third Wed.. (813)960-3022.

HIV/AIDS SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by Works of Mercy, Catholic Coalition of People with AIDS. Meets Thurs.; 7 PM; Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church. (813)237-3421.

INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG

Meets at UU Church of St. Petersburg. (727)898-3294.

L.I.G.H.T./FACT

Free dinner on the first Tues. of the month. 140 4th St. N at the St. Petersburg Cathedral Parish Hall. (727)895-4439.

THE LINE

Gay & Lesbian Crisis/Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. Phone volunteers 7-11 PM; computerized system 11-7 PM. (727)586-4297.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY

Inclusive, diverse Republicans, dinner/coffee 2nd Tues., 7 PM at HoHo's chinese/9 PM at Different Grind. Misc. social and political events. (813)789-8212, <www.lcrtampabay.com>, or LCRTampaBay@yahoo.com.

L.O.L.A.

Lesbians On the Lookout Association. Social club for womyn. (813)948-0659; pianolez@aol.com.

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES

A community services organization offering HIV/AIDS case manage-

ment, counseling services, referrals and thrift store. In Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. (727)321-3854. <www.metrocharities.org>.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Open meeting for gays and lesbians. Meets Thurs.; 8:15 PM; GALAA Club. ecg@tampabay.rr.com.

OUT OF THE CLOSET THRIFT STORES

All proceeds benefit AIDS and breast cancer patients in St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay areas. Donations of clothing and household items are needed daily. Located at 631 4th St. North, St. Pete. (866)250-1959.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB

Gay, lesbian and bisexual friendly outdoor activity club. (813)962-8459.

PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets second Tue.; 7 PM; 5800 Nebraska. (813)831-8207; onecoolguy@hotmail.com.

OPERATION H.O.P.E. OF PINELLAS, INC.

St. Petersburg AIDS organization dedicated to the needs of the minority community. (727)822-2437; POCAS@aol.com.

PFLAG PINELLAS

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets fourth Sat.; 10 AM; Piccadilly Cafeteria. (727)345-7688; (727)821-2140; PFLAG@tampabay.rr.com.

POSITIVE COFFEE

Alcohol-free social group for HIV+ people, their friends and family. Meets Sat.; 6 PM; Positive Expressions Gallery. (727)384-9305.

POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

Non-profit organization working to empower HIV+ individuals by developing and supporting their self-expression and educating the public through presentations of creative work. (727)384-9305; <www.positiveexpressions.org>.

PRIDE AL ANON FAMILY GROUP

Support group for anyone who has a realitive, friend, partner, co-worker, etc., who has a drinking problem that is affecting their lives. Meets Fri.; 6:30 PM; King of Peace Church. (727)323-5857.

PRIDE ALLIANCE

Meets second and fourth Thurs. during the summer; every Thurs. in fall; 8 PM; USF Marchall Center. (813)974-4297.

PRIDE TAMPA BAY

The general meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month. (813)854-8160 or <www.pridetampabay.com>.

PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY

Social group for mature gay and bisexual men and those younger men who admire them. (813)231-8817; <http://www.primetimerswww.org/tampabay/PTTB_c.html>.

PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY

AIDS service organization dedicated to disseminating updated and accurate information about HIV/AIDS. (813)238-2887; <www.pwactampa.homestead.com>.

RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB

Investment club for the GLBT community. Meets monthly. (813)962-8459.

RAINBOW FILM SERIES

A series of GLBT films, 7 PM, 2nd Saturday of each month except Oct., in the social hall of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, FMI (727)531-7704.

RAINBOW READERS

Discusses a new book each month. Meets second Mon.; 7:30 PM. (813)221-1423.

RAINBOW SURF 'N' SAFARI CLUB

Monthly gay days in Tampa. Busch Gardens: fourth Sun.; Adventure Island: second Sat.; Brandon restaurant tour: second Sat. at 5:30 PM. carl813@hotmail.com; <http://www.geocities.com/southbeach/wharf/6587>.

RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

Florida's largest gay and lesbian travel organization. (813)414-9933; (800)881-3600.

SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

A twelve-step program that helps hetero and homosexual men and women understand and recover from unhealthy compulsive sexual behavior. (727) 896-SLAA or <www.tampabayslaa.com>.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Gay male non-sexual nudist group. Meets monthly. (813)237-2436.

STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK

Starburst of Pinellas Park, support group for cross-dressing and transgendered persons, regardless of stage. Meetings at 7 PM on the third Saturday of every month. Call Georgia at (727)523-8760 for more information.

SUN COAST LEATHER CLUB

Levi/leather social club. Meets second and fourth Fri.; 9:30 PM. Member SECC. (727)586-5847; Sncitthr@aol.com.

SUNCOAST PRIDE

Meets third Tuesday, Waterside Lounge, Port Richey. (727)841-7900.

TAMPA BAY BEARS

Bears social club. Meets second Fr.; 7:30 PM; Suncoast Eagle Bar. <www.TampaBayBears.com>.

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

Meets second Tue. (813)237-3751; <www.tbbg.org>.

TAMPA BAY GAY COOKING CLUB

Meets monthly in the Tampa Bay Area. For more information visit <www.alexfrades.com/tampagaycookingclub>.

TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; 7 PM; Old Springs Theatre. (727)865-9004.

TAMPA BAY NATURISTS

Gay male non-sexual nudist group. (813)265-4005. tbn@tampabay.rr.com <www.tampabaynaturists.org>.

TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.

Pasco and Hernandez chapters. Meet first Sun.; Oakhill Hospital. Citrus County chapter. Meets second Sun.; Cellar Pub. (727)863-6112.

TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Periodic social gatherings for both hearing and non-hearing gays. (813)236-3123.

TRUE EXPRESSIONS

Offers weekly support groups and recreational and social activities for young people dealing with issues concerning sexual orientation with gay, lesbian and straight advisors. (727)586-4297.

WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

Bear club. Meets first Sun.; DTs. (727)824-7810; info@westfloridagrowlers.com; <www.westfloridagrowlers.com>.

WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPA BAY

A diverse mix of womyn that do not support intra-community prejudice, separatism, or discrimination of any kind. Meets Sundays at 3 PM at Gulfport Beach. Check their Web site for activities, polls and other discussions <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomynsExchangeTampabay>.

SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

Watermark publishes information regarding organizations as a service to the local GLBT community. We cannot guarantee the legitimacy of any organization, and in many cases have no knowledge of the organization. Requests for listings or changes to listing must be submitted in writing to Watermark.

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

ALEX'S RESTAURANT

Homestyle cooking better than mom's! 104 Patricia Avenue, Dunedin. (727)736-6163

CRAVE

Daytona's new place for innovative cuisine. Martini and piano lounge, live entertainment. 642 S. Atlantic Ave., Ormond Beach. (386) 677-1006.

FLAMING-O RESTAURANT & CAFE

An elegant restaurant featuring fine dining at the SunCoast Resort. 3000 34th St South, St. Pete. (727)867-1111

GEORGIE'S ALIBI

This upbeat video bar and restaurant with huge windows and a streetfront patio draws patrons from Tampa and Sarasota. Dance floor, pool, darts, shows, and good food. 3100 3rd Ave. N., St. Pete. (727) 321-2112. <www.georgiesalibi.com>.

HOT OLIVES

"Family" friendly neighborhood cafe with extensive wine menu and outdoor dining in beautiful garden setting. 463 W. New England Ave., Winter Park. (407)629-1030

HOUSE OF BLUES

Mississippi-Delta inspired cuisine is featured in the restaurant next door to the world-famous concert hall in Downtown Disney. 1490 Lake Buena Vista Dr. (407)934-2583

LOGAN'S BISTRO

Quaint bistro dining just outside the Virginia/Mills district. Happy hour 5:30 to 7:30. 802 Virginia Dr., Orlando. (407)898-5688

MELTING POT

The perfect date restaurant where you cook you own four-course fondue meal.

Clearwater -

25822 US Hwy 19 North (727)797-4426

Longwood -

145 Wekiva Springs Rd. #161

(407)862-8773

Maitland -

500 E. Horatio Ave. (407)628-1134

Orlando -

7549 W. Sand Lake Rd. (407)903-1100

Sarasota -

1055 S. Tamiami Tr. #112 (941)265-2658

AIDS MANASOTA

AIDS service organization. Offers peer counseling, testing, activities, support groups and social events. (941)954-6011; aids-manasota@prodigy.net; <www.aidsmanasota.com>.

ALSO

GLBT youth group. (941)252-2576; jbalso@aol.com; also.executivedirector@verizon.net.

GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE

Provides information about local faith, social, support organizations and events to the GLBT community. (9941)923-INFO.

GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com or jimbofla@yahoo.com.

GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941)377-9043; <www.gulfoastmenschorus.org>.

PFLAG SARASOTA

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tue.; 7:30 PM; Unitarian Church. (941)378-3536.

PRIMETIMERS SARASOTA

Social group for mature gay and bisexual men and those younger men who admire them. (941)359-8212; ptimes@tampabay.rr.com; <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/ehurley/ehurley/>.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD

Meets third Mon.; 6 PM; Quay. (941)953-8419; <www.swfbg.org>.

St Petersburg -

2221 4th Street North (727)895-6358

MELTING POT *cont.*

Tampa -

13164 N. Dale Mabry (813)962-6936

MISE EN PLACE

Neo American food and wine. Open for lunch and dinner. 442 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. (813)254-5373

PARLIAMENT HOUSE RAINBOW CAFE

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served in the comfortable cafe of this Orlando landmark. 410 N. Orange Blossom Tr. (407)425-7571

RESTAURANT K

Formerly Cafe Allegre, located in the heart of College Park, this restaurant is truly a food, wine and art experience. 2401 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)872-2332

THE COFFEE HOUSE OF THORNTON PARK

A great spot for lunch or for a cup of their specialty coffee and a pastry. 712 E. Washington St., Orlando. (407) 426-8989

TOOJAY'S

Popular deli style restaurant. Try the potato pancakes.

Orlando locations -

Marketplace at Dr. Phillips (407)355-0340

Colonial Plaza (407)894-1718

Waterford Lakes Town Centre

(407)249-9475

Altamonte Springs -

Palm Springs Shopping Center

(407)830-1770

Lake Mary -

Lake Mary Centre (407)833-0848

SPIRITUALITY

SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS



POTTER'S HOUSE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Tampa's Potter's House Fellowship, a spirit-filled ministry offering hope and the love of Christ for all people, is celebrating four years of outreach with a special service at 9:30 AM on Nov. 3. Pastor Robert Morgan welcomes Pastor Doug Clanton from Phoenix for a morning of music and ministering. For more information on the "Homecoming Reunion" call (813) 238-6330.

PASTORS GROUP PROTESTS ANNUAL NEW ORLEANS GAY FESTIVAL

Christian pastors are leading a protest campaign against an annual gay celebration in the French Quarter that they say features lewdness, nudity and public sex. The Rev. Grant E. Storms, who organized the campaign, was one of more than a dozen New Orleans-area pastors who spoke at a City Hall protest on Oct. 11, calling on Mayor Ray Nagin and the City Council to revoke Southern Decadence's permits and ban the festival. City officials have not responded to the protests and did not come out of their offices during the demonstration.

SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACECOAST

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Open and welcoming congregation is located at 1124-FF Beville Rd., Daytona Beach. Contact Chris at (386)441-8431.

HOPE MCC

All faiths are welcome at 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. Services are Sunday at 11 AM and Thursday at 7 PM. (904) 254-0993. Rev. Jim Lynch, Pastor.

ORLANDO

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO

Worship in a gay-friendly environment every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Downtown location at 1901 E. Robinson St. (407) 898-3621. Rev. Marni Harmony, Minister.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORT GROUP

Nondenominational support group open to anyone affected by HIV/AIDS. Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 PM at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 5900 Oleander Dr. (407) 277-3939.

INTEGRITY

Monthly meetings for gay Episcopalians. Newcomers always welcome. Call Irv at (407)895-4749.

JOY MCC

All are welcome at worship services held each Sunday at 8:30 AM, 10 AM, 11:30 AM, and 7 PM at church building, 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave. Taize meditation and prayer on Wednesday at 7 PM. (407) 894-1081 or <www.joymcc.com>. Rev. Carol Trissell, Senior Pastor.

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

An affirming environment for gay men who wish to begin or continue their faith journey. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at First United Methodist Church, 142 E. Jackson St. (407) 895-5368.

MEN'S INNER JOURNEY

A spiritually-based transformation-oriented workshop for gay and bisexual men. Community activities include monthly meditations, pot luck dinners, brunches, pool parties, BBQs. Visit <www.mensinnerjourney.com> for more information or call Mike at (407) 859-8832 or Dan at (407) 895-1194

ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

Everyone is welcome at Sunday Celebration, 10:30 AM at the Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Bookstore, youth church, classes, counseling available. (407) 673-3030. Cath DePalma and John DePalma, ministers.

PATHWAYS MINISTRIES & CHURCH

A non-liturgical bible-based church for all, held at the GLBCC Center every Sunday at 6 PM. (407) 425-4527.

SOUL-UTIONS

Every Mon. from 7-9 PM at the Center. Non-denominational. Personal empowerment group that's fun and enriching. (407)484-8751.

UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSLIST SOCIETY

Religion for open minds. Sunday: religious education 9:30 AM, service 10:30 AM. 11648 McCulloch Rd., East Orlando. (407) 737-4018 or <www.uuus.orlando.fl.uaa.org/>.

UPLIFT MINISTRIES, INC.

