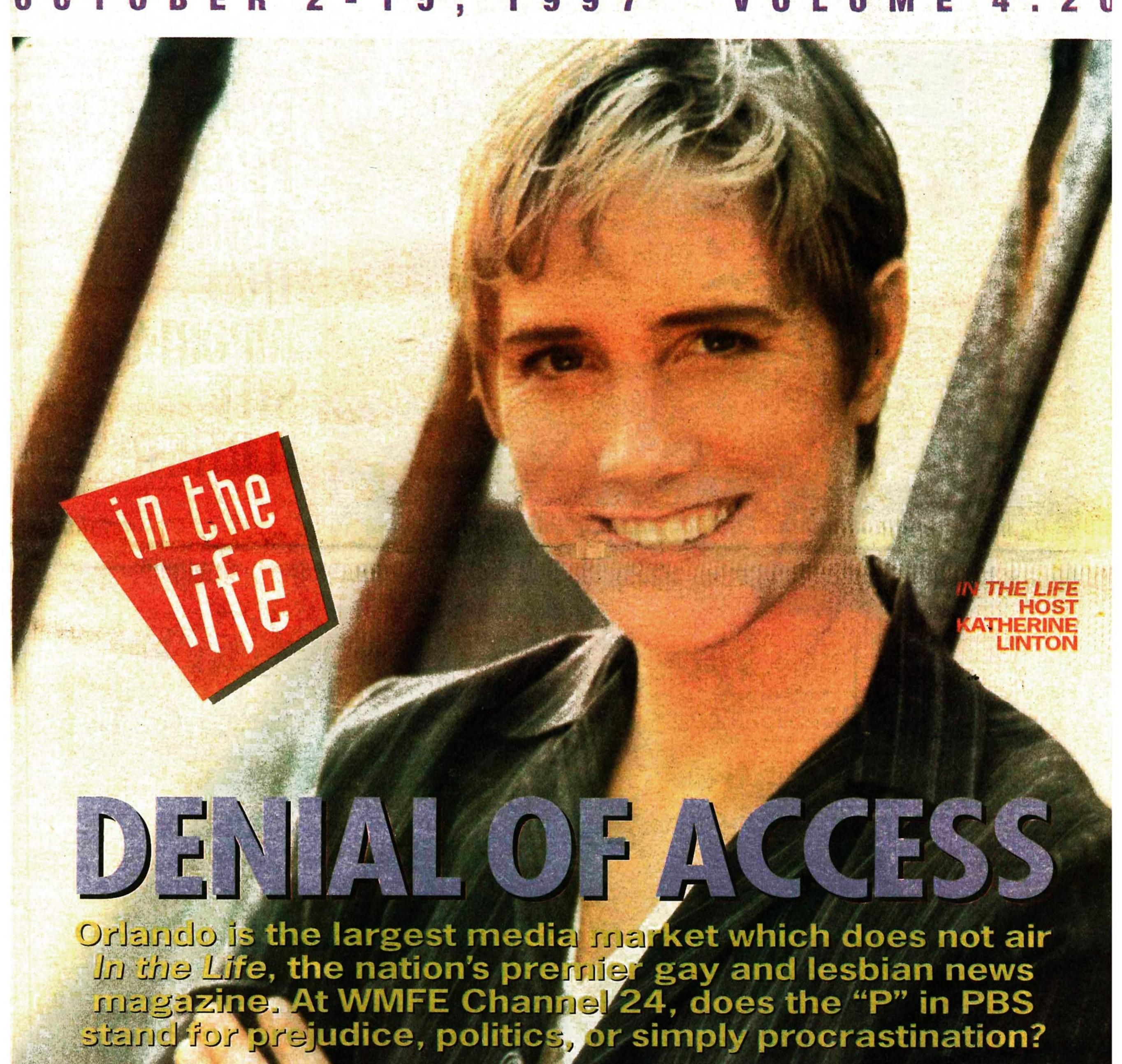


OCTOBER 2-15, 1997 VOLUME 4.20



PATRICIANS RAIGE

An Interview with The Frontrunner's Patricia Nell Warren

FIRST TIMERS

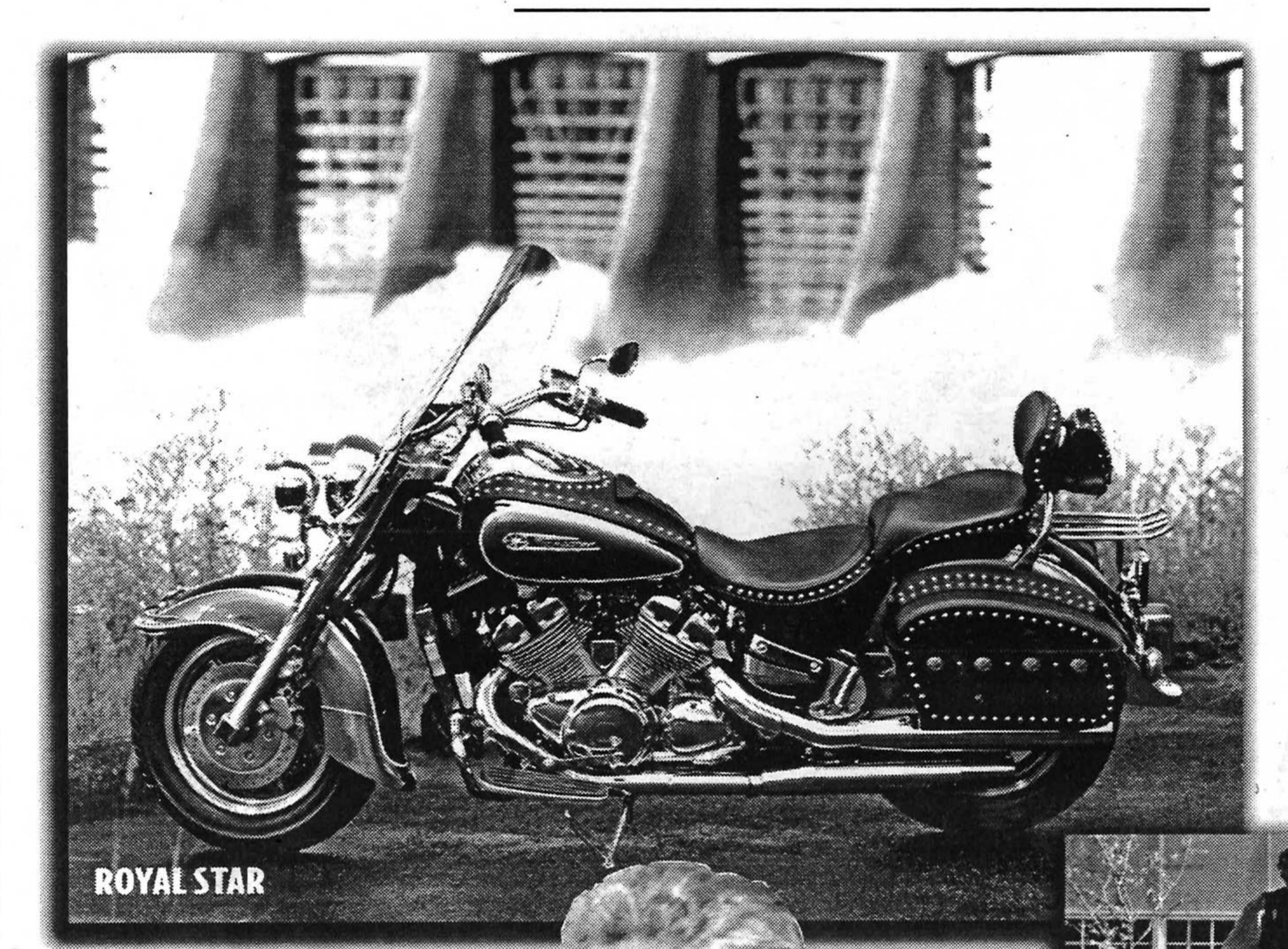
A look back at that First Trip to a Gay Bar



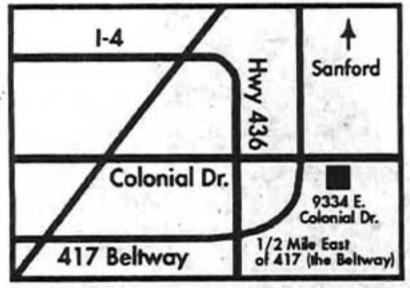


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PREVIEW



EDITOR'S

by Todd Simmons Tampa Bay Bureau Chief

the son of a preacher growing up in Ocala in the s and early '80s, my experience with gay-positive izines, TV shows and film wasn't what you would extensive. In fact, it was non-existent. nere weren't any books on gays in our school ry (and if there had been, I probably would have too scared to check them out). None of the local sstands carried gay papers or magazines. And with exception of Billy Crystal's character on Soap (if re too young to remember, catch the reruns on nedy Central), gay America went completely oticed on the tube.

When, in my early 20s, I finally picked up my first y of The Advocate, I was like a thirsty man in the ert being given a drink of water. I don't think I was ne, either. Legions of lesbians, bisexuals, isgendered folk and gay men live outside of urban as or in situations that don't allow them to comforty or safely receive unbiased, factual information on eer culture.

Such individuals are increasingly being reached lay by gay radio, TV shows and on-line information vices that give them a lifeline to our community. It's al to such folks and to our collective culture in neral that we nurture these resources and make them ore widely available.

One increasingly popular source for queer news is In 1e Life, the 5-year-old public television news magane now airing in more than 100 markets around the ountry, including several around Florida. One market lat doesnt carry the program, however, is Orlando. hat's the subject of this issue's cover story.

Russell Scott, creator of the wildly successful aughter Positive comedy benefits, speaks with In The .ife host Katherine Linton and local public television officials about the show's absence from Orlando irwaves. We include a clip-out coupon that you may nail in to those local TV decision makers to show your support for In The Life.

In our Artful Living section, Ken Kundis talks with author Patricia Nell Warren, who's in Orlando later this month for the National Front Runners convention. Warren, of course, wrote the seminal gay novel The Front Runner, for which the fitness organization was named (that book happened to be the first piece of gay fiction that Kundis, at the tender age of 13, ever read. See what I mean about the far-reaching effects of gay cultural resources?).

Also in that section, we feature Meral's Ride, a bikea-thon that aims to raise money for breast cancer. Watermark-area readers may recognize that the name of the event refers to Meral Ertunc, a local bodybuilder who was stricken with breast cancer a year ago.

Rounding out an issue that refers heavily to gay culture and its developmental impact on our lives is a Waterfront cover story by Jack the Lad on people's memories of their first visit to a gay bar. Be sure also to check out our interview with Ethan Mordden, author of the newly published Some Men Are Lookers.

And once you're done reading this issue, do yourself and your community a favor. Check out your local gay bookstore. Rent a queer feature film or documentary. Log on and visit a gay web site.

Some gay kid in Ocala may thank you for it. W

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Stuff You Should Know About



Orlando's City Hall has hosted several gay Pride Rallies (1996, pictured above). On Saturday, Oct. 11, it is the site for "A Light In The Closet."

Everywhere

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Next in line in this Fall's steady stream of gay-oriented films is KISS ME, GUIDO. A macho New Yorker misinterprets a roommate ad placed by a "GWM." Thrown together, the two men learn about themselves and each other in this much-praised comedy. Opening in theaters throughout Central Florida.

Orlando

SAT., OCT. 4

The ORLANDO GAY CHORUS performs at a special concert at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. Pre-concert festivities begin at 6:30 PM with a champagne cocktail hour, featuring the Tradewinds Woodwind Quartet. The concert begins at 7:30 PM in the church sanctuary. Call (407)898-3621.

SAT., OCT. 11

The University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union (GLBSU) sponsors "A LIGHT IN THE CLOSET," a celebration of being out in Centra Florida. The event, held in conjunction with National Coming Out Day, takes place from 7 PM to 9 PM at Orlando City Hall. Orlando City Council candidate Patty Sheehan and entertainer Michael Wanzie are co-hosts. The Orlando Gay Chorus and Sybil Ann Storm will also perform. For more information, contact: ucfglbsu@aol.com.

Pinellas County

SAT., OCT. 11

The Human Rights Task Force of Florida gives you the perfect chance to celebrate National Coming Out Day this year with a picnic at scenic Fort Desoto Park. Come swim in the lagoons, kayak in the surf, enjoy barbecue (vegetarian and carnivorous) and be thankful you're not in the closet! Your \$5 admission includes lunch. It all gets under way at 11 am. Call (813) 273-8769 for directions or more info.

PEOPLEARETAIK

L.A. NOT SO CONFIDENTIAL

Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Spacey, currently starring in L.A. Confidential, has denied ever outing himself, despite a cover story in the October issue of Esquire magazine that implies he disclosed his homosexuality. Throughout the article, titled "Kevin Spacey Has A Secret," writer Tom Junod teased about Spacey's "secret," beginning and ending the story with rumors about the actor's sexuality. In a statement through his publicist, Spacey called the article "dishonest and malicious." Esquire editor David Granger responds, "Kevin has acknowledged the rumors about his homosexuality. What reason could there possibly be not to include this in the story?"

GORE ON GAYS

Speaking extemporaneously last week at his home during a private reception for Democratic Party leaders, Vice President Al Gore harped on his and President Clinton's efforts to reach across gender, racial, ethnic and sexual orientation lines to bring the country together. It was exactly the kind of event and kind of speech from which gays and lesbians have been omitted in the past (and yes, Virginia, "sexual orientation" means gays and lesbians in this context). But without notes, without prompting and speaking before the very individuals who run his party around the country, Gore made us part of the conversation. A small thing, to be sure, but also a measure of how far gays and lesbians have been integrated into the party. And that's good news, considering that Gore is the early front runner for the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 2000.

A THREE-WAY WE'RE GLAD WE MISSED

America was agog last week as tales of sportscaster Mary Albert's bedroom escapades poured out of the courtroom where he was on trial for sexual assault. Albert, a longtime pro sports commentator known by many non sports fans as a frequent guest on Late Night With David Letterman, was said to sometimes have worn women's underwear and garters during sex, to have bitten and otherwise roughed up partners and to have become angry with one woman when she refused to bring along a man for a menage a trois

(well, wouldn't you have been just a little steamed?). Albert has already lost his on-air jobs, and faces fines of up to \$2,500 and a (very unlikely) one year in jail at sentencing, which is set for Oct. 24.

A RAINY NIGHT IN JAIL

It rained steadily, but the Fifth Annual Underwear Party a the home of Steve Peacock and Tony Watkins was a success, netting more than \$1,600 for the Hope and Help Center. Partiers gathered under a wet tent in various states of undress (most everyone layered), but the busiest spot by far was the "jail" in the corner of the bac yard. People were supposed to want to pay to get out,

but with the soap being dropped being the bars, men were clamoring to serve time. Another highlight: Tony's zebra skin thong with tasseled frontispiece!

IN & OUT IS IN

In & Out, a comedy about a teacher whose life is turned upside down when he is declared to be gay by a former student, was the top film over the summer's final weekend. The film, starring Kevin Kline, earned an estimated \$15.3 million. "I think it's broadened a lot of people's opinions on these topics," said Robert Bucksbaum, publisher of industry newsletter Reel Source. "Maybe five years ago, you wouldn't see a film like this." Meanwhile, according to Entertainment Weekly, it took more than 30 takes (!) before Kline and costar Tom Selleck perfected their on-screen smooch. "Can we get some Chapstick over here, please?!"



HEADLINE NEWS



The Heaven Cafe's LISA COHEN and PAM JEFFRIES at Art for Life: The total raised may cap \$240,000.

ART FOR LIFE, PRIDE FILM FEST BIG HITS

TAMPA – Art for Life, Tampa AIDS Network's annual gala auction, pulled in a record \$227,000 on Sept. 20—with the total still growing at press time—while the 8th annual Pride Film Festival overcame torrential rains to attract thousands to more than a week of motion pictures.

TAN staffers said the total gross for Art for Life might reach \$240,000, well in excess of the event's \$225,000 goal. More than 4,000 art enthusiasts attended the art sale at the Tampa Convention Center, which was made over in a Hollywood/1920s Art Deco theme.

"The best part about it is that so much was donated this year in terms of goods and services that our expenses were cut in half," said Don Bentz, special events coordinator for TAN. "That means more money to client services."

The Pride Film Festival, meanwhile, kicked off a day before Art for Life and ran through the following weekend, drawing thousands to Tampa Theater for dozens of gayand lesbian-themed movies.

The Festival's closing weekend was hampered by squalls that swept

through Tampa on Friday and Saturday, dumping more than a foot of rain in some areas. Sunday, however, was warm, sunny and clear, allowing thousands to enjoy the annual Celebration expo on the Franklin Street Mall.

Final-night films Tantrums & Tiaras (a documentary on pop singer Elton John) and Lilies were festival favorites, along with earlier week fare such as All the Rage and Salut, Victor. Others—notably The Delta—were panned by festival goers.

Controversy that some expected for the

Festival's Youth Night—an evening of free film and panel discussions aimed at young adults and teens—didn't materialize. Rumors that the Ku Klux Klan would return to protest the festival after having picketed it three years ago and that a new religious extremist group headed by long-time anti-gay activist David-Caton would do the same turned out to be just that. ∇



BETTY ARTIS (left) and CHASE MCEWEN anjoy the opening night of Tampa's Pride Film Festival.

NEW AIDS CASES IN U.S. DROP FOR FIRST TIME IN EPIDEMIC

ATLANTA - A historic drop in the number of new AIDS cases in the United States last year is the latest proof that powerful new drugs seem to be slowing the virus down, the government said.

In 1996, an estimated 56,730 people were diagnosed with AIDS, down 6 percent from the 60,620 new cases in 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last Thursday.

The same period also showed a drop in AIDS deaths, a trend reported by the government earlier this year. Deaths from the disease fell 23 percent, from an estimated 50,140 in 1995 to about 38,780 in 1996.

"This is remarkable evidence that our efforts in prevention and treatment are allowing more people to live free of HIV, while we are extending the healthy lives of those who are infected," said U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

The CDC said powerful drugs such as protease inhibitors are apparently preventing infection with the AIDS virus from progressing to full-blown AIDS, especially in patients who start taking the medication early.

"We are going to see people living decades with this disease," said Dr. Bruce Rashbaum, who cares for AIDS patients in Washington D.C. "Three years ago, we would have 10 to 15 patients in the hospital each month. Now, we have 10 to 15 each year."

Some figures remain troubling: AIDS cases diagnosed in 1996 rose 19 percent among heterosexual black men and 12 percent among heterosexual black women.

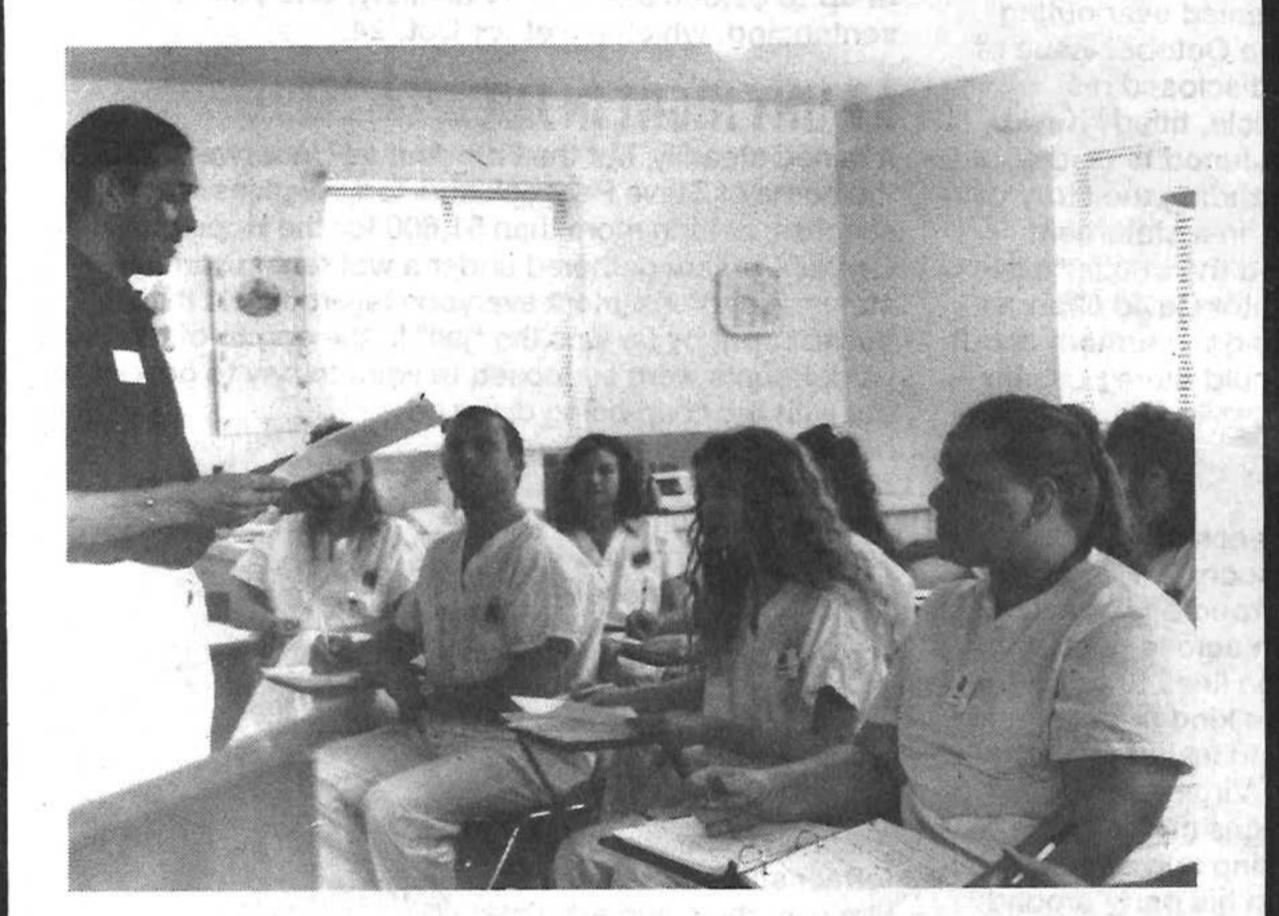
"We know that the gay community has had a relatively thorough saturation of candid information on HIV prevention," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action, an advocacy group. "Women and people of color are not getting the same level of unvarnished HIV information."

The decline in new cases of AIDS reached every region of the country. AIDS cases fell 12 percent in the West, 10 percent in the Midwest, 8 percent in the Northeast and 1 percent in the South.

The greatest drops were among homosexual men and homosexual men who inject drugs—11 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

The CDC estimated that 235,470 people with AIDS were still living in 1996. ₩

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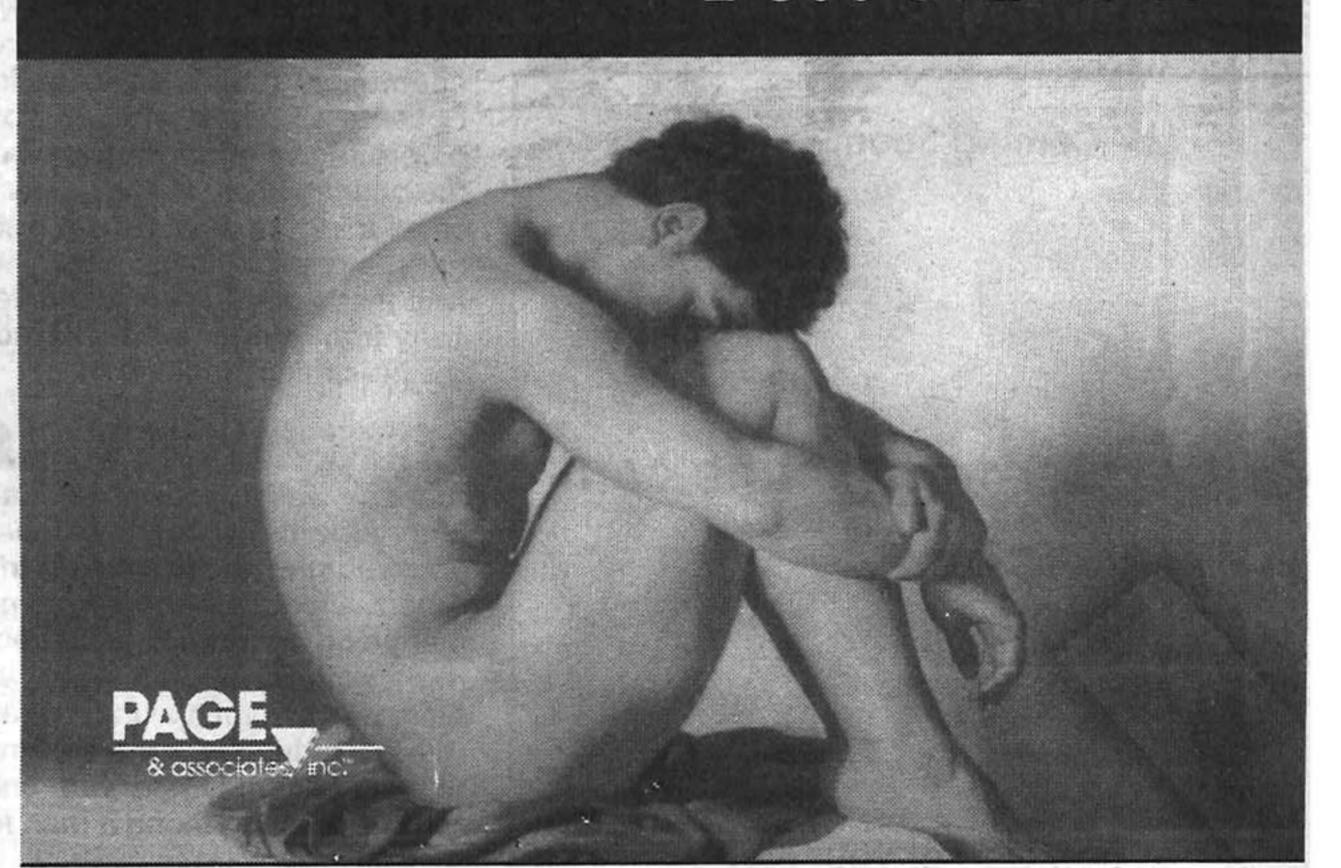
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HEADLINE NEWS



NGLTF executive director KERRY LOBEL with honoree CORETTA SCOTT KING.

POLITICAL STARS SHINE AT TASK FORCE EVENT

by Bob Roehr

Senator Ted Kennedy's rousing introduction, Coretta Scott King's moving acceptance, or Vice President Al Gore's "surprise" appearance. Which was the highlight? The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) certainly had much to choose from at their "Honoring Our Allies" event held in Washington on September 15.

Executive director Kerry Lobel told the crowd of over 200, "We of the gay, lesbian, b is exual, and transgendered people are part of a broader movement for social justice and freedom."

Senator Ted Kennedy's role was to introduce the main recipient of the evening's awards. "Tonight we honor a person that carries forward her husband's dream that injustice anyplace threatens justice anywhere. Who understands completely that you cannot separate discrimination. When discrimination is there in any form and in any shape, it must be rooted out."

Coretta Scott King was brilliant in a magenta jacket, and noble in accepting her award from the Task Force. "It's hard to believe that in 1997, I still get criticism for speaking out against discrimination and bigotry towards people because of their sexual orientation...All I can do is tell these folks that the civil rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion."

Kennedy and King departed and the crowd grew restless, waiting for the Vice President en route to the event.

Gore was effective in warming up an audience liberally seeded with gay and lesbian members of the administration. "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

He said, "It is not enough for you to have a seat at the table. Everybody has got to realize that as full members of the American family, it's your table too."

Gore seemed to lower future expectations of administration action when he said, "Let's face it, some of the greatest challenges that we face are not challenges of law but challenges of the heart. We've got to reach the day when all people understand that our diversity is our greatest strength. And everyone must be judged on the content of his or her

character."

Other honorees that evening were the Mautner Project for Lesbians With Cancer and John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO.

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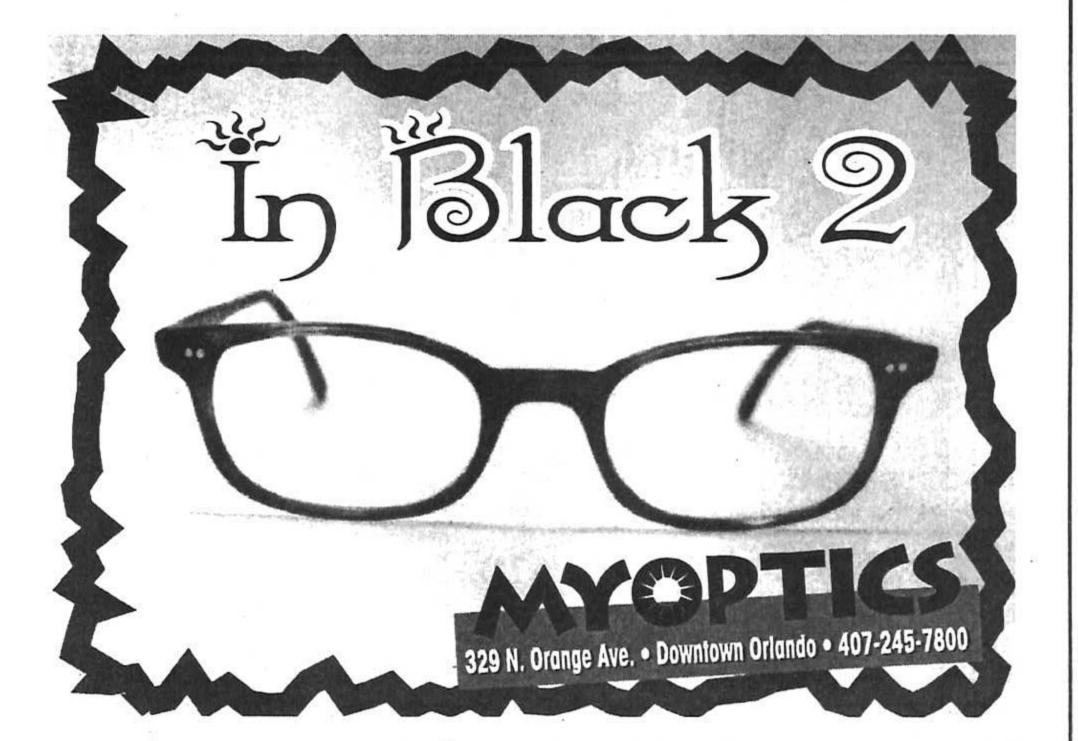
CLINTON TO ADDRESS GAY RIGHTS GROUP IN NOVEMBER

WASHINGTON - President Clinton will be the keynote speaker Nov. 8 at a gala dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national gay and lesbian political organization, officials said today.

"President Clinton's participation at this event will be historic," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the organization. "The president's attendance will mark the first time a sitting president has participated at a gay and lesbian civil rights event."

White House officials confirmed that Clinton would attend. The dinner, in Washington, falls two days before a White House conference on hate crimes.

Clinton spoke at a Human Rights Campaign event in May 1992 before he was elected president. Last year he provided a videotaped message a Human Rights Campaign convention designed to promote volunteer involvement on behalf of candidates supportive of equal rights for gays and lesbians.



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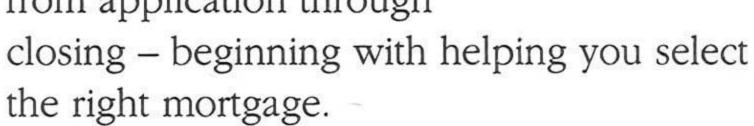
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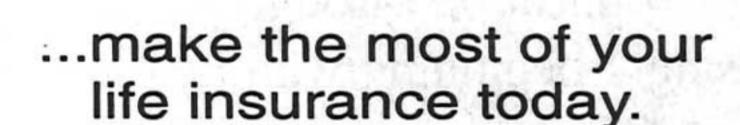
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AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO MERGE

ORLANDO – The AIDS Resource Alliance (ARA), a 1000+ patient, case management organization based in Orlando, announced recently that it will merge with Serenity House Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

ARA director Carolyn Gertz feels that the combined agency will represent a new breed of AIDS service organizations, one that serves the entire HIV/AIDS community.

"We at ARA are anxious to apply what we've learned about serving the HIV/AIDS community to the special needs of Serenity House's clients," Gertz said. "We believe the combination of our large case management organization and Serenity House's expertise in servicing the community of pediatric AIDS patients creates a perfect fit for all parties."

Gertz also indicated that by eliminating duplicate services, the combined organization will be able to better direct resources to serve the needs of clients.

"In situations where we can reduce some expenses and apply that money directly to improving the health and quality of life to our clients, it is the fervent obligation and mission at both organizations to do so," Gertz said. "This merger represents an outstanding opportunity to help more people more efficiently, with less resources." W

LIGHT IN THE CLOSET SHINES ON CITY HALL

ORLANDO - "A Light in the Closet," the annual, local celebration of National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, hosted by the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union (GLBSU) of UCF is being held this year in front of City Hall in Orlando.

This year the event will be hosted by well-known local community leaders Patty Sheehan and Michael Wanzie, and will feature a performance by the Orlando Gay Chorus.

The event celebrates the bravery of those who have come out of the closet as gay, lesbian, or bisexual at work, school, or to friends and family. It also helps bring awareness to people of the emotional toll suffered by those who feel that they have to remain in the closet about their sexual identity.

GLBSU has been a chartered student association at UCF since 1976, and is open to students, alumni, and non-students as well. It works within the school to promote equal student rights for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students, and for the past three years has produced Gay Awareness Week on campus in April. It also holds weekly meetings every Tuesday at 9 PM at the UCF Student Union.

"A Light in the Closet" will be on Oct.

11 at the Orlando City Hall front steps from

7 PM to 9 PM. Admission is free. For more information, contact ucfglbsu@aol.com.

VICTORY BANQUET KICK STARTS POLITICAL SEASON



New York City Councilman THOMAS DUANE, Orlando City Council candidate PATTY SHEEHAN, and Dade County judge VICTORIA SIGLER were honored at the Victory Banquet.

ORLANDO – Central Florida's Rainbow Democratic Club joined with the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national supporter of gay and lesbian candidates, to raise money at a Victory Banquet on Thursday, September 25. 40 attended the event, held at Alexander Court at The Veranda. The more than \$1,200 raised will be split between the two organizations.





TAMPA BAY NEWS



Vice-President AL GORE will appear at the state democratic Party convention in Tampa on Saturday, Oct. 4.

LED BY TRIANGLE CAUCUS, STATE DEMS COMING TO TAMPA

TAMPA – The state Democratic Party holds its 1997 convention Oct. 3 - 5 in Tampa. The event not only is set to feature appearances by presidential hopefuls Al Gore and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, but the party debut of the Triangle Caucus, Florida's new organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Democratic activists.

Though chartered just last year, the Caucus already counts nearly 900 activists among its ranks through its own mailing list and that of gay Democratic clubs around the state. Chairman Keith Morrison of Orlando says the convention offers the Caucus the chance to acquaint public officials with gay and lesbian leaders.

"It lets them put faces to names. It also will help educate elected officials as to how issues affect us," he said. "And it lets us

educate our voters on how public officials' service affects our community."

Morrison encourages all gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered delegates to register with the Caucus at the Convention. Registration begins Friday at 2 PM at the Convention Center and continues until 8.

At 6 PM, the Caucus will hold the first of two evening workshops, this one focusing on lobbying. The second, covering the legislative agenda for 1998, begins at 7 PM. Both take place at the Convention Center.

At 11 PM, the Caucus will open a twohour reception just blocks away in the Presidential Suite on the fourth floor of the Tampa Downtown Hyatt. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served, and activists from around the state will have a chance to mingle.

On Saturday, Vice President Gore addresses the convention at 9:30 a.m. Following that, the Caucus is setting up a special luncheon, details of which are still being confirmed. Then, at 2 PM, the Caucus will host a three-hour non-partisan statewide leadership meeting to give various organizational leaders a chance to brainstorm on current issues.

That evening, following the 8 PM Party Dinner, the Presidential Suite will open again at 11 PM for another evening of socializing. Anyone interested in additional details on any of the events can call the Human Rights Task Force of Florida, which is helping to organize events, at (813) 273-8769.

CALVERT SENTENCED IN LEAK OF AIDS LIST

LARGO – William B. Calvert III, a former state health worker responsible last year for the leak of a list of more than 4,000 names of Bay Area people with AIDS, has been sentenced to \$1,000 in fines and a year's probation.

Calvert's role in the worst breach of confidentiality in the history of the AIDS epidemic became known last fall, when computer-disk copies of the list were mailed to *The Tampa Tribune* and the *St. Peters-burg Times*. Accompanying the lists were letters claiming that Calvert had taken the list from state health offices and, while drunk, showed it to people at a Pinellas County bar using his laptop computer.

Calvert, 36, denied the allegations, but admitted that he had used the list and shared it with friends to screen potential dates. His former lover, Gregory Wentz, soon came under suspicion as the person who originally copied the disks and sent them to media.

Wentz, a St. Petersburg funeral director, was charged and convicted earlier this year of violating the confidentiality of HIV test results. He is appealing his sentence of a \$500 fine and 60 days in jail.

The judge in Calvert's case is allowing him to complete his probation by mail so that Calvert may leave the area to look for employment.

MARTINEZ WINS PRIMARY, IS STRONG BET FOR STATE HOUSE

TAMPA — Political newcomer Kathy Martinez captured the Democratic Primary for state House District 58 on Sept. 23, fending off a last-minute spate of homophobic allegations by favorite Eddie Caballero, whom she sent to defeat for the first time in his political career.

In a primary that saw more than 4,100 votes cast, Martinez won by just 128 votes. On Oct. 21, she faces Deborah Tamargo, the Republican nominee, but Martinez has a decided advantage: The district has 28,000 registered Democrats and only 17,000 Republicans.

After the primary, Caballero refused to endorse Martinez, a move that infuriated Democratic Party leaders. He is now said to be contemplating a switch to the Republican Party.

Martinez came out early in favor of equal rights and fairness for gays and lesbians and stuck to her guns on other controversial issues, including supporting reproductive choice for women in all circumstances. Her views won the endorsement of the St. Petersburg Times, La Gaceta, the teachers union and a state trial lawyers group.

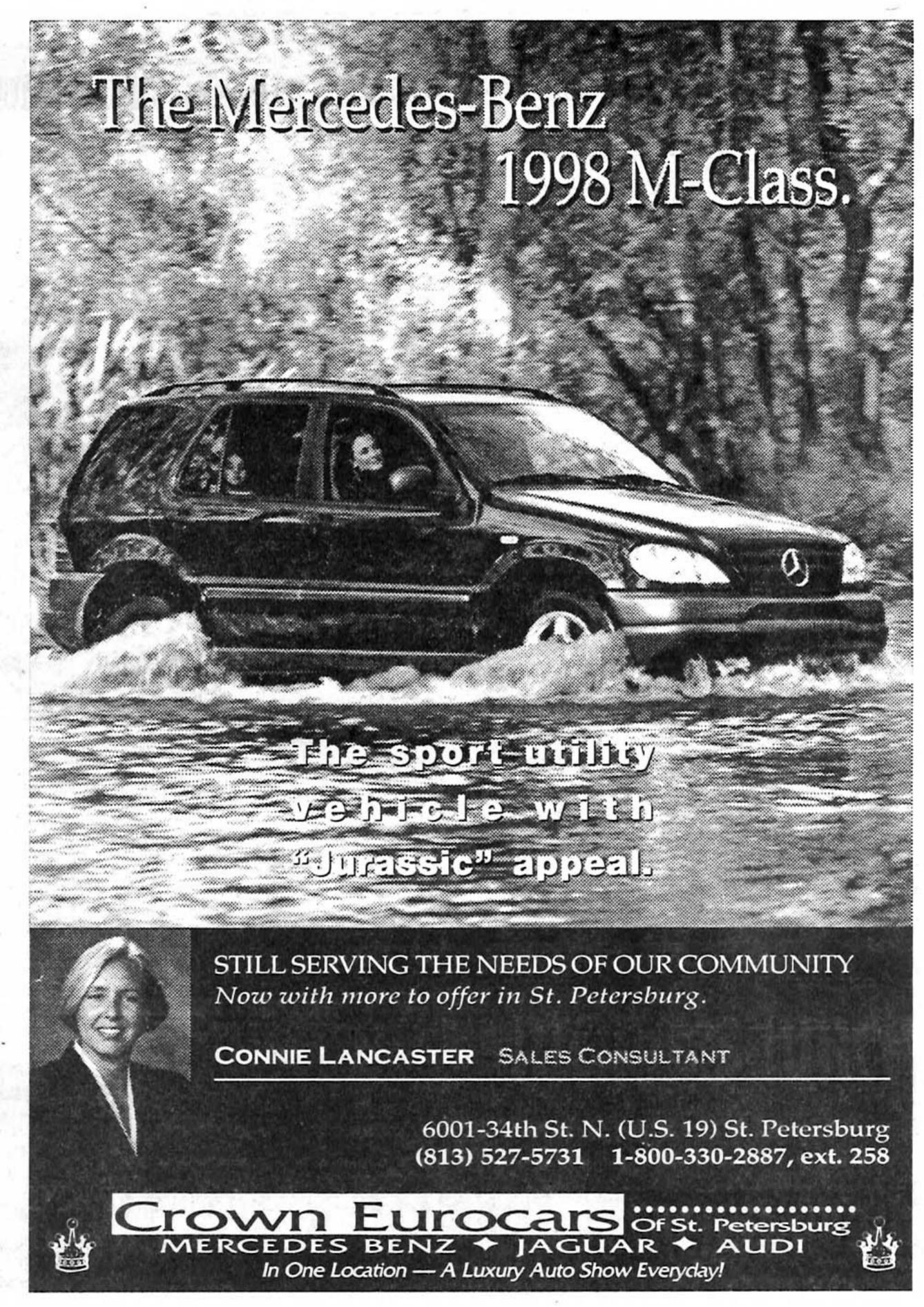
WATERMARK EXPANDS TAMPA BAY STAFF



TAMPA – Watermark has added Advertising Account Representative Julie Taylor to its growing Tampa Bay area staff. Originally from a small town in east Tennessee, Taylor has lived in Tampa Bay for seven years. She has worked in sales the past ten years, most recently as a designer with Ethan Allen. Taylor also co-founded Limin' Around, a national company specializing in pride products. Taylor says she's "proud to be part of a publication which in the past three years has added so much to our community."

JULIE TAYLOR is the newest member of Watermark's Tampa Bay team.







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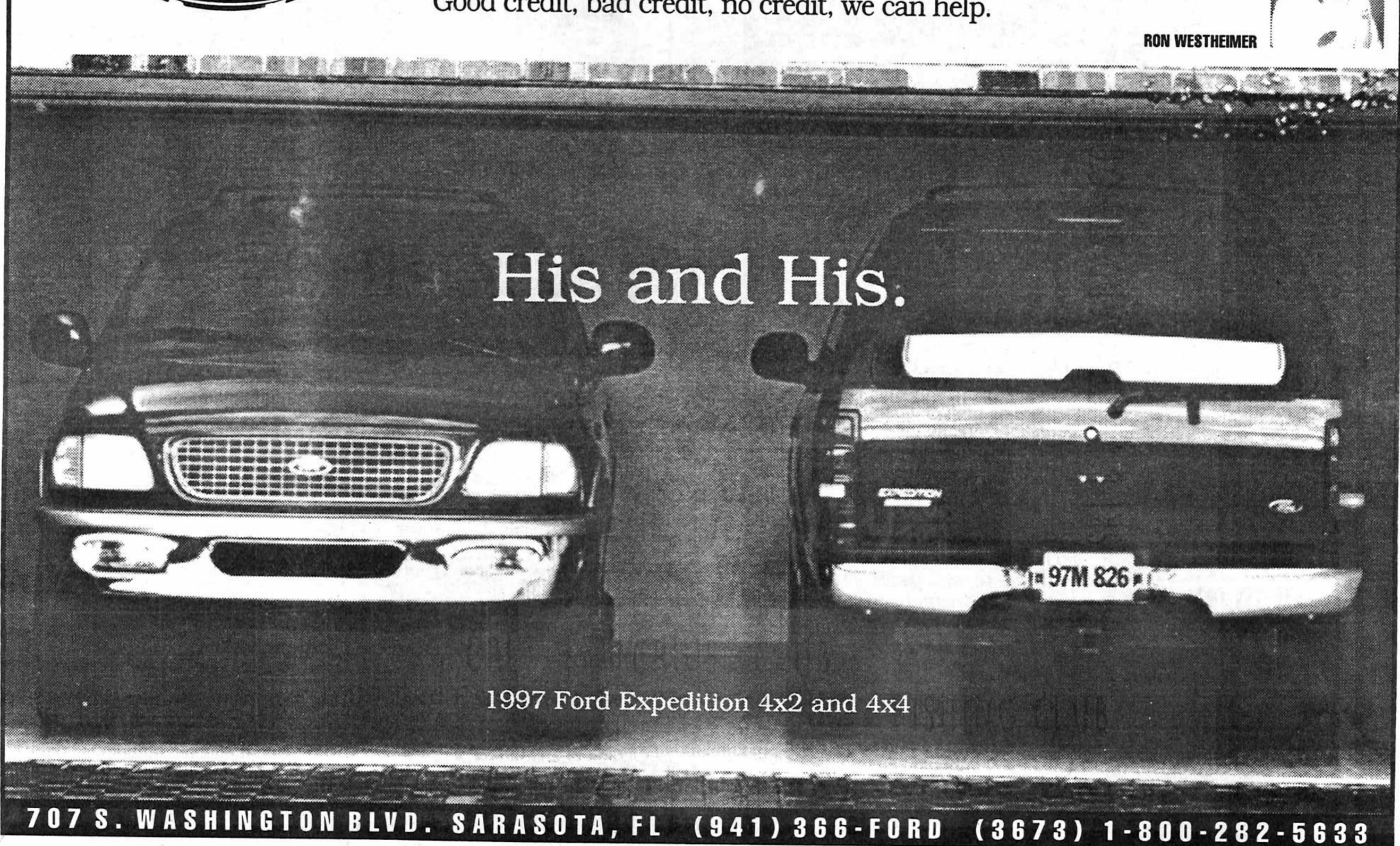
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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SUPPORT FOR GAYS IS WEAK

by Bob Roehr

Political scientists poking and prodding the American electorate have good news and bad news for gays. The bad news is that "support for the rights of gays and lesbians is a mile wide and an inch deep," said Steven H. Haeberle professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The good news is that the same pattern is also reflected among most conservatives. The exception is a small group who feel very strongly, those who "believe in the Devil." These were among the conclusions presented in papers and discussions at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington at the end of August.

