

ISSUE 12.11

JUNE 2 - JUNE 15, 2005



# **WATERMARK**

Florida's Distinctive Gay and Lesbian Publication  
[watermarkonline.com](http://watermarkonline.com)

**Answers and Horrors in Tampa Bay**

**ALSO INSIDE:**

# **GiRLS gone WiLD** **at Gay Days Weekend**

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CHI CHI LARUE gets into the spirit of Gay Days Weekend



STEVE LORENZO was once profiled in *Watermark* for his work with the Big Brothers-Big Sisters organization -- but now he's been linked to two possible deaths of gay Tampa Bay men. Read the story on page 6.



## Editor's Desk

BY DAVE WIETHOP

Boys and girls, we're in the midst of the Gay High Holy Days: The month of June starts with Gay Days in Orlando and ends with Pride in St. Petersburg.

*Watermark* recognizes that a far larger number of out-of-town readers will be enjoying this issue than, say, the other 25 that we'll publish this year and we welcome you. With apologies to our West Coast readers (who will note a separate Editor's Desk dealing with the Galehouse-Wachholtz murders on our Web site at WatermarkOnline.com), I'd like to offer some answers to the Frequently Asked Questions about Gay Days Weekend.

### So, where do I go on Saturday: Magic Kingdom or Islands of Adventure?

*Watermark* takes no official position on this surprisingly politically charged topic. It's been a tradition to go to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World, but some of the top organizers of the weekend suggest going to Islands of Adventure at Universal-Orlando for something different after 15 years. The choice is yours, really; you'll likely find more red-shirted queers than you've ever seen before in both places.

### But seriously, where should we go that day?

Both parks are a lot of fun and you'll be affected by the sight of the sea of red shirts.

If you want to do someplace really, really different this year, consider someplace truly out of the ordinary, like the Holy Land Experience. Now, *that's* the place to make a real statement. Wear red and kiss your boyfriend in front of the Burning Bush without snickering.

### Will there be protesters at Gay Days Weekend?

Probably not. After all, the American Family Association has ended its feeble boycott of Walt Disney Co. after nine years. (Now that all of the gay boys in the Ultra-Christian Right will finally be able to attend Gay Days Weekend, we'll *never* be able to ride Space Mountain.)

### Why are there two business expos?

We can thank free enterprise for this. You'll note that there are some Gay Day events and hotels and some Gay DayS.com events and hotels. Both groups are well-organized with wonderful stuff planned like pool parties and concerts but it does get confusing.

Consult *Watermark's* special Gay Days Weekend supplement for details of everything that's available — and recognize that you can't do it all.

### Why do we wear red?

It's part of your gay history, kids. We first wore red T-shirts on the first Saturday in June at the Magic Kingdom so we could identify one another. Now, we wear red to show how many of us there are — and how different we can be.

### Do I really have to wear red on Saturday?

Yes. It's called "doing it for the team." It's part of tradition, so deal with it.

### But red is so hot.

That's not a question, but you're right. That's why you have to pace yourself and drink lots of water. Go back to your hotel if you get too hot.

### When is the 3 o'clock parade?

Now you're *really* pushing it.


### Isn't this Orlando's Gay Pride?

Well, yes and no. It's a big, gay gathering, so more power to you if you have some feelings of pride. Orlando used to have a pride parade at the end of June and there will be a gay family picnic on June 18. But Gay Days Weekend is what it is: a great way to spend a weekend in some of the most fun places on the planet with 145,000 or so of your nearest and dearest friends in some relatively hassle-free environments. If that's not something to be proud of, I can't imagine what is.

For more details about Gay Days Weekend, consult our special supplement. We offer interviews with some of the featured performers such as the sassy Kathy Griffin, sexy Chaka Khan, saucy Tracy Young and seductive Chi Chi LaRue. We also offer the most complete schedule possible.

Add this to our already jam-packed issue which also features interviews with the up-and-coming gay Christian pop stars Jason and DeMarco, and Joal Paley, the playwright who's directing his hysterical *Ruthless! The Musical* in Sarasota.

*Watermark* also takes a look at the links between two Florida men who may have been involved in the Jason Galehouse disappearance and the Michael Wachholtz death that stunned the Tampa Bay GLBT community in late 2003.

We hope that you find this issue of *Watermark* to be informative, insightful and entertaining. Have a great time.  [editor@watermarkonline.com](mailto:editor@watermarkonline.com)

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## PREVIEW

# Water Picks

EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

## DAYTONA BEACH

THURS.-WED., JUNE 9-15

If you loved Deborah Cox's high energy version of *Easy as Life* during Gay Days Weekend, come hear the tune — and several other Elton John/Tim Rice collaborations — in its original, slower incarnation at the always reliable Seaside Music Theatre's production of **AIDA**. The Disney Broadway musical features the famed story of two ill-fated lovers, caught in the crossfire of the Ethiopian/Egyptian war. Also, Seaside, located at 176 N. Beach St., was recently named Florida's Best Professional Theater by *Florida Monthly Magazine*. Tickets available at the box office, by calling (386) 252-6200 or at [SeasideMusicTheatre.org](http://SeasideMusicTheatre.org).

## ORLANDO

THROUGH SUN., JUNE 5

In case you haven't heard, there are a few thousand gays and lesbians in Orlando this weekend. It's an annual pilgrimage known as **GAY DAYS WEEKEND** that also happens to be the largest GLBT group travel destination in the world. Check out our special pull-out guide with comprehensive schedules, celebrity interviews and more!

MON., JUNE 13

Let's get it started in here, indeed! No longer just a tasty side dish, you can enjoy a full-size entrée helping of **THE BLACK EYED PEAS** in concert tonight at Hard Rock Live. The group keeps the groove animalistic, following last year's award-winning release *Elephunk*, with *Monkey Business* — the name of the group's tour and new album which hits stores Tuesday, June 7. Tickets available at the box office or at (407) 351-LIVE.

## ORLANDO/CLEARWATER

WED.-THURS., JUNE 15-16

One of the first ladies of rock, **PAT BENE-TAR** kicks off her Summer 2005 tour right here in Florida. (Best to come now before Hurricane season hits.) The tour's opener is at the Ruth Eckerd Hall and hits the House of Blues the next night. Pat will be appearing in concert with her guitarist/husband Neil Giraldo and a smokin' band. It's bound to be a steamy, sultry night when Pat belts out all 16 of her Top 40 million-sellers like *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*, and *Love Is a Battlefield*. Tickets available at the box offices or at (727) 791-7400 in Clearwater or (407) 934-BLUE in Orlando.

## TAMPA BAY

FRI.-SAT., JUNE 11-12

The **FLORIDA MEN'S CHORALE** will serve up *Table for Two*, its spring concert at two venues in June. On June 10, Una Voce can be seen at the King of Peace MCC on Fifth Avenue North in St. Pete and on June 11 at the University of South Florida Theater. Both concerts begin at 8 p.m. The event is presented by Crescendo: The Tampa Bay Women's Chorus and tickets are \$15 or two for \$25. For more information, call (813) 786-2862 or visit [una-voce.com](http://una-voce.com).

FRI.-SAT., JUNE 11-12

June is GLBT history month and there are plenty of pride events leading up to the St. Pete Pride festivities June 25. Several events benefiting pride will give the community plenty to do all month long. **THE MISS ASAP PAGEANT** is slated for June 10 at Suncoast Resort and the annual **PRO SHOP PUB HURRICANE PARTY** returns again this year in Clearwater. The Hurricane Party benefits St. Pete Pride and returns June 11 from 8 p.m. to midnight. For a complete listing of upcoming events, visit [Stpetepride.com](http://Stpetepride.com). ▼

# Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

## GLBT READERS REIGN SUPREME THIS MONTH

Make no mistake about it — queers who love to read are sexier than ones who don't. (By virtue of what you're doing right now, you're sexy too!) With that in mind, the sexiest men and women in Tampa Bay will gather June 11 for **LOVING IN FEAR III**, literary seminar once again led by writer **STEVEN REIGNS**.

The seminar will be held at the John F. Germany Library in Tampa in honor of GLBT history month. **APPLE LOVE** is scheduled to moderate the event featuring authors **ERICK ALVAREZ** (*Muscle Boys: Gay Gym Culture*), **CONSCIOUS** (*Getting Unstuck: Girl to Girl*), and Reigns (*Your Dead Body Is My Welcome Mat*).

The event begins at 2:30 p.m. at the library at 900 N. Ashley Drive. Admission is free. Visit [www.steven-reigns.com](http://www.steven-reigns.com) for more information.

## ANITA BRYANT, BUT NOT AS IRRITATING

Congratulations to the **NAKED ORANGE THEATRE CO.** — its

Orlando Fringe Festival hit, **PIE-FACE: THE ADVENTURES OF ANITA BRYANT** will move to the

Parliament House's Footlight Theater beginning this weekend. The show will run on Saturday, June 4, then move to Fridays through July 16. Written and starring **DAVID LEE** and directed by **CHAD LEWIS**, the show seems a

nice fit for this always-surprising venue.

## FIRST, THANK YOUR BOYFRIEND, THEN CRY

Someone needs to tell **CHRIS ROCK** that straight guys don't watch the Tony Awards either.

But you can't swing a dead cat on Broadway these days without hitting a queer on his or her way to perform a Tony-nominated role. Among our favorite queer nominees for the 2005 Tonys (broadcast June 5 on CBS): **GARY BEACH** in *La Cage aux Folles*; **CHRISTOPHER SIEBER** in *Spamalot*; **CHERRY JONES** in *Doubt*; as well as composer-lyricist **WILLIAM FINN** for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; and director **JOE MANTELLO** for *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

One surprising omission from this year's Tony announcements (besides the lack of a nomination for **JESSICA LANGE** in *The Glass Menagerie* — wouldn't you like to have been in that dressing room on the day of the nominations?): **STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S** *The Frogs*. This rarely performed musical requires use of a swimming pool on stage — and offers a song entitled *Invocation*, with one of the bawdiest couplets ever to be written: "So please, don't fart/There's very little air and this is art." Sondheim is so classy.

## TOO BAD 'MOMMIE DEAREST' HAS BEEN DONE

What's worse: watching **JANE FONDA's** endlessly shill for her movie with **J-LO**, *Monster-in-Law*, or actually sitting through the movie itself? One of the best actresses "of a certain age," Fonda seems to have had the right intentions — an interesting premise, a gay director (**ROBERT LUKETIC's** deft touch had something to do with the success of the clever *Legally Blonde*), a bankable costar in cosmetics entrepreneur **JENNIFER LOPEZ** and a hilarious cameo by **ELAINE STRITCH**. But did Fonda actually read the script first?

Perhaps a remake of **MILDRED PIERCE** could be in Fonda's future. Lopez could play a sassy waitress in that one too. ▼



Tampa Bay author **STEVEN REIGNS** has assembled an interesting panel for *Loving in Fear III* on June 11.



## HEADLINE NEWS

# FINALLY, SOME ANSWERS

Jason Galehouse and Michael Wachholtz simply fell victim to the wrong tricks By Dave Wiethop

TAMPA - Steve Lorenzo had so much going for him: a great smile, a good job, a sweet bungalow in Tampa's stylish and oh-so-gay Seminole Heights neighborhood. Heck, he'd even been profiled in *Watermark* for his work with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.

With a nearly clean criminal record, Lorenzo seemed like the guy everyone might want to be - on the outside. But Lorenzo had a dark side, one that appears

to be connected to the deaths of two Tampa Bay men who may have succumbed to Lorenzo's tastes for bondage and torture.

Oh, looks can be so deceiving.

Lorenzo and his Internet friend, Scott Schweickert, a Chicago man who had moved to Orlando in 2003, remain in custody in the Hillsborough County Jail on drugging-and-raping charges. Yet, an affidavit from a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent offers many lurid details about the final

hours of the lives of Jason Galehouse and Michael Wachholtz, likely spent with Lorenzo and Schweickert.

Looks can be deceiving. That's no longer simply an adage that our mothers taught us, but a warning about men like them.

## ONLINE FANTASIES

Steve Lorenzo, 46, worked as a home inspector. A low-key guy with a nice smile and an interest in helping the community,

he volunteered with Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Hillsborough County. That's where *Watermark* first encountered him, writing a story about his involvement with the group in October 2002.

Lorenzo was involved with Big Brothers on and off since he was 18 and living on Long Island, N.Y. Once he was married and living in Philadelphia, Pa., he no longer took part in the program. In 2002, he said told *Watermark* that he was happy to rejoin the organization - which has long been praised for its anti-discrimination policies and embracing of GLBT volunteers - now that he had moved to Tampa Bay as a single, openly gay man.

It's imperative to note that Big Brothers puts volunteer "Bigs" with "Littles" who are ages 6 through 18. It's also important to note that Lorenzo's alleged future problems dealt with men who were the age of consent.

But many people have dark sides and often they tie into a fantasy world. Many of the details about Lorenzo's hidden life surfaced in conversations between Schweickert and federal authorities - statements vehemently denied by Lorenzo's attorneys.

In 2003, Lorenzo - known as DomDudeForSub and S2blorenzo and cobblestonehome - began chatting on America OnLine with MstrScott, the handle for Schweickert, who lived at the time in the heart of Chicago's Boys Town.

They began discussing about the date-rape drug, rohypnol, as well as ecstasy and GHB, and how to drug and dominate another guy online known as "JohnnyTorture."

Continued on page 24

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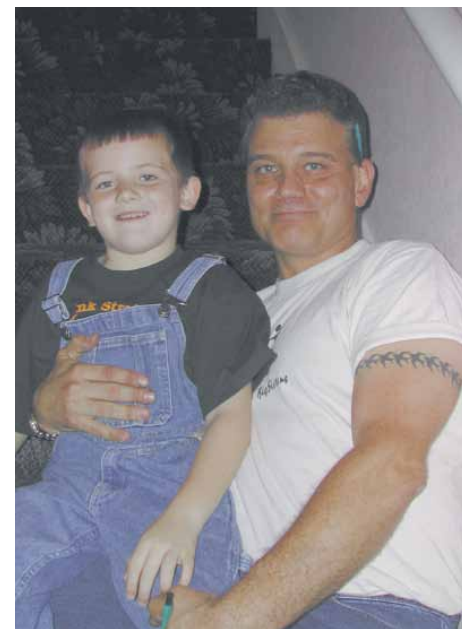
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STEVE LORENZO (left) as he appeared in a *Watermark* 2002 feature about Big Brothers-Big Sisters.










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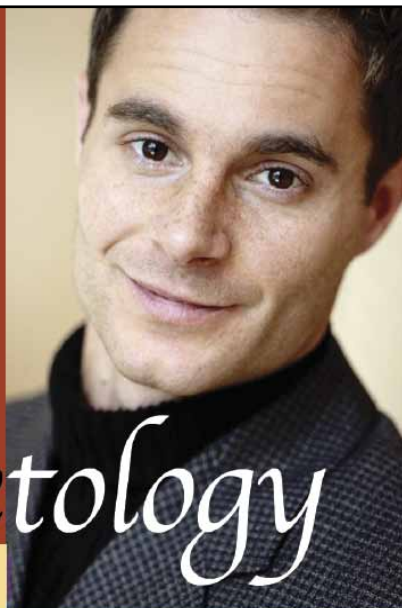
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## ORLANDO NEWS BRIEFS

## NEWLY REJUVENATED SOUTHERN NIGHTS REOPENS

With a new Rendezvous happy hour lounge in the former show room space, Southern Nights reopened Friday, May 27, to a crowd curious to see the formidable changes throughout the 375 S. Bumby Ave. club. In addition to a renovated dance area that can now be seen clearly from the main bar area, the club has been refurbished with new carpeting, furniture and lighting. The back patio has also been rejuvenated with more upscale feel. Rendezvous, with an entrance on the south side of the venue, opens from 4 to 9 p.m. nightly, with the rest of the club open later in the evening.

## COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE PLANS FOR FAMILY REUNION PICNIC

The final meeting of the planning committee for the June 18 Orlando Family Reunion Picnic will be at the Center at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 14. Numerous GLBT groups and gay-friendly groups have agreed to take part in this pride event, which will take place at the Bill Frederick/Turkey Lake Park Pavilion No. 1. The picnic is open to all in the community and is free, though the park does charge a \$4 parking fee per vehicle. Attendees are encouraged to pack their own picnic lunches. The festivities begin at 11 a.m.

## GARAGE SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LOST BEAR'S EXPENSES

Members of Central Florida's Bear community along with friends and family of Barry Farmer have organized a garage sale to help pay for funeral costs for the recently deceased founder of the Bears of Central Florida. The garage sale will be held at the home of Bill Dean, 1450 Julio Lane, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11. Friends and family are encouraged to donate items for the sale and may call Dean at (407) 738-5444 to make arrangements to do so. Farmer was a co-founder of Orlando's BOCF.

## RULES FINALIZED FOR ANNUAL HEADDRESS BALL

Hope and Help Center of Central Florida has announced its rules for those wishing to compete in this year's Headdress Ball at the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate Saturday, Sept. 24. Headdresses will be judged on creativity, show value, material usage and audience response. Complete rules and an entry form may be obtained by e-mailing Mickel Wallace Landmesser, Hope and Help's event manager, at events@hopeandhelp.org. The entry fee is \$50. The annual black-tie event raises funds for the local HIV/AIDS organization.

CONVENTION BUREAU  
RECOGNIZES GAY DAYS

ORLANDO - Gay Days Weekend event organizers have been puzzled over the lack of recognition by other Orlando businesses and organizations that have been slow to acknowledge its economic impact on the city.

Because during this week of events Orlando has developed into one of the largest GLBT travel destinations in the world some event organizers have pointed fingers at the Orlando/Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau as group that has done little to recognize the impact the weekend has on Central Florida. That is, until this year.

After continued pressure on the organization by Brian Bottorff of Gay Day Partners, the CVB will participate in the 13th Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa on Friday, June 3. The participation comes only after years of requests and an offer to waive the booth fee, providing the organization with free space to help promote the Orlando area.

The 13th Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo Series chose this year's Gay Days Weekend as one of one of only eight stops in North America. Airlines, tour operators, marketing organizations and other businesses eager for reaching the GLBT consumer will participate. Various convention and visitor bureaus will participate, including those from Miami, Key West, Dallas, San Francisco, Palm Springs, Toronto, Provincetown, Puerto Rico, Spain and Saugatuck, Mich.

The local CVB's participation will not be focused on encouraging GLBT travelers to continue to include Orlando in their future vacation destination plans, but rather to provide information on where to go and what to do while they're here.

Bottorff decided to push for the CVB's presence after seeing their support of a much smaller convention at the Wyndham. That convention had a total of 183 rooms at the hotel. Bottorff's group booking at the Wyndham sells out

all of the resort's 1,014 rooms and suites and is the largest group hotel block of gays in one place in the world. Bottorff also credits the assistance of the Wyndham's staff with encouraging the Orlando CVB to accept his invitation to appear.

Representatives of the CVB told Bottorff that their marketing focuses on bringing incremental visitors to town and that with their limited marketing budget, they target on out-of-market visitors as opposed to those who have already made it to Orlando. In addition, the organization said, they do not normally participate in consumer shows.

"We're providing a service at the travel expo," said Danielle Courtenay, vice president of public relations for Orlando/Orange CVB. Courtenay said the CVB's appearances at other conventions and expos is generally done through contracted, paid arrangements.

"We don't do marketing to specific groups and we don't market to groups that are already here," Courtenay said.

The group has agreed to participate in the show as an information source and will provide a convention assistant who will staff their booth and distribute *Orlando Fun Guides* and discount cards to area attractions and businesses.

The participation comes at a time when numerous cities are recognizing the economic strength of the gay and lesbian traveler. According to the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, the gay travel market is estimated to be a \$54.1 billion industry, strong numbers for a population still seen as a "niche."

Previous efforts to have Orlando's CVB participate have been akin to running headfirst into a brick wall. Chris Alexander-Manley, vice president of sales and marketing for GayDayS.com, said his organization has attempted to bring the CVB on board in the past as well.

"The response we get each year is that they don't market to specific communities, though I'd like to see if they advertise to more specific minority demographics in various publications," he said.

Alexander-Manley said the local CVB has been helpful overall in providing assistance, but "it would be nice if they stepped up to plate" and supported the weekend more.

The CVB Web site features a calendar of events ranging from art exhibits to restaurant events. Businesses must be paid members of the CVB to have their events listed, and not all membership levels allow free listings on the Web site.

Alexander-Manley said his organization is a paid member and that GayDayS.com was still learning what benefits their membership allowed. **W**  
Kirk Hartlage

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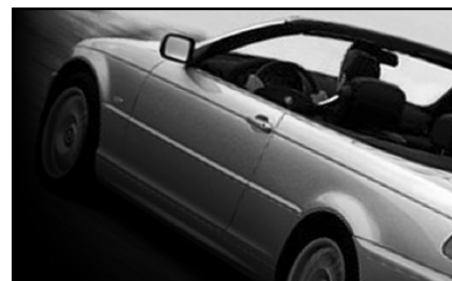
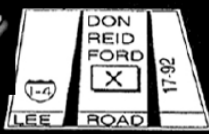
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## ORLANDO

## CHRISTIAN RIGHT GROUP ENDS DISNEY BOYCOTT

ORLANDO - Less than two weeks before Orlando's Gay Days Weekend, the ultra-conservative American Family Association has ended its boycott of the Walt Disney Co. The boycott began nine years ago as a response to an alleged erosion of the entertainment giant's clean, family image.



American Family Association president **TIM WILDMON** says it's time for his group to move on.

The AFA — among others — had protested Disney's decision to extend benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees, as well as what they perceived as increasingly violent and sex-filled content of movies made by its Miramax subsidiary.

Now, the group's officials said there are other more pressing issues on its plate.

Chris Alexander-Manley, the vice president of sales and marketing of GayDayS.com, one of several groups producing events for Gay Days Weekend, dismissed the sincerity of those remarks.

"If they say they have more important issues to tend to, you'd think it might be to feed the hungry or work with the homeless, but they don't usually do much on that," Alexander-Manley said.

The Christian group has long blasted the annual Gay Days Weekend, saying that Disney promoted the annual pilgrimage of the GLBT community to Walt Disney World each first weekend of June. Disney has done nothing to promote the weekend and has repeatedly gone on record saying such. Disney, however, sponsors the annual Night of Joy Christian music concerts in the late summer.

In fact, protesters at Gay Days Weekend have dwindled over the years. While banners once flew over Disney's Magic Kingdom offering salvation through Jesus Christ and individuals have held protest signs in front of the park during the weekend, little has been done in the last few years.

"Disney's attitude, arrogance and embrace of the homosexual lifestyle gave us no choice but to advocate a boycott of the company these last few years," AFA president Tim Wildmon said. He added

that the boycott was about raising issues that were of concern to his organization — primarily the promotion of gay interests in the culture and in the media.

"If you're going to call for a boycott of a company — if something has become that serious — you need to have all your resources behind it," Wildmon wrote in a letter published on the group's Web site. "There are so many other issues we need to move on to and deal with that are taking our time and energy."

The boycott has had a limited effect. Though profits in its various divisions have wavered over the past nine years, Disney has reported higher earnings overall, with increased attendance at its theme parks and strong performances from its film studio and ABC television network.

AFA officials said they see the retirement of Michael Eisner, Disney's longtime chief executive officer, and the company's break with Miramax's founders, brothers Bob and Harvey Weinstein, as two positive steps.

AFA's Wildmon also said that he's pleased to see that Disney is co-producing a film based on the Christian literary classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and that the entertainment empire has announced a 10-month marketing campaign to reach the Christian community. Wildmon said the announcement is not an endorsement of Disney, just an end to the boycott "as a ministry agenda item."

While the AFA was instrumental in initiating the boycott, but it was not one of the largest groups supporting it. Others involved include the Southern Baptist Convention and the Assemblies of God. Both denominations still officially support the boycott. Observers have speculated that the Southern Baptists may "declare victory and move on" during its convention in Nashville later this month.

Mary Kay Cosmetics recently bowed to pressure from the AFA to pull its advertising from the No. 3-ranked television show, *Desperate Housewives*. Earlier this year, the Christian Right group has also waged a successful campaign to urge Tyson Foods, Kellogg's and Lowe's to do the same thing. *Housewives* appears on ABC, which is owned by Disney.

"Just when you think we might be off their No. 1 hit list," Alexander-Manley mused. "Just like the Taliban, these groups throw a tantrum groups don't get their way. Sadly, that seems to be the direction our country is moving in. If you feel it's wrong in other countries, it should be wrong here." ▼ Kirk Hartlage



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THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS, INC.

## NEW RADIO STATION HOPES TO REACH GLBT LISTENERS

**SARASOTA** - Most Florida residents associate the summer months with high humidity, pride events and the occasional hurricane. But this year, GLBT Sarasotans has one other event to look forward to – the launching of WSLR radio, the newest community radio station in town.

According to Arlene Sweeting, secretary of the WSLR Board, the 100-watt local radio station will be on the air Aug. 9. The small station hopes to reach out to a diverse crowd, including the GLBT population in Sarasota.

"We were at Sarasota Pride because we want to reach out to all segments of the population," Sweeting said. "Plus, we know the gay and lesbian community will support our mission."

The mission of the radio station matches perfectly with a GLBT pride event – to celebrate local cultural diversity and commitment to equality, peace and social and economic justice.

WSLR – which currently stands for Sarasota Local Radio – will have a tower in Downtown Sarasota. Sweeting estimates that the broadcast signal will reach an approximate five-mile radius. Although there are no current plans to increase the station's power, Sweeting said that could be a possibility.

"More than likely we'll stay at 100 watts for a while because that's what the FCC has regulated for us," Sweeting said. "We'd love to reach a broader audience, but we can only take up so

much of the dial."

The station, which will air at 96.5 FM on the dial, will eventually stream live online as well at WSLR.org.

The station is a low-power, independent FM station. The license is issued to the New College Student Alliance. However, the station's board is made up of several different organizations.

"There were several competing groups applying for the same frequency," Sweeting said. "The community group worked out an agreement with the New College Student Alliance that we'd close our application and file an MX agreement."

The agreement states that the college gets the license, but the governing board of the station would equally represent both groups.

"When we're up and running, we'll have equal representation," Sweeting said. "We'll have college students broadcasting and anyone in the community who would like to broadcast as well."

The station is still trying to raise money for the construction of the tower. Membership programs are available online or by calling the station at (941) 747-2880.

"The letters WSLR may stand for something different by the time we get up and running," Sweeting said, "but our mission will remain the same. We're a diverse, extremely local radio station."

▼ Steve Blanchard

## SARASOTA BRIEFS

### TRINITY MCC'S WEEKEND FOCUSES ON RELATIONSHIPS

Church of the Trinity MCC will host a Community and Friends Weekend June 4-5 featuring a seminar on relationships, a barbecue and honors for two of the church's members. On Saturday, June 4, the Rev. Ken Martin, the pastor of Freedom Oaks MCC in Austin, Texas, will lead the seminar entitled, 10 Building Blocks to Successful Relationships. Martin will preach at Trinity's 11 a.m. Interfaith Community and Friends service, followed by a barbecue. The church's board of directors will then honor John Dorr and Billy Bruce Wagener. For more information about the Community and Friends Weekend, call the church office at (941) 355-0847.

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## TAMPA BAY

## UNA VOCE INTRODUCES ITS NEW DIRECTOR

**ST. PETERSBURG** – The new director of Una Voce: The Florida Men's Chorale brings an impressive breadth of experience to the position.



Handsomeness, talented, straight: **DEREK EDWARD WESTON** is Una Voce's new director.

Derek Edward Weston has conducted symphonies and choral groups on four continents. He is currently Director of Choral Studies at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts, and his appointment

signals Una Voce's priority – to stay serious about the music.

Weston's first concert with Una Voce will be *A Table for Two*, performed by the chorus on Friday, June 10, at King of Peace MCC, and again the following evening at USF Theatre I in Tampa. Both concerts are at 8 p.m., and \$15 tickets (two for \$25) are available at

(813) 786-2862 or Una-voce.com.

The resurgent organization believes Weston will "breathe new life" into their music.

