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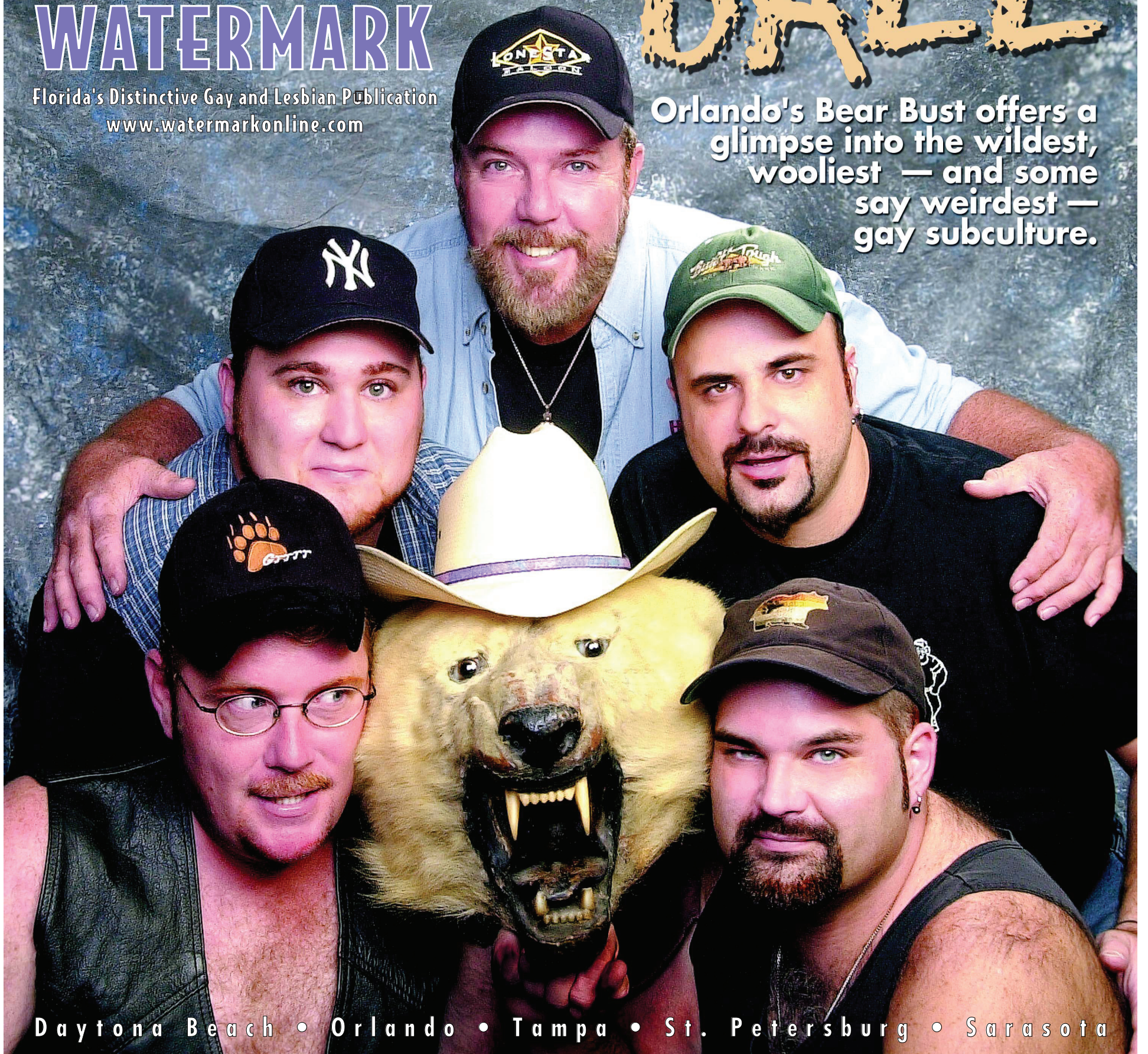


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On the Cover: Members of the Bears of Central Florida: (clockwise from top) BILL DEAN, JOHN BROCKMAN, CHRIS FORD-HAYES, TIM MOBLEY, ADAM MACKIEWICZ. Photo by Dennis Butler.



STEVE LORENZO is taunted by his "little brother" Josh.

EDITOR'S
DESK
By Scott Jackson Smith

Usually I use this space to make a point on a political or social topic of interest to the GLBT community. But I don't want to do that in this issue. Instead, I'd like to introduce you to *Watermark's* fantastic columnists and give you a chance to get to know these talented individuals a little better.

First up is Jim Crescitelli. Jim has penned a "Water Cress" column in every edition of *Watermark* since 1995. That's seven years worth of skewed perspectives from one of the wittiest and nicest people I've ever had the privilege of knowing. Reading "Water Cress" for me is a little bit like watching a David Lynch or Tim Burton film. Even though some of their movies are better than others, I always enjoy them. I enjoy being inside their heads for a little while. It makes reality so much easier to deal with.

Sarah Viren, who writes "Liberal Arts Lesbian," is a gem, too. I don't know if Sarah is aware of the impact her column has on readers. She always offers honest glimpses into her world as a gay woman, but so many of her experience resonate with a universal quality. On the surface, she seems to write with a touch of naivete, but if one reads between the lines there's a lot of truth and wisdom in her prose. Sarah's only been with *Watermark* for a year or so, but we want her to write for us as long as she wants to.

I'm so grateful for our roster of contributing "Viewpoint" columnists — each with his or her unique voice.

Award-winning Jayelle Wiggins is invaluable. Her "Lipstick Graffiti," about her experiences as a bisexual Wiccan, is consistently amazing. I used to think of her as our own Sylvia Plath: a wise woman that cannot break free of her own deep thoughts. But as the years go by I'm realizing she's more like Lenny Bruce, pointing out the vicissitudes of life in a biting and satirical manner. And Jayelle doesn't just poke fun at human behavior; she stabs it in the stomach and twists the knife. I love "Lipstick Graffiti."

Greg Triggs has written for *Watermark* for several years, supplying our readers with a wide array of news and features. Last year he started contributing semi-regularly with "What Would Greg Do?" His column is quite reflective. He speaks of experiences he's had over the years and how these

episodes have strengthened him as a gay man. Sometimes funny, sometimes a little sad, all of his columns are written straight from the heart — and Greg has a big heart.

Then there's Syd and Enid Jackowitz's "Parent's Perspective," a viewpoint column by a straight married couple who have a grown, successful gay son. What can I say about Enid and Syd? Their column is always so hard for me to edit because it's filled with so much poignancy that I'm teary-eyed by the end of each and every one. *Watermark* is so lucky to have them — and so is their son. They exude thoughtful love.

Lastly there's Rick Walen's "The Bottom Line," also a difficult edit because word for word Rick is an incredibly tight and concise writer. Rick's thoughts and ideas — usually of a political nature — so closely reflect my own that I'm often amazed to read my opinions so eloquently put. Rick is a master at finding the hidden truth beneath the rhetoric. His column on p. 22 of this issue — an acutely observant look at Governor Bush's fantasyland — is another in a string of must-read columns by the thought-provoking writer.

So there you have it: a group of writers that everyone at *Watermark* is very proud of. They are a diverse bunch that we feel reflect the richness of the gay and lesbian community. I hope you enjoy their columns as much as I appreciate each and every one of the authors.

In this edition of *Watermark* we take you from a candidates forum in Orlando ("Headline News" on p. 6) to Bear Bust at the Moon (in our "Water Colors" section). Along the way, you're also invited to attend a Big Brother/Big Sisters meeting in Tampa Bay (p. 25), meet The Center's director of operations Lani Brito (p. 25), listen in on an interview with English chanteuse Alison Moyet ("Water Colors" p. 5), and get dressed up in your finest Butchwear ("Water Colors" cover). Plus we have more election coverage (p. 12), lots of community news (pp. 8 - 11), and of course we have our incredible columnists sprinkled throughout.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Watermark* as much as we've enjoyed putting it together for you. Let us hear from you. ▼

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Sheri McInvale

Democrat for Florida State House, District 36

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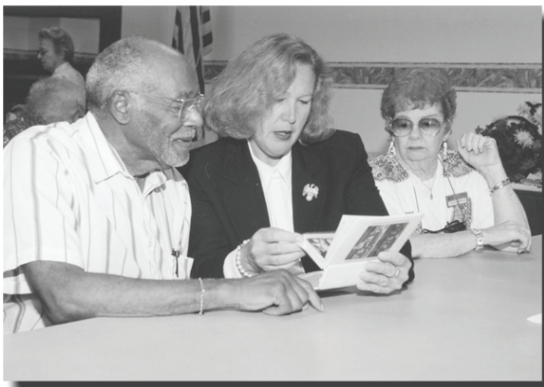
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PEOPLE ARE TALKING



GREASE IS STILL THE WORD

Paramount Home Entertainment threw a big party on Sept. 24 on the backlot of Paramount Studios to celebrate the 90th anniversary of their studio and the DVD release of "the movies that defined their generation." Which movies? None other than *Grease*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Flashdance*, *Footloose*, and *Urban Cowboy*. Without a doubt the highlight of the event was John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John singing together on stage for the first time in 20 years. And as an added bonus, most of the original *Grease* cast members joined them. When the party came to an end, guests were presented with a gift bag that included a *Saturday Night Fever* mirror ball key chain and a widescreen DVD of *Grease* that includes retrospective interviews

with Travolta, Newton-John, Stockard Channing, Jeff Conway, Didi Conn, and openly gay director Randal Kleiser. On Oct. 8, Paramount released their stable of generation defining films on DVD in widescreen format with plenty of extras.

ROCKING OUT OF THE CLOSET

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation and Centaur Entertainment will release *Being Out Rocks* on Oct. 11 to celebrate National Coming Out Day. The album features a cross-section of GLBT and straight artists who have proven their commitment to openness and honesty. A total of 21 artists donated songs to the album including Cyndi Lauper, k.d. lang, Sarah McLaughlin, Rufus Wainwright, Ani DiFranco, Janis Ian, Sam Harris, Suede, Queen, The B-52's, Taylor Dayne, and Kevin Aviance. *Being Out*



CYNDI LAUPER is one of 21 artists featured on HRC's *Being Out Rocks*, a CD produced to recognize and celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

Rocks is also the theme of this year's National Coming Out Day, celebrated every Oct. 11 to mark the anniversary of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality. The CD will be available at record stores nationwide, including independently owned GLBT retail outlets, Virgin Megastores, Borders, Barnes and Noble, and HMV. You can also purchase it online through www.hrc.org or at www.centaurmusic.com.

CITY OF HOPE RECOGNIZES LOCAL HERO

The Veranda Bed and Breakfast will once again serve as the setting for City of Hope's second annual Hopefest. City of Hope, a national comprehensive research center renowned for its treatments to combat cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and other life threatening illnesses, will present this year's Central Florida Humanitarian Award to openly lesbian Karen Ferrell. Ms. Ferrell is being recognized for her dedication to raising awareness

and funds for leukemia, lymphoma, and diabetes, as well as significant donations of her own original artwork for these and other charitable causes and events. Ferrell's brother, Rich Ferrell, who is also openly gay, lost his teenaged son Drew to a rare form of Leukemia last year. The evening will also feature a wine tasting, silent auction, and musical entertainment. For more information on the event please call (407) 894-9594.



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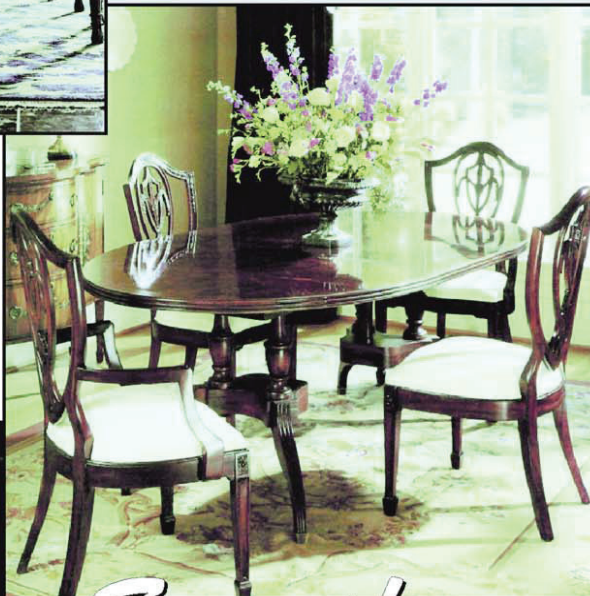
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SHEEHAN, HOWELL TRADE BARBS AT FORUM

ORLANDO - There are several important races in the coming mid-term election, but Central Florida's gay and lesbian community has been most energized by the battle for State House District 36. As many as 25 percent of registered voters in mostly Democratic downtown Orlando are gay, setting up an interesting battle between two political newcomers: Democrat Sheri McInvale and Republican Patrick Howell.

If elected, Howell will join Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan as Central Florida's second high profile openly gay elected official. And it was Sheehan who fired the most direct shots at Howell during the Oct. 3 Metropolitan Business Association Candidate's Forum. Her remarks made clear that for some present at the event, particularly Democrats, being gay might not always translate into gay vote.

Eight candidates for public office addressed members and guests of the local gay and lesbian business group at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. More than 100 in attendance couldn't help noticing that — except for Howell — all of the candidates were Democrats.

"Look at who's here tonight, and look at the platforms of the parties," McInvale said. "It should be clear who has been there for you, and who will continue to be there for you."

"The makeup of this panel is reflective of the values and priorities of the two parties," added State House District 49 candidate Jose Fernandez.

Candidates present included Howell, McInvale, Fernandez, Eddie Diaz (U.S. House District 8), Marni Berger (State House District 35), Jim Martin (State House District 38), Tim Shea (Orange County School Board District 2), and Joie Cadle (Orange County School Board District 1). Harry Jacobs (U.S. House District 24) had to cancel at the last minute due to his wife's illness, but he sent a statement of support.

All were articulate in their support of broad non-discrimination laws, making it clear that gay voters have appealing options

in many pivotal local races. Each candidate expressed strong support for the Dignity for All Students Act and for overturning Florida's ban on gay adoptions, and many proactively endorsed legal domestic partnerships status for same-sex couples.

"Take note that I'm running against the person who single-handedly killed the Dignity for All Students Act during the last legislative session," said Martin in

reference to his Republican opponent, incumbent Fred Brummer. "I have a lesbian sister and I've seen what she's experienced. For me these things are no-brainers."

"There is nothing more important than finding loving homes for our children," said Fernandez, "and its absurd that we have laws that deny them that."

Diaz and Jacobs both expressed eagerness to pass the federal Employee Non Discrimination Act and federal Hate Crimes legislation.

"It is a gross oversight not to include sexual orientation in every category of discrimination protection," said Diaz, who is running against Republican first-term incumbent Ric Keller.

Cadle and Shea promised to seek specific contractual protections for gay teachers and other school board employees, and to protect local schoolchildren from harassment.

"We know there's discrimination," said

Shea. "The question for all of us is what we're going to do about it."

"No child in Orange County should be afraid to go to school," Cadle said.

Howell and McInvale were clear in their support of a broad range of pro-gay measures, but as the only candidates present in opposition, they also sought ways to distinguish themselves. Howell said Florida's legislature needs openly gay representatives, and touted his endorsement by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. In addition to her party affiliation, McInvale noted her local ties and years of volunteer service to the community.



State House District 36 Democratic candidate SHERI MCINVALLE: "It should be clear who has been there for you, and who will continue to be there for you."

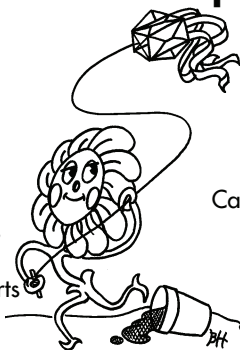


State House District 38 candidate JIM MARTIN on the Dignity For All Students Act: "I have a lesbian sister and I've seen what she's experienced."