Haeberle probed data to see how attitudes towards gays and lesbians have changed within various subgroups of Americans. He theorized that heightened visibility and discussion of gay issues in the media would shift attitudes between the 1992 and 1996 elections.

The question of allowing openly gay people to serve in the military drew the most public attention and resulted in the greatest shift in attitude. Support jumped 10.2 percent, from 58.5 to 68.7 percent.

By contrast, support for federal employment non-discrimination legislation grew only slightly, to 63.8 percent. Haeberle ascribed the disparity to both an increased visibility of the former and to differing roles for the government: Changing the military would have government stop its own discrimination while legislation would expand its power.

Rutgers University professor Robert W. Bailey took a first look at self-identified gay and lesbian voters in congressional races in the 1990s.

The 1994 election which brought Republican control of both houses of Congress was "a repudiation of Clinton." But "not for lesbian and gay voters," says Bailey; they maintained their percentage of allegiance to Democratic candidates that year and in 1996. W

FLOODGATES OPEN FOR SUITS HOLDING SCHOOLS LIABLE FOR GAY HARASSMENT

SEATTLE - For six miserable years after he acknowledged his sexual orientation to himself and his classmates, Mark Iversen was taunted and even assaulted by other students while school officials looked the other way.

Now the gay teen is taking a stand, taking on the suburban Kent School District in federal court. He is backed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, a 1996 federal-court precedent in Wisconsin and a new application of Title IX, the federal legislation that prohibits sexual discimination and harassment in schools.

"I hope other school districts see this case and do something, so that when students complain they'll do something to help the kids," says Iversen, 18.

He and other gay teens have options now because of Jamie Nabozny, who won a \$900,000 settlement last year from a school district in Ashland, Wis. That case marked the first time jurors held administrators liable for failing to address anti-gay abuse.

The Kent district, like the one in Wisconsin, has an anti-harassment policy intended to protect all of its students.

Iversen's lawsuit mirrors Nabozny's in that respect. The district's failure to enforce its anti-harassment policy in Iversen's case means officials violated his right to equal protection under the law, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages, stricter enforcement of the antiharassment policy and stronger protections for targeted students.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWS BRIEFS 温馨



TWO HETEROSEXUAL MEN SUE GAY BAR, CLAIM DISCRIMINATION

Two men have filed suit against a gay bar, claiming they were barred from entering the establishment because they are heterosexual. Torence Harris and Greg Krebs say they went to the Gay 90's Theatre Cafe & Bar on July 29 to meet two friends. They contend a bouncer told them they could not enter because they are not gay, lesbian or bisexual. Their suit says the action violates a 1993 amendment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act guaranteeing access to accommodations and businesses regardless of sexual orientation.

JUDGE UPHOLDS CITY'S GAY-BENEFITS LAW, DENOUNCES HATE-MAIL WRITERS A judge has upheld a Chicago ordinance that gives health benefits to the domestic partners of city workers, saying there would be a special place in hell for the people who sent him nasty letters about the law. Judge Thomas Durkin announced his ruling to a packed courtroom. Durkin said, "I am quite certain that if they are right, and I am condemned to hell, I will meet a goodly amount of them there because their attitude certainly shows a lack of a basic elementpersonal charity toward others."

GAY RIGHTS OPPONENTS COLLECT ENOUGH SIGNATURES FOR REFENDUM

Saying it was a miracle they reached their goal, gay rights foes announced last Thursday they had gathered more than enough signatures to force a referendum on a new law barring discrimination against homosexuals in Maine. Once the petitions were checked, the gay rights law that was supposed to take effect last Friday was put on hold.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIV. TRUSTEES APPROVE BENEFITS FOR GAY PARTNERS

A plan to extend health insurance and other benefits to live-in gay partners of Michigan State University employees was approved Friday by the college's trustees. The benefits, similar to those offered by the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, were approved on a 5-3 vote.

RANGER WINS \$415,000 IN SAME SEX HARASSMENT SUIT

A former Oakland, California, city park ranger won \$415,000 in a same-sex harassment suit that claimed his former boss watched him undress and flooded his computer with unwanted messages. Stephen Kelly, now a substitute teacher, said he went to his superiors to complain about Sgt. Ken McNab and was told to take him behind the ranger station and beat him up.

COURT RULES AGAINST BANNING GAY GROUP FROM PUBLIC FACILITY

In a victory for gay rights in Japan, Tokyo's highest court has upheld a lower court ruling that said city officials were wrong to bar a gay group from using a public facility. The education division of the Tokyo-city government refused in 1990 to let the Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement, known as OC-CUR, stay in a city-run youth lodge.

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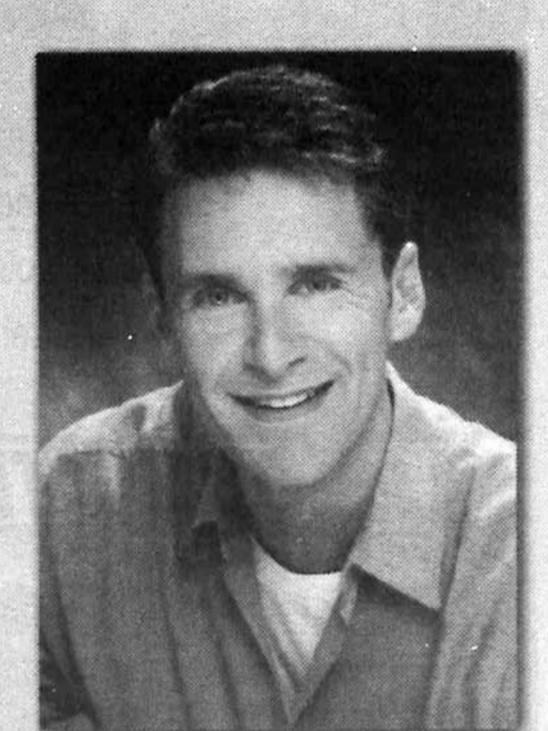
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AIDS REMAINS DORMANT IN PATIENTS, **DESPITE DRUGS**

BALTIMORE - AIDS drugs that lower the virus to undetectable levels leave a silent infection in patients' immune systems that can rebound dangerously if the expensive treatment is ever stopped, new research shows.

Though combining protease inhibitors into a drug cocktail has produced dramatic improvements for thousands of AIDS patients, the new study dims hope that the "latent reservoir" of infection can be eradicated, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said.

"I'm quite skeptical about how long it's going to be before we can actually stop the drugs," Fauci said. "I'm not sure we can ever stop."

Evidence of a silent infection comes from a study of 13 patients who had been taking drugs for a year. Nine patients had undetectable levels of human immunodeficiency virus in their blood, which is common for thousands of other patients on the regimen.

But in all nine, Fauci found that evidence of the virus hiding in "resting cells" of the immune system—white blood cells known as CD4 T-cells.

The idea that drugs could cure AIDS has been championed by Dr. David Ho, a prominent researcher in New York. Based on a mathematical model, Ho said the virus could be eradicated in three years.

Ho plans to take several patients off their drugs and monitor them for a resurgence of virus. The patients have been on the drugs two years.

But Fauci said the projection of a three-year cure was based on the mistaken assumption that "you can completely shut off viral replication."

The anti-viral drugs are capable of suppressing HIV in cells producing the virus, but not inactive ones. One approach would be to create a drug to turn on the dormant cells.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH BRIEFS



AIDS NO LONGER TOP KILLER OF ADULTS

AIDS has lost its place as the No. 1 killer of the nation's young and middle-age adults, bolstering the government's optimism that the deadly epidemic is slowing down. The disease is now the second leading cause of death for people between 25 and 44, driven by a 26 percent drop overall in the rate of AIDS deaths between 1995 and 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. Accidents, such as falls and car crashes, are the leading cause of death for the group that accounts for more than half the nation's workforce. Cancer is No. 3, the CDC said.

SCIENTISTS CREATE NEW AIDS WEAPON: VIRUSES THAT ATTACK HIV

Scientists have created the first virus-killing viruses, cleverly crafted microscopic missiles that zero in on AIDS-infected cells and destroy them. The idea is to fight infection with infection. The newly created viruses target only cells that have already been captured by HIV. The approach works well in the test tube but has not been tried yet in people or even in animals. No one knows whether it will eventually help control AIDS.

NEW MISS AMERICA HAS PLATFORM OF AIDS AWARENESS

Now that Kate Shindle has been crowned Miss America 1998, the tough part begins. Competing as Miss Illinois, Shindle won on a platform of AIDS awareness promotion and she said she wants to focus on prevention and education during a yearlong reign that began last Sunday. She favors giving out condoms in high schools but opposes providing needles to addicts to stem the spread of the disease. And while Shindle said abstinence is the only foolproof method of prevention, she acknowledged that it may not be realistic for teen-agers.

AIDS RIDERS COMPLETE 250-MILE BOSTON-TO-NEW YORK JOURNEY

Mile by mile, they rode to raise money for the fight against AIDS. About 3,200 men and women put muscle to pedal, cycling 250 miles from Boston to New York in the third annual Ride for AIDS. The three-day, three-state ride ended Sunday in New York. It was expected to raise more than \$7.5 million in pledges for AIDS programs in Boston and New York.

STAR DONATES \$100,000 TO AIDS GROUP

Elizabeth Taylor has donated \$100,000 to a group that cares for people with AIDS. The Serra Project will use the money to provide food, clothing and 24hour care at four Southern California centers, said P.G. Ciotti, the project's executive director. Taylor's "tireless work and generosity enable us to continue to offer desperately needed support" for those with AIDS or HIV infections, Ciotti said.



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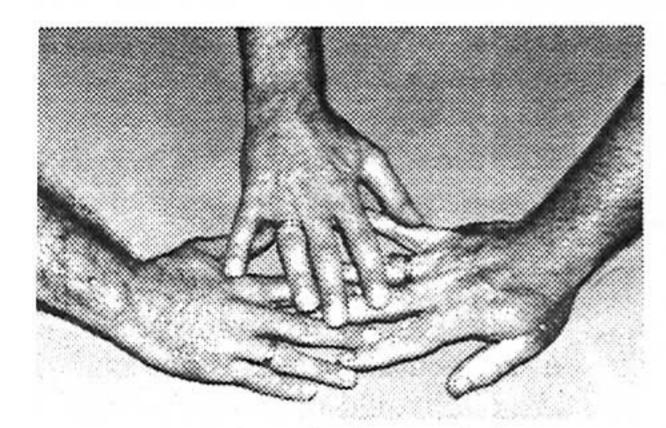
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BUSINESS & COMPUTERS



oving More targets those who "love in multiples."

ORGANIZATION CATERS TO THOSE WHO "LOVE MORE"

by Jayelle Wiggins

Loving More purports to be "more than a nagazine—it's a movement." Polyamory, literally "loving in multiples," is nothing new; nowever, political, honest, and open polyamory s a fairly recent development. Loving More, he organization, supports a magazine and a web site that chronicles the polyamorous comnunity and informs us on issues that matter to is: jealousy, discrimination, booking hotel nooms for three, living together, making love ast, raising children, etc.

Ironically enough, those in "more-thannonogamous" relationships can feel socially isolated and lonely. After all, polyamory is still uncommon in most comnunities, both sexual-minority and straight. It also carries with it many negative connotations. Loving More, therefore, works to help us network. The refreshingly tasteful web site (http://www.lovemore.com) offers a chat room and a message board for discussion, as well as personals. The personals benefit more than partner-seekers—they were intended to free the BBS and chat room for other topics important to polys. One may also peruse a glossary of terms, read archived articles from the magazine, and look at a polyamorous political survey.

It was on the web site that I learned about the Loving More conferences. The 3rd Annual East Coast conference took place in Parksville, New York, on September 12 through 14. The fee for the conference included the opportunity for attendees to upgrade to, appropriately, triple rooms, for an additional fees.

For more information, surf to the relentlessly useful *Loving More* web site, call (303)543-7540, or write to Loving More, P.O. Box 4358, Boulder, CO, 80306. Sample issues of the magazine are available for \$6.

NEW INSURANCE COMPANY HELPS GAY COUPLES GET MARRIAGE BENEFITS

HONOLULU - If Dr. Robert Jenkins just mentioned the words gay and lesbian, insur-

ance company doors slammed shut.

Few would take his pink business card. Few would return his phone calls.

As head of an agency trying to help samesex couples obtain insurance benefits under Hawaii's new reciprocal benefits law, he's seen discrimination firsthand.

With a colorful rainbow as its logo, Hawaii-based Pride Insurance & Financial Services Inc. opened for business this summer, just as the new law—the nation's first—came into effect, giving couples who can't legally marry a taste of the married life.

A major provision of the law grants insurance benefits to same-gender couples.

So all summer, Jenkins and his nine employees have been on the hunt for companies that will help gays and lesbians who want to sign up for joint life, health and homeowners' insurance.

So far, they've found 16 in the entire nation. The number is small, but it's enough of a start, Jenkins said.

"A lot of insurance companies won't even touch gays and lesbians. Let's just be honest about this. It's a capitalist society. They don't have to do anything they don't want to do," Jenkins said. "But, we've found some insurance agencies that are sympathetic and willing to truly not discriminate."

For the last 10 years, Jenkins, who is a gay, was the primary physician for AIDS patients in Los Angeles and saw for the first time how insurance companies discriminate.

His days were filled with finding ways to sneak AIDS patients onto some kind of health insurance.

BUSINESS GUILD MEETINGS

DAYTONA BEACH

Greater Daytona Beach Business Guild General meeting the 2nd Monday of each month. (904) 248-2020.

ORLANDO

Metropolitan Business

Association General meeting the 1st Thursday of each month, except January, June, July and November, Locations vary. (407) 420-2182.

SARASOTA

Southwest Florida Business Guild General meeting the 3rd Monday of each month. Brass Parrot Resturant 55 S. Palm, Sarasota, 5 PM. (941)952-0884.

ST. PETERSBURG

Pinellas County Business Guild General meeting the last Tuesday of each month. St. Petersburg/ Clearwater Airport Holiday Inn. (813)-581-6009.

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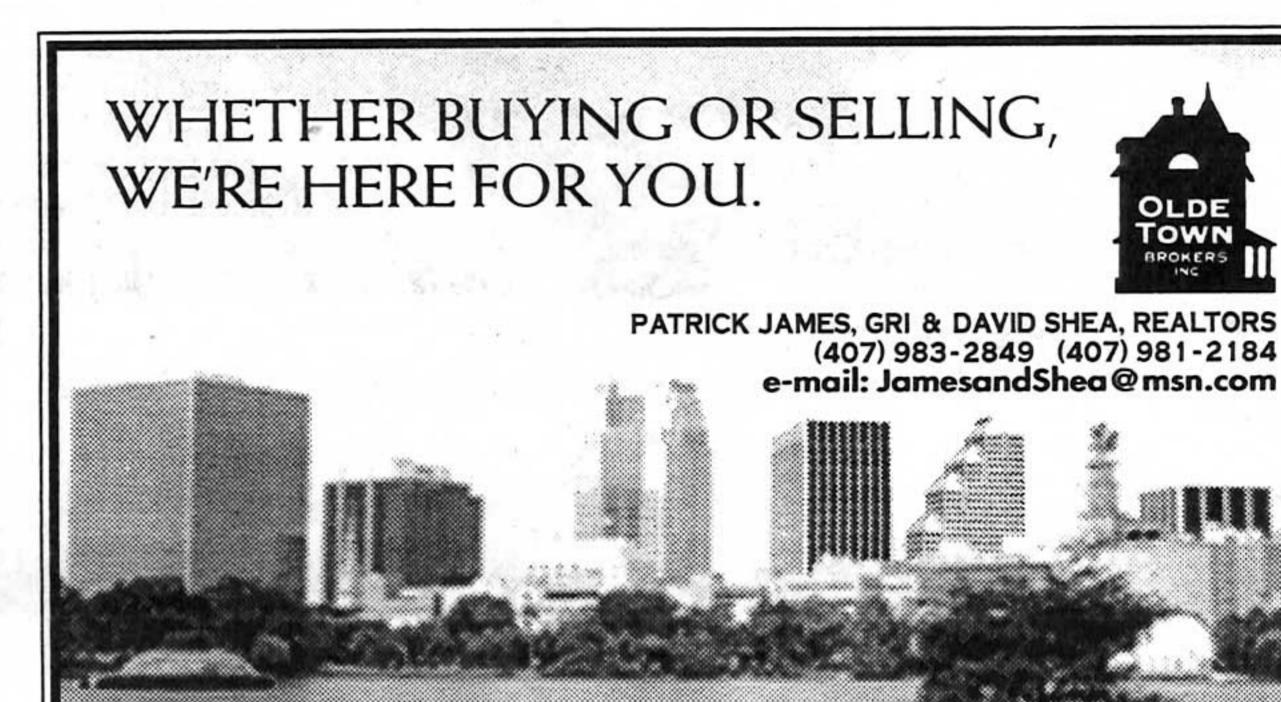
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DENIAL OF ACCESS

Tampa gets it. Miami gets it. Fargo, North Dakota gets it! Orlando is the largest media market where the PBS station does not air In the Life, the nation's premier gay and lesbian news magazine. Are we going to stand for this? by Russell Scott

> ers of more than 100 PBS affiliates across the country could tune in to see the following: highlights from GALA Festival V in Tampa; Liza Minnelli singing at Stonewall 25, with rainbow flags waving in the breeze; actor Ian McKellen discussing the paradox of being a knighted gay man; Melissa Etheridge performing at the 1993 gay and lesbian March on Washington; gay-related scenes from Angels in America, Rent, and Love! Valour! Compassion!; and a profile of Lady Chablis, the Savannah drag queen made famous by the best-selling book, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. All were included in the special fifth anniversary episode of In the Life, an award-winning news magazine sponsored by New York PBS affiliate WNET, and offered to all

> > lesbian journalists."

PBS stations free of charge.

Residents of Orlando and

In the Life host KATHERINE LINTON: "Gay and lesbian people being reported on by gay and

ORLANDO - Earlier this month, view- East Central Florida saw none of it. Orlando's PBS station, WMFE Channel 24, has passed on In the Life, and seems uninterested in either revisiting or explaining their decision.

Given that conservative WMFE has broadcast no programs with gay or lesbian content since a delayed offensively pixilated version of Tales of the City in 1996, their indifference to gay and lesbian programming does not come as a surprise. But what is the role of Public Broadcasting if not to bring diverse programming to local constituents? And what should the reaction of Central Florida gays and lesbians many of whom routinely donate to WMFE—be to ongoing disenfranchisement by their PBS affiliate?

It's not as if In the Life would create major programming difficulties at WMFE.

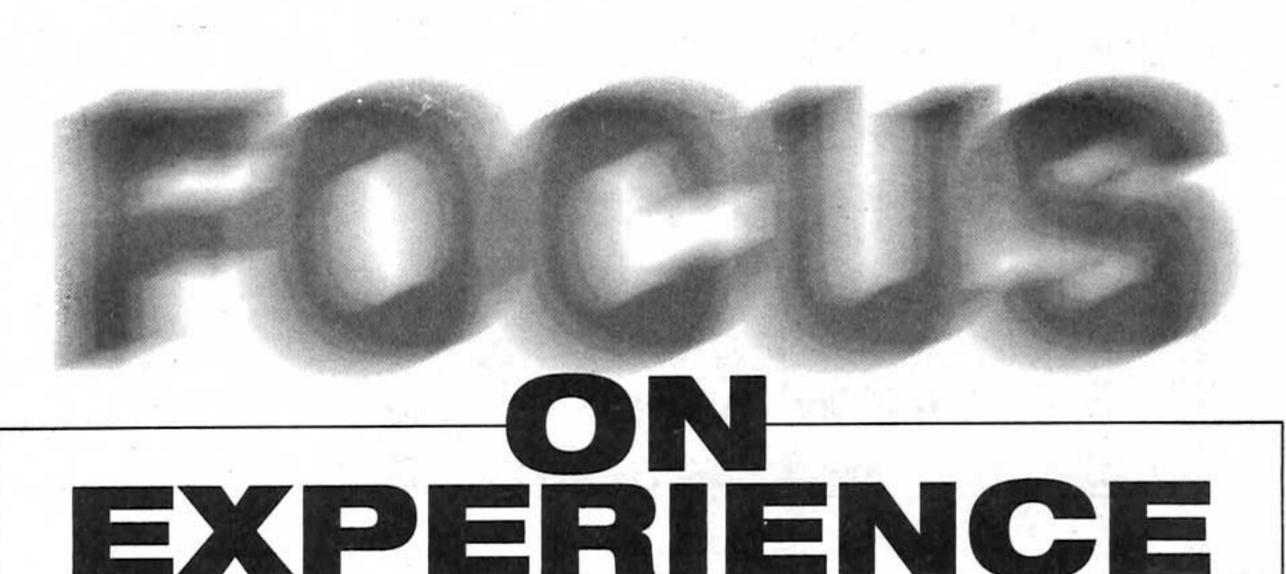
It appears only every other month, for a tota of six hours a year. It's not as if airing I the Life would open up the floodgates to more and more gay and lesbian programming. It is the only nationally broadcast series of its kind. It's not as if sister PBS affiliates have not embraced In the Life. Of the top 50 media markets in the country, only Orlando, New Orleans, and St. Louis currently pass on the show. In fact, Orlando—the 22nd largest media market in the country—is currently the biggest metro area whose residents do not have access to In the Life.

And it's not as if In the Life doesn't meet WMFE's programming standards

(Lawrence Welk reruns are a staple). In the Life has received accolades from such respected sources as The New York Times ("Stereotypes crumble before your very eyes."), The Los Angeles Times ("For viewers, particularly for those in areas like the Midwest and South, this type of gay and lesbian magazine show for the whole family is something of a godsend."), TV Guide

("Cheers to broadcast TV's only regularly scheduled series devoted to homosexual issues and culture. This show has been offering refreshingly candid reports for years."), and The Tampa Tribune ("It's the stuff that makes Public TV worth funding.").

In the Life first gained notoriety when Bob Dole misleadingly denounced it in a speech against PBS financing. But although the show is "sponsored" by New York's



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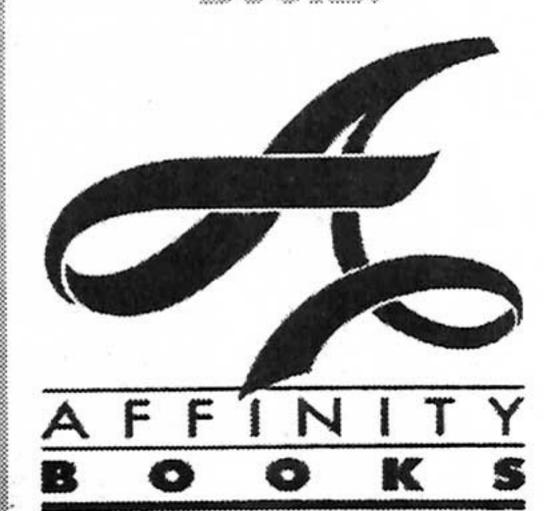
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COVER STORY

WNET, PBS has nothing to do with the show's financing, production, or scheduling. Each PBS station in each city chooses

whether to show the series or not.

So what's behind WMFE's decision to refuse to broadcast In the Life?

A previous Watermark cover story ("I Want My Gay TV!"—May, 1995), cast light on WMFE's decision not to air the then fledgeling In the Life. According to a statement released at the time by station management, "In the Life creates an advocacy or promotional role which proselytizes lifestyle not generally accepted by the Central Florida community." Interviewed at that time, programming director John Felton noted that, "all other Florida PBS affiliates have declined to air In the Life, with the exception of WLRN in Miami." But he went

on to say, "Certainly

as In the Life progresses, we (WMFE) would be willing to look at it again. We do not arbitrarily say no to this genre of programming."

Two years later, and now that the majority of Florida PBS affiliates now broadcast In the Life, Watermark sent a videotape

copy of the fifth anniversary episode to WMFE. Programming director Felton agreed to view the tape, but hastened to add

that he would be unable to provide any official comment or statement regarding his reaction to the program without first "conferencing" with other station representatives.

When asked how some sort of timely reaction to the program could be obtained, Felton suggested that Watermark leave a voice message for WMFE president and CEO Stephen Steck, who was attending a conference in Palm Springs, California, earlier this month. Watermark left several messages for Steck, explaining the purpose of the call and the need for a timely statement, with no reaction.

Importantly, in an end-of-the-year recap letter to station supporters contained WMFE's 1996 An-

nual Report, Steck noted the station's "connectivity in our community of Central Florida." WMFE's mission statement indicates that, "WMFE is committed to providing programming which informs, Continued Page 14

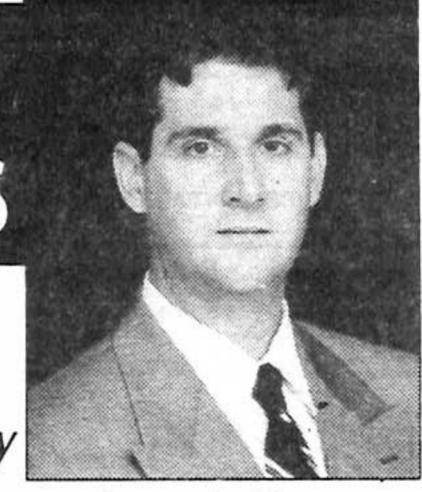
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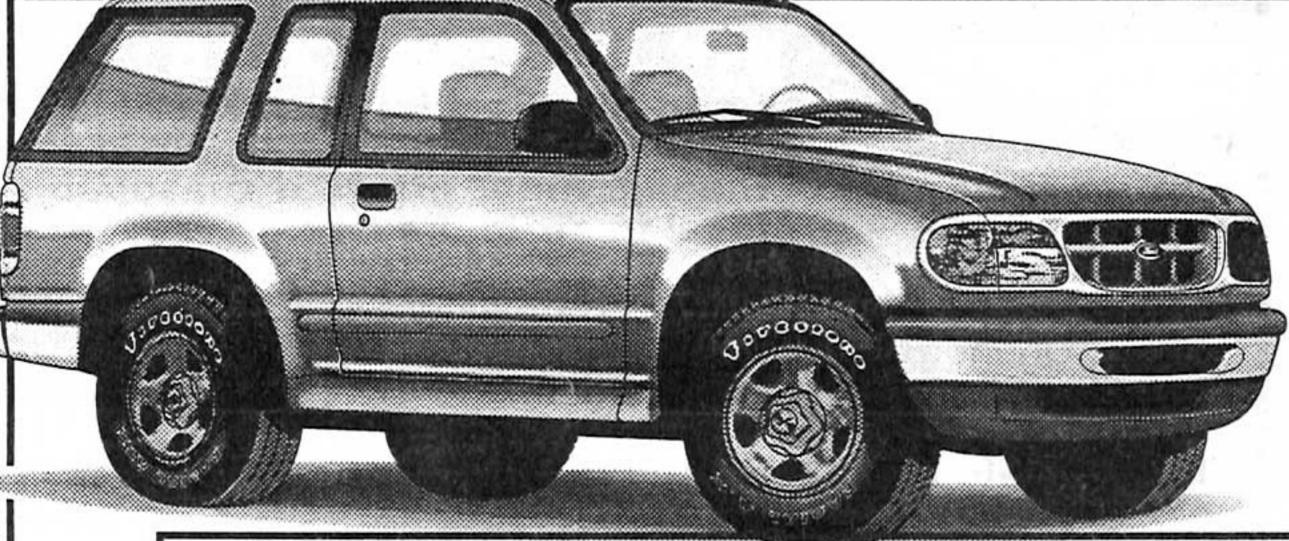
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Katherine Linton interviews, from top to bottom: GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, PAT BUCHANAN, and lesbian and gay students at the Whiversity of Notre Dame.

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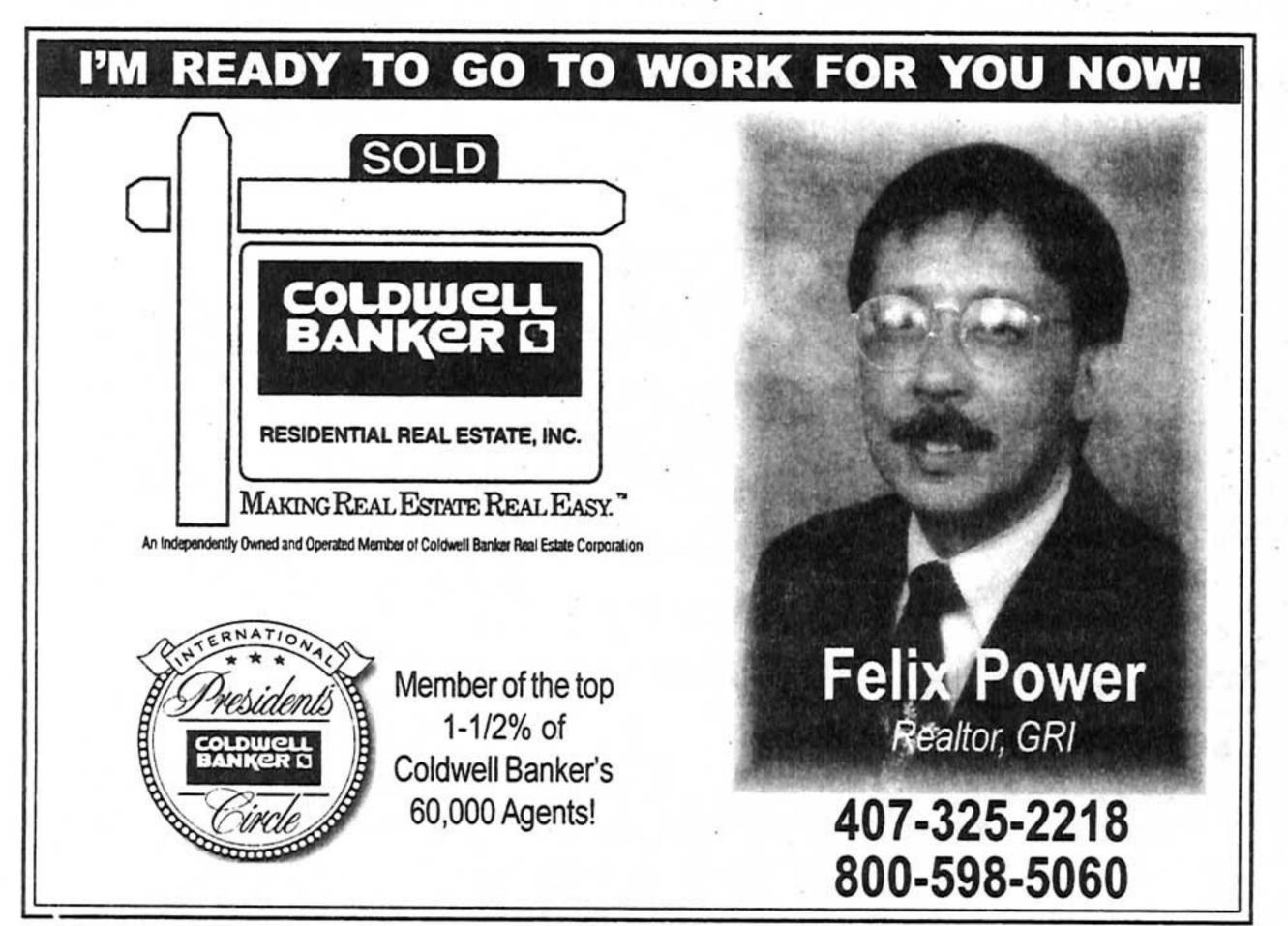
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COVER STORY





DENIAL OF ACCESS From Page 13

educates, entertains and enriches a significant audience while operating in an ethical, legal and responsible manner."

The questions for Mr. Steck, Mr. Felton

WMFE CHANNEL 24 HAS PASSED

ON IN THE LIFE, AND SEEMS

UNINTERESTED IN EITHER

THEIR DECISION.

REVISITING OR EXPLAINING

and the management of WMFE are obvious. Using WMFE's own statistics, over 512,000 households tune in each week to sample its "superb programming." Conservatively estimating that five percent of these households are gay

ers not worthy of six hours of programming per year? When In the Life is so readily available, doesn't WMFE have an obligation to provide this quaility programming to a substantial and financially supportive segment of its viewership?

Watermark's invitation for Mr. Steck to comment on WMFE's refusal to air In the Life remains open. For now, answers to the above questions are speculative. But in all likelihood, WMFE continues to pass on In the Life-a free, critically acclaimed program which requires only six hours of air time per year!-to mollify its vocal and opinionated conservative supporters. And they have likely calculated that reaction to the decision from an often complacent Central Florida gay and lesbian community would be minimal.

A frequent In the Life guest, comic actor and playwright Charles Busch, says of the show, "It's the only time that you see gay and lesbian people being reported on by gay and lesbian journalists." Residents of Miami get to see In the Life. So do gays and lesbians

in Tampa, Tallahassee, Pensacola... and even North Platte, Nebraska!

The "P" in PBS stands for "public." Gays and lesbians are part of the public Watermark urges Central Florida gays and lesbians to put some pressure on Mr Steck, Mr. Felton, and the managemen

> of WMFE. Let's find out why we are not deemed worthy of six hours of air time by our PBS affiliate.

In the spirit of Ellen, and in the words of fictional anchorman Howard Beale in

and lesbian, are more than 25,000 view- Paddy Chayefsky's classic movie, Network, let's let WMFE know how we feel: "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it any more!" W



Katherine Linton interviews PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY.

"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

I object to WMFE Channel 24's decision to refuse to air In the Life.

I will cease any and all financial contributions to WMFE Channel 24 until the station begins to air In the Life, or until station management offers a reasonable explanation for it's refusal to air In the Life.

MAIL TO: Stephen Steck, WMFE Channel 24, 11510 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando FL 32817.

FAX TO: Stephen Steck, President and CEO, WMFE Channel 24 at (407) 273-3613

TELEPHONE: Stephen Steck, President and CEO, WMFE Channel 24 at (407) 273-2300, ext. 100

ALSO MAIL OR FAX TO: Hal Boedeker, Television Reporter, The Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando FL 32801, Fax # (407) 420-5350.

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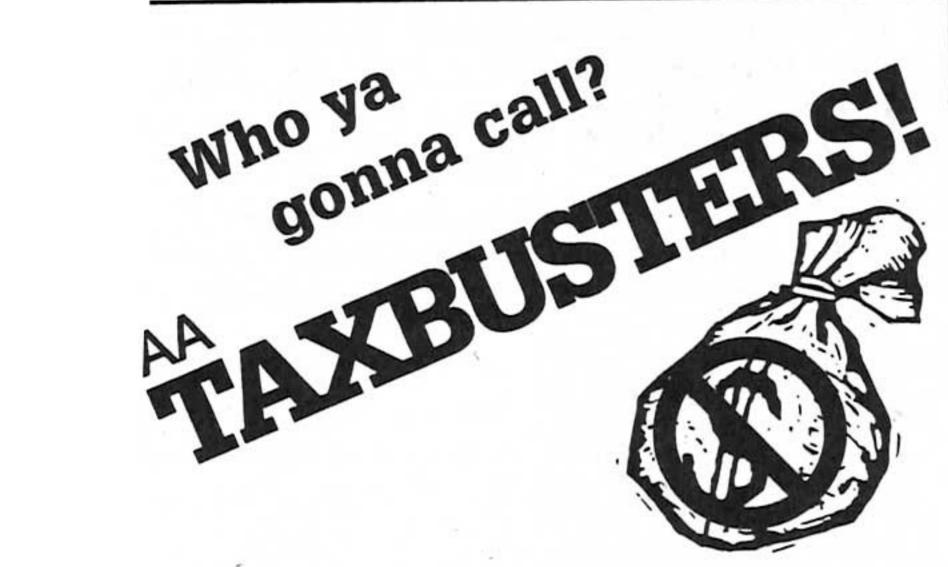
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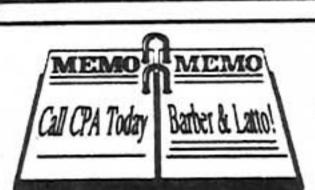
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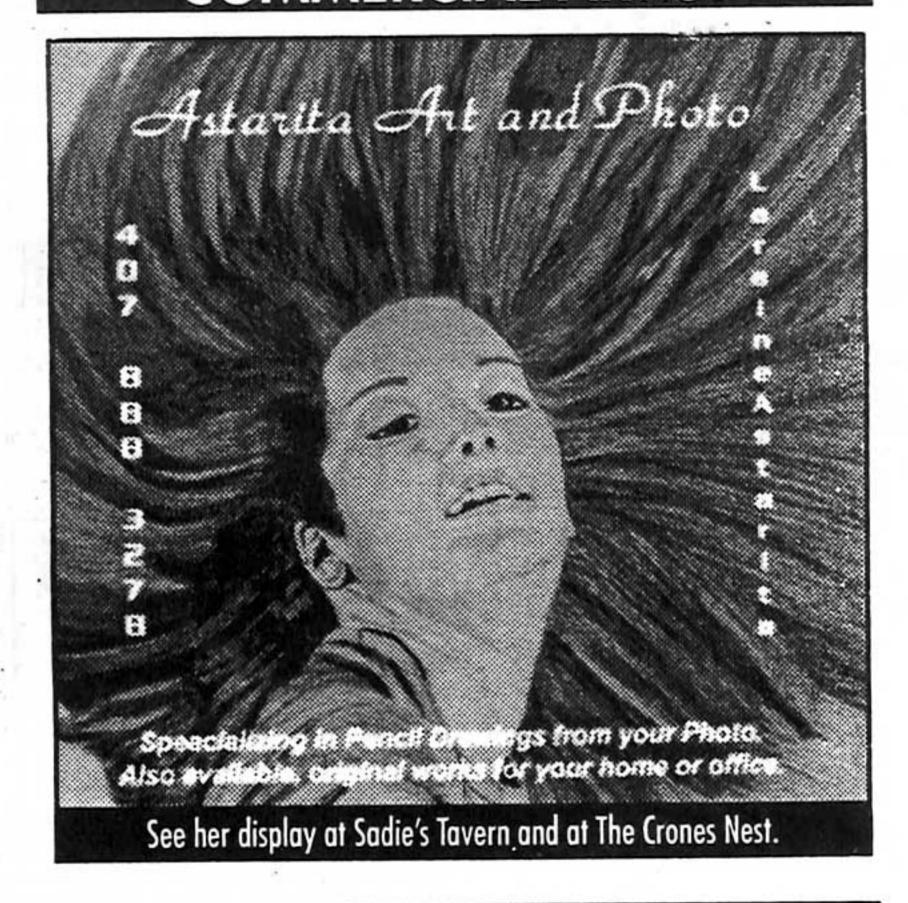
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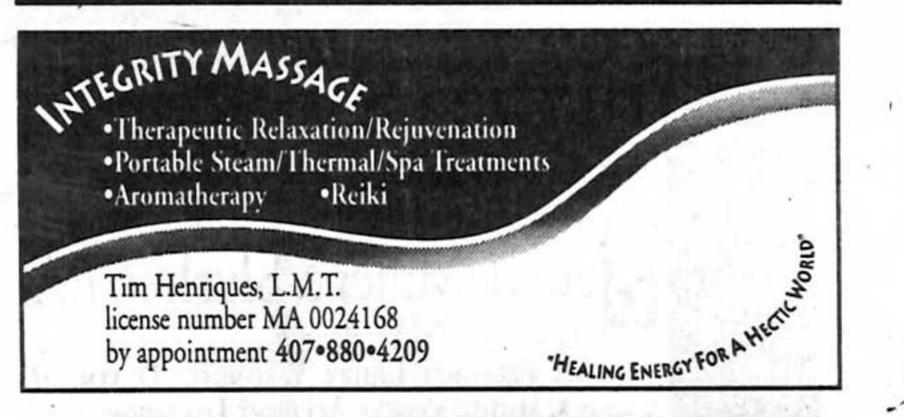
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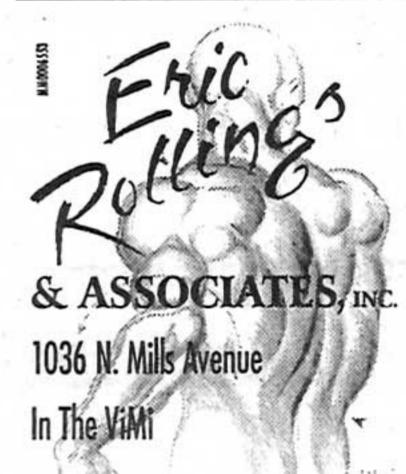
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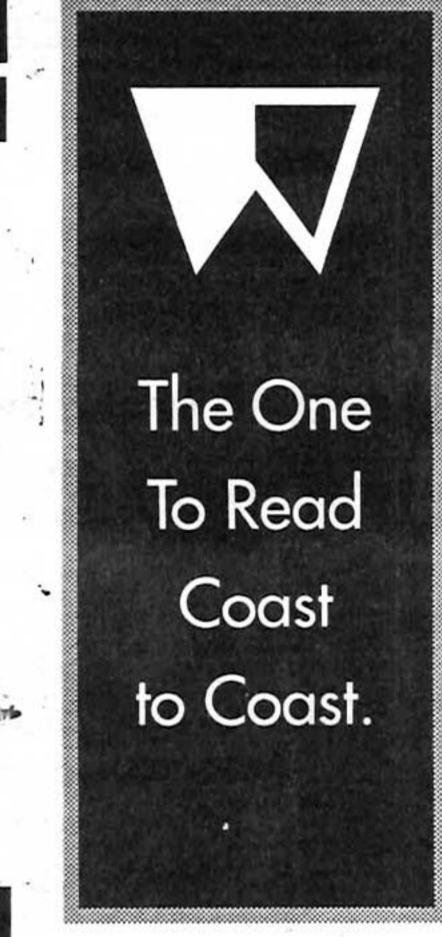
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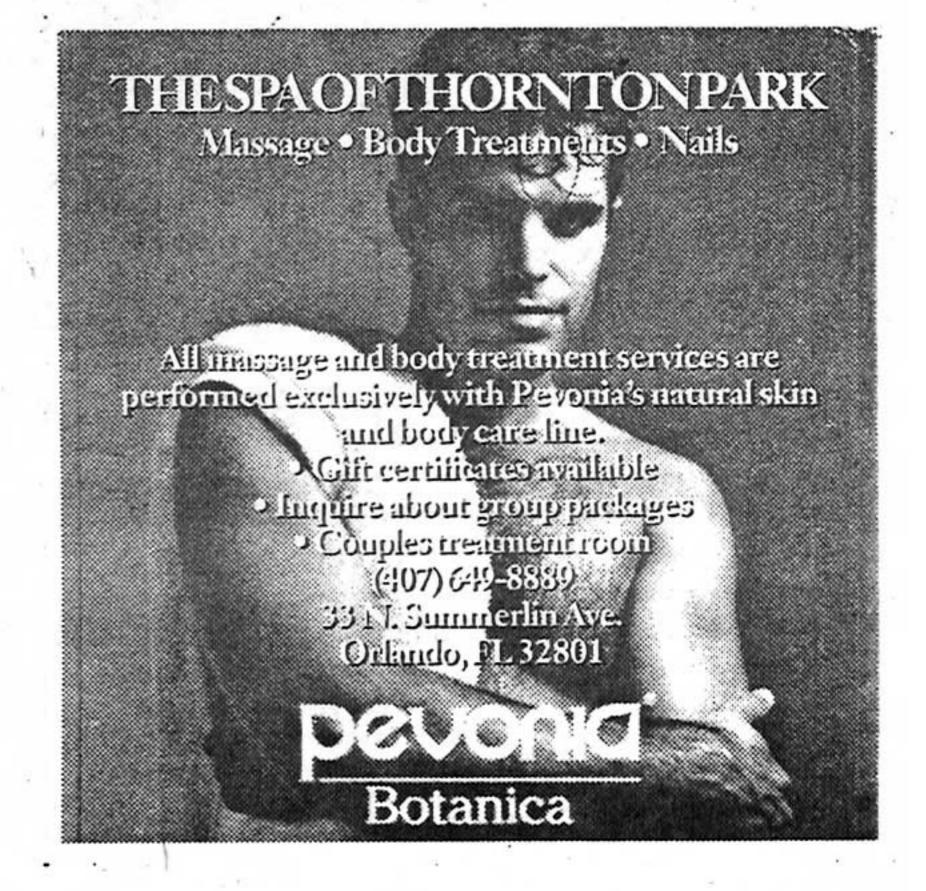
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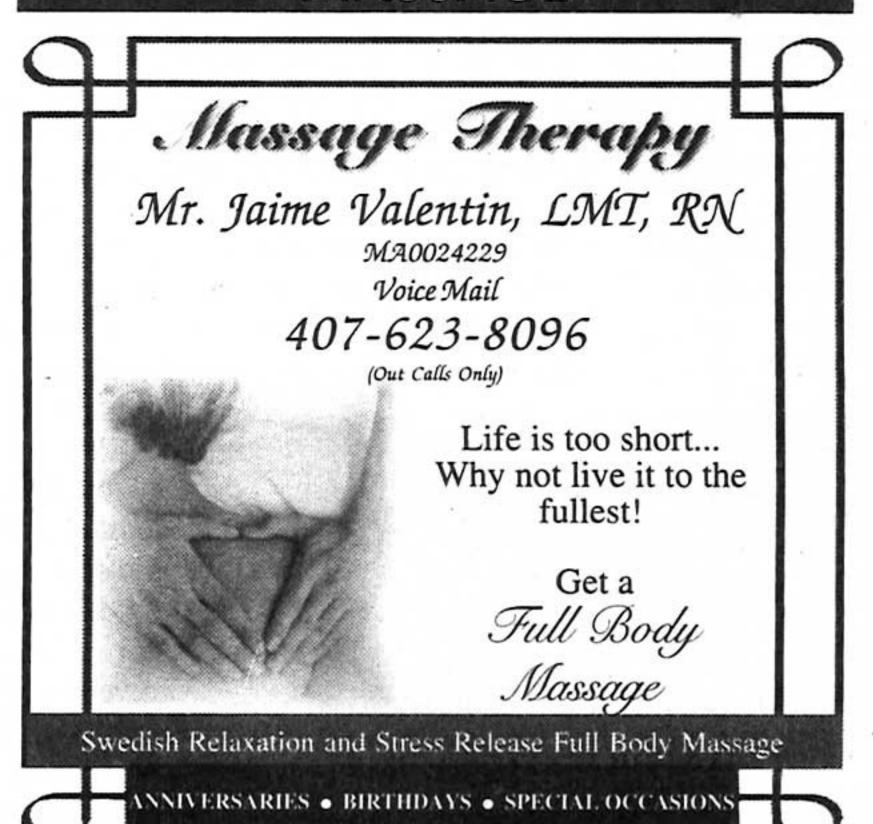
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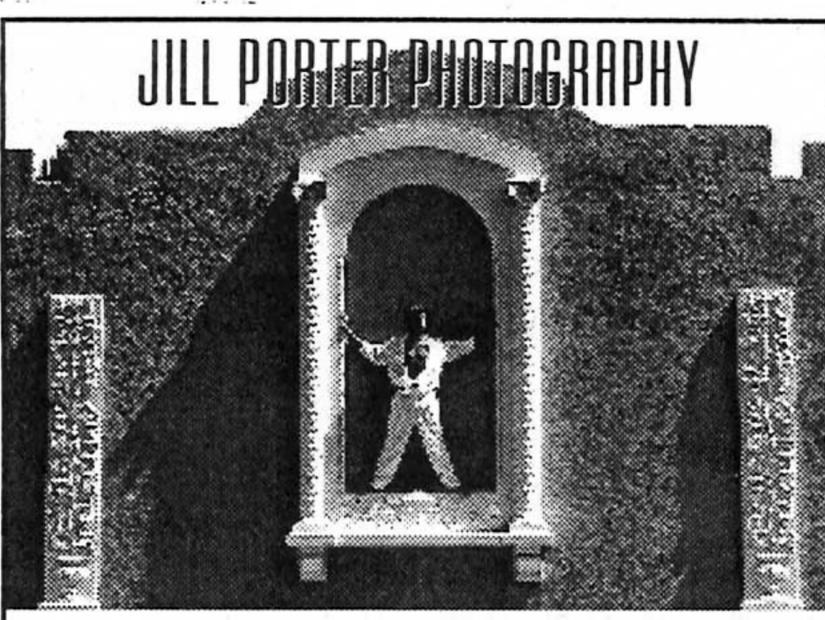
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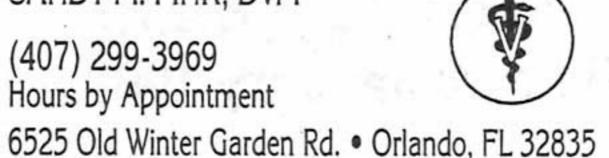
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VIEWPOINT

WHAT THE SOUTHERN **BAPTISTS DON'T WANT YOU** TO KNOW ABOUT **SOUTHERN BAPTISTS**

by Clive Thomas

"The entire South is a cesspool of Baptists...." - H.L. Mencken

If you're a Born-Again Southern Baptist and you want to preach to Disney or to Clinton or to Chiles about the evils of treating gays and lesbians as anything above a sub-human sub-species, you've got a problem.