Minority-focused spiritual ministry meets Sundays at 10:50

AM at the House of Power, 750 S. Orange Blossom Tr. Liberation discussion Tuesday at 8 PM. HIV counseling/testing Wednesday at 6 PM. (407) 839-5051 or email upcenter@bellsouth.net.

TAMPA BAY

AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gay-affirming liturgical church meets for Sunday Mass at 10:30 AM, 7813 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa. (813) 238-6060.

BETH RACHAMIM SYNAGOGUE

Growing reform congregation with special outreach to the gay and lesbian community. Sabbath services are every Friday at 8 PM, 719 Arlington Ave. N, St. Petersburg. (727) 822-7503 or <www.bethrachamim.org>.

BREATH OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH

An all-affirming and nondenominational ministry rooted in Christ and biblically based, pastored by Rev. J. Ricc Rollins, II. Service is at 10:30 AM. At the Doubletree Hotel, 4500 West Cypress Street, Tampa Bay. (813) 873-1889.

DIGNITY OF TAMPA BAY

Mass for GLBT Catholics, their families and friends on Sundays at 6 PM at King of Peace MCC, 3150 5th Ave., St. Petersburg. A social follows. (813) 238-2868 or <info@dignitytampabay.org>.

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH

All are welcome at this Christian church that offers a variety of ministries and counseling services. 1025 7th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. (727) 823-1806 or <www.christcornerstone.com>. Rev. Joyce Stone, Pastor.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

Part of the "More Light Presbyterians" seeking full participation of GLBT people of faith. Services are Sundays at 10:30 AM at 5 Patricia Ave., Dunedin. (727) 733-2956 or <www.faith-pc.org>.

FRANCISCAN CENTER

Mass for the lesbian/gay community on Sundays at 7 PM at the Franciscan Center, 3010 Perry Ave., Tampa. (813)229-2695.

FRANCIS HOUSE

A non-profit, interfaith day respite center for those affected by HIV/AIDS. (813) 237-3066 or <www.francishouse.org>.

INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

All are welcome at this support group for members of the GLBT community within the Episcopal church. Meets the 1st Sunday of each month at 6 PM at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. (813) 988-5283.

INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

Giving support to GLBT Unitarian Universalists and their heterosexual allies. (727) 531-7704.

KING OF PEACE MCC

Worship services are at 10 AM each Sunday at 3150 5th Ave N., St. Petersburg. Prayer/Communion service is at 6:30 PM each Thursday, followed by dinner and bingo. (727) 323-5857.

MCC OF TAMPA

Liturgical and Evangelical Christianity. Worship services Sunday at 10:30 AM. Mid-week dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM, with worship at 7 PM. 408 E. Cayuga St. (813) 239-1951 or UFMCC Tampa@aol.com. Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd, Pastor.

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VATICAN PREPARING TO EXCLUDE GAY MEN FROM PRIESTHOOD

The Catholic News Service (CNS), the *Washington Post* and other media outlets are reporting this week that the Vatican has drafted documents that will direct the church to prevent gay men from entering the seminary or becoming ordained.

The document will formally reinforce a "don't ask, don't tell" situation within the priesthood. The CNS reports that the draft, which was penned by the Congregation for Catholic Education, is currently being

distributed to church officials for review.

According to sources, the church had been considering the issue for many years but the document's inception came on the heels of the Catholic sex abuse scandal that has shaken the American Catholic church.

"Some in the Vatican will use any excuse to further their agenda of repressing gay people," said Marianne Duddy, executive director of Dignity USA. "We're deeply disappointed but not surprised."

SOULFORCE CONFRONTS FALWELL'S ANTI-GAY RHETORIC

LYNCHBURG, Va. - Anti-Muslim and anti-gay remarks made by Christian fundamentalist Reverend Jerry Falwell are the focus of protests and vigils to be held on Oct. 26 and 27 outside Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA. Hundreds of GLBT and allied supporters of Soulfence will descend on Lynchburg that weekend to confront Falwell for his anti-gay and anti-Muslim rhetoric.

According to reports, statements made by Falwell on a CBS television last Sunday calling the founder of Islam a terrorist sparked rioting in India, which killed five people and injured 47 others Friday.

"Words have power to hurt and kill, and Jerry Falwell must repent for his words," said Rev. Mel White, co-founder of Soulfence. "Falwell is notorious for his anti-gay statements. We have been saying for years that fundamentalist anti-gay rhetoric leads to suffering and death for GLBT people, and now we can say it also leads to death for Muslims."

"We must stand together against the fear-mongering tactics of the fundamentalists among us, whether the fundamentalists are Muslim or Christian — for fundamentalism does not represent the loving spirit of either faith," White said at a joint press release issued by Soulfence and the gay Muslim organization Al-Fatiha.

Rev. White and his partner Gary Nixon leased a home across the street from Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church last month and have been attending services at the church, but Falwell has refused to meet with them since they became neighbors.

people. Sunday services are at 10 AM at 2119 West Gray Street. (813) 238-6330 or <www.pottershousefellowship.com> or PoHoFellow@aol.com.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

Worship service at 10:30 AM each Sunday at 4133 Thys Rd., New Port Richey. Night services of prayer and praise on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. (727) 849-6962 or <www.jord1.com/Spirit> or pastorandy@earthlink.net. Rev. Andy Sidden, Pastor.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Evangelical Anglican Church — a progressive gay-affirming church in the Anglican tradition. Call (813) 258-0750.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BROOKSVILLE

Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM at the Pines Conference Center, 7029 Cedar Lane, Brooksville. Call (352) 796-4457 or rbkeim@gte.net. Chaplain Bob Keim.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

Worship services at 11 AM Sundays, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

Open and welcoming congregation worships Sundays at 10:30 AM at 2470 Nursery Rd., Clearwater. (727) 531-7704.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERSBURG

Worship services are at 11 AM each Sunday, 719 Arlington Ave. N. (727) 898-3294.

UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY

Outreach by Unitarian Universalists to the local GLBT community. For more information call (727) 531-7704, ask for Rev. Abhi Janamanchi.

UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY

Sunday meetings at 9:45 AM, service at 11 AM. 710 Crenshaw Lake Rd, Lutz. (813)909-9590 or visit <cttampa.tripod.com>. Rev. Bob and Ruth Fatur, ministers.

SARASOTA

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

Rev. Nancy Wilson leads traditional worship services at 9:15 AM, and a contemporary service at 11 AM. 7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd. (941)355-0847 or Trinity1srq@aol.com.

CONGREGATION B'NAI EMMUNAH

Reform Judaism synagogue. Shabbat Evening Services are at 8 PM every Friday with Rabbi Shimon Moch. 3374 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 938-9000 or <www.bnaiemmunah.org>.

DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

Mass for GLBT Catholics, their families and friends on Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. (941)359-9504 or <www.dignitysarasota.com>.

SOULFORCE

An interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against GLBT people. Meets the first Tuesday of each month at the ALSO drop in center, 1624 Ringling Blvd. Contact Luann Conaty at (941) 493-9036, e-mail Soulfence.swflorida@verizon.net, or visit <www.soulforce.org>.

SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

Meets at 11 AM on Sundays for Worship & Celebration with Rev. Dr. Sherry L. Kennedy. 3276 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL. (941)484-7068 or e-mail scmcc@mindspring.com.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

This welcoming congregation with an openly gay minister features worship services at 10:30 AM each Sunday, 3975 Fruitville Rd. (941) 371-4974. Rev. Don Beaudreault, Minister.

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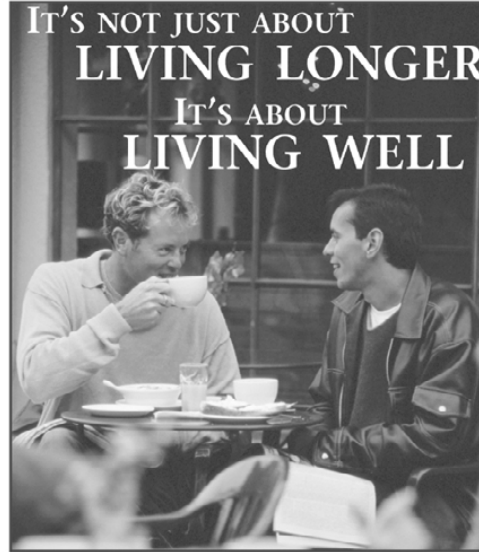


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Womyn's Fest from Page 29

they plan on adding a tent that will accommodate more campers. The only thing to worry about then is the 747s — otherwise known as mosquitoes — buzzing around. (Don't forget your Deep Woods Off and you'll be fine.)

Women come out of the woodwork to experience the Withlacoochee festival. They make the road trip from all over Florida, although the majority of the participants are from Tampa Bay. Woodrum says he expects anywhere from 800 to 1,000 women this year. He also expects the age groups to "round the spectrum." In the past, women anywhere from 18 to 78 have attended, with the majority in their 30s. Now that's a selection!

Not only does Sawmill's relaxed and comfortable environment set the mood, but the performers themselves bring an amazing energy and spirit to the festival.

The music kicks off on Friday and doesn't stop until Sunday. Shannon considers the festival "a launch pad for entertainers to show off their talent."

The musical variety is also astounding, ranging from soulful jazz to country to folk and even to Christian music. Withlacoochee is definitely a festival where up-and-coming artists can be enjoyed in an intimate setting.

Kristen Hart is one of the performers people will be mesmerized by. Her chords seem to pour effortlessly from her acoustic guitar. She could easily be lumped into the category of folk, but her music is so much more than that. She combines haunting vocals with jazz, blues, and folk beats to create her own style. With the lack of meaningful lyrics in music today, she is a refreshing deviation from the norm.

Hart has had quite a few gigs around Orlando recently, but if you haven't had a chance to check her out yet, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Ruth King is another musician whose energy will take this festival to a whole other level. Although some might compare her to Melissa Etheridge, it isn't fair to compare her to anyone. Ruth King has formed her own style that starts with her soul and travels through her fingers to the strings of her guitar and finally erupts out of her voice. The result is truly magic. I've had the pleasure of seeing her perform at the House of Blues where she literally stopped me in my tracks. A self-taught artist, the Orlando-based singer

seems at home wherever she performs.

On the comedy end of the festival, Michele Balan headlines the festival. Originally from New York, this comedian is edgy, witty, and full of attitude. She has performed all over the country and has appeared on many TV networks. Balan is the type of woman you want to invite over for dinner and drinks. Her humor is down to earth and relatable, but still absolutely hysterical. Her stand-up act touches on everything from gay bowling to her musical rendition of Celine Dion songs. To watch a New Yorker — complete with accent — try to put up a tent will be comedy enough.

Have I mentioned the nudity yet? Oh yes, my personal favorite part: the clothing optional pool. As if we needed an excuse at a women's festival to take our clothes off. For the more shy, don't worry, you can wear as much or as little as you like. What could be better than



A self-taught singer and songwriter, the Orlando-based RUTH KING will bring her inspiring act to the Sawmill from Nov. 1 - 3.

live music? Live music and naked women.

And for all of you aspiring drag kings out there, bring your tuxes and solutions for world peace. This year boasts the first ever Mr. Sawmill Drag King contest to find a king worthy of sitting on the throne next to Miss Sawmill. The pageant includes a question and answer portion and a formalwear competition. Be as conservative or flashy as you want, but don't forget to pack your bulge!

Tickets to the Withlacoochee Womyn's Music & Comedy Festival are still available, but get them quick. This year promises to be the most exciting show yet. Just \$25 gets you all access to three days of live music and comedy performances. For tickets and information, call (352) 583-0664 or visit www.flsawmill.com. ▼

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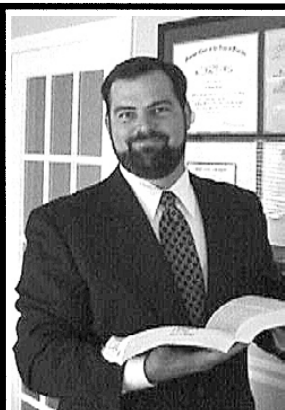
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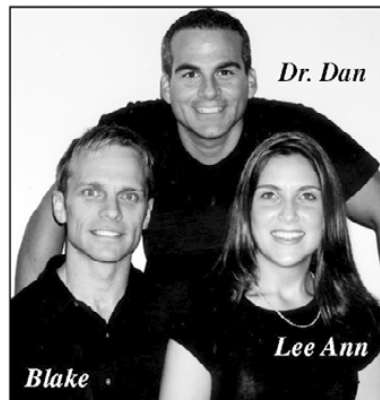
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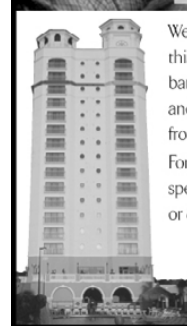
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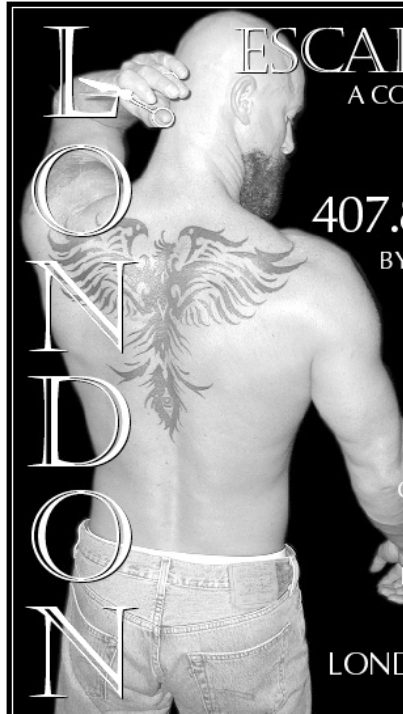
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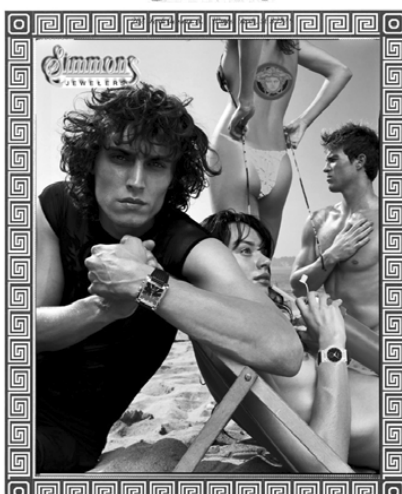
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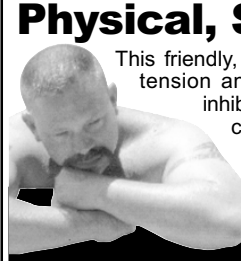
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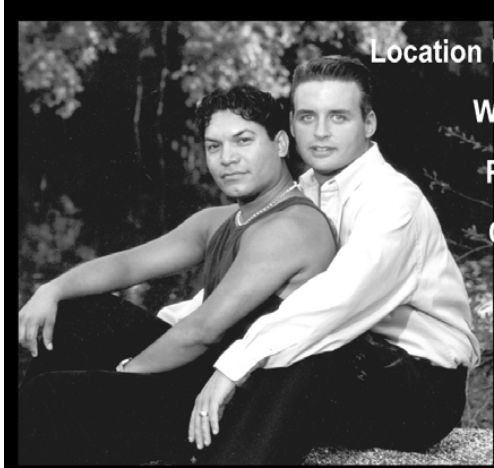
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TAMPA BAY ATHLETES HEAD DOWN UNDER