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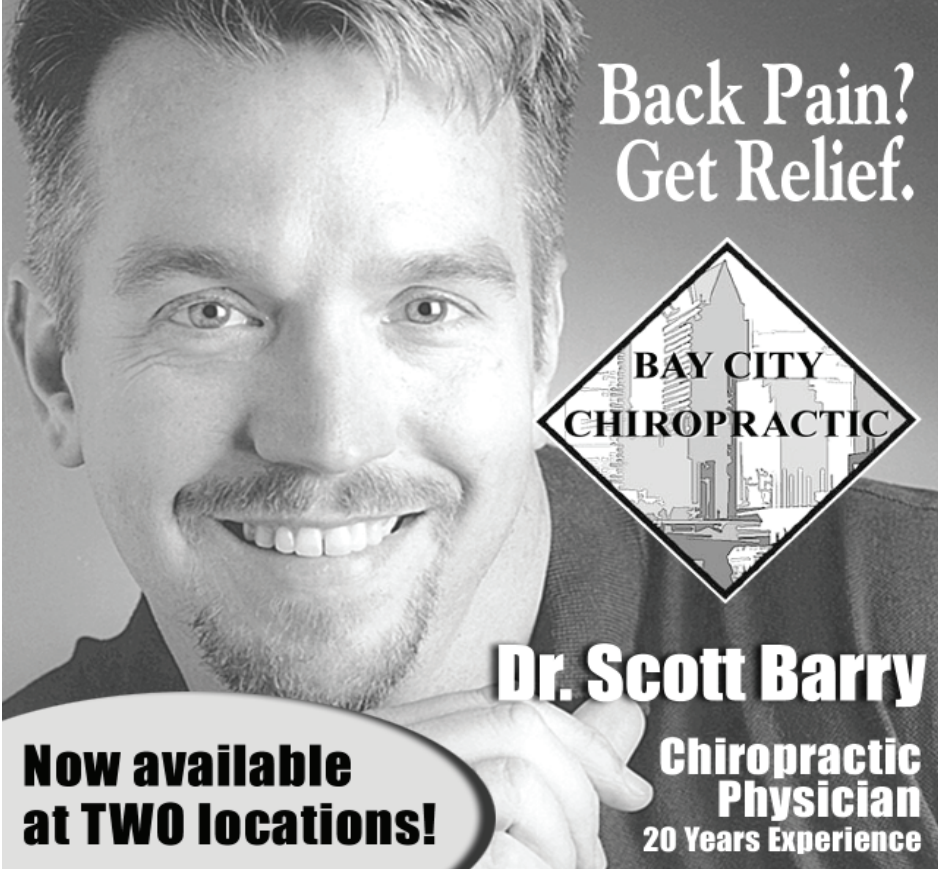


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MANATEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GLBT STUDENTS REGROUP

BRADENTON - Two years ago, a gay female student at Manatee Community College in Bradenton approached faculty advisors with the idea of starting a new student group. Her idea was to initiate a club that GLBT students could turn to and get the support they needed while attending the two-year college. With faculty assistance GLAD (Gays and Lesbians Advocating Diversity) was born. But according to current GLAD president John Fuss, keeping the group going proved to be a difficult task.

"Since the college is only a two year college it was hard to keep students actively involved," Fuss said. "Last semester the GLAD club seemed to not exist."

Fuss said that two of his advisors, Christy Burch and Kristen Moudy, began work in the beginning of the fall semester to rebuild GLAD. Using simple means and available resources, Burch and Moudy created posters and advertised the re-envisioned club across campus.

"That's how I learned about the group," Fuss said. "And now GLAD has approximately 13 active members. We

hope that number increases once we hang up some more advertisements on campus."

Fuss said that the group has only had one official introductory meeting since the beginning of the semester. But, he said, members from the group regularly get together for social activities.

"We are producing an activity calendar for this semester that will include a mini gay and lesbian film festival in which proceeds will go toward having a prom at the end of the spring semester," he said. "We also are going to have little outings and have movie nights for our members."

Fuss said that since the group's resurgence, he and his advisors have focused on ways to make other gay and lesbian students aware of GLAD's existence. He said that immediate plans include starting an informational Web site that will list meetings and the group's activity calendar.

Manatee Community College recognizes GLAD as an official student organization. For more information on the group, go to <www.mccfl.edu/Clubs/ICC/ICC.htm>. ▽ *Scott J. Smith*

SARASOTA BRIEFS



RINGLING SCHOOL OF ART TO OBSERVE COMING OUT DAY

The Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota is having a Pride event on Oct. 11 and 12 in observation of National Coming Out Day. From 11 AM to 12:30 PM on each day, the school will host an expo and fair. The school is inviting all GLBT groups and organizations in the Sarasota area to join in the activities and set up their own tables or booths free of charge to provide information on what is available in the community. All those interested in taking part should contact assistant dean of students Kelly Mosell at (941) 359-7505.

"HAUNTED HOLLYWOOD" PARTY TO BENEFIT FILM FESTIVAL

The Sarasota Film Festival will present "Haunted Hollywood," a Halloween party, on Oct. 31 at Michael's on East. The master of ceremonies for the event is Pete Jarrett, who is also the party's co-chair along with Pam Morris. The theme of the evening is a tribute to Hollywood's golden age of horror and suggested attire includes dressing as a classic film monster or resurrecting a dead celebrity. The party will feature live music by Smokin' Bones. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling (941) 362-0740.

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TAMPA BAY NEWS

DAVIS, SINK HIGHLIGHT EQUALITY FLORIDA EVENT

ST. PETERSBURG - "Voice of Equality" was the theme for Equality Florida's 2nd Annual Central Florida Reception, held Sept. 28 at The Lyceum in St. Petersburg. Among those voices were Congressman Jim Davis (D-Tampa) — co-sponsor of the federal hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act — and Alex Sink, wife of gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride.

More than one hundred fifty attended the event, which honors Equality Florida's most generous "Florida Council" donors. The reception raised an additional \$25,000 for the respected statewide glbt advocacy group, which will be used primarily to pay



(L-R) Tampa Police Lt. MICKIE MASHBURN, Rep. JIM DAVIS, Equality Florida attorney Karen Doering at the Central Florida Reception. Photo by Rex Maniscalco.



(L-R) Equality Florida's ROBIN HANKINS and AMY MANDEL with ALEX SINK: "It's about having your voice heard." Photo by Rex Maniscalco.

for printing and distribution of the organization's Get-Out-The-Vote guide to 150,000 voters statewide.

In addition to Davis and Sink, Hillsborough County Commission Chair Pat Frank was recognized for her twenty-five years of public service and her commitment to the glbt community. Frank has championed countywide non-discrimination protections for gays and lesbians through both passage and repeal.

Equality Florida executive director Nadine Smith said, "It is these officials who work to support laws that recognize our rights in an environment of dignity and respect."

Sink, a former president of Bank of America-Florida, reinforced how important the work of Equality Florida is to the community.

"It's not about the election," she said. "It's about having your voices heard to end discrimination."

But she noted that if mobilized, gays and lesbians could have a significant impact on the upcoming elections. She said that if elected governor, her husband would support issues of concern to the glbt community.

"We can change Florida history," she said, "and stop discrimination and free students from being terrorized because it's the right thing to do."

Keynote speaker Davis shared that he came to political life out of concern for his children's public education. He also spoke about the President's handling of Iraq, and endorsed McBride for governor.

"It's time to restore respect in Tallahassee," he said, "and respect is about listening and learning." ❖ Rick Walen

FILM FEST OPENS, GETS BIG PRESS

TAMPA - As hundreds moved from the Oct. 3 party on Franklin St. into the Tampa Theatre, some wondered if everyone would fit into the historic movie house to see opening night feature *Notorious C.H.O.*. They did — with just a few rows to spare — and the 13th annual Tampa International

Gay & Lesbian Film Festival was off and running. Fueled by a strong lineup and unprecedented coverage from the *Tampa Tribune* and *St. Petersburg Times*, as well as *Watermark*, this year's festival will likely break the previous attendance record of 14,000.

The *Times* included the festival among its recommended cultural offerings, and the *Tribune* placed it on the cover of its weekend supplement. A business story also highlighted the festival's economic impact.

"The known facts paint the picture of an event that's growing in size and importance," wrote *Tribune* reporter David Simanoff.

There were large crowds for *Circuit* on Saturday night, and *Food of Love* on Sunday afternoon. *Circuit* director Dirk

Shafer attended his film's screening, as did author David Leavitt, who wrote the book on which *Food of Love* is based.

"Thanks so much for coming out to this second venue," Film Fest director Margaret Murray said at Centro Ybor. "The Muvico people have been wonderful."

The Film Fest continues through Sunday, Oct. 13. On that day Equality Florida will sponsor a Street Fair and Candidate's Forum outside the Tampa Theatre from noon to 5 PM. Inside, movies will play all day and there will be a concert by area gay and lesbian choruses.

For more information, visit www.pridefilmfest.org. ❖ Tom Dyer



Author DAVID LEAVITT (left) with *Tomes & Treasures* owner BILL KANOUFF at a Film Fest brunch at Centro Ybor's Dish restaurant. Photo by Tom Dyer.



Festival director MARGARET MURRAY with *Circuit* director DIRK SHAFER at Dish. Photo by Tom Dyer.

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TAMPA BAY BRIEFS



MCBRIDE NAMES HOWARD GLBT LIASON

Florida Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill McBride has named a leading community organizer to coordinate his campaign's outreach to the estimated one million-plus gay and lesbian residents of the Sunshine State. Ted Howard began working for McBride on Oct. 1, and is currently on leave from his position as Equality Florida's statewide social justice organizer. Howard has conducted GLBT leadership conferences in Tampa, Orlando, Sarasota, Jacksonville and Tallahassee, and has worked on the SAVE Dade campaign in Miami.

UNITY LEADERSHIP TAMPA BAY MEETS OCT. 19

Now in its third year, Unity Leadership Tampa Bay will hold a biannual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Doubletree Hotel on Cypress St. The 10 AM - 2:30 PM meeting will feature organization reports, networking opportunities, training on "community mobilization," and an update on Tampa Bay area domestic partnership initiatives. For more information, call (727) 384-2254.

TRIBUNE CRITICIZED FOR SAME-SEX ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Tampa Tribune's* Sep. 21 announcement that they would begin publishing announcements of same-sex unions outraged some readers. "Open homosexuals form a very small part of the community," wrote Steven Parsley. "This policy is a serious error on your part." Patricia Walenta said, "Gay unions are not a natural act, and should not be encouraged or condoned. This is a serious threat to my religious beliefs." More than 125 newspapers, including *The Orlando Sentinel* now accept same-sex union announcements.

ORLANDO BRIEFS



SAFE SCHOOL SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN ORLANDO

Equality Florida is bringing the third annual Safe School Summit to Orlando. The Safe School Summit is Florida's only statewide gathering of activists dedicated to making schools safe for GLBT youth. The summit will take place the weekend of Oct. 19 - 20 at the Hawthorn Suites Hotel in Orlando. The cost of the event is \$30 for youth and \$50 for adults. The price includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday but does not include lodging. For more information or to register contact Anna Baldwin at (813) 870-3735 x 205.

FRONT RUNNERS SCHEDULE THIRD WOMEN'S NIGHT

Due to the success of the past two Women's Nights, Orlando Front Runners and Walkers (OFRW) will hold another one on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 PM at the Red Pagoda in Eola Park. According to OFRW president Gary Paskal, Women's Night could become a monthly event. Paskal also noted that women are welcome at all OFRW events.

GAY COMMUNITY, SUPPORTERS TO RALLY AT CITY HALL

ORLANDO - To counter Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood's reluctance to schedule a vote for adding "sexual orientation" to Chapter 57 of the city's anti-discrimination law, a "Give Us Our Vote Rally" has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 14 at 6 PM at City Hall.

Noted speakers from across the cultural, political and religious spectrum have said that they will attend the rally in support of Orlando's gay and lesbian community. At a candidate's forum on Oct. 3, all eight politicians in attendance also agreed to take part in the rally. (See "Headline News" on p. 6.)

The rally is being organized by members of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee

(OADO). They claim that Hood is stalling the vote because she's afraid that it could hurt her chances of being appointed to a position within Gov. Bush's administration.

Openly lesbian City Council member Patty Sheehan also accused the mayor of delaying the legislation to avoid any perceived controversy before Nov. 5. "I don't think citizens' civil rights should have to wait until someone's political fortunes are decided," Sheehan told the *Sentinel*. "If we treated everything the way this legislation has been treated, we would never pass anything."

A spokesperson for the mayor's office denied Hood was purposely delaying the vote. ▼ *Scott J. Smith*

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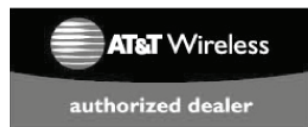
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PROMOTERS WILL GO AHEAD WITH PRIDEFEST

ORLANDO - Organizers of this year's Pridefest celebration, scheduled for Oct. 12, have announced a change in venue. Originally the festivities, dubbed "Evolution," were to be held on Soundstage 33 at Universal Studios Orlando, but due to several factors the event will now be held at The Club at Firestone.

"It's actually a blessing in disguise for us because it allows us to give more back," says Alan Bounville, co-coordinator of this year's event. "We have overcome many challenges to do something that is going to benefit our community as a whole, which has always been the main goal."

Initially, Pridefest was designed as a benefit for Orlando's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center (GLBCC) and organizers were able to secure the venue at Universal Studios for a fraction of the normal cost by using the Center's not for profit status.

But GLBCC decided to pull out of "Evolution" and cancelled their contract with Pridefest's promoters when they realized that both Bounville and co-organizer Bates Reed planned to take a cut of the profits to compensate for the time and effort they put into the event.

"We have never had a volunteer financially profit from Pridefest and we are not going to," says Bart Zarcone, president of the Center's board of directors.

Bounville says that he, Reed, and other Pridefest volunteers deserve compensation for giving up to 20 hours out of their own workweeks.

"When you take on something like Pridefest and you want to do it as big as possible it takes a lot more time than your

traditional volunteer work," says Bounville.

Pridefest has traditionally been a fundraising event for the programs and services at the Center. This year event organizers decided to give an equal portion of the proceeds to Serenity House, a local pediatric AIDS charity. After the Center pulled out of the event, Bounville and other organizers decided to exclude GLBCC from any of the monies they were originally promised.

Instead, according to Bounville, the portion of the proceeds that were to benefit the Center will now go into an account to be used in the creation of a new "community leadership cooperative."

When it was announced that the Center would not be a beneficiary of this year's event many organizations, including *Watermark* and Universal Studios, also pulled their sponsorship.

"We are already working with Universal on next year's Pridefest, which will see it return to being a fundraiser for the Center," says Zarcone. "We learn by our mistakes and we really want it known that neither Reed or Bounville represents the Center in any way."

Bounville and his co-organizers are forging ahead to make Pridefest 2002 a success. "Evolution" will kick off as planned at 10 AM at the Club at Firestone. A \$5 donation per person is requested for the daytime events.

The event will continue into the night with a circuit-style party. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$35. For more information on the event or to purchase tickets go to <www.solarorlando.com>.

▼ *John Sullivan*

STATE NEWS

DAYTONA CROSS-DRESSER'S KILLER MURDERED BY EX-POLICE OFFICER

DAYTONA BEACH - In the early hours of the morning on Sun., Sept. 7, a man wearing a black skirt and blue halter top was found dead in a vacant lot on Ridgewood Avenue in Daytona.

The man, later identified as Daniel Phillip Redding, 39, was also known as "Danielle." According to police, Redding had been arrested several times on prostitution charges.

Daytona Beach Police were looking

for Jason Lee Starkey in connection with the shooting death of Redding. But on the morning of Sept. 22, Starkey was also found shot to death in front of a Daytona Beach dry-cleaners.