Everything you think, do, or say is supposed to be "Bible Based." Yet you won't find Jesus making any more references to homosexuality than he did to Oldsmobiles. With Christ not in the picture, Southern Baptist preachers have had to flip back through the Old Testament, where they've approached the challenge of building an anti-gay Bible Base with all the dedication and creativity of nest building street pigeons. Of course, the two work in different mediums: odd twigs and pieces of string for the pigeons, odd snippets of Bible verse for the preachers.

For instance, in the Book of Leviticus, wedged somewhere between THOU SHALT NOT MIX-UP DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLOTH IN THY DAILY FASHION STATEMENT and THOU SHALT NOT WET DREAM, we find: THOU SHALT NOT LIE WITH A MAN AS WITH A WOMAN. Southern Baptists love to quote that with all the reverence due an eleventh commandment, while they ignore, with good reason, every other law laid down in Leviticus.

Then, there's the story in Genesis of the destruction

THEY PLACE THE SIN OF NOT VOTING STRAIGHT REPUBLICAN ON THE SAME LEVEL AS FARTING AT AN ALTER CALL.

of Sodom, supposedly the first city ever zoned 100% gay. After much careful scholarly analysis of Genesis, Chapter 19, theologians have concluded the Sodom story must have been made up sometime prior to the discovery of lesbianism but definitely after the discovery of hashish. At the end of the day, the Southern Baptists' Biblical Base for their attacks on us rests on this stone age looneytune backed up by a single sentence from a stone age statute book!

I'm sure I'm not the first gay guy to wonder why Southern Baptists don't devote their talents to some issue Christ actually showed an interest in. He was a real bear when it came to the sin of turning your back on the homeless or the hungry, but Southern Baptists hardly ever mention that. In fact, they're fond of condemning those who do as "Bleeding Heart Liberals," without apparently realizing whose heart the analogy refers to. They place the sin of not voting straight Republican on the same level as farting at an alter call.

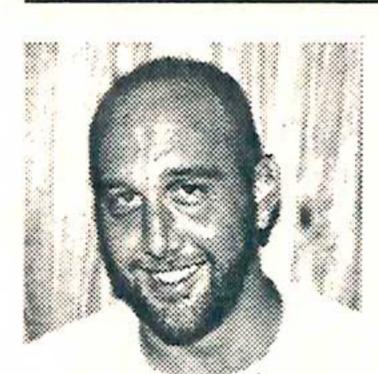
So, why are these people always sniping at us gays and lesbians? It may come down to the fine and familiar art of CYA. That's a possibility raised by the scholarly research of Christine Leigh Heyrman, a Professor of history at the University of Delaware. Her book, Southern Cross, The Beginnings of the Bible Belt (Knoph, 1997), makes the point that when the Baptists first started preaching, back before the year 1800, their ministries were a miserable flop with the only group that counted in the South: WHITE MEN. One reason was that there was something about the way Baptists behaved when "the spirit moved within them" that the average southern white male found quite off-putting.

One Southerner, James Ireland, is quoted (circa 1810) protesting when his Baptist spiritual mentor, "kept his left arm around my waist, and feeling affected by some passages as he sung them, he would hug and press me up to him. I felt ashamed at such effeminacy, as that of one man to be hugging another; and I confess,

it stretches my modesty to bear with it.""

It is certainly true that feeling "filled with the spirit of the Lord" can suddenly lift even the most stoic of heterosexual males right out of their machismos. Feeling freed for the first time to show emotion, to embrace, to kiss even, can be very scary for them. But, since it is the work of the Lord, could there not be a purpose it in? Unfortunately, Southern Baptist Bubbas have never considered that question. They've been far too busy laying down a fog of homophobia designed to cover all their little born-again white butts.

VIEWPOINT



EVERYBODY GETS READ

Perspectives by Ken Kundis

THE CULT OF RUMOR

Several years ago, I was the beneficiary of a lucky chance, an enviable situation. It was the type of circumstance that happens once in a lifetime. I was having dinner with a friend at a downtown restaurant when I overheard two gay men—whom I'd never met—having an animated discussion about their mutual friend's new boyfriend. Me.

I inconspicuously "shooshed" my dinner companion. She and I listened—she with growing amusement, me in absolute horror—as the two cut me to ribbons.

"I heard he's the biggest slut in Orlando.

Although I can't see how. I hear he's totally unattractive."

"Really? I heard he sells drugs to half the city. From what (their friend) told me, he doesn't seem the type. But you never know."

"Are you gonna tell (their friend)?"

"I think we should, don't you?"

It was all I could do not to spin around in my chair and correct their misimpressions. (I've never sold drugs, and while you might have your own opinion about my attractiveness, I'm far from the biggest slut in Orlando). I contained myself, though;

chalked it up to the musings of two bored queens, and finished my meal.

Later, however, it gnawed at me. Why had they said such things? Why had people I didn't know—had never met—felt comfortable enough with their knowledge about me to share this information? It seemed at first the ultimate act of sabotage, a reprehensible act by thoughtless people: hateful, spiteful, randomly vindictive. Or was it?

In retrospect, chances are that these

people were simply repeating something they had heard from someone else. To them, it was accepted fact. This information apparently had become bullet points on the unofficial gay

resume that I carry around—at least among those people the two men knew.

We all have these resumes, of course, and they vary substantially depending on the cliques with which we are affiliated. One thing that is consistent about gay resumes: They almost never contain the complete truth.

Some of the fabrications are embroidered by the holder of the resume himself (Andrew Cunanan, who had convinced people he was everything from a Israeli prince to a Manhattan socialite, is a good example). More commonly, however, the resume just develops a life of its own and—like some licentious game of "Telephone" you played as a child—what gets whispered to the next person in line always seems to contain some inaccuracies.

Such verbal histories do have a purpose in our community. As a relatively self-contained group, we have the opportunity to share vital (or at least interesting) information about others to our friends and acquaintances. I've been steered off a number of people before by concerned

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IN WEAK MOMENTS, ITS EASIER TO MAKE OURSELVES LOOK BETTER BY DENIGRATING SOMEONE ELSE.

friends, who had heard just one too many negative reviews of someone I had met. Other times, I've ignored people's gay resumes to disastrous results. In one recent example, nearly every gay man I know had something unflattering to say about someone with whom I was becoming friends. However, in my arrogance and naiveté, I declared that I would just have to decide for myself. Now, after witnessing (and in some cases being a bit player in)

one drama after another, I've decided my friends were right. Some o them are still gloating. It's not pretty.

However, benevolence and protection are rarel

the intent of the messenger when dispensin these glib chunks of gossip. Most of us gossip because there is a sort of confessional fun to being "in the know" about someone. I know we'd like to think that our intentions were honorable, that we fervently believed that we were helping our friend by telling them the story about the time the ho man he met last night was drunk and fell of a barstool at Southern Nights. Or the fact that the cute guy with the blond hair has spent every Saturday for the last three years poolside at the Parliament House in a thong Or how the charming, handsome guy you were talking to last week at Wylde's has a "special" relationship with an older man. Yes, I'd like to say we have goodness in our hearts. But we know better. Huh uh, Veronica. No way.

You can be completely certain that when a conversation starts off "Who? Oh that mess! Let me tell you a little story..." altruism is not in the heart of the story teller When the story is mean and their intentions unclear, you can assume that what they are really doing is insulting this person. By culling for you the most unappealing quality from someone's personality and presenting it to you like a dog with a bird in its mouth, this person is attempting to deflate your opinion of the subject of the gossip. It's that simple.

But why? Perhaps it is because for many of us, in weak moments, its easier to make ourselves look better by denigrating someone else. If I can point out what a mess someone is when they drink, I become more sober. By pointing out someone's physical flaws, I become more attractive. By pointing out what a control freak someone is, I become more sane. And right now, somewhere in this city, some gay man is speaking an unkind untruth about another gay man. And it might just be you.

So yes, my friends, everybody does get read, and it speaks to our collective insecurities. Until we're comfortable and secure with ourselves, until we base our opinions of ourselves on our own actions and qualities and not how we stack up against the man next to us, no one is safe. W

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VIEWPOINT

MAIL

WILL THE REAL KEN KUNDIS PLEASE STAND UP....

Nothing sets off my green eyes better than a red-faced rage, which is why whenever I pick up *Watermark*, the first thing I turn to is Ken Kundis' "Everybody Gets Read;" this, because his columns are usually poorly written,

focus on sex and contain profanity—the use of which may make some readers chuckle and regard him as down-to-earth, but ultimately degrades them and hurts Kundis' credibility as a writer. In light of this,

imagine my disappointment to open issue 4.19 and find on page 18 a studied, sweet, and thoughtfully written essay bemoaning the sort of gay man whose self-esteem is directly proportional to how beautiful he is.

I couldn't believe that the man who wrote the embarrassing column about having sex with Blaine or Blair or somebody and telling all his friends about it was capable of writing such intelligent and compassionate prose.

After finishing Kundis' piece, my wide eyes went to the top of the page to verify it's author, and there I got surprise number two: Kundis had put his money where his mouth is and ran a new photograph of himself.

I have always maintained that the most attractive thing about a man is his brain. How nice it is, not only to see that someone else shares the some view, but that he has expressed it so beautifully.

Congratulations, Ken. Keep up the good work.

Christopher Murphy Orlando

UNTIL THEN, STAY MAD

In the "Viewpoint" section of the August 7-20 issue, Clive Thomas responded to Watermark editor Tom Dyer's thoughts about "not knowing a single person that hates me because I am gay." Although it is inspiring to know that there are those who no longer experience the hatred of the past, I think we need to remember the reasons many of us are living such blessed and unhated lives.

Past generations have been beaten

down, both physically and mentally, because they were not "like other people," and many of our current generation are living with residual hatred and discrimination. It is my greatest hope that a future generation will some day be completely free of any fear-based reality, including discrimination of any kind.

Until then, though, Clive Thomas is absolutely right. If you don't have enough of your own reasons to be mad about the

"Although it is inspiring to know that there are those who no longer experience the hatred of the past, I think we need to remember the reasons many of us are living such blessed and unhated lives."

---Amazon Woman

continued lack of equality and homophobia, just pick up the latest copy of *Watermark*. You'll find plenty of disturbing examples of it happening to somebody else.

Amazon Woman Ft. Lauderdale via e-mail

THE TOKYO REPORT
Watermark recently received this report

from one of Central Florida's favorite entertainers, Jaqueline Jones:

Konnichiwa (good afternoon), Darlings! It's Miss Jones from Tokyo—straight, no chaser!

It's 2:30 AM, and I'm at Terry's, a favorite jazz hangout.

The jam session has started, and I'm impressed. It's my first night in town, and I've already found "home port" for me.

However, for the next three months, the 44th floor of the Park Hyatt, Tokyo will be my home, and the 52nd floor, in the New York Bar, will be my stage. My back drop is a series of large windows from ceiling to floor, which give a panoramic view of

downtown Tokyo's Shinjuku area, and Mt. Fuji beyond that.

The music around me here at Terry's brings me back to the moment. Musically, the performers and I communicate beautifully, and between cryptic English and cryptic Japanese!

Sayonara for now, Darlings!

Jaqueline Jones Tokyo, Japan

COME OUT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

AS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY NEARS, GET READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

A message from the Human Rights Campaign

"Yep, I'm gay."

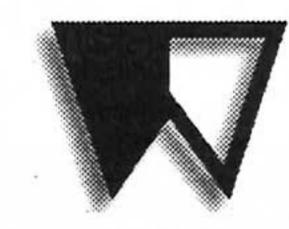
With those three words, Ellen DeGeneres used her condor to make the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans better. But you don't have to famous to make a difference: National Coming Out Day on October 11 is upon us, and the Human Rights Campaign can help you make the most of it.

Coming out is one of the most important steps we can take to secure equal rights. People who are aware of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual people they already know are much more supportive of ending discrimination based on sexual orientation. Whatever your next step is toward being more open and honest about your orientation, the time has come to take it. Whether it's telling a family member, friend or so-worker, the more honest and visible we are, the more we can break down unfair myths and stereotypes.

Coming out isn't just for lesbian, gay and bisexual people, either. Yes, as gay people we need to come out and be honest, but also we need to encourage our fair-minded straight friends and family members to come out in their own way—by voicing support for equal rights. After Ellen DeGeneres came out earlier this year, her mother, Betty, came out as an advocate for lesbian and gay equal rights and is now HRC's 1997-98 National Coming Out Project spokesperson.

Clearly, coming out is for everyone—so why not take your next step today?

Contact HRC's National Coming Out Project by calling (800)866-6263, or by writing them at 1101 14th St., NW, Washington D.C., 20005. Also visit their web sit at www.hrc.org.



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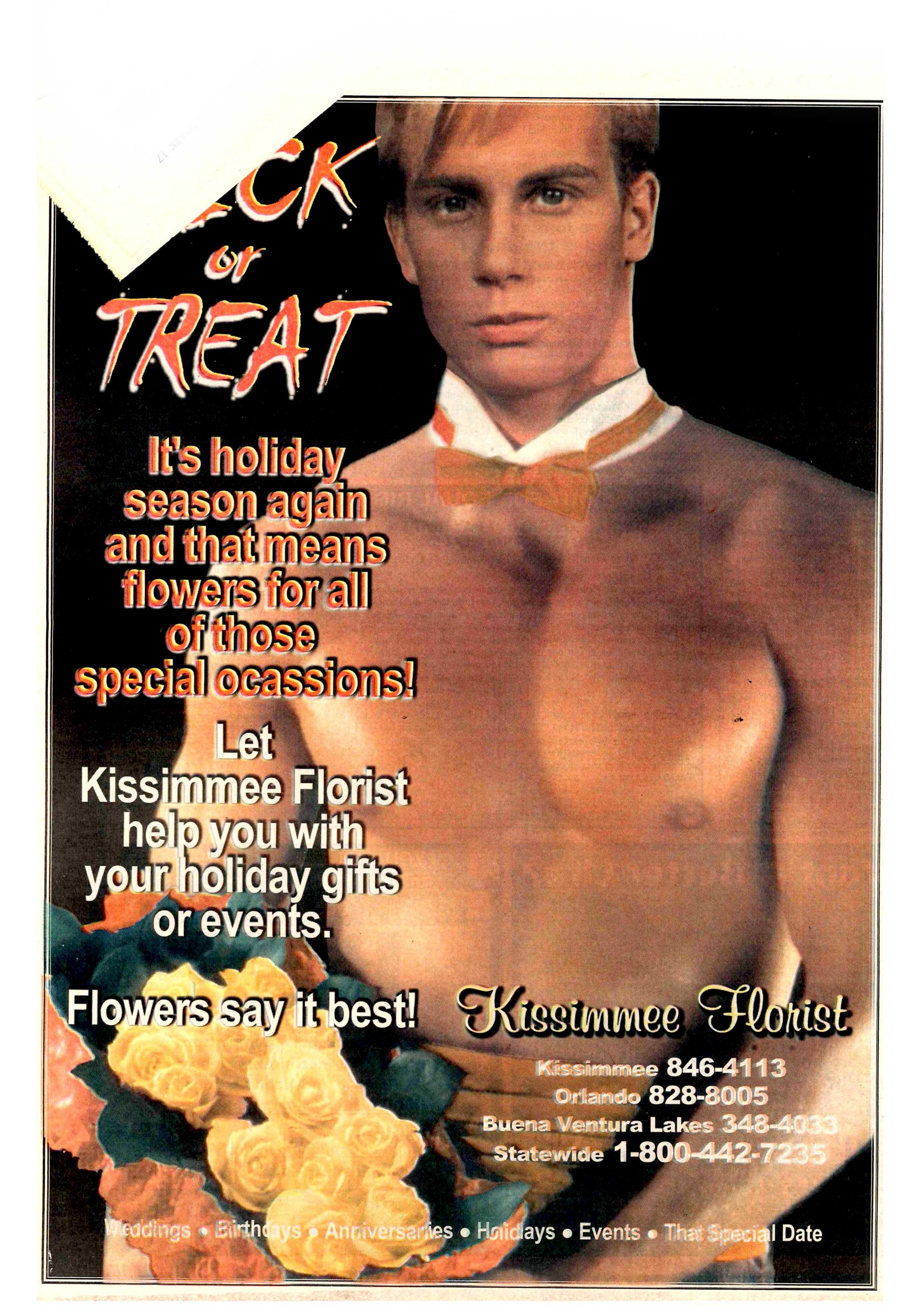
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"Hiceomroversial countremelles willer-mi

A talk with author Patricia Nell Warren, who will be in Orlando for the national convention of The Front Runners, the recreation group named after her most famous book.

INTERVIEW BY KEN KUNDIS

motivated woman, who publishes her

own books, issues insightful liberal

There are only a handful of ontemporary gay-themed books that ualify as classics. The short list ncludes Andrew Holleran's Dancer rom the Dance, Faggots by Larry Cramer, Paul Monette's Borrowed Time, The Best Little Boy in the World y John Reid, and The Front Runner y Patricia Nell Warren. Each has had in impact on a generation of gay men vho were raised in a time of enornous change; when coming out ecame a possibility, and matured as AIDS cast its increasingly long hadow everywhere. While wildly lifferent, each book touched a nerve n the gay community, and their

mpact still resonates across our

Of the group, perhaps the nost improbable is The Front Runner. First, it s the only "imporant" piece of iction on the gay male experience vritten by a voman. Second, he woman in juestion is not your ypical, etiring,

andscape today.

houghtful uthor. Patricia Vell Warren is a forth-

commentary, and has made a career out of extending a hand to disenfranchised youth, including gay and lesbian young people. A former editor at Reader's Digest, and the first person to

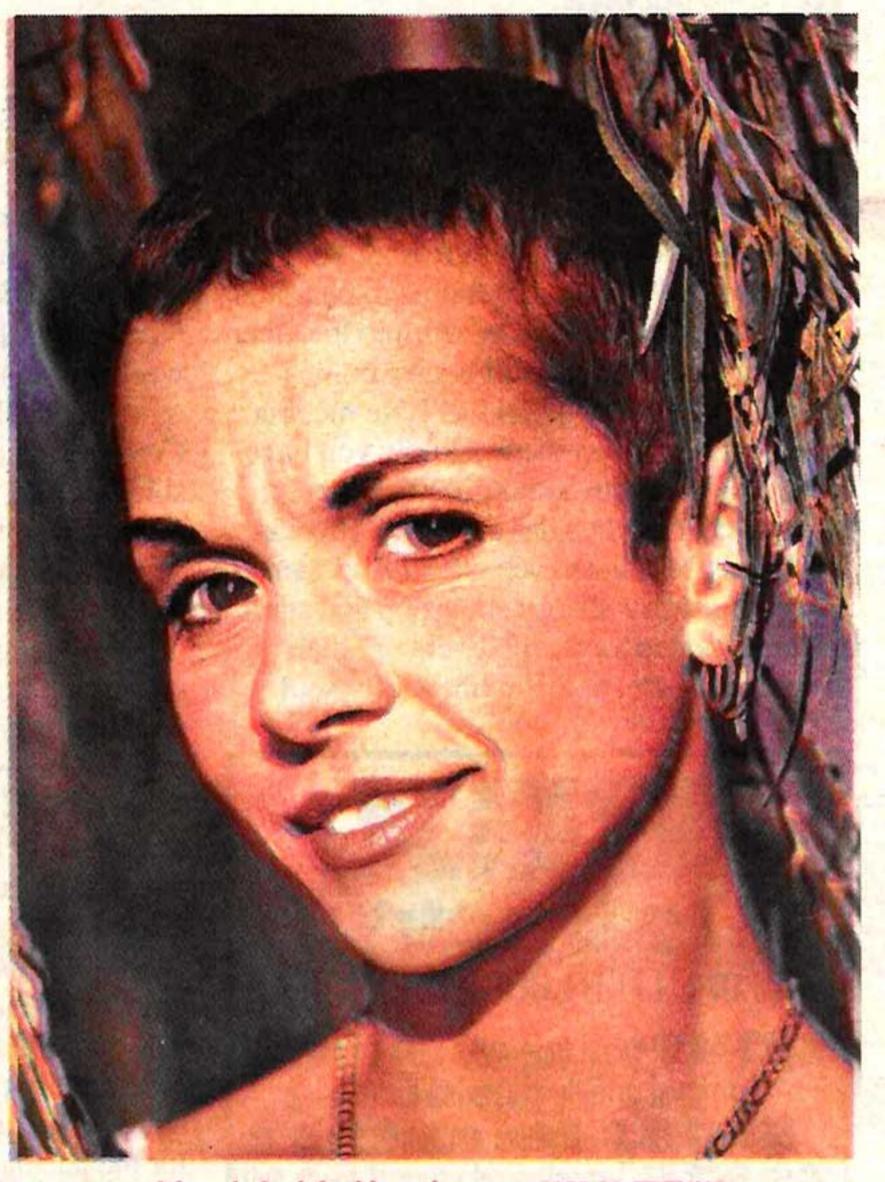
publicly acknowledge her homosexuality at the company, Warren wrote The Front Runner as part of her own coming out process. Leaving a heterosexual marriage that she describes as "a complete lie," Warren used her experiences in competitive track and field, and her new friendships with gay men, to craft the deceptively simple and straightforbook. The Front Runner, which chronicles the relationship between a young, openly gay track star and his closeted coach, was an immediate hit. The book appeared on the New York Times and the Los Angeles Weekly bestsellers lists and, according to Warren, sells "more copies today than ever."

Now, with a sequel to The Front Runner—Harlan's Race—already in print, and the "three-quel"—Billy's Boy—being readied for publication, Warren is once again moving to center stage of the gay literary scene. Meanwhile her work with YouthArts and the Los Angeles County School Board's Gay and Lesbian Youth project continues to fuel her passion and inform her writing.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Patricia Nell Warren about youth in peril, gay literature, censorship and her upcoming appearance at The Front Runner's national convention in Orlando from

October 17-19.

Watermark: I must tell you, Patricia, that The Front Runner was the first gaythemed book I ever read. I was thirteen and read it under the covers late at night with a flashlight. It had a huge impact on me. Having reread it recently I realized I may have been a bit young to read it then, but I cer-



International female bodybuilding champion MERAL ERTUNE was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996.

MERAL

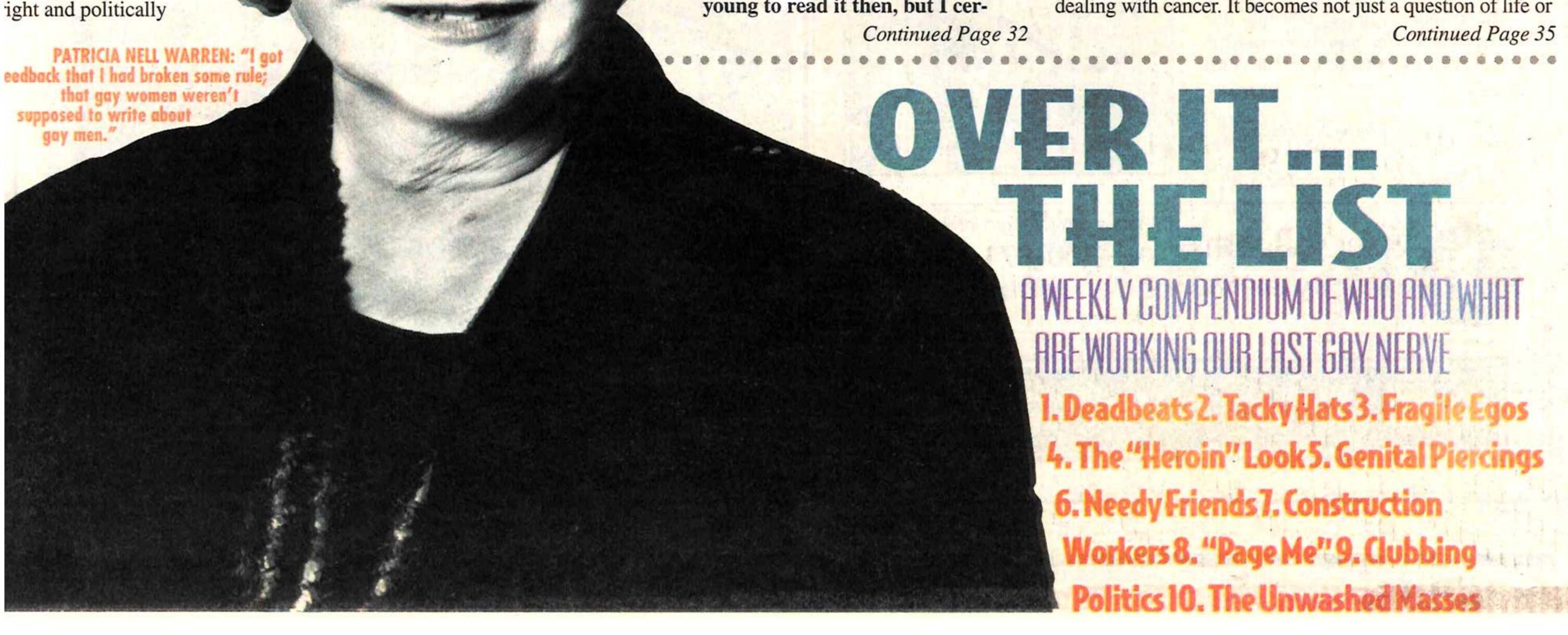
Benefit for Breast Cancer Rolls Into Town

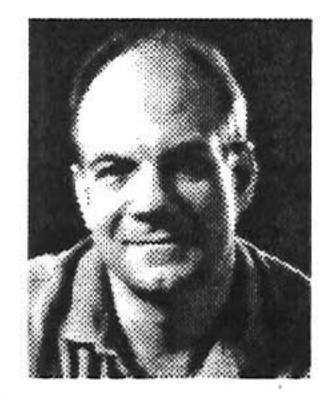
BY KIMBOO YORK

ORLANDO - A new ride has come to town, one that directly benefits women who are dealing with breast cancer.

Meral's Ride is a 150 mile bike tour around Central Florida that will take place over a two day period on October 4 and 5. The Ride, based on the success of similar rides for AIDS, will give money to local facilities to help women and their families deal with cancer. It will also help establish the Central Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, an organization that will facilitate funding to such programs, as well as administer programs for cancer issues that 'fall between the cracks' of insurance coverage.

The woman the ride was named for, Meral Ertunc, is a 35-year-old international female body building champion who was diagnosed with breast cancer in July of 1996. Meral, a professional competitor who has participated in the Arnold Schwartzennegger and Ms. Olympia events, and who placed 8th at the World Body Building Championship in 1995, is a classic example of how women who are often very body-image conscious have to deal with an added dimension of stress when dealing with cancer. It becomes not just a question of life or





WaterCress

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

CYBERIA is what I call that realm of computing which includes cruising through the many and varied chat rooms to be found on AOL. It's possible to go off into the ether with someone and talk till you're both covered with sticky pixels—"Byte me, big guy!!" You've been there, I know you have, but doesn't it seem sometimes that there's nobody chatting besides a pack of 16-year-old shleps yelling at each other? And then one straight guy always shows up and starts bashing, making everybody crazier than they already are; at this point a lofty soul



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always intones, "forgive him, because he knows not that he's really gay," which sets the lunatic off even more. It is amusing. Now, I myself got yelled at in a room last week, but not because I was bashing. It was in a place called "m4m just woke up." Curious, I entered, and there were the shleps, going on and on. Then someone types: "You wouldn't believe what happened to me with a UPS man today!" I typed, "I thought they were on strike?" (Nobody laughed.) "He was bringing me something I ordered from L.L. Bean and boy was he hot!!" Well, the room got all excited and everyone began typing, "And? What kind of package did he have? Tell us more!" But I typed, "L.L.Bean? Really? What did you order?" That's when they started yelling at me: "Who cares what he ordered! Let him get on with his story!" I quickly told them all to calm down, that I was only kidding. Then our little e-mailorder buddy types, "Blucher moccasins, but anyway, he touched my hand while I signed for the package and we took it from there..." Well, I could *not* stop laughing. Blucher moccasins! LOL LOL LOL LOL LOL!!! Ahhh yes, life in Cyberia... it's hot and cold at the same time, you know?

I MISSED MADONNA'S 39TH birthday celebration; the baby must have eaten my invitation. Come on! Doesn't she realize I live in Florida too? "These are stale. Let's go to Arby's." That's okay, Madonna; now I have plenty of time to stay at home and darn my socks.

I DIDN'T MISS the annual Miss

America Fete at Chez Chelsea, however; to that I was invited because I am noted for the originality of my beauty tips, my proficiency with facial masques, and my flair with a sash. B.J. Stevens was there, being as witty as ever. Now there's a girl who deserves a crown!

RUDNICK-CORN... Well, we went to see In and Out this weekend, and I must say it brought many happy, saccharin-flavored tears to my eyes. Remember the films of Frank Capra? He is to the 'forties as Paul Rudnick is to the 'nineties, but the causes are different. While Frank Capra's brand of

Capra-corn made patriotism and war-mongering wholesome and digestible, Paul Rudnick's work chooses to turn the threatening, horrifying specter of homosexuality into just another aw shucks / gee whiz

lifestyle happening: it chooses you, fer com's sake, and not the other way around! People wonder how Kevin Kline's character could have been so unaware of his own gayness, but look at the rest of the happy boobs in the flick: everyone was naive about something! And the fact that parking was readily available in downtown Greenleaf made the film even more unbelievable... but it was fun, wasn't it?

CALM DOWN, STEVE MILLER!

No no, I'm not on my way to Hollywood to make a film; the little thank you note at the end of my last column was lifted, stolen, plagerized directly from Miss Harrington's acceptance speech at the end of All About Eve. Gary Scarff, however, is on his way to California, to co-star in Terry! It's a musical about the life of Mother Theresa, produced by HBO. Kathy Najimy is set to play the Calcuttan saint, with Iman and Christie

Brinkley portraying humble convent novices. I can't wait! I might just have to order cable T.V. now...

DIANA, GODDESS... It's one thing for a Royal Family to be steeped in tradition, but pickled in it? Liz, if you're reading this: lighten up! Still, you can't blame the English people for lionizing Diana, and I'll tell you why. See, people have an inner need to worship a Mother Earth Goddess, right? Okay; the Catholics have Mary, but the English church long ago devenerated Her, leaving the faithful of the Anglican Communion without a female object of

worship. Well, the English queens since Henry VIII have attempted to fill the Goddess role in various ways, yet remained aloof from the people so as to perpetuate the Royal mystique: that the few might control the many

who pay the bills. Still with me? Okay...
their latest Goddess, Elizabeth II, took this
aloofness to a ridiculous extreme, I feel, and
then along came Diana: an accessible being
worthy of the people's adulation— and best
of all, she returned that love! When she
died, the English people were once again
without a Goddess, and now they are upset.
There must be an outlet for Motherworship; the grumbling over the Royal's
apparent lack of compassion brings this
glaringly out front. What do you think? Do
you agree?

AT THE BOTTOM LINE in Fort Myers, are all the patrons bottoms? Does that mean everyone stands around politely, at loose ends, waiting in vain for a top to show up?

WELL, THAT'S IT. I'm going to go and alphabetize the linen closet, like a good gay boy. I will not cyber... I will not cyber... I will not cyber... I will not cyber...

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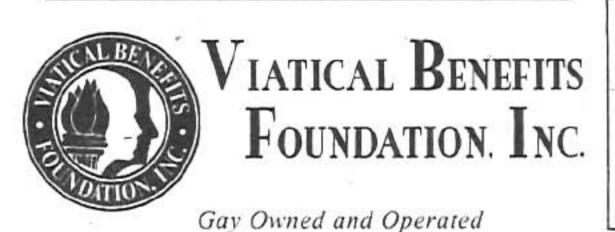
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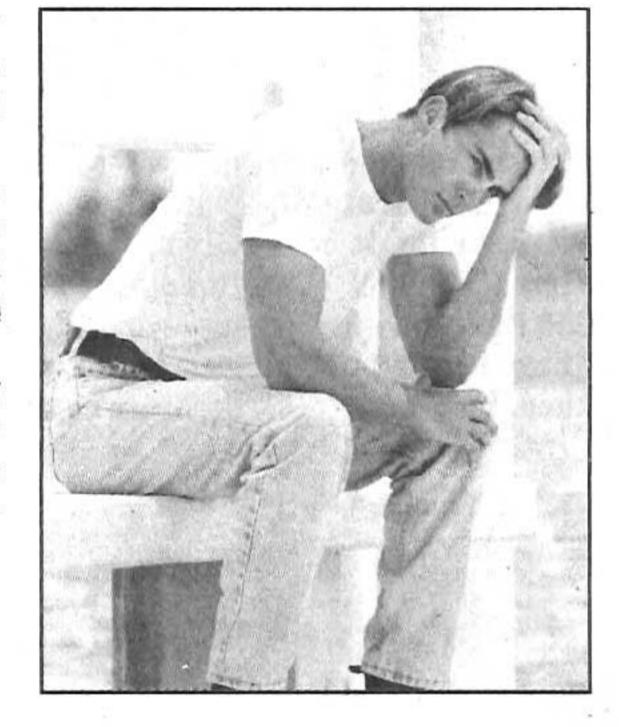
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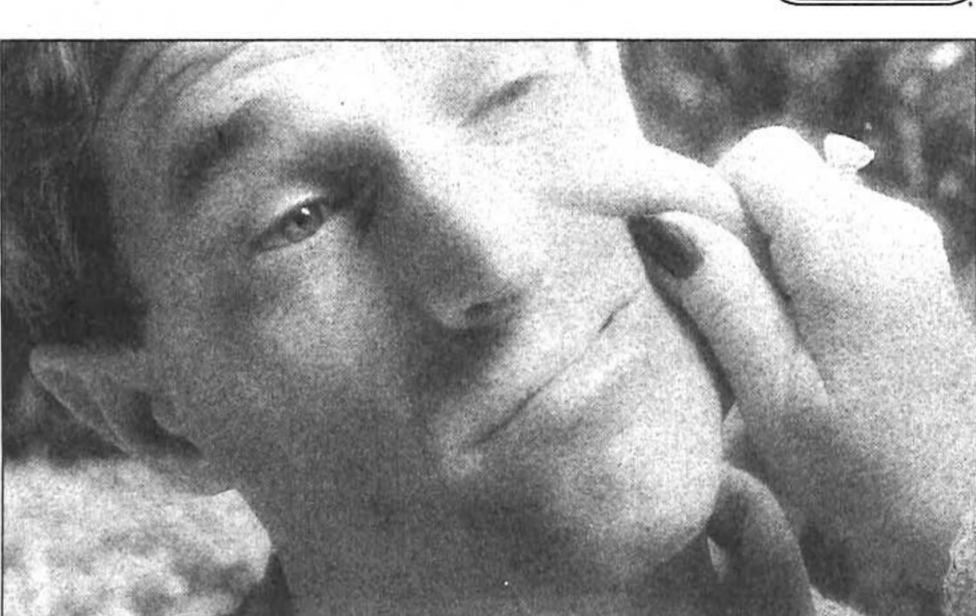
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PRODUCTION COMPANY RACES TO PUTOUTAVERSACEMOVIE

MIAMI – A feature-length movie about Andrew Cunanan, who was suspected of killing fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men, is being produced in south Florida with a script written and directed by veteran movie maker Menahem Golan.

The production, expected to cost about \$5 million, will be filmed at sites across south Florida, including Vizcaya, a Mediterranean-style mansion on Biscayne Bay.

The project, which started filming last Monday at a restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, should be wrapped up by Christmas, said Golan, who has made such movies as Delta Force, several of the Death Wish sequels starring Charles Bronson, and Entebbe: Operation Thunderbolt, which got an Oscar nomination.

"I think it is a very '90s human drama where violence is part of our life and where people like Cunanan can exist," Golan said of his latest project. "We have to understand where Cunanan comes from ... young people who are looking to be up there like Versace and cannot make it."

The movie stars Stephen Bauer as an FBI agent trailing Cunanan across the country, Italian actor Franco Nero as Versace and young stage actor Shane Perdue as Cunanan.

He said the Cunanan saga "really is a

"It seems that Andrew Cunanan loved Versace, wanted to be a Versace," Lupowitz said.

The film picks up Cunanan's story in San Diego before he leaves on a trip police believe was a cross-country killing spree. He was suspected of killing five men including Versace—in Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida.

> Cunanan killed himself July 23 in a Miami Beach houseboat as police combed the area looking for him.

While the movie may be the first completed, it is not the only planned film on the murder. Several other projects are in the works, including a

Franco Nero will play fashion designer GIANNI VERSACE in the upcoming movie.

Sam Lupowitz, chairman of Pan Am Pictures Inc. in Miami Beach, said the film, called simply The Versace Murder, should be the first out after the sensational July 15 killing of Versace.

"When a movie is made about a news event, there's tremendous public interest," Lupowitz said. "It's important to be the first movie out because people lose interest."

strange love story."

possible ABC telefilm.

"We do have a project on this subject in development,"





said ABC spokeswoman Anne Riccitelli. "But we never discuss projects in development." W



PROGRAMMING CHIEF SAYS **ELLEN** WILL **EXPLORE GAY EXPERIENCE**

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. - The sitcom Ellen will continue to explore gay

issues during the fall season despite the skittishness of some advertisers, ABC programming chief Jamie Tarses said Thursday.

If some advertisers don't like it, there are others willing to take their place, Tarses told television executives and other members of the Hollywood Radio and TV Society.

"We're not having trouble selling the show," she said.

The show's title character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, came out as a lesbian last season in an hour-long special that drew criticism from conservative groups.

"It's given the show a point of view and we're going to address that," Tarses said. "... It's a very rich territory. We will indeed be capitalizing on it, but we're not going to alienate audiences."

Several companies, worried about the coming out episode, pulled ads that had been scheduled to run during the hour. Some of them "begged to get back in" afterward, Tarses said.

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IFTHESHOEFITS...

Theatre review by Greg Triggs

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NAMED EVE, DR. PROFESSOR

Life In Other People's Shoes is currently being performed at the Civic Theatre in Orlando. From the "Over the Rainbow" pre-show music to the disco beaded

refrigerator and wigs that would put any drag queen to shame, this is must see theatre.

Leslie Carrara, a gifted physical comedienne, spent several of her formative years in Orlando working at

the Adventurers Club on Pleasure Island.
Currently she works in Hollywood and
New York for Henson Productions and the
Muppets. Spamela Sue Anderson is one of
her creations. While on hiatus from Kermit,
she has come back to Orlando to perform
her one woman show, which had its origins

in the HBO Workspace in Los Angles.

Past roles and shows tackled by Carrara include The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, Parallel Lives, A

Chorus Line and Hollywood Babylon.

Along with director Ellen Jones, Composer/Lyricist Barrett Lindsay-Steiner and pianist Terry Thomas, you are invited to hear about subjects as

diverse as the Tooth Fairy's self help diatribe, Liberace and shoe reading psychics.

Jones is the resident director at the Civic Theatre. Past projects have included Catholic School Girls, Greater Tuna, and Three Ways Home. Later this season she is set to direct The Normal Heart.

Lindsay-Steiner is from the San Francisco area. His work in musical theatre has included touring internationally with the vocal performance group The Jesters.

Terry Thomas has been entertaining Orlando audiences for years. His theatre work includes Singin' in the Rain and Capones. He has also worked with the Orlando Gay Chorus.

Surely they offer something for everyone to relate to.

Among the characters you will meet are Pirate Leach, an elderly aqua aerobics fanatic named Eve, Dr. Professor Redundant and Super Blonde. Each of them is an aspect of a childhood that Carrara describes as "without creative boundaries" thanks to her "you can do anything father."

In fact, the show is an homage to her life so far. A self-described "live animation," Carrara continues to explore things outside usual boundaries. She is a woman bending the rules and taking chances. Consider living Life In Other People's Shoes for a few hours. You might like the fit. W



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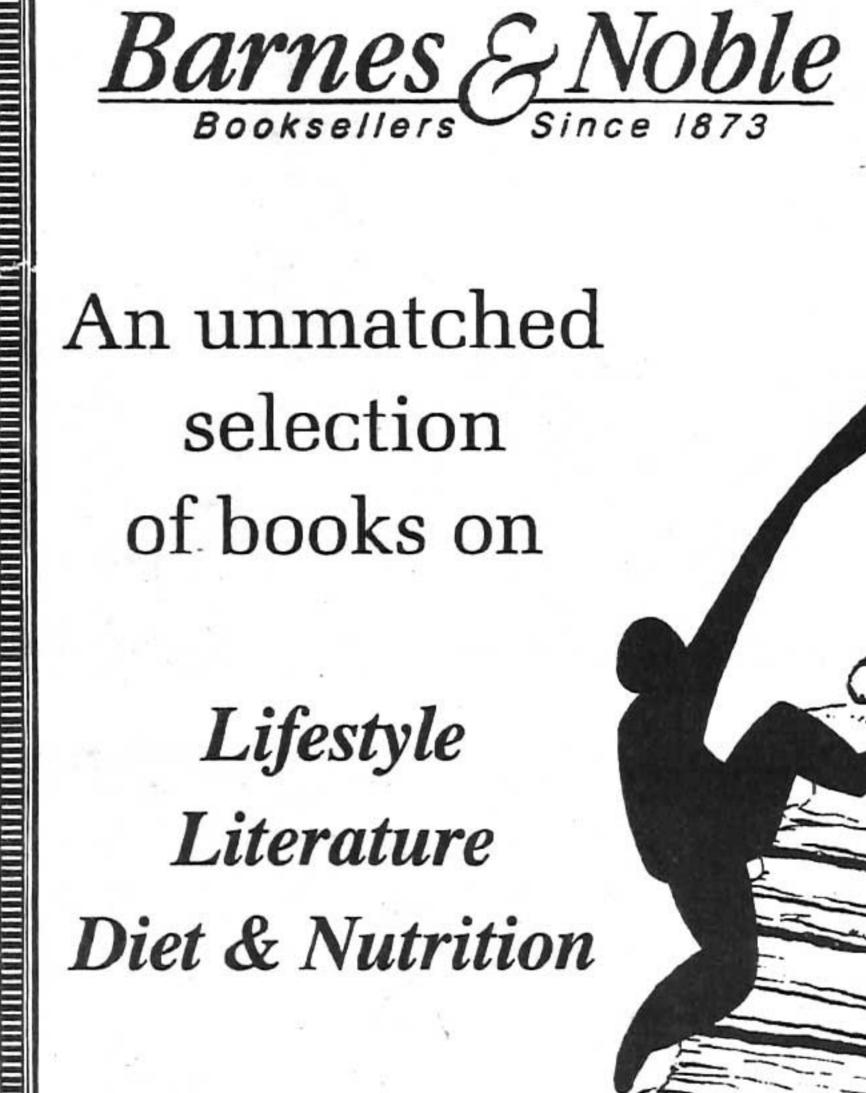
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IN REVIEW

MENTOGETHER PRESENTS

SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS AND

TO MAKE LOVE LAST.