"Una Voce is fortunate and very proud to be under the direction of such an accomplished and talented conductor," said marketing and promotion director Wayne Cooper. "We look forward to many seasons of wonderful choral music with Mr. Weston."

Weston earned his master's of arts in orchestral and choral conducting at Eastern Illinois University, where he conducted a symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, and women's, mixed and concert choral groups. Since then, he has conducted choruses and symphonies in Argentina, Spain and China.

Weston also has theatrical experience – he was music director and resident conductor at the Gumball Theatre Company in Chicago for two years, and has appeared at the prestigious Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

Further rounding out his diverse resume, Weston was director of music at First United Methodist Church of Mattoon, Ill. He lives with his wife, Gwen, and son, Gregory, in St. Petersburg. ▼ *Tom Dyer*

## USF PROFESSOR WINS SHILTS BOOK AWARD

**TAMPA** – A University of South Florida professor's book about the government crackdown on gays in the 1950s has won another prestigious award.



Author **DAVID K. JOHNSON** calls *The Lavender Scare* "a cautionary tale."

The Publishing Triangle recently named David K. Johnson's *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* winner of the Randy Shilts Award for

Gay Non-Fiction.

Last month, the much-praised book, published by the University of Chicago Press, won the Herbert Hoover Book Award for the best book on U.S. history covering the former president's period in public life. *Lavender Scare* also won the 2004 Myers Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights.

*Lavender Scare* describes the frightening, largely untold story of government repression of gays and lesbians during the Cold War. During this period, thousands of government employees faced the following question: "Information has come to the attention of the Civil Service Commission that

you are a homosexual. What comment do you care to make?"

The investigations, which coincided with Sen. Joseph McCarthy's Red Scare regarding Communists in government, turned a formerly hospitable Washington, D.C., into a nightmare for gays and lesbians. The U.S. Park Service initiated a "Pervert Elimination Campaign." The purges ended promising careers, ruined lives and pushed many to suicide.

Johnson's book relied on newly declassified documents, years of research in the records of the National Archives and FBI, and interviews with former civil servants.

"We should not forget that the Lavender Scare was a reaction to an earlier time of openness and visibility for the gay community," said Johnson, who lives in St. Petersburg with his partner, photographer Todd Richardson. "Progress is always subject to a backlash."

Johnson is a visiting professor of history at the University of South Florida. He has degrees from Georgetown University and Northwestern University, and was a research and writing fellow at the Smithsonian Institution and the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies at the City University of New York.

He is currently working on a book about the Johns Committee, which authorized Florida's legislature to probe the private lives of gay and lesbian state employees.

▼ *Tom Dyer*

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## TAMPA BAY BRIEFS

### STORY SPOTLIGHTS GLBT PRESENCE IN SEMINOLE HEIGHTS

A May 19 front-page story in the "Floridian" section of the St. Petersburg Times focused on Seminole Heights and its efforts to attract a Starbucks franchise. But it also cast a spotlight on the growing GLBT presence in the neighborhood. The feature included a large photo of neighbors dining at the home of partners Troy Apiti and Shawn Hicks. Numerous GLBT homeowners were mentioned – an accepted fact in the north Tampa neighborhood of renovated bungalows and not cause for further attention.

### FIREFIGHTER DEMOTED FOR GAY RAPE COMMENTS

A Pinellas Park firefighter has been demoted for making sexually inappropriate comments during a ride-along with a female University of South Florida student. Robin Brightbill admitted describing gay rape and bisexual and group sex to Kristen Callihan, a graduate journalism student. Callihan later reported that she was so upset she was unable to eat lunch. The demotion will cost Brightbill \$11,000-per-year in salary. "I have brought embarrassment to my department and to the city, and I apologize," he said.

### FIORINI GALLERY OPENS TYRONE LOCATION

Fiorini Gallery has opened a second St. Petersburg location in the Crossroads Center at 2060 Tyrone Blvd. N. The first location on Central Avenue, in the heart of the Grand Central District, is currently being renovated and will reopen soon as gallery, teaching center and workspace for artists. Owner Dan Fiorini has spotlighted the work of GLBT artists, from local to international. He said the grand opening of his second gallery space will be later this month, and will feature two new artists.



## TAMPA BAY

## TOMES AND TREASURES SAYS ITS FINAL GOODBYE

TAMPA - As Bill Kanouff looked around him, he still found it hard to believe that it's over. The owner of Tomes and Treasures has spent the last 18 years of his life selling books, movies, clothing, jewelry and coffee to the GLBT community of Tampa Bay. On May 27, he locked the front door to his South Howard Avenue business for the last time.

"It's felt like I've been at a wake for the last four weeks," Kanouff said about the closing. "It's been rough emotionally but I've needed this to end."

The popular bookstore and coffee house, A Different Grind, have faced increasing competition from larger retail chains selling similar merchandise at cheaper prices, something a small business just can't compete with, Kanouff said.

"My debts are four times what my assets are," Kanouff said. "I've been robbing Peter to pay Paul, and I just can't afford it anymore."

Kanouff said that retail chains like Best Buy are selling DVDs of *The L-Word* and *Queer as Folk* for prices he just can't match. However, he doesn't blame customers for taking a trip to the stores to save on the items.

Tomes and Treasures and A Different Grind looked remarkably different in its last week of operations. The coffeehouse tables and chairs were all stacked in one corner and the normally loud coffee machinery sat quietly behind the counter, most of it not even plugged in.

The bookstore's shelves were missing merchandise and large "75% off" signs hung on almost every rack of merchandise. Since announcing his going-out-of-business sale at the beginning of May, Kanouff said he's sold about 5,000 books, but he still has plenty left.

"I have a friend who said he can sell the rest of this merchandise on eBay," Kanouff said. "I've had some people who are interested in parts of the coffee house. I'll probably just sell that off bit by bit."

As for the building itself, Kanouff still cannot say what will replace Tomes and Treasures, although he has had some interest in the building.

"I've had everyone from attorneys to others who want to start a coffee house stop by and look at the place," Kanouff said. "But no one has signed anything. Right now, your guess is as good as mine as to what it's going to be here."

Tomes and Treasures and A Different Grind had one final celebration on May 1 when Kanouff invited his most loyal customers to a thank-you celebration in honor of the store's closing. Kanouff estimates that almost 2,000 people stopped in to say their goodbyes.

"It was almost overwhelming we had so many people," Kanouff said. "It was a lot of fun and it was an amazing turnout. But it's still time to move on."



Bill Kanouff stands among empty shelves at Tomes and Treasures, the store he has run for almost 18 years on Howard Avenue in Tampa. The store and its coffee house, A Different Grind, officially closed its doors for good May 27. Photo by Steve Blanchard

Kanouff said he hopes to take some time to travel. He said he has friends throughout the world who have offered him a place to stay. He just doesn't know where he's going first.

"I'm not planning on moving," Kanouff said. "It's funny. I'm at a crossroads in my life where I have the opportunity to move anywhere in the world, but I think I'm staying here in Tampa. I love the community and it's such a gracious style of living. It's urban enough to have everything you need but small enough to be slow and not too fast-paced."

Kanouff has definitely seen "fast-paced living" before. He ran a successful upscale restaurant in Manhattan, before moving to Tampa Bay in 1986. He wasn't sure what he was going to do in Florida when he stumbled upon Tomes and Treasures.

"Everything has always just happened for me," Kanouff said. "I've never planned, really. Now I'm planning for the

worst and hoping for the best."

After his travels, which will be sometime after St. Petersburg Pride, Kanouff hopes to have an idea of what his next step in life should be. In fact, he may already have an idea.

"Maybe I'll buy a catamaran and a small freezer and stay out in the gulf delivering ice cream to boaters," Kanouff said. "That could actually fly and it would be the perfect, relaxing Florida job." ▽ Steve Blanchard



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## KEY WEST TO LIGHT UP THE SKIES FOR PRIDE

**KEY WEST** - Key West will host PrideFest, from Saturday, June 4, to Sunday, June 12.

PrideFest enthusiasts can enjoy a presentation of local talent at the *Pride Follies* at the Tennessee Williams Theatre Saturday, June 4.

Sunday's highlight will be the Pride in Paradise Home and Garden Tour, an insiders' look at some of the most appealing houses and grounds in Key West.

Monday, June 6, brings PrideFest's official welcome ceremonies and the Celebrating Achievements in Pride awards recognizing community leaders.

A variety of festival events celebrate Key West's accepting and fun-loving spirit. Mr. PrideFest will be chosen Tuesday evening at the Bourbon Street Pub, while the Ms. PrideFest competition is set for Wednesday evening at Aqua.

Perhaps the most symbolic event during PrideFest is the Fairvilla MegaLights for Pride celebration, when a rainbow of eight giant searchlights will fill the sky along Duval Street with the eight colors of the original rainbow flag.

The lights will illuminate the sky in conjunction with the parade. The parade's grand marshal is the Rev. Troy Perry, who founded the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

After the parade, the PrideLights will move to the Atlantic Shores Resort, for the Atlantic Shores' Pride Colors Ball.

The day after leading the PrideFest parade, Perry plans to lead two worship services commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Key West's Metropolitan Community Church.

Other events on the schedule include a two-day street fair on Duval, a gathering for transgendered and questioning people, a party for gay teens, a leather party and the lively "gay games."

The celebration is to culminate with a concert by Jason and DeMarco, on Sunday, June 12, at Key West's San Carlos Institute.

For more information visit [PridefestKeyWest.com](http://PridefestKeyWest.com) or call (305) 292-3223. ▼

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## NATION/WORLD BRIEFS

## WARSAW MAYOR BANS GAY PRIDE PARADE . . . AGAIN

A June 11 gay rights parade in Warsaw, Poland, has been banned by the city's mayor for a second year, angering activists. Far-right Mayor Lech Kaczynski said the parade will clash with the unveiling of a statue in memory of a wartime resistance fighter. He called for the parade to be blocked last year as well, arguing the event would lead to counter-demonstrations. "I am for tolerance, but am against propagating gay orientation," the mayor said. Last year, Krakow officials clashed with gay marchers after they held a rally on a Catholic holiday.

## DOWN-LOW POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF MURDER

A former Columbia, Mo., police officer was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of a gay college student with whom he had a sexual affair. The jury deliberated nine hours before convicting Steven Rios of slashing Jesse Valencia's throat last June. Prosecutors said Rios, a married father, killed Valencia, 23, to keep him from revealing their relationship. Rios met Valencia in April 2004, when he arrested the student for interfering with him and another officer as they answered a police call about a loud party. During his trial, he testified that their sexual relationship began that night.

## ROMANS PUSH FOR LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES

Scores of gay couples gathered in central Rome on May 21 for a symbolic gesture aimed at pushing for the recognition of legal status to same-sex couples. Italy does not recognize unions between unmarried couples. About 50 couples — including some straight couples — took part in the event in a downtown piazza in the Italian capital, kissing and celebrating in front of scores of cameras.

## STUDENTS SUE AS PRINCIPAL CENSORS STORIES

A group of high school journalists sued the Kern High School District in East Bakersfield, Calif., in an effort to keep their principal from censoring student newspaper articles on homosexuality. The suit, filed by the ACLU, requests an emergency order to allow the paper to publish the stories in *The Kernal's* year-end May 27 issue. Principal John Gibson said he blocked publication because he was worried about violence on campus. The articles include photos and interviews with gay students discussing their sexual orientation.

## GENDER ROLES INGRAIN QUICKLY AMONG YOUTHS

WASHINGTON - There are unwritten rules about being a boy and being a girl that children quickly master in social settings, said Betty Spence. The president of the National Association for Female Executives kicked off a provocative panel discussion at the 10th GenderPAC conference in Washington, D.C., on May 22.

"In 'boy world,' boys have got to hide their emotions; they have to disdain any signs of being vulnerable; they have to find aggression acceptable; power over weaker boys determines status. In 'girl world,' popularity and looks create status; aggressiveness and independence can get you ostracized; and name-calling against weaker girls can improve your status," Spence said.

Spence noted that the gender straight-jacket and the bullying that is used to enforce conforming is affecting kids' performance in school and the way they see themselves.

"Bullying is a very serious problem. I see it in the classroom, but it mostly happens on the playground," said Eric Heins, an elementary school teacher in the East Bay area of California. The bullies "tend to be successful, according to their peers."

Heins noted that there is a "girl thing" and a "boy thing" for just about everything. He crossed his legs, an action that invariably results in one of his young male stu-

dents asking, "Why do you sit like a girl?"

He said that he then explains that the custom was tied to girls wearing dresses and not wanting to expose themselves, but when people wear pants, they can sit any way that makes them comfortable. Heins said that in his classroom, "it is all about respectful behavior and presenting them with options outside of the norm."

Heins said he believes that true violence within schools, such as the shootings at Columbine High School, is a rare event that the media focuses upon.

"Schools tend to be a very safe place for kids. But if we talk about violence in terms of bullying and verbal harassment, that is all too prevalent. One of the worst things we can do is not talk about it," Heins said. "The pressure (on kids) to conform is huge."

Others on the panel concurred.

"As a parent, talking about these issues in school is important," said Susan Wefald, director of institutional planning at the Ms. Foundation. "One of the root causes of violence against women is adherence to narrowly defined gender roles and straight definitions of masculinity within families. We need to free boys and men from those narrow definitions so that they can be whole people."

▼ Bob Roehr

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## NATION

## NEW HATE CRIMES BILL INCLUDES TRANSGENDERS

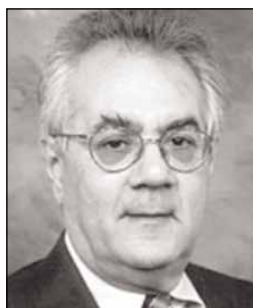
WASHINGTON - Gay activists had high praise for a new federal hate crimes bill introduced in late May that would cover incidents against all members of the GLBT community — including, for the first time, transgenders.

"This is truly a historic moment — the introduction of the first major piece of federal legislation that explicitly seeks to protect transgender people," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"Given the pervasive nature of hate violence against transgender people, any hate crimes bill that fails to specifically include transgender people would be deeply flawed, both morally and from a law enforcement perspective," Foreman added. "We hope the Senate will now update its bill with the new House language so that we can support it as well."

A 1997 survey conducted by GenderPAC found that 59% of transgender people reported being the victim of harassment or violence.

According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs 11% of the 2,384 victims of anti-GLBT hate crimes recorded in 2003 identified as transgender. Among the bill sponsors are openly gay House



**BARNEY FRANK** is among the co-sponsors of new federal hate crimes legislation.

members Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., as well as Miami-based GOP congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who has recently sponsored a bill to end the federal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military.

Congress enacted the existing hate crimes law 27 years ago. The law gives federal assistance to local and state government to help prosecute violent crimes

motivated by race, color, national origin or religion. In addition, the law protects victims who are involved in specific federally protected activities. Previous — and unsuccessful — versions of this bill did not include protections for transgenders. A Senate version is expected to be introduced later this year.

"Transgender and gay Americans deserve the same clear protections against hate crimes as other Americans," Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese said. "Congress should act swiftly to ensure local law enforcement agencies have the tools they need from the federal government to combat hate crimes against the entire GLBT community. ▽ *Staff and wire reports*

## CALIF. JUDGES COULD DEFINE WHAT COMPRISES A FAMILY

SAN FRANCISCO - California's highest court has been asked to create a legal framework for what constitutes a family as justices weighed parental rights for lesbian couples who broke up after having children.

The state Supreme Court, hearing oral arguments recently in the cases of three women seeking child custody or support from their former partners, pondered whether children from same-sex households should be treated the same under the law as out-of-wedlock offspring of heterosexuals.

Attorneys for some of the women and the California attorney general argued that children should be given the same protections they would have with two traditional parents, since gays cannot marry and may have legitimate reasons for not registering as domestic partners or formally adopting their children.

They urged the court to apply long-standing laws governing absent fathers to estranged gay and lesbian couples who used reproductive science to conceive, a practice that leaves one partner without a genetic link to the family.

"In every situation where possible, parentage should be established," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, argu-

ing on behalf of a woman who wants to share custody of the daughter her ex-partner conceived with a sperm donor. "It seems very unfair to this particular group of children to say that when assisted reproduction results in being born to unmarried same-sex couples, we can't establish parentage."

On the other side are two women seeking to retain sole custody of their children and one who argues she shouldn't have to pay child support for her former lover's twins. Their lawyers warned that if someone without a biological, marital or adoption-related claim on a child can legally assert parental rights, it would open the door to all sorts of custody disputes.

"There will be no limit to the numbers of companions, be they related or not, to single parents making claims of parentage," said Diana Richmond, representing a woman seeking sole custody of the twin girls she bore with her former partner's donated eggs. "This court would be substituting its judgment for what's better for the children than the judgment of the parent."

Several justices seemed inclined to side with the women who want their former partners to live up to the co-parenting arrangements they made when starting a family. (AP)

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## SPIRITUALITY

## SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS

**SECOND SUNDAY SERVICES ARE A HIT AT KING OF PEACE**

The Second Sunday service at King of Peace MCC is a success: Some 44 people attended May's evening service. The service was highlighted by a group of vocalists and musicians with guitars and violin. The new services offer time for prayer, praise and communion. The next Second Sunday service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 12. To serve as a host for the service or learn about other opportunities, contact Lorraine Brock, director of worship and congregational life at (727) 323-5857.

**HOME-GROWN TALENT TO PERFORM AT RAINBOW PROMISE**

Rainbow Promise MCC near Lakeland will host an evening of music and worship on Saturday, June 11, to help the church's building fund. The concert will feature the Rainbow Promise Choir, the Canaan Band, Just Mel and as well as the unique song stylings of singer and songwriter Linda Cozine. Cozine is a Jacksonville native who is preparing her first contemporary Christian CD that is expected to be released by Christmas. She'll also take part in Rainbow Promise's June 12 services. Also on the bill is the Canaan Band, featuring Rainbow Promise Choir director David Lee, James Blanchard and Melanie.

## SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

## DAYTONA BEACH / SPACECOAST

**COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

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

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## ORLANDO

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**DIGNITY/ORLANDO**

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**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO**

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**HOPE UNITES CHURCH**

Meets at 9 a.m. Sundays at the Chapel at Rollins College in Winter Park. Call (407) 247-5294 for more information.

**INTEGRITY**

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

**JOY MCC**

Meets Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave. Call (407) 894-1081 or visit www.joymcc.com for more information.

**NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at 406 E. Amelia St. Call (407) 648-8880 or visit www.new-hope.info for info.

**ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE**

Sundays 10:30 a.m. at the Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. (407) 673-3030. Cath DePalma & John DePalma, ministers.

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Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m. 10623 106th Avenue North, Largo. (727) 709-1542 or www.holyspiritcc.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 p.m. at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. (813) 988-5283.

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERSBURG**

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

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF TAMPA**

Services at 11 a.m. Sundays, 11400 Morris Bridge Road

**UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY**

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**UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY**

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## SARASOTA

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**DIGNITY OF SARASOTA**

Mass for GLBT Catholics Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. (941)359-9504 or www.dignitysarasota.com.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Open and affirming congregation. 1031 S. Euclid Ave. Dr. John Syster, Senior Minister, and Rev. Donna Papenhausen, Minister for Education (941) 953-7044 or (941) 365-4463; uccsarasota@aol.com

**SOULFORCE**

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 Soulforce.swflorida@verizon.net, or visit www.soulforce.org.

**SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC**

9 a.m. traditional services and 11 a.m. contemporary services on Sundays 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**

Welcoming congregation with openly gay minister. Services at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, 3975 Fruitville Road (941) 371-4974. Rev. Don Beaudreault.

## WORLDWIDE PRIDE EVENT POSTPONED TO AUGUST '06

**JERUSALEM** - If you're headed to WorldPride in Jerusalem in a few months, you may want to contact your airline carrier. The international celebration of GLBT pride has been postponed a year.

Organizers of WorldPride said the August event would have coincided with the politically sensitive disengagement of Israeli settlers from Gaza. WorldPride was originally set for Aug. 18-28. Under Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's new schedule, the pullout will begin on Aug. 16. Evacuating Jewish settlements could lead

to unrest in the volatile Middle East and WorldPride organizers wanted to steer clear of that.

"We have taken this decision out of consideration to the most difficult political climate expected in Israel this August," said Noa Sattath, chairperson of Jerusalem Open House. "As a community we are deeply engaged in the complex reality surrounding us."

JOH leaders decided to postpone WorldPride after The postponement had nothing to do with the opposition by conservative Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders.

"The religious pressure only gives us more motivation, but the message is supposed to be of tolerance, pluralism and equality, and that can't be done in August this year alongside disengagement," Sattath said.

The new dates for WorldPride could also put the squeeze on two other international GLBT events in 2006, the Chicago Gay Games, set for July 15-22, and the first World Outgames in Montreal, July 26-Aug. 5. Organizers for both events say that they're not concerned that the WorldPride's new dates will affect their events. ▽ *Staff reports*

## ARIZ. CLERGY WANTED TO TALK GAY MARRIAGE

**PHOENIX** - A group of gay clergy members gathered at a Maricopa County, Ariz., courthouse to request marriage licenses but were denied a meeting with the court clerk — an expected conclusion to the mostly symbolic trek.

The ministers went to county Superior Court Clerk Michael Jeanes' office to present some 60 affidavits that said they married gay couples. Their plan was to then demand licenses for the unions, but Jeanes wasn't available, according to spokeswoman Cari Gerchick.

"He will not meet with you now or in the near future," Gerchick said. Gerchick said she would have to "look into my crystal ball" to see when they might be granted a meeting.

The Rev. Charlotte Strayhorne, a minister of music at a Phoenix church, said she is tired of being ignored.

"If we are going to pay our taxes, then we should be represented," Strayhorne said. Fourteen couples took place in a similar demonstration May 14, 2004, against Arizona's ban on same-sex unions.

"Here we stand again, one year later, demanding that the laws of Arizona change," said the Rev. Brad Wishon, a Phoenix minister. Wishon said he is confident their efforts will eventually pay off. (AP)



## HEALTH

## COULD MINOCYCLINE BE THE NEXT HOPE FOR AIDS?

BALTIMORE, Md. - Imagine a drug that cuts HIV viral load by more than 90%, is safer than the pain reliever ibuprofen and costs about the same — just pennies a day. It is active against TB, chlamydia, malaria and even acne, so you'll have great-looking skin too. And it's sitting on the pharmacy shelf today.

It sounds too good to be true. Maybe it will end up being little more than a pleasant day dream by the time all of the research is in, but at least for now there is an alluring buzz about minocycline and the way it is stimulating new thinking about treating HIV infection.

M. Christine Zink led the team at Johns Hopkins University that looked at the antibiotic minocycline in monkeys and in cell lines in the laboratory. The paper was published in the April 27 issue of *JAMA*, the widely read and well-respected *Journal of the American Medical Association*.



Johns Hopkins University researcher M. CHRISTINE ZINK sees minocycline as a resistance-free possibility in the AIDS battle.

The original focus of their research was HIV in the brain. Dementia was one of the most terrifying aspects of the early years of the AIDS epidemic. High levels of viral replication and inflammation resulted in encephalitis, a swelling within the brain that literally drives one crazy.

Combination therapy has made dementia a rare occurrence today. But it is still a mixed bag; some classes of drugs, NNRTIs such as Sustiva, penetrate the blood-brain barrier very well, while others, including most protease inhibitors, can't seem to get through very effectively to take on HIV inside your head. That means the virus is freer to replicate and different variations can evolve within that separate compartment.

HIV may no longer be a raging inferno in the brain but the virus has not been eradicated. The path it takes today is more like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases, a smoldering presence that slowly destroys brain cells and reduces cognitive function. Peering into the closed box of the skull to tease out which disease is causing the physical and mental decline is a difficult task.

The researchers at Johns Hopkins have learned that many of these diseases of the brain share a common trait of inflammation and similar signaling molecular associated with regulation of that inflammation. Lab tests have shown that minocycline, an antibiotic in the tetracycline family that has been used for more than 30 years, is particularly effective at dampening down those signals. Trials of the drug have begun in humans for several brain disorders.

**PART 1 OF 2** The second part of this story will appear in Issue 12-12.

cline, an antibiotic in the tetracycline family that has been used for more than 30 years, is particularly effective at dampening down those signals. Trials of the drug have begun in humans for several brain disorders.

That prompted Zink to take a look at what the drug could do against HIV. She used monkeys that develop encephalitis very rapidly after being infected with a monkey strain of the virus called SIV. Five animals were given minocycline beginning on Day 21 after infection, a point that corresponds with stable infection in the course of HIV disease in humans.

By Day 84, two of the treated monkeys had developed only mild encephalitis while 3 had not at all. In contrast, among the six monkeys that were not treated, one did not develop SIV infection while three developed moderate and two developed severe cases of encephalitis associated with SIV.

All of the animals were euthanized at that point and their brains were examined to determine the levels of signaling molecular associated with that inflammation. As hypothesized, those levels were significantly lower in the monkeys that had been given minocycline. It also seemed to suppress viral replication within the brain and the central nervous system.

That led Zink and her colleagues to go back to the lab to see what minocycline could do against cell lines of lymphocytes (T-cells) and macrophages, the two principle types of cells where the virus replicates.

It is not acting directly on HIV, as do all currently approved therapies.

"It seems unlikely to us that resistance will develop, at least at the same rate that it does against the drugs that are targeted to the viral proteins," she said. That also reduces the likelihood of interactions with existing anti-HIV drugs if it is used as an add on to combination therapy.

"We have to think outside the box a little bit," Zink said, waxing philosophical. "The pharmaceutical industry is concentrating really heavily on antiretrovirals. I think that we have to look a little bit broader.

"We have to realize that although antiretrovirals are becoming more and more available in developing countries, when you consider the amount of monitoring that you need, and some of the toxicities and side effects, I don't think they are the perfect solution. We have to think globally." ▼ Bob Roehr

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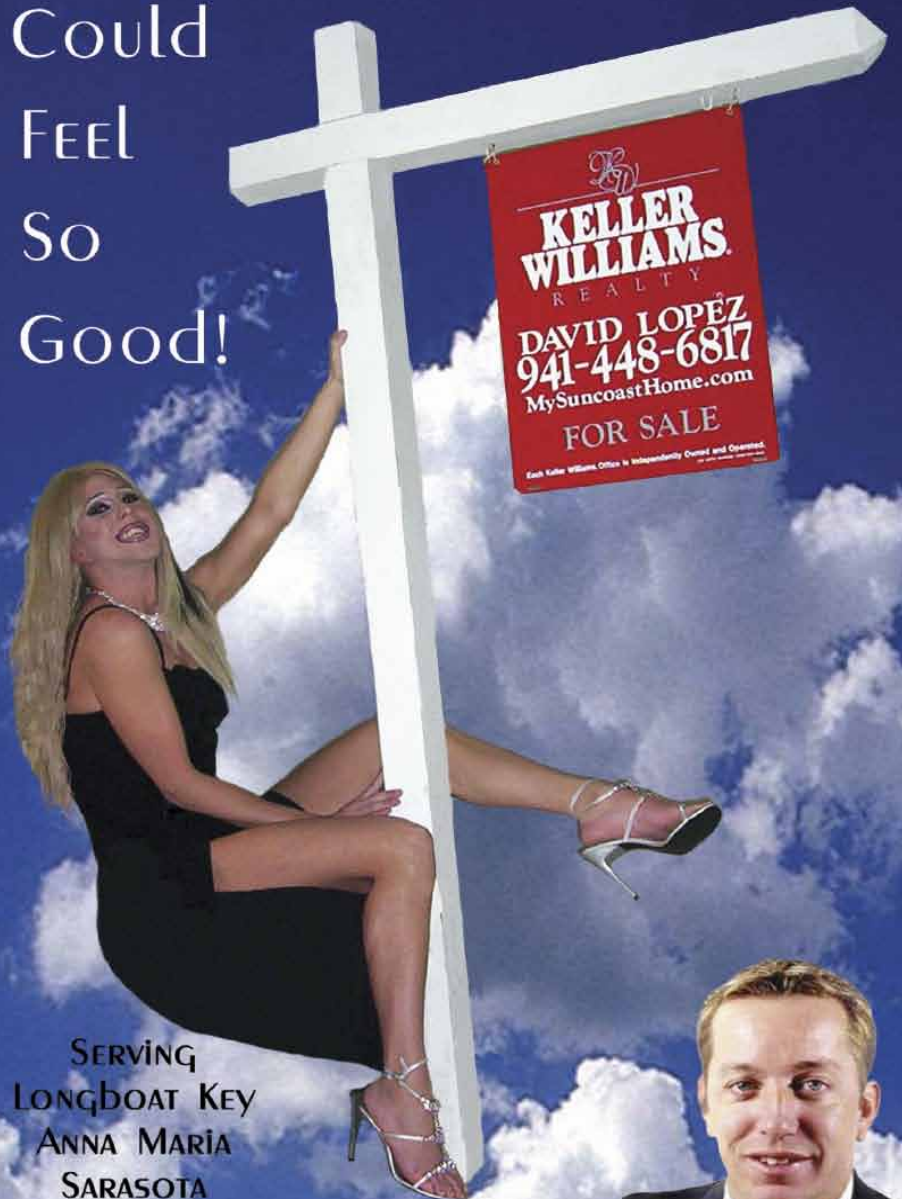
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## The word on HIV:

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate),  
in HIV combination therapy, can help you

# fight HIV your way.

*Individual results may vary.*

**INDICATION:** Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

**Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.**

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

**Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines:** ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, Aciphex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, or Vfend® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

**Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

**Common side effects** of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

**Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.**

**Once Daily REYATAZ** is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable\*
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)†
- ◆ Two pills taken once-a-day (with a snack or meal)‡


\* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

† REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

‡ People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

You and your doctor can **fight HIV your way.**

  
**REYATAZ®**  
(atazanavir sulfate) 150 mg/200 mg capsules

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## PATIENT INFORMATION

# REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**) Capsules

**Rx ONLY**

### ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ.

Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

### What is REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate)?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

### Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

**REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

### Who should not take REYATAZ?

#### Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

#### Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

### How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or VIDEK® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets,** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

### Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

### What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

### The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.

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

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

### What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

**Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take).** REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

### Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.** This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

### Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together.