Police have charged a former Edgewater police officer, Ronald Harry Robbins, with Starkey's murder. Robbins is being charged with second-degree murder. ▼ *Scott J. Smith*

HILLARY CLINTON TO BE HONORED BY DADE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION

MIAMI - The Dade Human Rights Foundation (DHRF) has announced that



HILLARY CLINTON will be awarded the National Impact Award by the Dade Human Rights Foundation on Oct. 19.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) will be presented with its National Impact Award on Oct. 19 at the foundation's Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner.

"We are honored to have Senator Clinton accept our National Impact Award and be the keynote speaker at our annual event," says DHRF board member Cindy Brown. "Senator Clinton is recognized worldwide as an advocate for democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, and

STATE BRIEFS



POINCIANA TEACHER ARRESTED FOR ABUSING STUDENT GIRLFRIEND

Andrea Meade, a Poinciana High School special education teacher, was arrested on Oct. 1 for assaulting her 16-year-old girlfriend — who was a student at the school where Meade taught. According to Osceola sheriff's Bureau Chief, Meade went to the teen's home to discuss their relationship, became angered, and ended up hitting the girl about the head and neck. Meade admitted to a sexual relationship with the girl, but said that the affair started before she was hired at the teen's school. Meade is being charged for lewd and lascivious assault on a child and unlawful sexual activity. She also faces a misdemeanor battery charge.

MIAMI FILM FEST DIRECTOR LEAVES POSITION

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Robert Rosenberg has departed from his position at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Rosenberg founded the Film Fest and has served as its director since the festival's inception five years ago. According to a press release issued by the festival, Rosenberg left to pursue other projects, and that the organization has been struggling with management, structural and financial issues. Fran Levey, co-chair of the festival board, said that there are no plans to replace Rosenberg.

HUNDREDS TO MEET IN MIAMI TO CELEBRATE LATINO GLBT UNITY

Hundreds of Latina/o sexual-minority and transgender advocates, service providers, educators, community members, and supporters will meet in Miami this month for LLEGO's biennial gathering. The Washington, D.C.-based national Latina/o GLBT organization will hold its ninth international conference from Oct. 10-14 at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. The event is expected to draw about 1,500 attendees from throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Latin America. Preregistration is available online at <www.llego.org>. Attendees can also register at the conference. LLEGO is the nation's only nonprofit organization devoted to organizing Latina/o GLBT communities on a local, regional, national and international level.

equal rights for gays and lesbians and, as such, DHRF is saluting her efforts and her unwavering passion."

The dinner will take place at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa in

Hollywood, FL. Tickets are still available. A VIP table for ten is \$3,000, a host table for ten is \$1,750, and individual tickets are \$175. For more information, call (305) 572-1841 or visit <www.dhrf.com>.

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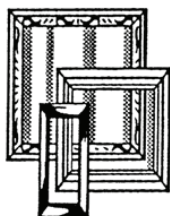
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2002 ELECTIONS REVAMPED CABINET MAKES VOTE IMPORTANT

Florida Attorney General: Charlie Crist (Rep.) v. Buddy Dyer (Dem.) By Tom Dyer

This is the third in a series of profiles leading up to the Nov. 5 election. The Oct. 24 issue of Watermark will contain a preview of key national, state and local races appearing on ballots in Sarasota, Tampa Bay and the Orlando Area.

In Florida, state Cabinet elections usually draw the same level of interest as summer reruns. But a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 1998 halved the number of Cabinet offices from six to three beginning now, and those remaining will wield unprecedented influence — particularly the Attorney General.

All three Cabinet officers (Agriculture Commissioner, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer) will sit on the Board of Administration, overseeing Florida's \$90 billion pension fund. But the Attorney General is also the chief officer of what is in effect the state's law firm, directing and supervising teams of attorneys as they scrutinize everything from white-collar crime to consumer fraud to civil rights violations.

It's a high profile position that many see as a logical stepping stone to the Governor's mansion in 2006. Democrat Bob Butterworth — who declined to run for Governor in 2002 — has held the office for the past sixteen years, and in that time he set a precedent for activism on behalf of Florida consumers. He successfully challenged industries ranging from baseball to Microsoft to Enron, and in 1999 he won a \$206 billion settlement against the tobacco industry.

Term limits forced Butterworth out of

office, but his shadow is the point of difference between the candidates hoping to succeed him. Democrat Buddy Dyer, a State Senator from Orlando, has stated that he would continue to actively pursue white-collar crimes, consumer fraud and civil rights violations. His Republican

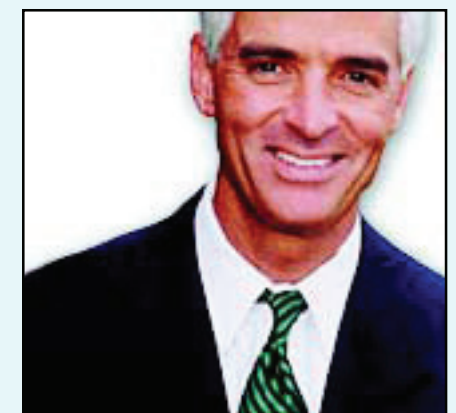
opponent, Education Commissioner Charlie Crist of St. Petersburg, downplays his commitment to those issues and is the darling of the business community and far right.

And although statewide civil rights protections do not embrace sexual orientation, Dyer is clearly supportive of such protections while Crist — beholden to conservatives — is

not. Dyer has addressed the Metropolitan Business Association, Orlando's gay chamber of commerce, on more than one occasion. His campaign Web site states: "Buddy Dyer believes that discrimination of any kind by any individual, government agency or company should not be tolerated. As



BUDDY DYER: "I don't think he has the qualifications."



CHARLIE CRIST: "I like Florida businesses."

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FEATURE NEWS

Attorney General he will instruct the Office of Civil Rights to proactively seek out and prosecute any entity or individual practicing discrimination based on race, gender, color, age, religion, disability marital status or sexual orientation." Crist makes no such claims.

In fact, Crist is seen by many as a lightweight political opportunist with no clear agenda. When his position as Education Commissioner was

eliminated, it is speculated that he cast about for the most winnable state office. With good looks and an affable manner, he might be harmlessly ineffectual if not for his willingness to advance the beliefs of the political powerbrokers that finance his forays into public office.

"We're 100 percent supporting Charlie Crist," said Tim Barnes, executive director of the Republican Attorneys General association, which seeks to elect pro-business candidates into the increasingly important state offices. "This is a top priority race for us this year."

Asked to define himself in this context, Crist's response was typical.

**CRIST IS SEEN BY MANY AS A
LIGHTWEIGHT POLITICAL
OPPORTUNIST WITH NO CLEAR
AGENDA.**

"Well, I like Florida businesses," he said.

Dyer hopes that, among other more substantive differences, Crist's unimpressive intellect will concern voters. Both are lawyers, and both served in the Florida Senate, but Dyer was editor of the Law Review at the University of Florida, and got the highest score in the state when he took the Bar exam. Crist attended low-ranked Cumberland School of Law and needed three tries to pass the Bar exam.

The issue came up when Pinellas Park police Chief David Milchan asked Crist if he would hire Dyer if elected. "Why not?" responded Crist. When asked the same question, Dyer said, "As nice as Charlie is, I don't think he has the qualifications."

Crist has a five-point lead in recent polls, but 23 percent remain undecided so the race is currently considered a toss-up. Next to Governor, Attorney General is the most important statewide election in 2002. The winner will have enormous influence on passage and enforcement of civil rights laws in Florida. By all means, cast your vote for Buddy Dyer.

Watermark publisher Tom Dyer is not related to Sen. Buddy Dyer.

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PROVIDENCE POISED TO ELECT OPENLY GAY MAYOR

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Mayoral candidate David Cicilline is a one-man political rainbow: Italian, Jewish, liberal, wealthy and gay.

He is also setting the stage for Providence to become the largest U.S. city to elect an openly gay mayor.

Recent polls show him with a commanding lead over three other contenders in the race to succeed Vincent "Buddy" Cianci Jr., an old-school politician who held office for parts of four decades before he was sentenced to five years in prison for corruption. The 41-year-old son of the state's best-known organized crime lawyer, Cicilline has tried not to be known as "the gay candidate." That led some in the gay community to revolt during the recent primary and back his chief opponent, former Mayor Joseph Paolino Jr.

If elected, Providence will surpass Tempe, Ariz. as the largest U.S. city with an openly gay mayor, according to the Washington-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. (AP)

APPEALS COURT REVERSES DECISION, FINDS HOMOSEXUALITY PROTECTED

LAS VEGAS - An eleven-judge panel reversed an earlier decision, ruling on Sept. 24 that federal civil rights laws protect gay workers physically harassed on the job. The 7-4 ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reverses a March 2001 decision by three judges in the same court.

They had upheld a 1979 decision that the law protects workers against discrimination only on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or national origin.

The case extends protection to workers regardless of sexual orientation or offender's intent.

The seven-judge majority cited a unanimous 1998 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that sexual harassment at work can be illegal even when the offender and victim are the same sex. (AP)

THREE MEN ARRESTED IN WEST HOLLYWOOD ATTACK ON GAY ACTOR

WEST HOLLYWOOD - Three men were arrested for investigation of beating a gay actor with a baseball bat outside his home last month in a suspected hate crime attack. Los Angeles County sheriff's Capt. Lynda Castro announced the arrests during a news conference late on Oct. 2. She declined to identify the men.

Investigators are looking into whether the suspects were involved in other assaults on gay men in West Hollywood, including one that took place just hours after actor Treve Broudy was attacked.

Broudy, 33, was attacked on Labor Day. Another man was similarly attacked the same night, and a fourth was beaten later in September by two men yelling anti-gay epithets and wielding a bat and a pipe. The attacks put the city on alert, and police stepped up patrols.

The men were originally arrested for investigation of robbery and automobile grand theft before they were linked to the beating, Castro said. (AP)

WORLD BRIEFS



NAVY TO KEEP WON'T DISCHARGE GAY SERVICE MEMBERS

Navy officials are refusing to discharge two openly gay service members despite the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. In two cases at separate naval commands, Ensign Thang Nguyen and Hospitalman Roy Hill recently made statements acknowledging their sexual orientation. In both cases, their commands have refused to initiate discharge proceedings while also refusing to provide any guarantee of the service members' safety.

FOUR GAY MEN RELEASED FROM EGYPTIAN PRISON

Four men were released from an Egyptian prison on Sept. 24 after their convictions for "consensual homosexual behavior" were overturned on appeal. The men were in prison for 10 months. According to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the rulings were appealed to the Boulak Appeals Court of Misdemeanors, which reversed the decisions based on lack of evidence.

TASMANIA TO RECOGNIZE DOMESTIC PARTNERS

On Sept. 24, the state government of Tasmania said it would begin recognizing domestic partnerships. Tasmania Attorney-General Judy Jackson said, "This is not about morality. It's about human rights and the respect for the equal dignity of all persons without discrimination."

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BUSH BLAMED FOR UNDERMINING AIDS PREVENTION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Human Rights Watch and Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, will discuss how the Bush Administration is threatening adolescent health by censoring basic information about how to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Human Rights Watch has just issued a new report documenting how federally funded "abstinence-only-until-marriage" programs threaten the health of young people by censoring and distorting basic information about how to prevent HIV.

The report focuses on programs in Texas, where advertising campaigns warn that parents who advise their children to use condoms may actually be putting

their children's lives at risk and where programs either convey the message that teenagers should not use condoms because they don't work or do not mention condoms at all.

"The Bush administration wants to spend millions more dollars on abstinence-only programs that put teenagers at higher risk for HIV," said Rebecca Schleifer, an HIV/AIDS researcher at Human Rights Watch and the author of the report. "Our research shows that these programs don't just censor information, they actively promote misinformation about condoms. And they deprive adolescents of one of the most important tools that they need to protect themselves from HIV."

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DECLINES TO FUND LESBIAN HEALTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) pulled a promised \$85,000 grant for Healing Works, almost scuttling the national lesbian health conference before it took place.

The Office of Women's Health at HHS had put money into their budget for the conference and The Mautner Project bid on the request for a proposal (RFP), a standard process with government funding.

Kathleen DeBold, executive director of The Mautner Project, explained the machinations of how the RFP was withdrawn and a second issued and then withdrawn before she was told by HHS

official Cristina Beato that the conference "did not fit into [Secretary Tommy Thompson's] vision for women's health. He wants to fund inclusive conferences."

DeBold noted that that "vision" did not preclude HHS from funding youth conferences, women of color conferences, and Native American conferences.

Healing Works ended up getting the money "through the back door," in smaller bits and pieces from the CDC, National Cancer Institute, and other parts of HHS farther removed from the Secretary's office. That funded travel fellowships for some of the attendees and speakers. ▼ *Bob Roehr*

HEALTH BRIEFS



NATURAL PROTEINS MAY BLOCK PROGRESSION OF HIV

Scientists have identified a group of proteins that inhibit the progression of HIV in people who are resistant to the virus. A study, using a new protein-identification tool, identified the proteins in a disease-blocking substance, called CAF. Researchers said the proteins in CAF are part of a large family of disease-fighters known as alpha-defensins. These natural antibiotics were first discovered in 1985 and were known to play a role in protecting the body from bacteria and infections. The new study finds they also inhibit HIV.

SYPHILIS OUTBREAK INDICATES DANGER OF HIV INCREASING AMONG GAY MEN

An increase in syphilis infections among gay and bisexual men indicates they may be letting their guard down against sexually transmitted diseases, the government said on Sept. 26. The increase suggests the men may be abandoning safe sex practices because life-extending AIDS-treatment drugs are more widely available. Outbreaks of syphilis among gay men also have been recorded in New York, Seattle, Chicago, San Francisco and Miami.

SOME LUBRICANTS MAY HELP SPREAD HIV

A recent report from the World Health Organization (WHO) warns that using sexual lubricants containing a popular spermicide could increase the risk of HIV infection. The WHO report said that using lube containing nonoxynol-9 (N-9) during anal sex could lead to rectal inflammation and the shedding of cells lining the rectum, causing a much higher risk of contracting the AIDS virus.

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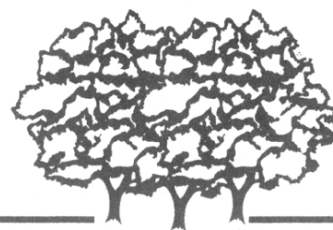
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MY DOCUMENTS



MY DOCUMENTS THE BEAUTY OF AN AMAZON WISH LIST

Queer computing by Erin J. Chisman

With a plethora of online purchasing options, who needs to leave home in order to purchase Pride and other queer paraphernalia? Just sit down at your computer with a fresh cup of coffee, hit a high-speed connection, go to

<www.kleptomaniac.com>

and whip out the credit card. Wait a few days (realistically, weeks) to receive your purchases, and never have to do battle with like-minded shoppers ever again.

However, specifically gay sites aren't the only online-shopping outlets available to the queer community. There remains the giant entity of Amazon.com <www.amazon.com>. At first glance, there is no sign of rainbow flags, but if one digs a little, you will soon discover a brilliant supply of queer-themed books, music, and so forth.

You first need to sign up to be an Amazon user, similar to any other site.

This means sharing your name, rank, and serial number. Doing this is imperative. By naming your interests and preferences, Amazon will provide you with a list of recommendations each time you sign in. This is the key to gaydom within

Amazon.com.

My partner Kristin is addicted to Amazon. Sure she might surf the lesbian themed sites, but for her, it's an easy way to discover new books aimed toward her

interests. For example, the most recent time she signed in, the items that showed up on her welcome page were *The Lesbian Sex Book* under "recommended books," k.d. lang's *Ingenue* was listed as a music recommendation, *Ellen DeGeneres: "The Beginning"* was identified as a must-have DVD, and *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love* was her top video recommendation.

Underneath each recommendation is a link that reads, "Why was I recommended

this?" which allows the user to edit interests for future recommendations. Above each recommendation is a link that will take her to more book, music, DVD, or video options. In simple terms, it's painfully easy to get lost within your own recommendations.