MEN WHO HAVE CHALLENGED

THEIR OWN DEMONS IN ORDER

BOY MEETS BOY, HAPPILY EVER AFTER

New photo/essay book focuses on the Good Gay Relationship

Book review by KimBoo York

On the heels of their bestselling book on women's relationships, Sisters, Running Press recently released a new book on gay male relationships. By writer Anderson Jones and photographer David Fields, Men Together: Portraits of Love, Commitment, and Life portrays a series of gay male couples in long-term relationships.

The book defies the stereotype that long-term male couples are a rare commodity, and offers the reader an intimate view of these men's lives together. Artistic and personal photographs of the 29 featured couples are accompanied by original essays discussing the trials, tribulations and happiness they share.

Rather than being (another) sociological tome on the how, what, and why of gay male relationships, *Men Together* presents men who have challenged social expectations and their own

demons in order to make love last, in a visually stunning way. Some are old and some are young, a few are pretty and many are plain, but the manner of their poses reveals the true, heartfelt nature of each couple's love for one another.

Jones and Fields
left no stone
unturned, profiling
a young couple on
their ranch in
Montana, an MCC
priest and his
'conventional'
husband, a couple

who started a modern dance troupe in New York City, and even celebrities such as Erasure's lead singer Andy Bell and his partner. This collection is very modestly

laid out, with no flashy photographic stunts or edgy text design. Instead, it is fascinating because of the simplicity and sincerity it represents. The men are shown with the barest minimum of props, just each other and the world they inhabit. The cowboys, who bought their ranch after their adventure travel company became successful, stand proudly together in their western riding gear against the

A stylish, witty, and sincere celebration of relationships.

majesty of the Wyoming ranges. Simple, elegant, and rough around the edges—just like many of the relationships themselves—the photography captures pure moments of honesty and metaphor.

The essays, too, allow for an intimate candor that is not usually found in books about relationships. More like snapshots than entire histories, the written profiles reflect the simple design concept at

the heart of this book, which allows for the couples to speak for themselves, both visually and with words. The nature of the male relationship is celebrated here, not analyzed.

The range of relationships is also refreshing. Nothing is truly stereotypical about these men—they don't conveniently fit into the preconceptions that modern society has about male/male relationships. And rather than studying and critiquing why or why not, Jones and Fields let the mens' experiences



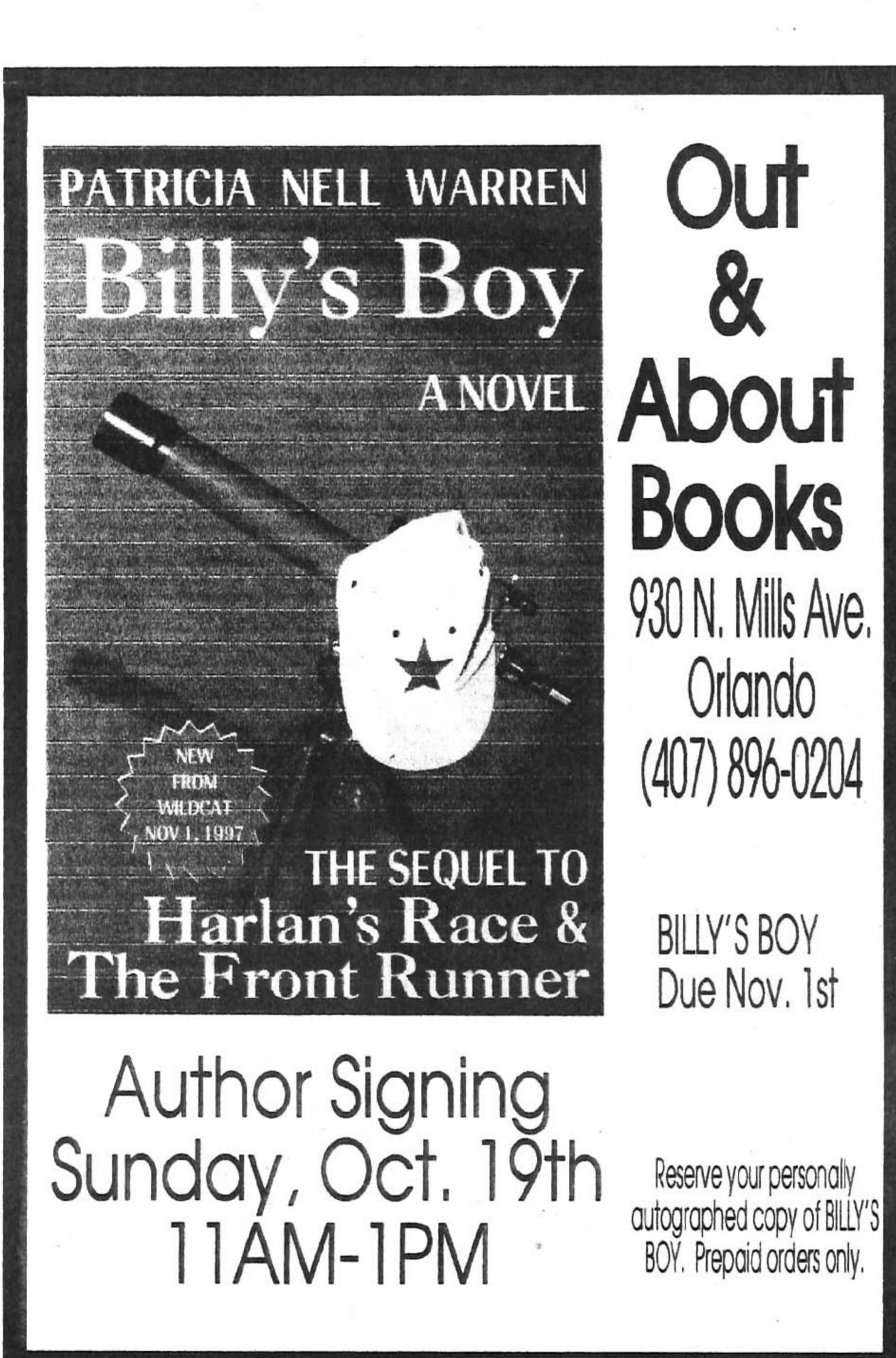
One NYC couple who shares their love, a move, and a major crisis with the readers of *Men Together*.

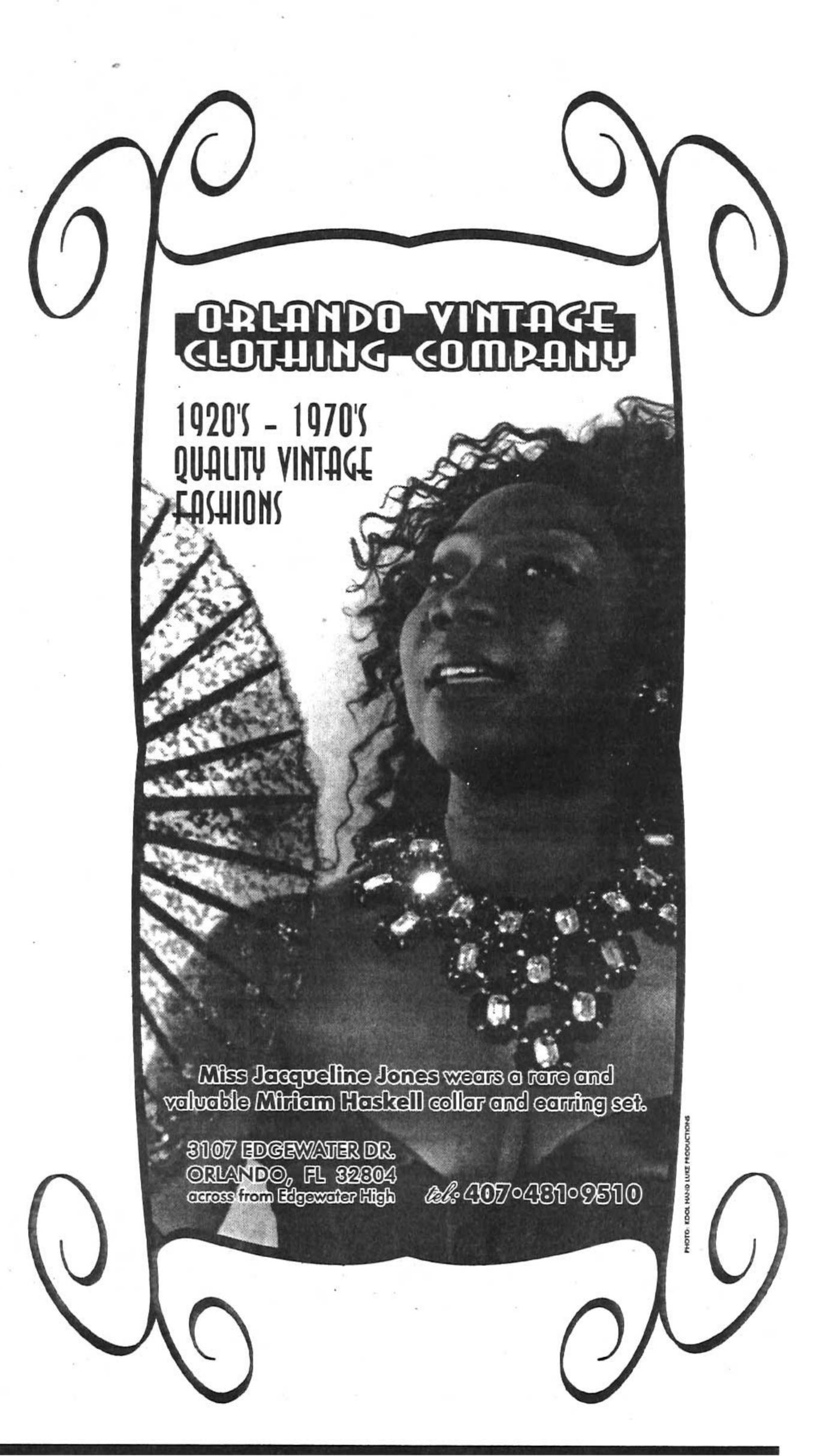
explain their choices and lessons. What is revealed is just how truly average these relationships are, encompassing young love, marriages marked in decades, soul mates and turbulent if loving partnerships.

It is nice to see such positive reflections on gay relationships. While the couples in *Men Together* have experienced their share of obstacles, and suffered through homophobic friends, family, and media, there emerges gems of positive human interaction. For instance, from Reverend Brent Hawkes comes the enlightening story of his mother-in-law: "John's mom is a devout Catholic, so she was quite pleased when John finally decided to settle down and bring a priest home."

With brevity, wit, and style, *Men*Together brings together all that is good in a good, longtime gay relationship.









IN REVIEW



FATAIF

Movie reviews by David Almeida

Family seems to be the recurring theme in recent movies. Upon viewing the new releases Soul Food and A Thousand Acres, in which two families tear each other apart, I was suddenly thankful for my own family. And then there's L.A. Confidential, in which two actors, who have played gay roles in the past, realize they ultimately need each other to solve a puzzling crime. While the sisters are at each others throats, it's the sisters who are getting the job done. That's family, girls.

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL stars Australian

actors Russell Crowe (The Sum of Us) and Guy Pearce (The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert). They are both detectives in 1950s Los Angeles who are trying to solve a seemingly routine homicide. Pearce is the virtuous by-thebook newcomer; Crowe is the impulsive veteran. As each of the two are pursuing their own leads, we are introduced to an array of shady characters, all brilliantly performed by a stellar cast: Danny DeVito as a trash-journalist who is not above fabricating his sensational stories; Kevin



(From left) JAMES CROMWELL, GUY PEARCE, RUSSELL CROWE, and KEVIN SPACEY in L.A. Confidential.

Spacey, a consultant for a TV cop show who will do anything for a buck; and Kim Basinger as a Veronica Lake look-alike prostitute. A Chinatown for the 1990's, the film muses about corruption among the West Coast's rich and powerful in days gone by. The film takes a very noir approach with lots of shadows and smoke to give us that dark, mysterious feeling of uneasiness (as if the plentiful bloody shootings couldn't achieve that on its own). Based on the novel by Curtis Hanson, the film does suffer from having

too many characters caught up in a slightly convoluted plot. But that still doesn't keep this cynical and surprising piece from being highly satisfying. Crowe and Pearce command the screen, and their knock-emdead performances bring home the film's theme that every person has their price, yet all people still have good in them. I give it a 4.

The next film I screened was SOUL FOOD, which follows the trials and tribulations of an African-American family



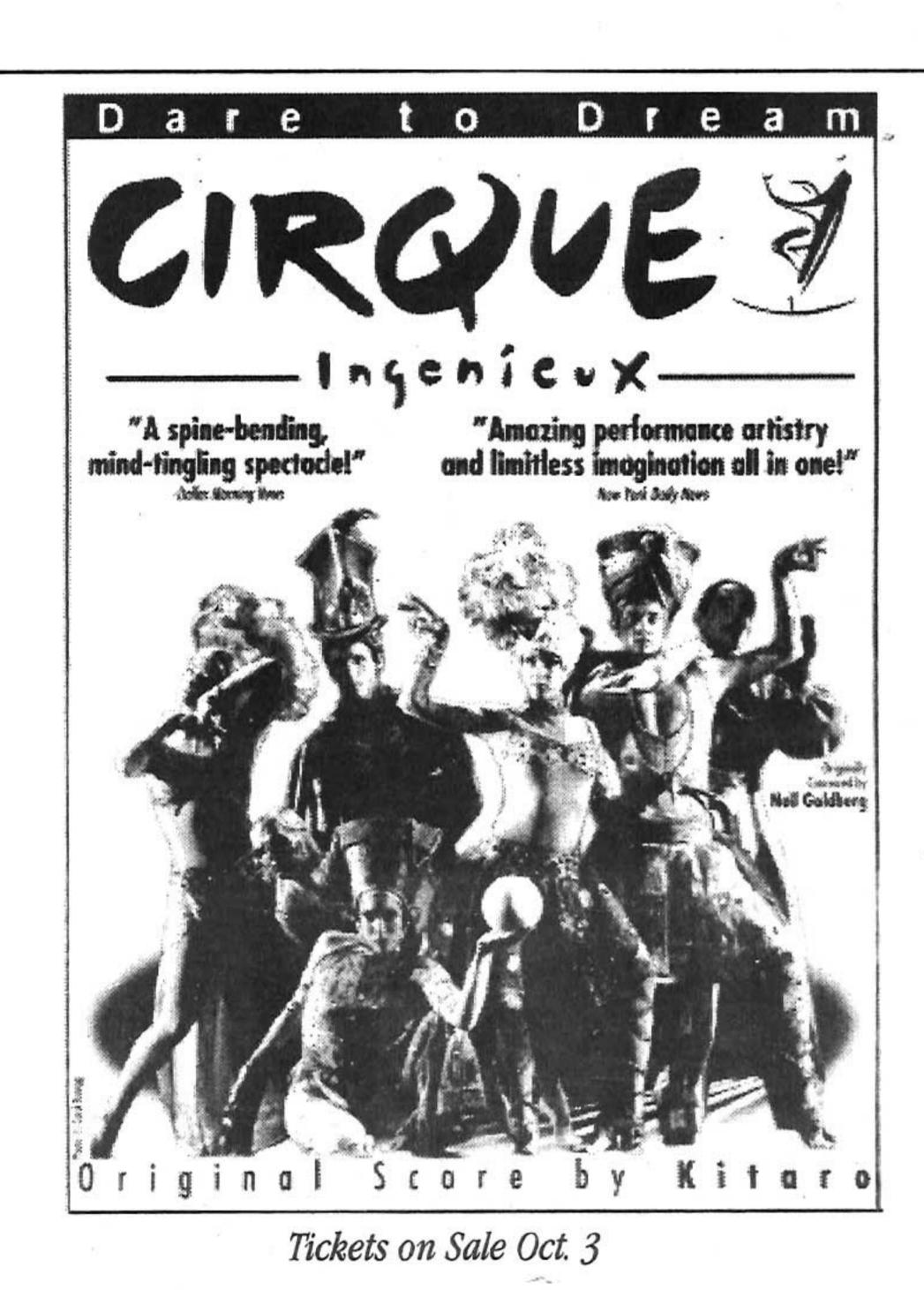
HOLLYWOOD

by Miss Paige Turner

ELLEN ROCKS THE EMMYS

An otherwise uninspired Emmy telecast was made more interesting by the presence of the ever-amusing Ellen DeGeneres. Capping nearly a year of sensational media attention, Ellen took the stage to accept the Emmy for Writing on a Comedy Series for her work on the coming-out episode of Ellen. Her oftquoted dedication of the award to "teenagers who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay" was the high point of the evening. Backstage at the awards show, Ellen told the assembled reporters that the new episodes of her sitcom are "hilarious" and promised that "it will be a show that people will talk about, to say the least." Ellen also mentioned that her character's sexuality would definitely be explored

more fully in the new season of her sitcom, which will surely create more controversy and publicity. However, attendees of the post-Emmy party didn't need to wait until Tuesday night to get a shocking eyeful of the newly open star. At the post-Emmy party, Ellen and her partner ANNE HECHE (while hanging out with close pals **DEMI MOORE** and GOP favorite BRUCE WILLIS) made it clear to everyone that the rumors of their imminent break-up were greatly exaggerated. However, their great affection for each other did not stop Hollywood's favorite lesbian couple from doing a little wife-swapping at the party. Much to the delight of the photographers around them, Ellen and Bruce suddenly began kissing, while Demi and Anne did the same. There is no word yet on whether or not the four



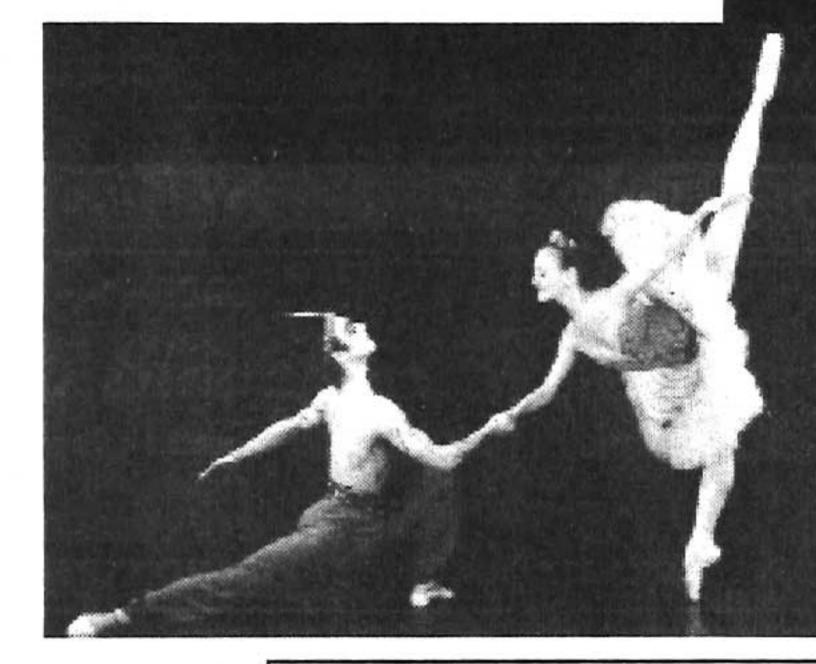
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IN REVIEW

in Chicago. Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox and Nia Long are three fabulously trim sisters who convene once a week with their entire family to enjoy a family dinner of boiled and fried foods that would put most people into cardiac arrest. One assumes that their normal regimen of aerobicising the other six days of the week is disrupted by a familiarly familial crisis: their mother (Irma P. Hall), the family's adage-spewing matriarch, slips into a coma, and the family must now find new ties to bind it together. Not easy,

considering the sisters constantly snipe at each other and their husbands are all stupid idiots. Williams is particularly good playing against type as a repressed and snobby attorney. The film's best points are the long, mouth-watering shots of the delicious meals - who would've thought macaroni and cheese could look so poetic? In spite of a lot of soap operaness, the story is interesting, and the acting is first-rate. The big problem is the terribly heavy-handed dialogue which beats us over the head with subtextual

the Emmy writing team this year. Perhaps now that Vilanch has been named as one of only three openly gay people in Buzz Magazine's 100 Coolest People In Los Angeles (along with gay director TODD HAYNES and lesbian politico SHEILA

KUEHL), he will be invited back to

spruce up the Emmys next year.

OTHER GAY EMMY WINNERS

Ellen was not alone in the gay winners circle at the Emmy awards this year.
While the AIDS drama In The Gloaming

actors will follow up their party shenani-

gans with a very '90s remake of the '70s

classic Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice.

and the gayfriendly The Larry
Sanders Show were
both shut out of
this year's awards,
there was still
plenty to celebrate.
The gay-themed
Simpsons episode
"Homer-phobia"
(with guest star
JOHN WATERS)
won in the anima-

tion category. TRACEY ULLMAN's gay-friendly Tracey Takes On... (which often features Ullman as a gay male flight attendant) was named Best Variety Series. BETTE MIDLER received one of several awards for her special Diva Las Vegas. In accepting her award for Best Actress in a Variety Series or Special, the Divine Miss M thanked several of her old friends and writers, including BRUCE

VILANCH, who was sorely missed from

GAY BASHING
GETS
"ELEMENTARY"

Back-to-scho

Back-to-school
has many traditions associated
with it, but this
year, the far right
has added
homophobia to the
curriculum. The
conservative

organization Concerned Women for America (CWA) has launched a back-to-school protest against the documentary, It's Elementary—Talking About Gay Issues In School." The film is a thought-provoking series of interviews with elementary school children and their teachers discussing their views about homosexuality. In a recent fundraising letter, the CWA called the documentary Continued Page 38

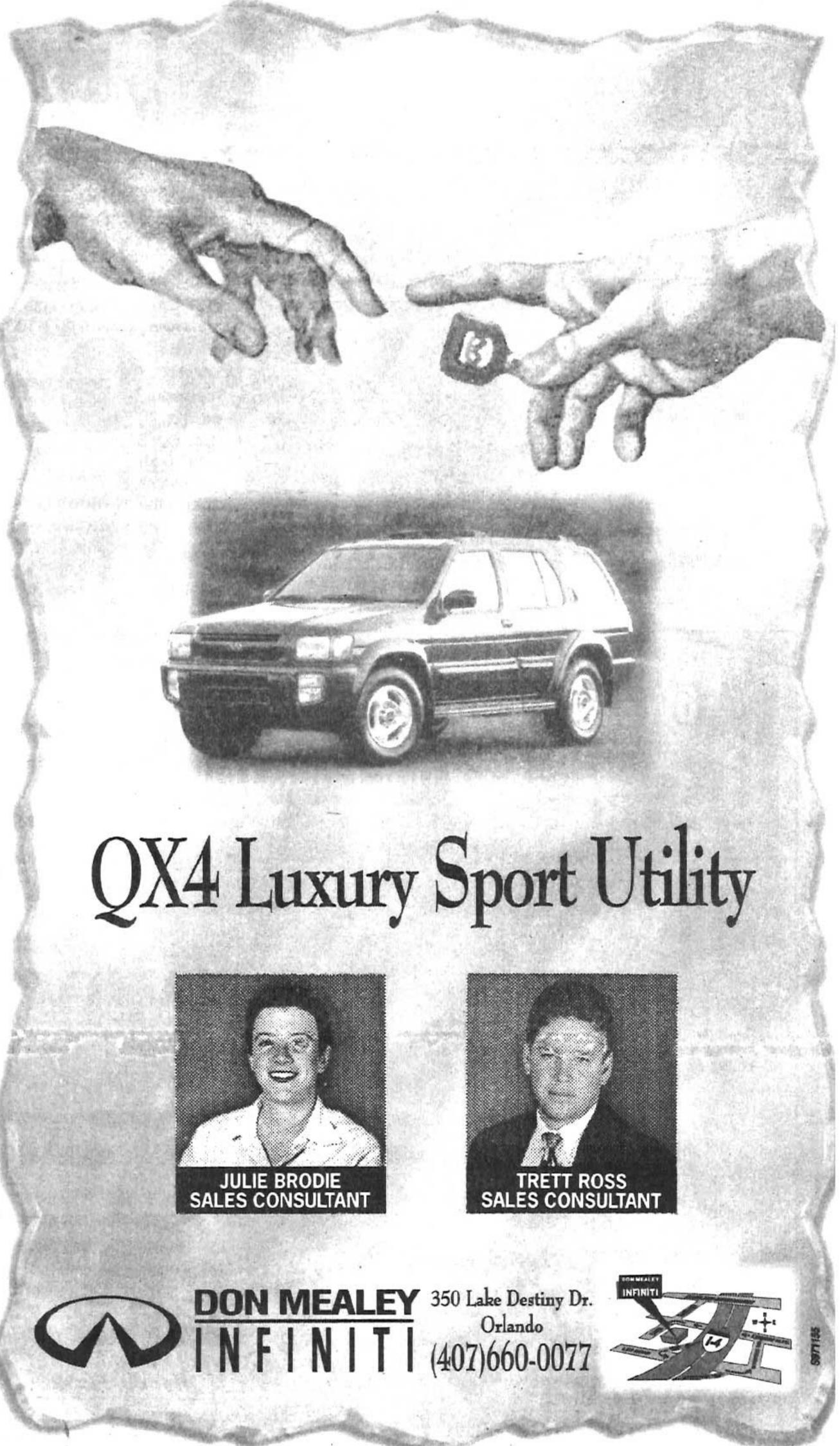
motivations, and the film's duh-really theme of family needing to support itself in times of difficulty. Nonetheless, I embrace any film that worships food as much as this, so it gets a 3 rating.

The true soap opera award, though, has to go to A THOUSAND ACRES in which an angry feminist has decided to tell King Lear from a women-as-victims point of view. Jason Robards is an old Iowa farmer who decides to divide up his land equally among his three daughters (Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Jennifer Jason Leigh). When Robards and Leigh have a falling out, Lange and Pfeiffer get the property, and then Robards changes his mind, and takes them to court to get the land back. This is just one more thing piled onto the sisters' problems of sibling betrayal, cancer, infidelity, spousal abuse, and miscarriage. What the hell, throw in some incest for good measure, too. It's basically an overload of issues that creates a film with no thematic focus. Lange's performance is what holds the film together. She is brilliantly under"Like margarine."

"Hated it!"

stated as the dowdy and repressed farm wife, though her character's transition is too clunky and hard to swallow. Pfeiffer, looking horribly out of place as the middle sister (Did nobody learn from Frankie and Johnny that you just can't make her look dowdy?), is just plain angry and one dimensional, as is Robards. It's a 2 film that comes from a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Jane Smiley, and of course the classic work of Shakespeare. How could it be this misguided when it had so much going for it?

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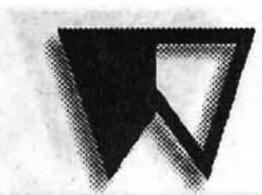
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ART & EXHIBITS

ORLANDO

Al Hirschfeld Exhibit September 11 through October 19 at the Civic Theatres' main lobby. Dozens of limited edition lithographs and etchings by Hirschfeld, in exclusive col-

RHODESSA JONES in Big Butt Girls, Hard

October 10-19.

Headed Women at Tampa's Off Center Theatre,

Solutions for Back Pain

laboration with the Margo Feiden Galleries in New York. Many representations of Broadway shows and their stars will be featured, and all works will be for sale. (407)896-7365.

Rima Jabbur: paintings and drawings October 3

through November 9 at the Mainland Art Center. A solo exhibition of recent works by this well-respected local artist, whose paintings are distinguished by multiple spatial arrangements which contain allegorical associations of significant meaning to the artist. (407)539-2181.

TAMPA BAY

Man Ray's Paris Portraits

September 27 through January 18, 1998 at the Salvador Dali Museum. An impressive exhibit of 50 photographs by Man Ray that capture the ambience of the Paris intelligentsia during the height of the Dada and Surrealist years. Features photos of T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Gertrude Stien, and Salvador Dali. (813)823-3767.

> The Oklahoma City Children's Memorial **Art Quilts**

> > October 5 through November 30 at the Museum of Fine Arts. 20 artists were choosen to create art quilts to reflect social and political children's issues. 19 of the quilts are dedicated to the 19 children who lost their lives in the Oklahoma City bombing;

twentieth quilt is dedicated to chil-

dren the world over who have lost their lives through acts of violence. (813)896-2667.

Time

Travelers-William Payne: various media

October 3 through Novemberat the Positive Expressions

Gallery in

407-897-3399 or 888-44-RELAX

CONCERTS & MUSIC

ORLANDO

Orlando Gay Chorus Concert

October 4 at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. Pre-concert festivities begin at 6:30 PM with a champagne cocktail hour featuring the Tradewinds Woodwind Quartet. Chorus performance begins at 7:30 in the church sanctuary. (407)898-3621.

DAYTONA BEACH/ SPACECOAST

Little Richard

(813)384-9305.

October 23 at the King Center for the Performing Arts. The outrageous performer who puts on an incredible show. His breakthrough hits are all rock standards: Tutti Frutti, Rip It Up, Good Golly Miss Molly. (407)242-2219.

Loretta Lynn

Oct. 30 at the King Center for the Performing Arts. A singer, a legend, and a courageous woman brings all of her talent to town to sing some of the beautiful, controversal, and hard-hitting songs that made her a country music star. (407)242-2219.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ORLANDO

Silent Auction for House of Friends

October 19 at Faces Bar. House of Friends, a non-profit proposed residential community for people with life-threatening diseases, is holding a silent auction to help raise money for their building. (407)277-1635.

THEATRE & MOVIES

ORLANDO

Moon Over Buffalo

September 25 through October 19 at the Civic Theatres. A wild theatrical romp set in Buffalo, NY, in 1953. A classic 'mad-cap' comedy about a theatrical couple on the

A sample of the moving exhibit Oklahoma City Children's Memorial Art Quilts at the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, Oct. 5-Nov. 20.

verge of movie stardom....if someone could just find the husband! (407)896-7365.

Central Florida Film and Video **Festival**

September 26 through October 6 at various venues. Featuring a strong selection of new independant film and video work, visiting artists, and lots of parties. Separate nights will be devoted to gay and lesbian films, films by 'women on the edge,' and social documentaries, plus many more. (407)839-6045.

Sexexes

October 2 through 30 at Club Z. Performance artist Gregory Patrick premieres his new work exploring sexual deviancy through voyeurism, incorporating live actors, musical accompaniment, and his three-octave range. (407)382-0414.

Blood Brothers

October 3 through 11 at the Annie Russell Theatre. From the London stage comes the award-winning musical tragedy of our times: the angry, yet heart-rending, tale of twins parted at birth and the prophecy that they shall die on the day they discover their heritage. (407)646-2501.

Gypsy

October 8 through November 23 at the Mark Two Dinner Theater. The Broadway classic about the famous stripper Gypsy Rose Lee and her domineering mother, Mama Rose, comes to town in all its

October 1 - 8, 1997

campy glory. (407)843-6275.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

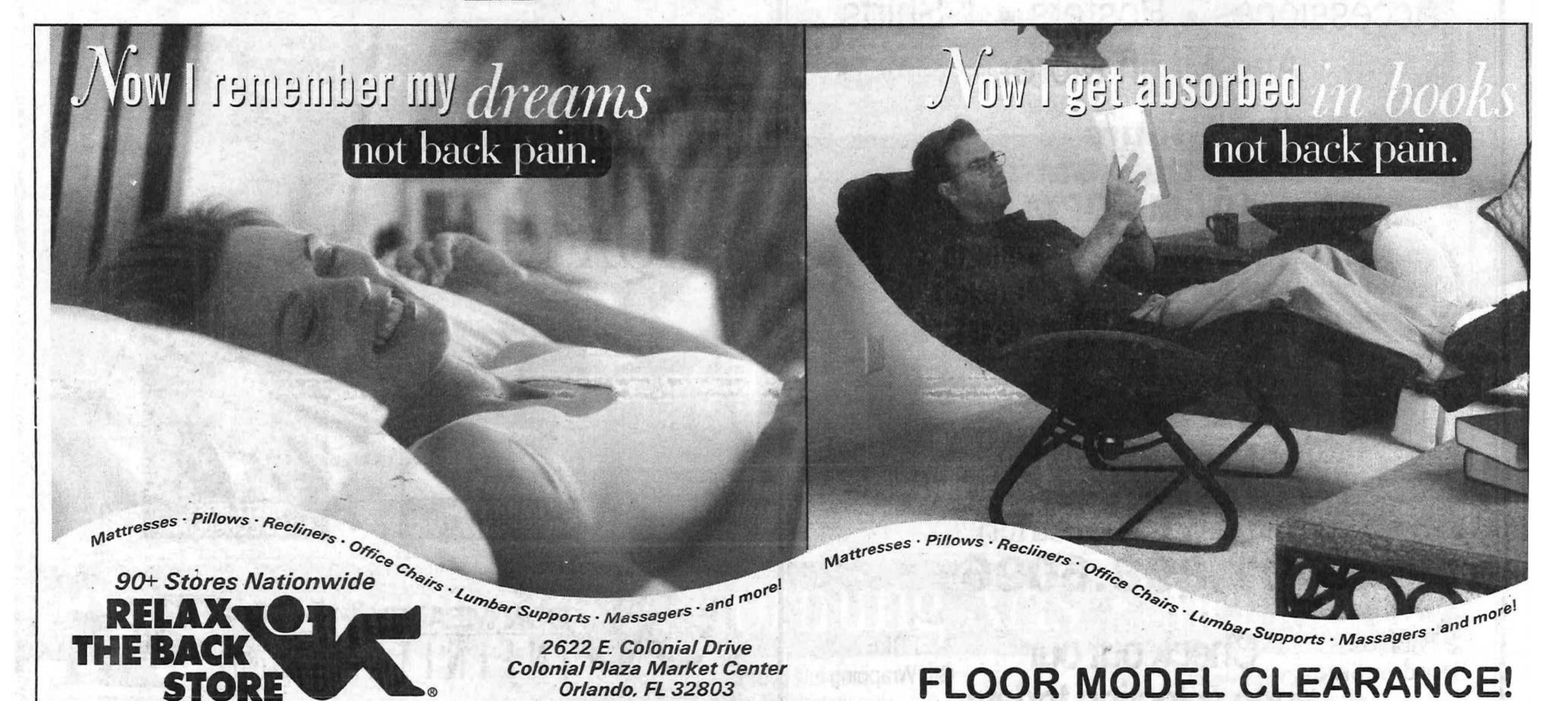
Phantom of the Opera

September 24 through November 2 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. The heart-rending romantic musical makes its way to Florida for a Broadway MasterCard Series engagement. The triumphant story, adapted by Andrew Lloyd Webber, tells of a hideously deformed man who falls in love with a young soprano of the Paris Opera in the late 1800s. (813)229-STAR.

Big Butt Girls, Hard Headed Women

October 10 through 19 at the Off Center Theatre. San Francisco performance artist Rhodessa Jones combines monologue, movement and music in an exciting and provocative look at the lives and times of incarcerated women. (813)222-1033.

Silent Film: Phantom of the Opera October 12 at the Tampa Theatre. The 1925 silent film masterpiece will accompanied by the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ, just like it was in 1925! Come see why Lon Chaney was the original master monster man in this movie classic, and find out why 'silent' films are hardly a quiet show. (813)274-8286.





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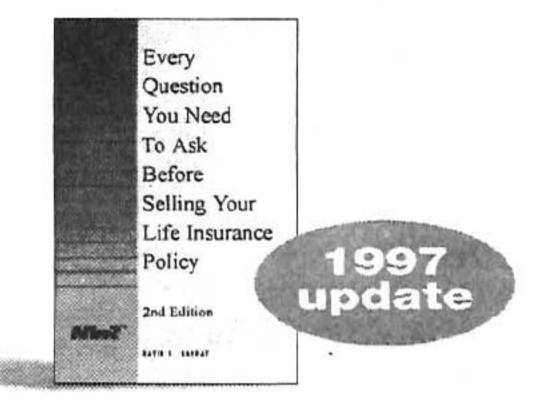
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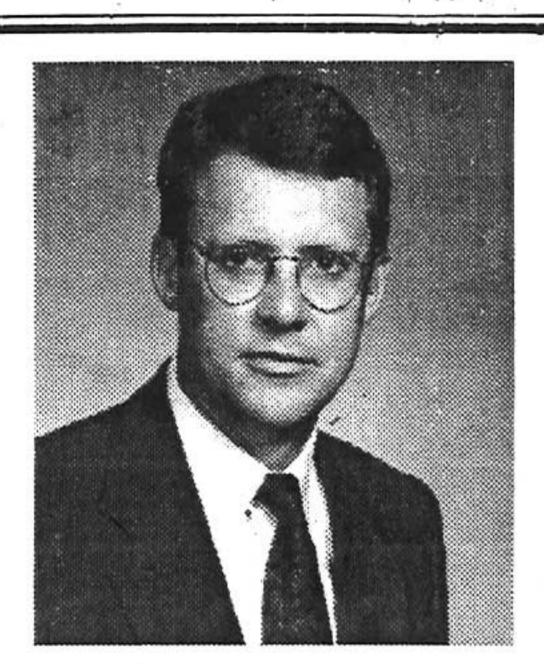


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*Less than 3% of Florida Bar members have attained this status.

ORGANIZATIONS & MEETINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/ SPACECOAST

BREAKING THE SILENCE MCC-BOWLING

2nd Friday each month at 9PM. Shorelanders, Merritt Island. \$8/prizes. (904)254-0993.

DIVERSITY COALITION

Meets regularly to promote and demonstrate a unified commitment towards understanding and cooperation among diverse individuals within our community. Contact Rich Townsend at (904)672-1402 or (904)673-9423.

GAY/BI-MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

Last Monday of the month at 7:30PM for peer counseling & support. Call Jean-Paul, (407)777-9833.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL TEEN SUPPORT GROUP A safe, social environment for gay, lesbian,

and bisexual teenagers (14-19) to meet. Meets every Thursday from 4:30 to 6 PM at 315 Live Oak Rd. Call Jane, (904)756-7427.

HOPE MCC

All faiths welcome. Services 10AM & 6PM, Sundays. (904)254-0993.

MAIN STREET SOCIAL CLUB

Meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday at the Barndoor (corner of Wild Olive and Main St.) at 5:30 PM. No frills, no hassles, no agenda, no officers, and no bylaws — just come and have fun!

ORLANDO

BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A group of big, hairy guys and their admirers. meetings are the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4 PM at the Full Moon Saloon. Sponsors annual Bear Bust each October. (407) 896-0239.

BIWAYS

A community gathering for bisexuals, our families, our friends, and our lovers. Mondays at 7PM at GLCS. (407)843-4297.

BINGO

every Friday at Joy MCC, begining at 7PM. Joy MCC and the GLCS present good, old-fashioned church bingo. Join in for food, fun, and a few surprises too! (407)425-4527.

BREAKTHROUGH

A "family oriented" networking organization for gays and lesbians in the Seminole and Volusia county areas. (407)574-1410.

CATHOLIC GAY AND LESBIAN MINISTRY-DIOCESE OF ORLANDO.

Mass with our lesbian and gay sisters and brothers, their parents, families, friends, and all interested in this ministry. Mass followed by get-together and refreshments (bring something to share). (407)695-3262 or (407)254-1595.

CENTRAL FLORIDA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

An adult softball league open to both gay men and lesbians of all abilities. Games played Sunday afternoons at Lake Fairview Park. (407)894-4526.

CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

Leather/Levi Club. Oldest leather organization in Central Florida. Meetings 1st and 3rd Sunday, 4:30PM, Full Moon Saloon. (407)648-8725.

DELTA YOUTH ALLIANCE

Support group for gay, lesbian & bisexual youth under age 22. Mondays, 6PM. (407)236-9415.

DIGNITY/ORLANDO

Gay Catholic support group. Meets for prayer in the Roman Catholic tradition at GLCS on Tuesday evenings at 8PM. Sundays, 7:30PM. GLCS Center. (407)425-4527 or page 1-800-759-7243, PIN 96294.

ELLEN'S FRIENDS: BEING OUT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

A discussion group for womyn of all ages. Meets first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at GLCS. (407)425-4527.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH: EVENSONG

Sundays at 4 PM at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Audubon Park. A special Evensong service where everyone is invited. A social hour of coffee, teas, and specialty desserts will follow. (407)331-7375.

FAMILY VALUES

Gay/lesbian radio on 91.5 FM. Talk, music, news, interviews, community events. Thursdays, 9-10PM. (407)646-2915 or 2241.

FANTASIA

Transvestite/transexual support group open to gays and non-gays. Meets 1st and 3rd tuesdays at 7 PM. (407)425-4527.

G.L.B.L. BOWLING

Orlando's fun bowling league. Fair Lanes, Indian Hills. Saturdays, 7PM. (407)679-0655.

GAY & LESBIAN ORLANDO WATER SKIERS (GLOWS)

Orlando water ski headquarters for bi, gay, and lesbians. Daily skiing adventures during daylight savings time. Beginners and non-skiers welcome. Lots of fun equip. avail.: wakeboard, compress. board, Hydrosides, disks, trick skies, slalom, and traditional skis. Contact Gary (407)679-0507.

GAYSKATE

Semoran Skateway, Casselberry. Sponsored by GLCS. 2nd & 4th Mondays, 9:15-11:30PM. \$5 includes skate rental (\$4 for GLCS members). (407)425-4527.

THE GROUP FOR THE LIVING

A spiritual recovery group for people with HIV. Tuesdays, 7:30-9PM, AIDS Resource Alliance Building. (407)894-2233 or (407)647-7832.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS OF ORLANDO

A gay Asian-American social group for singles and couples. Friendly pot luck dinners, monthly activities, and more. All races are welcome. For dates and times or other information, please contact us. Donny at (407)370-4502. E-mail: I.F.Orlando@juno.com. Visit our web site at www.magicnet.net/~rwh.

JOY MCC WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays: 9:15AM, 11AM & 7:15PM. (407)894-1081.

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

A support/discussion group for lesbians who

are considering attempting pregnancy through donor insemination. Meets 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM at GLCS Center. (407)841-7203.

LUCKY LADIES BOWLING

Thursdays, 6:30PM at Fair Lanes in Indian Hills. (407)293-8849.

MENS' COMING OUT GROUP

Weekly support/discussion group for gay men of all ages who are begining and initiating their coming out process. Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at GLCS. (407)425-4527.

MONDAY NIGHT PLAYREADING SERIES

on the Civic Theatre's MainStage at 8PM. (407)896-7365.

ORANGE BLOSSOM BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Tuesdays, 9PM at Bowl America, Winter

Park. All interested teams and individuals call Cedrick Lee at (407) 895-3781.

ORANGE BLOSSOM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Round Robin tennis. 2nd & 4th Sunday each month at 11AM at the Orlando Tennis Center. (407)895-3722.

ORLANDO FRONT RUNNERS

Meets at red pagoda, Lake Eola. Mondays, 6:30PM; Wednesdays, 7:30PM; Saturdays, 9AM. (407)382-6011.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

On-going therapy group, lead by a trained therapist, for straight spouses of homosexuals and bisexuals. (407)629-7521.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

12:30PM every Saturday at GLCS.

PFLAG

General meeting every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at a downtown Orlando location. (407)236-9177.

PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A social & support group for gay & bisexual men over 50 & younger men who admire them. Meets last Saturday of the month at 3PM at Parliament House, in the theater area. (407) 672-5963.

PROUD TO BE OUT

A discussion group for men of all ages. Thurs-



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GAY & LESBIAN HISTORY

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"DICK FROM MANVILLE" IS AT

HETEROSEXUALITY.

by David Bianco

Who was Sappho?

The very term "lesbian" refers to the most famous resident of the Greek Isle of Lesbos. Sappho, who lived in the seventh

century before the common era, was a celebrated poet whose sexuality has been the source of controversy for more than two millennia.

Sappho was born to an aristocratic family in the town of Eressos on the southwest coast of

Lesbos. Her mother was a Lesbian, her father was a Lesbian - and she had three Lesbian brothers as well. She may have been in charge of a girls' school, and she wrote nine books of lyric poetry. Her poetic genius was such that a few centuries after her death, Plato wrote, "Some say the Muses are nine, but how carelessly! Look at the tenth, Sappho from Lesbos."

Most of the surviving poetic fragments from Sappho's repertoire have come from Greek and Roman authors who quote her from a few words to several lines - in their own works. In addition, some fragments of papyrus and a shard of pottery with lines

from her poetry have been found in Egypt.

Because her surviving works are so fragmentary - and because sung Greek poetry doesn't translate easily into written English - it is difficult to convey the power Sappho's

corpus had over the ancients. Nonetheless, her works continue to fascinate modern readers, especially those interested in her expressions of affection for other women.

The closest we have to a surviving complete Sapphic

poem is her "Hymn to Aphrodite," in which she celebrates her affectionate relationship with the Goddess of Love. In the song, Aphrodite asks Sappho which woman is currently causing her heartache, and reassures the poet that "if she won't love you, she soon will."

The heterosexualization of Sappho has often had comic or ironic results. In his Lesbian Love: Old and New, published in the United States in 1966, Walter Braun argued, "In fact Sappho was a heterosexual, who in her attitude towards girls under her care can be compared with the attitude



days, 7:30 PM at GLCS. (407)425-4527.

RAINBOW CONNECTION OF ORLANDO

Social/discussion group for 18 to 25-yearold gays, lesbians & bisexuals. Thursdays, 7:30PM GLCS Center. (407)843-4297.

RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Meet every 4th Monday. Orlando Public Library, 7PM. (407)236-9476.

READING GROUP

19 19

at Out & About Books. (407)896-0204.

SOCIAL SINGLES

A discussion & social group for men & women 18 to 118 who are not in a committed relationship. Meets every Monday at 7:30PM at the GLCS Center. (407)425-4527.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY ORLANDO COOKOUT

Every Sunday from 4 - 6 PM at the Full Moon Saloon. Call (407)895-5940 for info.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY DANCE LESSONS

Wednesdays and Saturdays at Full Moon Saloon, 8:30 PM.

TEAM GLCS

A bicycling team of all ages and ability levels that formed in January 1997 to promote cycling and participate in organized cycling events. Sponsored by GLCS and comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and gay-supportive riders. All welcome. (407)425-4527.

TGIF SOCIAL NIGHT

Everything from Bar-B-Que, demonstrations, games, to videos — different activity every week. Friday at 6:30 PM. (407)425-4527.