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

### The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

### The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BLAXIN® (darlithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

**Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception.** REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

### Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

### How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

### General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

### What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

**Active Ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

**Inactive Ingredients:** Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

F1-B0001B-12-04

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Revised October 2004



## BUSINESS

# STYLISH NEW GLBT BAR OPENS FOR I-DRIVE CROWD

**ORLANDO** - Nestled among the restaurants, hotels and shops of International Drive - visited daily by thousands of Orlando's vacationers, conventioners and locals who work in the service industry - Karma has opened to provide a rarely seen glimpse of GLBT nightlife in the area.

Management at the dark and stylish bar hope to reinvent the friendly tavern concept by welcoming gay and lesbian out-of-towners and local hospitality workers looking for an after-work refuge.

Straight people are welcome too.

Located minutes from the Orange County Convention Center at 8723 International Drive behind Boston Lobster Feast and Don Pablo's, Karma held its grand opening May 23 as a fundraiser for the Human Rights Campaign.

Niko Maldonado, general manager of the bar sees his business as a place for gays and lesbians to socialize in a relaxed environment without the pretense that some have said has overtaken the downtown bar scene.

"We want Karma to be a great after-work neighborhood gay bar," said Maldonado, "One without the pressure of the whole club scene. It's not about the show at Karma, it's just about having a good time."

Part of those good times will be in-

the-works theme nights, including an all-male review, martini-tasting and karaoke. Opening just in time Gay Days Weekend, Karma plans to host a "therapy" after-party for guests weary from the festivities. The event will feature massage therapists and drink specials.

Indeed, the bar's slogan seemingly fits: Come as you are - leave reborn. The décor borders casual and trendy, mixing Moroccan, Middle Eastern and South Asian décor.

"I call it 'Genie in the Bottle' meets *Moulin Rouge*," Maldonado said. "We're using lots of fabrics with rich colors, which add depth and character to the bar."

A former strip mall convenience store, Karma embraces one of the shop's leftover features: The former cooler that once held sports drinks and lunch meats now displays the bar's array of imported and domestic beers.

Also adding depth and character to the bar is it's eclectic professional coed staff, one that Maldonado says he hired based primarily on personality.

"I'm excited to see what this bar is going to grow into," Maldonado said. "Ultimately, the crowds will determine what the bar will become."

For more information, visit [Karmaorlando.com](http://Karmaorlando.com). ▼ *Kirk Hartlage*



The owners of Karma, the new GLBT club on International Drive, have modified the former convenience store location into a stylish nightspot.

## UCC, WYNDHAM HONORED FOR GLBT-FRIENDLY ADS

**NEW YORK** - A United Church of Christ television commercial by Gotham Inc., banned by the big three television networks, was named Outstanding 2004 Commercial for its positive portrayal of the GLBT community in the first-ever Commercial Closet Images in Advertising Awards.

The commercial stirred controversy with its portrayal of a male couple prevented from entering a church by two bouncers.

The commercial concludes with a diverse group of church members that includes a female couple.

Kenneth Cole was saluted for creating attention-grabbing advertising that takes high-profile stands on political and social issues, including a 2004 campaign that promoted equal marriage rights.

Wyndham Hotels was also honored for its portrayal of gay couples in its ads.

Chevrolet Colorado was given the Clean-Up-Your-Act Notice for its commercial featuring several men in a pickup who feel uncomfortable when another rider begins to belt, *Man, I Feel Like a Woman*. ▼ *Staff reports*

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## HEADLINE NEWS

## ANSWERS from page 6

"So, how do you get them to submit to the bondage? Drug them? Kidnapping scenes are always the best. Ever take a straight boy?" Schweickert asked, according to the federal affidavit.

"YES<YES<YES! All of the above but no idea where they are no trace to find me once released!" Lorenzo responded,



**JASON GALEHOUSE** may have died at the hands of two men intent on kidnapping and torturing other guys.



**MICHAEL WACHHOLTZ's** body was found Jan. 6, 2004, wrapped in a sheet in the back of his own sports utility vehicle.

of his own Jeep.

Was it foreseeable something like this was in Lorenzo's future? Perhaps.

"Lorenzo has been arrested before for purchasing large amounts of date-rape drugs," said Tampa Bay Police Department Public Information Officer Laura McElroy. "But he was not charged."

## THEY TAKE ACTION

On the outset, Schweickert and Lorenzo made an interesting pair. Neither had any violent criminal charges on their records.

Schweickert, who grew up in Peru, Ill., and lived in Chicago before moving to Orlando. He has only a few traffic violations on his record in his native Peru, which is about 100 miles west of Chicago. "As far as I'm aware, he hasn't even been arrested here in La Salle County," said Lt. Chris Jauch of the Peru Police Department. "Schweickert is a pretty big family name here, but I don't believe I've met him specifically."

Law enforcement authorities in Bloomington, Ill., due south of Chicago, paint a little different picture. A 1998 police report stated that Schweickert met another guy on a college campus before going back to the suspect's house. Once they arrived, he slapped a pair of cuffs on him and utter-

ing, "There is one more thing I need." The man fled and Schweickert was convicted of battery.

While Schweickert was living in Chicago — only blocks away from such well-known night spots as the Cellblock and Sidetrack — he corresponded with Lorenzo through dozens and dozens of e-mails and Internet messages, often chatting about the fantasy worlds of kidnapping, dominating and torturing other men. Lorenzo told his buddy that he knew about boys who were sold for use in snuff films.

Schweickert warned that they "Just need to keep the fantasy ones and the ones that will work in the real world clear in our minds." Lorenzo agreed, saying, "If a situation seems like it is going to shit ... Back off and wait another time."

That was about to happen. The two "met" a guy named YoungMasterTopGA, who lived in Atlanta, Ga. The pair learned that this guy probably wouldn't submit easily, but Lorenzo said he wanted to take a chance with him anyway.

"Could see it when he is taken down to say something different," Lorenzo said. They plotted to take him out for drinks, then drug him. Lorenzo suggested that once YoungMasterTopGA got into his van and the drugs kicked in, "I do a choke hold behind (him). You hold him down x'til he is out and we strap him up. Not to be found again ..."

Schweickert responded, "Perfect."

Even though the abduction never occurred — just like the plans to kidnap JohnnyTorture, who would later speak to law enforcement authorities when he discovered how "dangerous" the pair was — they continued to chat about it a week later. In fact, for weeks they chatted about meeting and following through on their fantasies. Law enforcement authorities later found that they carried them out on Dec. 7, 2003, two weeks before the assaults on Jason Galehouse and Michael Wachholtz.

According to the DEA affidavit, a victim met Lorenzo online and agreed to meet him and "a friend" in a grocery store parking lot for a possible sexual encounter. They went to Lorenzo's Powhatan Avenue bungalow, where the two men forced the victim to the ground, tied his hands and blindfolded him. Though he begged them to stop, Lorenzo and Schweickert allegedly punched him, threatening that he wouldn't leave the house alive if he didn't stop struggling.

The pair carried their prey into the bedroom, pulled off his clothes and began to "sound" him. "Sounding" is painful for even the most jaded S/M guys, as it involves inserting a stiff metal sounding rod through the meatus of the penis. The victim began to scream, thrash and hyperventilate. Even while one man began to cuddle the victim, the other continued with the sounding rod. (Schweickert, who spoke graphically and in detail with authorities, has denied this.)

He managed to get his hands free and his blindfold off and fled the Seminole Heights home.



**Steve Lorenzo's** stylish bungalow on Powhatan Avenue in Seminole Heights may have been the scene of two gruesome murders in late 2003.

Later, he recalled feeling a liquid dripped into his mouth and that his two abusers were named "Scott" and "Anthony." He also was able to positively identify Lorenzo and Schweickert's photos.

## READY FOR MORE

By this time, the pair had apparently acquired a thirst for these scenes. Schweickert, 39, now living in the Lake Buena Vista area south of Orlando, made plans to ditch his family, who's in town before Christmas 2003, and visit Lorenzo.

The both agree that they always have the "Avenue boys" to fall back on — referring to the man-whores who lurk on Kennedy Avenue in Tampa. They also chatted about what drug they would use to knock out their next victim, with Lorenzo noting that "Believe me, I know what G(HB) is," likening it to roofies.

Lorenzo suggested that they hit 2606, a leather-and-Levi's bar "like the Full Moon" in Orlando, to find a "sub." The pair found one about 1 a.m. Dec. 20, 2003: Jason Galehouse, who said he was interested in some vanilla sex.

According to Schweickert's statement, the trio went back to Lorenzo's house and messed around. Afterwards, Schweickert went to the bathroom to pee and jack off, only to find their trick held in a sleeper hold by his friend. Galehouse begged for Lorenzo to stop, but Schweickert held his legs until the younger man went limp. Lorenzo, who said that he'd done that numerous times, told Schweickert that the trick would wake up. He never did.

Schweickert freaked. Not only was he afraid of Lorenzo, he feared being implicated in the guy's death. So, they wrapped the body in a tarp and placed it in a trailer until moving to the cobblestone-floored garage a few hours later. According to

Schweickert's lurid conversations with federal authorities, they chopped up the body and put the parts in garbage bags that they would later deposit in large trash containers throughout the area, including one on the property of Hillsborough Baptist Church.

It's unclear what Lorenzo and Schweickert did that next day. Perhaps they talked about what they had done to Jason Galehouse; perhaps they did nothing.

That night, however, they went back to the bars — again cruising 2606. They met Michael Wachholtz, who was anxious to go to Lorenzo's house to "party and play." Lorenzo, the perfect host, made some cocktails (stirring them in the kitchen sink with his body blocking the view) and invited them into the living room. Schweickert conveniently hit the bathroom only to find the trick struggling with his host.

"This is not consensual!" Wachholtz shrieked, and Schweickert responded by helping to subdue the 26-year-old while Lorenzo placed an ether-soaked rag over his face. With the young man out, the partners in crime pulled off his clothes, cuffed his hands and feet and taped up his mouth.

While Schweickert wiped down the man's Jeep SUV, Lorenzo moved the body to the bathtub. Apparently, he also dug out his camera and made some souvenirs of this trick gone bad. Unbelievably, Lorenzo photographed the contorted, lifeless body, focusing on the bound wrists and ankles.

He hid the photos in some unallocated space in his home computer, but law enforcement authorities found the images and identified Lorenzo's carpet, wood floors and furniture. Friends also looked at the photos and confirmed that this body was Michael.

The images also carried a digitized "fingerprint" of the camera that took them — and it was found in Lorenzo's home.

**Continued on page 25**



## LATE - BREAKING

## ANSWERS from page 24

Like they had done with Jason Galehouse, Lorenzo and Schweickert wrapped up the body in a tarp. This time, they opted not to butcher the young man, choosing instead to put him in the back of his own sports utility vehicle. Schweickert said that he drove Wachholtz's vehicle, following Lorenzo throughout Tampa before settling on the parking lot of the Camden Bay Pointe Apartments in Town and Country. The pair went back to Lorenzo's home and then Schweickert returned to his Lake Buena Vista digs.

On Jan. 6, 2004, Wachholtz's body was discovered in the SUV so decomposed that authorities had to use dental records to identify it.



**SCOTT SCHWEICKERT** offered law enforcement officers lurid details about the sexual torture he and Steve Lorenzo may have committed.

## PANICKED FRIENDS

As the search for answers about Jason Galehouse and Michael Wachholtz continued through much of 2004, rumors began to swirl: Were they part of a serial killer's thrill ride through Tampa Bay? Would Galehouse ever resurface? Who would be next? And, were these tragedies linked to the disappearance of several other missing gay Tampa Bay like Bradley Lee Williams and Mark Thompson, who both disappeared in 2001?

Candlelight vigils were held, a Web site — FindJasonNow.com — was created to keep attention drawn to the case, and friends and family members pointed fingers at law enforcement authorities for not following up on leads fast enough. Even Equality Florida — the state's largest GLBT lobby group — became involved in an effort to find answers about the fates of these two men.

Meanwhile, Lorenzo became visible on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's radar, as well as that of the Tampa Police.

In November, authorities searched Lorenzo's bungalow and found enough evidence — including e-mails and computer images — to arrest him on charges of possession of date rape GBH and sexual assault of at least six other men.

The Seminole Heights man, whose smiling, laughing face first appeared in the Oct. 10-23, 2002, issue of *Watermark*, would not return to his bungalow. He remains in jail, yet as of the newspaper's press time, he had not yet been charged in the deaths of Galehouse or Wachholtz. (Scott Schweickert also remains in the Hillsborough County Jail on similar charges.

That may change soon. "There may be more charges from our department and more charges from the state," said Tampa Bay Police Department Public Information Officer Laura McElroy. The information obtained by the DEA's office will help in the murder investigation, McElroy said, and she admits it was a lucky break.

"It's unusual that other details like these would come to light," McElroy said. "But we will follow the leads to wherever they take us. We're making our case."

If that occurs — and if the two men are found guilty in the deaths of the two 26-year-olds who simply wanted to play before Christmas of 2003 — there may be a huge, collective sigh of relief coming from the Tampa Bay GLBT community. The case may have a bright side to it: Police worked closely with Equality Florida to establish a rapport with the GLBT community.

"We're hopeful that last week's revelations will breathe new life into these cold cases," said Equality Florida's Brian Winfield. "The only thing worse than having something terrible happen to your son, daughter or partner is not knowing what exactly happened to them."

After all, looks can be so deceiving. ▼ *Steve Blanchard also contributed to this report.*

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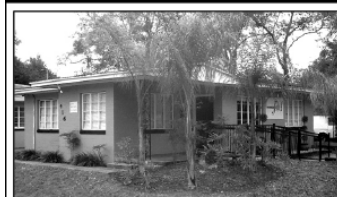
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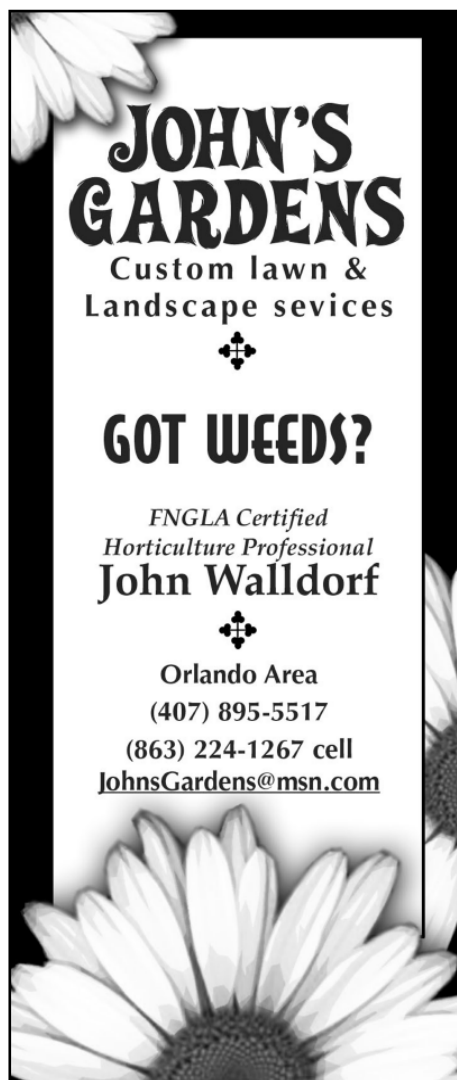
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## VOICES IN MY HEAD PREPARING TO GIVE UP MY ROLE AS THE CAREGIVER

By Bryan Middour

I am the first of four children; my dad jokingly refers to me as the experimental model. I always knew where I was in the pecking order, I was on top, the guy you got your hand-me-downs from and the one who would dispense justice in the blink of an eye.

I was the big brother, the one who took care of my siblings and the one who became responsible for them as well. But that was more than 30 years ago and how things have changed in that brief span of time.

Many pecking orders have passed over me, many a place where I had to undergo life on the bottom rung of hell. However, one thing has stayed the same: I'm still the guy that ends up being the counselor, the considerate, the fixer and the referee. Inside I've not changed very much, yet I know I've become better with the passing of time.

I believe that it all began 15 years ago when I decided that I didn't want any part of a knockdown drunken relationship anymore, so I picked up my bags and headed home to mom and dad. Why this Florida boy wanted to endure a stint in a Vermont gulag I truly don't know. Being

in lust or depraved love may have had a lot to do with it, but I did and survived to emerge a better man.

Dad met me at the airport on that summer day and that very evening we went to an AA meeting. He sat across the hall in an Al-Anon discussion and I cowered in a group of rough-and-tumble guys that looked as though they'd just as soon tear me apart as listen to my troubles. Yet they did listen and they had a lot of good advice. The next day, with my meager funds, I went out and bought the *Big Book* and began to read and to be amazed.

When I tested positive in 1993, I leaned on my experiences from AA and the love of a rock-steady man with a mind set of "pick yourself up, dust yourself off and get moving." It was simplistic but effective; to this day it's the mantra that I use when my going gets a little rough. Sometimes it's a hard start, but eventually I get it and get my rear in gear.

Not bad for a loser 20-something who breezed back home with my tail between my legs and my ego smashed to hell. I can't take all the credit for the work that's been done, along the way a good number of people put their two

cents in and helped me to realize that I have a great deal more to offer than I felt I had at the time.

I have a lot more to understand about being a part of this whole human experience. I'm still an infant in an impossibly old world of scions of the human heart with much more to learn. Being lost and feeling overwhelmed by all of it is par for the course, but recently I've begun to accept the helping hands of others.

This is quite the reversal of fortune for a guy that was at the top of his game at 12, but I'm not in that place anymore, I'm much further along that path and more aware of the intrigues of being wholly human. Alcohol and gross stupidity may have toppled me from my perch, but my hard won work and the acceptance of others brought me back into the fold.

So, here I am at 42, willing, yet again, to start over. Another hash mark on my soul as I journey down these tortured byways toward the ultimate destination. My faith tells me what lies at the end, however it also tells me that it is the lessons learned while traveling, the decisions made and actions taken that will be the determiner of my fate.

My fate is anything but sealed, so if you will excuse me, I've a job I need to get back to: allowing the world to teach me a few new tricks about being me.

Bryan L. Middour is an Orlando writer who can be reached at [BLMiddour@aol.com](mailto:BLMiddour@aol.com).



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## VIEWPOINT



## THE DATING DIET YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BOYFRIEND AT HOME

By Anthony Paull

You want it all: the husband, the house. The white picket fence. And you deserve it. After all, you've given up so much. No longer are you the clueless freak, belly-flopping in your own puke at the club. No longer are you the human calculator, multiplying and dividing your list of randoms in one night.

Now, you have a steady. And you make the most darling couple. You're all about Blockbuster Friday Nights and tea with the in-laws. You're like two peas in an I-Pod. You've burned a CD that captures your love, and recently you've filed for a joint screen name.

The problem is, that you've become inseparable. You can't go anywhere without your man. And if you do, you devote your time gushing over his annoying little habits: "He likes to pee on the houseplants. He gets the biggest boner whenever *Dr. Phil* is on." It's all very endearing to you.

Your friends, however — they're sick of it. In fact, you don't have friends anymore. You've stopped returning their phone calls. They're now nameless entities, jealous of what you have. And you have so much! I mean, who cares that

you gave up your favorite pastime? You never cared much for shopping anyway.

That collection of designer credit cards — it means nothing. If your man doesn't care to shop, then you don't care to shop. In fact, you don't care about much lately. Well, unless it pertains to your man; then it's your utmost priority.

You plan your day around *his* work schedule. You eat only when *he's* hungry. And lately, you refuse to cross the road unless *he* holds your hand.

Sound familiar? The dictionary calls it "codependence": a relationship in which one person is psychologically dependent on the other in an

unhealthy way.

But that's just the definition. According to your friends, codependence is something far worse. They say it's like the boogeyman: "It will get you in your sleep. It slowly creeps forth every time your man is further than a penis-length away."

But then again, your friends always were dramatic. However, this time they may be on to something.

So how do you get your life back?

**You can't go anywhere without your man. And if you do, you devote your time gushing over his annoying little habits.**



"GETTING READY TO COME HERE TODAY, I THOUGHT MAYBE THIS OUTFIT WAS TOO OUTRAGEOUS. BUT THEN I DECIDED, HEY, IT'S PRIDE FESTIVAL. ANYTHING GOES."

Well, if you really want to change your ways, put the dynamic back in your duo by following a few simple rules.

**1. Keep your friends close.** Don't be that guy. You know, the pussy that calls his posse only when his man's away. Your friends will despise you. In other words, devote time to your friends. Remember their birthdays. Take them out from time to time. Treat them like gold. It'll ensure you'll have them around in case your relationship tarnishes.

**2. Have a life outside of the relationship.** And no, that doesn't mean to have a random on the side. Rather, it's just a friendly little reminder, telling you it's OK to go solo. You don't need your man all the time. Who cares if he doesn't

want to go shopping? Simply accompany his credit card to the mall instead.

And hey, get a hobby. Take an art class. Pick up a sport. Get political. You'll have tons of fun doing it, and meet plenty of interesting people along the way.


**3. Say "No" to guilt.** Repeat this three times. It's easy. It rhymes. "I *can* leave my boyfriend at home. I *can* have a life of my own." Remember: It's healthy. Don't suffocate your man. A relationship is like a matchstick — oxygen is required to keep the spark alive.

Anthony Paull currently lives in Sarasota where he stews over blank computer screens for fun. He can be reached at [anthonypaull@watermarkonline.com](mailto:anthonypaull@watermarkonline.com)



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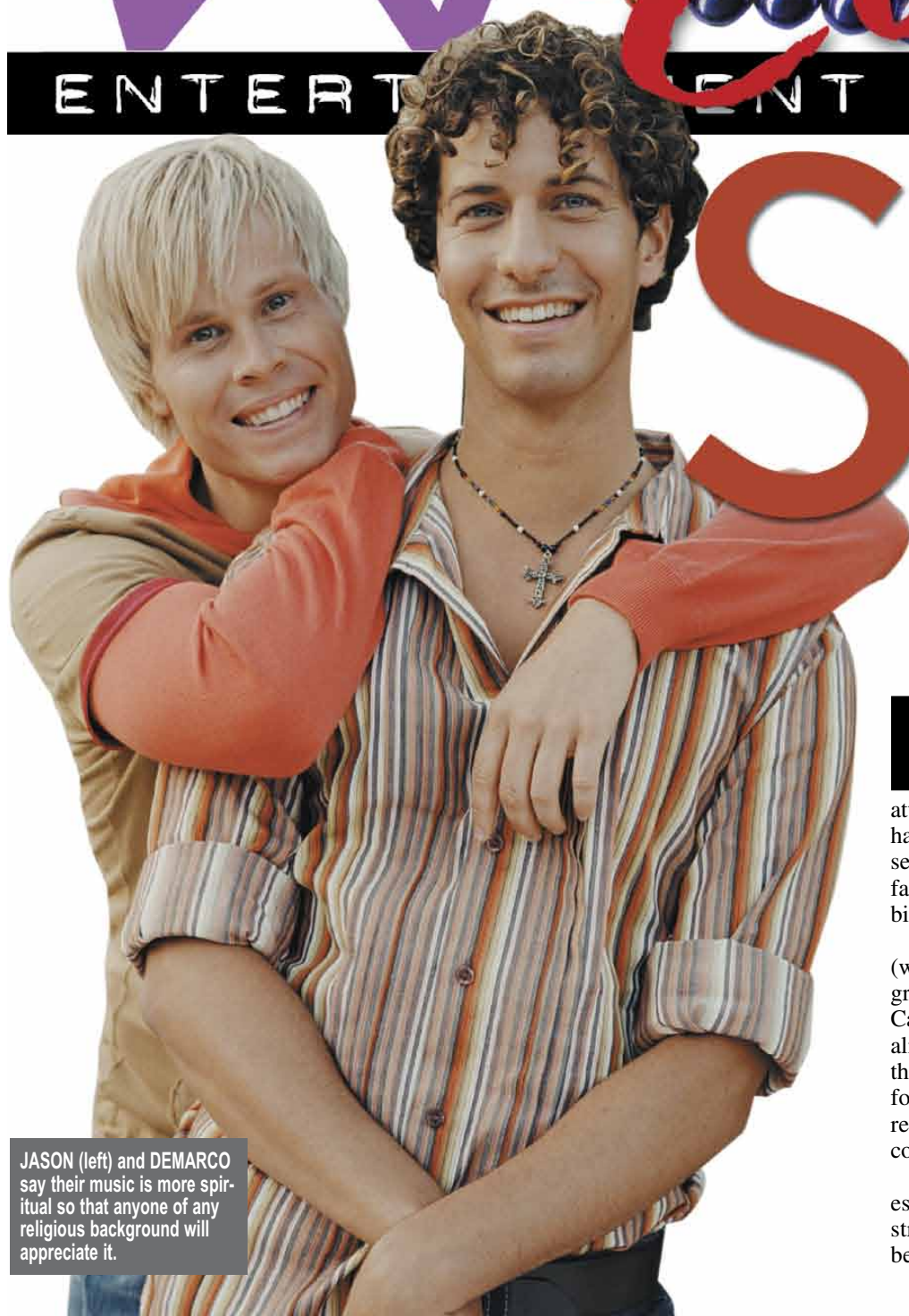
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# Watercolors

June 2-15, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT &amp; DIVERSIONS



JASON (left) and DEMARCO say their music is more spiritual so that anyone of any religious background will appreciate it.

## IN THE Spirit

Jason and DeMarco bring their spiritual pop stylings to Florida — since Singapore won't have them By Dave Wiethop

Even by today's "been there, done that" view of gay life, Jason and DeMarco remain a collective head-scratcher. These two young, attractive and immensely talented singers have scored rave reviews by critics in two seemingly disparate communities: the fans of Christian music and gay and lesbian audiences.

Former Pentecost Jason Warner (who had performed with Christian groups Truth and The Sound) and former Catholic DeMarco DeCiccio have shared almost everything since they met in 2001: the cover of the July 13, 2004, *Advocate*, four well-received CDs including the recent *Spirit Pop*, and their lives as a committed couple.

That's where it becomes more interesting. How can these two musicians straddle that fine line between the loyal-beyond-words Christian music commu-

### JASON AND DEMARCO

**ORLANDO:** 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, June 5, Joy MCC, 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave.