I believe that one of the best features Amazon offers is a composition of similarly themed books/music/videos that shows up under each search. When Kristin thought to purchase the book *Best Lesbian Erotica 2002* from Amazon, the online seller automatically compiled a list of books that people who purchased this one also bought. Titles like *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book*, *Tough Girls: Down and Dirty Dyke Erotica*, and *Substitute for Love* surfaced. This is an excellent way to ensure additional wish list items. I just hope that someone — anyone — will buy more erotica for her.

Oh, did I forget to mention the beauty that is Amazon.com's wish list? While searching and viewing any item on Amazon, the option, of course, to buy shows up on the side of your navigation window, but so

does a link that reads, "Add to wish list." By clicking here, you're adding whatever item you're currently viewing to a list you create that's a compilation of everything your little heart desires.

You can purchase items off of your wish list — great for those of us who have poor memories — but this also allows *anyone* with access to the Internet to look at your list of must-haves. If you're lucky, they'll buy an item and have it sent directly to you. Wish lists are obviously ideal for birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. You can even send an e-mail from Amazon.com that includes the link to your list, making it deliciously simple for your friends, lovers, and family to point, click, purchase, send.

Just one piece of advice: If you're not out to your family and friends, don't send them the link to your wish list that includes titles such as *Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler* or *Cocksure: Erotic Fiction*. Save those for the weekend trips to your local bookseller. ♣

COMPUTING BRIEFS

A NEW WEB SITE DEDICATED FOR MASTERS AND SLAVES LAUNCHES

The launch of <www.slave4Master.com> took place on Sept. 30. The Web site is aimed at the international gay slave and Master community seeking an alternative to the standard Internet chat and date sites. Visitors can search and browse through thousands of picture profiles of dominant masters and submissive slaves, send online messages, and create a home page. Registration to the site is free.

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BUSINESS

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD TURNS 20

TAMPA BAY - The last two decades have seen vast changes in the GLBT community, and many community-based organizations have struggled to remain relevant. Not so the Tampa Bay Business Guild, which turned 20 this month. The anniversary was celebrated at a special Oct. 8 dinner meeting.

The guild, founded by attorney George DuFour and others in 1982, now boasts more than 200 active members from throughout the Tampa Bay area. The organization remains a dynamic force, helping gay and gay-supportive individuals and businesses gain a foothold in the community and continue to network their services. Members range from attorneys to antique dealers, hypnotists to hair replacement specialists. All are listed in the comprehensive and user friendly Tampa Bay Business Guild Member Directory, published annually and distributed widely throughout the Bay Area.

In January 2001, the guild successfully merged with their counterpart from across the Howard Frankland Bridge, the Pinellas County Business Guild. Both organizations were sound, but the Pinellas Guild was having difficulty filling board positions and

a decision was made to unify leadership and membership. Ever since, monthly meetings have alternated between the Holiday Inn Select in Clearwater, and different centrally located restaurants in Tampa.

Since its inception in 1982, and particularly since the merger, the guild has emphasized attendance at monthly meetings as the best way for businesses to benefit from membership. Cards, brochures and other materials are distributed at meetings, and individuals have an opportunity to share any business developments. Meetings currently attract from 75 to 100 members and guests. Guild president Dr. Scott Barry credits program director Ron O'Connor for attracting appealing speakers and entertainers.

"It's the programming that brings people to the meetings," he said. The Tuesday, Oct. 8 20th Anniversary Celebration was held at The Holiday Inn Select at 3535 Ulmerton Rd. Entertainment was provided by comedian Brian Bradley (*Grease, Seinfeld*). For more information about the Tampa Bay Business Guild, call (813) 237-3751 or visit <www.tbbg.org>. **▼ Tom Dyer**

KEY WEST TO HOUSE NEW GAY BUSINESS MERGER

KEY WEST - Two pioneering names in gay business will come together under the same roof this month with the merger of Hanns Ebensten Travel, Inc. and Alyson Adventures, Inc. Hanns Ebensten Travel, the first tour company to market specifically to gay men, and Alyson Adventures, a pioneer in gay and lesbian outdoor vacations, will make their joint headquarters in Key West.

Philip Sheldon, president and owner of Hanns Ebensten, will assume responsibility as CEO of both companies. Sasha Alyson will continue to lead the companies' new business as director of development.

"With this merger, we will be able to offer our clients more travel options while maintaining the same high level of service and satisfaction they have grown to expect from both companies," said Sheldon.

Sheldon said that initially there would be little noticeable difference to clients as the companies continue to offer the same types of tours as they have offered in the past. Eventually, he said, some changes will be inevitable.

"Whenever you get two passionate and creative groups together you create a synergy," he said. "And when that happens anything is possible."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SUNTRUST TO OFFER DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

SunTrust, an Atlanta-based bank chain with branches in Florida, will begin offering same-sex domestic partners benefits in 2003. Domestic partners will have access to all of the major benefits offered to spouses, including medical and dental insurance. Open enrollment for benefits takes place in October of this year, with new coverage starting in January.

CREDITORS OF SYDNEY'S GAY MARDI GRAS ACCEPT DEAL TO SAVE PARADE

Creditors of Australia's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on Monday accepted a deal that organizers said would guarantee the future of one of the world's biggest street parades. The company that runs the annual gay rights festival faced bankruptcy and in July called in independent administrators who found that the company's board had debts of \$379,392. The deal involves the sale of some of the parade's assets and hands the right to hold the annual event to a newly created corporate entity, to be known as New Mardis Gras.

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HEADLINE NEWS



Openly gay Paris mayor BERTRAND DELANOË was hospitalized after being stabbed on Oct. 6.

ATTACKER STABS, INJURES PARIS MAYOR AT CITY HALL

PARIS - The man suspected of stabbing Paris' openly gay mayor early on Oct. 6 told interrogators he did it because he disliked politicians and homosexuals.

Bertrand Delanoë, 52, was attending a lively, all-night party at city hall as part of Paris' first-ever "Sleepless Night" festival when he was attacked. He is expected to remain hospitalized for at least week to recover from the single stab wound to his abdomen. His office had initially described the injury as minor. He had surgery for three hours after being rushed to the hospital.

The unidentified suspect, who was taken into custody immediately, confessed to the stabbing, said judicial officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They said the 39-year-old attacker told them that he was a devout Muslim and acted out of opposition to politicians and gays. Investigators believe the suspect isn't linked to any Islamic fundamentalist parties. (AP)

Continued from Page 6

Clearly eager to put Howell on the spot, Sheehan — a Democrat — was the first to rise during the question and answer session. Brandishing a campaign finance report, she asked Howell why he accepted a contribution from John Dowless, a local political wag and former high-ranking member of the Christian Coalition. Howell answered that he refused Dowless' offer of consulting support, but accepted the money. Turning the tables, he then charged that Sheehan's campaign had been managed by right wing anti-tax firebrand Doug Guetzloe. Sheehan countered that Guetzloe's support was limited to an endorsement before forum moderator Michael Morris intervened.

A question about homestead exemptions from Rainbow Democratic Club president Carol Bartsch revealed substantive differences between Howell and McInvale. Howell supports a \$25,000

increase in the exemption to encourage home ownership.

"Studies clearly indicate that people who own their homes feel a greater stake in their community," Howell said, "and I think we should do everything we can to encourage that."

McInvale said Howell never shared how he would make up the loss in tax revenues.

"This is just the classic difference between Republican and Democratic philosophy," she said. "They want to help the wealthiest, at the expense of everyone else."

MBA board member Mike Ames scored a coup with the evening's final question.

"You've all expressed your support tonight," he said to the panel, "but will you demonstrate it by attending a rally at City Hall for Orlando's non-discrimination ordinance on Oct. 14?"

To a one, every candidate promised to be there. ▼ Tom Dyer

GOVERNOR BUSH'S REMARKS OUTRAGE GAY COMMUNITY

TALLAHASSEE - Equality Florida is calling on Governor Jeb Bush to apologize for homophobic remarks he made to a group of legislators about two

caregivers of a missing girl, Rilya Wilson.

Bush told a delegation of Panhandle legislators during a meeting that he had "some juicy details" about the sexual orientation of the caregivers.

Bush implied during the Oct. 2 meeting that GERALD and Pamela Graham, who had just been charged with fraud stemming from the investigation into Wilson's disappearance, were lesbians.

"As [Pamela Graham] was being arrested, she told her co-workers, 'Tell my wife I've been arrested.' The wife is the grandmother, and the aunt is the husband," Bush explained, using his fingers to indicate quotation marks to emphasize the word "grandmother."

"Bet you don't get that in Pensacola," Bush told his guests.

Bush made his remarks to three Republican Panhandle legislators, two GOP state House candidates and aides during a meeting in the governor's office.

He apparently did not realize a reporter with Gannett Regional Newspapers of Florida accompanied the group. His comments were first reported in the *Pensacola News-Journal*.

Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida called the comments "childish" and "locker room homophobia." She also said Bush should apologize for his comments.

"It's not the kind of comment you want to hear from the highest elected official in the state," she said.

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VIEWPOINTS



THE BOTTOM LINE WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD, MR. BUSH

Viewpoint by Rick Walen

Well, the primary is behind us and Election Day is quickly approaching. The citizens of Florida have a decision to make. Do we want more of the same or are we ready to set our feet on the road to change? Lets look at what we've achieved after four years under the reign of Jeb Bush.

Bush calls himself the education governor. Maybe he is the governor of fantasyland. The Bush campaign has spent \$2 million on re-election ads that the Republican Party began airing on TV last spring. The ads flaunt Bush's record of increased spending on education. The

Bush Administration claims that state support for public education has increased by \$2.4-billion since he became governor, the biggest increase of any three-year period in state history. The problem with this misleading information is that they must have forgotten that during his term funding has barely kept up with inflation and the growing number of students in the state.

The ads say that because of Bush, student test scores are improving. They must not realize that the schools have been turned into test factories that teach almost exclusively to the FCAT. Furthermore,

improving scores can be attributed to the fact that more and more poor performance students are being shifted into programs where their test scores don't count. These improved scores are misleading as more than 40 percent of the state's 10th-graders failed the reading portion of the exam. Overall, students are not performing well.

Bush never attended public school where teachers have to reach into their own pockets to pay for supplies because money is so scarce. Teachers' frustration levels are high as they try to keep up with an average of 30 students in a classroom. We are spending \$152-million in existing and new programs to recruit and keep teachers because Florida teachers' salaries rank below the national average and teachers are fleeing to other states in search of better pay.

"I HAVE VOICED MY OPPOSITION TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGES, GAY AND LESBIAN ADOPTIONS, AND THE EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS. MY VIEWS HAVE NOT CHANGED!"

Bush blames the school districts for failure to effectively negotiate teacher pay, let's pass the buck shall we?

Last, but certainly not least, let's examine Bush's views on gay and lesbian issues.

"While I respect the great diversity of our state and the rights of individuals, I am not in favor of extending 'special rights' to the gay and lesbian community," Bush said in a written statement. "In the past, I have voiced my

opposition to same-sex marriages, gay and lesbian adoptions, and the extension of domestic partner benefits. Since taking office, my views on these subjects have not changed. The state should not be in the business of actively sanctioning this

particular lifestyle."

In fact, in 1995 Bush called gay rights and feminism, "modern victim movements." Bush's divisive tenure as the top elected official in the state of Florida must come to an end. During his nearly four years in office, GLBT Floridians and their allies have been given ample reason to support his ouster. Jeb supports Florida remaining the only state with a ban on anti-gay adoption.

He opposes the Dignity for All Students Act. He allocated \$500,000 in taxpayer money to a homophobic Internet filtering company that is a subsidiary of the rabidly anti-gay American Family Association. He has repeatedly refused to meet with GLBT community leaders. He has actively opposed a state domestic partnership bill and has countered efforts to extend pension benefits. Doesn't that make you feel all warm and fuzzy? I didn't think so.

On the other hand, gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride recently named Ted Howard, formerly of Equality Florida, to coordinate community outreach for the estimated one million GLBT residents of the Sunshine State. He'll be charged with raising awareness of McBride's long-standing record on issues of major importance to gays and lesbians.

"Under my leadership as governor, all Floridians will be treated with dignity and fairness," said McBride. "That means protecting people from unfair discrimination. No one should be mistreated because of who they are."

"There are clear and major differences between Bill McBride and Jeb Bush," said Howard. "As McBride has said, it's like Bush is living in a different state than the rest of us. McBride wants us to live in a state where everyone has an equal chance."

The bottom line is that I can't tell anyone how to vote in November, but from where I sit, the choice is crystal clear. ▼

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REMEMBER THE RAINBOW

Please let us applaud Scott Jackson Smith in the most recent "Editor's Desk" [Issue 9.19] for recognizing the diversity of the beliefs, values and political perspectives within the GLBT community. The rainbow has been a symbol of our community for so many years to celebrate our diversity, although that significance has been lost on some in recent discussions regarding the upcoming elections.

Kevin Metzger
Orlando

DEMOCRATS HAVE DONE MUCH TO SAY THEY SUPPORT US AND THE REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE MUCH TO DEMONIZE US.

THE IRONY OF POLITICS

I found the recent articles in *Watermark* by Doug Head and Lew Oliver about Patrick Howell's candidacy very informative ["Viewpoint," Issue 9.19]. It would be ironic if the first openly gay State Representative is a Republican since the Democrats have done much to say they support us and the Republicans have done much to demonize us.

Michael Morris
Via e-mail

WHO ARE "WE," MRS. VARGO?

Mrs. Vargo, you commented that you watched the Apr. 16 Human Relations Board's public hearing from your office and stated, "We only heard two actual stories of discrimination." From the information I have gathered, I have noticed that you are working with:

- David Caton of the Florida Family Association. He is from Tampa.
- The Liberty Council - an organization in Longwood.
- Alan Chambers of Exodus International.

He lives in Winter Park. I understand he rents out a house in College Park, so I can understand if he is part of "we."

I know your "we" does not include me. Could it be the "we" you are talking to and listening to are not the residents and taxpayers of your district or of your city?

Michael Slaymaker
Orlando

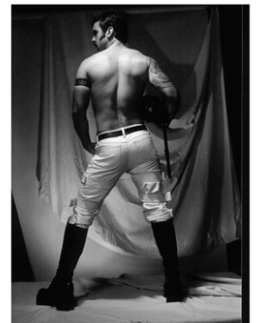
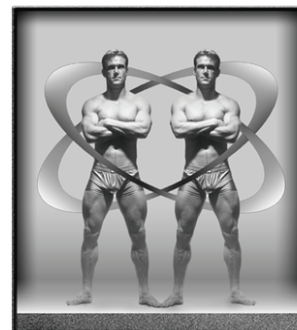
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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Issue 9.21

October 10-23, 2002

A respected child mentoring program wants more gays like Steve Lorenzo to get involved. *By Michael Blake*

TAMPA - For more than 100 years, children from single-parent homes have had the opportunity to be matched up with an adult mentor. While the program itself has changed over the last century, the basic principle of providing adult guidance from an outside source has never changed, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters program continues to flourish to this day.

While hundreds of children enter the program each year locally, the number of volunteers doesn't keep pace. In Hillsborough/Pasco/Polk alone, more than 300 boys sit on a waiting list — some for as long as two years — hoping to be matched with an adult mentor.

The screening process to become a mentor is intense — understandable since the beneficiaries can be young and impressionable, and mentors often take children away from the home for outings and other activities. But the agency is not as restrictive as some may think. Just ask 43-year-old Steve Lorenzo, one of many openly gay Big Brothers in the program.

For the past few months, Lorenzo has been matched with nine-year-old Josh. (The agency prefers not to release the last names of Little Brothers). But Josh is hardly the first boy with whom the electrical contractor has been matched. In fact, Lorenzo has been part of the Big Brothers program off and on since he was 18 years old and living in Long Island, N.Y.