TUESDAY T-DANCE

Learn ballroom dancing in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere. Classes are Tuesdays from 1:30PM to 3PM at Onstage Studios. (407)849-1452.

UCF GLBSU

Room 101, Social Work Trailer, 9PM, Tuesdays. (407)648-0057.

UNION CINEMA

A weekly showcase of independent films from around the world, selectedfrom the Central Florida Film and Video Festival archives. Thursdays at Union Tavern. (407)894-5778.

WOMYN OF GLCS

Come join the fun and bring a friend or 6. Every Wednesday at 7:30PM at GLCS. (407)843-4297 or (407)872-8924 (digital pager).

Socrates took to the boys he had to educate." Well, sort of.

Many writers have pointed to ancient sources that claim Sappho had a husband named Kerkylas from the island of Andros. But the Greek word kerkos (tail) is common slang for penis, and andro- means male. Claiming that a prominent woman-loving woman had a husband named, essentially, "Dick from Manville" is at best dubious evidence of her heterosexuality.

While many scholars have tried to interpret away Sappho's erotic attraction for women, others have tried to destroy her work altogether. One reason so few of her poems have survived is that much of her work was burned by Christian zealots in late antiquity.

Despite such persecution, Sappho's work

WOMEN OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS' CLUB

4th Sunday. Meets/plans/plays outdoors. (407)677-7634.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Orlando Festival Park. Sundays, 3PM. (407)438-9777.

WRITING GROUP

at Out & About Books. (407)896-0204

TAMPA BAY AREA

BAY AREA MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER (BAMACT)

FMI, please call: in Hillsborough, (813)238-0694; in Pinellas, (813)531-3701.

BOAT & SCUBA WEST

meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 8PM at the Days Inn St. Petersburg. (813)441-4350.

DIGNITY OF TAMPA BAY

Please join us at the Franciscan Center Mass for the lesbian/gay community on Sundays at 7 PM. (813)238-2868.

DELTA PI THETA

Offering Brandon area gays, lesbians, and bisexuals a chance to network an build friendships. Meets Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday every week at different locations. Call Carl Schulz (813)651-3653.

ENCHANTE

Transsexual support group meets monthly. Separate crossdresser support group forming. (813)845-0284.

F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP

meets Thursdays at 6 PM. A writers workshop designed for PLWAs. (813)327-2969.

FRONT RUNNERS

Meets every Saturday in Old Hyde Park Village at the fountain at 9AM and every Wednesday at 6:30PM at Bayshore/Howard. (813)891-7098.

GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Will be holding its monthly business meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Everyone is invited. (813)273-8919.

GAY SINGLES INTRODUCTION GROUP

for those seeking a monogamous relationship. Meets every other Sunday from 7 - 9

and reputation have had a major influence on modern lesbian identity. Obviously the terms "Sapphic" and "lesbian" owe their origin to the Greek poet, but her influence is far greater. Many 20th century lesbian poets, such as Amy Lowell and May Sarton, refer directly to Sappho in their work. A seminal text in the lesbian-feminist movement of the early 1970s was entitled Sappho Was A Right-On Woman. And for the last 25 years, a British organization named Sappho has organized social, political, and literary activities for lesbians.

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com.

PM at MCC of Tampa. No fee. (813)249-6275 or (813)531-3701, anytime.

GAYSKATE

Tuesdays at 9PM at United Skates of America. (813)879-1525.

GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE

The general meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. (813)960-3022.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: COMING-OUT SUPPORT GROUP

meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 8PM at Affinity Books and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Unity-Progressive Prayer Center. Call Valerie, (813)505-0201 or Charles, (813)521-7579.

HIV/AIDS SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by Works of Mercy, Catholic Coalition of People with AIDS. Meets every Thursday at 7PM in the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church in Tampa. (813)237-3421.

HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE - HILLSBOROUGH

meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7PM at the MC Film Festival in Tampa. (813)273-8769

HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE - PINELLAS

meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Clearwater.

INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY.

A gay/lesbian/bisexual support group within the Episcopal Church. Meets the first Sunday of each month at 6 PM at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. All are welcome. (813)988-5283.

KING OF PEACE MCC

Services 10 AM Sundays; Prayer/Communion service 6:30 PM Thur. 3150 5th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. (813)323-5857.

THE LINE

Gay & Lesbian Crisis/Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. Phone volunteers 7PM to 11PM nightly, computerized system 11PM to 7PM. (813)586-4297.

LOG CABIN CLUB OF TAMPA BAY

meets each third Tuesday of the month at Ho Ho Chinois Restaurant, at 7:30 PM. FMI: Jami (813)577-0129, or Ed (813)855-0852.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services 10:30 AM, Sundays. (813)239-1951.

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

and Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL) meet on the 1st Saturday of each month from 11:30AM to 1:30PM at Morrison's in Seminole Mall. (813)443-2414.

P-FLAG

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at 5800 Nebraska. (813)961-6684.

P-FLAG SOUTH PINELLAS

meets each month on the fourth Saturday from 10 AM to Noon at the Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park. (813)347-2960. POSITIVE (OFFEE

Thursdays at 6 PM at the Positive Expressions Gallery. A social night for HIV+ people, their friends, families, and lovers. (813)384-9305.

RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

No fees or dues to join. Call Jim or Bob to be added to the growing mailing list of over 2000

members. (813)968-3600 or (800)881-3600.

SINGLES GROUP

Sponsored by King of Peace MCC. The group is designed to help gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to meet other individuals interested in social relationships. (813)323-5857.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

Services at 9 AM and 11 AM Sundays. Located at 4810 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday. (813)942-8616.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY TAMPA BAY

Country dance/social club meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Rascal's in Tampa. (813)884-4305 or SCTB@juno.com.

STARBURST

Transsexual and crossdresser support. Monthly. (813)523-8760.

SUN COAST LEATHER CLUB

Tampa Bay area gay levi/leather club meets 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 9:30 PM at the Golden Arrow Bar, St. Pete. Member SECC. (813)KUM-LTHR or Sncstlthr@aol.com.

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has both a competitive and recreational division for women. (813)429-319.

SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE

has both a competitive and recreational division. Call Jim H., (813)239-1401 or Tim Blunk, (813)237-0572.

TAMPA BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS (TBAP)

Meet Thursdays, 6:30-9:30PM at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center's Off Center Theater. Janet Stanley, (813)222-1092 or Mark Lieb, (813)985-3107.

TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the Greenbrier Sunrise Program building located at 13406 Cortez Blvd. (SR 50), east of Mariner Blvd., in Hernando County. (352) 686-1130.

TRUE EXPRESSIONS

Offering weekly support groups and recreational and social activities for young people dealing with isses concerning sexual orientaion, with gay, lesbian, and straight advisors. (813)586-4297

WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

A Tampa Bay Bear Club that meets the 1st Sunday of each month at the Golden Arrow. (813)824-7810.

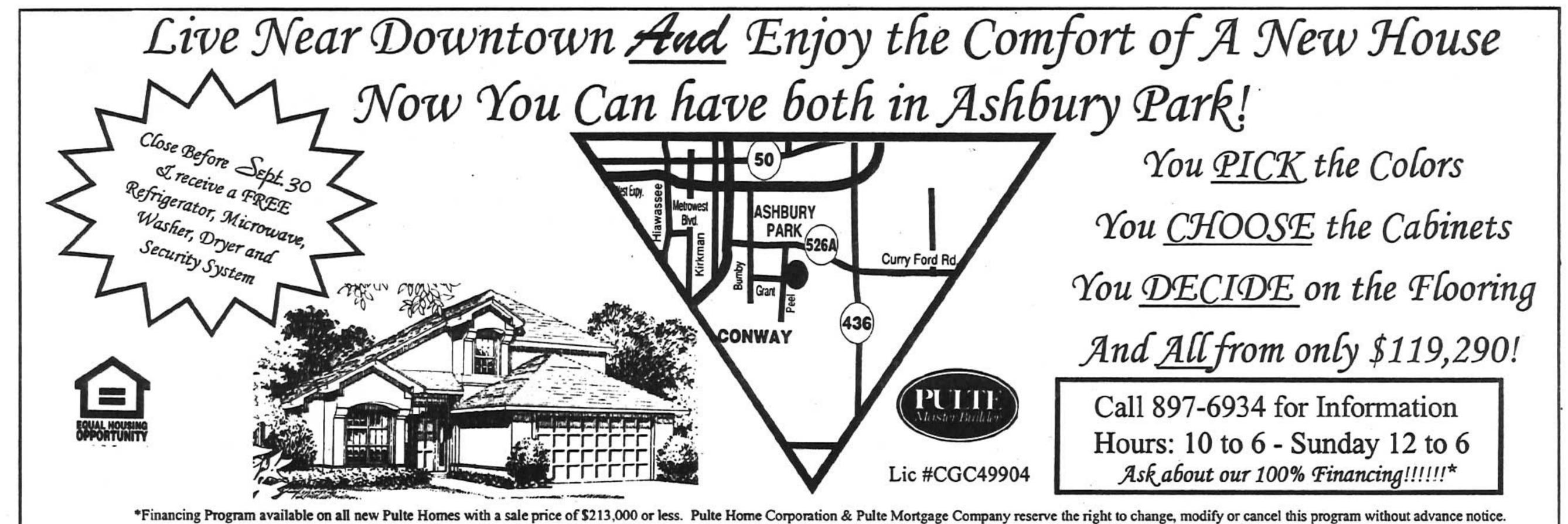
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A gathering of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth in a supportive, safe environment with adult moderation. Counseling available. (941)252-2576 (pg.); jbalso@aol.com; or www.geocities/westhollywood/heights/6264/index.html.

FRONT RUNNERS

Meets every Saturday at 9 AM at the Siesta Key Public Beach Pavilion. Everyone welcome to join in jogging, walking, or in-line skating. (941)474-7303.



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PATRICIA NELL WARREN From Page 21

1 Tom 1 age 21

tainly didn't think so at the time.

Patricia Nell Warren: Thirteen! Wow! That was young.

But now it's been 20 years since the publication. Why the sequels now, and not years ago when the book was at the height of its popularity?

First of all, the popularity of *The Front Runner* sells as many copies now as it did when it was released. A whole new generation of young people is discovering it, and they don't see it as a period piece. They just see it as a work of fiction. Their affinity for it is very gratifying.

Regarding why the sequels now, that requires a bit of a story. In 1977, I had a contract with William Morrow to write a sequel to *The Front Runner*, which was to be *Billy's Boy*, the book that will be released in November. It was about the

child of Billy—The Front Runner of the original book—and he was born in the 1970's so I would have had to project forward; do sort of a science fiction thing as he would be coming of age in the 1990s to write his story. I tried to work on it for some time, but it never felt right for me, so we tore up the contract and I returned the money. And then I let it sit until the 1990's, and when I started working on it again, I realized that there needed to be a transitional work to link The Front Runner with Billy's Boy. That was the genesis of Harlan's Race, which focuses more on the coach character from the original and his struggles. Of course so much has changed since 1977, with conservatism making such a comeback. And of course AIDS has changed the landscape enormously.

What was the reaction to *The Front* Runner when it first came out from the straight press, and also from the gay community?

Well, mixed on both counts. The "mainstream" press either embraced it or ignored it. I got great reviews in the New York Times and Publishers Weekly. But other publications, like Time, wouldn't review it at all. Among the gay community, I also received very mixed reactions. Most of the gay press was very complimentary but I did get feedback from some that I had broken some rule; that gay women weren't supposed to write about gay men.

Do you think things have changed since then? Do you think such a reaction now would be less likely?

No, I don't. I think that sort of prejudice still exists within our community. I don't

What is your take on the state of gay literature in the late 1990's?

Well, there are certainly a lot of changes taking place. First of all, non-fiction is more popular now than ever. There is perhaps less interest

in fiction. And of course, among gay literature there is so much diversification now—science fiction, fantasy, history—so that has changed the landscape quite a bit. But I would like to see more work on gay themes take place outside the urban environment. I think that we as a community may be a bit locked into this idea of our experience as strictly urban. As a result a lot of great books set in regional or rural areas are not taken as seriously. There are exceptions. Native. Common Son. I got lucky with The Fancy Dancer. But by and large there isn't enough diversity, in my opinion, on the type of people and experiences in our literature. Also, I'd like to see more ethnic diversity.

Do you think a book today could take off like Dancer from the Dance or The Front Runner did in the 70s? Have that same groundswell of popularity? Or do gays and lesbians just read less these days?

It's hard to say. The book business is not in great shape. There is a great narrowing down of titles across the board at all publishing houses. So as a result, a lot fewer gay and lesbian titles will make it to bookstores. This is because sales are supposedly down. Books are competing less successfully against television. Some blame the Internet, although it's just a bit of a fad, I think, to spend hours upon hours on it. These things go in cycles. People largely use the Internet for information, not to read books. There will always be a market for good literature.

You had said that a lot of young people are just now discovering *The Front Runner* and other books by you. This brings up your work with youth projects. When you wrote *The Front*

Runner, was it your intention to speak to gay youths?

Well, as I said, I was in my own coming-out process while I wrote *The Front Runner* and it was a very nervewracking time for me. I think maybe some of my own concerns and trepidations made it onto the page without me even consciously realizing it. Of course, I hoped that young people would read it, as well as straight people and women, but *intend*? I don't think I did, specifically.

Tell me more about your work with disenfranchised youth and why it is so critical to you.

Well, I believe that children need advocates, and access to information that

"THERE IS A GREAT NARROWING

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FEWER GAY AND LESBIAN TITLES

WILL MAKE IT TO BOOKSTORES."

BOARD AT ALL PUBLISHING

they are not currently getting. Violence in schools is an important issue for me regarding youth, as well as censorship and privacy issues for the young. In my work with the LA School Board, I try to promote the concept of equal

access to education for gay and lesbian students. So many are teased, and in some cases terrorized, by anti-gay violence. They drop out or lose interest or don't get absolutely everything they can from their educational experience because of this antagonistic environment. Gay and lesbian youth—all youth, really—needs to have open access to information. That's why so many of these initiatives regarding the Internet and censorship really concern me. Where can a young gay person go in a nonthreatening environment to find information on coming out? On safe sex? If some of these initiatives come to pass, any gay themed web-site will be filtered out.

I had a situation recently that underlines my point. I was on America OnLine and received an instant message from a young man on the verge of suicide. He had already tried-once and his parents had not been supportive in his recovery. In fact, they were planning on making him pay the hospital bills for his stay. He was certain someone was going to come and arrest him for the \$700 he owed the hospital. Fortunately, he just found me....I still don't know how. I was able to calm him down and get him the information he needed.

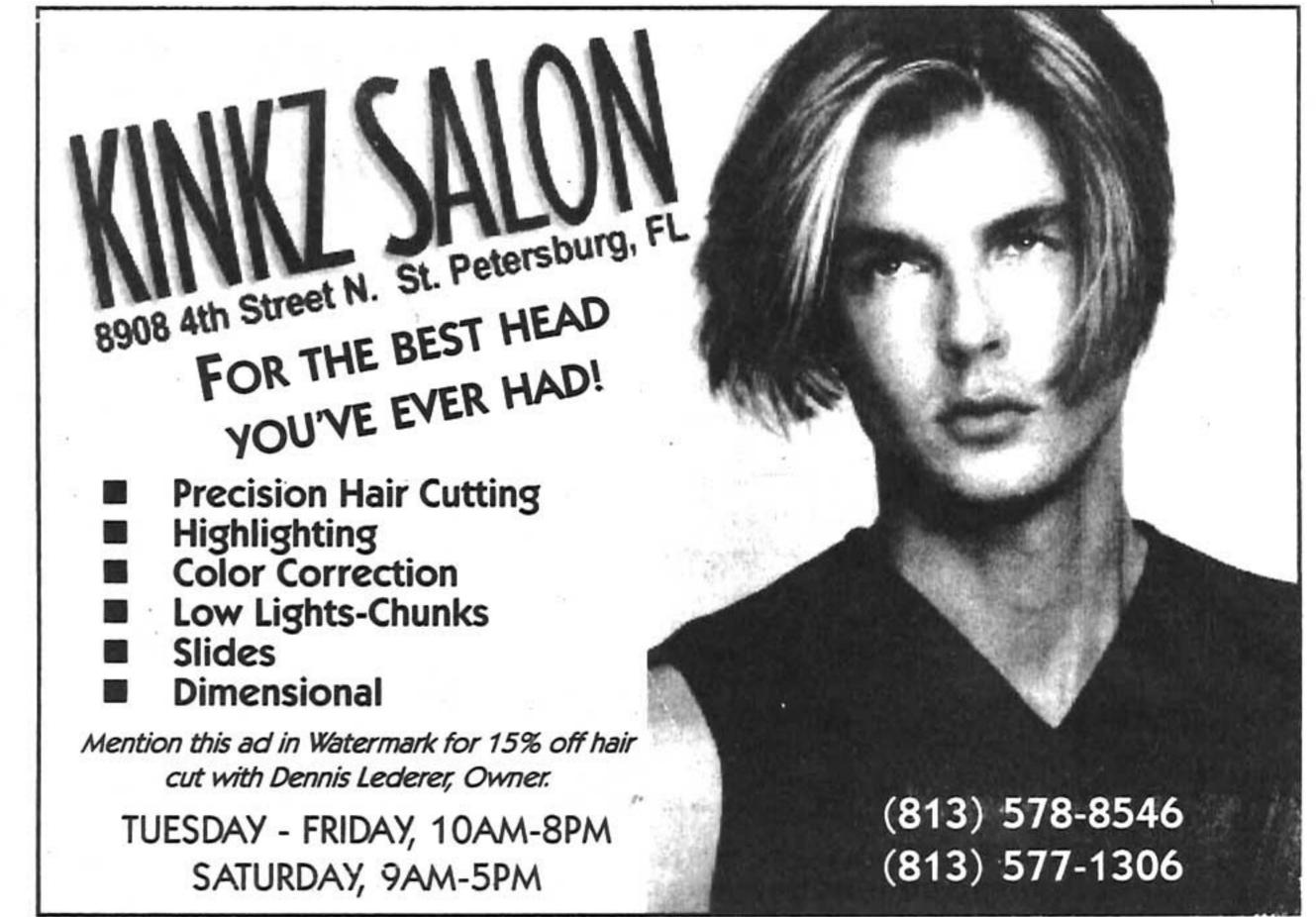
And they are thousands of young people like that across the country. They need someone—be it me or someone else—who is on their side and will give them the information they need.

You are going to be in Orlando to speak at the national convention of Front Runners, the nationwide network of running groups. Do you have some official affiliation with them?

Not at all. As I've heard the story, it all started with a group of runners in San Francisco called the Lavender Hill









oggers. At one point, they all realized ney had read The Front Runner and enamed the group. Then groups started pringing up all over the country and even iverseas.

Do you have regular contact with hem?

Yes, whenever we are on a book tour we always try to do something with The initial point of entry. They are typically a after my book. I think its great! W

Front Runners. We often view them as our great group of people and its tremendously flattering that they have named their group

dealing with both International Front Runners as an organization, and the sharing of ideas to help local clubs be more effective in growth

and operation. A survey was sent to all Front Runner clubs in August to gauge the importance of agenda

topics to be discussed at the general sessions, most which will take place that Saturday. The delegates will also be deciding where the next Forum will be held in 1999 and where the next Front Runners Invitational will be in 2000.

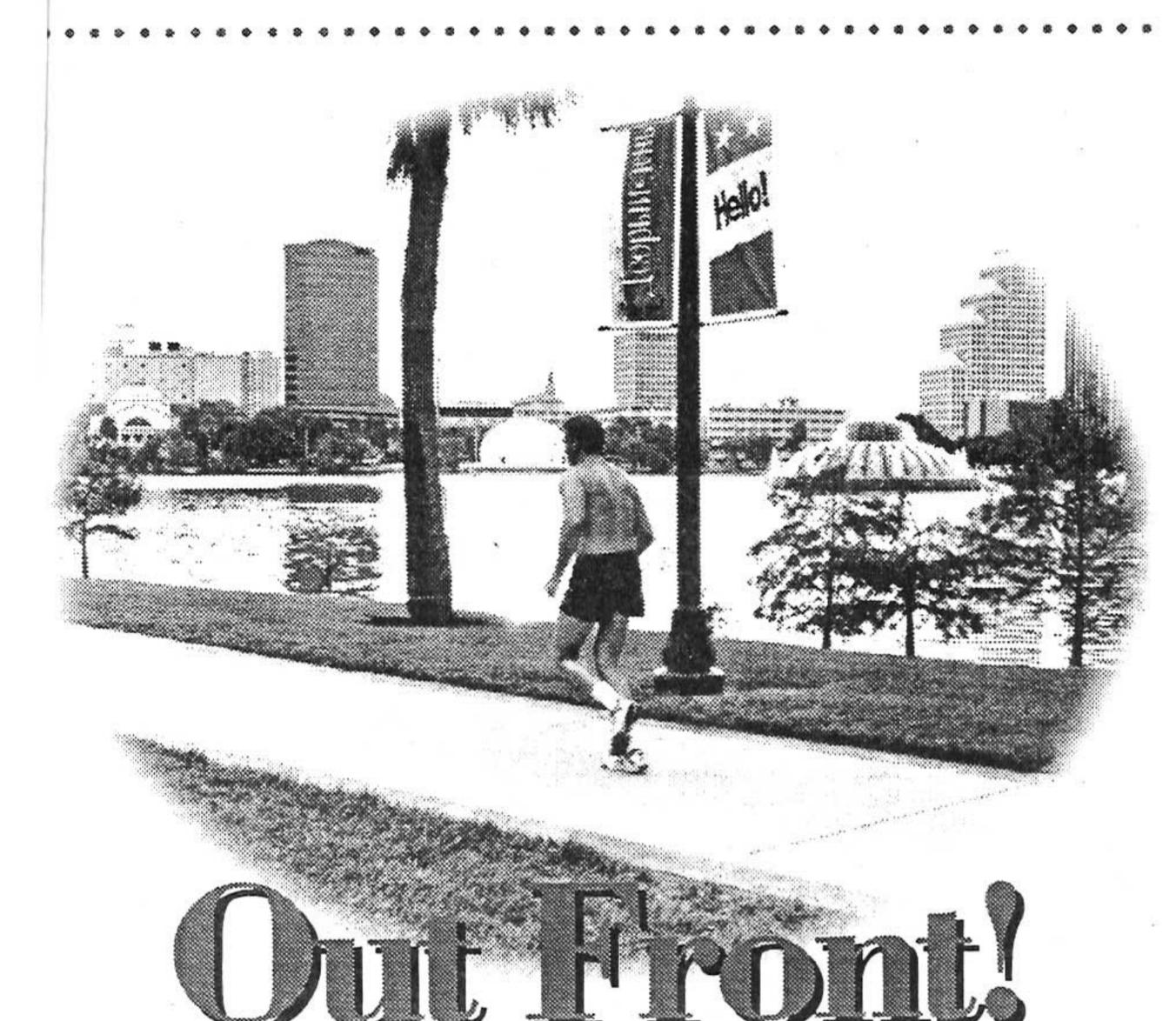
A whole series of events, including a reception party, a run/walk, and a picnic lunch will be taking place, and all Orlando Front Runners are invited to participate.

The highlight of the weekend will be the Saturday evening dinner with featured guest Patricia Nell Warren. Warren is the author

of The Front Runner, one of the most celebrated gay love stories in modern literature, and is kicking off a book tour in support

of her latest release, Billy's Boy. Her book tour is starting in Orlando, and Warren is scheduled to appear at the Forum dinner and also participate in the Saturday morning walk/run at Lake Eola. She is also going to be at Out and About Bookstore on Sunday, Oct. 19 from 11 AM to 1 PM.

For more information about the Forum, or for event locations, call Gary Fracassi at (407)895-6368. ₩



International Front Runners Forum speeds into town with Patricia Nell Warren in the lead

ORLANDO - The sixth international forum of the Front Runners organization is coming to Orlando from October 17 to 19, featuring a special appearance by internationally acclaimed author

Patricia Nell Warren.

The Forum was originally conceived to bring delegates from all Front Runner clubs together to discuss common issues and ideas. Many topics will be addressed

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PATRICIA NELL WARREN WILL BE AT

OUT AND ABOUT BOOKSTORE ON

SUNDAY, OCT. 19 FROM 11 AM TO 1 PM.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

7 PM - 11 PM Welcome party at the home of an Orlando Front Runner's member. Food and drink will be provided throughout the evening. This party is to welcome all Front Runners as they arrive in Orlando and will give everyone a chance to meet other delegates and hosts. Registration and updated information will be available.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

9 AM Run/walk begins at Lake Eola's red pagoda, with guest Patricia Nell Warren. Bagels and fruit provided after the run. 11:30 AM - 6 PM Registration and general sessions. Box lunch provided.

7 PM Cocktail hour begins, followed by dinner with featured speaker Patricia Nell Warren.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

10 AM - 1 PM General sessions—continuation of agenda items (if needed), Forum conclusion.

1 PM to ?? Picnic in the Park with running, volleyball, sunning, and eating. At Langford Park Nature Center.



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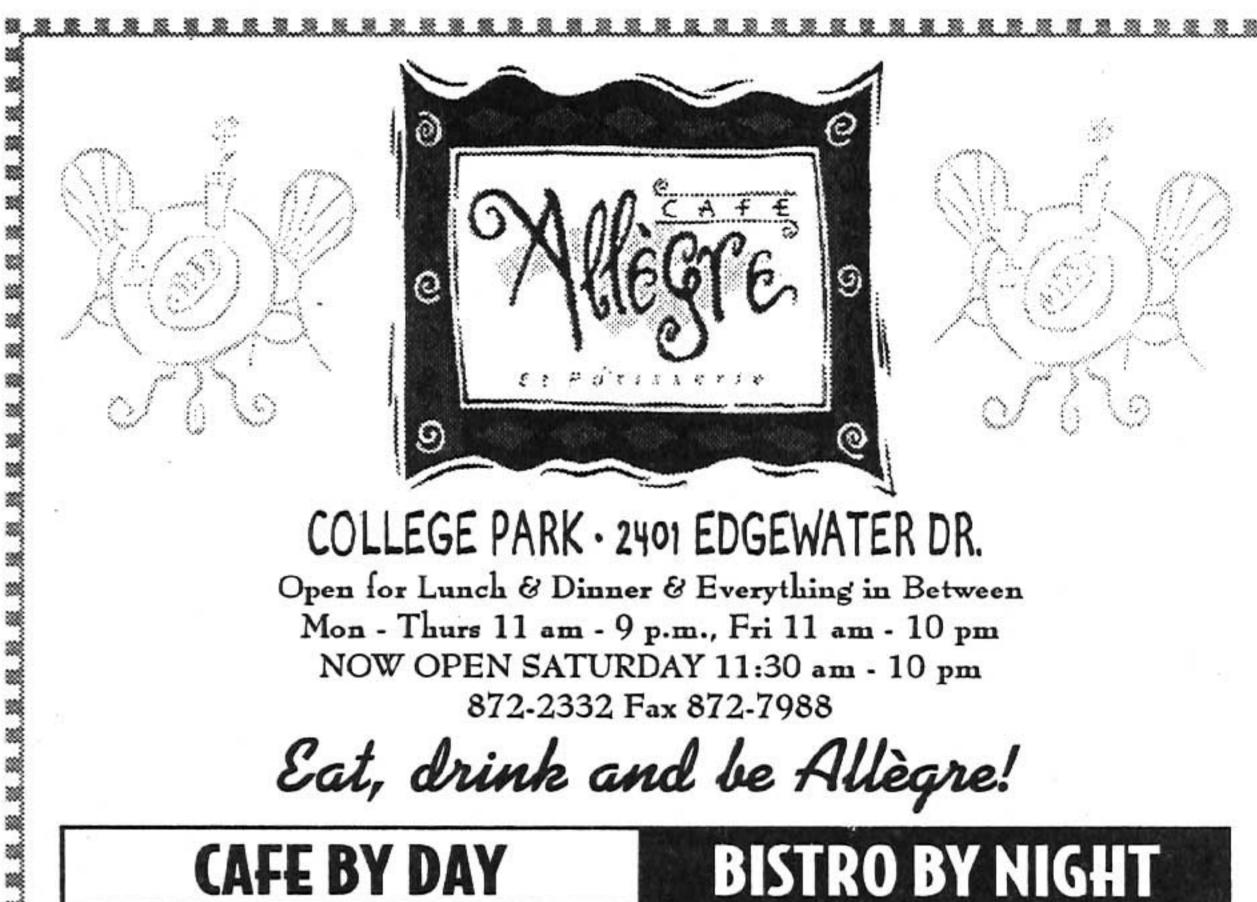
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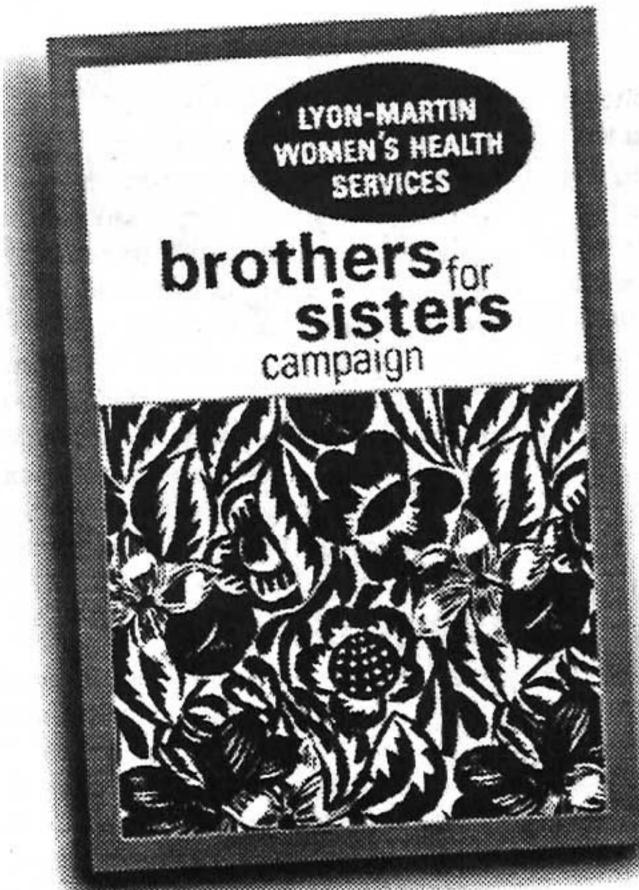
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A brochure from Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services.

As protease inhibitors put a new spin on the AIDS epidemic, one of hope, many AIDS service organizations rush to remind people that the war isn't over yet. Everyone needs to continue supporting HIV/AIDS service organizations and charities, and money is still needed for research, treatment, and prevention efforts. People still need to use condoms, and gay men need to be informed and ask questions.

And gay women?

It often seems that the HIV/AIDS education efforts aimed at lesbians are insignificant. The Gay Men's Health Crisis organization (GMHC), one of the oldest

THEFORGOTTEN CAUSE

Lesbians do get AIDS—so why is no one worried?

LAST YEAR, 1,648 OF THE REPORTED

CASES OF FEMALE HIV INFECTION

WERE LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL.

by KimBoo York

and largest not-for-profit AIDS service organizations in the world; produces a seasonal catalogue of brochures, posters and videos. Of the brochures it offered for free in its Summer 1997 edition, five are

directed to gay men specifically, two are directed to women in general—and only one of those two is targeted to lesbians.

The fact is that lesbians do get AIDS, and that they can get it from each other. While the risk category for lesbians is one of the lowest, it does not change the fact that you may know an HIV+ lesbian.

Last year, 1,648 of the nationally reported cases of female HIV infection were lesbian or bisexual identified (which might only represent 50% the actual number, since of the 85,000 total reports of female HIV infection, half were not asked by their physician or counselor their sexual identity). AIDS is also increasing in female populations four times faster than in men's. In Florida last year, nearly 20% of the 317 new AIDS cases reported (which is not counting HIV infection statistics, only full- blown AIDS cases) were women.

There is a broader concern here too: AIDS service organizations and the medical establishment are simply not used to lesbian clients. One notable exception is Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services

(LMWH) in San Francisco. Named for lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the agency focuses much of its

educational efforts on the lesbian community, and produces several fliers and brochures concerned with lesbian health issues.

But education is only part of the problem. In fact, when it comes to HIV infection, lesbians suffer from a twopronged threat: the belief that lesbians who only have sex with women cannot get HIV,

and the fact that lesbians in general are les likely to seek help from the traditional medical community.

In the first case, there are documented cases of woman-to-woman HIV transmis sion. Not many, but they exist in strong enough numbers to concern the Centers f Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Also, there simply are not many women who have never had sex with a man. As well, the truth is that sex is not the only risk definition; lesbians who use injection drugs, or have received blood or blood products, fall into high-risk categories an can be HIV+.

When it comes to lesbians and the traditional medical community, many lesbians avoid the healthcare field for fear of homophobia, ignorance about gynecological matters, discrimination or intimidation. Many HIV+ lesbians feel ve uncomfortable with doctors who are used dealing with HIV+ men.

While female-to-female transmission i rare in cur community, it would be foolish to ignore it or other risk categories. No ST is pretty, and several are deadly if left untreated. HIV/AIDS is just such an STD Safe sex is for everyone. W

BREAST CANCER

From Page 21

death, but one of possible disfigurement.

Despite advances in treatment and early detection that have made major surgery less of a necessity, the fear of losing a breast has often driven women into depression—a dangerous mental state to fight cancer from. But Meral—who, more than most, placed a great deal of self-identity on her physique overcame that. Even when she was no longer physically able to compete in professional body building, she pursued other challenges such as off-road bicycling. Through biking she met Meral's Ride organizer Gina Garcia, of the adventure tour company Bike Orlando in Maitland.

"I wanted to give something back to my own community here in Orlando. I have known so many women who have had to deal with breast cancer, and I saw such a need out there," said Garcia. "The Ride was already in the planning stages when I met Meral, and listening to her story, I knew she would be a great focus for people—to put a face on the issue."

Garcia, who has worked as tech support for AIDS rides all over the US, decided that the benefit ride format would work best because of her experience with it and

because of her belief that such rides have the potential to raise lots of money. "The cost of putting one of these rides on is huge. But I know for a fact that they have raised millions of dollars for AIDS issues, and I believe we can do the same for breast cancer."

While breast cancer awareness has waxed and waned in mainstream media over the years, a little known and disturbing fact is that statistically, lesbians are at a greater risk of dying from it. While a person's chances of developing cancer depend's on their personal history and not their sexual orientation, the main concern for lesbians and bisexual women is lack of cancer screening and medical treatment. Lesbians may not go for care until problems become advanced or severe for many reasons, especially if experiences with the traditional medical community have been negative in the past. This delay in diagnosis and treatment can lower chances of survival.

While fundraising and awareness-raising efforts such as Meral's Ride are aimed at helping women in general, they deserve the support of the lesbian and gay community, because breast cancer is a disease that strikes at the heart of any woman's community. To get involved, call Garcia at Bike Orlando, (407)629-BIKE. ₩

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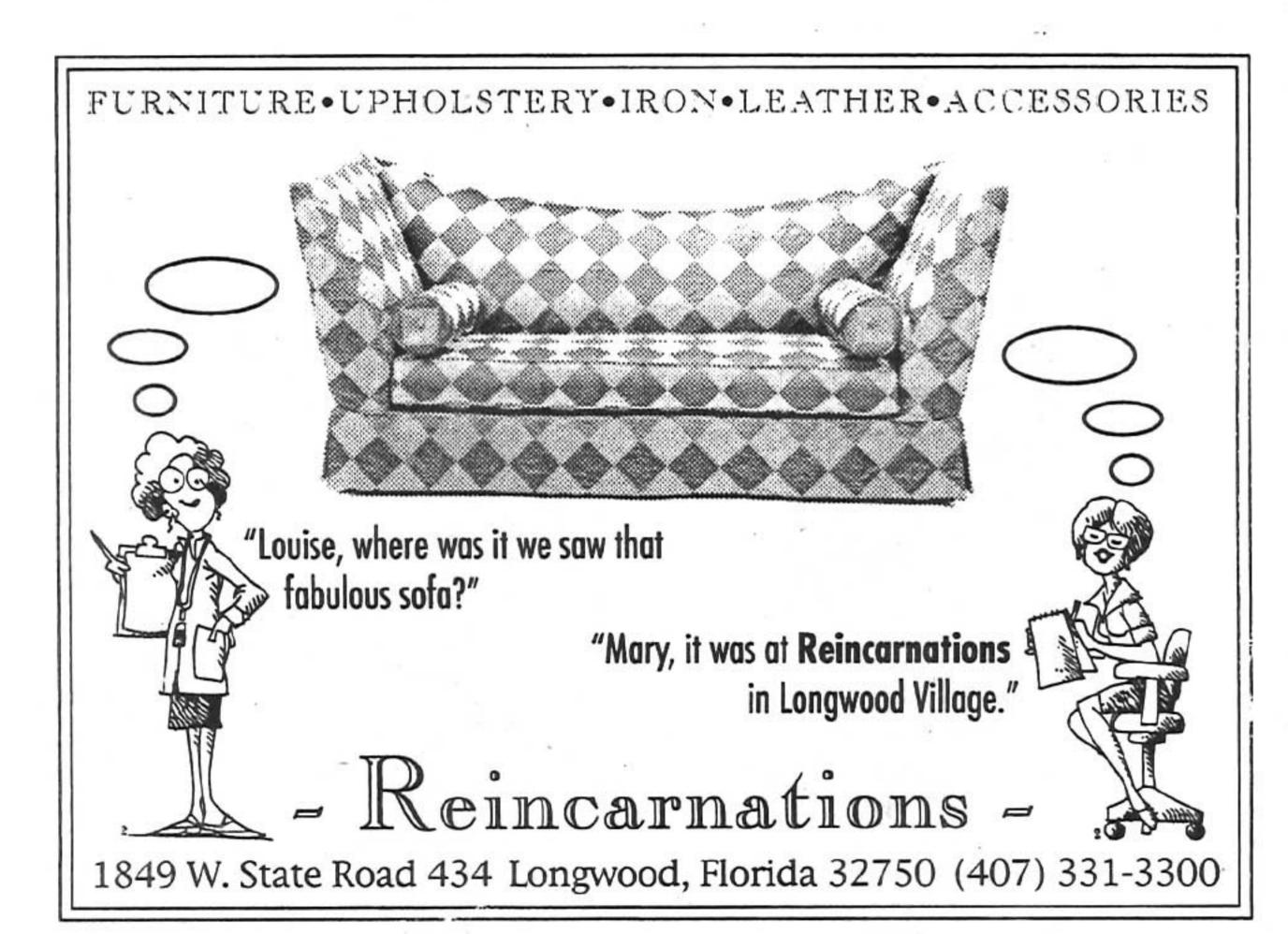
Diane Wilde

The good news this month is that we're all finally going to see the fruits of our labors and reap the rewards of our hard work in both our material and our emotional quest towards a better quality of life. Goal fulfillment will flow easily and effortlessly for those of us who have been paying attention and really working on themselves, and have used the year so far to fine-tune, to reevaluate, and—perhaps the hardest task of all—to "Go with the flow!" If it doesn't flow, then let it go. And, we've got two New Moons this month, the Ist and the 31st, giving us all the opportunity to ask the Universe and the powers

that be for all that we need and want for ourselves. Go ahead get creative—be bold! Go for it!

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Partnerships, teamwork, and cooperative efforts in general are the order of the month. You'll find yourself communicating in a more effective way, leading to mutually satisfying compromises in these areas of your life. You'll also find yourself listening to other's opinions and advice with more respect, and therefore more benefit. Remember, being stubborn and cranky about input never gets you where you want to go.





TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21)

Career and finances are your main concern this month as the planets empower you to really show what you can do! However, there's still a caution here against stressing yourself out, and about allowing others to pull you into their stuff. It's yours you should be working on. It's best if you're open and honest about expressing your need for more independence and freedom to explore all the new possibilities this cycle will bring.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

This month promises to bring a whirlwind of social invitations that will lead to networking opportunities for your business, as well as opportunities to have fun adventures with your friends and even romantic adventures with your loving friends! It's also the time for you to allow the student in you the opportunity to increase your skill levels. It will benefit you on all levels. Don't forget the apple for the teacher!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Attending to family business, and really business in general, will take up much of your time this month. Happily there will be some traveling this month as a result of that, and it promises to be an enjoyable, and profitable, time. As glad as you are to have the opportunities to go, see and do this month, you're still in the mood for some major home improvements, whatever that means to you. This is a great cycle to implement changes that improve your security and your environment at home and at work.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 22)

This month sees you in a more communicative mood, sharing the thoughts and insights of this past introspective cycle. It also finds you in a very feisty mood, so there's a caution here about choosing your words carefully, as there will be many people unhappy with what they hear. Travel for both business and pleasure will soothe and regenerate you. Don't hesitate to go out and play. You know what they say about all work; boring, yes, but more importantly, you never get to recharge those batteries. How productive is that in the long run?

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEPT. 23)

Change is your catch word this month. Especially in your home. You may find yourself setting up a home based business, or if you already have one going, you'll find it going a lot smoother this month. You've been putting a lot of creative and practical thought into making your dreams and plans become reality. Now you're ready to share with those who can enable and ensure success. Whether the changes make you happy or make you sad—or make you mad—remember the only thing in life you can be sure of is change. Smile; things will be fine.

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)

You'll be on the go more than ever, since at long last your rocketship is ready for launch into the wide open space, and everything is possible. It's important for you to continue to socialize and network for more business opportunities, but it's also important that you play your cards a little closer to the vest this month. Don't let your impatient nature push you into making decisions without all the facts; remember to waste not, want not—and, most importantly, to enjoy fully the

incredibly exciting ride.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

You are on the threshold of an amazing break-through within yourself, which will really allow you to implement learnings without all the usual punishments of either yourself (for doing or not doing) or others for whatever. Acknowledging that we are all stumbling along on the path towards being and doing better, and forgiving yourself and others of past mistakes, will free you to get on with the business of enjoying your life. And if you can do this, I promise you will enhance your quality of life enormously, and move happily from the past to the future.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)

You'll be in an unusual (for you) mode this month, one of needing alone time and space to finally put voice to and implement changes in your philosophical thinking, in your career choices, and the how-what-why of your closest personal relationships. Time spent away from the home, either alone or with a trusted confidante, will help you find your center, as well as meditating on the issues. Don't worry, this won't feel as bad as it reads. You'll actually find yourself enjoying the delving and researching, and the gaining of new knowledge. Remember to communicate your news after carefully considering how you will say it. No blurting!

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 20)

You've spent a lot of time and effort assuring that you are well thought of in the business arena—and you are! Because of the high regard others have for you, many more business opportunities will be available to you. And if you have been spending as much time and energy on making sense of how you view your present and your future with regards to what you bring from your past, this month will see you making many insights that will enable you to enjoy more true self-esteem for a job well done. Major break-throughs of all kinds are possible, even probable, this month, especially with the help of a professional.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19)

This month will see closure to many issues that have been holding you back for far too long. Especially in financial matters, you can look forward to finally getting your fair share, and being able to envision a different life for yourself. Don't be afraid to dream the Impossible Dream! Travel and education are also going to figure prominently this month, as well as many opportunities to socialize with new and old friends.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

This month will see you enjoying more, rather than less, in the business arena, and making plans to steadily increase your earnings in very substantial ways. However, it isn't business issues that concern you these days. Your personal relationships, including the one with yourself, and the role they play in your life will come under close examination this month. You would be well advised to share your insights with a trusted counselor before coming to any major decisions or taking any drastic action. Change does not have to be sudden.

So what are you all doing for HALLOW-EEN ??!! Something absolutely fabulous I hope! I know I am!





ARTFUL LIVING

ICE-O-RAN

Do Opposites Attract?

Dear Keith,

I just started seriously dating this guy several weeks ago. I have known him for awhile, through mutual friends, but until now we have not been around each other much.

My problem is that some of the above

mentioned mutual friends think he and I are not a good match. Every time I meet with theses guys, they go on and on about how Troy (not his real name!) and I are not suited for each other—we like different music, I like to go dancing at clubs and he doesn't, his job is not the same

caliber as mine, blah blah blah.

Now all these differences are obvious, and nothing is new to me. But one of the reasons I truly enjoy Troy's company is that he is different from me. But these friends have put the bug in my head that what I might enjoy today might not be a good choice for a LTR. Now I am questioning my judgement. I do like Troy—and despite the superficial differences, I think we share a common value system. Troy doesn't know about any of my doubts, and I don't think these friends of ours are giving him the same speel.

Should I confront Troy with my newfound doubts? Should I tell my friends to shut up? All of a sudden I am confused by this whole thing.....

> Signed, Unsteady

Dear Unsteady,

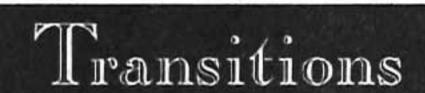
Long term relationships develop because of the commitment individuals make to one another. This commitment includes a dedication to the relationship, and a true desire to develop intimacy and friendship with your partner. Your relationship has a better

chance of lasting if "Troy" and you have similar core values; that is, virtues that embrace honesty, respect, genuine caring for one another and a mutual responsibility towards personal and social development.

The point that you enjoy dancing and he does not is ultimately insignificant. In fact, the differences that you both bring to the coupleship will add a welcome diversity to the relationship. Enjoying different activities will allow you both to appreciate each of your individual, unique qualities. Appreciation of each other's individualities will enhance your coupleship experience.

It is not the responsibility of your friends to select the appropriate partner for you. Thank them for their concerns, but also make it clear that their continued unsolicited feedback is intrusive.

To submit a question to Advice-O-Rama, write to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL, 32853, or e-mail a question to H20MrkNwz@aol.com. Watermark's Advice-O-Rama counselor is Keith Baber, M. Ed. Keith has a degree in Counseling-Psychology, and is in private practice in Altamonte Springs. He can be reached at (407) 834-3279.



CONGRATULATIONS to DAVID STERNBERG, MSW, who has joined the staff at the Lake Mary Counseling Center. To reach him, call (407)330-9040.

CONGRATULATIONS to DR. LAURA RAMPIL, osteopath, who has recently moved to Orlando to open her new office. Welcome and good luck! To reach her, call (407)380-7799.