**VENICE:** 7 p.m., Monday, June 6, Suncoast MCC, 3276 E. Venice Ave.

**TAMPA:** 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, Tampa MCC, 408 E. Cayuga St.

nity and their gay audiences?

Simple, they say: Everyone should have a spiritual side, regardless of whom they worship. And they're finding greater audiences not only with the gay-friendly Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, but with more and more mainstream denominations as well.

Continued on page 33

## YOU LITTLE BRAT

Florida Studio Theatre's 'Ruthless!' shows the ugly (and campy) side of child stardom By Steve Blanchard

You've got to be ruthless if you're ever going to make it in show business — particularly if you're a child star on the brink of greatness.

That's the idea behind Joal Paley's campy sendup, *Ruthless! The Musical*, which opens at

Sarasota's Florida Studio Theater June 8. Bearing more than a passing resemblance to camp hits *All About Eve* and *The Bad Seed* — with enough *Gypsy* to make it interesting — this 12-year-old

Continued on page 32



HEATHER TEPE, MARTINA VIDMAR and STEPHEN HOPE preen as the stars of Florida Studio Theatre's *Ruthless! The Musical*. Photo by Forrest MacDonald



## WATERCOLORS



## WATERCRESS GRACEFULLY NEARING THAT HALF-CENTURY MARK

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

**SCREAMING INSIDE**, I ask myself: Is it really June already? And the answer is most absolutely yes. I am now officially 49? years of age, and Rosa Parks is almost exactly six months away from *her* big anniversary. On Dec. 1, 1955, both of us caused commotions in a big way — she by saying “No!” and me by simply being born.

I doubt that I’ll ever have a stamp minted in my honor; however, Rosa no doubt will. But still, it’s an auspicious day in the cosmos, as stars fell on both Alabama and Brooklyn that day. I have the bruises to prove it.

**TEXAS IS OUR NEXT STOP** on my Gay USA Tour of the States, but we won’t be spending too much time here: With apologies to my gay Texan friends, but there are way too many Bushes clogging the roads out there. And now, thanks to the fear instilled by one particularly unconscious Bush, it may soon be forbidden to take pictures of monuments in public places — and remotely possible that it will be anathema to write the sentiments I’m writing this minute.

You should see the things people post on the AOL message boards, spewing venom toward people who criticize

Chimpy!

“He’s the president,” they say. “You shouldn’t talk like that. Have some respect.”

Yes, as soon as he starts showing respect toward the better-educated half of Americans, I’ll return the favor. You see, something very, very wrong happened when he was Supremed into office in 2000, and the Fates are still reeling and roiling. This current adventure into Iraq is just the beginning; he’s poked a stick into a hornet’s nest.

I can’t help think that a more concerted Texan groundswell of intelligence (and voting) might have thwarted his rise at the beginning, but nice guys like us seem to finish last these days. So that’s about it for Texas — but hopefully not the world.

**HAPPIER THINGS HAPPENED** at Daryl and Andy’s housewarming, an event attended by all and sundry. They have a nice new house in town, which was cleverly filled by almost 100 people — for once, everyone wasn’t jammed into the kitchen!

That’s because the bar was in the garage, where a bartender with flying hands dispensed rum and Cokes for me in jig time (only because they didn’t have sweet vermouth for Manhattans; youngsters

these days are more interested in drinks that glow green or that are filled with crème de cacao). We formed a posse with Alan and Joey, and our dear friend David, and all evening the various posses ebbed and flowed and bumped and grinded.

I especially enjoyed arranging myself under flattering lighting in the formal living room, where I, with a smile and jaunty tilt to my head, pried long-buried secrets out of the hearts and souls of people dear to my heart. (Insert key, lock lips, drop key down front of blouse.)

What began in the garage quickly escalated to a rousing discussion that required plush seating — hence the heira to the sitting room. Luis was also present, and once again we traded letter-perfect quotes from *Mommie Dearest*, slurred though they were. Daryl and Andy were perfect hosts, buzzing by in a blur every 15 minutes with more supplies, wet rags and kibble. It was good to celebrate the spring at such a nice venue. And, guys, I promise not to divulge your secrets, but a paragraph will be featured in an upcoming edition of this column; though at first it won’t make sense, you’ll just have to connect the dots.

**WAR OF THE WORLDS** is coming. I can’t wait. I love disaster movies, having been brought up on those star-jammed

1970s and 1980s epics featuring burning buildings, capsized ocean liners, plunging airplanes and bees... sometimes even all four!

I’m such a gentle soul, yet I revel in watching intricate cityscapes being blown to smithereens. Actresses like Ava Gardner, Helen Hayes and Olivia De Havilland could all be found in these pictures, gamely playing their parts and trying at times to wink at the audience while dodging buffetings by flame or attacks by insects.

In one of them, singer Helen Reddy was a guitar-strumming nun playing to a kidney-challenged Linda Blair, who was attached to an IV.

What fun! This year’s *War* is a Tom Cruise remake, the original having been lensed (I *love* that word)

in 1953: a genuinely creepy film filled with foreboding. After all, that was the era of Stalin and Khrushchev and McCarthy, and the science fiction of the time reflected our fears — sorta like today! Tom has chosen not to surround himself with famous actresses in peril, so you can bet the film is going to be heavy on computer-generated mayhem. Maybe it should be in 3-D!

Jim Crescitelli is Watermark’s oldest living contributor. He can be reached at [WaterCressGuy@aol.com](mailto:WaterCressGuy@aol.com).

**Something very, very wrong happened when Chimpy was Supremed into office in 2000.**



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## WATERCOLORS



## AMAZONS FORGING RELATIONSHIPS IN TODAY'S BUSINESS WORLD

By Karen S. Murray-Parker

At least when money is concerned, I've been finding lately that being in a lesbian relationship is pretty much a non-issue. This was brought home to me when my wife, Alta, and I took a trip to Maui in early May.

The ticket agents didn't pause when I told them that my wife and I needed to sit together. When I emphasized to the agents that we were a couple, they just took it in stride asking if we'd prefer window or aisle seats. One agent said she wished she was going to Maui with us and we joked about her stowing away in our luggage.

When I went to the bank to get travelers checks, the teller asked where I was going. When I told her my wife and I were flying to Maui, she didn't blink an eye and just sighed wistfully,

telling me that is one place she has always dreamed of going, especially since her husband was born in Hawaii. She told me she preferred traveling with women because they aren't as stubborn about asking directions as men are.

The teller wished us well, and asked me to bring her some pictures after we returned. I waved goodbye and waltzed out the door surprised that the woman accepted my sexual orientation so well.

In the airport terminal, Alta and I tried on earrings at a kiosk. We were calling each other "Honey" and admiring each other's choice of jewelry, and holding hands. The counter clerk asked how long we'd been together since we seemed to know each other's tastes so well. She chatted with us about the jewelry's designer and what pieces she preferred - a perfectly normal conversation between salesclerk and customers but with the exception that she was a straight woman and we two were lesbians, and everyone was comfortable with those definitions.

Later, a flight attendant asked where we were going, I told her my wife and I were going to Maui. She asked if there were many gays or lesbians on the island and I told her I didn't know, but planned to find out. Once again my relationship failed to elicit any unusual response other than a little curiosity.

By this time I was trying to figure out whether the response (or lack of it) by these people was because our sexuality was a non-issue or if it was because Alta and I projected such a friendly air that our relationship was easily accepted and taken in stride.

When we arrived, I requested a room with an ocean view and a single king-size bed. When the clerk told me the only room they had with an ocean view had two double beds, I asked her to see if she could work something out as my wife and I preferred to sleep in the same bed. She gave me an odd look but followed up on my request. In the end when she couldn't find anything with an ocean view and a large single bed, she apologized to me. She suggested to me that we could push them together if we wanted to sleep together and wished us a good vacation.

Since we were staying at a timeshare on a special plan, we had to agree to listen to a spiel about the program as a condition of our staying at the resort. When we

explained to the salesman that we were a lesbian couple, he said, "No problem, we work deal with gay couples all the time." He even made some suggestions for writing in partner ownership contingencies in case one of us died before the other.

The people who that had a problem in dealing with GLBTs were the native Hawaiians. For the most part, they don't like non-natives whatsoever.

They consider us usurpers

that have forced them off their ancestral land. The few GLBT native Hawaiians I met told me that homosexuals were not accepted or well tolerated by locals. Homosexuality is kapu (taboo) and carries with it a real stigma. They also told me there were plenty of gay native Hawaiians in spite of this attitude.

Overall the experience was an eye-opening one for me, regarding social acceptance of homosexual relationships across the country. It may be that lesbians are better accepted socially than gay men and are perceived as less of a threat. I felt encouraged by the reception of my relationship with Alta by so many diverse people - even if it may have been service-driven.

Contrary to all the media hype, I think mainstream America feels less threatened by homosexuality in general, especially when there is money to be made. Perhaps the all mighty dollar is the bridge between straight societies and GLBT ones. It's ironic, isn't it? But then we've learned that lesson down through history in relationship to different religions and races. Why should GLBTs be any different?

Karen S. Murray-Parker is a nursing student and writer who lives in Sarasota. She can be reached at [dolphinwahini@aol.com](mailto:dolphinwahini@aol.com).

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## WATERCOLORS

BRAT from page 29

production has been directed by the writer himself.

"Believe it or not, I had decided to never direct any of my own plays," Paley said after his second day of rehearsals in Sarasota. "I always think of theater as a collaborative action. You let others take your work and put their interpretation in the work. Sometimes you see a director bring out factions of your work you never recognized."

The timing of *Ruthless! The Musical* coming to Sarasota came at a time in Paley's career when the musical was getting a fresh look by big-time New York producers. He wanted to take the opportunity to do some rewriting of the material before "passing it along" to the New York group.

"When *Reefer Madness* was picked up by Showtime and made into a movie, there was some renewed interest in Off-Broadway scripts," Paley said. "That production of *Reefer Madness* inspired this group to want to do *Ruthless!* So I decided to take a look at the script and I did some rewrites. The great thing about this is I don't have to worry about copyrights. I own the copyrights."

The story is told with the help of lyrics by Paley's partner, Marvin Laird, and is guaranteed to make you thankful little Tina Denmark and her mother, Judy, don't live in your neighborhood.

When Tina is foiled in her plan to

get the lead in her school play, *Pippi in Tahiti: The Musical*, people begin to die.

"Life is a bitch and it starts in third grade," *Pippi's* director sings.

After Tina's heinous act is discovered, she is sent to the Daisy Clover School for Psychopathic Ingénues. The young girl's mother, Judy Denmark, discovers that her own mother was at one time Broadway star; she claims the star career that might have belonged to Tina.

While the play has a cast of all female characters, *Ruthless!* hasn't always seen only women actors in its roles. The character of Sylvia St. Croix was first played by a man during a production in New York when Paley "just couldn't find the right actress" for the part. Paley thought that the gender-revolving casting the part of this woman worked so well, it became a tradition in productions of *Ruthless!* across the country — including the production at the Florida Studio Theatre.

"I was talking to our artistic director (Richard Hopkins) who was thinking of having a man play Sylvia and an adult play the child in the script — and I just wasn't comfortable with that," Paley said. "I never intended Sylvia to be played by a man. That just happened. And I've seen adults play the role of Tina before, but it just didn't seem right. Hearing an 8-year-old say 'Bullshit!' has a much different affect than a 24-year-old saying it."

When his artistic director held fast

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to the idea of a man playing Sylvia, Paley cut a deal with Hopkins.

"I told him that if we could have a child play Tina, we could have a man play Sylvia," Paley said. "The role of Sylvia was never meant to be drag, but it works, and that's something we decided to keep."

Paley wrote *Ruthless!* in 1993 and the following year it won the New York Outer Critics Circle Award as the Best Off-Broadway Musical. Since then, it has been produced hundreds of times by theater groups throughout the country. The Florida Studio Theatre production is everything that Paley envisioned for his play.

"I'm very lucky to have this cast and this theatre company working with me," Paley said. "I haven't worked with anyone from here before, but the cast and crew — and the theater itself — is so well organized. Everyone here is doing this because they love the work. It's amazing to see what these people can do."

Paley said that his style of directing has changed quite a bit over the last five years. He admits that he used to be "very anal" and would go as far as telling the actors on which words they should turn their heads.

"Now, there's an openness to my creativity," Paley said. "You have to have the eye to see your mistakes and have the ingenuity to ask and accept everyone's contributions. Then you can look at it and say, 'thanks, that is so much better.'"

FST picked *Ruthless! The Musical* as the first show of the summer season because it signals

the arrival of lighter entertainment for theatergoers, Hopkins said.

"*Ruthless!* is an outrageous musical that focuses on the worst side of show biz," Hopkins said. "I chose it because it is so outrageous and so out there that it is a perfect way to kick off the Summerfest Season, which features lighter entertainment on our main stage than what we normally offer in the winter months."

The talents of FST staffers Michael Sebastian (musical director), Marcella Beckwith (scenic designer), Nicole Wee (costume designer), Allen L. Mack (lighting designer) and Jill Zakrzewski (production stage manager) will also add to the overall experience of *Ruthless!*

After this run of *Ruthless!*, Paley expects to return to his Connecticut home where he will put the finishing touches on two musicals he has been working on with his domestic and collaborative partner, Laird. Paley said to keep an eye and an ear out for *So Far, So Good*, which he describes as "what *Nunsense* was to Catholics, this is for Jews." ▼

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STEPHEN HOPE can't help himself as Judy Denmark, the mother of child star Tina Denmark in *Ruthless! The Musical*. Photo by Forrest MacDonald



## WATERCOLORS

**SPIRIT** from page 29

As Jason and DeMarco have become increasingly prominent, so have their roles in the GLBT community. They've performed at a peaceful protest with Soulforce outside of James Dobson's Focus on the Family a few weeks ago.

And in April, the government of Singapore canceled their concert at an AIDS benefit, saying that Jason and DeMarco were encouraging the homosexual lifestyle.

"The minister of health found out that we were gay when someone told him about our Web site," Jason said. "He figured that we were coming over to ruin the country."

The duo will swing through Orlando, Venice and Tampa June 5-8 before heading to Key West on June 12.

**WATERMARK: Do you consider yourselves specifically Christian music artists?**

**DEMARCO:** We're spiritual. A lot of people have tried to put us into a specific category that we just don't fit. They try to say that we're too gay for the spiritual music, but too spiritual for gay audiences. We're just who we are. Still some people in more radical churches are intent on creating new terrorists out of gays.

**How, then, do you appeal to the GLBT audiences that may or may not have embraced many of the tenets that other Christian musicians sing about?**

**JASON:** We try to stay away from religiosity. When we go in front of a crowd and sing, we're not preaching to them or telling them to do or believe anything. We believe in following the teachings of Christ, but we have a very spiritual nature to our songs.

The Christian Right says that we're too broad in our music, that we're too New Age. That's OK by us. We see that there are so many beautiful truths in many religions.

**DEMARCO:** We believe that Jesus would shudder at what people do in his name.

**You're reaching beyond Christian audiences, then.**

**JASON:** Right. We have a song on our album, *Spirit Pop*, called *Oh, I Long For*, that speaks to the need for someone to love us. We intended the double-entendre. It could mean Jesus or it could mean simply "someone."

We wanted to record *Spirit Pop* so that it didn't fall into the label of "Christian music." We wanted people who were Muslim or Jewish or Christian to all pick it up and relate to what we're saying.

**DEMARCO:** We live in a society that's still recovering from 9/11 and the effects of the tsunami and we're all searching for something more ... to give us messages of hope.

**Have your bookings been primarily MCCs?**

**JASON:** In the past, about 90% of our concerts are with MCCs, yes. But now, only about 50 to 60% of them are through MCC.

**DEMARCO:** Other churches — more and more mainline ones — are reaching out to us. We've even performed in some churches that aren't reconciled (as gay-affirming). We've done some United Methodist Church dates and some at Unity churches. We also perform after being asked by gay-straight student alliances. A lot of high schools too. We focus on the self-esteem issues when we do those concerts and less of the gay stuff.

**JASON:** When DeMarco and I began performing, we had every intention of becoming a pop duo. When we met, I was touring in churches, so I had a fan base already. We continued with that fan base and lo and behold, it took off. We really want to go back to the original idea and focus on pop music. Our next album will be very mainstream, very much a pop/rock/alternative feel. It will be released this fall.

**Do you feel that your openness about your sexuality will hamper your success?**

**DEMARCO:** It's too late now, isn't it? We do this because we love what we do, not because we hope that this will make us big stars. We're standing in truth of who we are. If we can't make it in the music business because of it, then we've already accomplished so much of what we intended.

**JASON:** That's what it's really all about. We hope that we have a positive influence on people, to inspire and to empower.

**Do you have people whom you look up to?**

**JASON:** I'd have to say Oprah. She's had an amazing impact on people.

**DEMARCO:** She knows what's she's doing.

**JASON:** And Martin Luther King. Gandhi. We try to stay away from politics, even in the gay community.

**But weren't you part of the protest outside of James Dobson's Focus on the Family headquarters a few weeks ago? That seems pretty political.**

**DEMARCO:** That was our first time as part of a peaceful protest. It was very

interesting.

**JASON:** We found it eye-opening to see the hate that comes from people like that. We see our spiritual lives being all based on love — whether you follow Christ or Buddha or anyone. Dr. Dobson will never get a chance to know the love in the gay community.

You knew that he has 1,000 employees and he closed his organization for the day so they wouldn't have to see us. It's great to know that he lost \$100,000 by doing that.

**I know more and more gay and lesbian couples going into business together. Do you recommend it?**

**DEMARCO:** Most of the time, it's

great. We're together 24/7 and we work really well together. I'm strong in areas where he's weak and vice versa.

**JASON:** Business-wise, we're really good together — and we have so much fun doing what we do. We'll lock horns on a major issue now and then because we also see things so dramatically different sometimes. I'll say "to-may-to" and he'll say ...

**DEMARCO:** "Banana." So, we agree that it's a "banato." ♪



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## GLAAD TO GO

The organization's top finger-pointer steps down after a rousing eight years By Lawrence Ferber

In Joan Garry's eight years as the executive director, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has flourished.

Not only has it become financially solvent, but the organization's aggressive media campaigns brought attention to Ellen DeGeneres' coming out, Eminem's dangerous lyrics and Laura Schlesinger's homophobic rhetoric (effectively stopping the latter's fledgling Paramount television show). GLAAD also spearheaded responses towards smaller blips on the media radar, both national and regional. For example, when Focus on Family leader James Dobson made homophobic remarks during a 2003 *Larry King Live* interview, GLAAD's call to arms resulted in some 20,000 e-mails sent to CNN decrying the episode.

With all these achievements under GLAAD's belt, Garry feels ready to shift gears a little. She resigns in June 15 to become a stay-at-home mom.

"The first thing I'm going to do is have a summer vacation with my kids," she says. "I have a 15-year-old and two 10-year-olds. They have the summer off and I intend to as well."

GLAAD was founded in 1985 to combat and counteract the infamously conservative *New York Post's* sensationalized AIDS coverage. Then GLAAD endeavored to educate and impact Hollywood's depictions of GLBT characters, setting up East and West coast offices.

Before joining GLAAD, Garry was the director of business development at MTV and, later, Vice President of business operations at Showtime Networks. She lives in Montclair, N.J., with her partner of 24 years, Eileen Opatut, and their three children.

**WATERMARK:** This must have been a big decision, leaving GLAAD.

**JOAN GARRY:** People in their professional lives focus a lot of attention on thinking about what job to take. They should be equally intentional about dealing with when it's time to go. I think that eight years is a solid tour of duty in a role of this kind.

One-half of a prominent media couple, GLAAD executive director JOAN GARRY steps down on June 15.

**What was Eileen's reaction to your decision?**

Eileen has gone kind of full speed ahead in her role as senior vice president of programming at Logo (MTV Networks' upcoming gay channel), and is using her expertise to share gay and lesbian images with America, which feels really important. She'll get to play the activist in the family for a little while.


**So you'll still be inundated with media.**

Well, we are a media family. We met when Eileen was at Nickelodeon and I was at MTV in 1981. We've been together 24 years and have traveled through a number of different positions at cable programming entities during those years. Media runs through our veins, so it makes sense that GLAAD runs through our veins too.

**When did you first become acquainted with GLAAD?**

Our first introduction to GLAAD was through some friends, table hosts at the media awards, who asked us to sit at their table. At that time we didn't consider ourselves political with a capital "P," although we had just won a prece-

Continued on page 36



HE CAME FROM OUTER SPACE TO SAVE THE HUMAN RACE

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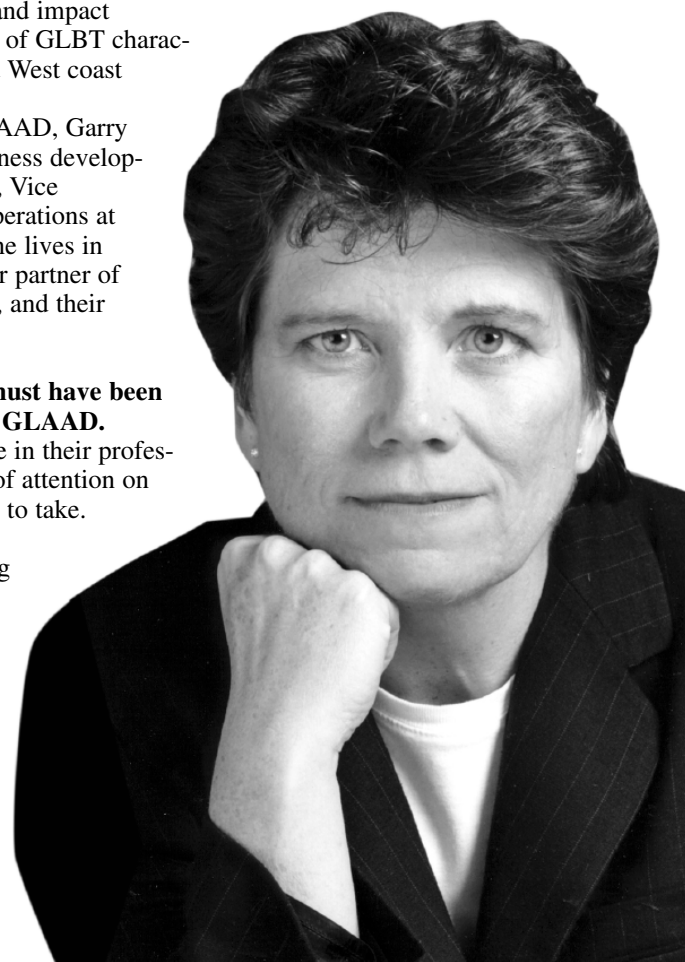
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GLAAD from page 34

dent-setting legal case in the state of New Jersey. Our oldest daughter, Sarah, became the first kid in the state to legally have two moms.

I sort of cut my teeth in the media business at MTV, from 1981 to 1987, and if you ever want a lesson in how media influences people, have a tour of duty at MTV. I was one of the first 50 employees there. To watch something go from an idea around a conference room table to an influence that has shaped a generation of people is amazing. So in that sense GLAAD made all the sense in the world to us because it did in fact connect both pride with a "P" and the media.

### What did you feel needed to be worked on at GLAAD?

The organization needed to have a strong financial and managerial foundation. When I arrived there was, I think, \$350 in the bank. Today there's a \$1 million-plus cash reserve. I also felt there was an enormous opportunity for GLAAD to add proactive strategies to the reactive strategies it had employed during the first phase of its life.

### Elaborate on how GLAAD has become a resource.

What I would say is how much more effective we are when we call someone to task by saying, "OK, this (story about gay issues) is problematic and here are two other stories you could be telling and three good spokespeople you could include in that story."

Not only pointing out the problem but being a part of the solution. We have very effectively pitched stories locally, regionally and nationally. We've done countless editorial board meetings with newspapers around the country, sharing with them our media reference guide so they have the tools they need to tell our stories fairly and accurately. And we do an enormous amount of media training work with GLBT activists and our allies all across the country so that the storytellers served up to the media can do a really solid job.

### What are your favorite GLAAD success stories?

One is the *New York Times*' decision to change its wedding policy and include gay and lesbian couples in the *Sunday Style* section. While some may see the decision to be the accomplishment, I actually have a vivid recollection of being in that meeting and that presentation with the *Times*' senior editors and feeling that that presentation in and of itself was the victory.

The second accomplishment I point to will seem like an odd thing to say. It would've been 1999 or 2000, watching the Academy Awards and listening to Billy Crystal's opening monologue in which he made reference to the homophobic comments of Laura Schlesinger. We had spent a great deal of bandwidth educating (her show's) advertisers and Paramount TV and our own community about this woman over the prior year. We were a small organization at the time and to hear Billy Crystal reference it, I felt an enormous sense of accomplishment. We were kindling for a public conversation that found its way to the opening monologue of the Oscars.

### Conversely, tell me about a GLAAD disaster, or campaign that backfired.

I don't have one to share. GLAAD is filled with an enormous amount of Type-A staff members and I'm the leader of that pack and I think I would speak for all of them in saying that your biggest disappointment at the end of the day is that the day isn't long enough. ▽

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## WATER COLORS



## ORGANIZATIONS &amp; 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. E-mail penny@digital.net or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrevardLesbians>.

**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**

[www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm](http://www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm) or e-mail us for more information at [gntlbear@comcast.net](mailto:gntlbear@comcast.net).

**FUN COAST BEARS**

Social group that meets the 3rd Suns each month at 3 p.m. at Rumors on Nova Road, Holly Hill. E-mail [bears@funcoastbears.org](mailto:bears@funcoastbears.org) or go to [www.funcoastbears.org](http://www.funcoastbears.org) for more info.

**GALBA**

GLBT group. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student group. (904) 226-7222. [www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html](http://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 p.m. (386) 322-8003; [www.gaydaytona.com](http://www.gaydaytona.com).

**OUTREACH, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. Offers testing, counseling and support groups. (904) 255-5569; [www.outreachinc.org](http://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 & Gays. Meets third Tues.; 7 p.m.; Hope MCC in Daytona, 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US1) . (386) 322-4169; [support@pflagdaytona.org](mailto:support@pflagdaytona.org); [www.pflagdaytona.org](http://www.pflagdaytona.org).

## ISLAND HOUSE

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[www.IslandHouseSouthBeach.com](http://www.IslandHouseSouthBeach.com)

**SPECTRUM**

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

## ORLANDO

**AA WAKE UP CALL-FRIDAY**

Twelve-step AA program geared towards diversity and fellowship. Meets Fri.; 7 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL-SATURDAY**

12-step AA group. Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.; GLBCC (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL - SUNDAY**

Twelve-step program. Meets each Sun.; 10 a.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Social group for bears and their admirers. Meets second Sun.; 4 p.m.; Full Moon Saloon. (407) 896-0239; [www.bocf.org](http://www.bocf.org).

**BOOKLOVERS**

American Association of University Women social group for those who love to read. 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) 835-4130.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA GAY & LESBIAN LAW ASSOCIATION**

Networking group for GLBT legal professionals, Meets second Thursday of the month. Contact Larry Smith (407) 838-4052; [LSmith@Cabaniss.net](mailto:LSmith@Cabaniss.net)

**CODA**

Twelve-step program dealing with codependency. Meets Tues. at 7 p.m. at the Center. (407) 228-8272.

**COLAGE**

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

**COUNTRY SATURDAY NIGHTS**

GLBT country music, dancing, refreshments. For more info: visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~countrysaturdaynight/>

**CRYSTAL CLEAR**

Crystal Meth Anonymous provides support, fellowship, and creation of a safe environment in which to stay clean. Saturdays 4-5:30 p.m., GLBCC, 946 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. (407) 228-8272

**DIGNITY**

Meets every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Center. Come and celebrate mass and enjoy a social hour afterward.

**FLORIDA GREAT OUTDOORS**

A social outdoor recreation group for the GLBT community. Check [www.floridagreatoutdoors.org](http://www.floridagreatoutdoors.org) for a schedule.

**GBT MEN**

Meets at the Center every Weds. at 7:30 p.m. We are a support / discussion group for adult gay, bisexual, or transgendered men.