"I was recruited to be a Big Brother when I was in high school," said

BIG BROTHER BOOM



STEVE LORENZO with Little Brother, JOSH. More than 300 boys are on a waiting list for Big Brothers in Tampa Bay alone. Photo by Michael Blake.

Cont. Page 42



The Center's director of operations LANI BRITO: "Why wouldn't someone who is LGB or T want to work with the community?" Photo by John F. Sullivan

STEERING THE CENTER

Orlando's GLBTCC Center is in good hands with Lani Brito — a "tattooed, pierced, militant lesbian" — at its helm.

By Logan Donahoo

ORLANDO - Quietly perched behind her desk, Lani Brito, director of operations at the Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Central Florida (GLBTCC or simply "The Center"), types away at her computer. Once I inform her that *Watermark* wishes to run a profile on her, she looks up at me with a gaze of shock and bemusement.

For a moment, she looks like a psychedelic, lesbian Buddha. "I've never been interviewed before," she says with a bashful, Cheshire Cat grin. She searches the air for some inspiration — perhaps from her favorite Me'Shell N'degeocello CD playing in the background.

Brito's work is not only widely felt, but also widely known. When rumors began circulating this earlier this summer about her leaving The Center, *Watermark* received dozens

Cont. Page 30



WATERCRESS COMBUSTIBLE HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

HORRORS! I'm here to tell you what *not* to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon — free time which, after working non-stop for many weeks, fell into my lap unannounced recently.

Suddenly I had bags of hours to fill, but the weather precluded a nice long bike ride out in Oakland. (I love to roam the streets off the Trail, staring at the old houses, asking nosy questions, and generally making a pest of myself.) This Sunday, however, was going to be devoted to a much-needed housecleaning, as there were dust balls blowing about with which I hadn't found time to forge relationships.

After vacuuming and dusting (dust top to bottom, not the other way around), I stripped to the bone and stepped into the shower with the lampshade from the bedroom. (I had seen Martha do this on television once.) I rinsed away the dust of a million generations, blotted it (and myself) dry, and then hurried merrily down the hall to the Whirlpool. The lampshade, with just the smallest amount of encouragement, fit nicely inside.

Blushing slightly, I pressed the setting for "delicate" and went back to polishing the Deco chifforobe in the bedroom. All well and good, but when engaging in certain housekeeping duties keep this in mind: most lampshades are manufactured using a stretchy kind of plastic material instead of cotton — and the metal rims are *hot* when you frantically try to pull the heated messes from inside the dryer. And firemen, while quite agreeable when it comes to getting kittens out of trees, frown upon having to lecture 46-year-old oafs about dangerous household practices. I mean, I knew about the horrors of mixing bleach and ammonia, but who knew from putting a lampshade in a dryer?

LIZZZ had her own domestic trauma recently, first brought to my attention via an early morning e-mail.

"There is a wasp the size of a pork

chop loitering around my bedroom ceiling," she wrote. "How did it get here? Anyway, let me know if you are driving by."

The horror! My manhood instantly crept inside my body. Among the things I fear most are lightning and all flying, stinging insects. Still, chivalrous knight that I am, I secured our giant can of Natural Wasp Killer and made haste to milady's house.

"I have it trapped inside," she told me when I arrived. I asked about its size, and Liz explained that it was one of those

big, fat wasps that dangle in the air, their legs hanging, just waiting for a host to rain death upon it. That would be me.

So stealthily, like a Moor

creeping toward an encampment of infidels in the dead of night, I advanced upon the bedroom door, eased it open an inch or two, and lost my nerve. I mean, the silence within was ominous. What if it was hovering, just waiting to sting me right in the eyeball?

"I'd call Doug but it's his first day at his new job," Liz said with irony. "Maybe I'll call Tristan."

Which she did and he arrived a bit later wielding a Tupperware container and a legal pad so that he could carefully

trap the thing and set it free. Set it free? I'll bet he helps push beached narwhales back into the surf, too!

STEPFORD VIBES. "The typical 'metrosexual' is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis — because that's where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are. He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object and pleasure as his sexual preference."

Mark Simpson wrote that for Salon.com in July, and it's what I'm always saying — haven't we all run into these guys who seem so perfect and polite, yet it's like they're looking *through* you when they're speaking *with* you?

My ego refuses to believe that there's anything wrong with my company, so I'm convinced that there's a factory somewhere producing these androids. I tell you, when your Marcus Newman catalog appears in the mail next month, look on page two for this year's expensive gift: it's going to be one of these guys, fresh from the assembly line, ready to do your bidding. Can he clean, though? As and long as he was programmed not to mix bleach with ammonia, I'd be the first one on my block to own one. ▼

"There's a certain comfort in being among so many people who have all experienced self-discoveries similar to one's own, and who have all had to deal with the same slights and cruelties..."

— Bruce Bawer

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VIEWPOINTS



THE LIBERAL ARTS LESBIAN MYTHOLOGIZING THE LESBIAN

Speaking Out by Sarah Viren

A friend and I were recently talking about the myth of the ugly lesbian. Upon reflection, I realized there are actually a number of lesbian myths that circulate through popular culture. They are amusing at times and annoying at others. Like any myth, they are perpetuated through folklore, storytelling and, of course, everyday conversation.

1. THE MYTH OF THE UGLY LESBIAN (AN EXAMPLE):

Johnny likes Lucy. Lucy is a pretty girl and Johnny is a cute boy. Johnny asks Lucy's friend Sheila about Lucy. Sheila laughs. Johnny gets uncomfortable.

Sheila's says, "Lucy only likes women." Johnny looks confused so Sheila says; "Lucy's a lesbian." Johnny, shocked, responds, "But she's so pretty."

Now perhaps this is more an instance of breaking the myth but it proves my point nonetheless. There are people out there who truly believe pretty women can't be lesbians — unless they are in pornos — or that all lesbians are ugly dykes.

One of the most insulting assumption behind the ugly lesbian myth is that we lesbians only "sink to the level" of sleeping with other women because we are so goddamn hideous that no man will have us. My response to this is: "Have you ever slept with a woman? That's reason enough to climb the fence and set up camp in Lesbian Land."

While my friend and I were discussing this, she said in mock horror that it really is "unfair" to the heterosexual community that we keep any pretty dykes. They should be returned immediately to their rightful owners.

2. THE MYTH OF THE BLIND LESBIAN

Along with the ugly lesbian myth there is another more innocuous but still annoying myth. It says that lesbian women — being women (i.e. open, loving and sensitive) — don't really care about looks. I've even heard this myth circulated in the lesbian community.

"What?" I have to respond. Granted I have met woman that I don't find attractive at first but later change my mind about because of their personalities. But mostly the women I think are hot at first glance are hot. I like good-looking women. I hate to say it, but even while

being an empathetic, caring woman, as a lesbian I am not going to sleep with someone out of goodwill.

3. THE MYTH OF THE CHAUVINISTIC LESBIAN

This is probably my least favorite of them all. It states: Because I am a lesbian I am also a pig. Here's an example of this lovely little untruth:

Sally is sitting next to her "pal" Frank. Frank sees a pretty girl wearing tight pants, sporting big tits and showing off her mid-drift. Sally glances in her direction while Frank stares, then tilts his head in that way I assume is supposed to

give him a better view of her ass. He then turns back to Sally, nudging and raising his eyebrows. Sally doesn't return the grunts and nudges. Frank gets upset.

"What? You didn't think she was hot?" he asks.

"Well I did," she says. "But not that much." Frank doesn't understand, nor will he ever. He thinks anyone that likes women must like to treat them like meat as well.

But before I go on let me say that there are chauvinistic lesbians. I have met way too many of them. For the most part, though, the dykes I know like women. They like looking at them, and fantasizing about them. But, because they are women themselves, won't disrespect them with stares or catcalls.

Although amusing at times, there are several problems with all these myths besides the fact that they are untrue. One major issue is that they insist that lesbianism is something that should be understood through the looking glass of heterosexuality. They think we can't get men so we reject heterosexuality. Or that we just haven't had a real man so we don't know what were missing. Or we must have no sex drive so we don't really care what our sexual partners look like. Or that we think like men so we will degrade and objectify other women.

It's all related to men, to male-female bonding, to bullshit. And so it makes me proud each time the myths are debunked. As lesbians we are pretty and pretty fucking scary at the same time. That's what the heterosexual world needs to learn — that's what they need to know. ▼

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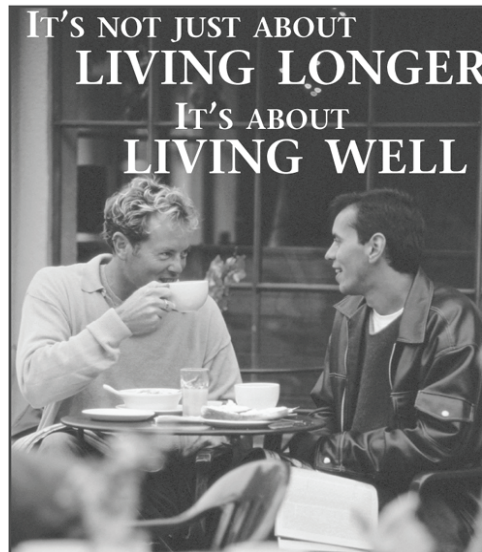
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PAST OUT WHO WAS ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE?

Gay and Lesbian History by Paula Martinac

A finger inserted into a penis. A man urinating into another man's mouth. A bullwhip protruding from a man's anus. For some people, these images are erotic. For others, they're repulsive. But are they art?

Toward the end of the 20th century, Americans actually debated that question because of the audacious genius and remarkable skill of one of the most talented queer photographers in history — Robert Mapplethorpe. The controversies surrounding Mapplethorpe's more boundary-pushing works have played a key role in the debate over the boundaries of public art.

Born in 1946 in Long Island, Mapplethorpe was raised Catholic in a large family. He studied art in college, primarily painting and sculpture, though he soon began to include photographic images from magazines (including some pornography) in his works. At the start of the 1970s, he began taking the photos himself and, eventually, chose photography as his main medium.

At first he mostly took photos of himself and his friends, especially singer Patti

Smith, with whom the bisexual Mapplethorpe also had a sexual relationship. He became friends with queer pop art phenomenon Andy Warhol, who introduced him to Manhattan's gay underground and urged him to further his career by finding a mentor from the city's elite.

Taking Warhol's advice, in 1972 Mapplethorpe found a patron — and lover — in wealthy art collector Sam Wagstaff, who underwrote much of his early career.

As word of Mapplethorpe's talent grew, prominent people began paying him thousands of dollars per sitting to photograph them.

Throughout the 1970s, he photographed socialites and artists, porn stars and gay activists. Other favorite subjects included children, flowers, and penises. By the end of the decade his interests were becoming more sharply focused on subjects that aroused both his aesthetic and sexual predilections — such as nude black men, bondage, or both. While these portraits were sometimes scandalous in their content, they were always technically proficient.

The gay content of Mapplethorpe's art was overtly political. By shocking the public, he said, he could sensitize them to gay issues. At the same time, his Catholic upbringing found its way into his art. He described his nudes as having the orderliness of a church, while his still-life photographs (especially of calla lilies and other flowers) were starkly sexual in their curves and forms.

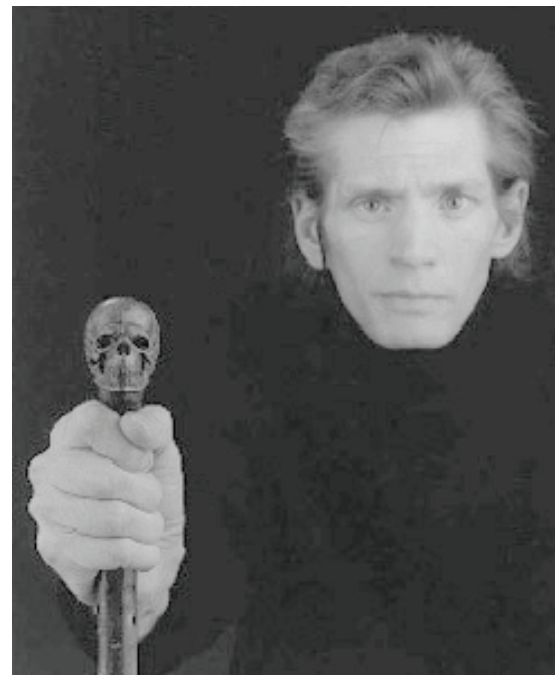
In 1986 Mapplethorpe was diagnosed with AIDS, and his final works recorded the ravages of the disease. One famous self-portrait showed him holding a cane topped by a miniature skull that resembled his own gaunt visage. In March 1989, the photographer died at age 43.

But the debate over his art had just begun. Soon after Mapplethorpe's death, a major Washington, D.C. exhibit of his works was canceled under pressure from conservative members of Congress, and one consequence of the ensuing debate was a cut in the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts and rules restricting future funding of explicit art.

The next year, the director of a Cincinnati museum set to display a Mapplethorpe exhibit was tried for pandering obscenity. Though he was

acquitted, the brouhaha showed (as a sign at a pro-Mapplethorpe rally put it) that these controversies did what AIDS drugs never could — they "kept Mapplethorpe alive." ▽

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



Photographer ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE took this self-portrait as his commentary on the ravages of AIDS.



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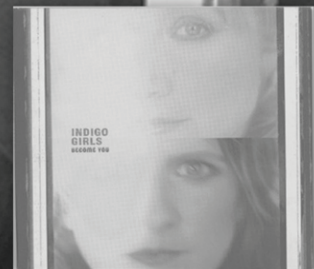
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Center from Page 25

of concerned letters and notes from shocked and upset readers.

Almost seven years ago, Brito began as a volunteer at the then titled Gay and Lesbian Community Services (GLCS) of Central Florida. After moving to Orlando, from her Hawaii, she became familiar to Orlando's art scene as well as to the GLBT community.

"I attended my first Womyn of GLCS meeting, which I later became the facilitator of," Brito says. "Although I had volunteered at The Center, working for a non-profit was a different animal altogether. The executive director

resigned and I was suddenly in charge. Ack!

Brito said that her indoctrination into the world of non-profit work was hectic and harried at first — and it continues to be a learning experience.

"I had to rely on the volunteers, board members, and past staff to educate me," she says. "I did as much research as I could regarding the operations of The Center, and I'm learning more and more each day."

Brito takes great joy from being able to work at a job where she can create a foundation for change. She did, after all, leave a corporate job as a computer engineer to accept a position in this field

where she's paid one-fourth what she used to earn. At one point, she had to go as far as to leave behind her paid scholarship at Crealde School of Art in Winter Park.

"It really hurt to give it up," she says. However, she feels that it may be justified. "I'm feeling very subtle changes occurring here at The Center... good changes."

Brito's personality is as vibrant as her appearance; her Hawaiian-Chinese-Filipino heritage is juxtaposed with a mixed assortment of body piercings and tattoos. She is also notorious for subjecting her hair to more colors and styles than Tina Turner.

"I'm addicted to the Manic Panic temporary hair colors," she admits.

To some, Brito's physical appearance is somewhat startling. It was only a week after she had become the new director of operations that one member of the community wrote The Center a scathing e-mail. This person's sole concern was the kind of "image" The Center was projecting "with this tattooed, pierced, militant lesbian at the helm."

The next day, she came to work dressed how she pleased.

"I still can't get over the fact that people still make judgments of others based upon their appearance. This isn't a fashion and design firm," she muses. "I mean, I *could* don my Donna Karen suit, but why? Aren't we supposed to be teaching people to accept us for what we are?"

Many people are puzzled by where the winds of activism that fill her sails came from. Brito credits family.

"I'd have to credit my [community] involvement to my dad," she says. "He instilled in all seven of his children the importance of helping others. I always had my hand in something growing up. I remember first helping out at the local animal shelter as a teen, then things went crazy from there. I volunteered at

homeless shelters, youth shelters, food pantries, churches...everywhere I thought I could help."