IN MEMORIAM In memory of community leader JOE CURTIS, one of the founders of the Catholic Gay and Lesbian DAVID STERNBERG, MSW Ministry Task Force, a special open-innvatation memorial mass

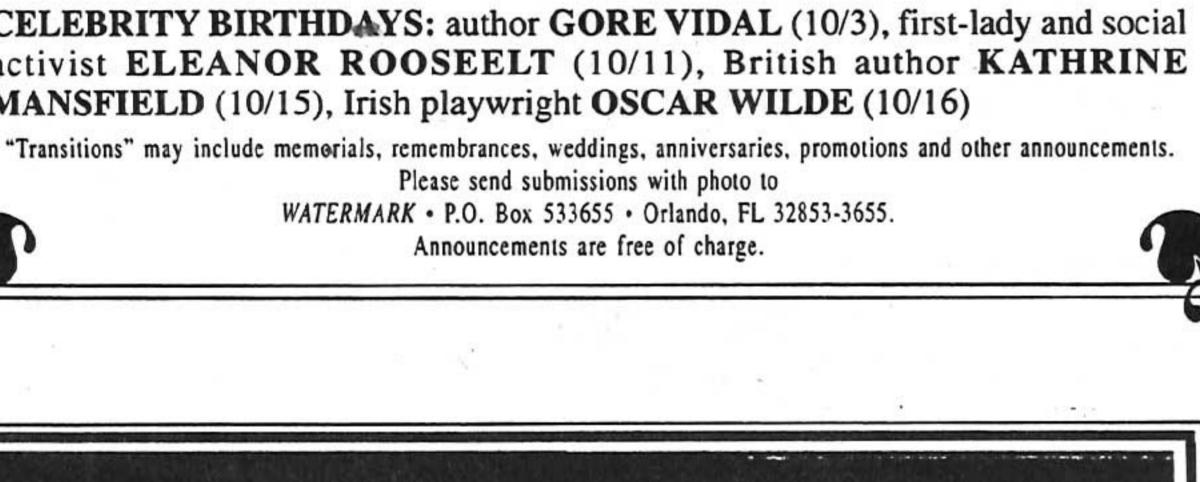


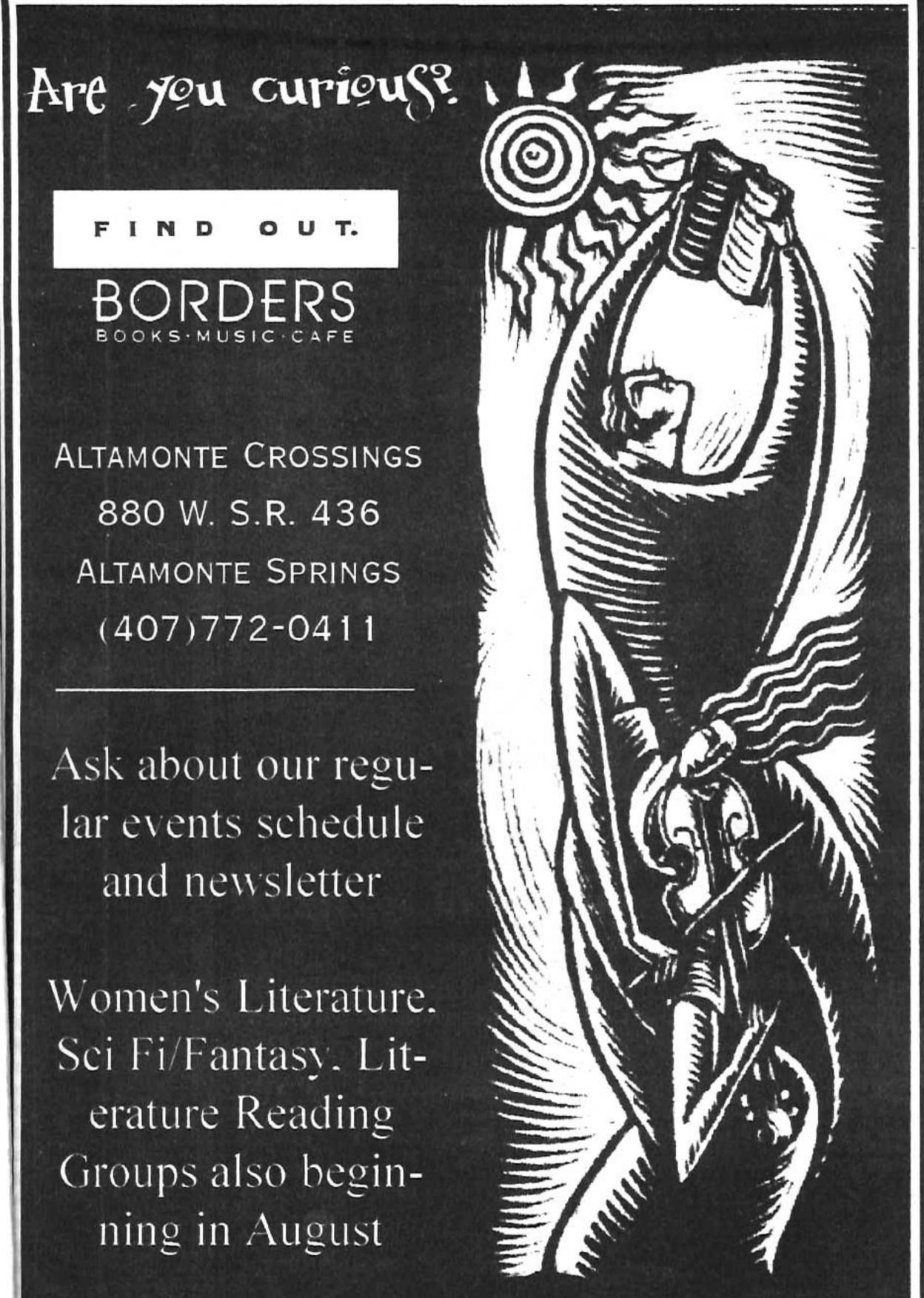
is being held Oct. 14 at 7:30 PM at the Church of Annunciation. For more information, call (407)862-8052.

SIDNEY VINCENT CHASE, age 29, died on Friday, Sept. 12. Sidney was born in Atlanta and moved to Central Florida in 1988. He is survived by his companion, Scott Campbell, of Orlando, and by his mother, a brother, and a sister.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: author GORE VIDAL (10/3), first-lady and social activist ELEANOR ROOSEELT (10/11), British author KATHRINE MANSFIELD (10/15), Irish playwright OSCAR WILDE (10/16)

Please send submissions with photo to





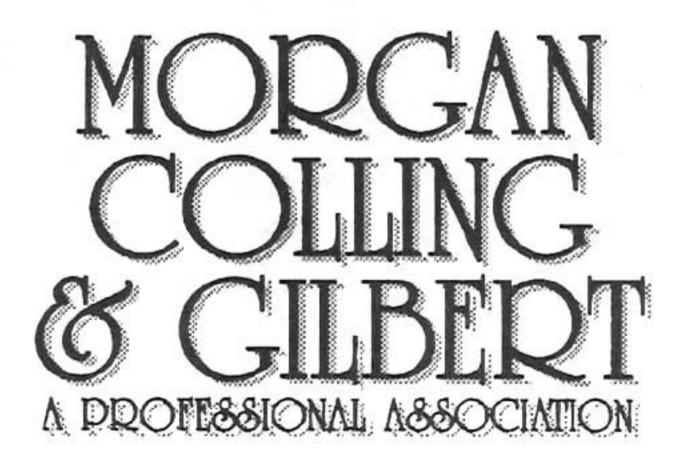
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Did you know that HIV infection and its related complications, including depression, may support an award of social security benefits?

For a free consultation call

1-800-768-5455 ORLANDO 420-1414 TAMPA 223-5505

NO FEE UNLESS BENEFITS AWARDED





DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD From Page 27

an "abomination" and a "militant homosexual propaganda effort." This latest attack from conservatives follows other similar protests from Focus On The Family, the Family Research Council, and the Phyllis Schlafly Report. DEBRA CHASNOFF and HELEN COHEN, the team behind the documentary, are the parents of elementary school children themselves and find the protest against the film disturbing. "We, too, are concerned women," Chasnoff has stated in a written response to the protest. "The feedback we have been getting from

educators and parents across the country is

that, in fact, It's Elementary is a highly

effective resource for helping schools prevent violence, support all families, and affirm all children so that they can thrive academically." Working with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Chasnoff and Cohen are now offering free copies of the documentary on videotape to any public school board member or school district superintendent so they can judge the message of the documentary for themselves.

PORN TO BE WILD

With the hit play Making Porn doing strong business on tour, and the new pornthemed Boogie Nights hitting movie theaters, there is a sudden resurgence of the porn industry in more mainstream entertain-

ment. Hopping onto this latest trend is a new film by gay sci-fi director SAM IRVIN entitled Male Fraud. The film stars former Playgirl centerfold DIRK SHAFER, who last appeared on-screen in his mockumentary Man Of The Year about his experiences as a secretly gay sex object. Male Fraud is the story of a closeted, struggling actor (Shafer) who finally lands a great job on TV, only to be immediately fired when they discover he had done gay porn. Shafer's character then claims that the porn star is actually his evil twin, and married to a straight former porn actress played by JULIE BROWN (Earth Girls Are Easy). The comedy will also star PAUL BARTEL (The War Of The Roses, Scenes From The Class Struggle In Beverly

Hills), ALEXIS ARQUETTE as an artist who creates dildos, and RUPAUL as "Fi Fi LaDouche" a drag queen porn director modeled after (you guessed it) CHI CHI LARUE. Director Irvin is hoping to lure several adult film actors to play themselves in the movie. The film is expected to go into production this fall, with release planned for the fall of 1998. In the meantime, Irvin will be completing a film project for Showtime titled The Orb, about a mysterious alien object that cures terminal illnesses like cancer and AIDS but which the government wants for its own purposes. W

Miss Paige Turner can be reached through this publication or by e-mail at paige@planetout.com

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWSPAPER ROUTE for sale. Great second income for couple. \$20,000 terms can be arranged. Call (407)568-0413.

ABOUT YOUR WILL There is an inexpensive way to avoid costly legal and probate fees! Attorney approved. Only \$5.95, postpaid. Write "Will Kit" P.O.B. 409, Daytona Beach, FL, 32115.

MARK-PIERRE in Lakeland! We met at House of Blues and Bongos last Sunday. Didn't exchange numbers then; hoping you'll call now. (407)345-8508.

Board games in your closet? Donate them to The Rainbow Center at 932 N. Mills Ave. Our members will appreciate using them, and you will be helping your community. Thank you.

Want a child? Well educated, mature, secure, middle aged, single gay male wishes to have a child with lesbian, single or couple. (407)877-9922.

MIDNITE FANTASY Browse, Match and Chat!! 18+ (407)363-9669. Use the free access code: 4092.

DRAG ON ME For TV/TS's and their admirers. Browse, Match and Chat!! 18+ (407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4094.

EMPLOYMENT-OFFERED

ROYAL VOLKSWAGON is seeking outgoing and energetic individual for immediate opening on our sales team. Call Steve Kubalek at (407)644-2222.

LANDSCAPE PROJECT COORDINATOR Experienced estimating, bidding, and managing commercial landscape installaitons. Subcontractors install the job. Very organized/detail person only. Some overnight/air travel. Orlando. (407)896-8388 or fax (407)896-5691.

BOOKKEEPER Full Charge thru financial statements. Job costing, payroll, etc. Computer experience. \$7-8 hour. Part time. Full-time if office assist too. Orlando. (407)896-8388 or fax (407)896-5691.

HANDY PERSON Assist 2 men at home and office. Clean, organize, drive, office duties, etc. Very detailed person. Smoke and drug free. \$6/hr. Orlando. (407)896-8388.

INSTALLER - INTERIOR LANDSCAPES Some overnight and air travel. Install interiorscapes. plants, art work and decor in commercial accounts. General office duties/some lifting. Orlando (407)896-8388 or fax (407)896-5691.

MALE MODELS needed for escort service. (813)303-4391.

GENERAL CONTRACTING small scale residential & commercial renovation firm is growing and needs associates. If you're experienced with sheetrock, carpentry, painting and related fields, call Bill at B.O.A. Construction. (407)895-0491.

WORK FOR THE BEST!. Sales professionals wanted for the Tampa/ St. Petersburg and Sarasota/ Bradenton markets. Seeking motivated, professional, experienced sales people to work full time for the expanding market of Watermark. Fax resume to (407)481-2246.

YOUR OWN SCHEDULE Volusia/ Brevard County P/T sales professional wanted for the growing market of Watermark. Seeking experienced, motivated and professional individual for advertising sales in Brevard County. Terrific opportunity! Fax resume to (407)481-2246.

EMPLOYMENT-SEEKING

BARTENDER will bartend for private parties. Pager (407)570-7441.

Seeking legitimate daytime, part-time job (20-30 hrs.). Prefer working for a small business. Have sales background. Can work some weekends. No telemarketing or landscaping, please. Call George, (407)275-1933, leave msg.

FRIEND/ RELATIONSHIP

MINNESOTA MEN St. Paul native, middle-aged, wishes to meet other Minnesota men in Orlando for friendship. May organize a social group. (407)898-0510.

46 y.o. male looking for hot younger guys who want a lasting relationship and who want to be pampered. Call me at (407)282-7417.

Shoe shine?GWM looking for str/gay/ bi men who want their feet and

SUBSCRIBE

footgear serviced. Let me worship yours! (813)831-3897.

I am soft, yet hard. I am yin, yet yang. I am firm, yet flexible. I am wild, I am wonderful, and I am wise. Who am I? Perhaps your next loving friend. Mail responses to "Loving Friend" at P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL, 32853.

MERCHANDISE

Moving! Must Sell! Sofa, loveseat, and matching chair, w/3 light almond wood tables. 1 year old. Paid over \$4,000, will sacrifice at \$1,650. Must see to appreciate. Colors are sage, beighe, and tan. Also have 4 solid wood cherry tables - 2 end, coffee, and sofa tables. Call (407)656-5182 to see.

Gay and lesbian books wanted. We'll pay you 20% of the cover price for your gently worn books of "family" interest. Bring one book or a truckload! Rainbow City, 934 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. Call Lori or Peter at (407)898-6096.

REAL ESTATE -FOR RENT

STUDIO GUEST HOUSE Seeking PF to rent. Lakefront, 1 acre, quiet and very nice . \$450/mo incl. util and lawn care. Conveniently located in Casselberry. (407)696-2076.

REAL ESTATE -**FOR SALE**

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO Lake Como area: 2BR/1BA (oversized), hardwood floors. Fireplace, pool. Privacy fence, many new features. \$134,5000. Call (407)893-6261.

COLLEGE PARK "Olde World Charm." 3BR/2 1/2 BA, wood floors, fireplace, totally renovated. Over 2,000 sq. ft. Fabulous kitchen with french doors. Huge front porch. Wonderful house for entertaining. \$199,000. Janice Smith, Prudential Florida Realty, (407)897-1419 or (407)426-4813 (pg).

COLLEGE PARK 2BR/1 1/2 BA, beautiful townhouse. Totally renovated, wood floors. Light and bright. Orlando Country Club area. \$109,9000. Janice Smith, Prudential Florida Realty, (407)897-1419 or (407)426-4813 (pg).

LANCASTER PARK Charm! Charm! Charm! 3BR/1BA, wood floors, fireplace. Large arched window in LR. Garage and carport, brick street, towering oak trees. \$179,000. Janice Smith, Prudential Florida Realty, (407)897-1419 or (407)426-4813 (pg)

ROOMMATES

GMC will share pool home. Privacy fence/spa/screen house. All amenities. Limited smoking. \$275 share util. (407)296-9937.

EAST ORLANDO off University Blvd. Gay male to share large 4BR/3 1/2 BA home with same or couple. Furnished or unfurnished with private bath. Call (407)678-0171.

2 furnished rooms for rent in New Lakeside home across from Ocoee Mall. \$345/mo (\$200 sec.) includes cable, lawn, pest, water, pool, jacuzzi and parking. Please call Mic at (407)354-5440. 2 tenants (couple preferred) to share entire lightly furnished home.

ROOMMATE WANTED Delany Park area, 2BR/1BA, A/C, hardwood floors, \$375/mo incl. utilities. Call Shawn at (407)381-4575.

COLLEGE PARK professional GM and GF need roommate to share 3BR/2BA pool home. Must be responsible, mature, and employed. No drugs! References required. \$400/ mo + 1/3 util. (407)899-0197.

2BA home with enclosed pool/pool house with hot tub in College Park. \$380/mo + 1/2 util. Deposit + ref. After 6 PM: (407)839-5872.

Roommate wanted to share 3BR/

Near downtown 3BR/2BA condo to share. W/D, pool, tennis. No smoking/ drugs/drunks. \$350/mo + 1/2 util. Please call Michael. (407)843-6266.

Sanford Area - furnished room, full house privileges. \$250/mo + share util. Lv. msg. for Bill. (407)324-9593.

SOUTH TAMPA GWM seeks responsible housemate to share lovely 2BR/1BA home. W/D, storage, lanai with spa, deck. \$325/mo + utilities, deposit. No drugs, pets. (407)837-4241.

GWPM to share 3BR/2BA spa home with WPF. Howell Br.-436. Ref/ background. check. No pets, drugs, smoking, children. \$425/mo + 1/2 util. (407)679-0258, lv. msg.

Roommate wanted to share 2BR/ 2BA apartment. Master BR, private bath and walk-in closet. 20 min from all 3 major theme parks. \$320/mo + 1/2 util. (407)352-3436.

Metro-West - GWM wanted as roommate. Professional with college education, bodybuilder preferred, under 45. 3BR/2BA privacy fence, garage. \$500/mo. (407)291-6932.

EAST ORLANDO GWM seeks other GWM/GHM to share 4BR/2BA house. Must be responsible, clean, and have references. \$385/mo + part util., W/D, + more. Call for details. (407)366-7490.

SE ORLANDO (Curry Ford/ Goldenrod Rd.) GM seeks dame for 3BR/2BA pool home with fenced yard. Roommate BR is 12x20 with double closet space. Features incl. private bathroom, W/D, garage, cable. Must have car, be employed. Avail immediately. \$350 inclusive + \$200 dep. Call George. (407)275-1933. Lv. msg.

NEED A ROOMIE? Find him on the Confidential Connection. 18+ (407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4710.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Gary Waters L.M.T. Professional Swedish massage, \$35 for one hour. Outcalls Only. MA0024290. (407)807-0092.

Massage by pro male therapist. Home, hotel. Serving the Orlando area. \$50 per our. Call for appt. MA20037. (407)578-0767.

PROFESSIONAL AFFORDABLE therapuetic massage. Relaxation, Injury Recovery, 1994 Sports Massage "Therapist of the Year." Neuromuscular, Deep tissue, Myofascial, Swedish, Polarity, Reiki. INSURANCE ACCEPTED. Ryan White HIV + provider. Dan Towey. MA0014193. (407)763-2768.

BAIL BONDS Is your hunk in jail? You want him out, but you're afraid others won't understand your lifestyle? Call Doug, coast to coast, at (813)531-6111.

SCHOLARSHIPS gay owned and operated scholarship finders service. Guaranteed to receive at least 7 matches for scholarships. Call Smith & Crawford Enterprises at (407)208-9982.

week's issue.

NASTY WINDOWS? When you need your windows and screens cleaned or replaced, call me! Extra friendly service with a personal touch. Chris at Windows Shine, serving Daytona and Orlando area. (407)741-7100.

OTHER SERVICES

Shoe shine? GWM looking for str/ gay/bi men who want their feet and footgear serviced. Let me worship yours! (813)831-3897.

RELAXATION PLUS! 1 - 1 1/4 hour full body workout (also body shaving). In calls by appt. Student rates. "Everyone needs to be touched." Call Jim (813)867-9228.

HORSE BOARDING 45 minutes from Downtown Orlando (West), 90 minutes from Tampa (NE). All gay 40 acre ranch, lakefront, lots of shade. Full board or pasture, barbed wire, trailer storage. (407)263-5423.

MEN BONANZA Browse, Match and Chat. 18+ (407)363-9669. Use the free access code: 4096.

STEAMY ROMANCE Record. Listen, Respond to ads FREE!! 18+(407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4714.

LAS VEGAS Nov. 26 - Dec 1. 1997. D/B/F needs travel companion to share double room. \$400 includes round-trip air fare and stay at Bally's for 4 nights/5 days. S/b N/S, preferrably mature out-going female. Will consider male roommate if trustworthy. If interested call (407)672-6926, lv. msg.

DAYTONA BEACH! The Coquina Inn is an upscale, sophisticated Bed and Breakfast in Daytona' historic district. Walk or bike to beach, dining, shopping and antique district. Take your senses on holiday and relax in our secluded garden spa. \$80 - \$110 includes full gourmet breakfast. Color brochure. (800)805-7533.

MISC

Seeking one or two GM to join us to establish monastery; additional people later. Also, distant study leading to priesthood available. ICA, PO Box 447, Old Town, FL, 32680.

TO PLACE AN AD:

In Person: Bring completed order form with payment to Watermark offices (M-F, 9-5pm) 707 E. Washington St., Orlando (407) 481-2243. By Mail: Mail completed order form with payment to: Watermark Classifieds

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Phone

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Please enter my one-year (26 issues) subscription. Enclosed is my check for \$45 (1st class) or \$35 (3rd class), payable to: WATERMARK □ AMEX □ MC □ VISA Card# _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature ____



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APRIL 26, 1998

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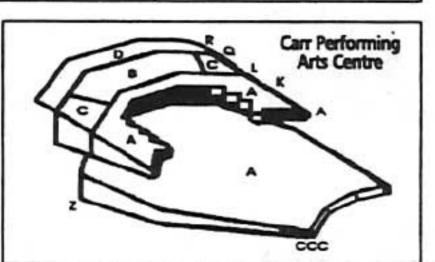
SECTION	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Evenings; Thursday Matinee	Friday and Saturday Evenings; Saturday and Sunday Matinees
A	\$61.00	\$66.00
В	\$46.00	\$51.00
c	\$36.00	\$41.00
D	\$16.00	\$26.00

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

APRIL 1-5: 8pm Wednesday thru Saturday; 2pm Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; and 7:30 pm Sunday. APRIL 7-12: 8pm Tuesday thru Saturday; and 2pm Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. APRIL 14-19/APRIL 21-26: 8pm Tuesday thru Saturday; 2pm Saturday and Sunday, and 7:30 pm Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE: Prices above include a \$1.00 restoration fee. Please keep tickets in a safe place. Lost or stolen tickets will

ALL SALES FINAL, NO REPUNDS OR EXCHANGES.



IMPORTANT! Please list three choices (please print clearly).

(charge orders only) O Next lower price O Any price GRAND TOTAL		DAY / DATE	TIME	# TICKETS	SECTION	PRICE / SEAT	TOTAL AMNT
3rd Choice ☐ If you cannot fill my order as requested, please send best available seats at: ☐ (charge orders only) ☐ Next lower price ☐ Any price ☐ GRAND TOTAL	1st Choice						
If you cannot fill my order as requested, please send best available seats at: (charge orders only) O Next lower price O Any price GRAND TOTAL	2nd Choice						
(charge orders only) O Next lower price O Any price GRAND TOTAL	3rd Choice						
I If you cannot fill my order as requested please cancel my order. Wheelshair location requested						***	
a if you cannot in my order as requested, please cancer my order. • Wheelchail location requested.	If you cannot	fill my order as reques	sted, please	cancel my or	der. 🗖 V	Vheelchair location requested.	

NAME **ADDRESS** CITY PHONE / EVENING PHONE / DAY (Check or Money Order enclosed payable to: BROADWAY SERIES. ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express Signature Exp. Date

Mail with self-addressed, stamped envelope to: ORLANDO PHANTOM TICKETS • 201 S. Orange Ave., Suite 101 • Orlando, FL 32801 Please allow 6-12 weeks for delivery. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA is a special presentation of the MasterCard Broadway Series presented by Florida Theatrical Association

CARR PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, Orlando

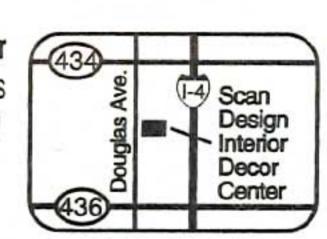
Furniture as an art form.

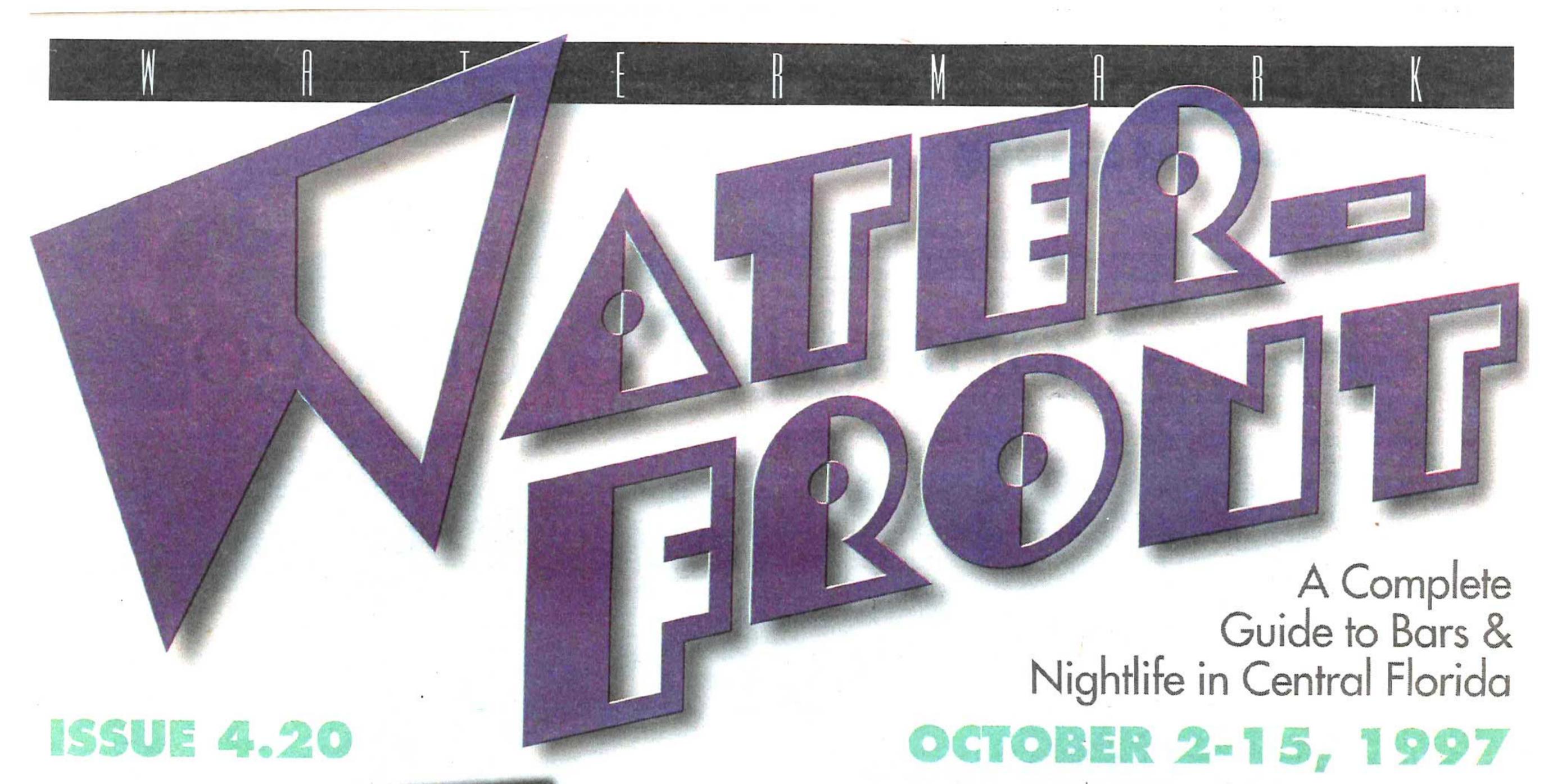


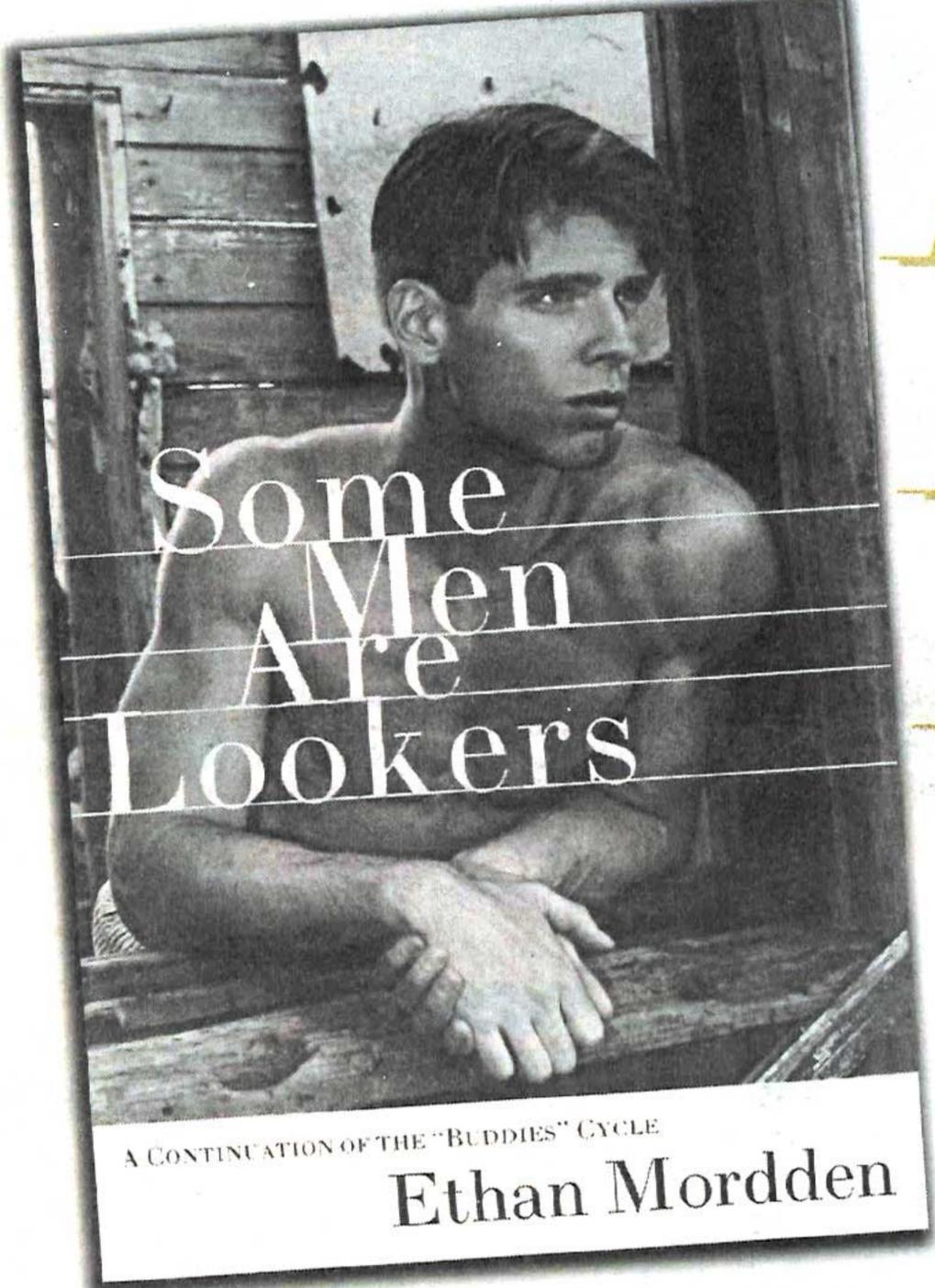
You'll find inspiration at every turn in our collection of some of the worlds most famous contemporary designers. It's furniture as an art form.



At the Interior Decor Center 999 Douglas Avenue in Altamonte Springs (407) 786-5771







Ethan Mordden is the acclaimed author of over 25 books, many on opera, film and musical theatre including the newly released Make Believe about the musicals of the 1920s. Mr. Mordden is also well known for his gay fiction, such as the popular novels One Last Waltz and How Long Has This Been Going On? Despite this impressive resume, his crowning achievement may very well be the "Buddies"

books (I've a Feeling We're Not In Kansas Anymore. Buddies, and Everybody Loves You) about a fun, feisty and wonderfully charismatic group of gay friends in New York City. Recently, St. Martin's Press released Some Men Are Lookers, the highly anticipated fourth installment of the series.

Some Men Are Lookers is an engrossing collection of eleven interconnected stories surrounding two generations of gay friends. It's witty, poiand more. Watermark: Some Men Are Lookers is the fourth book in you "Buddies" series. The characters, interactions and events in

ters, his writing tricks,

intriguing upcoming projects

these books are so real that I'm curious how closely Bed and his cronies resemble yourself and your pals.

Ethan Mordden: I didn't change myself at all; same address, same line of work and so on. Cosgrove is completely invented, and everyone else is between those two points. Carlo is exact, the only thing I changed was that he did die. I kept him alive because I couldn't go on with the series without him. Dennis Savage in reality was Bob Trent, who was my best friend all my life and who unfortunately killed himself two years ago. I did change him a

little bit. We used to have the greatest conversations.

I think dialogue is your strongest point as a writer.

To have a successful gay life there are a number of things you need: great looks, a giant dick and no day job. Then you can spend your afternoons going to movies and then talking about them, and out of those conversations comes your knowledge of the world. That's where Bob and I got our knowledge. We used to spend Fridays having lunch, going to a movie and then talking. It was those conversations that started the whole series.

Is characterization, plot, theme or language the primary thing for you?

Character! Everything is character. Except for Cosgrove, who didn't come in until the third volume. everyone was either based on someone or literally was someone. The characters came already made, and I knew them well. If you give me certain situations I know what those people will do in it.

What's your secret to conveying richness of character?

It's just knowing them that well even when they're invented. There's a lot of imagination and a lot of observation; it's noticing things. You need to be interested in looking around you and

> Continued Page 13

books-Some Men Are Lookers. BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Author Ethan

Mordden

talks about

the latest of

his "Buddies"

gnant and ultimately rewarding with themes of deep resonance in the gay community (acceptance, surrogate families, role playing), though the book's bedrock are the supremely developed characters.

Recently I had the chance to talk with Mordden about the new book, those wonderful charac-

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST TIME?

Entering a Gay Bar for the first time is an experience people never forget... or do they? by Jack the Lad

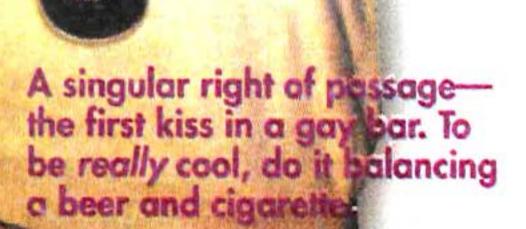
You may not have the luxury of a gay friend to help you cross the threshold of your first gay bar. Instead, you pace back and forth outside feeling utterly ridiculous or drive around the block for what seems to be an eternity. Finally, you reluctantly venture in alone.

Upon opening the door, your worst fears are confirmed

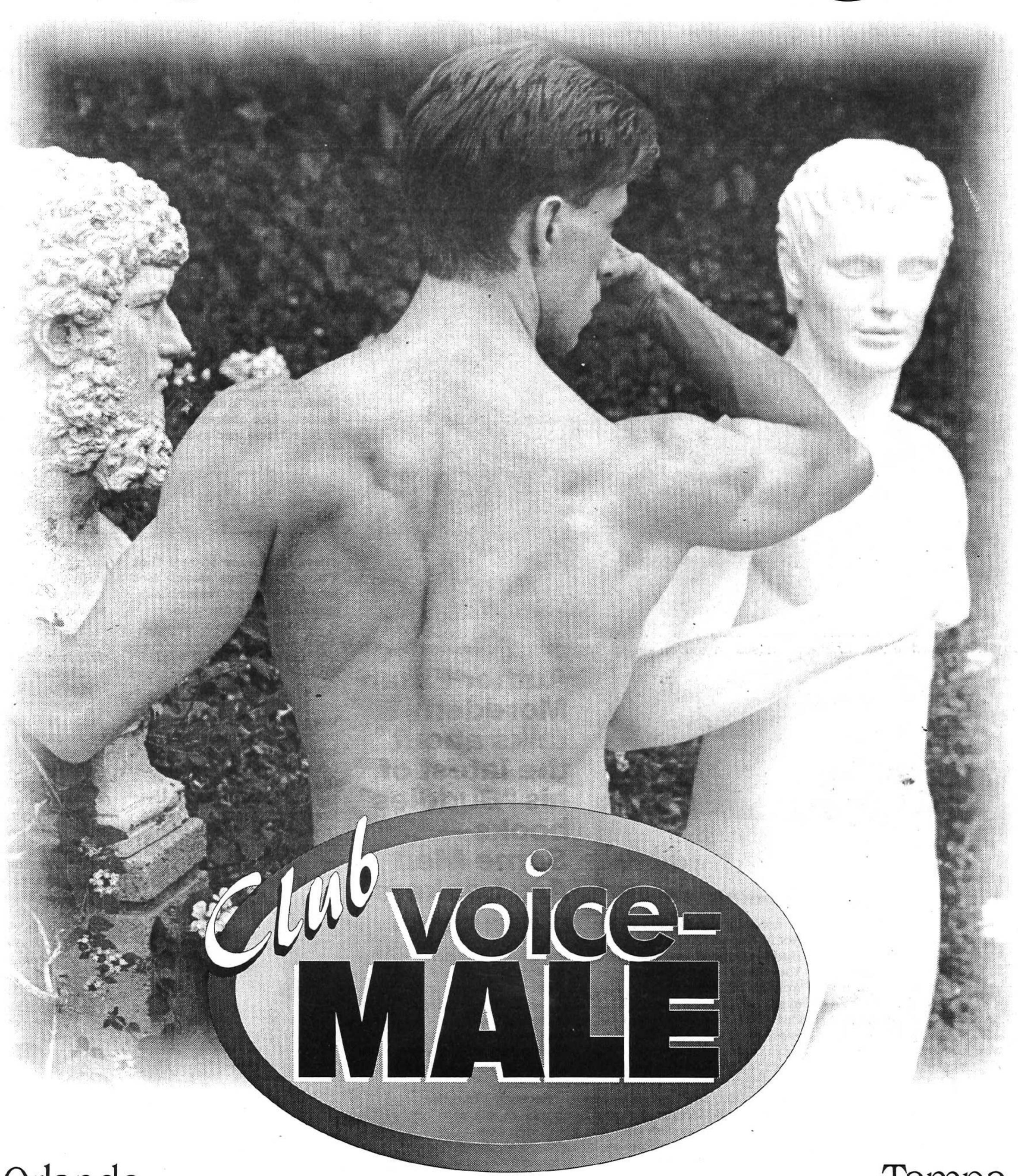
immediately: All eyes are on you (or so you think). Worst of all, everyone there knows you're gay (it doesn't matter that they are, too). Cowering safely in a dark corner, you catch your breath. What do you see? You've probably never studied the tops of your sneakers so intently. Eventually, overcome by a blend of

curiosity and adrenalinedriven excitement, you check out the place. For some, it's a fantasy come true; for others (and

Continued Page 12



Hang out with Greek gods



Orlando

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A TERRER

October 2-15, 1997



HECK, I DIDN'T EVEN REPORT THAT

WHEN BETTY WHITE ATTENDED

THE L.A. PERFORMANCE OF

PROMISES PROMISES, SHE SAT

ALONE DURING INTERMISSION

IN THE COURTYARD DRINKING A

7-UP OUT OF A CAN!

To be repeated indiscriminately

Here it is—the moment of truth.
What will Billy say about **Princess Diana?** Now, I am not so egotistical to think that **Queen Elizabeth** is waiting to read what I think, but I know fans of this column are waiting for my own

unique take on
the situation.
How do I handle
it? If I say something in my
typical form, I can
be called overly
caustic. If I am
too reverent,
people will ask
"This is Gotcha?"

So, here goes—
it is a tragedy for her sons, her family, and her loved ones. I'll even go out on a

limb and say that it's a tragedy for the causes she supported (to say nothing of dress designers around the world). But, let's look beyond the present and see this in the scope of history. Diana will never grow old, she will never do anything too stupid like, say, commercials for Weight Watchers, she'll never recover from Royal expulsion by marrying (and, ultimately divorcing) a two-bit **Omar Shariff** wanna-be. She will forever be the beautiful princess whose fairy-tale turned to tragedy. When you think about it, what other ending would have made sense? Did rou want to see Diana at 200 years old with blue eye shadow dispensing romantic counsel like step-great aunt Barbara Cartland? The whole story is almost operatic in scale, which is inevitably what will happen (God bless Andrew Lloyd Weber!). Like Evita

before her (who makes Diana look like a saint!), you have to acknowledge the timing.

To address one more point, fans have asked me, as a gossip columnist, about the responsibility of the media. I believe that public people (be they politicians, actors, fundraisers,

Oprah Winfrey: Her latest talk show rival is, of all people,

whatever) do inevitably give up some of their privacy. However, that "should" be limited to when they are out in public. Once the press interferes in the private lives of celebrities, that is another story. I do not condone stalking, photographing people in their private homes, entrapment, or any number of other things. While even Billy is not without blemish (because I do report a few private stories here), I must admit that never once have I chased anyone on a motorcycle! Heck,

White attended the LA performance of Promises Promises, she sat alone during intermission in the courtyard drinking a 7-Up out of a can! Not only didn't I take a picture, I didn't go up to her. She was enjoying a night out at the theatre and I was glad to see her from where I was sitting—period. Each professional must draw the line based on their own moral code. And, that's my line (and, for the record, I went through two years of columns and I have never once even mentioned Princess Diana. So there!).

Speaking of a former Golden Girl, if you wanna see Rue McClanahan up close and in person, rush to Charlotte, North Carolina where Rue will star in a revival of Oklahoma! starting October 24th. Ah, Charlotte—the Broadway of the South.

After Oklahoma they do
Best Little Whorehouse in
Texas starring Marla
Maples. Enough said.
Oh, back to England
briefly. Prepare yourself
for Happy Days—The

Musical. Yes, Henry Winkler has been writing a musical based on the popular sitcom which will recycle hits from the era. But, fear not. Hank ain't gonna play The Fonz this time around. He thinks he's too old, at 51, to play a teenager (are you listening, Diana

Ross?).

Get your
satelitte dishes
ready, or make
friends with
someone in Den-

Brigitte Nielsen!

Gitte has decided to make talk show history and interview herself (so much for "& Friends"!). Evidently, she was successful enough to bag such big name future guests as Joan Collins, if Luciano Pavarotti, and Mia Farrow.

Now, there's an eclectic group. If nothing else, this show might help Gitte make some new friends!

Elsewhere in Denmark,

Michael Jackson celebrated his 39th birthday with a special televised concert in

Copenhagen. At Michael's request, the world famou Tivoli Guards performed. In case you didn't know, this is a marching band made up exclusively of

mark with a VCR, because a new pretender to the throne of Oprah debuts this week. Gitte & Friends is a new talk show starring (and I am quoting from the press release) "Scandinavian actress, Brigitte Nielsen." Well, why not? The only problem is that Gitte was having trouble finding even one single guest for her first show. But, our resourceful Gitte has decided to make talk show history and interview herself (so much for "& Friends"!). Evidently, she was successful enough to bag such big name future guests as Joan Collins, Luciano Pavarotti, and Mia Farrow. Now, there's an eclectic group. If nothing else, this show might help Gitte make some new friends!

> special televised Copenhagen. At Michael's request, the world famous Tivoli Guards performed. In case you didn't know, this is a marching band made up exclusively of prepubescent boys. Now you know what to get the (alleged) pedophile who has everything! Could it be that my favorite closeted VJ is in love? While modesty (and a lawsuit) prevent me from stating Cont. Page 13

Visualize, conceptualize, realize... All of your expectations under one roof HAPPY HOUR Tues. Thru Sat 1-8pm 2-4-1 Wells & \$1 Drafts Gourmet Buffets Fri & Sun 6-8pm 2-4-1 Wells, Calls & Premiums All Day, All Night N THE ELL MONDAYS 2-4-1 Wells, Calls & Premiums All Day, All Night TARZAN 62 TUESDAYS Wells, Calls & Premiums til Close WEDNESDAYS, 9 til Close Stickman Live



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Stupid Things, Amazing Things, and Things That are Completely My Fault.

by Jack the Lad

I have been so astounded lately. Some things seem utterly unfathomable to me, like: How did Jeanne Garofollo end up in a movie with Dennis Leary? How did L.A. Confidential make significantly less money than crap-fest The Game? And who on Earth is gullible enough to believe that "Richard" from Caroline in the City could possibly be straight? Thank the gods that the Fox Network was savvy enough to pit the endearing Ally McBeal opposite Caroline. Some things are just too far fetched to swallow.

unbelievable to comprehend; how about Orlando's "Rave What a ridiculous thing. I don't know about you, but I have the ability to recognize a mountain from a mole hill; obviously something that some of our elected officials have trouble distinguishing.

Are you aware of what landmark establishment is exempt from the "Rave Bill" ruling?

The Oasis in Tampa: Are womyn's bars always this happy... or are they hiding something?

Why, it's Orlando's very own Parliament House. Stay with me here because it does make sense. The Parliament House is classified as a less than 50% of their overall revenue from liquor sales. I think parents all over Central Florida can now heave a sigh of relief knowing that their impressionable, curious 18 year olds will no longer have to be within the confines of a Downtown, security with the knowledge that

will be steered clear from alcohol and drugs and onto the infamous balconies at 5 o'clock in the morning. Whew! It really doesn't get any more wholesome and danger-free than that.

There is a funny little tidbit on the mountain vs. mole hill quality of the enacted "Rave Bill." Apparently, there is a strip mall in Longwood that houses a juice and soda bar. Police, in their never ending quest to spoil any fun that an 18-25 year old might encounter, practically raided the place. Squad cars and cops were everywhere: They were at the doors, they lurked around inside, they sat in their cars in the parking lot, and they even went as far as to patrol neighboring lots in a sneaky hiding-in-the-

> shadows kind of way. What did all of this get them? Nothing. Little more than 100 kids even bothered to show up. Most were seen toting bottles of purified water. The major excitement of the evening came when a disgruntled 17 year old whined, "They let me in last week!" The youth of America. Someone, quick, pass another ordinance to keep these kids from killing themselves!