**GLBCC-THE CENTER**

Hosts various social groups and offers programs assisting the GLBT community. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**GLBT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY**

Meets at 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month at GLBCC; [kenkaz@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kenkaz@cfl.rr.com).

**GLBT YACHT CLUB**

Meet other GLBT boat owners for day trips to Disappearing Island and other destinations. Call John (407) 353-5529.

**GNOMES**

Gay Nativist Orlando Males Evolving Socially. For information visit [www.naturalmales.org/gnomes](http://www.naturalmales.org/gnomes) or call (407) 540-9391.

**GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES**

A social group for same-gender couples. Call (407) 246-4726 or visit [www.greaterorlandocouples.org](http://www.greaterorlandocouples.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.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

Meets fourth Tues of the month at The Center at 7 p.m. [www.uniteHRCFL.org](http://www.uniteHRCFL.org)

**LAMBDA CAMPING**

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

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF ORLANDO**

Inclusive, diverse Republicans. Meets first Tues.; 7 p.m.; Orange County Republican Headquarters, Royal Oak Village Shopping Center, 148 S. Semoran Blvd. (407) 896-7745; [www.lcorlando.com](http://www.lcorlando.com).

**LONG YANG CLUB ORLANDO**

International social group for single men and couples of Asian and various ethnic backgrounds. Visit [www.longyangclub.org](http://www.longyangclub.org), email [orlando@longyangclub.org](mailto:orlando@longyangclub.org) or call Billy at (407) 908-1122.

**METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

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

**NA RAINBOW RECOVERY**

Twelve-step narcotics recovery program geared toward gay community. Meets Wed.; 7:30 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 142 E. Jackson. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**OPEX**

Pansexual support group. Meets first Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**ORLANDO GAY CHORUS**

Community chorus; welcomes everyone. Meets Wed.; John & Rita Lowndes building. (407) 841-SING; [www.orlandogaychorus.org](http://www.orlandogaychorus.org).

**ORLANDO GAY PARENTS GROUP**

Play groups, social events, networking for parents. Meets first Saturday of the month. (407) 420-9955; [boyds@earthlink.net](mailto:boyds@earthlink.net).

**ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS**

O-QUAC. Social/resources group for GLBT academics and intellectuals. [cschippe@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:cschippe@mail.ucf.edu); [tpugh@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:tpugh@mail.ucf.edu).

**ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB**

A gay men's group to network with other professionals meets monthly. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/flausaguy/myhomepage/club.html>.

**ORLANDO YOUTH ALLIANCE**

Central Florida's GLBTQ youth group meets each Tuesday night at 6:15 p.m. For meeting location, call (407) 599-7453.

**PFLAG**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Wed.; 7:30 p.m.; 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](http://www.polycentralfl.com), (321) 984-8463 or [polycentral@mail.com](mailto:polycentral@mail.com).

**POSITIVELY SOBER**

A twelve-step recovery/support group for people living clean and sober with HIV. Sun. 7 pm at GLBCC. [PozSoberOrlando@aol.com](mailto:PozSoberOrlando@aol.com).

**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 p.m.; Parliament House Footlight Theatre. (407) 884-9834; [PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com](mailto:PRIMETIMECFL@aol.com).

**RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

GLBT group of Democrats and Independents. Meets fourth Mon.; 6:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://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 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**S.O.E.L. -- SISTARHOOD OF EBONY LESBIANS**

African-American women come together to grow socially and emotionally. Meets first Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. <http://lesbianlit.meetup.com/85/>.

**TRANS CENTRAL STATION**

A transgender, transsexual, transvestite, cross dressers, & gender benders discussion group meets first Tues., 7 p.m., The Center. (407) 228-8272.

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sun.; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org).

**UCF GLBSU**

University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union. Meets Tue.; 8 p.m.; Student Union Building on Main Campus. [ucfglbsu@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfglbsu@ucf.edu).

**THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE**

Social/support group for all womyn of all orientations. Meets Thurs.; 7:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**TRIANGLE TEES**

A gay & lesbian golfing group that works with area courses to get special tee times and group rates. [www.triangletees.com](http://www.triangletees.com).

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sunday of the month; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org)

**WILLOW**

Social group for Lake County women. Meets 2nd Sunday, 4 pm at Tangerine Improvement Society Bldg, 7101 Wright Ave., Tangerine. Contact Box 1047, Sorrento, FL, 32776 or [FloridaWillow1@aol.com](mailto:FloridaWillow1@aol.com).

**WOMEN HERE AND THERE**

A group of lesbians and gay-friendly women. To learn more about WHAT, visit [www.WHATorlando.com](http://www.WHATorlando.com)

**ZEN SITTING GROUP**

A place for GLBT Zen Practitioners. Second and fourth Tues. of each month at 7 p.m. at Avalon on Hillcrest. For more info visit [www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter](http://www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter).

**FOUR CORNERS RAINBOW FAMILY SOCIAL**

Dining out, meditation, movies and more. For more info, visit: [www.geocities.com/caulhunter\\_98/BNAS.html](http://www.geocities.com/caulhunter_98/BNAS.html)

## POLK COUNTY

**POLK COUNTY GAY LESBIAN ALLIANCE**

Check its Web site, [www.pcglgla.org](http://www.pcglgla.org), for activities and announcements.

**POLK COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN INFO LINE**

For the GLBT community in Polk County, (863) 229-8126.

**POLK COUNTY HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Mission, 180 E. Central Ave., Winter Haven. Call Gary (863) 401-3204 or Merry at (863) 606-9288.

**ALSO OUT YOUTH**

GLBTQ group for youth between the ages of 13-21. Drop-In

## SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

Center. Email: [program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org](mailto:program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org), (941) 951-ALSO (2576). Youth crisis pager (941) 951-ALSO (2576)

**CHICK HAPPY HOUR**

Women get together monthly for cocktails and socializing. Call (941) 544-0945 or write to [ChickHappyHour@aol.com](mailto:ChickHappyHour@aol.com) for details.

**DYKE NIGHT LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUP**

Lesbians ages 21-35 and friends gathering. Meets first Sun. of each month. [program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org](mailto:program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org) or call (941) 951-2576.

**GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE**

Provides information about local faith, social, support organizations and events to the GLBT community. (941) 923-INFO.

**GLAD**

A Manatee Community College social and support group. <http://hometown.aol.com/mccglad/myhomepage/gaylesbian.html>.

**GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB**

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." [GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com](mailto:GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com) or [jimbolfia@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbolfia@yahoo.com).

**GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS**

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941) 377-9043; [gulfcoastmenschorus.org](http://www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org).

**PFLAG SARASOTA**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Meets third Tue.; 7:30 p.m.; 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](mailto:ptimes@tampabay.rr.com); <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/ehurley/ehurley/>.

**READING GROUP**

Gay men's reading group; fourth Weds. each month. (941) 359-8212.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD**

Meets third Mon.; 6 p.m.; Quay. (941) 953-8419; [www.swfbg.org](http://www.swfbg.org).

**SUNSET BEACH WALK**

Meet Wednesdays by 6:30 p.m. (Daylight Savings Hours only) at the Siesta Beach Pavilion.

**TRINITY CHARITIES, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. (941) 355-0847; [www.trinitycharities.org](http://www.trinitycharities.org).

**AIDS AWARENESS**

An HIV education group. (727) 502-0188 for more information.

**BA.M.ACT**

Local chapter of the National Organization of Black and White Men Together. Call (727) 461-2617 or visit [www.geocities.com/bamact\\_fl](http://www.geocities.com/bamact_fl).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets second and fourth Thurs.; 7 p.m.; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813) 871-2232.

**BOAT AND SCUBA WEST OF TAMPA BAY**

A social and recreational club of GLBT outdoor enthusiasts. Meets the first Weds of the month. Visit [www.boatand-scubawest.com](http://www.boatand-scubawest.com).



# WATERCOLORS

## BROTHAS SPEAK

Discussion group for same-gender-loving men of color. Meets second Sun., 5 p.m. at the Equality Florida Offices. (813) 236-8809.

## CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS

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

## THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Located next to Equality Florida, 3708 Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116; www.tampacenter.org.

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH

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

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS

Meets last Thurs. 7 p.m. at 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.

## FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

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

## FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday 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 p.m. (813) 935-4101; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

## FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813) 832-2999.

## FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogrpf/.

## FLORIDA GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT

An education and advocacy organization for the trans/gender community and our allies. Meets 2nd Sat. at Equality Florida. (813) 870-3735 or www.forge.8m.com.

## FLORIDA GREAT OUTDOORS

A social outdoor recreation group for the GLBT community. Check www.floridagreatoutdoors.org for a schedule.

## FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES

Social group for same gender couples. P. O. Box 7925 Tampa, FL 33679-7925 email: chaircouple@fgcc.com web: www.fgccouples.com

## FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

## FRIENDS CLUB FOR GAY MEN

Gay men's social club. A wholesome, healthy atmosphere to make new friends. (813) 960-1664.

## FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY

Not-for-runners only GLBT club. Meets Sat. 9 a.m. Old Hyde Park Village and Wed. 6:45 p.m. Fred Ball Park. (813) 891-7098.

## GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Wed. 7 p.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave.

## GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Fri. 10 a.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116.

## GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

## GAY FUN CLUB

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

## GAY MEN'S OUTDOOR GROUP

Biking, hiking, canoeing, diving. (813) 961-6871

## GAY SKATE

Tue. 9 p.m. United Skates of America. (813) 876-5826; members.aol.com/tampagayskate.

## GIRL TALK

Tuesdays at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 645-2213; Girtalkers@aol.com.

## GLBT PARENTS OF TAMPA BAY

Social group for GLBT parents (custodial and non) and their children. Meets monthly. Cathy\_James@yahoo.com.

## GLSEN TAMPA BAY

Organization working to end anti-gay bias in Hillsborough County schools. Meets third Fri. (813) 258-8817; GLSENTB@aol.com.

## HIV TAMPA BAY

A Web site devoted to helped those living with HIV and AIDS in the Pinellas and Hillsborough counties area. www.hivtampabya.net.

## INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG

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

## KAPPA XI OMEGA SORORITY

Nationwide community-based sorority for professional adult lesbians headquartered in Tampa. Meets every other Monday 9 p.m. online. membership@kappaxiomega.org or www.kappaxiomega.org.

## 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 p.m.; computerized system 11-7 p.m. (727) 586-4297.

## LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY

Meets 3rd Weds of each month. 7 p.m. at HoHo's chinese, 9 p.m. at Different Grind. (727) 455-9866, lortampabay.com

## L.O.L.A.

Lesbians On the Lookout Association. Social club for womyn. pianolez@aol.com.

## METROPOLITAN CHARITIES

A community services organization offering HIV/AIDS case management, counseling services, referrals and thrift store. In Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. (727) 321-3854. metrocharities.org.

## THE METRO CENTER

Pinellas County's GLBT center. Metrocharities.org/ or call (727) 321-3854.

## NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Open meeting for gays and lesbians. Meets Thurs.; 8:15 p.m.; 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. 631 4th St. North, St. Pete. (866) 250-1959.

## PFLAG TAMPA

Meets second Tues.; 7 p.m.; The Center in the Equality Florida Building, 3708 Swan Ave. (813) 239-2070; PFLAGW@aol.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

Meets fourth Sat at 10 a.m. at Saffron's Restaurant, 1700 Park St. N. St. Pete. (727) 345-7688 or email Pflag@tampabay.rr.com.

## POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

Empowering HIV+ individuals by supporting their self-expression. www.positiveexpressions.org .

## PRIDE AL ANON FAMILY GROUP

Meets Wed. and Fri.; 6:30 p.m.; King of Peace Church. (727) 323-5857.

## PRIDE ALLIANCE

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

## 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. (813) 238-2887; www.pwac-tampa.homestead.com.

## RAINBOW FILM SERIES

GLBT films. 7 p.m., 2nd Sat. 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 p.m. (813) 221-1423.

## RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

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

## ROTC - RIGHTEOUSLY OUTRAGEOUS TWIRLING CORP

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## SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

(727) 896-SLAA or www.tampabayslaa.com .

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

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

## ST. PETE PRIDE

For updates on upcoming events, visit www.stpetepride.com.

## STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK

Support group for cross-dressing and transgendered persons. Meets at 7 p.m. on the third Sat. of each month. Call Georgia (727) 523-8760.

## SUNCOAST SQUARES

Tampa Bay GLBT square-dancing. Classes Tuesday evenings at the Suncoast Resort, Room C-104. Call John and Leo at (727) 343-8466; suncoastsquares@yahoo.com

## TAMPA BAY BEARS

Bears social club. Meets second Fr.; 7:30 p.m.; Suncoast Eagle Bar. TampaBayBears.com.

## TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

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

## TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; 7 p.m.; Suncoast Resort. (727) 865-9004.

## TAMPA BAY LESBIANS

Social, sporting, cultural activities. http://escape.to/TBL

## TAMPA INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Committees include planning, finance, marketing/PR, programming and development. Information on volunteering or events and screenings at (813) 879-4220 or www.tigfff.com.

## TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Socials for both hearing & non-hearing gays. (813) 236-3123.

## TRUE EXPRESSIONS

Tues. 2 to 6 p.m., Thurs. and Fri. 6 to 9 p.m., Sun. from 4 to 9 p.m. (727) 898-TRUE or visit www.true-expressions.org.

## UNA-VOCE: THE FLORIDA MEN'S CHORALE

Meets Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at MCC Tampa, 408 Cayuga Street. Anyone is welcome to join. Una-Voce.com .

## WESTCARE TRANSGENDER SELF-AWARENESS

Educational group. Meets Wed. at 7 p.m. at 1735 MLK St. S. in St. Pete. For information call (727) 502-0188.

## WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

Bear club. Meets first Sun.; DTs. (727) 824-7810 info@west-florida-growlers.com; Westfloridagrowlers.com .

## WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPA BAY

A womyn's mix. Sundays, 3p.m. at Gulfport Beach. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomynsExchangeTampabay.

## YES (YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES)

Provides free HIV testing. In Pinellas, at WestCare Florida, 1735 Martin Luther King Jr. S., #125, St. Pete. (727) 502-0188. In Hillsborough, at THAP, at 712 W. Ross Ave., Tampa. (813) 226-2141.

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## CALENDAR of Events

## ART &amp; EXHIBITS

## ORLANDO

## QUEER ARTIST COLLECTIVE DISPLAY

Dave Durk — aka durkART — is exhibiting his latest works at the Herndon Branch of the Orlando Public Library through June. Durk says he listens to 1970s and 1980s disco while he creates his works — the up-beat, happy rhythms are reflected in the bright, perky colors of his works. "It's the music of a community coming together on a Friday or Saturday night," Durk says, "I remember those times well." The library is located at 4324 E. Colonial Drive.

## CURIOUS GEORGE AND FRIENDS

Celebrate the art of H.A. and Margaret Rey at the Orlando Museum of Art through Aug. 28. Art and stories, from early drawings and sketches to full-color illustrations and dummy pages from the books, will be on display. The summer long exhibition is designed to encourage kids to read — though it wouldn't kill you to put down that copy of *Honcho* or *On Our Backs* and pick up something of sub-

stance, now would it? Among the highlights are full-color drawings from the seven original *Curious George* titles. The museum is located at 2416 N. Mills Ave. For information, visit [omart.org](http://omart.org).

## TAMPA BAY

## JAIME ÁVILA: LIFE IS A CATWALK

The Museum of Fine Arts presents 16 compelling photographs by this gifted young Colombian artist in his first museum exhibition in Florida. In this series, Ávila explores the world of the *radioactivos*, marginalized youth essentially living on the streets of Bogotá, and their relationship with the larger urban environment, especially the architecture around them. The show, which closes June 12, is also the MFA's contribution to Arte 2005, Tampa Bay's Festival of the Americas. The museum is located at 255 Beach Drive, N.E., St. Petersburg. For details call (727) 896-2667 or visit [fine-arts.org](http://fine-arts.org).

## UNDERSTANDING FORM AND FUNCTION: WHY WAS THIS MADE?

The first in a series of three exhibitions that explore thematically the highlights of the Tampa Museum of Art's permanent col-

lection, this show examines the ways in which cultures and civilizations view and subsequently respond to life challenges from antiquity through the modern era. Greek ceramic vessels produced in response to the needs of ancient Greek social customs — centering on the consumption and use of wine, water, and olive oil — inspired shapes that are sometimes quoted in contemporary art, and which we may initially think of as new although they are not. The exhibition runs through July 10. The museum is located at 600 N. Ashley Drive; for more information call (813) 274-8130.

## CONCERTS

## KEVIN JAMES

He plays a UPS-type delivery guy and his show is called *The King of Queens*. What's not to love — or at least giggle — about Kevin James? The star of the CBS sitcom — in its seventh (!!!) season, no less — returns to his stand-up comedy roots. Interestingly enough, though his tour stops at Universal, he got his big break winning *Star Search* when it was filmed at the other studios in town, over at Disney/MGM Studios. James performs at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center 8 p.m. Friday, June 10, and at Orlando's Hard Rock Live 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11. Tickets are available at the box offices or at (813) 229-STAR in Tampa or (407) 351-LIVE in Orlando.

## EVENTS

## ORLANDO

## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

Now in its 15th year, this annual queer gathering has grown from a handful of friends at the Magic Kingdom to 140,000 people doing all sorts of things throughout the southwestern portion of Orange County. Among the celebrities expected: Kathy Griffin, Jennifer Holliday, Chaka Khan, Chi Chi LaRue, the Village People, Deborah Cox and

Kimberly Locke. (It almost sounds like "Diva Night" on *Fear Factor*.) Plus, circuit parties, The Oops Guys, a motorcycle run, bear parties, a golf tournament, black pride events, youth meetups, women's pool parties, porn stars and so, so much more. Go ahead and page forward a little bit; you'll find the Gay Days Weekend supplement for details.

## THEATER

## ORLANDO

## THE LADIES OF EOLA HEIGHTS

Is it just us or has this show been extended as many times as Cher's alleged farewell tour? Actually, the play's been so successful, so well-received and sold out each week they appear. It's the latest saga of Wanzie's Orlando anthologies where comedy, drama, lip-sync and bitchiness culminate at 8 p.m. at the Parliament House Footlight Theater. The show has now been extended through June 18, though a special Friday, June 3, Gay Days Weekend show has been added as well. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved at (407) 540-0317 on online at [Wanzieanddoug.com](http://Wanzieanddoug.com).

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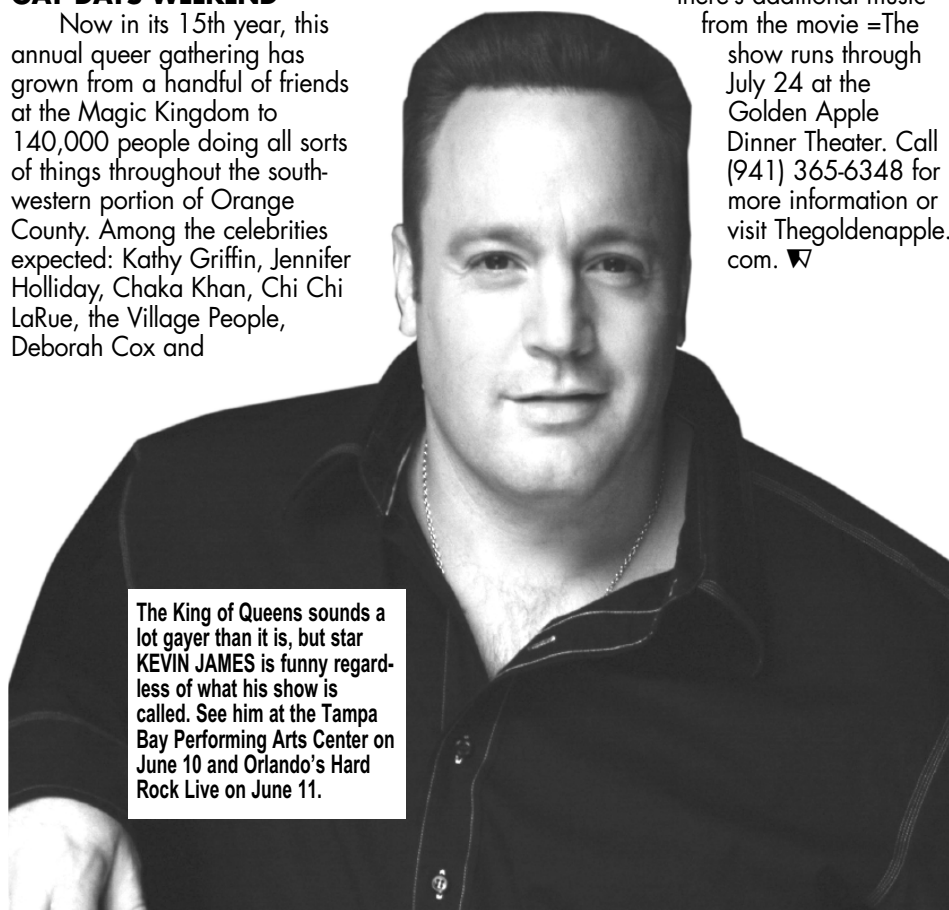
Now you too can play the hit parlor game *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon* when you see this musical based on the huge hit movie of the same name. The songs covered by your favorite *American Idol* contestants are all here, written by Tom Snow and Dean Pitchford, but there's additional music from the movie =The show runs through July 24 at the Golden Apple Dinner Theater. Call (941) 365-6348 for more information or visit [Thegoldenapple.com](http://Thegoldenapple.com). ▼

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The King of Queens sounds a lot gayer than it is, but star KEVIN JAMES is funny regardless of what his show is called. See him at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center on June 10 and Orlando's Hard Rock Live on June 11.



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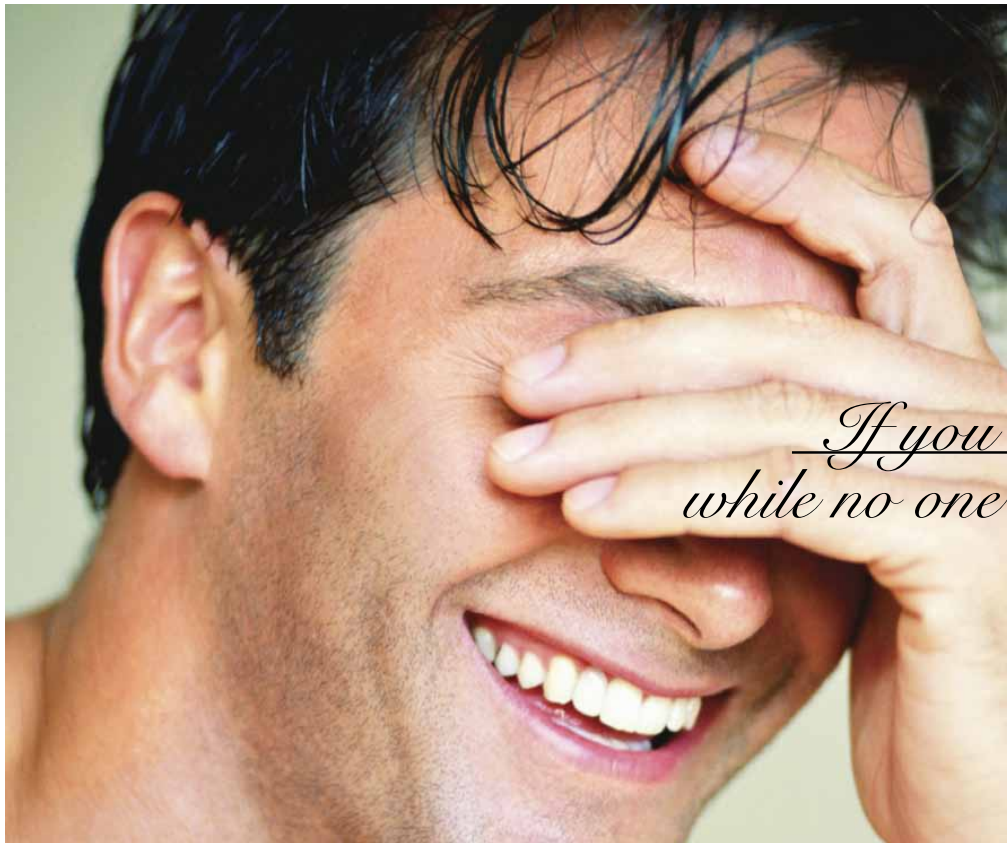
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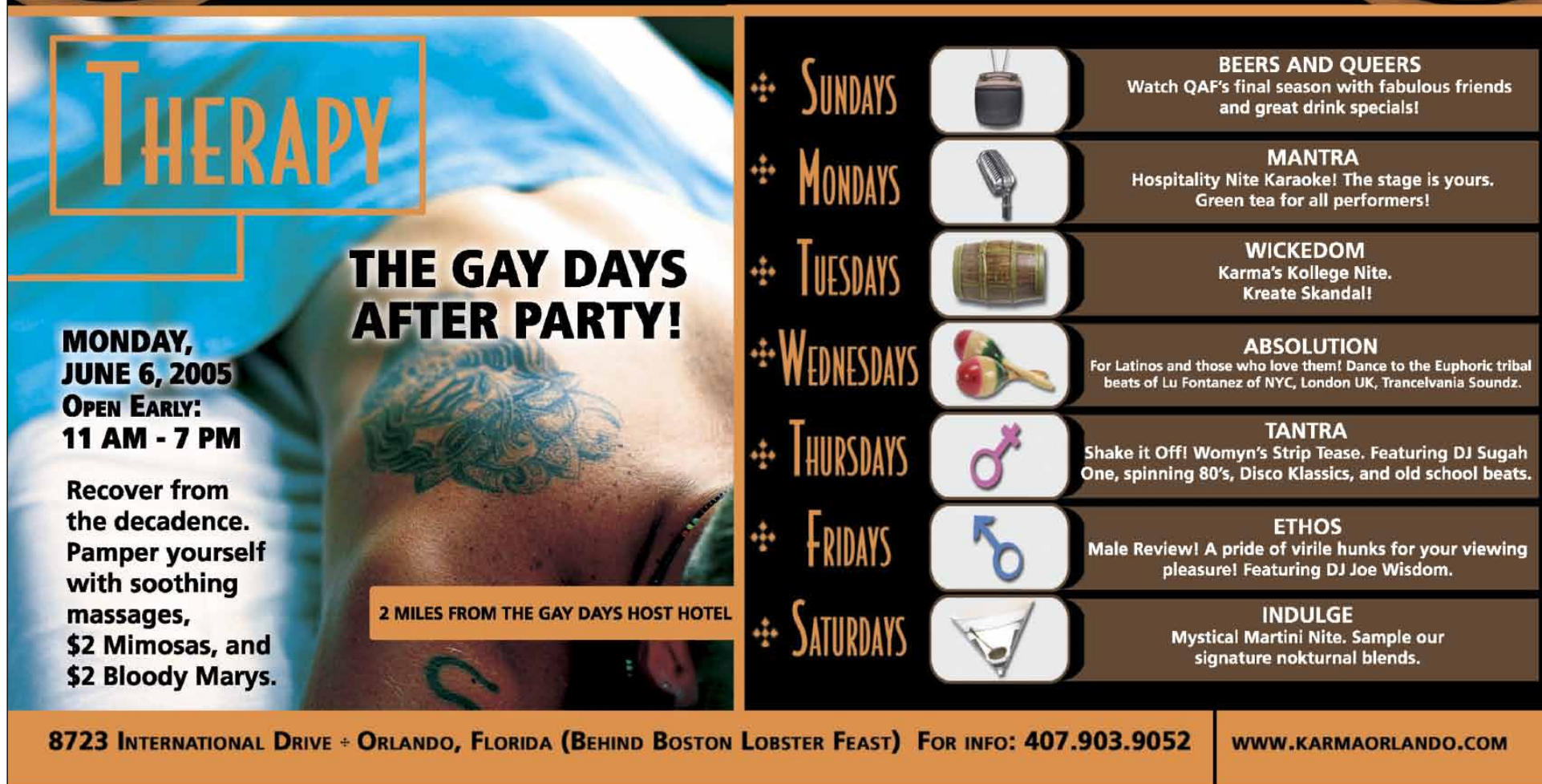


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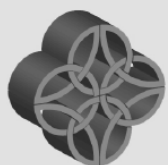
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### 2. CLUB ORLANDO

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### 3. CLUB SWANK

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### 4. CLUB QUEST

R&B, hip-hop, house and reggae all week-end and Thursdays. 745 Bennett Road. (407) 228-8226.