She pauses for a moment. Then she adds, "I sometimes think that my dad regretted teaching me the joys of community service because it sometimes took me away from my family. It gave me a good excuse to miss my piano and hula lessons," she says, laughing. Sometimes the idea of people abstaining from community involvement puzzles her.

"Why wouldn't someone who is LGB or T want to work with the community?" she ponders. "As a lesbian, I am always thinking about the overall health of the community that I am a part of. It only makes sense to me

that people in general would want to be an active part of creating the environment they want to live in."

Brito counts among her many blessings her boyfriend of two years: Jesse, her "favorite transgendered body-pillow."

"Jesse is so very supportive of my work here at The Center. Although I have to admit that he's expressed that I should 'marry The Center.' Jesse has spent many volunteer hours here and has helped me organize special events. He will even stay up late at night and help me fold and stamp hundreds of mailings every month. Jesse will help me with just about anything regarding The Center... but he draws the line at attending board meetings."

Despite the rumors, drama, and interpersonal issues associated with working within our community, Brito says she still feels good about being where she is now.

The phone on her desk begins to flutter with lights and a shrill ring. "Thank you for calling The Center. This is Lani..."

She's not going anywhere, anytime soon. ▾

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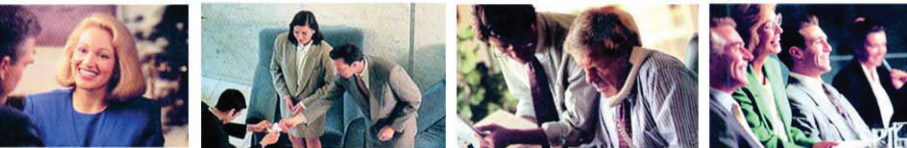
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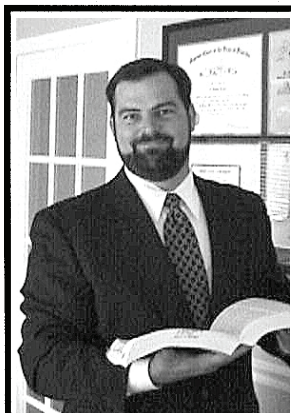
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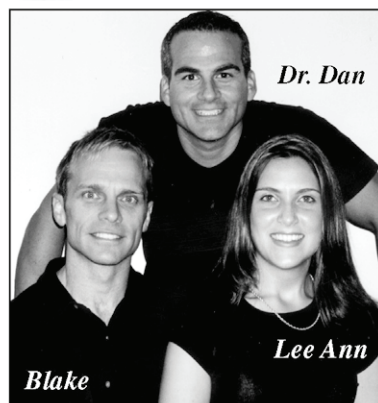
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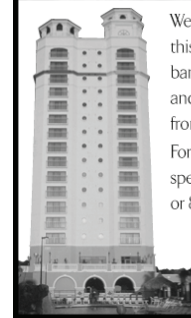
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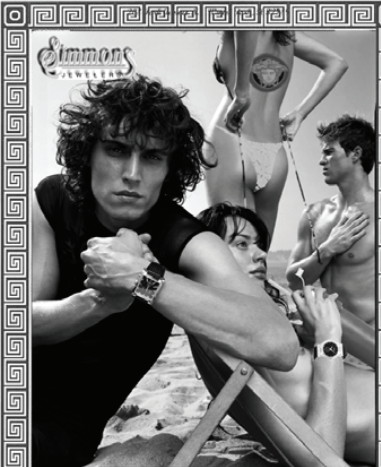
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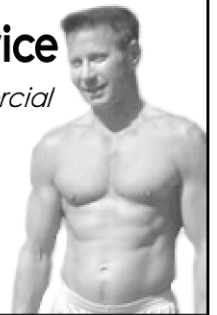
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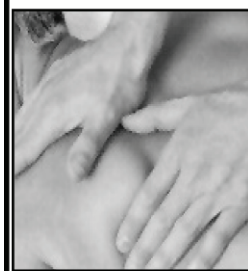
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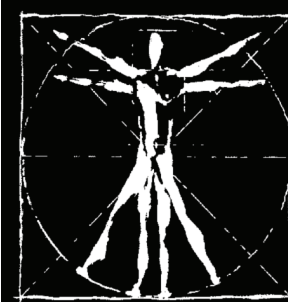
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LIFESTYLES



ADVICE-O-RAMA TOSSING BACK ANOTHER ONE

Advice by Keith Baber, M.Ed.

Dear Keith,

My girlfriend and I have been dating for almost a year while maintaining separate living spaces. We have been talking seriously about moving in together but I am apprehensive because of her drinking. She doesn't drink every day, or even every other day, but when she does drink she doesn't know when to stop. She drinks her beer until she can not stand and then usually ends up puking until she passes out.

I have tried to talk to her about this before but she will not listen to me or her other friends who are also concerned. She claims that she is not an alcoholic and that she is just having fun.

I know that both her father and her grandmother were heavy drinkers and I have heard that this kind of thing can be passed down in families. I really love her and I feel that we have a good thing going with each other — except for the drinking. Am I expecting too much or is there something that I can do to help her get on the right — and sober — track?

Signed,
Tapped Out

Dear Tapped Out,

The decision to move in with a romantic partner is a very significant life choice. It is wise to thoroughly evaluate all strengths and weaknesses regarding living together prior to making this decision.

An individual who repeatedly consumes alcohol to the point of falling down drunk and puking has a problem. Your girlfriend's pattern of alcohol abuse indicates that she is well on her way to developing a serious drinking problem. The fact that alcoholism runs in her family suggests that she is predisposed to developing the disease of alcoholism/addiction.

Another legitimate concern is that she continues to abuse alcohol in spite of the apparent negative consequences. She is not acknowledging that it is her drinking that is causing you to hesitate about moving in with her. And she is not listening to her friends that have voiced concern to her regarding her drinking and the physical consequences that she experiences. People can die from alcohol poisoning and the disease itself is progressive and life threatening. It would be foolish of you to move in together. For you to move in together and pretend that all is well would only enable her to continue her pattern of abusing alcohol. Your girlfriend is in need of counseling and your responsibility is to

direct her that way. If she denies and minimizes her problem and resists counseling you may want to gather all of her close friends together and plan on confronting her as a group. This intervention can sometime be effective. The bottom line is that until she truly and completely recognizes that she has a problem her prognosis for stopping the alcohol abuse is poor. ▼



TRANSITIONS

CONGRATULATIONS: To off-and-on *Watermark* sales rep. SAM RENNELS on her new position as a lending agent with CMPC Mortgage in Orlando. We'll miss you, honey.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: board member of the Orange Blossom Tennis Association JERRY CRAMER (9/17), board member of St. Francis House Homeless Shelter DAVID JONES (9/17), Headdress Ball 2002's creative force DOUG WHITE (10/8), Orlando PrideFest co-coordinator ALAN BOUNVILLE (10/18), realtor with Palm Properties of Central Florida DAN FRASER (10/24)

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: first lady ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (10/11), wit OSCAR WILDE (10/16), actor MONTGOMERY CLIFT (10/17), actor HARRIS GLENN MILSTEAD (DIVINE) (10/19), poet ARTHUR RIMBAUD (10/20), Oscar Wilde's lover LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS (10/22), composer NED ROEM (10/23)



DOUG WHITE with Grizabella. Photo by Dennis Butler.

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SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS



CHURCH OF THE TRINITY TO HOST "ARTRAGEOUS" EVENT

The Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota is hosting an "ArtRageous Evening of Art" auction on Oct. 12. The preview starts at 7 PM and the auction begins at 8 PM. The event will be held at the church, located at 7225 N Lockwood Ridge Rd. in Sarasota, and will feature an international art collection. Admission for the fundraiser is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. For more information call Hank Hueber at (941) 587-1509.

HRC EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) sent President Bush a letter on Sept. 18 expressing concern over news reports that the administration may be moving forward with regulations that permit religious organizations receiving public funds to discriminate based on religion and sexual orientation. Recent news stories indicate that part of the president's faith-based initiative, designed to help religious organizations compete for federal money for charitable programs, will be implemented — without Senate approval — through new regulations this fall.

SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACECOAST

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

HOPE MCC

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

ORLANDO

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO

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

GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORT GROUP

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

INTEGRITY

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

JOY MCC

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

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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

MEN'S INNER JOURNEY

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

ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

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

PATHWAYS MINISTRIES & CHURCH

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

SOUL-UTIONS

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

UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

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

UPLIFT MINISTRIES, INC.

Minority-focused spiritual ministry meets Sundays at 10:50 AM at the House of Power, 750 S. Orange Blossom Tr. Liberation discussion Tuesday at 8 PM. HIV counseling/testing Wednesday at 6 PM. (407) 839-5051 or email upcenter@bellsouth.net.

TAMPA BAY

AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

BETH RACHAMIM SYNAGOGUE

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

DIGNITY OF TAMPA BAY

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

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH

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

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

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

FRANCISCAN CENTER

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

FRANCIS HOUSE

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

INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

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

INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

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

KING OF PEACE MCC

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

MCC OF TAMPA

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

POTTER'S HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

Spirit-filled ministry offering hope and the love of Christ for all people. Sunday services are at 10 AM at 2119 West Gray Street. (813) 238-6330 or <www.pottershousefellowship.com> or

DIGNITY OF SARASOTA CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

SARASOTA - Dignity of Sarasota, a chapter in formation of Dignity USA, celebrated its one year anniversary on Oct. 6.

Members from neighboring Dignity of Tampa Bay celebrated the anniversary with the fledgling congregation at a 5:30 PM mass at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sarasota. The anniversary celebration coincided with Dignity USA's Solidarity

Sunday. Solidarity Sunday is dedicated to the memory of the many that lost their lives through violence because of whom they were or who they were perceived to be.

Dignity of Sarasota is a Roman Catholic community that affirms the intrinsic goodness of the lives and relationships of GLBT persons, and the union of spirituality and sexuality.

For more information call (941) 359-9504 or visit <www.dignitysarasota.com>.

PoHoFellow@aol.com.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

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

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BROOKSVILLE

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

Worship services are at 11 AM each Sunday, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERSBURG

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

UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY

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

UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY

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

SARASOTA

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

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

DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

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

SOULFORCE

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

SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

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

GAY PRIESTS WRONGLY ATTACKED BY CHURCH HIERARCHY

AMHERST, Mass. - Catholic Church officials are wrongly accusing gay priests of child sexual abuse according to a new report released by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS). The report outlines decades of research demonstrating that gay men are no more likely than heterosexual men to force sexual activity with children.

As the sexual abuse of children has been revealed in parishes across the country, Catholic Church officials and some news reports have described the perpetrators of the abuse as gay. In the IGLSS report, "Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church: Gay Priests Are Not the Problem," the link made between pedophile priests and gay priests is debunked.

"Blaming gay priests for the sexual abuse of children by pedophile priests in the Catholic Church is unfounded," said Michael Stevenson, the author of the IGLSS report and a professor of psychology at Ball State University. "The accusation that pedophile priests are gay has no foundation in sound psychological research and amounts to the deliberate scapegoating of gays by Church officials."

Stevenson also points out that, "Contrary to assumptions made at the papal summit, engaging in same-sex behavior with children is not synonymous with being gay. Misunderstanding the priests' abusive behavior will hinder efforts to prevent further crimes."

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Big Brothers from Page 25

Lorenzo, who lives in Tampa. "They had so many kids, and they ended up matching me with a boy who was nine."

Lorenzo remained the boy's Big Brother for years - he's now grown up, married and thriving in Philadelphia. Lorenzo was inactive in Big Brothers for several years, but after he moved to Tampa he felt it was time to get back into the program. Of course, things were a little different. He was now openly gay, and he grew concerned when he discovered that there was a lot more to the screening process than before.

None of those factors, however, hampered his becoming a mentor yet again. And he is glad to be a part of a program that proves gay men and women really can be a positive influence on the lives of children. "I've never had any problems with parents because I'm gay," Lorenzo said. "There are some people out there who think gay people in general are child molesters, but in actuality, it's generally heterosexual men who are the molesters. A lot of that stuff that people say is a scare tactic."

After a potential mentor submits an application — which can be done online or in the Big Brothers Big Sisters office - their background is checked while they go through an interview process. Tampa Bay applicants are usually asked directly whether they are gay, bisexual or straight. At first, this might seem like a question that could lead to automatic disqualification, but that is not the case.

"We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, handicaps, and even sexual orientation," said Lorie Briggs, spokesperson for the Hillsborough/Pasco/Polk chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters. "In fact, we welcome gay men and lesbian women, and hope that they will be willing to become a part of a child's life."

So why ask? Briggs said it's because some parents state a preference that their child not be matched with a homosexual or bisexual mentor. Those preferences are

respected, and only those parents who are open to having a mentor of any sexual orientation are matched with gay or bisexual mentors. Briggs said the vast majority of parents who bring their children into the program have no problem with the sexual orientation of their mentor.

Because they deal with children, it is perhaps surprising that Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to involving gays and lesbians. The organization adopted nondiscrimination principles 25 years ago that embrace sexual orientation. And last February, the BBBSA board made the policy mandatory among all 490 local chapters, meaning

that gay and lesbian volunteers can no longer be rejected as mentors. The policy became effective July 1.

Not surprisingly, right wing zealots denounced the move. Focus on Family's Bill Maier said that, "matching fatherless boys, starving for attention, with homosexual men is reckless and irresponsible, not to mention a recipe for disaster."

So far, however, there has been no indication that corporate backers are shying away from BBBSA.

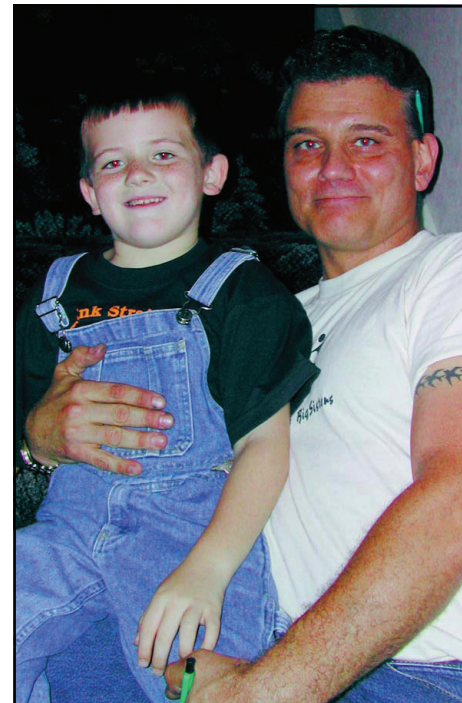
"An organization that's doing great work helping disadvantaged children should be applauded for standing up for the principles of nondiscrimination, and we think that's what most will do," noted David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign.

Tampa Bay's Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter actively recruits from the LGBT community - they had a booth at last summer's PrideFest — but there is still hesitation by

lesbians and gay men to join the program.

"All of my friends know that I'm a Big Brother, but they don't seem to talk to me about how they might want to volunteer," Lorenzo said. "I think there might be some insecurities about it still, and maybe some of them are just finally being confronted with the possibility that they can be a part of a child's life. Most gay men and women never think about

"THE MAJORITY OF PARENTS HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THEIR MENTOR."



STEVE LORENZO and JOSH: "Most gay men and women never think about sharing their lives with children."

LIFESTYLES

sharing their lives with children.” Big Brothers Big Sisters offers a variety of mentoring programs in which volunteers can participate. The most common is community-based mentoring, where a volunteer spends about three hours a week, three times a month with their “Little” by taking him or her to the movies, to the park, somewhere to wash the car, and a variety of other activities which mentor training helps to foster.

Big Brothers aren’t expected to spend a lot of money. In fact, Briggs said that “Bigs” are encouraged to spend as little as possible. Often, parents give their children money to pay for expenses during excursions.