TAMPA - Twenty athletes from Tampa Bay's gay and lesbian community will head to Sydney, Australia to participate in the 2002 Gay Games as a part of Team Tampa Bay.

Team Tampa Bay was founded in 1997 by the current president and competitive wrestler Lou Hidu. The team went to the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam with 35 athletes and came home with fourteen medals, two of which were gold.

"We have a number of past medal winners going to Sydney to represent us, and I think that we have some really strong competitors in other fields," says Hidu. "I am confident that Team Tampa Bay will bring home a gold medal in wrestling this time."

The Gay Games, which runs Nov. 2 - 9, is a quadrennial athletic and cultural event that brings gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered athletes together from

around the world. Athletes compete in both traditional and non-traditional sporting events like bowling, aerobics, golf, wrestling, figure skating, swimming, and track and field competitions.

Hidu says he will not be going to Sydney with his team this time due to the cost of the trip coupled with the fundraising difficulties that the team has faced in the last year. The goal of their fundraising has always been to provide financial aid to athletes who would not otherwise be able to go. A number of factors made fundraising particularly difficult during the last year, one of which was the events of Sept. 11.

"I think that so many people gave to charities after 9-11 that consequently many non-profits suffered later on down the road," Hidu explains. "It's sort of like charity fatigue. Plus the economic downturn had an effect on a lot of people."

One of their major sponsors for the



Members of Team Tampa Bay will compete in the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney from Nov. 2 - 9.

1998 Games came through a grant from the Sanderson Foundation, a local charitable organization that gives to gay and lesbian causes. The team applied for the same assistance this year but was told that the foundation would be unable to help this time.

Hidu says that looking back he's a little disappointed that his group wasn't more proactive when it came to fundraising.

"With fundraising, in order to make money you need to spend money. And if you have no money to spend then it's really difficult," says Hidu. "Team members dug deep into our own pockets to keep the team going until we were able to raise funds."

Team Tampa Bay was able to raise enough funds for three scholarships, which they did through letter solicitations and actual presentations to groups within the community. Jim Garciga Travel came through for them in the form of a cruise that they raffled off, while additional sponsorship came from George's Alibi, the Pharaohs, and Larry Fisher, CPA.

Although the Gay Games, as visualized by the event's founder Tom Waddell, is an opportunity for any gay man or woman to strive for their personal best within the arena, there are many athletes who feel that the sports have taken a back seat to the "culture" and partying.

"This has been a real problem within the federation because there are people saying this is a sporting event while

others are saying it is a cultural event," says Hidu. "My personal feelings on this issue is I think we have enough circuit parties and we don't need another one. This is a chance for gay and lesbian athletes to meet and compete on a world class level, where they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity."

After six years at the helm of the team, Hidu has resigned his position as president effective Nov. 9, the same day as the closing ceremonies for this year's games. Although he feels like he needs a break from the team, Hidu contends that he will always be there if anyone needs advice. His participation in the next Gay Games, scheduled for 2006 in Montreal, that is still up in the air.

"I don't know that in four years I will want to compete on the level that is demanded of someone competing in the Gay Games," Hidu says. "The standards are very high as there are some incredible athletes in the gay community, but that's the excitement of the games, to be up there with world class athletes and to be able to be open about who you are."

Team Tampa Bay's newly elected officers are: Alan Ross, president; Jerry Keeran, vice president; Bob Lorenzen, secretary; and Eric Siglin, treasurer.

To learn more about Team Tampa Bay or to make a contribution to the organization, visit <www.teamtampa.org>. **W John Sullivan**

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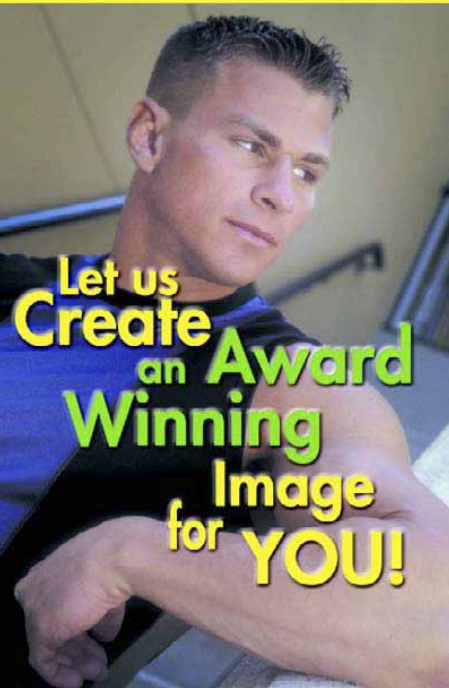
NO MORE ORLANDO MIRACLE IN 2003

The Orlando Miracle franchise will be relocated from Orlando next season to a city to be designated by the WNBA. WNBA President Val Ackerman announced on Oct. 21. San Antonio has applied for a WNBA franchise in 2003 and is nearing its goal of 6,000 season ticket deposits. The league is also in discussions with several potential owners in various cities who are interested in acquiring a WNBA team. "We have had many expressions of interest from prospective WNBA team owners in both NBA and non-NBA cities, and we expect to make a decision concerning the new home for the Miracle in the coming months," said Val Ackerman.

FIFTH ANNUAL MISS OBTA PAGEANT A HUGE SUCCESS

Oct. 17 saw the most successful Miss OBTA Pageant in the event's five-year history. The female impersonation pageant comprised of contestants from within the Orange Blossom Tennis Association raised over \$5,000 for St. Francis House Homeless Shelter and this was then matched by Maureen Musial in memory of her recently departed husband, Danny Sterle. The competition at Orlando's Parliament House was very close, but the 2002 court winners are: second runner-up Eureka Liquor; first runner-up Tequila Mockingbird; and Miss OBTA 2002, Wilma Dikfit.

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LIFESTYLES



ADVICE-O-RAMA A POTENTIALLY FATAL ENCOUNTER

Advice by Keith Baber, M.Ed.

Dear Keith,

I recently met a guy online and after enough chat to feel secure that he wasn't a serial killer I agreed to meet him in person. We met at a local bar and after a few drinks and more conversation I went with him back to his place. We got naked and had a lot of sex and since he had already told me twice that he was HIV negative we did all of this without

condoms. I am HIV negative and had planned on staying that way, but now I have found out via mutual acquaintances that this guy is HIV positive and he goes around telling guys that he isn't, only to have unsafe sex with them.

Most of his playmates he meets online and I am sure he has infected or tried to infect a lot of people. I am afraid to get tested again and at the same time I am

very angry that there are people out there who are doing this. This is the kind of thing that makes all of us look bad.

I think that people need to know what this guy is doing. Are there any legal steps that can be taken in a case like this? Is it legal for me to go into a chat room where he is and warn the other people in there? What can we do about this?

Signed,
Positively Negative

Dear Negative,

There are people in our world that will make destructive decisions that significantly affect themselves and others. What is important to keep in mind is that we ultimately have zero control over the decisions that others make. However, what we do have control over is how we choose to interact or respond to their actions.

It is illegal for an individual to knowingly attempt to infect another with the HIV virus. Your best course of action for preventing this perpetrator from attempting to infect others is to report his actions to law enforcement.

A visit to a local HIV center for psycho-educational counseling would probably be in your best interest. The professionals at the center can talk with you about your behavior and make recommendations for any additional support services. The identification of safeguards that protect you from repeating this type of risky behavior in the future will assist you in the long run.

The decision to have an HIV test is a personal one. It is my belief that it is best to know because of basic medical preventative strategies that can be implemented and overall peace of mind. So I do advocate for testing.

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TRANSITIONS

MOVING ON: The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund's executive director, Brian K. Bond, will leave his post in the early part of 2003. After six years at the helm of the organization, Bond will relocate to New York City to build a family and to continue his work in politics.

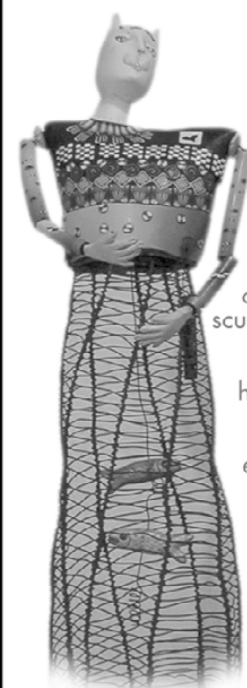
HAPPY BIRTHDAY: clubkid ORKID (10/27), Watermark WAVE Award logo designer JOEY GOMEZ (11/8)

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: composer LEONARD BERNSTEIN (10/25), prose writer EVELYN WAUGH (10/28) author STEPHEN CRANE (11/1), porn star CASEY DONOVAN (11/2), artist ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE (11/4), playwright TERRENCE McNALLY (11/3), famous Greek SOPHOCLES (11/6)



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ROOMMATES

Nice-Maitland area - Gay couple seeks non-smoking Professional to share 2/2 Townhome off I-4 in Maitland. Gated community. Luxurious ammenidities. Have 2 cats. W/D. \$550.00 includes all. 407-682-5410.

DeLand - Very nice 3/2 home, 1850sf, large yard. Five minutes from I4. Private bedroom. \$400/month includes utilities except phone. 407 383-5646

Roommate Wanted! - Male couple seeks female(s) roommate(s). 3 bd room 3 bath, large pool, located 408 and Goldenrod area. No pets please. 500/month including ult except phone. 321.235.2832

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GWM's seeking roommate in pool home- NW Orlando. \$430/mon, including utilities, cable, and basic phone. \$100 dep. Available in November. (407)234-0294.

DAYTONA

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ROOMMATES

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pets. \$1,200/mo+utilities. 1st/last/sec. (941)365-6670 or delair4@comcast.net

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I SAW YOU!

The Real McCoy - You certainly looked like it to me when I saw you reading The Real McCoy at Panera's at Lake Eola on Sunday, September 29th. Your smile was contagious and your eyes were mesmerizing. I couldn't focus on my Sunday paper knowing that you were directly across from me eating lunch with your two friends. Still Breathless, MAC

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FILTH



FILTH YES, BOBBY TRENDY IS REALLY LIKE THAT

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

"Billy Masters: Falcon Exclusive." Not likely — especially given the reception my anonymously submitted nudes received at Falcon (laughter is never a good sign). No, Billy isn't turning to a life of porn, but my appearance at Gay Day at Disneyland did bring up the question, since I was wearing a red Falcon muscle shirt courtesy of the video company. I say, "Be a porn star, or just look like one."

But I digress. Gay Day 2, 2002 was a huge success. Conservative estimates put the number of gay attendees at roughly 20,000. And 1,400 of those stuck around for "Kingdom," the first-ever gay dance party held in Disneyland. Although Disney strictly enforces a rule that shirts must be worn in the park, this edict was quickly abandoned in the midst of the circuit-like atmosphere.

Among the hot men dancing at "Kingdom," I thought that I spotted **ORYON**. The next day, I confirmed that the sexy singer was among the revelers. He let me know that his new CD, *The Single Collection*, has just been released and is available on his Web site, <www.oryon.com>. A quick perusal of his site will show you some hot pics of the stud, including some that can be purchased in poster size.

Since I mentioned the words "Falcon Exclusive," I should quickly report that

MATTHEW RUSH has been named to a Falcon Lifetime Exclusive — only the second person to receive this honor. I hasten to add that the first lifetime exclusive was **TOM CHASE** — and hasn't his output been prolific ever since! In some theatre news, we just learned that our very own **JOHN BARROWMAN** will headline a West End revival of *Anything Goes*. His big number will be "If I'm The Bottom, You're The Top." Bada-bing! I'm here all week, folks!