### 5. FACES

Womyn's bar. Pool, darts, pinball, dance floor, DJ. 4910 Edgewater Drive, (407) 291-7571.

### 6. FIRST STREET LOUNGE

Sanford may be a bit of a drive, but this newish lounge is the city's only gay bar. Karaoke on Wednesdays. 226 E. First St., Sanford. (407) 322-6966.

### 7. FREEDOM RESORT AND SPA

New GLBT resort with a high-energy music in Club Freedom. 8600 W. S.R. 192, Kissimmee. (407) 396-7272.

### 8. FULL MOON SALOON

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### 9. HANK'S

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### 10. KARMA

New, upscale, lounge feeling in the middle of tourist Mecca. 8723 International Drive. (407) 903-9052.

### 11. LAVA LOUNGE

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### 12. MANNEQUINS DANCE PALACE

Popular among the GLBT crowd on Thursdays. Downtown Disney's Pleasure Island. (407) 934-7781.

### 13. THE NEW PHOENIX

Mixed, friendly neighborhood bar. 7124-A Aloma Ave., Winter Park. (407) 678-9070.

### 14. PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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### 16. PULSE

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### 17. SAVOY ORLANDO

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### 18. SOUTHERN NIGHTS

The venerable club and bar is expected to reopen in time for Gay Days Weekend under new ownership. 375 S. Bumby Ave. (407) 898-0424.

### 19. STUDZ

Leather, bears, pool, karaoke, darts. A friendly crowd. 4453 Edgewater Drive. (407) 523-8810

### 20. WYLDE'S

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# PRIDE IN PARADISE

## PRIDE LIGHTS 2005



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**FESTIVITIES TO INCLUDE:** **Saturday, June 4** The 6th Annual "Pride Follies" at Tennessee Williams Theater 8PM  
 • **Sunday, June 5** "Pride in Paradise House & Garden Tour" • **Monday, June 6** CAP Awards 6PM at Tropic Cinema, followed by a New-Release Gay Film • **June 6-10** The 2005 GLBT Film Fest at Tropic Cinema  
 • **Friday, June 10** PrideFest Street Fair Noon-5PM • **Friday, June 10** Island Party at East Martello 8PM  
 • **Saturday, June 11** PrideFest Street Fair Noon-5PM • **Saturday, June 11** PrideFest 2005 Parade with Grand Marshal Rev. Troy Perry 8:30PM • **Sunday, June 12** Jason & DeMarco In Concert at San Carlos Theater 7:30PM  
 and much more! Visit [www.pridefestkeywest.com](http://www.pridefestkeywest.com) or e-mail us at [info@pridefestkeywest.com](mailto:info@pridefestkeywest.com) for more details.



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By Diane Wilde

**ARIES - MARCH 21-APRIL 20:** It will be a fun-filled month, and even your work will seem like play. You'll enjoy new challenges, like, taking up a new hobby, sport or even a new book. Opportunities to connect with your near and dear will excite you, yet there will also be opportunities for miscommunications to revive old negative feelings. It's up to you to get beyond it.

**TAURUS - APRIL 21-MAY 21:** Big surprise! Your focus is on business goals and achieving more financial security while creating more revenue for services rendered. There may be some frustrations and glitches along the way. They're just opportunities to show the universe that you have learned from previous challenges and that you can now calmly deal with them.

**GEMINI - MAY 22-JUNE 21:** You'd better take plenty of vitamins and make sure that you get plenty of sleep because you'll be moving and shaking, rocking and rolling — whether you like it or not. The first and last weeks will require some self-control amidst some emotional frustrations. However, the rest of the month have you charged up and ready to make some self-improvements.

**CANCER - JUNE 22-JULY 22:** The good news is that you will overcome any negative emotions or situations from the past that the planets are stirring up. OK, there is no bad news because dealing with those negative emotions now will help you move forward in better ways. Mostly, you'll have fun and enjoying get-togethers with friends and family, but do keep in mind you are super-sensitive right now.

**LEO - JULY 23-AUG 22:** Wow! It's all good, and for the most part, it's all up to you. Create a new and improved "wish list" and be ready to enjoy what and/or who you've conjured up. Remember, every social invitation is a great opportunity to network and to remind all who know you how absolutely fabulous you are. You will be able to bewitch any strangers who cross your path. Just remember to go with the flow. Don't just trust to Lady Luck. Also understand that how you react is entirely up to you — it will be a great month.

**VIRGO - AUG. 23-SEPT. 23:** While you are happily planning future career moves, you're busier than ever. The stars are in your favor for venturing off the beaten path, and the tried and true, so go ahead and explore the possibilities. However, there is no road map to where you're going, so you'll have to expect some U-turns along the way, it usually only takes two to get to where you're going.

**LIBRA - SEPT. 24-OCT. 23:** Sometimes everything will flow smoothly, and you'll be thanking Lady Luck for your good fortune, and other times there may be some debris in your path. Cleaning it up may irritate and frustrate you. No worries, because you certainly can choose to enjoy the experience and the process or you can feel pissy and miss the point. Of course, it's your relationships that will enjoy — or squirm — under the glare of the spotlights.

**SCORPIO - OCT. 24-NOV. 23:** Finally a chance to secure some solid ground under your plans and projects. It's time to take stock of the true worth and value of the things in your life that you count on, that you have invested your time, energy and money — not to mention, your hopes and your dreams. That includes the people in your life with whom you share your resources. Are you getting back equal value?

**SAGITTARIUS - NOV. 24-DEC. 21:** It should come as no big surprise when you feel the urge to use the "edit" button. Don't spoil the mood or ruin your own good PR by refusing to cooperate or compromise. Remember, you like a strong partner, so cajoling will work better than forcing. You know how quickly you get bored, so go get stimulated.

**CAPRICORN - DEC. 22-JAN. 20:** Don't look now, but it's the perfect time to get serious about getting serious, whether it be a project or a person. Commitment time is here. While career and business concerns still take up much of your time, there will still be plenty of quality, fun times to be had. Make a plan, and stick to it as best you can while maneuvering around any obstacles.

**AQUARIUS - JAN. 21-FEB. 19:** It promises to be a softer, kinder month, as you breeze your way from one fun-filled activity to the next. Just make sure you keep your eye on the details and the bottom line. You have the chance to re-invent both yourself and the wheel, so get creative, and dare to dream, you have the planetary energies on your side, moving you along, like it or not. Look deeper into your own thoughts, feelings, expectations and fears to find balance and emotional security.

**PISCES - FEB. 20-MARCH 20:** It's a time for tearing down and rebuilding the very foundation of your life. What you do is up for some much-needed fine-tuning and changes. Take other people's needs in mind when prioritizing time and energy expenditures, not to mention financial. However, it has to be your own needs that get met first. By month's end, you'll be glad that you compromised. ▼

## TRANSITIONS

**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:** Orlando's own ebony showman **WAYNE BRADY** (6/2); original drag queen **TONY CURTIS** (6/3); original American idol (via *Star Search*) **SAM HARRIS** (6/4); Boogied his way from Calvin Klein ads to prosthetic porn *Nights* **MARK WAHLBERG** (6/5); Madonna gal-pal **SANDRA BERNHARD** (6/6); *It's Not Unusual* to still find him sexy **TOM JONES** (6/7); she gave *Watermark's* Kirk Hartlage a tree! **JOAN RIVERS** (6/8); Carrie Fisher's mother **NATALIE PORTMAN** and Willie Wonka 3.0 **JOHNNY DEPP** (6/9); are you a friend of Dorothy? **JUDY GARLAND** (6/10); Willie Wonka 2.0 **GENE WILDER** (6/11); freaky sexinator — even for us **MARV ALBERT** (6/12); New York *Gates*-keeper **CHRISTO** (6/13); America's newest corporate shill **DONALD TRUMP** (6/14); and he's hot! He's cool! He's melting? **ICE CUBE** (6/15).

**LOCAL BIRTHDAYS:** *Watermark's* own running man (and Tampa Bay ad rep) **STEVE ALLEN** (6/1); past *Watermark* coverboy and likely Orlando's most law-abiding citizen **TOM WOODARD** (6/4). ▼



Don't act surprised, JOHNNY DEPP — you're really turning 42 this month.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





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### CLASSIFIED Continued on page 54



## CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED from page 53

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## WATERCOLORS



## FILTH PAULA'S A GOOD SPORT – BUT NOT THAT GOOD

By Billy Masters

It didn't take long for the **PAULA ABDUL** scandal seems to have shifted gears and gone away. Although **COREY CLARK** claims to have a mountain of evidence proving the so-called affair, the American public appeared to have rallied around the beleaguered *American Idol* judge. Of course, Paula's no fool (alleged relations with two of the Jackson Five notwithstanding).

Instead of going on the defensive, she made light of the situation by appearing on *Saturday Night Live*. But even that tactic was not foolproof. Paula was slated to appear as herself in an *AI* skit where she'd say things like, "Corey, that was beautiful. You really blew me away. It's like I rolled over and said to you this morning: 'You have real star quality.' I'll see you at home."

After the dress rehearsal, Abdul withdrew from the sketch and was replaced by **AMY POEHLER** (Paula did introduce the skit and came on at the end for a lackluster finale). Rumor has it that a joke about Abdul in Weekend Update was responsible for her sudden cold feet.

In a related story, someone has sent me nude photos of one of Corey's friends — one of the friends who corroborated his story (so much for credibility). Why "Joselito" posed for those nude (and aroused) shots that give his vital stats (dick size, 9.5 inches) is beyond me. But it's not beyond me to post the photos on Filth2Go.com.

Each year, I assume that the Bad Boys Pool Party has hit its peak, and each year, we break the previous year's record. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that **WILL CLARK'S** annual Palm Springs fundraiser for Southern California AIDS organization LA Shanti raised close to \$60,000 before the doors even opened.

The dozens of gay porn stars at the pool party itself entertained the masses, alongside headliner **PAUL LEKAKIS** (who inexplicably has turned back time and looks unbelievably gorgeous — and sings as good as ever). Many people were quite taken by the presence of über-sexy (and talented) announcer/author/personality **BEN PATRICK JOHNSON** (more about him in a future column), who spent much of the day with former WeHo mayor (and boyfriend of my hubby) **JOHN DURAN**. Also rumored to be hanging around the boys was Oscar winner **CHARLIZE THERON**. Since she wasn't with **STUART TOWNSEND**, I wasn't interested enough to investigate.

There are few performers who have "it" — a presence that demands the attention of everyone in the room. But **SHERYL LEE RALPH** is one of those rarities. Therefore, this former Dreamgirl

and Designing Woman makes a perfect Margo Channing in *Applause* (the musical version of *All About Eve*), and her inspired casting headlines a dynamite concert production of the show in Los Angeles.

The pitfalls of taking on such an iconic role (played on screen by **BETTE DAVIS** and on stage by **LAUREN BACALL**) are easily avoided by Ralph, who creates such a vibrant and personal portrayal that it's impossible to sit in the theatre and picture anyone else playing the part. As with many Reprise productions, *Applause* works incredibly well in a semi-staged environment, and the near-ideal cast makes a good argument for a full-scale revival of the show (the disastrous **STEFANIE POWERS** tour notwithstanding).

The first letter in this week's *Ask Billy* mailbag is from Gabriel in Phoenix, Ariz., who is all shook up over **ELVIS**: "I just saw **JONATHAN RHYS-MEYERS** playing Elvis and fell madly in love. He is gorgeous, gorgeous, gorgeous. I am in love. Billy, do you have any info on him? Or any nude photos?"

Jonathan was born in Dublin and still resides in County Cork. Judging from the following quote, he seems to have a mighty fine handle on his profession: "Being an actor is the easiest job. Just say the lines." You may have seen Jonny (which is what his friends call him) in *The Velvet Goldmine*, in which he not only acted but sang his own songs. You can see every inch of Jonny in *Titus*, *The Governess* and *Tangled* — or on Filth2Go.com. For those of you on the fence about whether you're interested in

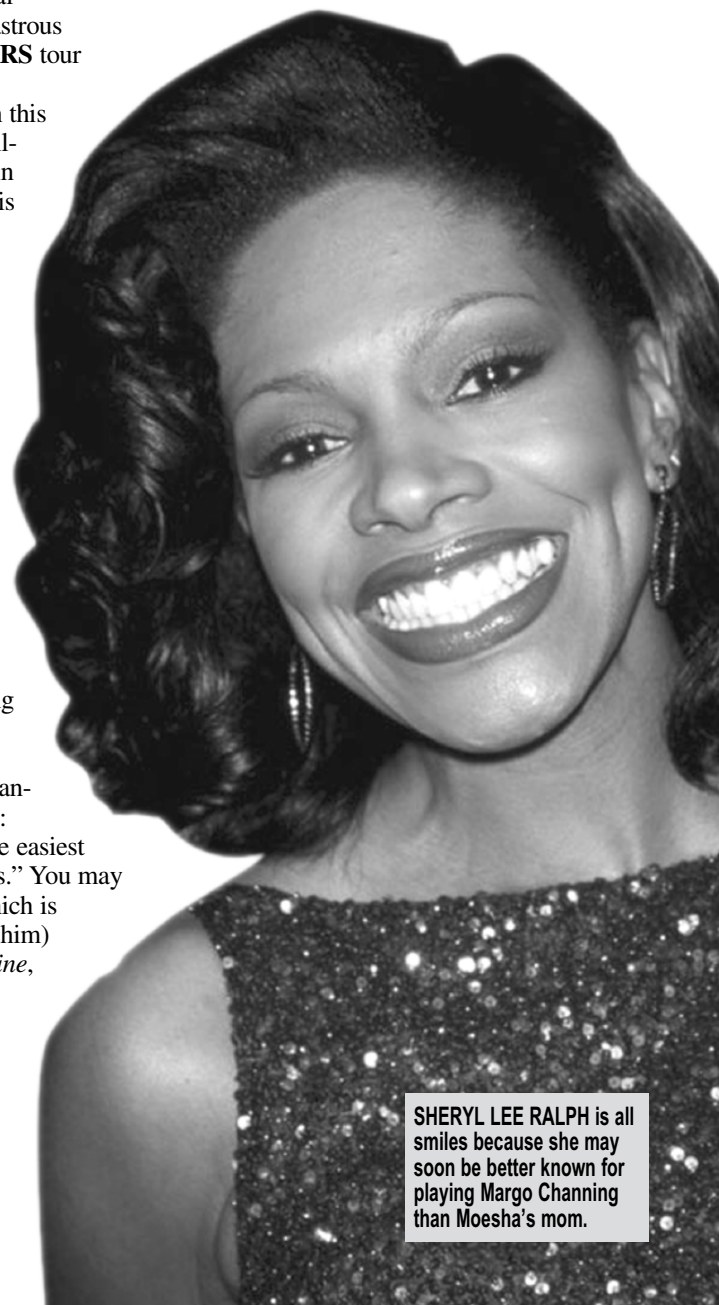
seeing him naked or not, let me just say that it looks as if he could swing his penis over the fence!

Could it be that a certain blind item of mine just came true? So say sources with a drawl who tell me that damage control regarding that swaggering singer's sexuality have been thwarted by his romantic revelation. The bigger question is, why did that winning whiner get involved? Honey, she spends more time with gay men than moi! I'm sure tongues will be wagging when this liaison ends — just as abruptly as it began.

When I can write a blind item that isn't even near-sighted, it's time to end yet another column. You can keep track of my comings and goings at [www.Filth2Go.com](http://www.Filth2Go.com).

For more specific inquiries, send a note to [Billy@filth2go.com](mailto:Billy@filth2go.com) and I promise to get back to you before we come up with nude photos of Corey Clark! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ▼

Why "Joselito" posed for those nude shots that give his vital stats is beyond me.



**SHERYL LEE RALPH** is all smiles because she may soon be better known for playing Margo Channing than Moesha's mom.



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# Gay Days Weekend

ISSUE 12.11

## Queen

**Professional D-Lister Kathy Griffin brings her razor-sharp observations to Gay Days and Clearwater** By Dave Wiethop

**G**ay people have known Kathy Griffin — or her type — for years and years. Usually the funniest girl in the room, she's got the gossip and the dish that could curl the hair on a polyester wig.

A veteran of the comedy club circuit, Griffin amassed a resume of film and television roles that seem as if they were turned down by everyone short of Jennifer Coolidge. *Shakes the Clown*, anyone? Didn't think so. *Beethoven's 5th*? *The Trojan War*? *Dilbert*? *Suddenly Susan*? Finally a role that anyone recognizes.

But the best thing about Kathy Griffin is that she knows this is her lot in

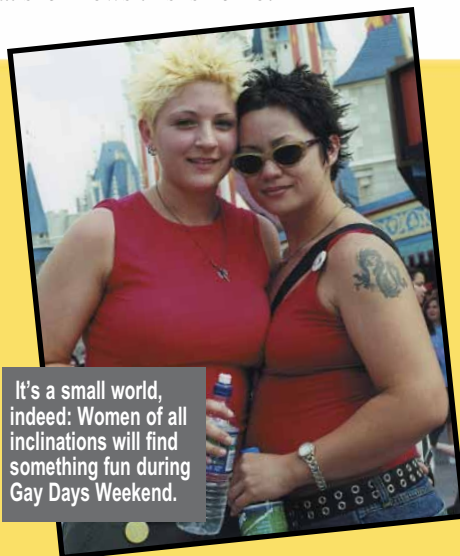
Hollywood.

Capitalizing on her D-List status, she has earned much attention — and many, many laughs — by skewering others in show business with dry, laser-lit observations of bad behavior. In her Bravo special, the endlessly rerun *The D-List*, and her straight-to-DVD special, *Allegedly*, Griffin tackles the quirks of Sharon Stone, Rosie O'Donnell, Brooke Shields, Renee Zellweger and Gwyneth Paltrow, among many others. She performed admirably as a co-host with an uncomfortable Star Jones-Reynold's for E!'s red-carpet

**Continued on page 22**



KATHY GRIFFIN says that gay audiences just get her humor better than straight.



It's a small world, indeed: Women of all inclinations will find something fun during Gay Days Weekend.

## WILD THINGS

Women have more options than ever this year By Margaret Nolan

Welcome ladies, women, girls, babes, grrrls, sistahs, divas, butches, mamas, chicas, mack daddies, womyn, femmes, kings, Cinderellas, Tinker Bells and Minnies! Get ready to have the time of your life as thousands of lesbians from all over the world will be here to mingle, meet new friends, make

memories with old friends, and generally experience the extravaganza. Whatever your style or flava, there's something for you at Gay Days Weekend.

Mad props to lesbian events planners who've turned it out this year to cook up and dish out a diverse and

stimulating mix of parties and events as diverse as the lesbian population. Variety is the spice of life; you might need a sherpa to help navigate the myriad of parties, events and happenings!

"We try to design events that are universal to break age barriers, ethnic

**Continued on page 20**



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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

# THE PLEASURE PRINCESS

The high priestess of porn, Chi Chi LaRue, heads to Pulse for Gay Days By Kirk Hartlage

Gay Days Weekend brings a plethora of people to Orlando, both in the revelers that come to town and those brought in to entertain them. Amongst the DJs, singers, comedians, musicians and other performers, comes *another* type of entertainer: Chi Chi La Rue.

Seen by many as the high priestess of porn, La Rue, a.k.a. Larry Paciotti, is the woman — er, man — *person* behind Channel 1 Releasing, one of the largest gay adult film companies around. Locally, La Rue made a name for herself during appearances at Tampa Pride and on the Pillage and Plunder Cruise.

For Gay Days Weekend 2005, La Rue takes over Pulse night club, turning the venue into her own "Pleasure Palace." Accompanying the film director is a bevy of her film stars, including Johnny Hazzard, Jason Hawke, Brandon Lee, Eddie Stone and Theo Blake. The crew will perform shows at 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., both Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4.

**WATERMARK:** I can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for you going along with our "Girls Gone Wild" theme.

**CHI CHI LA RUE:** Did Chaka Khan and Kathy Griffin actually send you a picture?

**You know, I've got to be honest. I couldn't get anyone else to do it but you.** Uh, huh. I thought as much. Just make sure that hairy boob of mine is covered up!

**Will this be your first visit to Orlando?**

No, I've performed at the Parliament House — I love Darcell, he's a wonderful guy. But this year Pulse called and wanted to turn the club into Chi Chi's Pleasure Palace. What better way than to bring a bunch of porn stars and the queen of porn and work it out — two nights?

**What is this group experience going to be like?**

I always say my shows are never regimented and planned. I feel out the audience and the venue and it's spontaneous. I think that's what makes my shows fun. I sing some dirty songs and play with the audience — they're really part of my show. The boys will be dancing and taking their clothes off. It's a totally great group of guys — from super-big hairy daddies to the smooth shaved ones, so there's something for everyone.

**What are your personal Gay Day Weekend plans?**

Well, as you know — or maybe you don't know — I am not a sun worshipper. I am like a vampire. I burn really easy, I'm not a good heat person. I'll probably lounge about at the hotel, relax, and keep

## THE PLEASURE PALACE

**WITH:** Chi Chi LaRue, Johnny Hazzard, Jason Hawke, Brandon Lee, Eddie Stone and Theo Blake.

**WHERE:** Pulse, 1912 S. Orange Ave., Orlando  
**FOR MORE INFO:** PulseOrlando.com.

all my energy for my shows. If it wasn't so blazin' hot, I'd probably go to Disney World. I'll probably decide to stay in instead and then go out and haunt the night like I do.

**That sounds like a good Gay Days Weekend plan to me. What's your take on this whole Gay Days thing, 15 years in?**

I know — it's so amazing, it's huge. I think it's terrific that Orlando embraces the gay community so well and welcomes everybody with open arms. Maybe it could possibly be because of their wallets, I don't know...

I come from Minneapolis where the gay pride events are very small because I don't think the entire city is ready to embrace it. I mean, Los Angeles, of course, shuts down Santa Monica Boulevard and San Francisco is an amazing place to do gay pride, because the whole city is one big rainbow flag. But Orlando really goes all out for the gay community, which is terrific.

**Oddly enough, the event was started as a kick-off to pride month events here in town, for locals. But now Gay Days Weekend is so big that it's looking like we may not even have a pride parade this year.**

Really? It's become such a huge event, that it's kind of eaten itself and made itself gigantic. Do we like that? I don't know. Does the gay community like a big deal like that or would they rather have it under a smaller intimate kind of thing. I don't know, I guess it's a preference.

**What else are you doing these days?** I just got back from Spain where I shot three videos for my production company.

**Do you take guys with you or do you use locals?**

Yes, I took Eddie Stone, my exclusive, and I have two exclusives in Germany so we brought them with us.

**You can certainly tell a difference between domestic and import porn. When you go to Spain, are you doing a domestic version there, or more like a European import or a marriage of the two?**

A marriage of the two, definitely. I think that's the only way you can do it if

you're an American director going over to direct Spanish people. You're bringing what you know over there. But we had to have a translator.

Spanish boys are hot and ready to go. They'll give you great, amazing, passionate sex. Some of the European stuff you see is a little boring. The boys can be a little wooden.

**And not in the good way.**

No, and not in a good way! Hard cock is good, but if someone doesn't know how to use it, then it's boring, it's no fun. These guys were definitely not boring. They were ready to go. It was fun.

**You definitely have a style that's between coach and cheerleader — I have this image of you doing your thing, and having a translator there, and this whole multi-cultural stereo verbal session going on.**

Two of the Spanish boys whom I directed came up to me afterwards and told me that it was a real pleasure working for me. They had never worked for someone who really knew exactly what they wanted and the directions were fast and furious but they understood why.

What I hear a lot, by my "inspired" directing, it kind of inspires the guys to keep going and do a really good job.

Only one time in my directing career did I ever have a problem with a guy, one who I wouldn't have chosen. But I was doing a movie for another company, and they had

hired this guy. He was a little bit queeny — even queenier than *me* — I remember him saying to the camera guys, "If she doesn't shut up, I'm not going to be able to get hard."

That was the only time I had anybody say something negative about my directing. He ended up not being any good anyway, I'm sure it was all insecurity on his part that was holding him back. But, *whatever!* We never saw him again!

**I have a good friend here in town who recently shot his very first adult film, but, it was another realm of porn...**

Barebacking?

**I believe so.**

That's bad in my eyes. Chi Chi doesn't like that!

**He said the experience was very, very wet.**

What does that mean?

**Watersports.**

Oh! I love watersports! Watersports can be safe and fun, but barebacking is not.

**He's been told by others in the field is that he'll definitely take off.**

I'd love to see him and educate on why not to do barebacking movies, dammit!

**What kind of recommenda-**

**Continued on page 21**



CHI CHI LARUE says that she's like a vampire because she won't go out in the sunshine.



JOHNNY CHISHOLM presents

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GAY DAYS WEEKEND

# HEADMISTRESS OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Chaka Khan brings old school funk and covers classic standards to One Mighty Party By Kirk Hartlage

Long before today's rap artists were giving mad props to each other and themselves in their music, the headmistress of the old school was doing it back in the 1980s. For people of a certain age, it's tough to see the name "Chaka Khan" and not want to name check-check-check it, just like the famous start to her classic track, *I Feel For You*.

Khan is the original soul pipes of the funk generation, performing as the lead singer for Rufus, one of the first multi-racial bands of the early 1970s. Her influence on a generation of today's performers, though, is wide ranging. Hip-hop artist and producer Kanye West had a huge hit last year with *Through The Wire* (which contained samples of *Through the Fire*) as an homage to Khan; Whitney Houston revived *I'm Every Woman* 15 years after it became Khan's first hit as a solo recording artist in 1978.

Khan's latest CD *Classikhan* is a cover of time-honored standards, from artists including Lena Horne, Shirley Bassey, Peggy Lee and Patsy Cline. Khan certainly still "feels" for her fans, but she's endeared herself to a whole new audience with this latest release

Attendees to this year's One Mighty Party will definitely be feeling Khan as

she performs in concert at the annual theme park party – Khan is arguably the biggest "name" talent to ever appear at a Gay Days Weekend function ever.

Khan spoke talked about her new album and her upcoming trip to Orlando. She even attempted to find the association between gay men and strong black women.

**WATERMARK:** So, Chaka – we're happy to have you here to help us celebrate the 15th year of Gay Days...  
**CHAKA KHAN:** I just did Gay Pride Day in San Francisco – out on the streets – it was very cool.

**When you do those types of appearances, do you stick to stuff from the new album, or...**

No, I do the stuff that the girls wanna hear. (laughs)

**There's definitely a segment that could get into your covers of "Stormy Weather" and all that, but if they're**

**out there dancin' and groovin'.**

MMM-hmm. That's what they wanna do. Oh yeah. We gonna funk it up. We gonna make it really right.

**Let me give you a little background on what you're stepping into. (The writer proceeds to explain Gay Days to Khan.)**

My God. 140,000 people.

**They estimate it brings \$10 million into town in**

**one weekend.**

I wish I was makin' all that. So I guess they're gonna be like Carnivál – the crème de la crème. And I should be wearing something really diva-esque?

**Oh, yes! But far be it from me to tell an established star how to dress.**

But you know, I can go blue jeans, I can go either way. I just want to appease my people!

**About your new album, I'm a big James Bond fan and I love your covers of Goldfinger and Diamonds are Forever.**

Do you really? I was worried about that. I thought a lot of people would be disgusted – "How dare she!" But I brought it off? I pulled it off?

**Oh yeah! You did just fine! But I gotta tell you, Crazy has**

**never been one of my ...**

Favorite songs? Me either! I hated that song! Well, OK, not *hate* – let's not go that far. But I was not feeling it! I did it for Stu – he's a friend who was a book-ing agent of mine. He has since passed – just after the album was released – God rest his soul. He said, "Chaka, just for me, do *Crazy*." I said I'll try it ... and it came out OK.