The program also offers a site-based mentoring program, where a volunteer spends one hour a week visiting the child’s school to help with homework or just to talk. And there are specialized programs as well. Project Care deals with children affected by or infected with HIV; Project Dove is for children who have witnessed domestic violence; and Life Choices is a program for teens who are pregnant or at risk of getting pregnant.

Men always are matched with boys, and women are mostly matched with girls (although they can, on occasion, be matched with boys). “Littles” range from early elementary school age through high school, and volunteers usually get a choice

LOCAL BIG BROTHERS & BIG SISTERS CHAPTERS

of age range with which they feel most comfortable. Matches are also based on compatible interests, preferences of the volunteer, and other factors. Briggs said the matching system is far more involved than “first-come, first-served.”

Lorenzo notes that Josh’s mother has been very accepting. He believes that good communication with the parent is one of the keys to a successful match.

“She’s real cool, and I think she trusts me a lot,” he said. “She’s just a pretty open-minded person.” ▼

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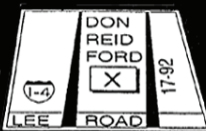
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Roommate Wanted - GWM seeking roommate, to share 3/2 bath charming home with pool in the downtown area. \$475.00 includes utilities, except phone. Please call Ray at 407 894-3092 or email rperez44@bellsouth.net

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

ROOM FOR RENT - Roommate needed to share 3/2 house in South Orlando near Millenia Mall. Private with pool. Call Mike at 407-857-8054

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

DAYTONA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYTONA BEACH - Where the action is... Stream-line Hotel Bar. 140 South Atlantic Ave. near Main St. and SR92. 50 rooms and the best bar in town. 386-258-6937

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EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

HELP WANTED - Keyboardist needed for 11:00 AM service familiar with contemporary Christian music. Inquire about pay. Call Church of the Trinity, MCC at (941) 355-0847

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North Kenwood, St. Pete - Charming 2/1, wood floors, fireplace, fenced yard w/pond, new CHA. Call 727-459-6937

I SAW YOU!

The Real McCoy - You certainly looked like it to me when I saw you reading The Real McCoy at Panera's at Lake Eola on Sunday, September 29th. Your smile was contagious and your eyes were mesmerizing. I couldn't focus on my Sunday paper knowing that you were directly across from me eating lunch with your two friends. Still Breathless, MAC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEND TO:

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P.O. BOX 533655

OR FAX TO: (407) 481-2246

OR EMAIL TO:

EDITOR@

WATERMARKONLINE.COM



SPORTS

NEW YORK GIANT SAYS HE HOPES THERE ARE NO GAYS ON HIS TEAM

NEW YORK - National Football League player Jeremy Shockey made inflammatory comments about gays on the Howard Stern radio show on Sept. 10. Shockey, who played on Miami's championship team last year, was asked by Stern if he believed there might be some gay players in the NFL.

"I don't know," Shockey replied. "I don't like to think about that. I hope not." Stern went on to question Shockey if he thought there were any gay players on his college team.

"No," Shockey said. "I mean, if I knew there was a gay guy on my college football team, I probably wouldn't, you know, stand for it. You know, I think, you know, they're going to be in the shower

with us and stuff, so I don't think that's going to work."

Since the incident, Pat Hanlon, vice president of communications for the Giants, said, "Those views don't represent the views of our organization."

Shockey did apologize for his comments on Sept. 26.

"It's a show just for comedy," Shockey told the *New York Daily News*.

"I guess I do regret saying it. I didn't think anyone was going to make a big deal out of it. I'm not prejudiced against anybody's beliefs or what they do in their off time. I do regret saying something like that. Whatever I did to offend people, I apologize. I'm not prejudiced in any way."

SPORTS BRIEFS



MISS OBTA PAGEANT WILL RAISE FUNDS FOR ST. FRANCIS HOUSE

The fifth annual Miss OBTA Pageant, a benefit for St. Francis House Homeless Shelter with participants from within the Orange Blossom Tennis Association, will take place at the Parliament House's Footlight Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 17. Doors open at 7 PM, show starts at 8 PM. The \$10 cover charge, raffle ticket sales, and tips to entertainers will all benefit the charity. The master of ceremonies for the evening of outrageous entertainment is Michael Wanzie. Celebrity judges include Orlando City Commissioner Daisy Lynum, Geraldine Jones, Doug Ba'aser, and Patrick Dalton. Ticket sales are ongoing. For more information call (407) 999-9059.

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TAMPA BAY TENNIS ACCEPTING CITRUS CLASSIC APPLICATIONS

TAMPA BAY - Members of Advantage Tampa Bay Tennis, a gay friendly league serving Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater, are currently accepting applications for the fourth annual Citrus Classic Clay Court Championship, to take place from Nov. 29 - Dec. 1.

More than 130, including 44 from outside Florida, participated in the Citrus Classic 2001. Although the event was three years old, it was the first year the tournament was sanctioned by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA).

"Being a GLTA-sanctioned tournament gives us national exposure," said last year's tournament director Mark Haggett. "We're one of only a handful of GLTA tournaments that plays on clay, and this has helped us attract players from all over the United States and Canada."

Players compete in A, B, C and D Divisions, as well as mixed doubles. Matches are played primarily at the Sandra Freedman Tennis Complex on Davis Island, but also at the Hillsborough

Community College courts near Raymond James Stadium.

Terry Knight, this year's tournament director, says a third location will be used to handle the growing event.

Applications can be found online at <www.atb-tennis.org> or by calling (813) 854-8277. All applications must be received by Nov. 15. Costs are \$85 for one event, \$95 for both singles and doubles and \$105 for all three events.



Citrus Classic Tournament committee member SHAUN MCLAIN (L) and WILL KELLER won the "D" doubles competition last year.

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

ORLANDO

CENTRAL FLORIDA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Adult softball league open to both gay men and lesbians of all abilities. (407)893-4966.

G.L.B.L. BOWLING

Orlando's fun bowling league. Bowls Saturdays, 7 PM at the BowlAmerica in Winter Park. (407)875-5045. Ask for Peter.

GAY BIKE ORLANDO

New gay bike group meets at Winter Garden Station of West Orange Trail, Sundays at 9 AM. For info write to GayBikeOrl@aol.com or call Mike at (407) 230-6798.

GAY & LESBIAN ORLANDO WATER SKIERS (GLOWS)

Orlando's water ski headquarters for bi, gay, and lesbians. Bi-weekly adventures will continue through winter. Contact Gary for info (407)855-4866.

ORANGE BLOSSOM BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Tuesdays, 9 PM at Bowl America in Winter Park. All interested teams and individuals call (407)644-2244.

ORANGE BLOSSOM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Round robins on Sundays at 10 AM. All are welcome. For more information please contact (407)896-9766.

ORLANDO FRONT RUNNERS & WALKERS

Meets at the red pagoda, Lake Eola. Mondays, 6:30 PM; Wednesdays, 7:30 PM; Saturdays, 9 AM. Call (407)897-6940; <www.orlandofrontrunners.org>.

SWIM ORLANDO

Meets every Tuesday at 7 PM. (407)894-3765.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

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

TAMPA BAY AREA/GULFCOAST

ADVANTAGE TAMPA BAY TENNIS

Opportunities for recreational and competitive play at all tennis levels from beginner to expert. Contact (813)854-8277 or visit www.atb-tennis.org.

BOAT AND SCUBA WEST

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 PM at Days Inn of St. Petersburg. (727)441-4350.

FRONT RUNNERS TAMPA BAY

A not-for-runners-only club oriented to the gay and lesbian community. Meets every Saturday at 9 AM in Old Hyde Park

Village at the fountain and Wednesday 6:45 PM at Fred Park on Bayshore at Rubideaux (across from the "Slinky"). (813)202-2105.

T.A.N.G.L.O.

Harold, (813)933-7144. harkins@mindspring.com.

SAGA (MIXED) - RAINBOWING LEAGUE

Wednesdays at 9 PM. Ten Pin Lanes in S. Pasadena. (727)381-1010.

SOUTH TAMPA GLBT BOWLING

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Pinarama Bowling at 5008 S. Dale Mabry (just south of Gandy). (813)879-2095.

SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Both competitive and recreational divisions. Call (813)274-4964 or visit <www.suncoastsoftball.org>.

TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Both competitive and recreational divisions for women. (727)429-3199 or (813)913-1888.

TAMPA EAGLE WRESTLING TEAM

Practices every Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 PM at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg. All welcome, regardless of experience. Call Phil at (813)263-5235 or visit <www.gaywrestler.net>.

TAMPA GAY VOLLEYBALL

Pickup games, teams, league currently being formed. Contact Mark at (813)655-5167 or visit <www.geocities.com.tampagayvball>.

TEN PIN PRIDE LEAGUE - RAINBOWING LEAGUE

Sundays at 6:30 PM. Ten Pin Lanes in S. Pasadena (727)381-1010.

TWEDT'S PRIDE - RAINBOWING LEAGUE

Fridays at 6:30 PM, Twedt's Lanes in Largo. (727)581-4102.

WOMEN ANGLERS

New group for women anglers to get together weekly, bi-weekly and monthly to plan weekend day trips, weekend overnight trips for deep sea fishing. Contact them at <keywest2300@yahoo.com>.

SARASOTA

A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

Bowling league meets Monday nights at 7 PM at AMF Gulf Gate Lanes. For more info call Jim at (941)359-3236.

The time for HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL is NOW!

“Give Us Our Vote!” RALLY

**Oct. 14, 2002 6 - 8 p.m.
at Orlando City Hall Plaza**

**Come urge Orlando Commissioners to vote to add
“sexual orientation” to the city’s anti-bias law.**

**Stand up against discrimination in employment,
housing, public accommodations
and by financial institutions.**

***Sponsored by OADO (Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance) Committee
and Commissioner Patty Sheehan***

***Speakers from across the cultural, political
and religious spectrum include:***

***Rev. Bryan Fulwider, Chair of Interfaith Council of NCCJ,
Rev. Marni Harmony of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando,
John Middleton, Director of Team Ministries
of Joy Metropolitan Community Church,
National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG),
Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan,
Orange County Sheriff Officer Tom Woodard,
OADO Members,
Gay and heterosexual residents of the Orlando area who are
business owners, professionals, teachers and psychologists.***



- The city’s Human Relations Board agreed “sexual orientation” should be added to the protected classes under Chapter 57 anti-discrimination law.
- A city poll showed most residents favor also protecting Orlando’s gay and lesbian citizens.
- Orlando must join hundreds of corporations, colleges, non-profits and unions, cities counties and states that already ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Entertainment by: Orlando Gay Chorus & Infinite Tribe Drum Corps
- Bring tasteful posters – and your pride!



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- A Tribute to Abba

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Entries can be emailed to Jeff@watermarkonline.com, or faxed to 407-481-2246, or dropped by Watermark's office. We must have all entries before October 23rd.

Tickets available at the House of Blues Box office and all Ticketmaster locations. Special reserved seating available through the House of Blues box office only. For more information call 407.934.BLUE or log on to hob.com.

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ARE BEARS TIGHTENING THEIR BELTS?

Attendance at Bear events nationwide is capping, but Bear Bust hopes to buck the trend.

By Ken Kundis



The Bears of Central Florida are ready for Bear Bust 2002. Members include (clockwise from lower left) TIM MOBLEY, JOHN BROCKMAN, BILL DEAN, ADAM MACKIEWICZ, and CHRIS FORD-HAYES. Photo by Dennis Butler.

ORLANDO - In many ways, Bear Bust - one of the largest annual Bear events in the country — has plotted the same trajectory as the whole Bear explosion among gay men. Founded ten years ago as a small but spirited party for locals and near-locals at the Full Moon Saloon, Bear Bust has grown in size and visibility ever since. But many believe the Bear phenomenon has peaked, and this year's event — from Oct. 17-21 — may represent the end of one era and the beginning of another.

There will be no shortage of big, furry guys at Bear Bust 2002 mind you. More than 500 from around the country and globe have registered for the "run," which gives them full access to five days worth of events. And as many as 2000 more will venture to the Full Moon Saloon and surrounding environs to enjoy the crowds and casually sexy atmosphere.

But organizers believe this year's attendance will likely top off at the same level as 2001 — a decline from previous years that was attributed to 9/11.

"I can only blame it on the economy and the fact that people seem to have lower travel budgets," said Steve Facella of the sponsoring Bears of Central Florida.

Facella notes, however, that Bear Bust remains one of the most praised and popular stops on the Bear circuit, and the impact on the local economy and the local gay community remains



Cont. Page 16

BUTCH IS BEAUTIFUL

Orlando native Alex Brendell wants to make Butchwear clothes and accessories the "next big thing." By John Sullivan

ORLANDO - Butch is an attitude. Butch is a state of mind. And now butch is something to wear. Thanks to the gals at Butchwear, you can now express your fondness for all things butch by wearing it.

Butchwear is the brainchild of Alex Brendell, who is no stranger to Central Florida. Brendell, 41, grew up in Orlando and has worked at a variety of

jobs — including a stint as Mickey Mouse in Disney's Electrical Light Parade, a construction worker, and even as a drag king entertainer at Faces. It was at Faces, while she was trying to think up ideas for a promotional photo of herself, that the idea for Butchwear fell right into her lap.

"I was thinking it might be kind of sexy

to have a picture of myself in Calvin Klein underwear with my hands covering my breasts," explains Brendell. "No sooner had I thought of it when I said 'Butchwear.' I could do my own line of underwear with a Butchwear logo on it." Alex took the idea and ran with it. At the end of 1999 Brendell set up a corporation and retained a trademark attorney. She then lined up some investors who wanted to back such a project. From there it was a matter of deciding what kind of products she wanted to put her logo on. She and her business partners came up with

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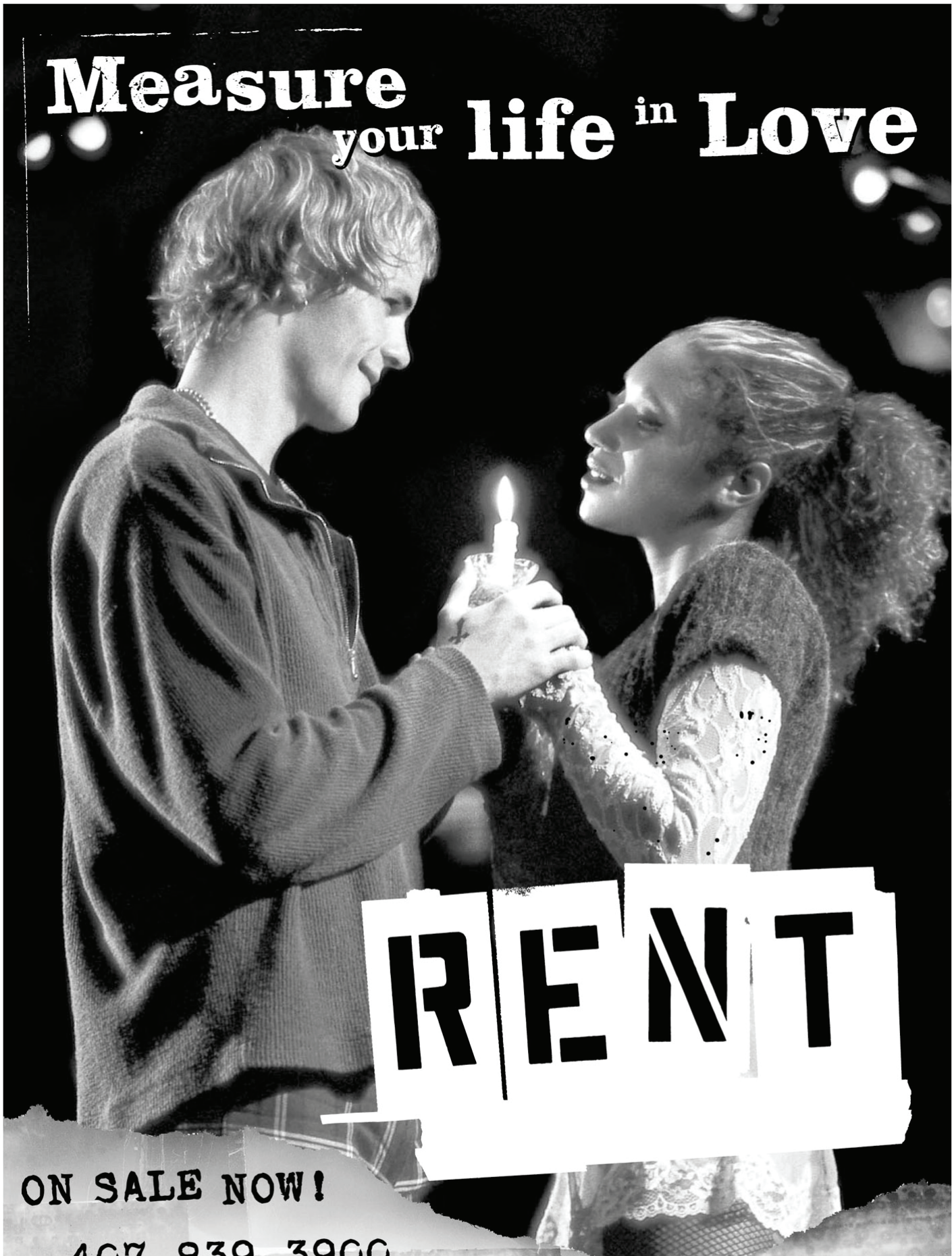


Butchwear creator ALEX BRENDELL: "What makes Butchwear so awesome is that it's not about gender. Butch is sexy, it's beautiful."