And now, on to **DEBBIE GIBSON**. Starting on Oct. 29, Debbie will be appearing in *Chicago* at the North Shore Music Theatre in Massachusetts. It's a long way from Beverly to Broadway, Debbie!

Didya miss **CHER**'s farewell tour this summer? If so, you can still catch it, since the Dark Lady is revisiting most of the same cities this fall. Why not? And if you miss the *Living Proof* tour altogether, have no fear NBC is planning to bring it directly into your living room in time for May sweeps. Yes, the Peacock Network is filming the Miami shows in November.

PEPPER MASHAY. Just typing those two words makes me want to take off my shirt and writhe around in a state of oblivion. Our diva of the dance tracks is working like a crazy woman. You can check out her burgeoning schedule at <www.PepperMaShay.com>. She'll stop touring long enough to lend a video for her

new song, "I Can't Stop", and she's enlisted the expertise of porn directrix Chi Chi LaRue. Of course, it wouldn't be a LaRue video without some skin, which a little birdie tells me may be supplied by **MATT SUMMERS** (he of "no gag reflex" fame). On the down side, I'm told that **BOBBY TRENDY** will make a cameo because one of his beds is being used in the video. Gee, wouldn't it be an awful tragedy if a light or some other heavy equipment fell on him during the shoot?

Speaking of heavy equipment, many, many fans have been asking me about **ANNA NICOLE SMITH**, Bobby Trendy, and the whole train wreck of a show. So, let me take this opportunity to answer a few of your questions. 1) Is Bobby that way in real life? Yes. 2) Is Anna that way in real life? Yes. 3) Is any of the show staged? Yes and no. You see, in everyday life, Anna basically eats, sleeps... and eats some more. Not much of a show there. That's where the people at E! come in. They suggest things like, "Anna, why don't you try out a few chefs?" or, "Anna, why don't you go to Magic Mountain?" or, "Anna, why don't

you try to get out of a tub unassisted?" Ah, the magic of television.

Could it be that a certain porn pup has a little something going on with his own pup? So say witnesses at a local foreign eatery who swear that the diminutive devil is inseparable from his four-legged friend. (I believe that the dog is bigger than the boy — eh, that could be a chihuahua). It was bad enough when he started fondling his dog's testicles at the table, stating, "They're just like beautiful plums." Then it got downright creepy when he added, "I've had him since he was a baby, so I can do whatever I want to him." Talk about a wee-ho! Only in Hollywood, kids — or San Diego, I suppose.

When Barrowman's a bottom and Rush is a top, then we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Have any questions for me? All you have to do is send

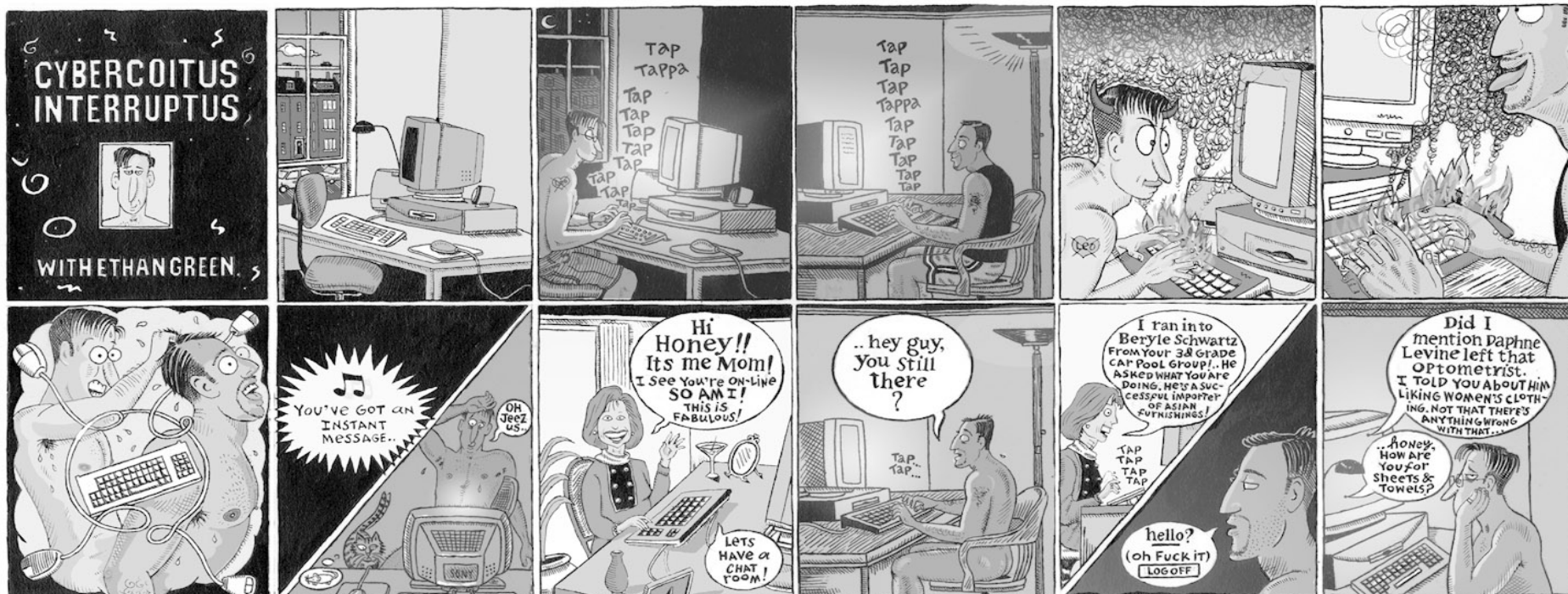
an e-mail to Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Cher sings a full concert live! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.▼



Singer ORYON was spotted dancing shirtless with the rest of the boys at Gay Day 2 in Anaheim.

ETHAN Encore

by eric orner



Recovering from back injury--hope you wont mind revisiting some old favorites until I'm back middle of next month.

Close in the polls, not on the issues.

Florida, 24th District House Race



Harry Jacobs

ENDING WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

Jacobs has vowed to co-sponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) if elected to the U.S. House.

COMBATING HATE CRIMES

Jacobs has committed to co-sponsoring the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA), a hate crimes prevention measure, if elected to the U.S. House.

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Jacobs has earned the endorsement of Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.



State Rep. Tom Feeney

ENDING WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

Feeney does not believe that Florida's non-discrimination laws should cover sexual orientation.

COMBATING HATE CRIMES

Feeney does not believe that crimes based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity should be prosecuted as hate crimes.

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Feeney consistently voted against measures supporting a woman's right to choose while in the Florida House.

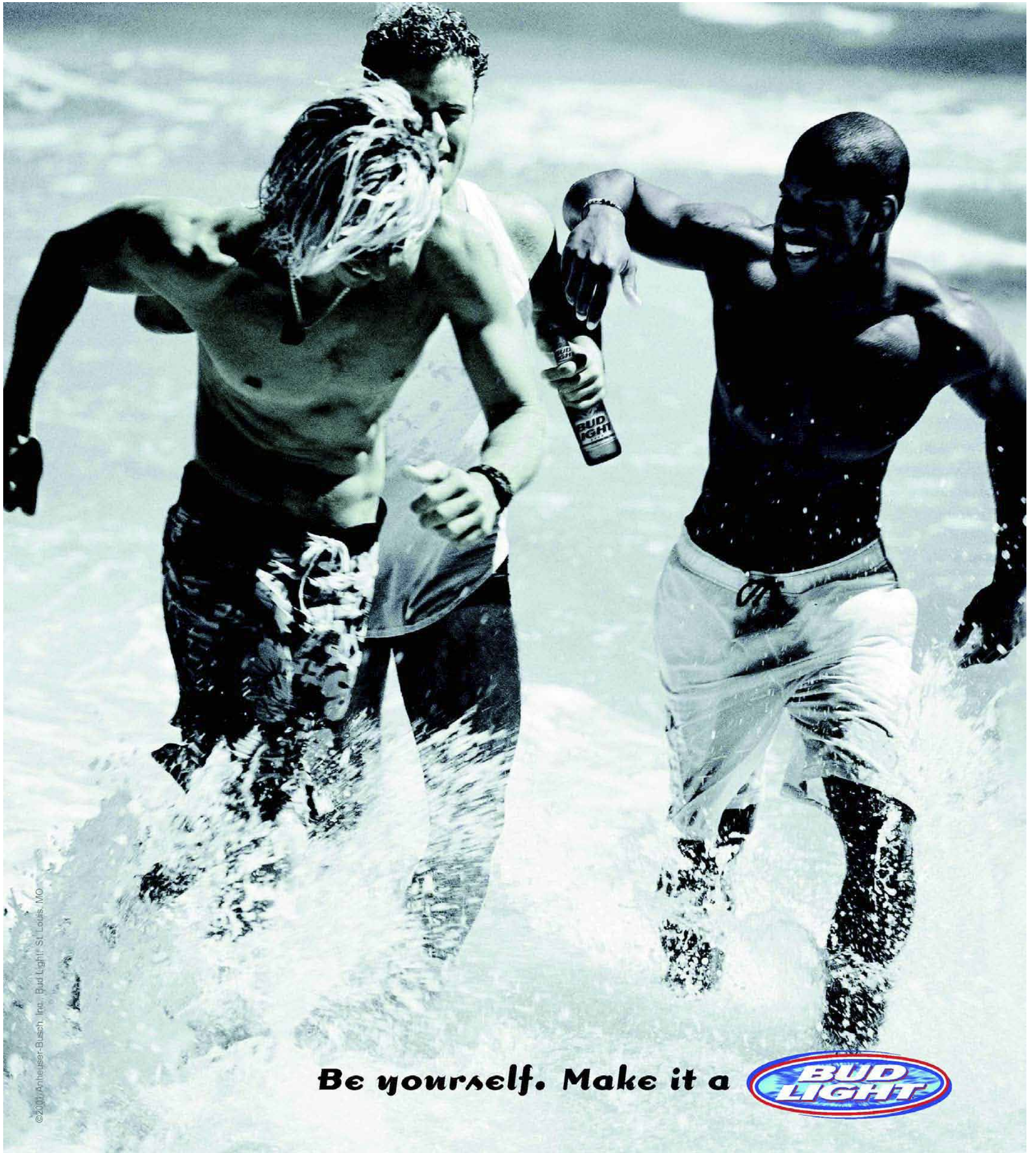
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Be yourself. Make it a



WAVE AWARDS ISSUE

The owners of Lava Lounge blended their friendship into Orlando's hippest hangout... even if they can't make a cocktail to save their lives.

By Kirk Hartlage

ORLANDO - Most people know how to make their favorite cocktail, but finding the recipe for a great cocktail lounge isn't always so easy. Fortunately, for the owners of Orlando's trendiest new drinking spot, the decision to open a bar together was as easy as popping the top off a Miller Lite. It's just as well: despite having a full-fledged liquor license, it's about the only drink any of the owners know how to concoct.

"We met out by the pool one afternoon, ate pizza, got drunk, and said, 'Let's open a business,'" says Jeff Walton, 38, one of the owners of the Lava Lounge, recalling how the decision to go into business together was made. The poolside relaxation

Take Four Friends and Stir

LAVA LOUNGE:

Orlando WAVE Award Winner for Best Happy Hour, Friendliest Bar Staff, Best Non-Gay Bar, Best Bartender (Bobby), Best DJ (Sketchy), and Best Overall Gay Bar.

his life-long dream to open a bar.

While the plan was never to make the business a strictly "gay bar," the owners' initial location-scouting found them in the ViMi area, home to several gay and gay-friendly businesses. And when the building that once housed Art's Cigar Bar became available — and at an affordable price — the foursome knew they had found a perfect home for their venture.

With the building's outdoor patio area, lakefront view and trendy Orange Avenue Antique District address, the Lava Lounge was perfectly poised to become the

premier chic hangout in Orlando.

The crew spent about nine weeks refurbishing the bar. When a planned soft opening during

festivals were a weekly ritual for Jeff, Kathy "Pete" Barma, 36, Koko Guevarra, 42, and Alan Miller, 44. When Alan's career in the health care industry was about to come to an end earlier this year, he convinced his pals to join him as he followed

Memorial Day weekend resulted in hordes of people pouring through the doors, the owners knew they had hit the ground running.

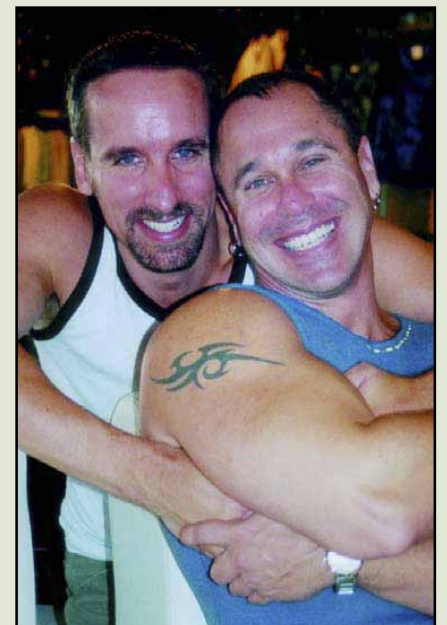
But gone now are the weekly laid back get-togethers. Instead, the owners have moved their socializing to their new home next to the railroad tracks on Ivanhoe Row. And what a gathering spot it is.

Continued Page 7



Lounging by a swimming pool lead to a lounge of a different kind for (L-R) ALAN MILLER, KOKO GUEVARRA, JEFF WALTON, and KATHY "Pete" BARMA.