**The very first gay bar I went to when I came out had a jukebox and it had Crazy on there. Those older queens used to play it constantly.**

OK, baaaaaby.

**But to hear a nice update on it, it made me appreciate the song much more.**

Yeah, I didn't really know what she was talking about until I sang it, and then I was, "OK, I feel you girl, I feel you Patsy."

**So the new track, I Believe – it's being remixed into a dance version, and ...**

What? *I Believe*? It is?

**Who do you have working for you? Do they not tell you anything?**

No – they don't tell me much. (laughs) Do you think it will be popular by the time I get down there?

**Well, they haven't released it yet – I know the girl who's remixing it – but I think one of the things with you being here is that it's going to be the big debut of it.**  
I must have a copy. So you know

Continued on page 19

PLACE  
SPOT AD FOR  
MICHELLE  
VALENTINE  
HERE



CHAKA KHAN says that she doesn't mind other singers performing her songs – as long as they sound good.



JOHNNY CHISHOLM PRESENTS

# ONE MIGHTY WEEKEND

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# DANCE MUSIC'S 'IT' GIRL

Tracy Young brings better beats back to Orlando this weekend By Kirk Hartlage

Tracy Young is likely the hottest female DJ on the circuit — and by hot, we don't just mean in popularity and talent. Even corporate America is taking notice. Sunglass Hut has recently signed on as a sponsor — Young will soon appear in print ads to promote their new "party-girl" line of sunglasses. There are rumors of more name sponsors to come.

But for Young, it's all about the music.

Young relocated to Miami in 1998, and the area's Latin rhythms were soon reflected in her work. Local promoters and club owners took notice and the Virginia native quickly became a DJ-to-the-stars. Britney Spears requested Young play at her 21st birthday bash. Madonna commissioned her to play at her movie premieres and her record release parties, then flew Young to Scotland to DJ at her wedding to Guy Ritchie.

Young has catapulted into the ranks of top tier record spinners, and is now sought worldwide for parties and events.

Sometimes, it's good for a girl to get around.

The globetrotting gal lands in Orlando for Gay Day Weekend, headlining Saturday's One Mighty Party at the Disney/MGM Studios. The stop here is a

## ONE MIGHTY PARTY

**WHEN:** 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Sat., June 4

**WHO:** Tracy Young, Tony Moran and Alyson Calagna, as well as Chaka Khan.

**WHERE:** Disney/MGM Studios.

**TICKETS:** \$85-95. Available at Urban Body in Tampa and Orlando, CircuitTickets.com, GayDay.com and GayDays.com, as well as the ticketing booths at the Sheraton World Resort and the Wyndham Palace and Spa.

near warm-up for the launch of a summer tour promoting her upcoming CD, *Dance Nation* featuring exclusive remixes of Madonna, Cyndi Lauper and Khan herself.

**WATERMARK:** Tell me about this new CD you've been working on.

**TRACY YOUNG:** I wanted to go in a more vocal direction than some of my past projects. Lately, dance music has gotten a bit dark. I wanted to lighten it up again.

**I've noticed that too. It's hard to find good vocal tracks.**

This is why it has been taken me so long to complete — I've been working on this for what feels like two years.

**Why do you think there's such a lack of good vocal tracks?**

I really don't know. I think it has to do with the fact that a lot of people have their own home studio and they just do beats all day. I've thought about that a lot and I can't quite come up with a reason.

**For someone like yourself who's at the forefront of dance music, do you think that some of the weight of that falls to you and your associates? Not to point fingers, but does some of the blame for that fall to you, Junior Vasquez, Victor Calderone and Peter Rauhafer?**

I can speak for myself, for sure — I've always done vocal tracks. Junior is a huge vocal lover. Most of Peter's remixes are all vocal and original productions. So I don't know if it's necessarily our fault. I don't know why the music has gotten so dark. I can't quite figure that one out. But I also think it has a lot to do with the drugs.

**Let's talk about that.**

I think crystal use — even more so than GHB, which has brought a lot of attention to the scene as well — but I think that crystal use in itself has brought a negative stigma to club life and gay culture as a whole. It all kind of encompasses negativity and people who use don't want to stop. I've seen people lose everything. It's just really sad to me, you know?

It makes me really sad to see someone so successful get involved in this drug and literally lose their shirt, their house, their job, their *health*. It's really bothered me the past couple of years.

I have noticed people aren't partying as much and they are realizing that, hey — this is really *bad*. But I do think it's brought a lot of negative attention to clubs and club life.

**What would you say to people that argue that it's the music that fuels and gives that drug environment energy?**

I don't believe that. I think it's people just wanting to get high. People get high in straight culture too.

I remember in the 1990s, once crystal hit the scene, everybody wanted

everything faster, harder, darker — that's what the drug is. You didn't want to stop. I think the drug use has affected the music.

**As opposed to the other way around. So what are you doing to reverse that?**

I'm coming out with a CD that is very vocally uplifting and not so hard and dark. I can only do so much. I haven't been playing so hard. But I do feel responsible for some of it. There was a period where I was really dark and hard too, but I've been trying to find those vocal records and make my sets more uplifting.

**Have you started to get any response yet from your dance floors?**

It's interesting you say that. Yes — people have come up and said, "Tracy! You're not playing so hard!" I'm like, really? I didn't realize I was playing hard. But looking back, I guess I was. (laughs)

**Are there things that have happened on a personal level that have changed?**

Yes! My whole life is different — and I'm happier. I think that has a lot to do with it. I'm happier in my personal life and I never realized how much of a mood of a DJ can affect (others). I mean ... we're artists! Our emotions come out in our music. I guess that's what being an artist is all about. You're painting a picture and you can't help but put your mood in your expression. I'm at a really good place in my life and I think it's coming out in my music.

**I know that you — like one of your gal-pals (laughs) — likes to keep a distance between yourself and the press.**

Continued on page 21

Official Comedy Event  
Gay Days 2005

**THE NAKED GUY**

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June 5 at 7pm

**TICKETS: \$15**  
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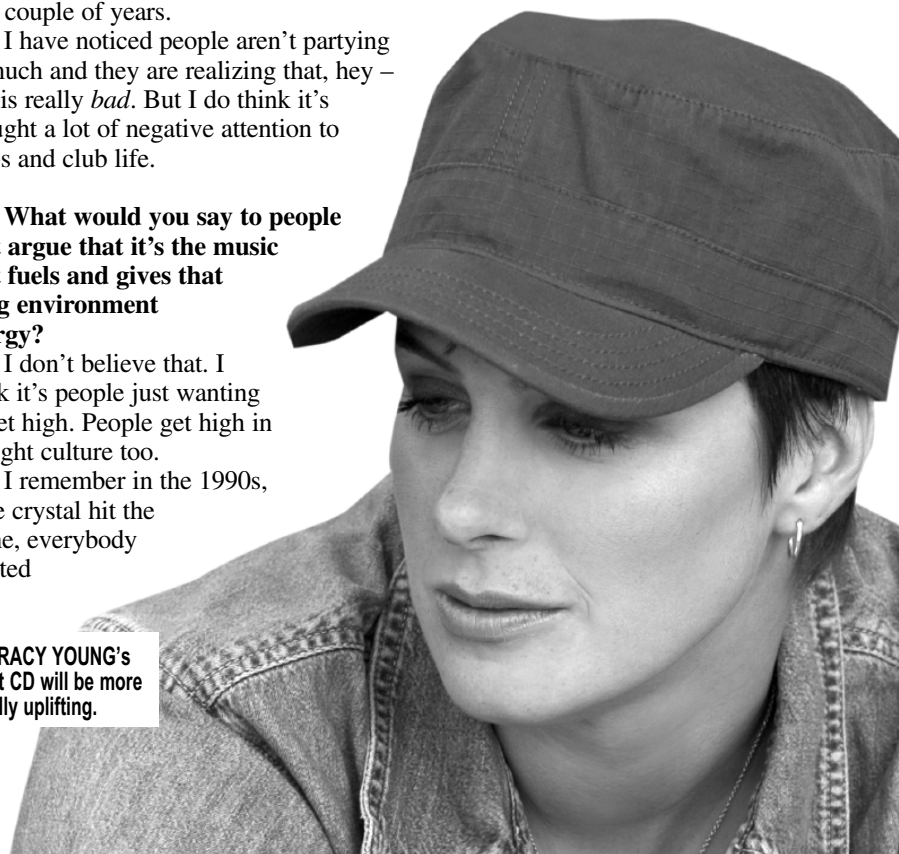
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# GAY DAYS WEEKEND

# BEYOND THE PARKS AND THE CIRCUIT

There's so much more to Gay Days Weekend than meets the eye By Dave Wiethop and Kirk Hartlage

From a simple gathering of friends at Disney's Magic Kingdom 15 years ago, Gay Days Weekend has blossomed into an extraordinary array of more than 125 events. Each year, new events join the schedule reaching out to the various sects of the GLBT community. These are our 10 of our favorites.

## 1. AA ROUNDUP

You can party your ass off at a dozen different venues this weekend — or you can share these days with those who have truly been there and done that. Alcoholics Anonymous sponsored a first-ever Roundup last year and it returns this year.

In addition to 12-step programs and spiritual growth activities for men and women in recovery, AA meetings will be held around the clock June 3-5 at the Sheraton World Resort. There's also an alcohol-free mixer on Saturday at the hotel.

## 2. FETISH BINGO

Yes, this is Florida and yes, we know that your grandma plays bingo. But does she wear her leather hood when she plays? Didn't think so. Fetish and Uniform Bingo will be held Friday, June 3. Wear your favorite uniform, fetish gear or favorite colored hankie. Sadly, slave boys who'll yell

out "Bingo!" for you will not be provided.

If playing Army captain isn't your style, consider Drag Bingo on Thursday, June 2. Both events will be held at the Sheraton World Resort and will benefit Orlando's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center.

## 3. MOTORCYCLE RUN

One of the most unique new additions to the Gay Days weekend schedule is this motorcycle ride around Central Florida. Attendees will get their motors running — at a time when most folks' engines are winding down — Sunday, June 5 at 9 a.m.

Open to all makes and models (that includes the bikes and their riders), admission is either an unwrapped toy, which will be donated to a local children's organization, or \$20, which will be given to Orlando's GLBCC.

## 4. TRIANGLE TEES GOLF CLASSIC

Recognizing that many people visit Florida for its lush golf courses, the Triangle Tees Golf Club will host its third annual Golf Classic at 8 a.m. Friday morning at Disney's Eagle Pines.

The competition is open to women and men. The awards luncheon will follow at the clubhouse. Start polishing those clubs now.

## 5. COUPLES RELAXATION CLASSES

Some couples spend Gay Days Weekend at the parks, while others spend it at the pool. If you two are spending it at each other's throats, then consider the Couples Relaxation Classes at the Sheraton World Resort throughout the weekend.

For about the price of one theme park ticket, both of you can learn some *other* hands-on techniques designed to relieve those stiff and sore joints while keeping you and your relationship happy and healthy.

## 6. SLEUTH'S MYSTERY DINNER SHOWS

There's some that would say that dinner shows are pretty much gay all the time, but each first weekend of June, Sleuth's in the Gooding's Plaza at 8267 International Drive produces a *really* gay show. This year's outing is titled *Hoo-Ray for Loo-Ray: A Risqué, Rainbow Reunion*.

Two shows on Saturday, June 4 will provide no holds barred improvisational comedy and audience participation with the all-gay-and-lesbian cast. Beyond that, there's a delicious dinner with unlimited beer and wine. For reservations, call (407) 363-1985.

## 7. LUSCIOUS LADIES LUAU

Also known as "Where the Boys Aren't," this nighttime women-only indoors and outdoors event takes place poolside at the Sheraton World Hotel Saturday, June 4. The women's wing will be transformed into a tropical paradise, with tiki torches and Hawaiian décor — think of it as a ladies' mini-version of Beach Ball, minus the giant water slides. Two DJs will provide a multi-culti mix of music, including reggae, calypso, soca, and beach music outside and slow dance, country music and classic rock inside.

## 8. HRC BREAKFAST

The third annual breakfast benefit for the Human Rights Campaign moves to Sunday morning this year. For the price of

admission (separate from theme park admission), attendees will enjoy a Disney character breakfast inside the Magic Kingdom with Winnie the Pooh and friends as well as a one-year HRC membership.

The breakfast starts at 7 a.m., but immediately afterwards, guests will be escorted into the theme park to enjoy the rides one hour before the park opens to the general public.

## 9. 'THE NAKED GUY'

The outrageous fully frontal comedy you won't soon forget, local faves The Oops Guys present their live sitcom pilot that's a gay version of *The Golden Girls*! (And you thought that show couldn't get any gayer.) The Sheraton World Resort hosts *The Naked Guy* throughout the weekend; the show has received critical acclaim from the Orlando Fringe Festival and theater festivals across the country.

Oops! We almost forgot! This show contains the only full-frontal male nudity available in town all weekend long! (Sorry, peeking in the windows at the Parliament House doesn't count.)

## 10. BLACK GAY PRIDE

Held in conjunction with Gay Days weekend is Orlando Black Pride with eight events spread out over the four-day weekend. Among those is Friday night's Gyls Party which last year had over 500 beautiful chocolate sistahs dancing and grooving the night away. Saturday's Ladies Bottoms Up Party features DC Badd girl Oohzee, the most requested exotic entertainer in the country. Saturday night the Sheraton World Resort also hosts the Hot Boyz Blitz Party featuring Atlanta's sexiest male dancers K-Rock and Panther.

The party is MC-ed by 2005 Mr. Black Universe 2005 Neandre Bonet-Dupree with DJ Phat Kat spinning the latest in Hip-Hop, Reggae, Dirty South, House and R&B. There will also be basketball tournaments and pool parties held throughout the weekend. ▼

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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**Friday, June 3rd**

Boys Night Out featuring Orlando's Hottest  
Male Dancers, the Boys on Bumby

**Saturday, June 4th**

The Rebirth of Orlando's Original Womyn's Night  
featuring Erica, Asia, and Karen:  
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**Sunday, June 5th**

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# GAY DAYS

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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

## 2005 GAY DAYS SCHEDULE

## HOW TO READ THIS SCHEDULE

With more than 125 different things to do during the week that we call Gay Days Weekend (it's not just one day and it's almost two weekends), visitors and locals can take part in dozens of events and not run into the same people twice.

This year, Watermark has offers several "tracks" to take: lesbians, circuit boys, bears, families, youth and those looking for — how can we say it? — a good bargain. Yes, guys, there are dozens and dozens events just for you! And many of these events are meant for everyone.

As you scroll through the schedule, note these symbols:



Lesbians



Cheap (\$20 or less)



Party



Bears



Families



Youth

Tickets for most events can be purchased in advance at GayDay.com or GayDayS.com, or through the ticketing booths at the Sheraton World Resort and the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. ▼

## THURSDAY, JUNE 2

## 9 A.M.-9 P.M. – GAY DAY AT DISNEY/MGM STUDIOS

\*L, F, Y\* Stroll through Hollywood Boulevard like you own the damn place. (Tip: Brown Derby serves killer martinis.)

## 9 A.M.-5 P.M. – GAY DAYS AT ANIMAL KINGDOM

Talk with the animals, walk with the animals.

## 9 A.M.-7 P.M. – SPA DAY BEFORE CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

The Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa will donate 10% of its proceeds today to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

## NOON-9 P.M. – GAY DAYS EXPO

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort.

## NOON-9 P.M. – GAY DAYS BOX OFFICE

Sheraton World Resort.

## 4-9 P.M. – GAY DAY BOX OFFICE

Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa

## 5 P.M.-2 A.M. – HIP DECADENCE

Lava, 1235 N. Orange Ave. Hang out with the hoi polloi.

## 5:30 P.M. – STARS AND MOTOR CARS PARADE

Disney/MGM Studios. Meet your friends and wave to the celebs!

## 6 P.M. – GAY DAYS WEDDING SHOW

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. See the latest in fashions and a chance to win a free ceremony!

## 6 P.M. – GAY DAYS AA ROUNDUP

Sheraton World Resort. Recovery marathon meetings hourly.

## 7 P.M.-2 A.M. – GAY DAY NIGHT AT PLEASURE ISLAND

\*C\* Play "count the queers" and you can win one to take home!

## 7-10 P.M. – DRAG BINGO

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Hear the snickers when the caller asks for "69." Benefit for Orlando's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center. \$15 and \$25 packages.

Continued on page 12

## GAY DAYS 2005

Sunday, May 29  
Complimentary  
Cookout/T-Dance - 1 to 3pm

MEMORIAL DAY, May 30  
Pool Party  
& Catered Lunch Buffet - 1 pm

Sunday, June 5  
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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

SCHEDULE from page 11

**8 P.M.-2 A.M. – GAY DAYS NIGHT AT MANNEQUINS**

\*C\* Enjoy the tradition at Disney's Pleasure Island.

**9 P.M. – 'LA NOUBA' BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**

Downtown Disney. Proceeds will benefit the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

**9 P.M.-2 A.M. – BURLESQUE PARTY**

\*C,L\* Pulse. Three rooms of women from around the world.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3****8 A.M. – GAY DAY GOLF CLASSIC**

\*L\* Disney's Eagle Pines Golf Course. Sponsored by Triangle Tees GLBT Golf Club.

**9 A.M.-9 P.M. – GAY DAY AT EPCOT**

\*L,F,Y\* One of three Disney parks to sell beer. Think about that when you're strolling through Germany.

**9 A.M.-9 P.M. – GAY DAYS AT DISNEY/MGM STUDIOS**

\*L,F,Y\* Remember: The Tower of Terror is not a make-out spot.

**ALL DAY – GAY DAYS AA ROUNDUP**

Sheraton World Resort. Recovery marathon meetings hourly.

**10 A.M.-10 P.M. – GAY DAYS EXPO**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort.

**10 A.M.-10 P.M. – GAY DAYS BOX OFFICE**

Sheraton World Resort.

**10 A.M.-9 P.M. – GAY DAY WELCOME CENTER**

\*C\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. Vendors, ticketing.

**11 A.M.-3 P.M. – SPLASH BASH POOL PARTY**

Freedom Resort and Spa. Featuring DJ Anthony and a special celebrity cast party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**11 A.M. – SINGLES IN SPACE**

Meet up with the other single astronauts outside the Mission: Space pavilion at Epcot.

**NOON-6 P.M. – GAY DAYS MEN'S POOL PARTY**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Featuring DJ Michael Roselli.

**NOON-6 P.M. – GIRLS AT GAY DAYS POOL PARTY**

\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort, featuring DJ Blue.

**NOON-6 P.M. – SPLASH! A GAY DAY REUNION WELCOME**

\*P\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa's pool.

**1-3 P.M. – GAY DAYS MEN'S SINGLES MINGLE**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. \$15 in advance, \$20 at expo, \$25 at the door.

**2-9 P.M. – 13TH ANNUAL GAY AND LESBIAN WORLD TRAVEL EXPO**

\*C\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. An expo devoted to GLBT travel. Oddly enough, you won't see Orlando exhibiting there. Pity.

**5-7 P.M. – GAY DAYS WOMEN'S SINGLES MINGLE**

\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort. \$15 in advance, \$20 at expo, \$25 at the door.

**5-7 P.M. – 'CURVE' MAGAZINE'S WOMEN'S WELCOME**

\*C,L\* Courtyard Orlando at Marriott Village. Meet the girls from the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Curve.

**5 P.M.-2 A.M. – HIP DECADENCE**

Lava, 1235 N. Orange Ave.

**5:30 P.M. – GAY DAYS FASHION SHOW**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Sponsored by Orlando Premium Outlets.

**6-7 P.M. – OFFICIAL GAY DAYS WELCOME BASH**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Performance by the Orlando Gay Chorus.

# GAY DAYS ORLANDO

## GAY DAYS EXPO



**POOL PARTIES**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 5**  
**Noon-6pm**

**DJ Michael Roselli • DJ Blue**  
**DJ Robby Clark • DJ Daisy**  
**DJ Jeremy Martorano • DJ China**

**Separate Men's & Women's Parties**  
**FREE for Sheraton World Resort guests or buy a \$10 day pass at the GayDayS.com Ticket Center**



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 Thurs: Noon-9pm • Fri: 10am-10pm • Sat: Noon-6pm

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- Welcome Bash/Fashion Show: Friday at 5:30pm presented by Orlando Premium Outlets

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Continued on page 14






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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

SCHEDULE from page 12

**7 P.M.-2 A.M. - GAY DAY NIGHT AT PLEASURE ISLAND**

\*C\* Party your asses off, but remember that you've got a busy day tomorrow!

**7 P.M.-3 A.M. - CLUB FREEDOM'S SPLASH BASH**

Freedom Resort and Spa. The party continues with DJ Anthony and DJ Patrik, with appearances from adult film star Billy Brandt, Kitty Meow, EJ Aviance, Motion, Tweeka Weed and more.

**7-10 P.M. - FETISH/UNIFORM BINGO**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Wear your leather, your rubber and your uniforms. Grandma isn't coming to this party. Benefit for Orlando's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center. \$15 and \$25 packages.

**8 P.M. - THE VILLAGE PEOPLE**

Hard Rock Live, Universal Studios CityWalk. They're still around and they're still more queer than you'll ever be.

**8 P.M.-2 A.M. - CLIMAX**

\*C\*, LMatrix, Pointe Orlando, 9101 International Drive, second level. Dance party with special

guest appearances. (We know that it won't be the Village People. See above.)

**8-9:15 P.M. - THE OOPS GUYS PRESENT 'THE NAKED GUY'**

The Oops Guys present their hilarious *The Naked Guy*. Tickets, \$12 in advance.

**8 P.M.-2 A.M. - BEACH BALL 9**

\*P\* Typhoon Lagoon. Johnny Chisholm presents the biggest splash dance of the year, featuring DJ Brett Henrichsen. Tickets, \$75.

**8 P.M.-3 A.M. - KIMBERLY LOCKE IN CONCERT**

\*C\* Parliament House Resort. An *American Idol* finalist who would never diss Paula Abdul, in concert. Tickets, \$20.

**9 P.M.-2 A.M. - THIRD ANNUAL PARTY 2XS**

\*L\* Club XS on International Drive. The official Gay Days Women's Party, presented by Girlz Like Us.

**9 P.M.-2 A.M. - PLEASURE PALACE WITH CHI CHI LARUE**

\*C\* Pulse. Drag performer and porn producer offers hot men.

**11 P.M.-5 A.M. - ORLANDO BLACK PRIDE**

\*L\* Sheraton World Resort.

All-gyrl party. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the expo, \$20 at the door.

**MIDNIGHT-8 A.M. - MAGIC JOURNEYS 8**

\*P\* Arabian Nights. Presented by Johnny Chisholm. Featuring DJ David Knapp. Tickets, \$40.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 4

**8 A.M. - BREAKFAST WITH THE STARS**

Hard Rock Live Café. Think about it: Pancakes with Joan Jett imagery.

**9 A.M.-8 P.M. - GAY DAY AT ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE**

\*F,Y,L\* The consistent winner of past *Watermark* Awards for Variety and Excellence gets red-shirted — and that's a good thing.

**9 A.M.-10 P.M. - GAY DAYS AT THE MAGIC KINGDOM**

\*F,Y,L\* This is how it all began — a bunch of queers in red shirts, laughing as the parade moved past Cinderella's Castle.

**ALL DAY - GAY DAYS AA ROUNDUP**  
Sheraton World Resort. Recovery marathon meetings hourly.

**11 A.M. - BEARLY DINING AT THE ENCHANTED OAK TAVERN**

\*B\* Island of Adventure. Lunch in the lost continent with the beefy and the hungry.

**11 A.M. - CIRCUIT BOYZ AT MYTHOS RESTAURANT**

\*B\* Islands of Adventure. You have to eat — honestly.

**11 A.M. - FAMILIES FIND FOOD AT CIRCUS MCGURKUS CAFE STOOPEXIOUS**

\*F\* Islands of Adventure. The kids will love Seuss Landing and parents will love that the kids love Seuss Landing.

**11 A.M. - LADIES LUNCH AT THUNDER FALLS TERRACE**

\*L\* Islands of Adventure. Jurassic Park offers more than a spot to hold hands with your honey.

**11 A.M. - TEENS AT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S DINER**

\*Y\* Islands of Adventure. Make new friends and enjoy the afternoon together, dawg.

**11 A.M.-3 P.M. - SPLASH BASH**

\*P\* Freedom Resort and Spa. Featuring DJ Lydia Prim, Kevin Aviance, Billy Brandt as well as Kitty Meow, EJ Aviance, Motion, Tweeka Weed and others.

**11 A.M.-2 P.M. - ONE!**

\*P\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. The warm-up party to the Reunion 8 events later in the day.

**NOON-6 P.M. - GAY DAYS EXPO**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Vendors, info and prizes!

**NOON-6 P.M. - GAY DAYS.COM**

**TICKETING** Sheraton World Resort.

**NOON-6 P.M. - GAY DAYS MEN'S POOL PARTY**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Featuring DJ Robbie Clark.

**NOON-6 P.M. - GAY DAYS WOMEN'S POOL PARTY**

\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort. Featuring DJ Daisy.

**NOON-5 P.M. - WET POOL PARTY**

\*L\* Courtyard Orlando at Marriott Village. Enjoy an afternoon of cocktails, music, bikini-clad go-go girls and games.

**1-2 P.M. OR 2-3 P.M. - COUPLES RELAXATION CLASSES**

Sheraton World Resort. Stop fighting and relax because we never do what I want to do.

**2-4 P.M. - WOMEN'S SINGLES MINGLE**

\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort.

**2-6:30 P.M. - REUNION 8**

\*P\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. DJ Don Bishop headlines this very popular splash dance.

**2-7 P.M. - GAY DAY WELCOME CENTER**

\*C\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. Vendors, ticketing.

**5-7 P.M. - MEN'S SINGLES MINGLE**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort.

**6 P.M. - HOO-RAY FOR LOO-RAY: A RISQUE, RAINBOW REUNION**

Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show. Show tunes, bulldozing bitches and fabulous lighting. Tickets, \$45.

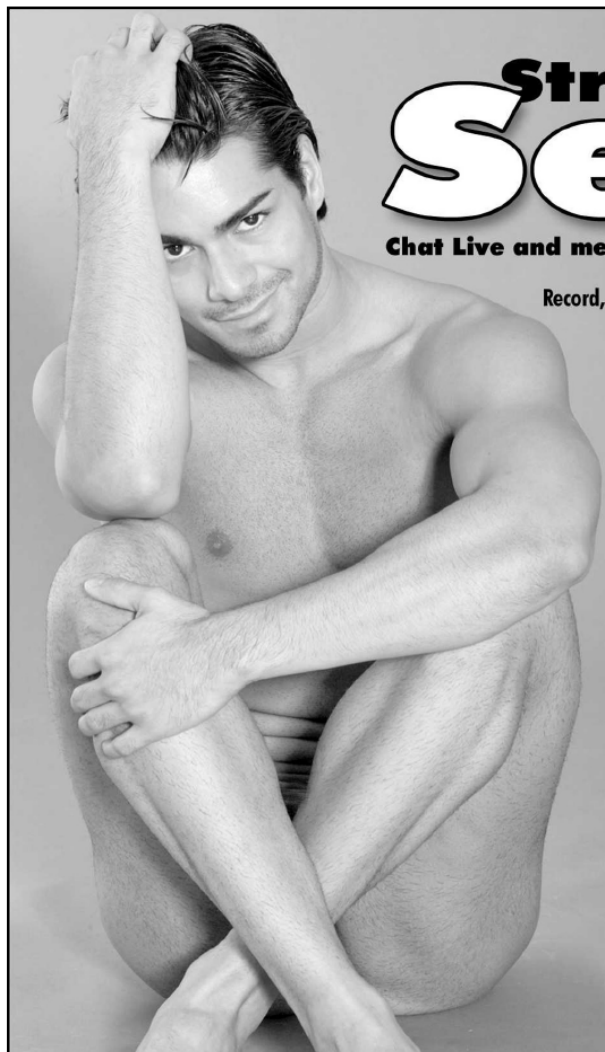
**7 P.M.-2 A.M. - A NIGHT OF PLEASURE**

\*C\* Pleasure Island. Recalling the first-ever Gay Day at Disney's night-time event, Pleasure Island becomes gayer than Christmas.