Am I sounding particularly cynical? Well, I have good reason to be. One reason I'm a bit jaded is because I am suffering from Julian Bain/Ms.

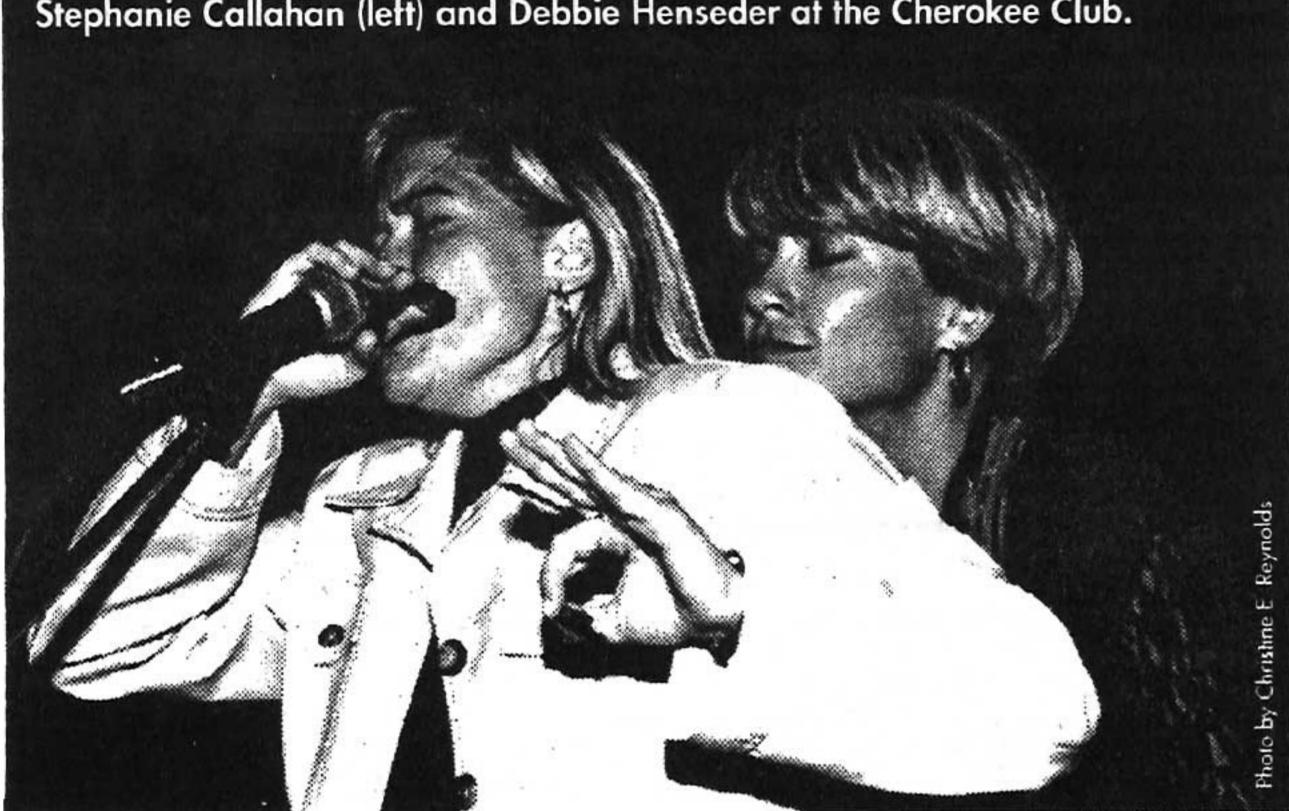




AN END TO HALCYON HIATUS?

TAMPA - An impromptu duet by Halcyon founders Stephanie Callahan and Debbie Henseder at Ybor City's Cherokee Club on Friday, Sept. 12 raised hope among fans of a reunion. But both were there with new bands: Callhan's is "The Beasleys's;" Henseder's is "Fourth of July." Also performing that night was Chris Derado with "A Girl Named Noah."

Stephanie Callahan (left) and Debbie Henseder at the Cherokee Club.



Sammy withdrawal. First, "The Drag Races" at The Club at Firestone were put on indefinite hiatus, then this "Rave Bill" thing took away their monthly all-night theme parties. Julian co-hosted both events. Next. Julian and Sammy were temporarily cancelled rom doing their fabulous "Game Shows" at The Factory in Tampa.

Devastation really kicked in, hough, when my home away from nome, Union City Diner, was sold. I elt like Scarlett losing Tara. Where ras I going to go for my "Drag Diner" x? What was I going to do on Sunday fternoon? Where could I go where veryone knew my name? Most of my rational fears have been put to rest. ong story short: Opening Union was n expensive venture. Bills were piling up with astronomical interest rates. One feasible option was to sell. Some people from Full Moon Saloon were interested, but the deal didn't go through. A straight couple from Miami ended up buying it. Changes and renovations were made, and "Drag Diner" once again comes your way every Monday night with all the same talent intact, including Freida Lay and Ms. Sammy. Will the restaurant still be geared to a gay and lesbian clientele? I firmly believe that it is up to us to decide.

Thank Heavens Julian and Sammy's Game Shows are a certified staple at Southern Nights every Thursday...

One other reason I'm feeling a bit cranky (aside from the absence of a

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California Pizza Kitchen in Central Florida) is because I totally missed Leather Fest XXIII at the Full Moon Saloon. How did that happen? I promised myself I would be a regular attendee at this annual event, but it came and went before I knew it. Completely my own fault. My memory just isn't what it used to be. I think I need to make a much needed trek over to the 2606 or The Eagle in Tampa. It's no wonder leather and tattoos often go together; once you have them on your body, you just keep wanting more.

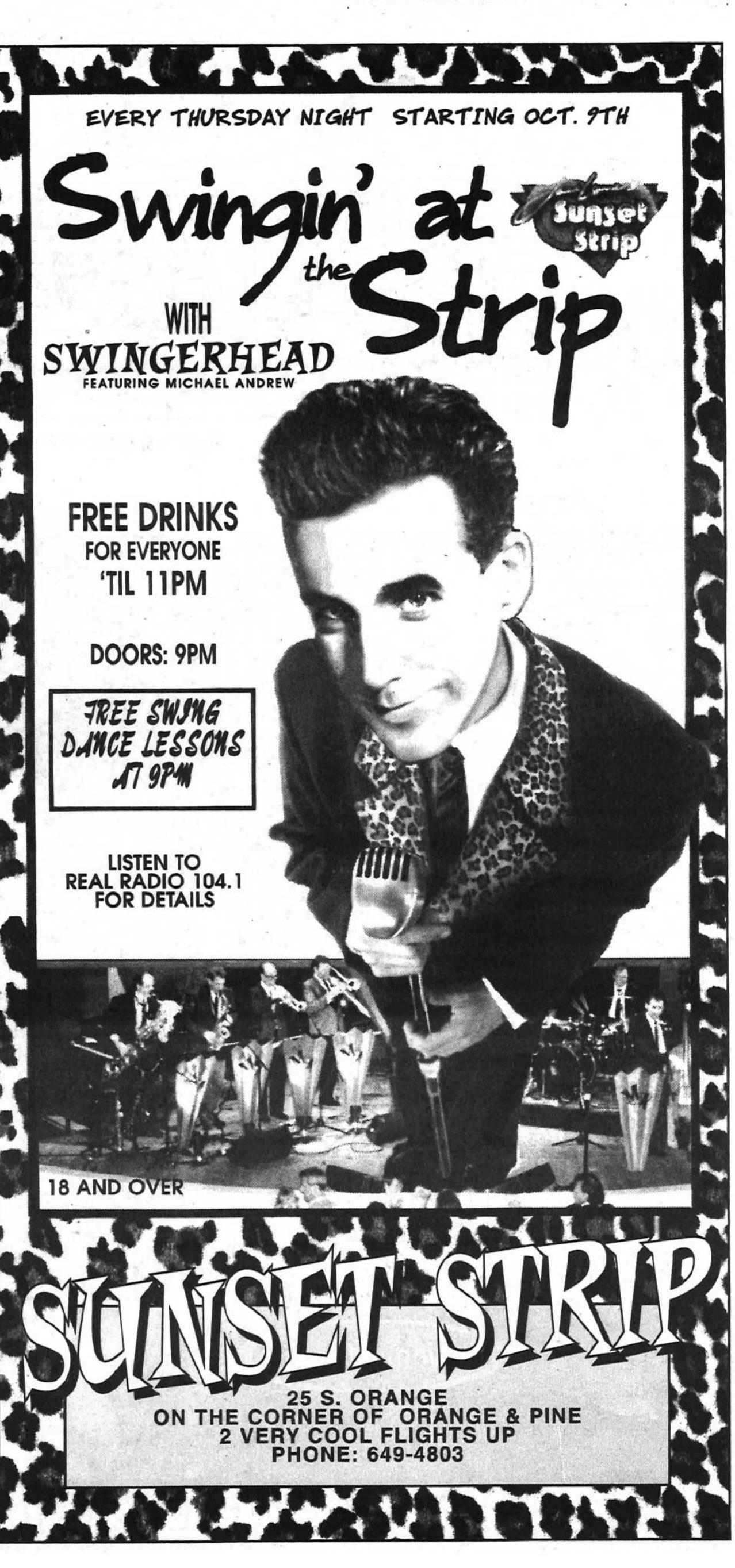
I have a question for everyone: When bars advertise "Towel Night" or "Jockstrap Night," are there really people participating, or are there just a lot of people drawn in on the hope that there are really people participating? I think I'm going to have to check this out...

I hope you all caught Comedy Central's new animated series South Park that featured Stan's "gayhomosexual" dog who found refuge from a cruel world at "Big Gay Al's Big Gay Animal Sanctuary." South Park is definitely the best reason to stay home on Wednesday night. You won't believe what they get away with.

I need more news. Ladies, what's going on with your bars? Everything always seems to be status quo, but is it really? What are you hiding?

I'm off to **Key West** to check out their nightlife. During the daytime, though, I can tell you that there will be no nude sunbathing. If I've said it once, I've said in 1,000 times: "There's nothing uglier than a tanned dick." It's all so unbelievable. W



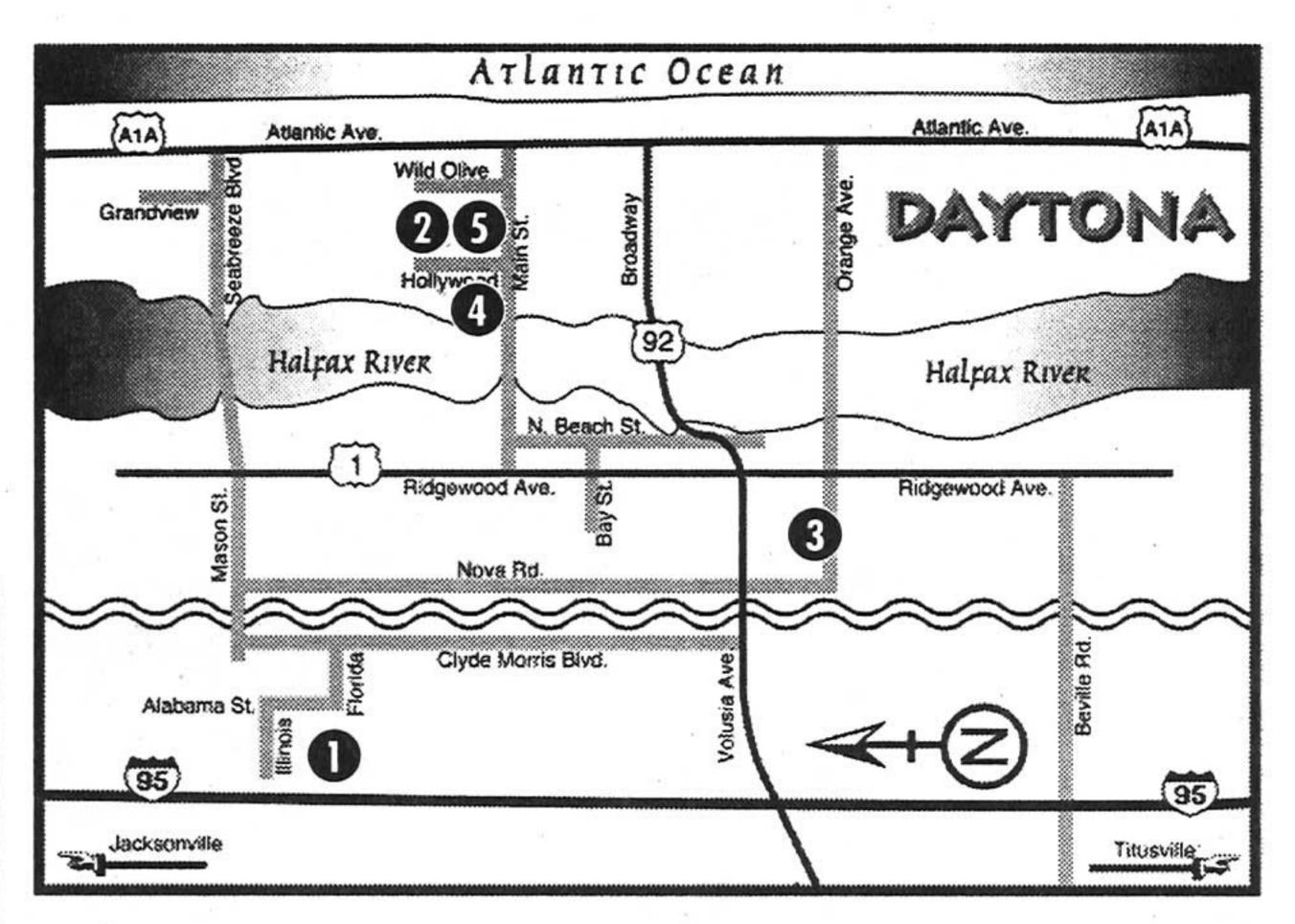




Dykes Towatch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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DAYTONA

- 769 CLUB: Lesbian bar. Unassuming from the outside, spacious and well maintained inside.
 One of Daytona's quieter places, it offers a great arena to socialize and play your favorite bar games. 769 Alabama St., Daytona (904) 253-4361.
- 2. THE BARN DOOR: Relaxed, comfortable, and inviting, this popular hangout for both locals and tourists is the kind of place you won't have any trouble striking up a conversation. Pool table, darts, patio, and friendly bartenders. 615 Main St., Daytona (904) 252-3776.
- 3. THE BARRACKS: The main dance bar in Daytona looks a little like the set of Platoon. There are several bars within the complex including one in the game room. The game room is a fantastic place where people can simply be themselves. The disco is lively on the weekends, and there is a constant stream of entertainment. 952 Orange Ave., Daytona (904) 254-3464.
- 4. MIKE & HANK'S (FORMERLY THE BEACHSIDE): One of the most colorful bars in Central Florida. Everyone from the bartenders to the cocktail hosts to the patrons are full of life. Plenty of body-art is shown off. Tiny dance floor gives way to shows every few hours. 415 Main St., Daytona (904) 252-5465.
- 5. HOLLYWOOD: Fronting on wild and wooly Main Street, this glitzy club features a dance floor, a popular piano bar and an outdoor patio that connects with the Barn Door. A good place to meet people. Don't miss the shows on Fri., Sat., and Sun, nights, hosted by outrageous Billie Boots. 615 Main St., Daytona (904) 252-3776.

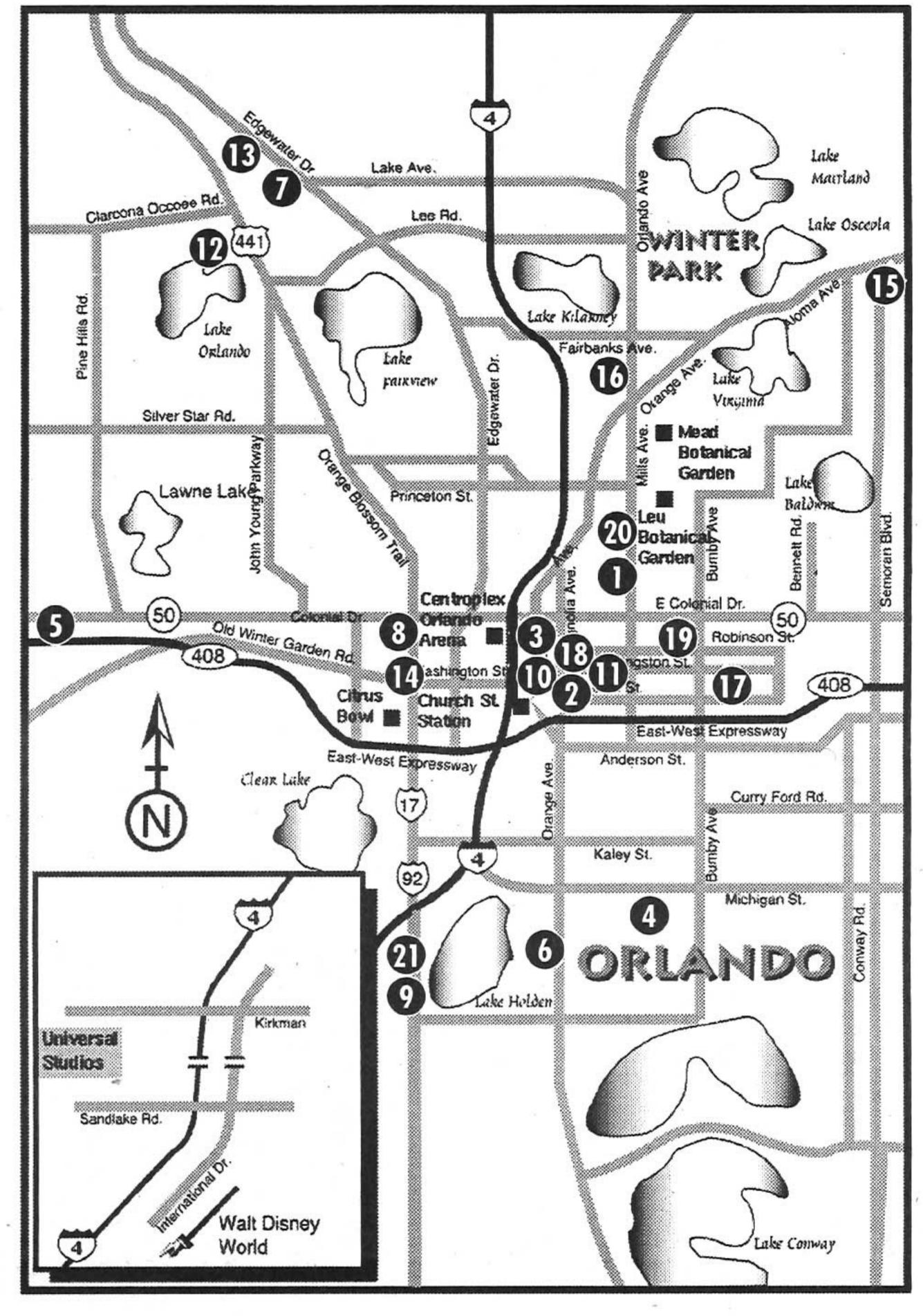


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ORLANDO

- 1. CACTUS CLUB: Less is often more. One will not find a dance floor, DJ's, strippers, lasers or drag queens here. What you will encounter is an upscale, mixed clientele who are genuinely enjoying the company. Pool, darts and a back patio. Check out Tuesday and Friday night happy-hours. 1300 N. Mills Ave., Orlando (407) 894-3041.
- 2. CAIRO: An all-out odyssey of lights, music and action. The design and layout has the feel of a major metropolis establishment. Since it attracts a trend-setting, liberal crowd, any time is a fine time to sip cocktails on the spectacular rooftop patio. 22 S. Magnolia, Orlando (407) 422-3595.
- 3. THE CLUB AT FIRESTONE: Extremely popular Orlando dance club. Predominantly gay on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Check out the gothic styling. Lasers and lights abound over the dance floor while the bass beat of the music is so pumped it vibrates throughout your entire body. 578 N. Orange Ave., Orlando (407) 426-0005.
- 4. CLUB ORLANDO: State of the art exercise palace... and much, much more. Swimming, sauna, hot tub and private rooms. 450 E. Compton St. Orlando (407) 425-5005.
- 5. CLUB QUEST: West Orlando's newest gay nightspot. O'Town's only Top 40, Hip Hop, House and R&B dance club. Wednesdays are ladies night. Hot, hung male strippers on Thursday. Shows every weekend. 5274 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando (In the Walmart plaza near Kirkman and Colonial.) (407) 297-3992.
- 6. CREWS: What used to be Kodiak is now under new ownership. No longer a "bears" bar, it is reclassified as a "man's bar." Check out Saturday's "Black Out Night." 4716 S. Orange Ave., Orlando (407) 850-6033.
- **7. FACES:** Orlando's only true womyn's bar, it is jam packed on Friday nights. Pool, darts, pinball, dance floor, DJ. The bartenders are wonderful and make everyone feel welcome. 4910 Edgewater Dr., Orlando (407) 291-7571.
- 8. FULL MOON SALOON: Get ready for something wild. Here is a place where some of the butchest, manliest men go out... to two-step with each other. Lots of Cowboy attire. The inside is large, but for the full effect one must venture outside to the patio and the ever expanding back yard. 500 N. OBT, Orlando (407) 648-8725.
- 9. THE GALLERIA: Florida's largest stripper bar, with over 50 featured strippers starting up at happy hour on Friday at 6 PM, and the rest of the week at 8 PM. 3400 S. OBT, Orlando (407) 423-BOYS.
- 10. ICON: One of Orlando's most stunning dance clubs, Icon is gay on Monday nights. This spacious, multi leveled club—with brushed metal and leather interior—has to be experienced. 20 E. Central Blvd., Orlando (407) 649-6496.
- 11. KITKAT CLUB, HAROLD & MAUDE'S, GO LOUNGE: Stylish, chic and trendy, with a retro sensibility... step in and say, "Wow." All next door to each other, these are not gay establishments per se, but you'll fit in and love it. KitKat is a pool hall. H & M's is a café. Go lounge is a bar. Smoke a cigar and check 'em out. Off Orange near Central in the Wall Street Plaza, Orlando. (407) 422-6990.
- 12. LITTLE ORPHAN ANDY'S: Rosemont's first gay bar is a friendly, cruisy kind of place with pool and darts and a nice mixed crowd. Happy hour is from 3 to 8. Go-Go boys start at 11 PM on Fri. & Sat. 5700 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando (In the Rosemont Plaza behind Blockbuster) (407) 299-7717.
- 13. HANKS: This is perhaps Orlando's most traditional good-ol-boys bar. There is absolutely nothing flashy about it. Play the juke box, play some darts, play some pool. Happy Hour starts at noon every day. The patio has been known to become very interesting. 5026 Edgewater Dr., Orlando (407) 291-2399.
- 14. PARLIAMENT HOUSE: If you can't find it here, you can't find it anywhere. They have a piano bar, a show bar, a disco, a country/western bar, a cocktail lounge, and if you don't fancy any of those, you can rent a room at the hotel. Be sure to see the hilarious Miss P in the show bar. 410 N. OBT, Orlando (407) 425-7571.
- 15. THE PHOENIX/CLUB Z: Very much a neighborhood pub. The most striking aspect is the time-warp sensibility one encounters: it always feels like it's the middle of the night even in the afternoon. 7124 Aloma Ave., Orlando (407) 678-9220; Voice recording (407) 382-0414.
- 16. SADIE'S TAVERN: The womyn have really taken to this non-denominational bar. Everybody is welcome. It's the kind of place that is attitude-free. Ladies sit around the bar next to straight men who are sitting next to a group of gay men... and nobody cares. Friday it is the place to be. On 17-92 in Winter Park (407) 628-4562.
- 17. SOUTHERN NIGHTS: The hot place to be on Sunday night for him, Saturdays for her. The generally mixed crowds flex their attitude and style at one of the many bars. Dance floor and



patio. Shows and special events occur with regularity. 375 S. Bumby, Orlando (407) 898-0424.

18. SUNSET STRIP: The gayest night at this raucous and rowdy downtown club is Thursday, when Sunset Strip turns into "Club Chameleon" and DJ Wally spins all request music. Free drinks 'til 11 PM. 25 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando (at the corner of Orange & Pine) (407) 649-4803.

19. UNION: This restaurant and bar is an immediate favorite. Food is great, crowd is hip, and good help wasn't hard to find. 337 N. Shine Ave., Orlando (407) 894-5778.

20. WILL'S PUB: Great grunge juke box, great selection of beers, and great atmosphere. Not a gay bar, but a glimpse into the future when all types will be welcome everywhere. 820 N. Mills Ave., Orlando, (407) 896-3611.

21. WYLDE'S: With little fanfare, new owners have made this one of the classiest gay and lesbian bars in town. A devoted group of regulars is growing. Piano bar, video bar, show bar and patio... with more to come! 3400 S. OBT, Orlando (407) 843-6334.

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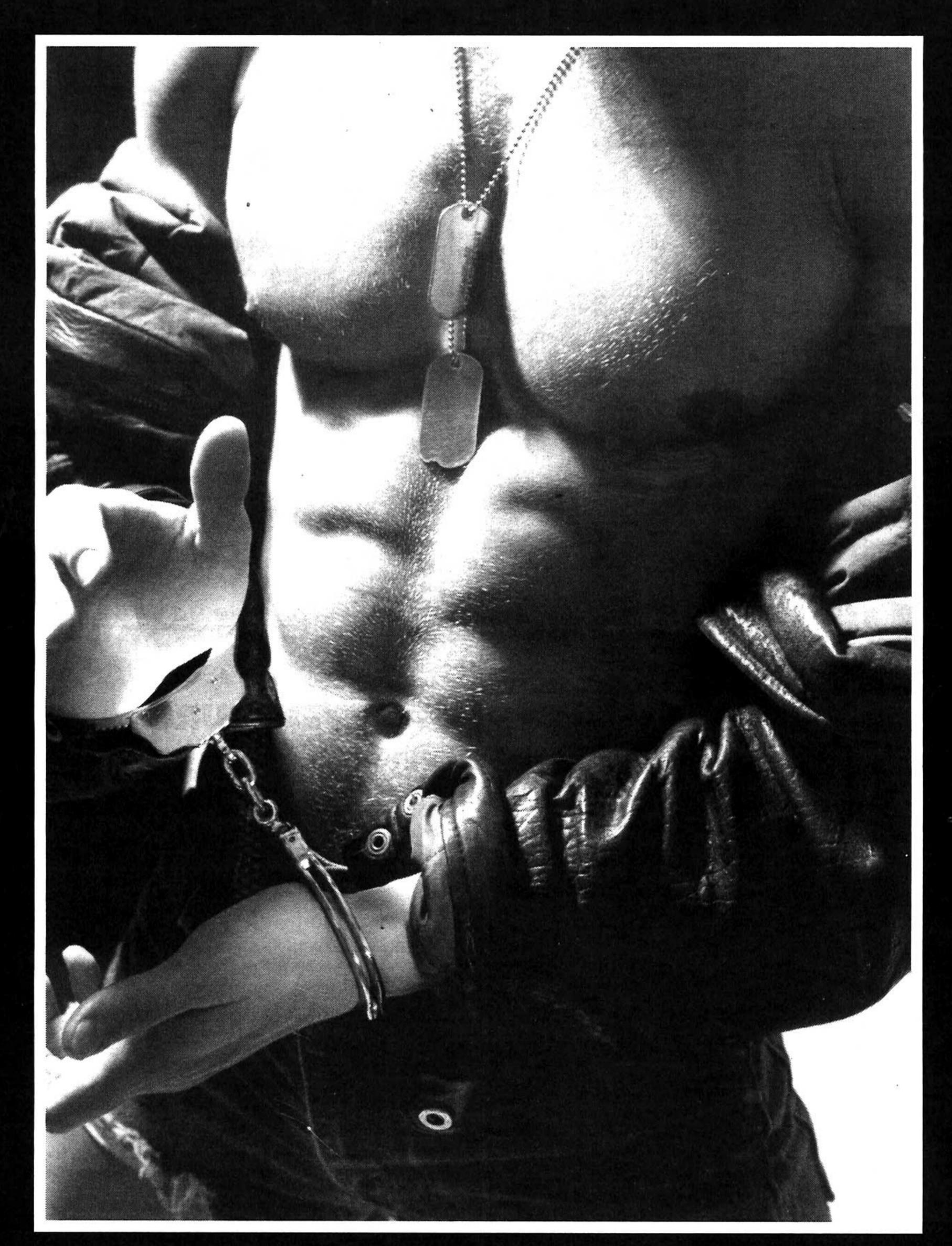
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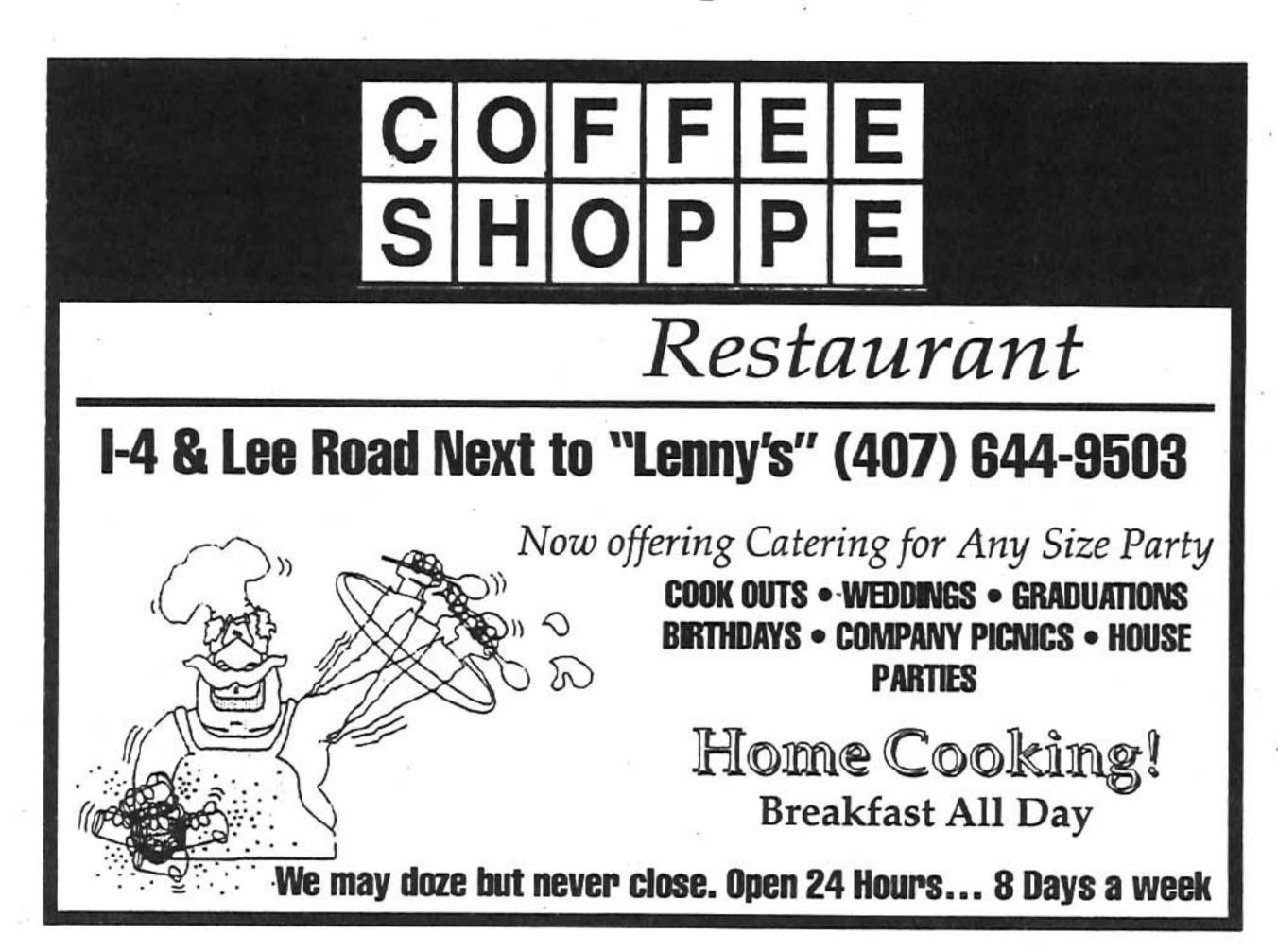


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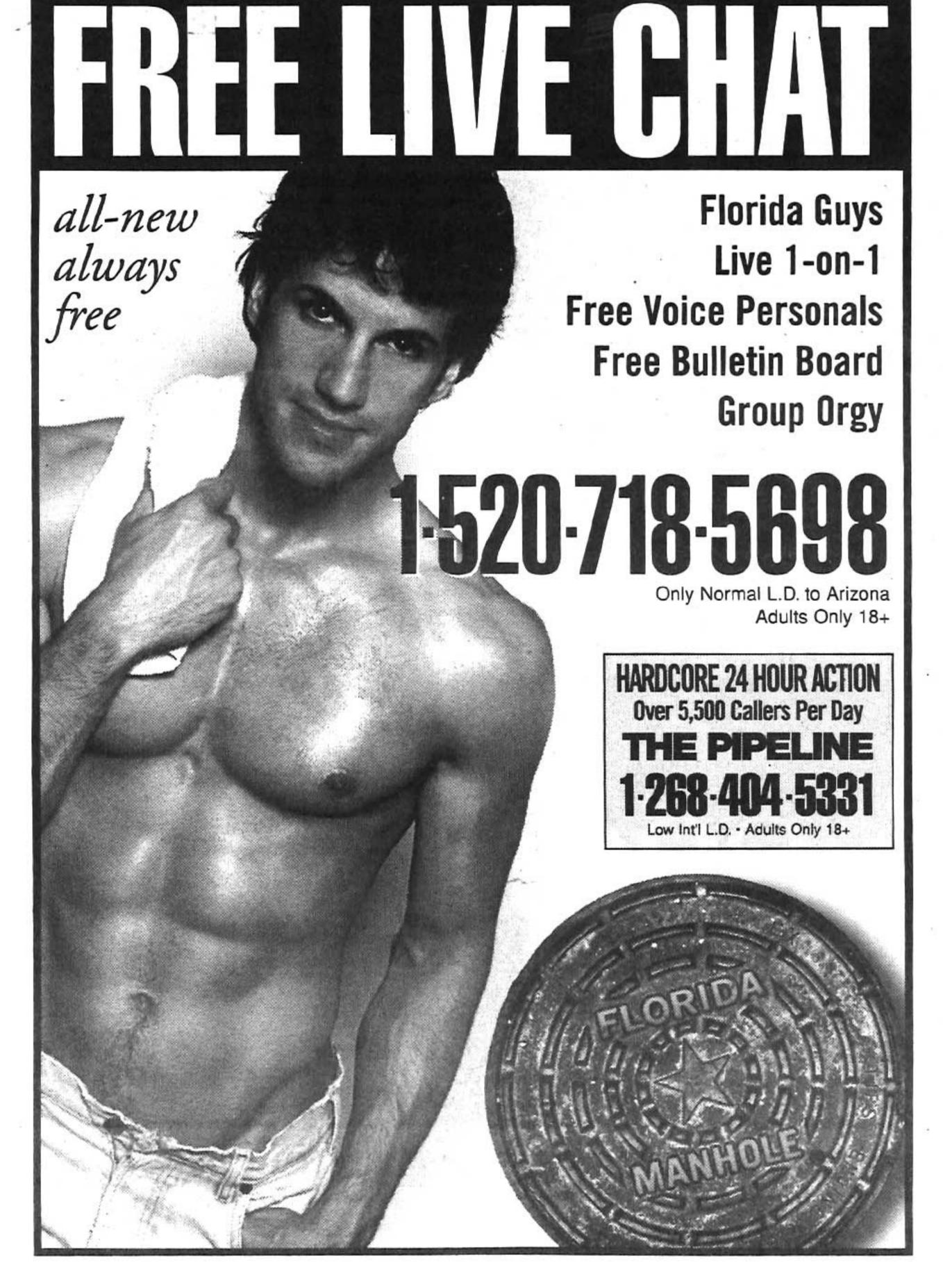
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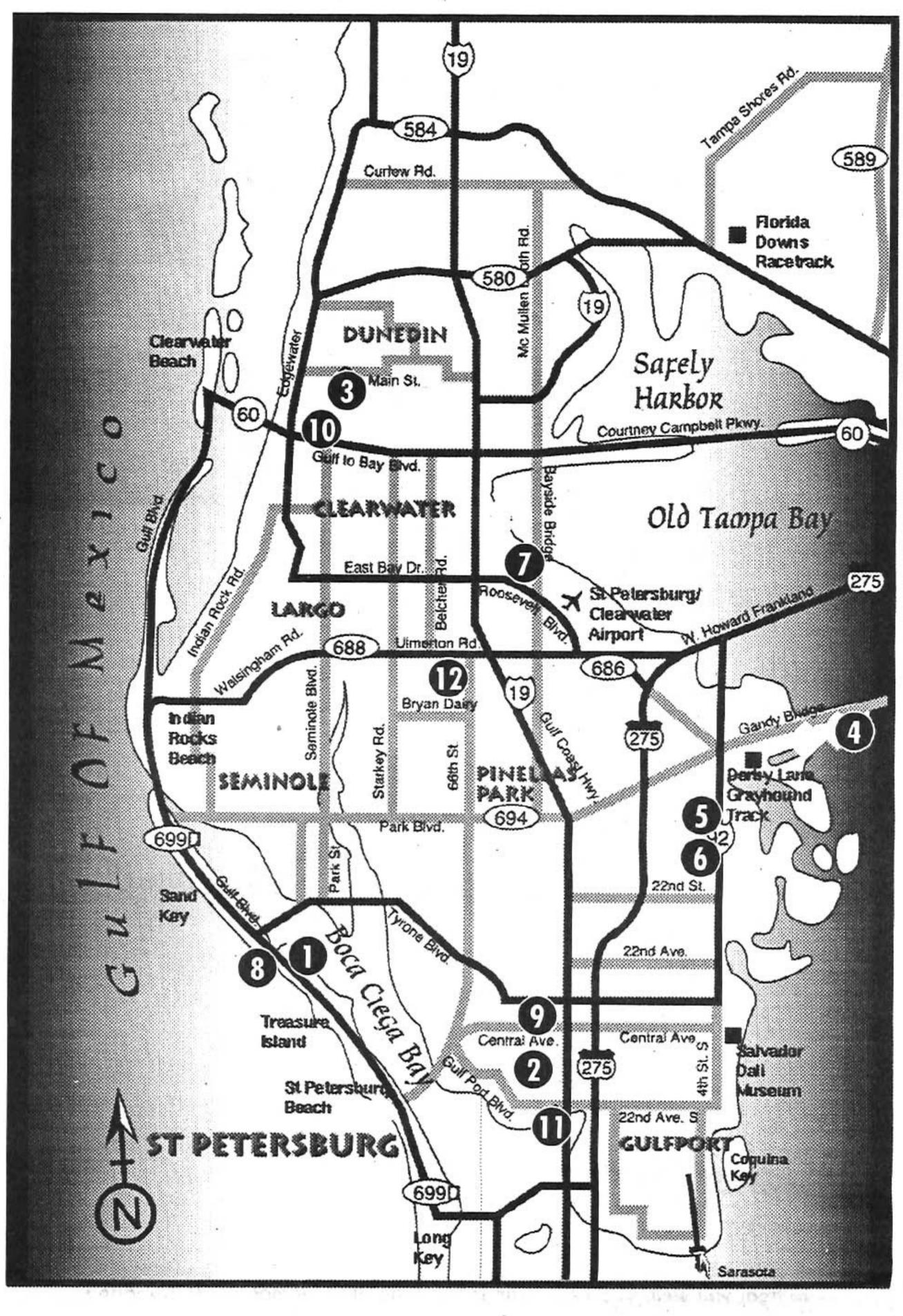


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- 2. D.T.'S: Near downtown St. Pete and the Thunderdome. High ceiling, panelling and neon beer signs make you feel like you're in Chicago. Highlight being buzzed into the front door. Sunday cook outs and 50 cent draft. 2612 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, (813) 327-8204.
- 3. 1470 WEST: Industrial motif with neon, chain link and... female impersonation. It works! Spacious patio out back, too. On Dunedin's refurbished and trendy Main St. 325 N. Main St, Dunedin, (813) 736-5483.
- 4. GOLDEN ARROW: The first bar you hit heading into St. Pete. Large place with friendly and cruisy atmosphere. The favorite watering hole for Bay Area Bears. Woof. 10504 Gandy Blvd., St. Petersburg, (813) 577-7774.
- 5. HAYMARKET PUB: New concept... a quiet and intimate atmosphere featuring a variety of drinks, from cappuccinos to better wines and other light fare. Everyone welcome. 8308 4th Street, St. Petersburg (813) 577-9621.
- THE HIDEAWAY: A "cheers" kind of bar, popular with the womyn but men are always welcome.
 Offering entertainment from karaoke to live bands. Friendly bartenders, and daily happy hour. 8302 4th Street N., St. Petersburg, (813) 570-9025.
- LOST & FOUND: This huge, cruisy bar with lots of rooms attracts a mixed crowd. Dancing, shows, pool and darts, TV lounge. 5858 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg (813) 539-8903.
- 8. MARIPOSA: Formerly Fort Knox, newly remodeled club with an upscale mixed crowd. Full liquor. Excellent food served late Wed. Sun. Daily happy hour and specials. Darts, pool, parking, public access to beach. Summer hours 4PM 2AM. Proudly flying the colors opposite "Shells" at 17850 Gulf Blvd., Redington Shores (813) 397-2553.
- 9. NEW CONNECTION: Good-sized downtown St. Pete neighborhood club with friendly bar and cozy booths. 3100 3rd Ave. N, St. Petersburg.
- 10. PRO SHOP: Cozy, well-appointed Clearwater institution with lots of return business. Popular with both the young and well-heeled, this downtown club attracts both after-work and out-for-the-night types. 840 Cleveland St., Clearwater (813) 447-4259.
- SHARP A'S: Big, cruisy, popular and unpretentious. Friendly bartenders keep things going in South St. Pete. Mixed crowd with Tuesday bingo and Thursday karaoke. 4918 Gulfport Blvd. S, Gulfport, (813) 327-4897.
- 12. SPORTS PAGE PUB: "Where the girls come to play!" Very popular, centrally located full liquor bar, with dancing, live entertainment & karaoke. Plus, pool tables & dart boards. Open 7 days a week with nightly drink specials. 13344 66th St. N, Largo, (813) 538-2430.