URBAN BODY: Tampa Bay and Orlando WAVE Award Winner for Best Clothing Store.



Tampa Bay's "Most Dynamic Couple," SCOTT MOORE (right) and SASHA, at Urban Body in Tampa: "We talk about everything." Photo by Tom Dyer.

TRIPLE STITCH

Scott Moore shared in three WAVE Awards this year — two with business partner Brett Peeler for their trend setting Urban Body clothing stores, and one with life partner Sasha.

By Tom Dyer

TAMPA - Scott Moore isn't the only multiple winner in this year's WAVE Awards — Chambers, Tropics, Lava Lounge, Fort DeSoto Park, Nadine Smith and others can make the same claim. That's mostly because there's some inevitable overlap in categories: Best Gay Bar/Best Dance Club or Local Hero/Favorite Activist for example.

But Moore's wins are different, and possibly even more enviable. Look at it this way — a quality life is commonly thought of as a trifecta of sorts, comprised of a good home, a good job, and a good relationship. Most believe that if you're reasonably happy in two

Continued Page 14

2 October 24 - November 6, 2002**AUDITIONS FOR****RENT****IN ORLANDO**

Seeking hip, authentic singers for Broadway hit musical. Non-Equity and Equity encouraged. All ethnicities to play early to mid-20's. Prepare 16 bars of upbeat Pop/Rock music to sing without piano. Bring a walkman to learn show music if needed. Please bring a picture and resume (snapshots ok). Shower singers, Karaoke divas and future rock idols...are all welcome!

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- Tuesday, November 5th, 10 am - Noon

At Spotlight Dance Center, 5878 Precision Drive.
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WHY DO WE WAVE?



Welcome to *Watermark's* second annual WAVE Awards edition. The WAVEs (which stands for "Watermark Award for Variety and Excellence") are our version of a "Best Of..." issue in which readers tell us the people and places in our coverage area that exemplify the gay and lesbian community.

But when every newspaper and magazine has a "Best Of..." issue, why should *Watermark* follow suit? The short answer is because it's a lot of fun.

Our polling system is far from scientific. Basically, we just post the ballot on our Web site for six weeks and let readers have at it. We really don't care if people wage campaigns to get their friends and family to vote for them, nor do we particularly mind a little ballot box stuffing. It really is all for fun — and we certainly learn some things about our community along the way. ♥

CENTRAL FLORIDA

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

BEST CLOTHING STORE

1. URBAN BODY
2. REALM
3. OLD NAVY

BEST MUSIC STORE

Once again, GLBT Orlandoans said that **VIRGIN MEGASTORE** at Downtown Disney was the best place to pick up the latest CDs. In fact, all of the winners in this category are exactly the same as last year. The monster media super store **BEST BUY** — which earns a big ol' goose egg on the

Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index — took second place for a second year. In third again is **PARK AVE. CD**, proving you don't have to be gigantic in order to have an enthusiastic following.

GAYEST GROCERY STORE

What a surprise. The **PUBLIX** on Shine Ave. in downtown Orlando once again annihilated the competition to be crowned "Gayest Grocery Store" for the second year in a row. An unspecified **ALBERTSON'S** location came in a very distant second and the elite specialty market **WHOLE FOODS** garnered enough votes to place third.

BEST SHOPPING MALL

1. THE FLORIDA MALL
2. FASHION SQUARE
3. ALTAMONTE MALL

BEST FLORIST

1. HOUSE OF FLOWERS
2. LEE JAMES FLORAL DESIGNS
3. ORLANDO FLORIST

BEST SALON

It pays to advertise — or at the very least it pays to advertise that you'll exchange sex for votes. That's what first place winner **GARDEN SALON** did last year after they came in third. Whew, they must be tired. **DAVID JAMES** makes his first WAVE Awards appearance, coming in a very close second, and last year's second banana, **GARY LAMBERT**, places a not-so-distant third.

BEST BOOKSTORE

1. BARNES & NOBLE
2. BORDERS
3. URBAN THINK



BEST PLACE TO PAMPER YOUR PET

MICHAEL FRIED (L) and **RICK MERRIFIELD**, owners of **YUPPY PUPPY** on Mills Ave., are accustomed to soothing the savage beast — and making them look *fabulous* in the process. That's why you made the animal grooming salon number one again this year. But when glam band **ZOA**, your pick as Orlando's "Best Musical Entertainer," wandered through the pet boutique's doors, the fur flew. You chose **PETSMART** and **POOKIE'S BOW WOW** on Fairbanks Ave. as the second and third best pet pampering spots. Photo by Jeff Jones.

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4 October 24 - November 6, 2002

WAVE Awards from Page 3

BEST FURNITURE STORE

1. STOREHOUSE
2. ROBB & STUCKY
3. NEW METROPOLIS

ACTIVE COMMUNITY

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Despite the loss of executive director Cindi Black, some concerns about financial stability, and involvement then disassociation with this year's PrideFest activities, the **GAY, LESBIAN BISEXUAL COMMUNITY CENTER (GLBCC)** came out on top for the second



One half of this year's "Most Dynamic Couple," LANI BRITO is always available to answer questions at GLBCC. Photo by John F. Sullivan

year in this category. Two HIV/AIDS organizations, **HOPE & HELP CENTER OF CENTRAL FLORIDA** and **CENTRAL FLORIDA AIDS UNITED RESOURCES (CENTAUR)** picked up second and third respectively.

BEST GAY WEB SITE

1. GAY.COM
2. WATERMARKONLINE.COM
3. GLBCC.ORG

BEST PLACE TO PICK UP WATERMARK

The winners in this category are almost completely different from last year's champions. **RAINBOW CITY** on Mills Ave. — which didn't even place in 2001 — was the clear victor, knocking both Cactus Club and WatermarkOnline out of the running. But readers indicated that they liked the big pink newspaper box outside **WATERMARK'S OFFICES**, as it came in second. **GLBCC** placed third.

BEST HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATION

1. CENTAUR
2. HOPE & HELP
3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSULTANTS

BEST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

1. RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB
2. MBA
3. (tie) LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS and ORLANDO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE COMMITTEE (OADO)

BEST GAY DAY EVENT

BEACH BALL once again proved to be your favorite event during the 2002 Gay Days celebration. The six-year-old party has shown little signs of slowing down, and it's nice to know that the local community supports it. The weekend's core event, **GAY DAY AT DISNEY'S MAGIC KINGDOM**, came in a very close second. Two other circuit-style parties tied for third place, Jeffrey Sanker's **ONE MIGHTY PARTY** and local promoter Mark Baker's **COLISSEUM PARTY**.

MOST COMMITTED ACTIVIST

DEBBIE SIMMONS is another woman fighting for truth, justice, and the American way. And she was your pick as "Most Committed Activist" for her tireless efforts to get Orlando's anti-discrimination ordinance to include "sexual orientation." This year she also took on **RDV Sport's Pat Williams** and his homophobic views by staging a protest at a Miracle game. Her strides for equality are not going unnoticed. **PATTY SHEEHAN** came in second. Third place was split between **CHRIS MANLEY**,



Orlando's most committed activist **DEBBIE SIMMONS** has taken on the city, the mayor, and even RDV Sports to fight for our rights.



LOCAL HERO

Your local hero is not surprisingly **PATTY SHEEHAN**, or as we like to call her, "openly lesbian Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan whom we serve and is gay." Her moniker seems to get longer and longer every time we print her name. In order to reflect our community's admiration of this wonder woman, we asked your pick for "Best Artist," **CRAWFORD**, to wow us with his vision of the forthright politico. And boy-howdy did he deliver! Bam! Pow! It's the Orlando Avenger!

PATRICK HOWELL, who placed second, oddly enough got the exact same number of votes as the Log Cabin Republicans received in the "Best Political Organization" category. Third place this year goes to **GLBCC's LANI BRITO**.

MARTY CHAPMAN, DOUG WHITE, and, incredibly, Orlando's very own **MAYOR GLENDA HOOD**.

MOST DYNAMIC COUPLE

GLBCC spitfire **LANI BRITO** and her partner **JESS ABULESON** have obviously affected a lot of people in a very positive way, and they're who you chose as "Most Dynamic Couple." Second place goes to **PATRICK HOWELL** and **SCOTT DUNKLE** — who cosmically received the precise number of votes that Howell netted for "Local Hero." **CHRIS & TOMMY MANLEY** round out the category in third place.

BEST ELECTED OFFICIAL

1. PATTY SHEEHAN
2. MAYOR GLENDA HOOD
3. (tie) COUNTY COMMISSIONER **RICH CROTTY** and CITY COMMISSIONER **DAISY LYNUM**

BEST GAY JOURNALIST

(See Best Non-Gay Journalist)

1. SCOTTIE CAMPBELL
2. SCOTT JACKSON SMITH
3. JIM CRESCITELLI

FAVORITE TV NEWS PERSONALITY

1. WENDY CHIOJI
2. TODD JURKOWSKI
3. DOUG KAMMERER

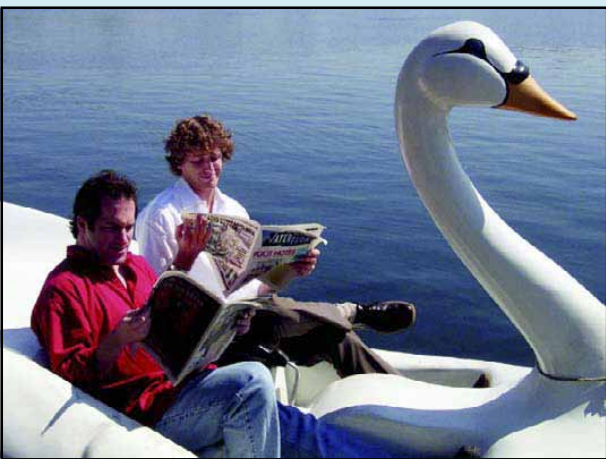
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HOUSE OF BLUES



BEST NON-GAY JOURNALIST

Orlando Sentinel columnist **TYLER GREY** scored a major coup this year by placing first in this category. Grey didn't even show up on the radar last year. When he learned that he was *Watermark* readers' favorite columnist for a non-gay publication, his reaction was short but sweet.

"Wow!" Grey said. "I've been following that one for a while now. I'm happy to see I won!"

Happy, that is, until he learned that **SCOTTIE CAMPBELL** won as "Best Gay Journalist." Here the two scribes try to decipher each other's work as they leisurely take a swan-boat around your choice as "Best Recreational Park," **LAKE EOLA**.

Last year's second-place man, the *Sentinel's* **MIKE THOMAS**, stayed in the same position. And former *Orlando Weekly* columnist **LIZ LANGLEY**, who took top honors in 2001, fell to number three to tie with the *Weekly's* **BILLY MANES** and the *Sentinel's* **COMMANDER COCONUT**. Photo by Jeff Jones.

BEST DATE RESTAURANT

1. HUE
2. HOUSTON'S
3. (tie) RESTAURANT K and MELTING POT

BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH

HOUSE OF BLUES's Gospel Brunch nabbed the number-one spot for the second year. Second place is awarded to **DEXTER'S** — which, some may find surprising, does not carry *Watermark*. And **LAKE EOLA YACHT CLUB** was your third choice.

BEST LUNCH

Hot, hot, hot. That's what our readers had to say about **HOT OLIVES** on New England in Winter Park. Our readers pointed out that it wasn't only the food that they enjoyed, but the atmosphere, especially on pleasant days when the restaurant

is completely open-air. Second place goes to **DEXTER'S** on Washington in Thornton Park. **BRIO** at Winter Park Village earned a third place slot.

BEST LATE NIGHT RESTAURANT

1. IHOP
2. DENNY'S
3. HOUSE OF BLUES

BEST PIZZA

This category got a little confusing last year. No one was quite sure if it was **ANTHONY'S** or Lil Anthony's that made the best slice. Well this year, our readers clarified, and Anthony's on Summerlin Ave. came out the clear winner. Readers said that **PAPA JOHN'S**

pizza is good enough to earn the chain a second place position, and NYPD rounds out the top three.

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

1. LAKE EOLA YACHT CLUB
2. HOT OLIVES
3. (tie) DEXTER'S and HUE

BEST GAY BAR

(see story on p. 1)

1. LAVA LOUNGE
2. PARLIAMENT HOUSE
3. SOUTHERN NIGHTS

BEST LESBIAN BAR

This is one of the strangest categories we have considering that second-time champ **FACES** on Edgewater is really the only women's bar in town. But our readers

never fail to weigh in with their opinions on other bars as well. Coming in second this year is **LAVA LOUNGE**, and devotees of "Lesbo-A-Go-Go" place **SOUTHERN NIGHTS** in third.

BEST DANCE CLUB

What a difference a year makes. The 2001 winner in this category was Empire Nightclub. Remember it? Out of sight, out of mind. The fall of Empire means that **THE CLUB** at **FIRESTONE** reigns as the new king of the disco scene. **SOUTHERN NIGHTS** came in a distant second and **PARLIAMENT HOUSE** boogied its way into the number three position.