**7 P.M.-2 P.M. - HIP DECADENCE**

Lava Lounge. Hang out. Be seen.

Continued on page 16



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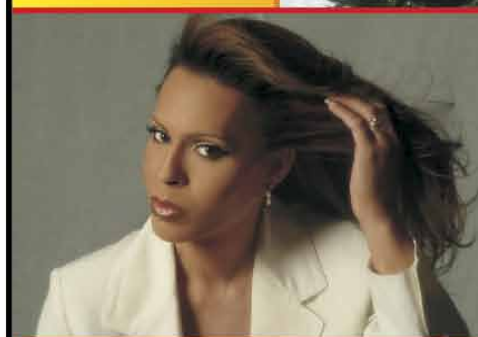
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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

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**SCHEDULE** from page 14

**7 P.M.-3 A.M. — THE PARTY CONTINUES** \*C\* Freedom Resort and Spa's Club Freedom. Featuring DJ Anthony.

**8 P.M. — KATHY GRIFFIN IN CONCERT** Hard Rock Live. Professional D-Lister Kathy Griffin will not be joined by Gwyneth, Star Jones-Reynolds or Renee Zellweger for her concert.

**8 P.M.-3 A.M. — DEBORAH COX IN CONCERT** \*C\* Parliament House Resort. The dance diva returns. Tickets, \$20.

**8 P.M. — THE OOPS GUYS PRESENT 'THE NAKED GUY'**  
\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Cross *The Golden Girls* with *Naked Spring Break* and you've got this.

**8 P.M.-2 A.M. — GIRLS AT GAY DAYS' LUSCIOUS LADIES' LUAU**  
\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort. Calypso, reggae, soca — and contests, lots of contests!

**8 P.M.-2 A.M. — EUFURIA BEAR PARTY**  
\*B\* Sheraton World Resort. DJ David Biehl spins the tunes for the guys who will never be called "circuit boiz."

**8 P.M. — GAY DAYS AA ROUNDUP**  
Sheraton World Resort. Alcohol-free dance in its second year.

**9 P.M.-3 A.M. — GIRLS IN WONDERLAND 5**  
\*L\* House of Blues, Downtown Disney. More than 2,300 women are expected to rock the House. Guest appearances, name DJ's and go-go girls.

**9 P.M.-3 A.M. — PLEASURE PALACE WITH CHI CHI LARUE**  
\*C\* Pulse. Chi Chi LaRue presents hot men — as if we had to be told twice.

**9 P.M. — HOO-RAY FOR LOO-RAY: A RISQUE, RAINBOW REUNION**  
Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show. For those who like their mysteries and drag later in the evening. Tickets, \$45.

**9:30 P.M.-2:30 A.M. — ONE MIGHTY PARTY**  
\*P\* Disney-MGM Studios. Johnny Chisholm brings back the legendary party — with the legendary Chaka Khan, as well as DJ Alyson Calagna, DJ Tracy Young and DJ Tony Moran.

**11 P.M.-5 A.M. — ORLANDO BLACK PRIDE**  
\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Bottom's Up Party.

**MIDNIGHT-8 A.M. — MAGIC JOURNEYS 8**  
\*P\* Arabian Nights. Presented by Johnny Chisholm. Featuring DJ Roland Belmares. Tickets, \$45.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 5

**7-9 A.M. — HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S ANNUAL BREAKFAST**  
Crystal Palace at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Your mother told you to start the day with a good breakfast and some GLBT activism. Didn't she?

**ALL DAY — GAY DAYS ROUNDUP**  
Sheraton World Resort. Recovery marathon meetings hourly.

**9 A.M.-9 P.M. — GAY DAYS AT EPCOT**  
Skip Future World and go immediately to the World Showcase.

**9 A.M.-10 P.M. — GAY DAY AT THE MAGIC KINGDOM**  
They don't call it the Happiest Place on Earth for nothing.

**8 A.M. — GAY DAYS MOTORCYCLE RUN**  
Starts and finishes at the Sheraton World Resort. Registration starts at 8 a.m., bikes hit the streets at 9 a.m. Benefit for the GLBCC and Kids.

**11 A.M.-NOON — GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH MEETING POINT**  
\*Y\* Cinderella's Castle.

**11 A.M.-3 P.M. — SPLASH BASH**  
\*P\* Freedom Resort and Spa. Featuring DJ Lydia Prim, Kevin Aviance, Billy Brandt as well as Kitty Meow, EJ Aviance, Motion, Tweeka Weed and others.

**NOON-6 P.M. — GAY DAYS.COM TICKETING**  
Sheraton World Resort.

**NOON-6 P.M. — GAY DAYS MEN'S POOL PARTY**  
\*C\* Sheraton World Resort. Featuring DJ Jeremy.

**NOON-6 P.M. — GAY DAYS WOMEN'S POOL PARTY**  
\*C,L\* Sheraton World Resort. Featuring DJ China.

Continued on page 17



## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

SCHEDULE from page 16

**NOON-5 P.M. - GET WET AT THE WONDERLAND POOL BASH**

\*C,L\* Courtyard Orlando at Marriott Village. National DJ's, bikinis and lots of surprises.

**NOON-2:30 P.M. - PRE-PARADE COCKTAIL BREAK**

Contemporary Resort's Outer Rim lounge. Have a drink before taking the monorail to the Magic Kingdom.

**12:45 P.M. - LESBIAN MEETING POINT**

\*L\* Town Square in the Magic Kingdom.

**1 P.M. - BEARS GATHERING POINT**

\*B\* Country Bear Jamboree at the Magic Kingdom. They've done this for years.

**1 P.M. - LEATHER MEETING POINT**

Pirates of the Caribbean at the Magic Kingdom. You have to be tough to wear leather in this kind of heat. Honestly.

**1 P.M. - LEGACY**

\*P\* Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa. The annual Reunion Pool Party spectacular.

**1-2 P.M. OR 2-3 P.M. - COUPLES RELAXATION CLASSES**

Sheraton World Resort. Take a deep breath and let go of his carotid artery.

**3:30 P.M. - MAGICAL HAPPY HOUR**

Tambu lounge in Disney's Polynesian Resort, right after the parade.

**4 P.M. - STITCH'S GAY ESCAPE**

Get over to Tomorrowland and help fill at least half of the arena-style seats for this new attraction.

**5 P.M. - BARE AS YOU DARE SWIMWEAR FASHION SHOW**

\*C\* Parliament House Resort. Hosted by Crazy John and featuring designer Greg Parry's Tanline collection.

**5 P.M. - DIGNITY/ORLANDO LITURGY**

\*C\* Sheraton World Resort.

**6 P.M. - SHE ROCK FEATURING HALCYON**

\*L\* Undisclosed location. One of Florida's top all-girl bands returns to the weekend festivities.

Continued on page 18

*Who Will Wear The Crown?*

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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND



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**SCHEDULE** from page 17

### 7 P.M. - SUEDE IN CONCERT

**\*C,L\*** Sheraton World Resort. The jazz and blues singer performs, presented by You Go Girl Productions. Tickets, \$20 and \$25.

### 8 P.M. - JENNIFER HOLLIDAY

**\*C\*** Parliament House Resort. The Tony Award-winner sings — and her gay fans swoon. Wonder if she'll tell us that she's not going.

### 8 P.M. - THE OOPS GUYS PRESENT THE NAKED GUY

**\*C\*** Sheraton World Resort.

### 8 P.M.-3 A.M. - COLOSSEUM PARTY: DON'T U WANT MY LUV WORLD TOUR

**\*P\*** Hard Rock Live. The venerable circuit party returns, with DJ Abel taking the crowd on a musical journey.

### 7 P.M.-3 A.M. - CLUB FREEDOM T-DANCE

**\*P\*** Freedom Resort and Spa. DJ Anthony spins.

### 1-9 A.M. - MAGICAL JOURNEYS 8

**\*P\*** Arabian Nights. Featuring DJ Manny Lehman.

## MONDAY, JUNE 6

### 9 A.M.-7 P.M. - GAY DAY AT DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

They're all beasts. You can be the beauties.

### 8 P.M.-MIDNIGHT - GAY SKATE — THE GAY DAY EDITION

**\*C\*** Semoran Skateway. The monthly Orlando tradition is in for a Gay Day makeover. ▼



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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

**CHAKA** from page 5

the girl.

**Do you keep on top of *American Idol*?**

No, I don't. People tell me, call me and say, "Hey, this guy sang your song." I can't look at that shit, I don't think it's fair. Elton, when he did it, he said it was an abomination. He said it was the most racist shit he's ever done, when he sat in as one of the judges. I don't trust the system.

**Well, Elton's not the only gay man you've connected with.**

There was a time in my career when things weren't poppin' so well, when I wasn't getting a lot of bookings. But my gay audience kept me afloat. In the 1980s when I was living in New York, I was a track date princess. Grace Jones was the queen. I was doing a lot of track dates for gay and lesbian clubs. I found my gay audiences to be the most non-fickle of any audience. They stuck with me through the years.

**Any idea why that is?**

Maybe it's the butch in me. (laughs) Who knows? (laughs) I think it has to do with the communication behind the song: It's love. I'm just another chick trying to break mine off, you know what I'm saying? I think they feel that.

**I think a lot of gay men seem to be**

**able to find some type of connection with strong black women.**

Yeah - maybe that's it.

**If you get asked that again, you can use that as your own. But I was going to ask you, though, why you think that might be ...**

We must have *something* in common. Gay men and strong black women? Now - you think about that. (laughs) You figure it out! You tell me what *you* come up with (practically purring) because I'd be interested to know!

**Uhhh. (laughs) Oh! Now, don't take me there, because that's something that I've only personally recently discovered.**

(With pity in her voice) *Really?*

**Yeah ...**

You know, that might do for some good writing. (purring again) I'd read the article! I'd read it! (laughs)

**Well, umm, it's developed a lot more than just writing with me on that topic.**

Oh child, please! Oooh, yeah!!!

**Well, anyways ... the theme of our issue is "Girls Gone Wild." What do you do to get wild?**

I put the "W" in wild! I was *born* wild! ♡

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## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

**WILD** from page 1

barriers... to offer a little something for everyone with different kinds of music and DJs and visual entertainment," says Alison Burgos, a promoter who partners with Yesi Leon and Amy Alonso of Pandora Events to bring the popular Girls in Wonderland events to Gay Days. "Our parties also work on a national level by benefiting the National Center for Lesbian Rights and as a tool for distributing literature on women's health and empowerment issues to help build a better community."

Lil Barcaski, of GirlzLikeUs and the co-presenter of Girls at Gay Days events, agrees diversity is a good thing.

"I hope that women of all ages and groups will come out to Gay Days. I don't think all the parties have to be geared to the under-30 set or the tragically cool! Our parties are for everyone and we like to have fun," Barcaski says. "We aim to give women something to remember all year long and events where they can meet other women and have a variety of choices in music and things to do."

Both promoters have negotiated deals for special rates at area hotels for lesbian attendees — Girls at Gay Days with the Sheraton World Resort and Girls in Wonderland with the Courtyard Marriott in the Marriott Village. The Courtyard Marriott is exclusively lesbian so that "the women can feel they can be totally themselves ... that's what a vacation should be about," notes Burgos.

**ROCKING ON FRIDAY**

Creating memorable vacation experiences is the party planners aim to do. The lesbian entertainment choices are guaranteed to rock your world, soothe your soul and ring your bell.

The Friday action gets going early with the Girls at Gay Days Blue pool party at the Sheraton World Resort from noon to 6 p.m. Soaking up the sun and hot scenery are sure to get you in the mood with hottie DJ Blue spinning and live music by Tomboy Entertainment featuring Mercy, redboy, Christina Wagner and Killarney Star.

Slip out of your wet thong or tankini and put on something fabulous to check out the drink specials, and hors d'oeuvres, and meet the girls from NCLR from 5 to 7 p.m. at the *Curve Magazine's* Women's Welcome Cocktail Party at the Marriott Courtyard at Marriott Village.

Friday evening starts hopping with a few parties to choose from kick in to the Gay Days frame of mind.

The Third Annual Party 2XS at the PacMan Café at Club XS, presented by Girlz Like Us, offers up three floors of partying from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., with a game room with 100-plus games, DJ China from New York spinning high-energy and hip-hop dance music all night accompanied by hot go-go dancers. Karaoke under the stars with DJ Di will be happening up on the roof from 9 p.m.

to midnight when Latin Magic will take over with a dance demonstration and lessons until 2 a.m. *Muy caliente*.

Take a ride into the future with the Girls in Wonderland team and Phish Phest Entertainment as they present Climax at the mega state-of-the-art dance club Metropolis Nightclub at Pointe Orlando from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Now that's a party name we can all come out for on a Friday night!

"Metropolis is this gorgeous, sexy Moulin Rouge-esque space that I know the women are going to love," says Burgos. DJ Kimberly S from L.A. and DJ Kim Dazy from New York will take the parties to another galaxy on the turntables and spicy go-go girls keep the floor shaking. Surprise live performances and giveaways all night long will keep everyone on their toes.

**SEXY ON SATURDAY**

And speaking of getting wet, Saturday is chock full of the "P" to the "A" to the "R-T-Y" that brings the sexy, beginning with delicious pool parties.

Hit the sun drenched deck at the Marriott Courtyard pool and tropical terrace from noon to 5 p.m. for frolicking, cocktails, and music at the Girls in Wonderland's Wet pool party featuring a sexy mix of tropical sounds by DJ Pride and R&B and hip hop from DJ Rae Rae. Steamy bikini clad go-go girls, drink specials and giveaways will keep you entertained.

Or sip umbrella drinks, groove to the sultry sounds of Orlando's DJ Daisy, and enjoy live music from the Flounders and Providence from noon to 6 p.m. at the Girls at Gay Days' Red pool party at the Sheraton World Resort.

Saturday night kicks things into higher gear as the ladies are treated to fabulous choices that range from high-energy titillations to lower key vibes.

The Girls in Wonderland team celebrates the fifth year of their signature Gay Days event, aptly called Girls in Wonderland

5, at the funky and eclectic House of Blues from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. More than 2,000 women will converge upon this venue to pack the floor to dance to the sounds of DJ Pride (Aqua Girl, White Party, Shescape) and DJ Pat Pat (105.5 The Beat). Heads will be turning with celebrity guest appearances by Rachel from MTV's *Road Rules* and Veronica from MTV's *Real World*, seductive go-go girls, she-king performances, and two spectacular Vegas-style shows. And enjoy the best in live women's music on both the House of Blue's patio and outdoor terrace all night, or canoodle with someone special in the upstairs intimate lounge.

The Sheraton World Resort poolside turns into a Hawaiian tropical paradise with the GirlzLikeUs and Girls at Gay Days' Luscious Ladies' Luau from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Drink mai tais, eat Polynesian food, and listen to DJ Grace spinning the best of reggae, calypso, and beach music. Or cool off inside in the ballroom where DJ Black Pearl will bring the best of slow dance, country music and classic rock. The poolside stage transforms for a fashion show by Butch Wear and limbo contests.

"The luau is something new this year," Barcaski says. "With two areas and two styles of DJs, we think we have lots to offer."

**SIMMERING ON SUN-****DAY**

On Sunday, two pool parties, a concert, and a showcase of live music round out the weekend of women's events.

The Wonderland Pool Bash at the Marriott Village from noon to 5 p.m. will feature fierce beats by DJs Kim Dazy and DJ Pat Pat on the turntables, ubiquitous go-go girls, a bikini contest, and poolside vendors with giveaways, gifts and memorabilia from *The L-Word*, Olivia Cruises, *She, Curve*, Muffy Rout and more.

The Girls at Gay Days White pool party at the Sheraton World Center from noon to 6 p.m. will feature the "I'm Too Sexy for My Beer" contest sponsored by Budweiser and the Chameleons Drag King and Kitten show. DJ China will spin funky tunes and K.C. Phelps and 4 Girls in a Garage will play live music.

Sunday evening belongs to live women's music. You Go Girl Productions presents pop/jazz singer Suede in concert at the Sheraton World Resort. Suede is described as "a cross between Ella Fitzgerald and Bette Midler, with a dash of Louis Armstrong."

The Girls in Wonderland will present She Rock featuring perennial favorite lesbian rockers Halcyon live in concert at Slingapour's in Downtown Orlando.

Whew! You may need a disco nap.

If you've brought the kids or you're not into parties, there's always pixie dust, fantasy, and thrills at Disney's Magic Kingdom, Universal's Island of Adventure or any of the numerous other attractions in the area. Check out the animatronic Ellen DeGeneres at Ellen's Energy Adventure at Disney's EPCOT Center! ▼

**"I don't think all the parties have to be geared to the under-30 set or the tragically cool."**



Take a dive and enjoy the water, as several women's pool parties will offer relief from the heat.



## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

YOUNG from page 8

Well, I just read an interview with a headline that started out, "Lesbian DJ ... la la la" I'm like, "Oh, that's so bad." That's a bit harsh. It's not that I'm ashamed of it, it's just, is that necessary? Why do people write that like that? Is that relevant?

**I think it depends on the publication and the audience.**

I think that's so tacky. It's almost like saying, "She's up for grabs" or "She's a piece of meat." You never see headlines that read "Homosexual Peter Rauhafer." I just think it's derogatory.

**I would have gone with "Dyke DJ," frankly. "Dyke DJ Dominates!"**  
(laughs) Yeah — *that's* better!

**I think that maybe because you're a woman in a very male-dominated field, some publications find a need to trumpet that. I know here at Watermark it'll come up, but it certainly won't be the headline by any means.**

See, I don't think that stuff is important, I think it's about why you're calling me. It's about the music, it's about work. In the article they asked if I was in a relationship and how I juggle time. Is that important? I guess that's what people want to know, but is that what we really need to talk about?

**True, but on the flip side, cause I love to play devil's advocate, you yourself admitted that your personal life is affecting your work in a good way.**

But people don't need to know why. When Junior has a great night, it's probably because he's in a good mood. They don't need to know why.

**There's something about American culture, when it comes to celebrity and fame. We want to know as much about**

**the people we admire.**

To feel close to them. I know.

**I read that you have some dissatisfaction with the circuit community.**

Not with the circuit community. It's more about the drugs, the excessiveness of them all and what it's done to circuit parties.

**Do you think that circuit parties could exist, though, without the drugs?**

No. Drugs have been around for years. I'm not saying party drug free, I'm not saying party with drugs. It is what it is.

**But has it gotten out of hand?**

I just think crystal is so bad. I mean ... coke and beer was one thing. People partied all night and went home. Now there's no moderation.

**You're definitely doing much more "peak hour" performances rather than after-hours events.**

It's because I don't want to be up in that element anymore. I'm drug free. It's not a place where I like to be. I have to enjoy myself too.

**That's one thing I always like about watching you spin. You're always having a great time.**

Yup. I love what I do!

**Tracy, the theme of our issue is "Girls Gone Wild." What do you do to get wild?**

Wild? Those days are over for me! I don't know if I'm such a wild girl anymore. A wild night for me is going to the park with my dog! God, I sound so old.

**So, you used to be a wild girl.**

Well, yeah, I was a trouble-maker. I was one of those kids that always had to have attention. I was the class clown. But I've grown out of that. ▼

**Why do you think barebacking films have risen in popularity?**

Of course they have because they make a lot of money. A lot of times, these people who make these movies, that's what they really are caring about more than protecting their models. I make a little less money but I can feel good about myself when I go home.

Have you seen *Bolt*? If you like watersports scenes, it has an amazing one.

**As you well know, this is our "Girls Gone Wild" issue. What do you do to get wild? But considering what you do for a living, Maybe I should ask you the flip, because, obviously, people see what you do for a living.**

What do I do to relax — that's the question! Me considering something wild — I've seen it all — so nothing really is wild to me. I'd rather just be with my friends and go on a nice trip to Paris and go wild with my credit card. That's about as wild as I get. ▼

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CHI CHI from page 3

**tions would you offer to someone who's just at the start of their adult film career?**

Well, obviously you can tell I'm very passionate against unsafe sex movies. My recommendations would be to work for the good companies and know your value and know your worth because we need you as much as you need us. Models are very important — it's important to keep models happy. You need to work with companies that treat you good. You need to take care of yourself on the set and doing quality products that are safe and won't hurt you.

I don't want to turn into a preacher — I'm a fucking drag queen pornographer, for God's sake — but there's an obligation that we have to protect people in the workplace. Just as much as you do in a welding factory — people wear goggles and masks while they're welding, I feel that people need to wear condoms when they're fucking.



## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

**GRIFFIN** from page 1

Golden Globe and Oscar pre-shows, where she would ask stars if they were carrying weed and what they thought about *her* gown.

Along the way, the comedienne has emerged as a star herself — maybe just one who will never see the inside of Gwyneth's home. Griffin heads to Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall on Friday, June 3, and Orlando's Hard Rock Live on Saturday, June 4.

**WATERMARK: First of all, how are you doing?**

**KATHY GRIFFIN:** I'm fine. I'm going blind in my right eye, but I'm fine, really.

**What exactly is wrong?**

I have a condition called "epithelial cell in-growth" and I got it after having a couple of Lasik surgeries. I had Dr. (Robert K.) Maloney — who does the people on *Extreme Makeover* — but I'm not saying it's his fault. I'm just saying that if I could do it all over again, I would never have had the surgery in the first place — ever.

If you're asking my opinion about Lasik, I would say just keep your glasses and skip the surgery in the first place. So, now I'm going in for my fifth surgery on my eye.

**I have to admit that when I saw you weeping on *Entertainment Tonight* last week, I had a real Kathy Griffin moment. I saw you crying and all I could think of was, "Damn. I'll never get that interview." See? I turned your tragedy into something about me!**

I'm so proud of you!

**That's why it was so important for me to act sympathetic with my first question.**

You sounded good! Very sincere.

**You sounded really sad on *Entertainment Tonight*.**

You know who I am — I love the camera. I would have cried until they turned off the cameras. If I had caught the stitches in my eye on the door knob, I would have made it to that interview.

**So, you're getting surgery between now and the time that you're visiting Orlando and Clearwater. Are you going to be OK?**

I keep telling the doctor that I have these dates to play and that they're really important to me, but he says I'll be able to make it and that I'll be fine. But he's putting 45 stitches in my eye. Think about that — 45 stitches. *In my eye.*

**Have you ever performed in Orlando or Clearwater before?**

I have the honor of having the most pitiful parade ever at Disney-MGM Studios. I was invited and so I flew down, but I thought, "You know, I'll bet they're expecting Kathy Lee Gifford." So, my brother and my sister-in-law are with me,

and I'm in the car waving, and I feel compelled to start shouting out my credits. "I'm on *Suddenly Susan*!" People are just looking at me weird. It was awful.

**You'll be here for Gay Days Weekend. Why do you think you appeal to gay men?**

I love my gays! Gays get me and I know why. No. 1, I am the girl who gay guys took to prom. I have always been comfortable with gay people because we have the same view on things: We were the outsiders looking in on the cool kids. We're strugglers and we struggle together.

And gay audiences are absolutely the best because they will just go there with you. If you appall them, then they like you for appalling them. I hate the PC movement and I think a lot of gay guys do too.

**You'll find them in Clearwater too. Tell me about Clearwater.**

**Well, Ruth Eckerd Hall — faaaaabulous venue. Comfortable seats and not a bad one in the house. Clearwater is also the home of Scientology.**

Oh my God!

**I forgot to ask if you're a Scientologist. Bad move. But wait — you diss Nicole Kidman, so you can't be.**

No. But let's get back to this Clearwater thing. Is the town run by Scientologists?

**They just own property there.**

It sounds like they chose the name, though. Think about it: Clearwater. Clear Water.

**It's beautiful.**

And a little scary too. Think about it: Clearwater. I can't wait to get there.

**You'll have to excuse me, Kathy. I actually wrote out some questions. I've been doing that since my horrible interview with Bernadette Peters.**

Really? She's a gay icon!

**And she had nothing to say. I got so nervous that all I could do was talk about laundry. I'm nervous now, but I'm in pure star-fucker mode today.**

I'm so flattered.

**You know how much I your DVD, *Allegedly*? I actually paid for a copy.**

I love you! Seriously, this is my favorite interview of all time.

**But one thing that bothers me about *Allegedly*: How busy do your attorneys stay? I mean, it seems like you're always on the verge of a slander suit.**

Let's just say that my lawyers are very busy. But I want you to know that I'm not really into porn but I love Larry Flynt. I love him so much for what he did. The People vs. Larry Flynt — it's all about free speech and opinions. What I say is my opinion, not fact. If I call someone a bitch,

then it's *my opinion* that she's a bitch — not a fact. And I do it in jest. And I'm such a fan. I'll make fun of Celine Dion, but when she opens in Las Vegas, I'm the first one to buy tickets.

**In *The D-List* on Bravo, you tell a great story about performing at an AmFAR benefit and totally dissing Sharon Stone's heart-felt rendition of John Lennon's *Imagine*. Did you ever hear from Sharon again?**

I heard not a hide nor hair from her for a year and a half. Two days after the special premiered on Bravo, I'm seated next to her at a fashion show. I'm like, this is my nightmare.

So, her sister brings it up and Sharon smiles that fake smile and says, "Oh, did you perform *Imagine* in your show?" I'm like, "Don't shit a shitter." It turns out that they both had watched it. They were so busted. But she didn't yell at me. She could have.

**You and I have yet another thing in common: We both hate Renee Zellweger. Did you see her marriage to Kenny Chesney coming?**

No! I mean, she met him at a tsunami relief concert. I mean, really. You know that I got Renee all kinds of pissed at me?

**You are the wind beneath my wings..**

Seriously, I get interviewed by *People Magazine*, and I make an off-handed comment that Renee is getting so goddamn skinny that she's starting to look like the long-lost Olsen Triplet. So, her assistant calls to get my address so she can send something. This is cool.

So, I get the most gigantic bouquet of roses from her, and the card is hand-written — not typed out by the florist: "To Kathy Griffith." She can't even get my fucking name right and adds, "Warmest regards, Renee." It's so clearly a "fuck you" kind of note.

And my mom's saying, "Oh, Kathleen, she's a fan!" But I'm telling her, "Mom, this is her way of telling me to kiss her ass."

**Do you have *American Idol* fever like I do?**

You know who I'm all about? Paula Abdul. She was obviously so busted by Corey Clark. I mean, they have the phone records, but still people are sympathetic toward her. I have a theory why: She appeals to everyone who has slept with the wrong guy. I mean, we all have that corn-rowed ghetto guy somewhere in our past, the one who we pray will never call us again. Paula reminds us of that.

You know, I'm excited to play in Clearwater for one other main reason: I get to perform in the same hall that Kelly Clarkson played in. There was only one real *American Idol* and that was Kelly. I liked Tracheotomy Boy this season and I liked Bo Bice, but I would really like to see a birth certificate on that one.

## KATHY GRIFFIN

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**It's nice that they're letting 40-year-olds take part, isn't it?**

Absolutely. And Carrie Underwood — at least you get the impression that Bo has heard his songs before he sang them. I really think that when Carrie sang *MacArthur Park* a few weeks ago that she believed someone actually left a cake out in the rain.

**One more thing: I'm so glad that you won *The Mole*. I also wanted you to win on *Average Joe*.**

I love reality television, but I am tired of really stupid people on those shows. I mean, there was an episode of *Big Brother* where they were debating if Lincoln was the first president. You never hear of anyone expressing how difficult it is to live without reading a newspaper. That's what they have to do. Just once on *America's Next Top Model*, I want to hear them discussing a border dispute in Kashmir.

**Say, Kathy, don't you have a reality series coming up?**

We are all about segue ways! I have a six-episode series, *Living the D-List*, on Aug. 3 on Bravo. On one night, it's going to be all Kathy Griffin on Bravo that night.

**Isn't Bravo one of those new gay channels now?**

You'd think! I even brought that up with the people at Bravo and they told me that it isn't a gay channel. But they "super-serve" the gay audiences. Whatever that means. ▼



KATHY GRIFFIN says she's such a fan of stars — even *American Idols*.



## GAY DAYS WEEKEND

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