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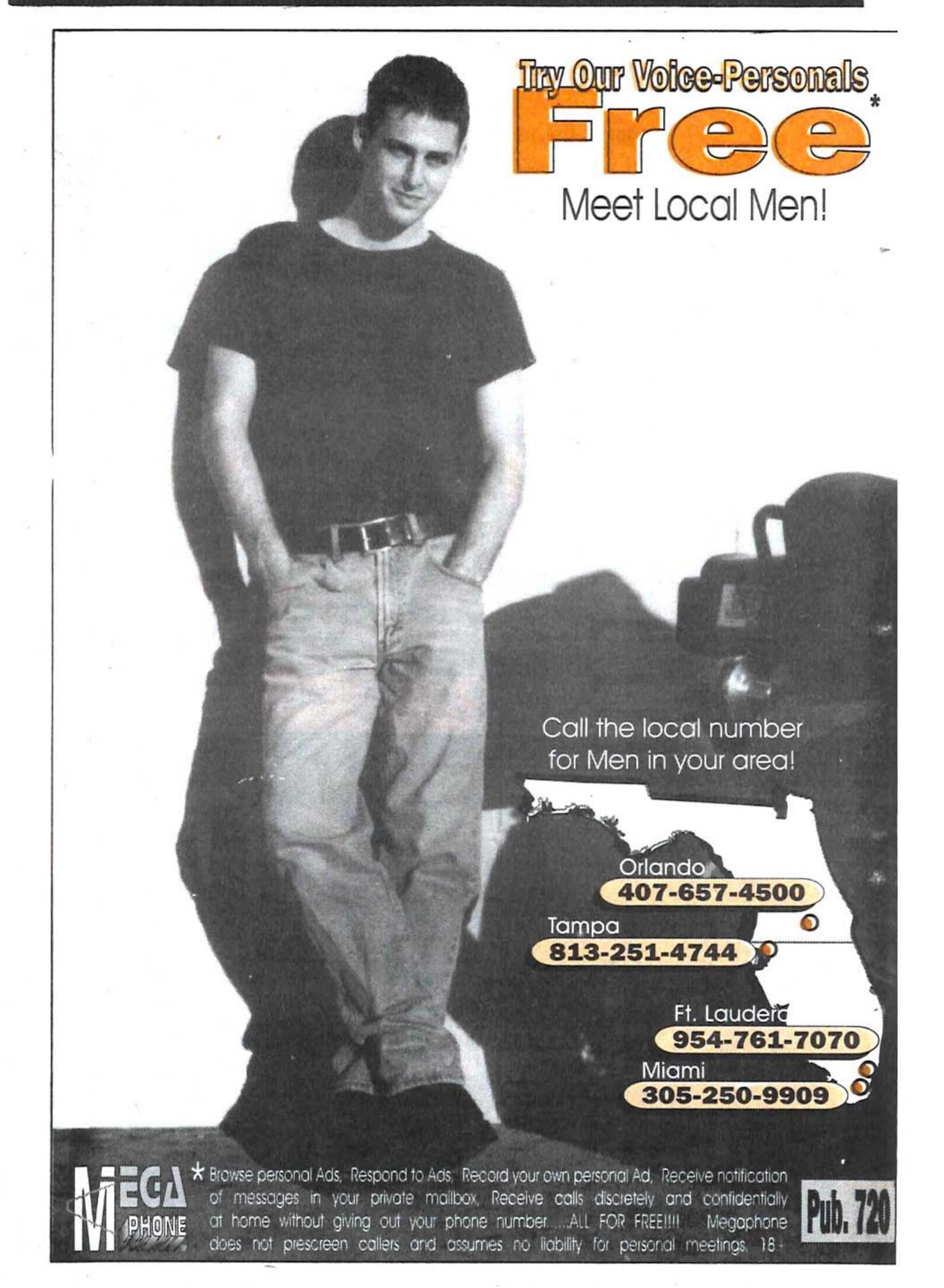
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TAMPA/YBOR CITY

- 1. ANNEX: Cruisy, compact bar is not quite as dark as 2606, but in the same vein. Features 2-4-1 specials all night. Sun. Thurs. 2408 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa (813) 254-4188
- 2. ANGELS: Hot Wednesday night action: Strippers, amateur strip contest. The club itself may not be large, but there is enough enthusiasm to guarantee a good time. If pool and darts are your thing, check out the Tuesday night tournaments. 4502 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa (813) 831-9980.
- 3. CHEROKEE CLUB: One of the nicest gay clubs in all of Florida. This predominantly Womyn's bar is only open on Friday and Saturday. 1320 E. 9th St., Ybor City (813) 247-9966.
- 4. CITY SIDE: This popular bar looks and feels like a neighborhood place, but attracts an upscale crowd from all over the city. The place to be Friday after work. Pool tables, patio. 3810 Neptune St., Tampa, (813) 254-6466.
- 5. EAGLE LEATHERBAR (FORMERLY IMPULSE): Upscale leather/levi club for men, with a large patio bar and 3 pool tables. One room is leather only! 302 S. Nebraska Ave. (813) 223-2780.
- 6. THE GARAGE: The Factory every Friday night at The Garage. Tampa's largest dance club, with two dance floors and an outdoor patio overlooking downtown. Outrageous national entertainment, with monthly theme parties and concerts. 802 E. Whiting St., Downtown. (813) 221-CLUB.
- 7. THE JUNGLE: Is erupting as Tampa's newest upscale nightclub. Get out of the heat in this exotic tropical hideaway, featuring a volcanic happy hour from 1 to 8 PM daily. Gourmet spreads Fri. & Sun. from 6 to 8 PM. Never a cover. 3703 Henderson Blvd., Tampa. (813) 877-3290.
- 8. KEITH'S LOUNGE: Another entrant in the "lounge" variety, Keith's is more of a down-home styled bar. The woodsy atmosphere with the neon beer signs give it a rustic, no-nonsense flavor. Plenty of nightly specials. 14905 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa (813) 971-3576.
- 9. KI KI KI LOUNGE: One of Tampa's oldest gay bars. Basically a friendly and low-key cruise bar. Pool, darts, video and other games. Beer and wine. 1908 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa (813) 254-8183.
- 10. MECCA: A premier men's dance club on top of the historic Castle Building. In addition to the real huge dance area, there is also a casual lounge bar for cooling off. 16th St. & 9th Ave., Ybor City, Tampa (813) 248-3053.
- 11. METROPOLIS: Just minutes from downtown and, not surprisingly, has a healthy happy hour crowd. Pool, darts, pinball. Male dancers on Friday night. 3447 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa (813) 871-2410.
- 12. NORTHSIDE LOUNGE. Friendly North Tampa neighborhood bar that attracts a mostly over-30 crowd. Karaoke is popular on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Pool, darts, full liquor. 9002 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, (813) 931-3396.
- 13. OASIS: Boxy but good. This is Tampa's newest women's lounge. Well decorated, well lit. It is a welcome addition to the rest of the happy hour clubs in the Bay area. 1519 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa, (813) 258-5805.
- 14. RASCALS: A restaurant, lounge and disco. New management is enthused and wants to treat you well. 105 W. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tampa (813) 237-8883.
- SAHARA: Lounge for the ladies. Happy hour bar offers a calm, cool place to relax with your friends.
 W. Kennedy, Tampa (813) 282-0183.
- 16. 2606: Tampa's premier leather and levi bar. They are not ashamed to admit that "this is a cruise bar." Dark and stark. The ambiance radiates a forbidden quality...but don't be afraid. There's a certain sexiness to it all—especially if you venture into the gift shop. 2606 Armenia Ave., Tampa (813) 875-6993.

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"THINKING BACK, I DON'T

REALLY KNOW IF THEY WERE SO

BEAUTIFUL, BUT THEY WERE

GAY, AND THAT WAS ALL THAT

MATTERED."

FIRST TIME From Page 1

depending on the crowd), it can be a little frightening.

-from the book The Unofficial Gay Manual by Kevin Dilallo and Jack Krumholtz

For some reason, I suspected that going to a gay bar for the first time was a universal experience for all homosexuals. I imagined that it was very similar to what is described above. But as I thought about this more and

delved deeper into my own repressed memories, I realized that I had no recollection whatsoever of the first time I had the courage to enter a gay club. I had absolutely no feelings or recall of this event in my

life. Given the fact that I feel like I was raised in a queer bar, I guess that is not too surprising.

Precisely because I lacked any dramatic story of my first time "out," I decided to ask around and see what other people experienced. I figured that hearing their stories might jog my own memory. If not, I figured I could just live vicariously. What I found out was quite unexpected. Everyone had a different tale to tell: For some it was a traumatic and scary situation; for most, though, it was an exhilarating and fulfilling moment in time.

Francesca DiCarlo, lesbian extraordinaire and goddess of all things, said of her first time: "It was fabulous. I had been dating a woman for almost a year, so I wasn't that new to the lesbian thing, but I was only 19. The woman I was dating was older than I was and very conservative, so it wasn't until we took a vacation to the Keys that I actually entered a gay bar.

"I remember begging the driver of one of those little bicycle carts to tell us where a 'womyn's bar' was. I was adamant about finding one. When we finally located the place, I was in heaven. I had never seen so many beautiful women in my life. Thinking back, I don't really know if they were so beautiful, but they were gay, and that was all that mattered.

"I did run into some misfortune, though. I went to the bathroom, and my zipper got stuck. A woman tried to help me and her girlfriend walked in while her hands were basically down my pants! I ended up taking off my shorts and giving them to two other

women who played tug-o-war with the zipper for 45 minutes while I stood there practically naked. I didn't really care about the fact that I wasn't wearing any underwear. I was more

concerned with getting back out there. I loved the scene, I loved the energy, and I loved the fact that I could openly display affection toward my girlfriend. I remember that I hated going back outside and not feeling comfortable holding her hand. That really sucked."

A male friend recounted his first experience. It was 1977 in New York. The bar was called Julius. "I was 21," he recalled, "and had a lot of blond hair. Sigh. It was natural, too. I was wearing jeans and an Izod shirt, red. I thought I was so cool. (My friend) had his green Izod on. We always wore them because we were the coolest, you know. People at school used to refer to us as 'The Ice Princesses."

Apparently, he made no bones about this being his first time. "People from school kept coming in and discovering me and my cohort. They bought us so many congratulatory drinks. I threw up. And all my friends started vomiting; it was terrible, but funny now that I look back on it. People were crowded at the large glass windows watching us.

I'm so embarrassed!

"When I told everyone at school about it (my friend) got mad because he didn't want others to know he was gay. Excuse Me!!!!"

Some people had memorable experiences, although they were not nearly as festive. One forty-ish man that I talked to told me that he sat in his car and downed a six-pack of beer in a parking lot before he mustered the courage to enter his first gay bar—the Parliament House. He was quite nervous about running into someone he knew. Being both industrious and paranoid, he devised a plan. He had brought with him a notebook and a pencil. If he encountered anyone that he knew he would simply tell them that he was doing research for one of his college classes!

Another interesting story was recounted for me by an Irish gentleman. He told me that the first gay bar he ever went to was in Dublin. At the time, homosexuality was illegal in Ireland. He said that it was a tiny little holein-the-wall pub with no outside markings indicating that it was a bar at all. He had found out where it was through various means.

When he decided that it was time for him to check it out, he did so alone.

He remembers being somewhat shocked by the state of it. This was not the kind of jovial establishment that he was used to frequenting with his straight friends. It was a sad little hiding place. All eyes were on him as he entered, but they quickly turned away. Sitting by himself at the bar he realized how pathetic the entire situation was. He had been told by the Irish government that homosexuality was wrong, but looking around at these men made him believe that it was not wrong. He felt that keeping people down and forcing them to cower in little, lifeless places like the one he was in was truly the mistake. The laws on homosexuality have since been changed.

A few straight women have told be about their first adventures into gay bars. One said that she was astounded by all the good-looking men. She thought she hit the jackpot...then she remembered where she was.

As these stories indicate, one's first foray into a gay bar is decidedly not a universal experience. It is, like most things, exactly what you make it. Of all the stories I've heard, whether they be tragedies or comedies, loud and proud or scared and meek, there seems to only be one common thread: Nearly everyone mentioned that they distinctly remember being shocked that men were using the women's restroom. As for me, I still can't recall anything about my first time. I think I'm going to adopt the "chain reaction puking" story. W

My first gay bar. I wish I could stop my knees from shaking



Maybe I shouldn't go in. What if it's all perverts? What if they're all dressed like women? What if someone talks to me?





What if I run into someone I know? What if the press is here and my picture gets in the paper? THIS IS A MISTAKE!





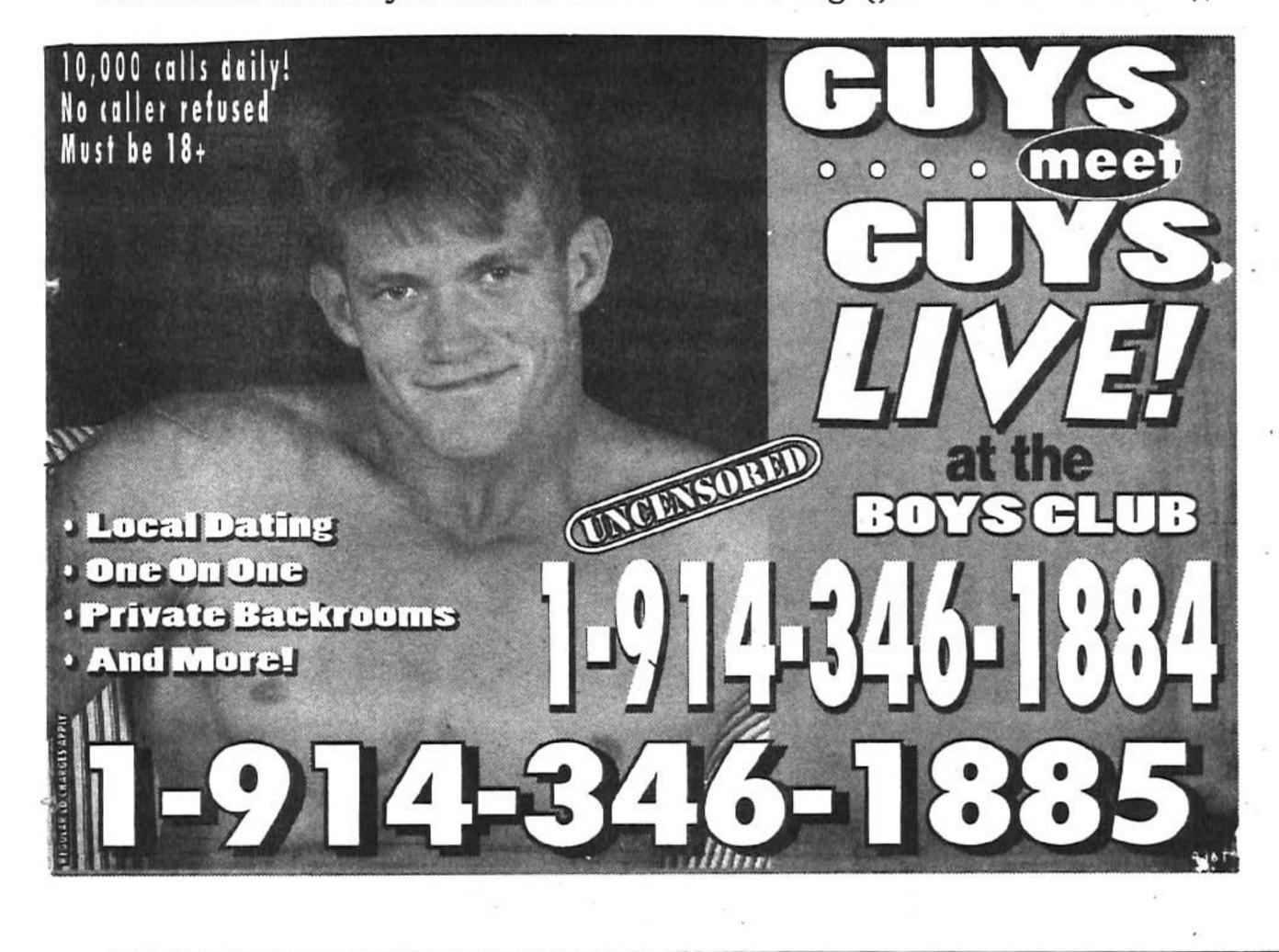
Reprinted with permission from The Unofficial Gay Manual (Doubleday).

GOTCHA From Page 3

his name, let me just say that if I was dating him, I'd hammer in the morning, I'd hammer in the evening (Heck, I'd hammer all over this land!). Anyway, pals in New York have spotted this handyman tooling around town with a very cute guy who sounds like the same guy "tool-time" brought to the Marc Jacobs fashion show last year. The two of them hold hands, cuddle, and carry on like a couple in love. Aw! But, just don't mention it on America On Line. This guy goes through the gossip sections very carefully and has the management delete any messages that elude to his sexuality. I'd never do that—I just come right out and say it. Queen!

Could it be that one of Charlie's Angels was really a man? To tell you the truth, I don't have a clue about this one. but numerous sources swear that Tanya Roberts was born a man. Now, I called Tula and April Ashley (and her three room-mates, all named Anita—but that's another story) and they know nothing about this. Time to get out that old copy of "Sheena"!

When Tanya is more masculine than that VJ, it's time to end another column before I get myself in trouble. Remember, I said "I don't have a clue," so don't send any law suits my way. But, feel free to send me fan mail and gossip of your own to my E-Mail address of Filth2GO@AOL.com and I'll get back as soon as I have my own sex change operation! Until next time, remember, when you least expect it....Gotcha! W



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ART IMITATES LIFE From Page 1

keeping your ears open. I think the best writers are always interested and always looking. I can never be bored because no matter how boring someone is, I'm learning from it. I'm not necessarily

"TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL GAY

LIFE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF

LOOKS, A GIANT DICK AND NO

THINGS YOU NEED: GREAT

DAY JOB."

going to steal their rap for my next story, but I am interested in how anyone could present themselves that way.

Is that the most crucial thing you've discovered about writing?

I do know that no matter how bad an experience is, I can always use it. Maybe if I weren't a writer it wouldn't seem so vivid to me. Some of my friends won't tell me anything anymore because they don't want to end up in the stories, and others are constantly telling me things in hopes that they will. People wonder, "Aren't your friends afraid of you?"

Yeah, I was curious about that. It's just the opposite, actually. The people who aren't in the stories say things like, "How come I'm not in there? Aren't I interesting? Don't I do fun things?" It doesn't work that way. It's not like a party with an invitation list.

Where do you draw the line in using things from friends?

I won't kill anyone off, even people who died. Anything I know will hurt a person's feeling I would never use, and contrary to what everyone thinks, I never use physical descriptions except for a couple of people in the first book.

What differentiates this book from the others in the "Buddies" series?

I think it's the closest thing to a novel in short story form. I know the first one was passed off by my editor as a novel, but it really wasn't. They were completely disconnected stories with recurring characters, and I made no attempt to bring them together. In the

third book, Everybody Loves You, the last four or five stories form a continuing narrative. Some Men Are Lookers is the first book where you could not take out some of the stories and then read the book. It wouldn't make any sensethings that are mentioned in one story are developed in another and pay off in

> How do you see your writing evolving?

a third.

I'll tell you how I started. I was writing nonfiction. I was having drinks with Tom Steele and Chuck Ortleib, the powers behind

Christopher Street and The New York Native. I was going to start a column for Christopher Street reviewing books and theater. I was telling them all these funny stories about my family and friends. Chuck said I should write them down and gave me a column called "Is There A Book In This?" in which I started writing about my adventures. That was journalism. Then I began to wonder how many real life adventures I had, so I started sweetening the brew and that's how I began writing stories that were based on truth but were also greatly made-up.

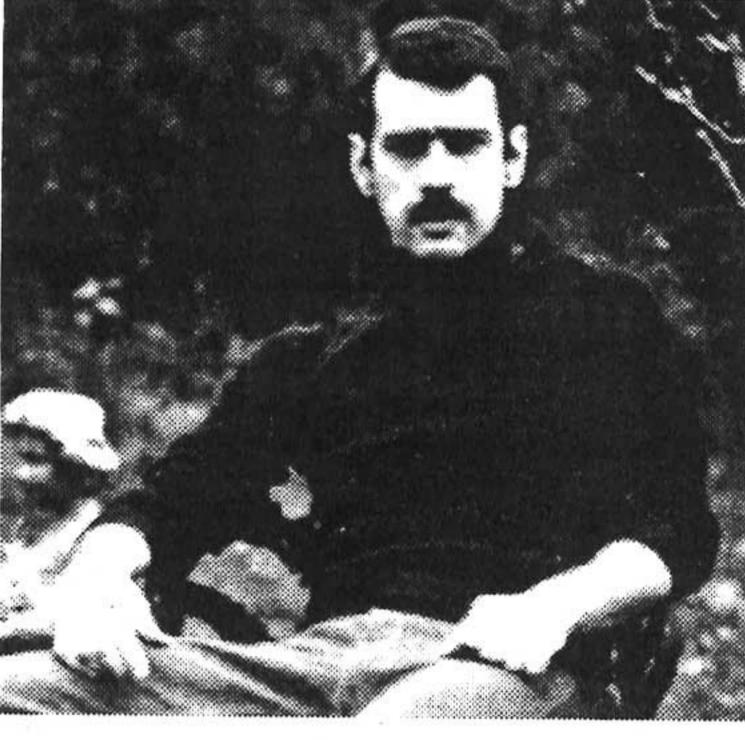
What's lined up for you in the future?

I just sold my latest novel, which is about Maria Callas, and that will be out next year. It's called The Venice Adrianna. I changed Callas in this; her name is Adrianna and she lives in Venice. The narrator is a young gay man who's ghosting her autobiography. It's about free will and whether we have any. I'm using Callas for this because it seemed she had the most choices and the least choices of anyone. By the most, I mean she determined to become the greatest opera singer alive even without having a great voice, without any background

Ethan Mordden: "Everything is character. Give me certain situations and I know what those people will do in it."

and without the money to support the lessons and coaching and so on-but she did it. However, she had to do it because of dire psychological damage by her mother, so it wasn't a choice. The only way she could survive was to become the greatest something. To do that she even transformed a very heavy woman into one of the glamour figures of her age. I find her endlessly amazing for that transformative ability. I'm also doing a non-fiction series on the Broadway musical. I just released Make Believe on the 1920s and I just finished writing the book about the 50s. I'm doing it by decade, but I'm skipping around.

Back to Some Men Are Lookers.



What do you want readers to come away from the book feeling?

That it's great to be gay, that it's a terrific era to be gay despite AIDS, and that you would be so bored if you were straight! W

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DRAG DINER

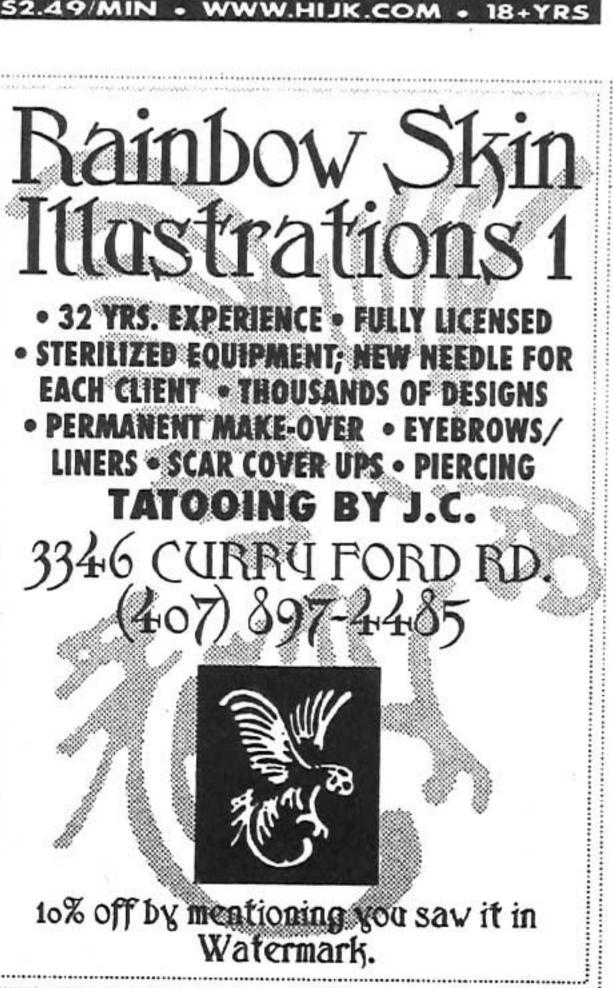
Every Monday at the Union City Tavern, shows at 7 PM and 9:30 PM. Dodge the flying

Love Can Build A Bridge features Leigh

Shannon (above left) and Miss P.

mascara wands as the Union's dishiest dishes serve up dinner. Call for reserv.: (407) 894-5778.









WHAT'S YOUR GAY & LESBIAN ENTERTAINMENT LQ.2

1. Who delivered the following line, and in what film? "I realize you want to get married, but how many lives do you have to ruin to do it?" (a) Rupert Everett to Julia Roberts in My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)

(b) Joan Cusack to Kevin Kline in In & Out (1997)(c) Gene Hackman to Dan Futterman in The

Birdcage (1996) (d) Winston Chao to May Chin in The Wedding Banquet (1993)

2. In The First Wives Club (1996), Brenda (Bette Midler), Elise (Goldie Hawn) and Annie (Diane Keaton)

visit a lesbian bar. Brenda sits next to a crying woman and asks her what's wrong. Through tears, the woman responds, "It's my lover -she left me after 18 years for some teenager weighing pounds!"

(a) 2 (b) 12 (c) 120 (d) 212

3. As the scene continues in The First Wives Club, Brenda tells the jilted lover, "Oh my God, that's just like me and Morty." Eying a photo of Morty, the crying woman remarks...

(a) "She's cute." (b) "She's butch." (c) "She's available?"

(d) "I think I dated her."

4. Scott Thompson (The

How old was comedian Scott Thompson when he first had sex?

Larry Sanders Show) noted to the press, "I didn't have sex until I was years old. And I sur-

by Ed Karvoski, Jr.

vived. It didn't kill me. In fact, it gave me strength. I would advise young gay guys don't have sex until they're a little older right now."

(a) 23 (b) 24

(c) 25(d) 26

5. The advertising tag line for the film Bar Girls (1994), based on the stage play read, "Finally, a romantic comedy without _

(a) incorrect politics (b) high heels (c) men

(d) a Baldwin brother

6. Chastity Bono makes a cameo appearance as a bar patron in Bar Girls. What is her character's astrological sign?

(a) Taurus (b) Gemini (c) Scorpio (d) Sagittarius 7. In Torch Song Trilogy (1988, based on the stage play), Ed (Brian Kerwin) meets Arnold (Harvey Fierstein) in a bar and shares his astrological sign. What is Ed's sign? (a) Taurus (b) Gemini (c) Scorpio

(d) Sagittarius

8. Who delivered the following line, and in what film? "I think heterosexuality is gonna make a comeback."

(a) Jason Lee in Chasing

Amy (1997) (b) James Remar in Boys on the Side

(1995)(c) Nick Scotti in Kiss Me, Guido (1997) (d) Christine Baranski in The Birdcage (1996)

9. What is RuPaul's real first name? (a) Robert

(b) Roy

(c) Rock

(d) RuPaul

10. What was Rock Hudson's real first name?

1--

(a) Robert

(b) Roy (c) Rock (d) RuPaul

11. Was was Divine's real first

name? (a) Henry

(b) Harold (c) Harris

(d) Hector

(b) Roy; 11. (d) Harris Boys on the Side; 9. (d) RuPaul; 10. 24; 5. (c) men; 6. (c) Scorpio; 7. (d) Sagittarius; 8. (b) James Remar in (b) 12; 3. (b) "She's butch."; 4. (b) Dan Futterman in The Birdcage; 2. ANSWERS 1. (d) Gene Hackman to

QWORD SEARCH

INSTRUCTIONS: After all the words in the list have been found, the unused letters, when read from left to right throughout the grid, will spell out the theme of the puzzle. Solution is at the bottom printed upside-down. THEME:

С	R	Ε	K	Α	В	Ε	Α	N	J	W	Ε	M	Н	S
L	L	L	K	Y	N	S	Α	M	0	Н	Т	Α	Т	Т
0	Ε	Ε	N	R	0	Н	Υ	Α	R	Τ.	S	E	1	Т
W	D	C	V	R	С	N	Ν	G	D,	Α	Ν	В	M	Α
D	R	1	1	Ε	Υ	Α	1	M	Α	Т	Н	1	S	В
Α	0	R	L	В	L	R	В	В	N	F	R	L	L	1
V	L	Р	L	S	В	Α	Α	S	R	E	P	0	0	C
I	U	С	Α	N	0	S	Ν	1	В	0	R	С	Α	U
D	S	В	R	Α	Y	1	K	D	N	N	С	K	S	L
S	E	Α	0	Н	K	Н	S	W	Н	E	M	Ε	G	L
0	L	L	S	Т	1	Α	0	U	N	Α	Υ	K	G	E
N	Α	D	Α	L	N	L	G	W	В	M	Ε	R	i	Ν
Ε	Ε	W	L	N	F	Н	0	L	U	Α	P	U	R	R
R	S	-1	- 1	E	E	R	E	K	L	Α	W	В	C	Α
0	Ν	N	S	S	В	Υ	S	Ε	L	K	С	U	N	K

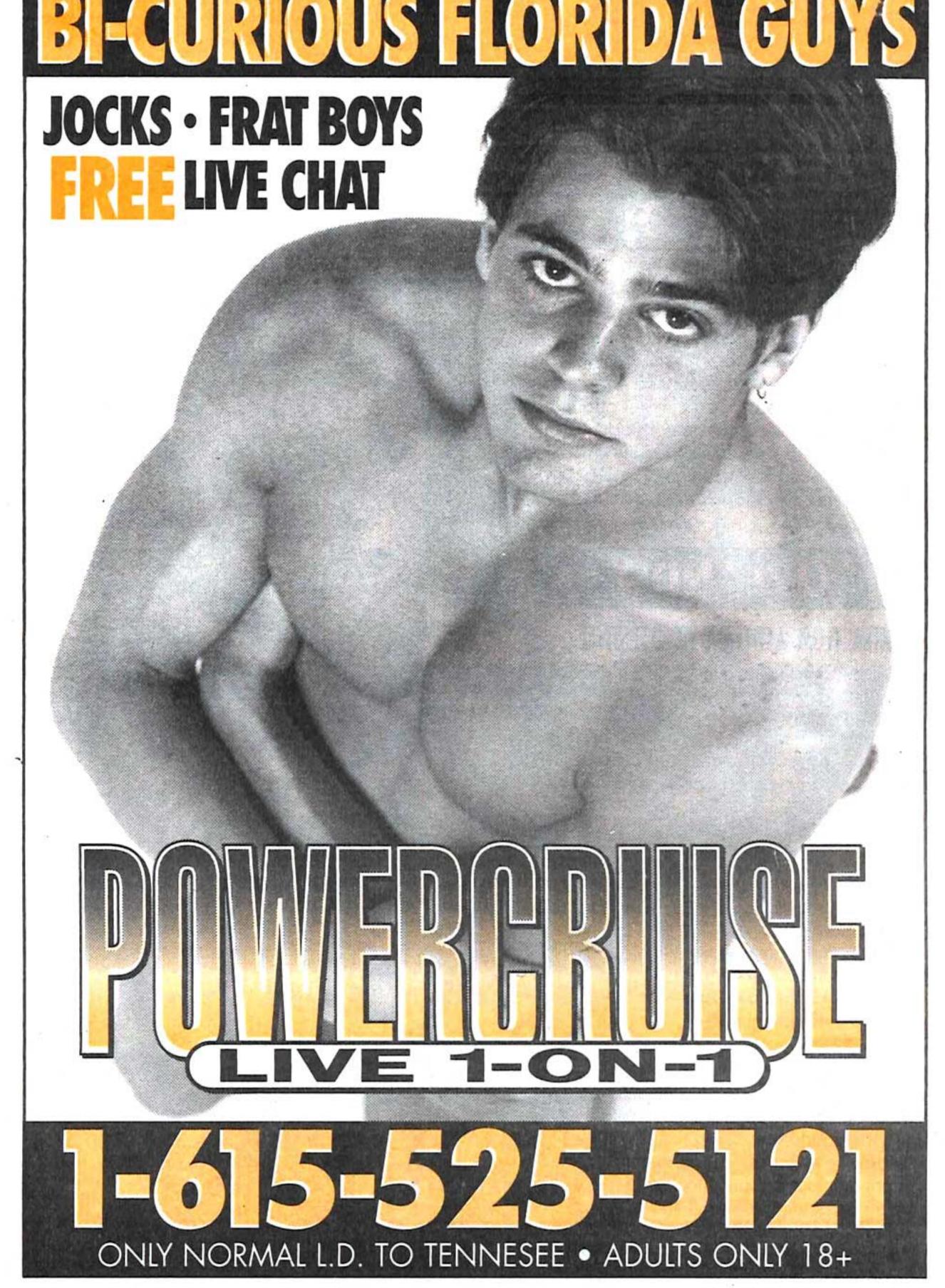
(Joesphine) BAKER [singer/dancer] (James) BALDWIN [writer/civil rights activist] (Alicia) BANKS [radio producer/ columnist] (Deborah) BATTS [judge] (Joseph) BEAM [writer] (Carl) BEAN [clergyman] (Keith) BOYKIN [attorney/writer] (Ron) BROWN [choreographer] (Glenn) BURKE [pro baseball player] (James) CLEVELAND [gospel singer] (Michelle T.) CLINTON [poet] (Mario) COOPER [attorney] (Steven) CORBIN [novelist] (Countee) CULLEN [poet] (Jaye) DAVIDSON [actor] (Samuel) DELANEY [science fiction writer] (Larry) DUPLECHAN [novelist] (Marjorie) HILL [psychologist]

(Lorraine) HANSBERRY [playwright]

(Langston) HUGHES [novelist/poet]

(Barbara) JORDAN [attorney/ stateswoman] (Frankie) KNUCKLES [music producer] (Alain) LOCKE [philosopher] (Audre) LORDE [poet] (Jackie "Moms") MABLEY [comedian] (Johnny) MATHIS [singer] (Charles) NERO [educator] (Gilbert) PRICE [singer] (Ma) RAINEY [blues singer] (Marlon) RIGGS [filmmaker] (Philip) ROBINSON [poet] RUPAUL [entertainer] (Franklyn) SEALES [actor] (Bessie) SMITH [blues singer] (Billy) STRAYHORN [songwriter] (Wynn) THOMAS [production designer] (Linda) VILLAROSA [journalist] (Alice) WALKER [novelist] (Perry) WATKINS [military clerk] (George C.) WOLFE [playwright/ director]

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FLORIDA

ACTION SEARCH I want to meet masculine guys, and couples, to get it on with. I'm a well built, White male, 5'10, with Brown hair and eyes. I'm always looking for some action. (Fort Myers)

34030

LATIN LINGO I'm busy because I go to school full time and work full time, but I have time in my schedule for someone special. I'm in my mid 30's, 5'8, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, an all American guy. I enjoy outdoor activities like swimming, biking, and am open to most fun pursuits. I'd like to meet a free spirited guy for good times. I'm especially partial to Latin American men. (Gainesville) \$\infty\$6700

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS A horny, Black top will make me happy. I'm a good looking, White male, bottom, 40, 5'5, 135lbs, with a slim, smooth body, sandy Brown hair and Blue eyes. (Lakeland) #33940

PETE MOSS I'm interested in meeting guys to get together and do stuff with. I'm a good looking, masculine, muscular, White male, 5'4, with Black hair, Hazel eyes, and a great tan. (Leesburg) =6089

TRADITION WORKS This 36 year old, professional, Single, White male, 5'8, 145lbs, seeks someone who'd like to dine out, go to movies, get to know me, and help me decide if we'd like to build a relationship. Does anyone do it the old fashioned way anymore? (Naples) \$\pi7033\$

BE MY SLIM JIM This 32 year old, White male, top, 5'8, 165lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a nice body, seeks a younger, versatile bottom, with a nice, trim build.

(New Port Richie) =7012

TIE THE KNOT? This 18 year old, Bi, White male, 6'1, 200lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, wants to meet a guy who is somewhat relationship minded who also likes to have fun. (Orlando) \$\alpha 7011

year old, White male, 5'10, 149lbs, with dark, Brown hair and Hazel eyes, seeks a young son, 18 to 20, who's under 6ft tall, and is a cute, slim, attractive, boy next door. I'm not jealous or overbearing, but am caring, sincere, and loyal. If you need a mature man to show you the ropes and like to travel to both coasts, I'm looking forward to meeting you. (Orlando) \$\infty\$6941

HIP HOTROD I love it hot and want to meet other discreet, good looking, masculine guys, especially Hispanics and other Blacks, for rowdy romps. I'm a very attractive, well built, well hung, young, Black male, 5'8, 155lbs, with a smooth body. I like other well endowed guys, 18 to 27. I'm versatile.

(Orlando) \$\infty\$6714

BELLY BEAT I'm new to Orlando and would love to meet a good looking guy with a bearish look and big belly, 38 to 50. I'm a 35 year old, White male, 6ft, slim, tanned, and attractive. I'm interested in dining out, movies, walks in the park, and much more. (Orlando) =6517

ARE YOU THE ONE? Masculine, 45 year old, Gay, White male seeks a friendship or a relationship with a nice guy. (Orlando) #6357

JUST ABOUT ANYTHING I'm into just about anything. I'd love to talk to all of you. (Orlando) \$\pi 5620\$

Charge It!

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1-800-745-5634

1.99/Min. Must Be 18+

BUBBLE BUTT BLISS I'm looking for a very passionate, smooth skinned, Black, Transvestite, or Transsexual, for friendship and hot times. This attractive, mature, White male, 5'8, 170lbs, with Brown hair, hopes you have a sexy bubble butt. (Orlando)

years old, 6'1, 270lbs, Brown eyes and Black hair, goatee, and a top. Looking for other bears or cubs. (Orlando) \$\infty\$5118

MIDNIGHT COWBOY I'm a 38 year old, Gay, White male, 165lbs, attractive. I'm looking for someone to hang out, and spend time with. I enjoy the outdoors, camping, sports, and movies. (Orlando) \$\infty\$5029

here from up north and want to meet someone, 19 to 25, for friendship. Maybe I can buy you some things and we can get to know one another. (Palm Harbor) \$\infty\$6156

MID-EAST MATE This 27 year old, White male, from Israel, 5'7, 160lbs, with Auburn hair, seeks a non-smoking, Black male, 18 to 30, for friendship. (Panama City) #4263

FEMALE FUN This well built, muscular, 50 year old, White male, wants to have some fun with a Transsexual or Transvestite in the area. (Panama City) #6655

NUDE OUTDOOR TOUR GUIDE If you love the outdoors and are an attractive, masculine, in shape male, under 45, you deserve the wild, nude tour. It's given by yours truly, a hot, rugged, well built, White male, 6ft, 170lbs. I'll show you what Florida is all about. (Pasco) \$\pi\7281\$

DRESS UP DEAR This 29 year old, White male has a sexy body which I've been working on. I'm interested in meeting a Single man, or a couple, for hot times. My main fetish is wearing stockings and women's clothing around the house.

(Pensacola) \$\infty\$6154

HE AND SHE This handsome, masculine, White male, 40, 185lbs, seeks a feminine Transvestite or Transsexual, for good times. (Pensacola) =6207

occasional, discreet, fun with younger guys, around my size. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'8, 135lbs, with a well formed swimmer's build. (Pinellas County) =6484

SOUTH AMERICAN WAY This good looking, Brazilian male, seeks a nice guy to have fun with. I'm 5'11, 183lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, a smooth body, and deep tan. I enjoy dancing, cycling, and lots of other fun stuft. (South Tampa) #6645

LEAVE THE SKIN ON This Gay, White male wants foreskin. I'm a sexy, hairy, White male, 6ft, 165lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a mustache. I like smooth, dominant males, of any race, although I prefer Blacks, Latinos, and Asians, 22 to 40, with foreskin. (St. Petersburg) =6520

serious business Are there any real, mature men out there, who are looking for friendships or relationships, and aren't afraid to commit? This 49 year old, Gay, White male, 5'8, balding, with a stocky build, is looking for true romance with someone 35 to 50, with height and weight proportionate. No one nighters, please. (Tampa) \$\infty\$6866

THAT SPECIAL HOMEBOY This good looking, Puerto Rican guy, 33, seeks a special homeboy, who's Puerto Rican, Latin,

or Black. I've lived here for a year and want to meet someone who likes hanging out, spending romantic times together, and hitting the clubs on occasion. (Tampa)

26975

GOOD TIMES IN TAMPA
Attractive, 24 year old, versatile,
Black male, mostly a bottom, seeks
masculine, muscular, Black males, of
any age, for friendship and fun.

(Tampa) **≈5885**

GOTHIC ROMANTICISM Nice looking, intelligent, White male, 5'7, 134lbs, with Blond hair and Green eyes, is into the gothic and vampire scenes. I like the Anne Rice books and go to gothic clubs. I wanna meet a similar guy, 18 to 27, into wearing black and having fun. (Tampa) =6254

year old, Blue eyed, short haired, former macho daddy top, wants to become a bottom for a queeny, sissy, femmy guy. A positive attitude is a plus. (Titusville)

LET'S GO AT IT This 35 year old stud, always horny, wants to hook up with muscular men who wanna go at it and can handle it all the time. \$\infty 6867\$

LAP DANCE This attractive, 27 year old,
Latin crossdresser, wants to meet a man, 18
to 35, who will love me for who I am. I'm
very romantic and have Blond hair and
Brown eyes. I have a special fascination for
dancers. Dance for me for the rest of our
lives. #7228

NASTY ON THE PHONE I love hot phone talk. This good looking, very well built, White male, 27, 5'7, 165lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, wants to talk to other guys into getting nasty on the phone. \$\pi7035\$

CURLY TOP I'm looking for a well built top, 21 to 34, who likes to go out and have fun. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'6, with curly Brown hair and Blue eyes. \$\infty\$6854

TAKE ME OUT Sexy, handsome, 19 year old, Puerto Rican male, 5'9, 170lbs, with a stocky build, Black hair, Brown eyes, and goatee, is new in town. I'm looking for someone to take me out and show me around. \$\infty\$6922

TRUTH AND TOGETHERNESS I'm a professional, White male, 6ft, 170lbs, into the outdoors, togetherness and honesty. I'd like to meet a nice guy to spend time with. \$\pi6677\$

Masculine, confident, White male. 28, wants to make friends with other guys between 25 and 35. Let's talk. **#6684**

LEATHER TRAINEE This leather man in training seeks a guy to show me the ropes. I'm attractive and muscular, 35, 5'6, 160lbs. I hope you're between 30 and 40 and have a similar build. A long term relationship is possible. I'm not interested in verbal abuse or domination. **26590**

BEACH BALLER This sexy, tanned, beach boy, 20, with dark, Brown hair, Hazel eyes, and full lips, is ready for your call. #6352

BEAUTIFUL AND BUYABLE This hot escort, with 6 year's experience, is discreet, safe, masculine, muscular and hot. I'm 26, 6ft, 185lbs, with a big, thick piece, a bubble butt, and a military style haircut. I'm the type of guy you notice at the bar but think you can't approach. I'm actually very laid back and good natured. I'll travel throughout Florida. = 28700

NOW'S THE TIME Hey guys, I want to have some fun. If you're ready, willing, and able, let's get to it. **☎6566**

TOOLED FOR DRILLING This well endowed, well built, Gay, Black male, top, 30, 6'2, 220lbs, with a dark complexion, seeks Gay, Black, and Hispanic males, 25 to 35, for hot fun. **≈6410**

submissive bottom, 35, 6'3, 195lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, seeks several aggressive, very dominant tops, 18 to 30, who are into kidnapping, prison scenes, captive scenes and rape. You'll have to be strong to subdue me. **#6091**

FIRM GRIP? This submissive, 44 year old, White male, 5'10, 195lbs, with Salt and Pepper hair, needs a dominant man to take charge. **26204**



MANFINDERSM

into the underground dance scene and want to hang with a guy, 20 to 27, who wants to dance all night. I'm a good looking, 23 year old, White male, 5'10, 150lbs. If you want to have some fun, and don't take life too seriously, call. **5'953**

BACK FLIP This top wants to bottom, for an aggressive, dominant, top man. I'm very good looking, 5'9, 140lbs, with a swimmer's build, dark hair, Blue eyes, and a great ass. Butch men only. =6004

HOT MUSCLE BOY Wanted: masculine Stud, with a big muscle. Let me be your hot, little muscle boy. I'm your real good looking, uninhibited, bottom, 5'10, 150lbs, short Blond hair, Green eyes, and a real nice, tight, worked-out body. Keep me on my knees. Shoot me your message. \$\infty\$5413

NO STRING WRESTLING This good looking, clean shaven, White guy, 5'11, 180lbs, with short, Brown hair, beautiful Blue eyes, and a great smile, wants to meet you. I've got a great collection of wrestling videos. If you like wrestling, want to have a good time, with no strings, let's play. #5379

FUN IN THE SUN 27 year old, White male, 8", swimmer's built. Looking for a White male between the ages of 18 to 30 to keep me company. **5193**

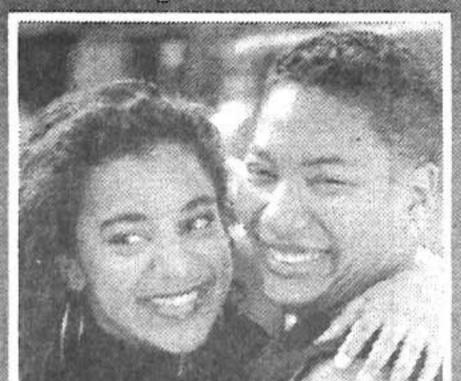
MASTER SEEKS BOY SLAVE Central Florida, Daddy Master needs a second boy for training and service. Master is 46 year old, 5'8, beard, masculine, professional, and caring. Boy has desire to please, domestic, HIV-, in shape, and wants to become master's property. You will be trained to meet your master's needs. On your knees, boy. Call your new master. \$\tilde{\pi}\$35551

TAME ME... I'm looking for someone who can tame the shrew. This Shakespearean image presented by a willing follower of Elizabethan culture and pleasure, if you get my drift. #4857

steek and stender Are you a real man who enjoys the company of a tall, feminine beauty? I'm a slender, pre-op Transsexual, 6'2, with Brown hair and eyes. Your race and age are unimportant. #33977



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FLORIDA

WARRIOR PRINCESS I'm a little shy about this ad thing, so I'll keep it short and sweet. I'm a good looking, toned, 27 year old, Gay, White female, 125lbs, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and the look of a Xena action figure. I'm a working musician. (Clearwater) \$\pi\$5697

ANYTHING GOES Submissive, White female sought, for fun and good times. I am with a partner, but anything goes. Imagine the possibilities. (Gainesville) \$\pi 5637\$

BROWN SUGAR Maybe it also describes me, you'll have to find out. I'm 29 and love to have fun. I'll keep you laughing. If you're around 35, have a good sense of humor, and enjoy the blank, blank thing, call me up. Trust, I'm a fun female. (Jacksonville) #5746

HANGIN' WITH THIS HOMEY I want to meet someone who likes a lot of tender loving care, who'll sweep me off my feet. This 35 year old, White female, 5'6, with Auburn hair and Blue eyes, likes homey things like cooking, cuddling, and pets. (Kissimmee) #1355

SEXY, FEMININE WOMYN Bisexual female is attracted to sexy, feminine womyn. I like to make friends who enjoy the beach, wine, fine food, and working out. I love intelligent people, who enjoy travel. I'm 23, a Brunette, 5'8, with Hazel eyes. If you want to have fun, give me a call. (Orlando) #5500

THE GAY WAY I'm a 28 year old,
Single, Black female, 5'2, 122lbs, into
softball, football, and candlelight dinners.
I'm looking for a Single, Gay female, 25 to
33, who's hard working, intelligent, and
knows what she wants out of life. Race is
not important (Orlando) =4897

ONE THING MISSING I hope this doesn't sound harsh but I'm looking for a sexual relationship. Everything in my life is going great but I want to give some pleasure. You should be sensual, erotic, passionate, and pleasing to the eye. It'd also help if you're fit and healthy, like me. (Orlando) \$\pi 3093\$

SIT BACK AND RELAX This soft butch, Gay, White female, 110lbs, with dark hair and light eyes, seeks other womyn who like fishing, walking, reading, quiet times, and other relaxing pursuits. (Palm Harbor) \$\pi\$5653

HOOP SKIRT This attractive, Black, college basketball player, 5'5, seeks a womyn for a special friendship. I hope you're pretty, feminine, and someone I can talk to. Let's hang out. (Pensacola) =6121

TAMPA FRIENDS Single, Black female, 31 years old. My interests are sports, movies, reading and music. Looking to find other friends in the area. (Tampa) \$\infty\$5076

SOPHISTICATED LADY? Attractive, Single, Bi curious, Black female, seeks a sophisticated, Black womyn. #5684

VARIETY OF INTERESTS I'm a professional, feminine Black female, looking for another feminine female, who's interested in good friendship, and perhaps something else. I have a variety of interests, which include doing dinner, quiet nights, walks on the beach, and dancing. I'm 40 years old, 5'9, full figured, and beautiful inside and out. Race is unimportant. If you're smoke free, box me. =5770

IS THIS FOR REAL? My name is a secret, I'd like you to unlock. I'm a Homosexual, Black woman, looking for a manly, manly womyn. I resemble Xena, the warrior princess. That's the kind of woman I like. Unlock the secret combination. #5478

To respond, browse or 'check your messages, call:

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