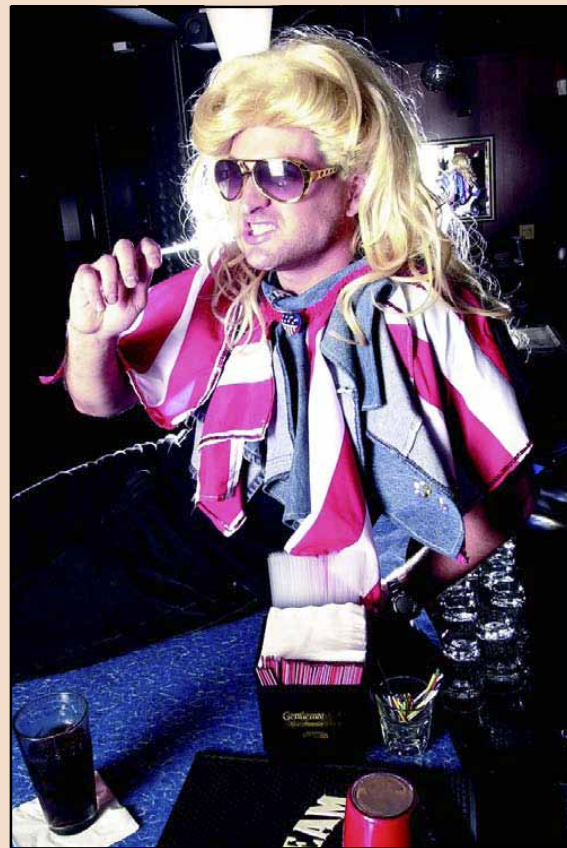
BEST HAPPY HOUR

1. LAVA LOUNGE
2. CACTUS CLUB
3. PEACOCK ROOM

WE LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT K on Edgewater in the heart of College Park takes this year's top honors. Formerly known as Cafe Allegre, the popular bistro serves a delectable melange of tasty treats to satisfy anyone's appetite. Second place goes to trendy **HUE** on Summerlin, in the midst of Orlando's gayest neighborhood. **HOUSE OF BLUES's** laid back style and casual cuisine came in third.



BEST BARTENDER

OK, here's the dilemma: how far would you go to humiliate a genuinely nice straight boy who came out on top as this year's "Best Bartender?" Well, as **BOBBY** at **LAVA LOUNGE** found out, we were willing to go the full nine yards. Armed with costume fragments from your choice as "Best Theatrical Production," *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, we had Bobby don the famous locks and pout, scream, and strut his stuff. And he was good enough to do it without one word of complaint.

Afterwards, though, when we finally coaxed him into giving the wig back, he said something that really took us by surprise: "So, who is Hedwig anyway?"

Whacky straight boys!

Coming in second this year — and a very close second at that — is **BRET** at **LAVA LOUNGE**. **BRIAN** at **PARLIAMENT HOUSE** takes home the bronze. Photo by Dennis Butler.

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WAVE AWARDS 2002

6 October 24 - November 6, 2002

BEST ALTERNATIVE TO THE BARS

1. GLBCC
2. MIDNIGHT BOWLING
3. (tie) MOVIES and
and "RICK'S HOUSE" — Whatever
that means...

BEST NON-GAY BAR

1. LAVA LOUNGE
2. WILL'S PUB
3. (tie) SKY 60
and PEACOCK ROOM

BEST DJ

1. SKETCHY
2. DJ DIANE
3. WALTER WINSTON

FAVORITE DRAG QUEEN

Oh, Sammy you're so fine, you're so fine you blow our minds. Hey Sammy! The ubiquitous **MS. SAMMY** clawed, scratched, and slept her way all the way from number three last year to the top of the heap this year. It's hardly surprising —

although completely deserved — that the diva should reign supreme. She co-hosts Parliament House's game shows, does charity work on the side, and she even had the guts to allow someone else to portray her in the semi-autobiographical musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Sammy is undeniably an Orlando institution. **NAZHONI** retained her second-place position, and **DARCELL STEVENS** slipped from the top spot to number three.

DRAG SHOW

1. PARLIAMENT HOUSE
2. SOUTHERN NIGHTS

BEST KARAOKE

1. STUDZ
2. CIGARZ
3. CLICKS

BEST SEX/NOVELTY SHOP

1. FAIRVILLA
2. RAINBOW CITY
3. TWISTED PALMS

RECREATION

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

1. KEY WEST
2. SOUTH BEACH
3. HAWAII

FAVORITE BEACH

1. PLAYALINDA
2. NEW SMYRNA
3. SOUTH BEACH

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY

1. FT. LAUDERDALE
2. SOUTH BEACH
3. KEY WEST

FAVORITE PARK

(Also see p. 5)

1. LAKE EOLA
2. LAKE IVANHOE
3. WEKIVA

BEST ATHLETIC GROUP

1. CENTRAL FLORIDA
SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2. GAY BOWLING LEAGUE
3. ORANGE BLOSSOM TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

BEST THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

(Also see p. 5)

Ladies and gentlemen, whether you like it or not, *HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH* blew the competition — and many other things, we're sure — away. The raunchy rock 'n' roll show about a botched sex-change operation wowed audiences at Parliament House's Footlight Theater week after week. The show was eventually — um — extended and rumors continue to persist that the *Inch* may rise again. Your second choice was the **ORLANDO GAY CHORUS** concerts, followed by **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**.

BEST MOVIE THEATER

1. WINTER PARK REGAL CINEMA
2. ENZIAN
3. AMC PLEASURE ISLAND

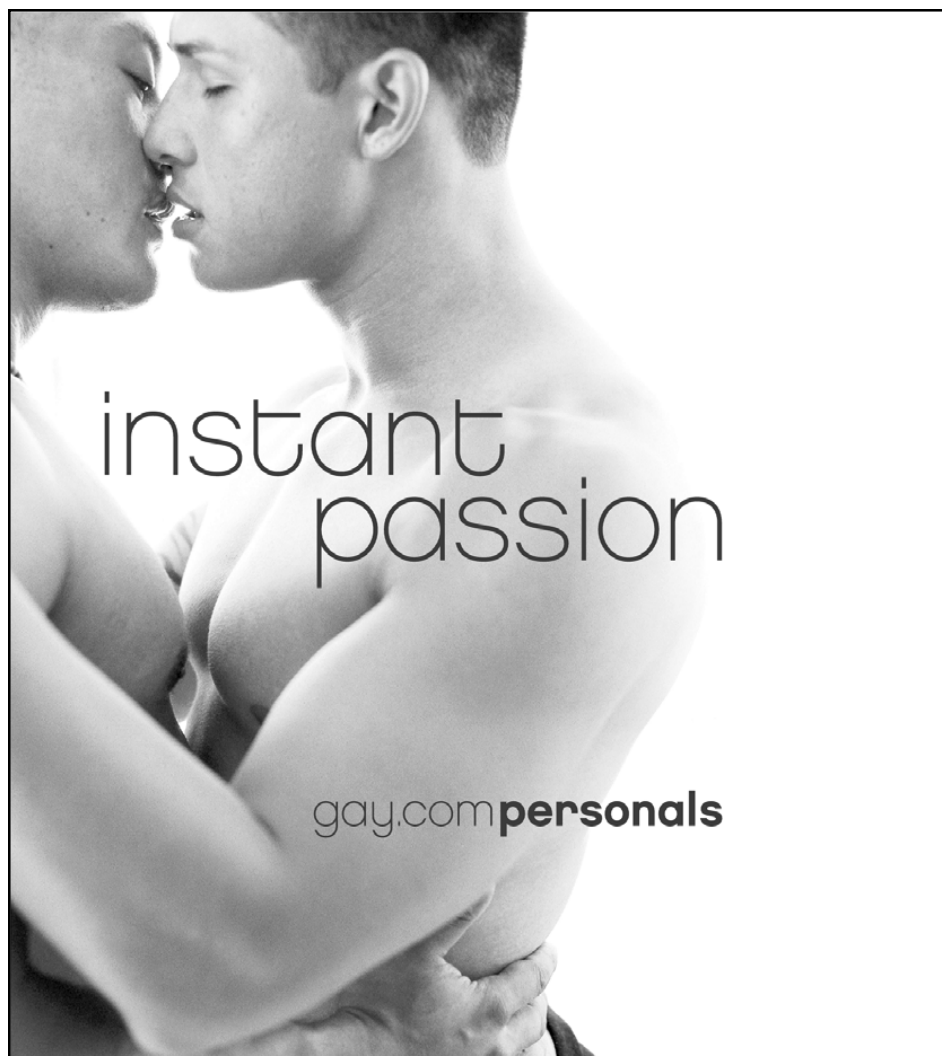


FRIENDLIEST BAR STAFF

People are lovin' **LAVA LOUNGE**, and Lava's owners and employees are ecstatic about it. "We're like a family," says co-owner Alan Miller of the incredible staff Lava has amassed. "Sure we sometimes have our differences, but we always work them out by the end of a shift."

Lava's tireless staff of workers includes (back) **BOBBY** (who also is this year's "Best Bartender"), **BRENDA**, (front) **JEFF**, **KATHY**, **AMY**, **BRET**, **TAMMY**, and **ALAN**.

Watermark readers say that another friendly staff can be found at second-place **PARLIAMENT HOUSE** and that the bartenders at **STUDZ** are also happy to be of service. Photo by Dennis Butler.



MS. SAMMY was all dressed up for the first Beach Ball. She and the Gay Day event both took top honors in their respective categories.

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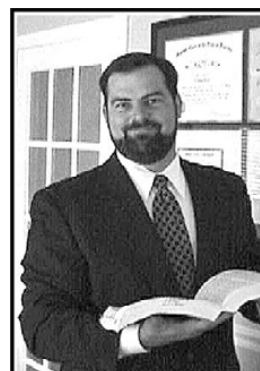
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BEST ART GALLERY

1. MAITLAND ART CENTER
2. OVAL ON ORANGE
3. GALLERY AT THE AVALON ISLAND

BEST LOCAL ARTIST

(Also see p. 4)

"What?" asked CRAWFORD, your choice as this year's "Best Local Artist" when he learned that he won. "I didn't even know that many people knew who I was." Well, buddy, they do. The one-name artist's colorful, powerful images have really made an impression on our readers. Coming in second is the gay

community's favorite gypsy and fortune-teller JAMES JACOB PIERRI. LANI BRITO placed third.

BEST CONCERT VENUE

1. HOUSE OF BLUES
2. HARD ROCK LIVE
3. (tie) WILL'S PUB and THE SOCIAL

BEST MUSICAL PERFORMER

(Also see p. 3)

1. ZOA
2. AMY STEINBERG
3. NAKED HEAD

LAVA from Page 1

Brushed steel walls and pillars complement suspended wooden back-bar shelves. A bright blue wave-shaped bar blends well with geometric lights. Throughout, televisions play a wide range of music videos that serve to compliment the modern architecture while not overpowering it.

But a word of warning: don't ask any of the owners to make you a mixed drink. When this reporter requested a post-interview margarita, he was met with nothing but blank stares. Oh sure, opening up a bottled beer and pushing the right button on the soda

gun comes easy enough for any of the foursome. But oddly enough, none of the four had ever

worked in a bar prior to opening the lounge.

"We'd all sat in bars before," says Kathy a little sheepishly. "It didn't seem that hard."

Fear not, fellow cocktailers. The owners have hired a crackerjack crew of bartenders to mix up any type of blended libation, including the bar's specialty drink, the Lavatini, the Lounge's version of the classic martini.

While Alan sees to the day-to-day operations of the bar, everything from ordering the stock to managing the books, the others have kept their day jobs. Jeff works in cost control for Lockheed

Martin, Koko as a flight attendant for Continental Airlines and Kathy as a high school English teacher.

Collectively, they're one of the youngest looking, youngest acting and energetic group of baby boomers you may ever meet. Each of the owners bring valuable strengths to make the bar a success. The women excel at talking up and entertaining the customers; the men are better at making analytical decisions that affect the business and managing the paperwork that goes along with any venture. Decisions affecting the operation are taken to a group vote and majority

wins.

Considering the ownership is mixed, or, as Alan puts it, "a mixed-up ownership," Lava

Lounge is neither a gay bar nor a straight bar. A typical night involves a diverse crowd of straight and gay, old and young, and every color skin imaginable.

"It's been fun," says managing partner Alan, "It's been like a party every night."

Lava Lounge is located at 1235 N. Orange Ave. on Orlando's Ivanhoe Row across from Lake Ivanhoe. The bar is open from 5 PM to 2 AM Tuesday through Friday, 7 PM to 2 AM Saturday, and is closed on Sunday and Monday. For more information call (407) 895- 9790 or head to <www.lavaorlando.com>.

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8 October 24 - November 6, 2002

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"The Masquerade Ball"
 \$50 Bar Tab for Best Costume
 Courtyard Concert by MAXINE NIGHTINGALE

Sun., Oct. 27
"Headdress Ball"
 Wear your BIGGEST hat, hair or headdress
 Compete for a \$50 Bar Tab

Mon., Oct. 28
 Have a BALL and Sing/Act along with
"Rocky Horror Picture Show"
 Courtyard 9:00pm
 Wear Rocky Horror costumes for 2-4-1 drinks
 Compete for \$50 Bar Tab

Tue., Oct. 29
 Have a BALL in the a-MAZE-ing Suncoast Eagle
 Wind through the MAZE in your Undies!
 Male Dancers and Best Undies Contest win \$50 Bar Tab

Wed., Oct. 30
 Have a BALL at GOTH NIGHT in the LUNAR
 Opens at 8pm with NO COVER!
 \$10 Beer Ball
 All the draft you can drink in the LUNAR only!

Thurs., Oct. 31
Halloween Costume Contest
 Courtyard 10:00pm
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 2nd - \$100.00 CASH
 3rd - \$50 Bar Tab

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TAMPA BAY

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

BEST CLOTHING STORE

The hands-down winner in this category was innovative South Tampa men's clothier **URBAN BODY** (see profile, p. 1). Your clear second-place pick was Robert Geller's **WHAT 2 WEAR**, which this year expanded its Suncoast Resort location and opened a second St. Petersburg store next to Georgie's Alibi. Demonstrating that we're interested in designer labels *and* bargains, third place was a tie between two chains at different ends of the priced spectrum: **NORDSTROM'S** at International Plaza and **TARGET**.

BEST MUSIC STORE

Your favorite place to shop for CDs was **NEP-TUNE RECORDS**, on S. Dale Mabry next to City Side. But there may be changes ahead at Nep-tune, known for

good dance music, well-stocked bins and a knowledgeable staff — the building housing the store was recently sold and is rumored to be ripe for development. The second place vote getter was **BORDERS**, and there was a tie for third between **MC FILM FEST** at the Suncoast Resort and **TOMES & TREASURES**.



You love Tomes & Treasures, but will you spend enough there to allow owner **BILL KANOUFF** to keep it open into 2003? Photo by Christine E. Reynolds.

GAYEST GROCERY STORE

There's a gay migration south within Tampa's city limits, and one indicator is that there's a new "gayest grocery store" this year. The **PUBLIX** on S. Dale Mabry across from City Side got just a few more votes than last year's winner, the **KASH-N-KARRY** on Swann Ave., midway between SoHo and Hyde Park. Third place went to the Hillsborough Ave. **ALBERTSON'S** in Seminole Heights.

BEST SHOPPING MALL

1. INTERNATIONAL PLAZA
2. WESTSHORE PLAZA
3. SUNCOAST RESORT MALL

BEST PLACE TO PAMPER YOUR PET

1. JAKE'S CANINE CAFE
2. PETSMART
3. VETERINARY MEDICAL CLINIC

BEST FLORIST

Your favorite florist was **CARTER'S**, on 22nd Ave. S. in St. Petersburg, but **BOTANICA INTERNATIONAL FLORIST** on Bay-to-Bay in South Tampa and **HYDE PARK FLORIST** also received lots of votes.

BEST SALON

1. SALON SOUTH TAMPA
2. BELLA DONNA
3. (tie) STEVE'S HAIRCUTS and SALON @ SUNCOAST and PLUSH

BEST BOOKSTORE

Owner Bill Kanouff will be glad to hear that **TOMES & TREASURES** received

almost three times as many votes as the second place winner, **BORDERS**. Third place was a tie between women's bookseller **BRIGIT BOOKS** in St. Pete and **BARNES & NOBLE**. Both Tomes and Brigit Books have let it be known throughout the community that they're struggling to stay in business. If you liked them this much, go buy something.

ACTIVE COMMUNITY

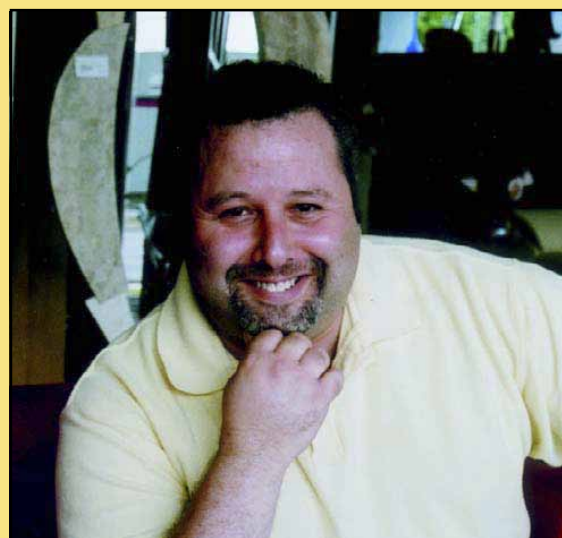
BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Once again, voters overwhelmingly chose **EQUALITY FLORIDA** in this category. The Tampa-based statewide organization spearheaded the successful drive for non-discrimination protections in St. Pete, lobbied for safe schools legislation in Tallahassee, and is currently mobilizing voters for the upcoming election. Second place went to **PRIDE TAMPA BAY**,

sponsors of the annual July 4 weekend PrideFest celebration. The organization is regrouping after losses from this year's event at Raymond James Stadium, and hoping that the upcoming Pillage & Plunder cruise in November will put them back on course. **TRUE EXPRESSIONS** youth group and the **TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD** tied for third place.

BEST PRIDE OR OTHER GAY EVENT

Your favorite gay event of the year was the just-completed **TAMPA INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL**, which this year saw more than 15,000 pass through the turnstiles at the Tampa Theatre, TECO Plaza and Centro Ybor Muvico. "Favorite Entertainer" **STEPHANIE SHIPPAE** kept large crowds entertained on closing night. Second was the **WET PARTY**, which PrideFest organizers say may have outgrown its Florida Aquarium location. Third place went to a much-loved but much smaller PrideFest fundraiser, the annual **ONE LAUREL PLACE** pool party. Photo by Rex Maniscalco.

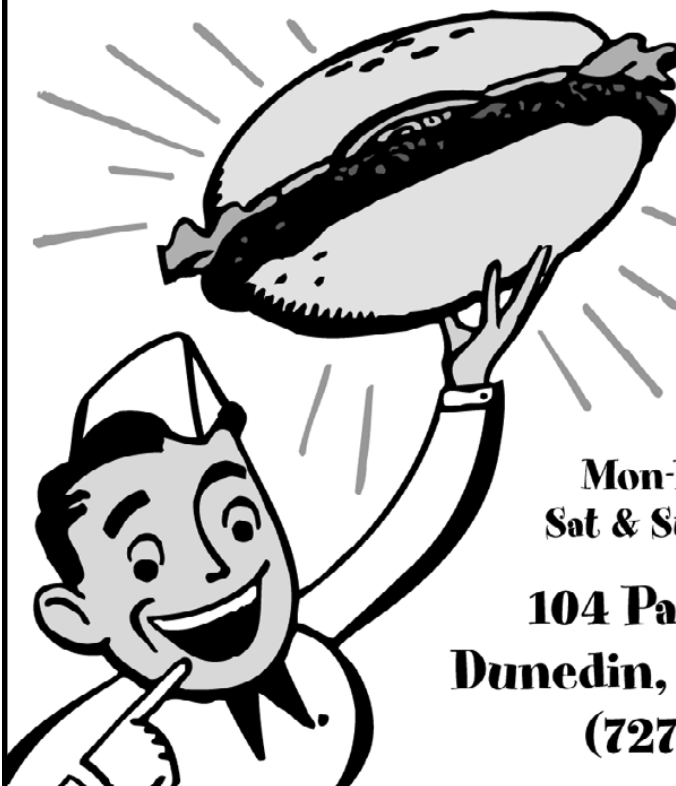


BEST FURNITURE STORE

With big windows displaying eye-catching modern furniture, you and "Best Gay Journalist" winner **RICK WALEN** are dazzled by **DIAMOND FURNITURE GALLERY**, making it the clear winner in this category. Maddie and Roberto Diaz have stocked their St. Pete (on 34th St.) and Tampa (Kennedy and Armenia) stores with colorful, unexpected furniture that is both functional and artistic. Demonstrating a clear preference for modern, your second choice was **SCAN DESIGN**. Third place went to mammoth **EXOTIC FURNITURE**, with its own design studio specializing in modern sculpted furniture. Photo by Tom Dyer

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1. QUEERTAMPA.COM
2. TAMPA-FRIENDS.COM
3. (tie) BADPUPPY.COM and GAY.COM and WATERMARKONLINE.COM

BEST PLACE TO PICK UP WATERMARK

1. TOMES & TREASURES
2. URBAN BODY
3. SUNCOAST RESORT

BEST HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATION

The last year has been a rough one for TAMPA (BAY) AIDS NETWORK, but they remain the most recognizable AIDS service organization in the area. A merger with much larger and better funded Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services in Pinellas County has kept TAN's doors open. Other ASO's that you acknowledged were FRANCIS HOUSE and the FLORIDA AIDS ACTION COUNCIL.

BEST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

1. EQUALITY FLORIDA
2. DEMOCRATIC PARTY
3. (tie) HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN and LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS



Equality Florida Executive Director NADINE SMITH may be your "Local Hero," but she's known throughout the nation for her committed activism. Photo by Tom Dyer.

LOCAL HERO

Your local hero is Equality Florida Executive Director NADINE SMITH. No surprise there - Smith founded the nationally respected organization and has been its calm, forcefully articulate rudder ever since. Tomes & Treasure owner BILL KANOUFF came in second, and deserves it for involvements ranging from AIDS activism to overseeing the Pride Parade for years. Third place votes were split between activist attorney KAREN DOERING, Equality Florida and Unity Tampa Bay's TED HOWARD, and Watermark publisher TOM DYER.

FAVORITE ACTIVIST

NADINE SMITH was also your favorite activist. But in a welcome gesture of support, Pride Tampa Bay's DON BENTZ came in second; a surprise

after this year's much-criticized move to Raymond James Stadium, and the related admission charges and elimination of the parade. Third place went to attorney KAREN DOERING, who is currently overseeing groundbreaking cases involving child custody for a transgendered man, and gender-limiting high school dress codes.

MOST DYNAMIC COUPLE

In this new category, you picked Urban Body co-owner SCOTT MOORE and his partner, SASHA (see profile, p. 1). Second place went to MARK BIAS and CARRIE WEST, the fun-loving owners of MC FILM FEST and PLANET MC at the Suncoast Resort.

BEST ELECTED OFFICIAL

Your overwhelming choice was HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIR PAT FRANK, who is currently running for re-election against former professional wrestler Brian Bosworth. Frank has been a consistent and outspoken proponent of gay and lesbian equality, and was the only county commissioner to attend last year's PrideFest celebration. Second place went to TAMPA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE FERLITA, another consistent friend of the gay community. CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS (D-Tampa), a co-sponsor of federal hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, was your third choice.

BEST GAY JOURNALIST

We're proud, and not surprised, that all three of the top journalism vote getters write for Watermark.

Your first choice was RICK WALEN, whose very personal — and sometimes very political — commentary has been a favorite since he began writing for Watermark more than a year ago. Former Weekly Planet contributor STERLING POWELL, one of the most recognizable figures in Tampa Bay, began writing his "Art of Living" column for Watermark last spring and was your second choice. "Liberal Arts Lesbian" writer SARAH VIREN, whose bold and sexy columns are a favorite with female and male readers, came in third.

BEST NON-GAY JOURNALIST

1. NANCY ALEXANDER, WMTX-FM talk show host
2. BILL MAXWELL, St. Petersburg Times editorial columnist
3. WES ALLISON, St. PetersburgTimes staff writer

FAVORITE TV NEWS PERSONALITY

1. RUSSELL RHODES, Fox-13 Good Day Tampa Bay reporter
2. ANDY JOHNSON, Fox-13 weatherman
3. ROBIN GUESS, ABC/WFTS-28 investigative reporter

WE LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

TROPICS, the elegantly festive Palma Ceia restaurant for gays and lesbians, remains the favorite in this competitive category. (The owners should be proud — fickle gays chose Tropics in several more categories as well.) Second place went to trendy SIDEBERNS, where the only thing more consistent than the attractive crowd and upbeat atmosphere is the wonderful food. Elegant MISE EN PLACE — great for a calm lunch or a romantic dinner — came in third.

BEST DATE RESTAURANT

1. TROPICS
2. SIDEBERNS
3. FLAMINGO at SUNCOAST RESORT

BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH

OYSTER CATCHERS, at the Hyatt Westshore complex on Courtney Campbell Causeway, has an incredible Sunday buffet that's famous throughout Tampa Bay — it was your first choice.

Second place went to

JACKSON'S BISTRO, and TROPICS was your third choice.

BEST LUNCH

Since they opened their restaurant earlier this year, GEORGIE'S ALIBI has earned a reputation for simple, good bar food — salads, sandwiches, fries, onion rings and the like — and attentive service, all served al fresco with a view of the eye candy entering and leaving the popular St. Pete gay bar. It was your surprise first place vote for favorite lunch restaurant. Second place went to the popular SAMBA ROOM on Swann Ave. in South Tampa. And there was a tie for third between the GRAND CENTRAL CAFE in St. Pete's newest gay commercial district, and Victor Leon's much-loved HO HO'S on S. Howard Ave. in Tampa.



"Best Elected Official" PAT FRANK, the Hillsborough County Commission Chair, addressed 2002 PrideFest at Raymond James Stadium. Photo by Tom Dyer.

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BEST LATE NIGHT RESTAURANT

Where do you want to go on your way home from a night out? First choice was **CEVICHE TAPAS BAR & RESTAURANT** on Bayshore Blvd. Does berenjena parrilla, grilled eggplant baked with portobello mushrooms, tomato, olive oil and Manchego cheese sound better than drive-thru? **GEORGIE'S ALIBI** in St. Pete came in second, and easily wins in the convenience category. There was a tie for third place between hip St. Pete eatery **GRAND FINALE** and good 'ol **VILLAGE INN**.

BEST PIZZA

1. WESTSHORE PIZZA
2. SALLY O'NEAL'S PIZZA
3. PIZZA HUT

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

Your favorite place for outdoor dining was the **FLAMINGO** at **SUNCOAST**, where the patio provides a view of the resort's pool, cabana bar, and volleyball courts. The food is also top notch. The popular **WINE EXCHANGE** in Hyde Park came in second, and the nearby **HYDE PARK CAFE** tied for third with **KOJACK'S HOUSE OF RIBS** on Gandy Blvd. in South Tampa.

BEST GAY BAR

CHAMBERS has shaken up Tampa's bar scene like a well-made martini, dominating weekend nights in Tampa with a high-energy mix of go-go boys, house music, video screens and shows hosted by Stephanie Shippae. It was your favorite gay bar, and won in other categories as well. Second place went to another new face on the local bar scene, **GRAND CENTRAL STATION** in St. Petersburg. With five different bars, the **SUNCOAST RESORT** was your third choice in this category.

BEST LESBIAN BAR

The gorgeous **CHEROKEE CLUB** in Ybor City remains your first choice in this category. Second place went to **FLIRT**, and a devoted crowd of regulars placed **KIM'S CLUB** in third.

BEST DANCE CLUB

CHAMBERS repeats, with last year's winner, **FACTORY**, a distant second this year. Newcomer **GRAND CENTRAL STATION** was a surprise third in this category.



Good Day Tampa Bay reporter **RUSSELL RHODES** is your "Favorite TV News Personality."

BEST HAPPY HOUR

The cozy bar at **TROPICS** on S. MacDill Ave. fills up right after work most days, particularly Friday, and was the winner in this category. Second place went to always-popular **CITY SIDE** on S. Dale Mabry, where the crowd of friendly regulars and newcomers spills out onto the patio most days. **THE**

JUNGLE, a former winner in this category, tied for third with two St. Pete bars — **GEORGIE'S ALIBI** and **GRAND CENTRAL**.

BEST ALTERNATIVE TO THE BARS

1. A DIFFERENT GRIND
2. STARBUCKS
3. (tie) SAWMILL CAMPGROUND and CLUB TAMPA and MOVIES and THE GYM

BEST NON-GAY BAR

1. AMPHITHEATER
2. SIDBERN'S LOUNGE
3. (tie) SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE and CHILI'S

BEST BARTENDER

1. CHRIS at GRAND CENTRAL STATION
2. (tie) JAMES at TROPICS and LAUREL at SUNCOAST RESORT and PATRICK at GRAND CENTRAL STATION

BEST DJ

With his willingness to mix things up with unexpected music and effects, **JEFFREY J** has quietly become one of the preeminent DJs in gay Tampa Bay. He now spins at The Jungle (Wed.), Grand Central Station (Fri.), and Chambers (Sat.). He also just released a dance CD called "Just Jeff". Last year's winner in this category, **JOHN CARPENTER**, was a close second this year.

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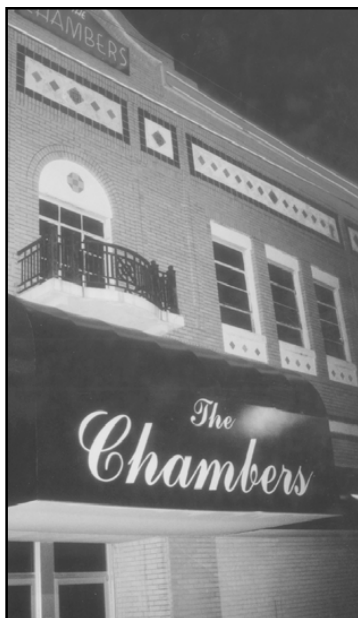
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CHAMBERS was named "Best Gay Bar" and "Best Dance Club." Photo by Tom Dyer.



WAVE AWARDS 2002

12 October 24 - November 6, 2002

FAVORITE ENTERTAINER

STEPHANIE SHIPPAE is as recognizable as the Eiffel Tower in Tampa Bay — and almost as tall. Devoid of diva baggage, and always willing to help out for a good cause, Stephanie is beloved by area gays and lesbians. Equally generous with their talents are second place singing duo **HALCYON** and third place saxophonist **ALAN DARCY**.

BEST KARAOKE

This was a surprisingly competitive category, but when the votes were tallied, **CITY SIDE** came out on top. The bar's frequent karaoke nights attract a steady stream of talented regulars and endearingly

off-key upstarts. Lots of bars received votes, but **GRAND CENTRAL STATION** came in second, and the **WEDGEWOOD** at **SUNCOAST RESORT** was third.

BEST SEX/NOVELTY SHOP

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RECREATION

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

1. KEY WEST
2. PROVINCETOWN



FRIENDLIEST BAR STAFF

GRAND CENTRAL STATION owners Kris Doubles and Jim Luscombe are justifiably proud of their popular bar staff — they copped first place in this category. Here Kris mugs with bar manager Chris, who was also voted "Favorite Bartender" by our readers. The staff at **TROPICS** and the bartenders at **CITY SIDE** also received lots of votes for friendliness. Photo by Tom Dyer.

3. (tie) **MIAMI/SOUTH BEACH** and **SUNCOAST RESORT**

FAVORITE BEACH

Your favorite beaches are all in Pinellas County... and why not? They're some of the most gorgeous beaches in the country. First pick was **FORT DESOTO PARK**, routinely ranked among the nation's top ten beaches. Your second choices are neighbors: **PASSAGRILLE BEACH**, and just north of that, **BEDROCKS/ST. PETE BEACH**. All three are known for attracting sun-worshiping gays and lesbians from throughout the Bay Area.

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY

Florida contains lots of attractive weekend getaways, and some of the most appealing are right here in Tampa Bay. Your first choice was a tie: **ST. PETERSBURG** has beaches, a thriving arts community, relaxed atmosphere and growing gay population... and it's just twenty minutes from downtown Tampa. **FORT LAUDERDALE** — a three-and-a-half hour drive but worth it — also has beaches and an incredible array of bars and restaurants to choose from... and it's getting gayer by the minute. You also ranked the **SUNCOAST RESORT**, **KEY WEST**, and **MIAMI/SOUTH BEACH** as alternatives.

FAVORITE PARK

1. FORT DESOTO PARK
2. SAWMILL CAMPGROUND
3. (tie) **BUSCH GARDENS** and **DAVIS ISLAND DOG BREATH** and **LAKE SEMINOLE PARK**

BEST ATHLETIC GROUP

The **SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE**, which plays every Sunday at the Greco Softball Complex across from USF, was your favorite sports organization. They host a major regional tourney every year during Valentine's

Day weekend. Your second choice was **FRONTRUNNERS TAMPA BAY**, who can be seen cruising through Hyde Park and along Bayshore Blvd. on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. **TAMPA EAGLE WRESTLING** was third — and wish many of them luck as they head for the Gay Games in Sydney in just a few weeks.

BEST THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Central Stage Theater's first production — **PARTY** — was a huge hit, and was extended for several weeks into September. With lots of laughs — and lots of nudity — it was also your favorite theatrical production of the year. Your second choice was Stageworks' **THE LARAMIE PROJECT**, produced last fall but still memorable. And third place went to the hilarious **SHEAR MADNESS**, starring local favorite John McGivern at TBPAC.

BEST ART GALLERY

1. DALI MUSEUM
2. ADRIAN HOWARD GALLERIES
3. (tie) **ST. PETE MUSEUM OF ART** and **L'ATTITUDE**

BEST LOCAL ARTIST

1. PATRICK KRANZ
2. BARBEE BEELER
3. WILLIAM TRACY

BEST CONCERT VENUE

1. JANNUS LANDING
2. ICE PALACE
3. (tie) **SUNCOAST RESORT** and **SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE**

BEST VIDEO STORE

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2. PLANET MC at **SUNCOAST**
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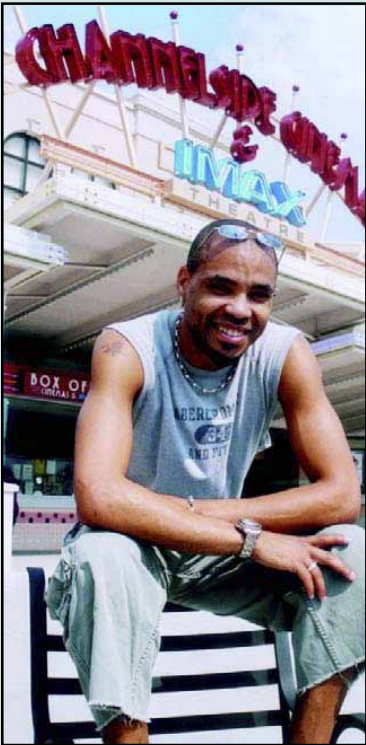
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WAVE AWARDS 2002

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BEST MOVIE THEATER

Your favorite movie houses were Tampa's two new mega-multiplexes, both featuring stadium seating and state-of-the-art sound and projection systems that have become the standard for discerning gay and lesbian moviegoers. "Best DJ" Jeffrey J positions himself in front of beautiful **CHANNELSIDE CINEMA**, home of Real Queer Cinema as well as the amazing IMAX theater. **CENTRO YBOR MUVICO**, an alternative site for the recent Tampa Film Fest was second. And last year's pick, the venerable **TAMPA THEATRE**, came in third.


Photo by Tom Dyer.

BEST THEME PARK


1. MAGIC KINGDOM
2. ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE
3. BUSCH GARDENS EPCOT

BEST THEME PARK ATTRACTION

1. MONTU at BUSCH GARDENS
2. HULK at ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE
3. (tie) SPLASH MOUNTAIN at THE MAGIC KINGDOM and BEER GARDEN at BUSCH GARDENS



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Thanks to all of you who voted in this year's WAVE poll.



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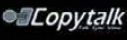

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Urban Body from Page 1

of three areas you've got nothing to complain about.

Moore, however, was recognized as the very *best* in gay Tampa Bay in two of these distinct categories! Along with business partner Brett Peeler, his hip Urban Body clothing stores were named "Best Clothing Store" in both Tampa Bay and Orlando. And Moore and life partner Sasha were also chosen Tampa Bay's "Most Dynamic Couple." We're not even going to ask what kind of house they live in.

COOL CLOTHING

"I haven't stopped blushing since I found out," Moore says, but he is also quick to point out that each of the awards is shared.

"Urban Body is a joint business venture," he notes, "and Brett is every bit as responsible for our success as I am."

Moore and Peeler took a calculated but still enormous risk when they opened Urban Body in the now-burgeoning SoHo (South Howard Ave.) area of Tampa in March of 2000. They hatched the idea while living together in Atlanta, even though neither one had any direct retail experience. But their backgrounds meshed perfectly, otherwise. Peeler, a former insurance actuary, was the numbers guy; Moore, a marketing professional, would oversee promotions.

"We saw Tampa as an up-and-coming second tier city," Moore says, "and we knew that there was nothing like the store we envisioned in the area." With a clean uptown atmosphere, an emphasis on customer satisfaction, and clothes that fit muscled young gay male bodies with unique precision, Urban Body changed local shopping habits from the start.

"We never order more than six of anything," Moore says, "because we want people to know that they're not going to

see the same shirt on 10 other guys on the dance floor."

But he notes that the shop is anything but "slut wear for 20-year-old club kids." Urban Body stocks jeans, dress shirts and slacks, bathing suits, and a variety of shoes, belts and other accessories.

Increasingly, the store also caters to more than just gay men. "The percentage of straight customers has increased drastically since we opened," Moore observes. "We've never made any bones about who we are, so I think the fact that straight men are comfortable shopping here is a wonderful example of how our

community has mainstreamed."

Peeler moved to Orlando in 2001 to open a second Urban Body store in the exploding Thornton Park neighborhood. That store won a WAVE award in its first year.

And Moore and Peeler also just opened a new Web site — www.urbanbody.com — with popular clothing items shipped the day after being ordered.



SCOTT MOORE introduces a movie at the recent Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Photo by Rex Maniscalco.

THE SUSHI TEST

As often happens, Moore met his partner through an ex — in this

case one of Sasha's.

"He pointed him out to me at Metro Flex and said, 'That's the one that got away,'" Moore remembers. So Moore submitted him to "the test".

"I like to go to a Japanese restaurant on the first date," Moore laughs, "to see if he likes sushi, and if he can use chopsticks."

Apparently Sasha passed with flying colors. That was two years ago, and the couple married in Vermont this past August. Afterward, they celebrated at a huge "White Wedding" party at the St. Petersburg home of some friends. "Best DJ" Jeffrey J was in charge of music.

"We talk about everything," Moore says. "I never knew a relationship could be so easy." ▽

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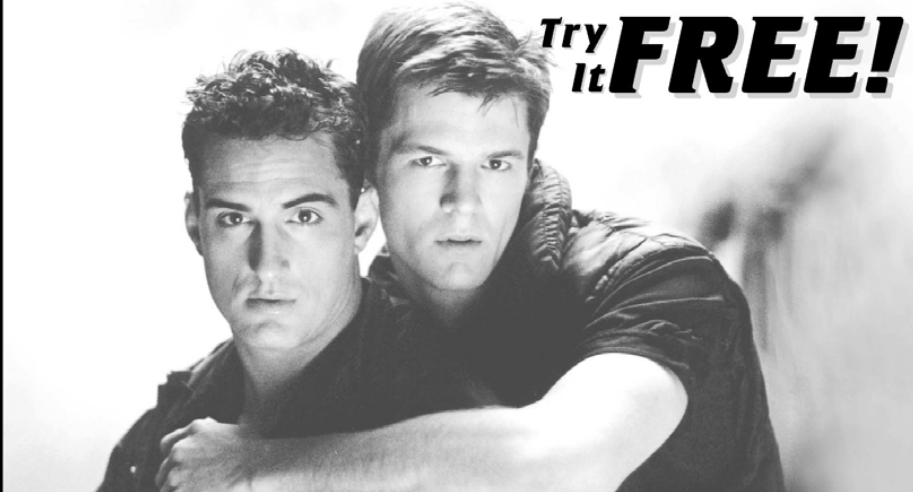
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