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Water Picks



EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

ORLANDO

MON., OCT. 14

Although the Human Relations Board voted 5-0 in favor of adding sexual orientation to chapter 57 of Orlando's anti-discrimination ordinance, and 56 percent of Orlando's citizens surveyed by Mayor Glenda Hood's own office are in favor of the changes, the mayor still doesn't think the time is right for the City Council to vote on the issue. In response to the mayor's lack of leadership and support, the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO) has planned a "GIVE US OUR VOTE" RALLY at 6 PM on the steps of city hall. Everyone interested in ending legalized discrimination in Orlando is encouraged to attend.

DADE CITY

FRI., NOV. 1

Through Nov. 3. What do you get when you combine three days, 15 performers, 80 acres, and hundreds of women? Why the **WITHLACOOCHEE WOMEN'S MUSIC AND COMEDY FEST** of course. **SAWMILL**, Florida's all gay campground,

is the setting for this weekend of fun

entertainment provided by a bountiful bevy of rising stars. This year's line up includes Michele Balan, Kristin Hart, Ruth King, and Distant Echo. What lesbian would say no to a weekend of camping, live music, and good fun? And don't forget to bring your "boy drag" if you want to enter the **MR. SAWMILL DRAG KING CONTEST**. For more information and to purchase tickets call Sawmill at (352) 583-0664 or check out their Web site at <www.flawmill.com>.

SARASOTA

FRI., OCT. 11

THE RINGLING SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN is hosting a Pride event for **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY**. On Friday the school will host an expo and fair from 11 AM to 12:30 PM in front of the Perkins Student Life Building. Local GLBT groups have been invited to host a table or booth to provide information on what's available in the community. Some of the groups participating include ALSO, Dignity Sarasota, and the Church of the Trinity MCC. For more information contact Kelly Mosell at (941) 359-7505.

TAMPA

NOW

Even though the **TAMPA INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL** is half over there is still plenty of time to catch some of this year's incredible lineup. On Saturday afternoon you can see two wonderful yet very different short film programs, one for the guys and one for the gals. Then Saturday night at 11 PM there is a screening of *Luster*, a sex-fueled tale of unrequited love that is sure to leave you hungry for more. On Sunday the festival calls it a wrap with an afternoon **STREET FESTIVAL AND EXPO** on Franklin that includes vendors, food and drink, and performances by Crescendo and the Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus. To find out more visit <www.pridefilmfest.com>.



MICHELE BALAN is one of the many female performers taking part in this year's Withlacoochee Women's Music and Comedy Fest at Sawmill Campgrounds

Me'shell Ndegeocello

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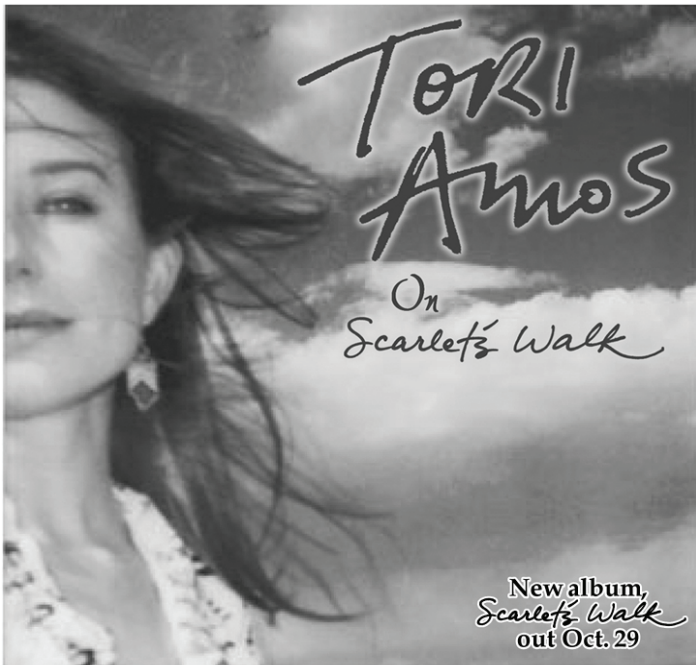
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Like a Fine Wine

Singer Alison Moyet gets better with age, but the English chanteuse says she's not exactly mellowing.

Interview by Gregg Shapiro

Alison Moyet possesses one of the most easily recognizable and powerful voices in the music industry. Embraced by the gay club community since the early eighties when, as a member of the electronic duo Yaz (with Vince Clarke, who later went on to co-found Erasure), her powerhouse performances on dance club standards such as "Situation" and "Don't Go" made her something of a sensation in both the disco and new wave scenes.

As a solo artist, Moyet continued to earn our respect and devotion with the songs "Invisible," "Love Resurrection," "Is This Love?" and "Whispering Your Name," to mention a few. On Moyet's splendid new album *Hometime* — her first studio release in eight years — her voice has lost none of its ability to inspire an emotional response. Moyet has definitely come home again.

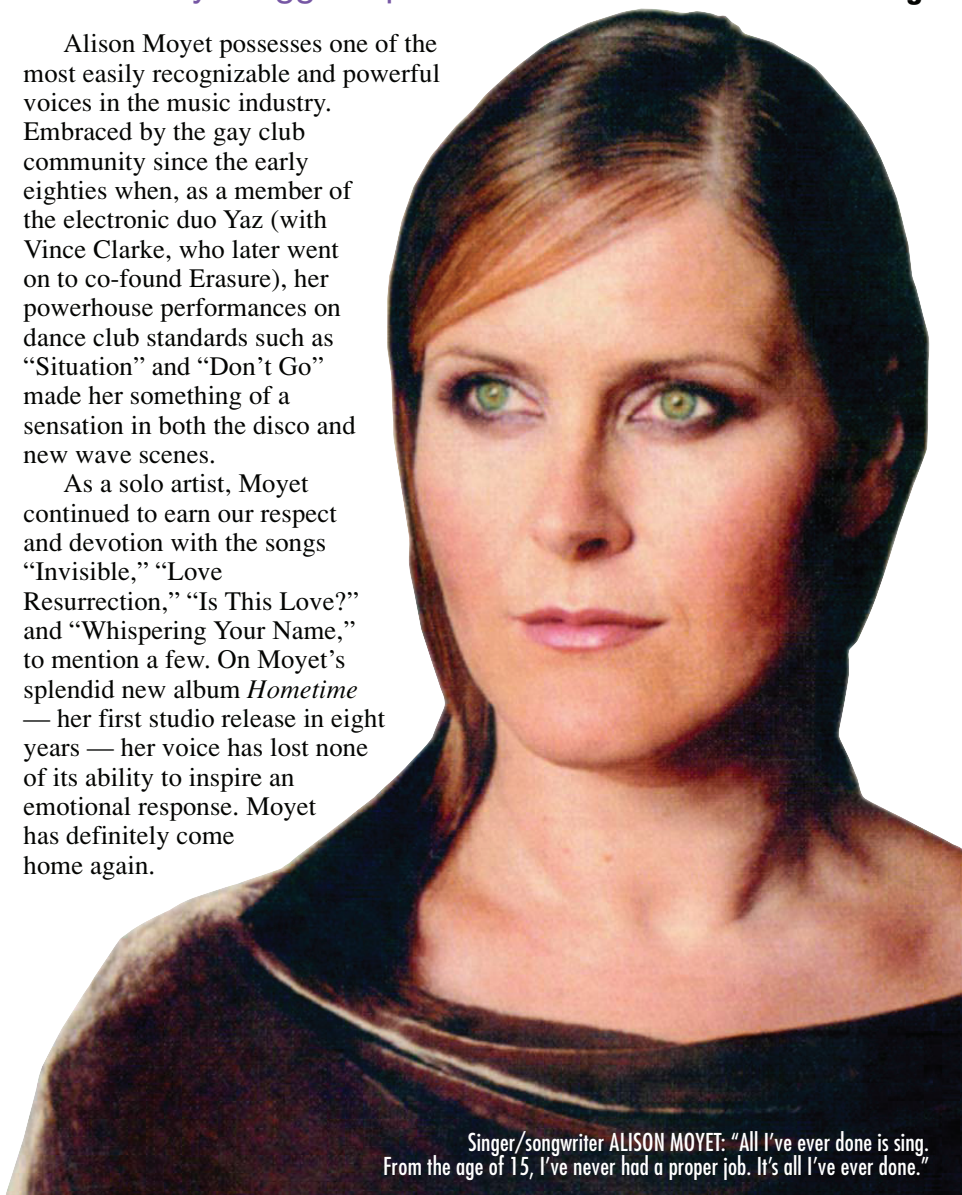
WATERMARK: There were eight years between the release of *Essex* and *Hometime*. Can you give me a capsule idea of what was going on in those years?
ALISON MOYET: Basically, I reached a bit of an impasse with the record company (Sony Music), who wanted me to follow more of a commercial line of recording than I wanted to take. They didn't want to release me from my contract. I think they were hoping that I'd come to my senses and that never happened. After ten years, finally, they let me go.

I also understand that during that period of time you did some musical theater. You were in the musical *Chicago*.
Yes, I was in *Chicago* in the West End and it was one of the most fantastic things I've ever done. I had a brilliant, brilliant time, just laughed everyday.

What part did you play?
I played Mama Morton. You couldn't imagine me as Roxy with my thighs!

Several different musical influences can be heard on *Hometime*. For example, "Yesterday's Flame" has a

Cont. Page 8



Singer/songwriter ALISON MOYET: "All I've ever done is sing. From the age of 15, I've never had a proper job. It's all I've ever done."



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Oct. 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 2 at 8 PM at The Parliament House's Footlight Theater. Get ready for juggling, percussion, music, and physical comedy combined with high-tech special effects to create a mesmerizing spectacle that's as funny as it is awe-inspiring. For more information call (407) 293-8978 or email jugglermat@aol.com.

RENT

Oct. 22 - 27 at the Carr Performing Arts Center. The musical that took the world by storm is back. Come and see what all the hoopla was about, and if you've already seen it then come and feel it again. For ticket information call (407) 839-3900 or visit <www.rentthetour.com>.

THE KING AND I

Oct. 25 - 27 and Nov. 1 - 3. The Celebration Players will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic at the Celebration School's Black Box Theatre. For more information call (407) 528-3588.

PRIVATE EYES

Oct. 11 - Nov. 2 at Theatre Downtown. A play within a play, a young actor suspects his wife is having an affair with their director. For reservations or more information call (407) 841-0083 or visit <www.theatredowntown.net>.

GUYS AND DOLLS

Oct. 16 - Dec. 1 at The Mark Two Dinner Theatre. The quintessential Broadway musical is based on the stories and characters of Damon Runyon. For ticket information call (407) 843-6275 or visit <www.themarktwo.com>.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Oct. 17 - Nov. 2. Presented at the Moonlight Warehouse in Clermont. See the play that spawned the cult-film and dance and sing along to "The Time Warp." Reservations are

required so call (352) 319-1116 or visit <www.moonlightplayers.tripod.com>.

THE FANTASTICKS

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

DARK OF THE MOON

Oct. 11 - 20 at Valencia Community College's Performing Arts Center, East Campus. A love story based on the haunting folk ballad "Barbara Allen," the play is set in the Smokey Mountains, and tells the tale of a Witch-boy who falls in love with a beautiful girl. For ticket information call (407) 582-2900.

OLIVER

Through Oct. 20 at the Helen Stairs Theatre in Sanford. Produced by the Wekiva River Players. For ticket information call (407) 321-8111.

DRACULA

Through Oct. 13 at the Seminole Community College Fine Arts Theatre. Produced by The bloodthirsty count rises once again just in time for the haunting season of Halloween. For ticket information call (407) 328-2040.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

Through Oct. 13 at the Mark Two Dinner Theatre. Irving Berlin's rip-roarin' musical of the Wild West. It's a sharp-shootin', heart-poundin' tale of romance and rivalry. For more information call (407) 843-6275 or visit <www.themarktwo.com>.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

BROADWAY CAFE SOCIETY

First Monday of each month at the IMPROV, located inside Centro Ybor. Just think of it as a bunch of friends gathering around the piano and entertaining each other with Broadway Show tunes. The Broadway Cafe Society is strongly

committed to supporting the fight against AIDS and all door and collected donations go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the PWA Coalition of Tampa Bay. For more information contact Michael Senesac at (800) 943-5592.

ME AND JEZEBEL

Through Oct. 13 at the Central Stage Theater Company. She's back! And no one can bring Bette Davis back to life quite the way Blake Walton can. For show times and ticket information call (727) 327-PLAY or visit <www.centralstagecompany.com>.

THE PAVILION

Through Oct. 13 at American Stage. The play is a poignant romance about two high school sweethearts who have been estranged for nearly two decades and meet again at their twentieth reunion. For ticket information call (727) 823-PLAY.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

Through Oct. 20 at the Venice Little Theatre. The Venice Little Theatre launches its 54th season with the zany antics of the Marx Brothers' musical comedy. For more information call (941) 488-1115.

OLYMPUS ON MY MIND

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

SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE MAGIC BOX

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

MUSIC & DANCE

DAYTONA

A MUSICAL SEANCE

Oct. 12. Performance by the Brevard Symphony Orchestra. Call (321) 242-2024 or visit <www.brevardsymphony.com>.

ORLANDO

MARK ZAUSS AND HIS 7 STREET BAND

Oct. 24. Part of the IMPROV blues and jazz concert series held in the SCC Fine Arts Concert Hall on the Sanford/Lake Mary campus. This performance will include a wide variety of jazz styles, including swing era favorites and the sounds of New Orleans. For further information call (407) 328-2040.

STARBUCKS' OPEN MIKE NIGHT

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

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

OKSANA WITH GARETH WHITEHURST

Oct. 13 at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater on Nursery Rd. Come out and enjoy the talents of this incredible musician and composer. For more information call (727) 531-7704.

ART & EXHIBITS

DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

THE FLORIDA LANDSCAPE

Through Oct. 13 at the Atlantic Center for the Performing Arts. Pictures of Florida by artists participating in the Atlantic Center's Artists in Residence program. For additional information call (386) 427-6975 or visit <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>.

MARK CATESBY'S EXPLORATION OF LA FLORIDA

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

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Through Oct. 19 at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Exhibition

Ralph Fasanella's America

August 16 - November 3, 2002



Ralph Fasanella (1914-1997), I Love New York, 1980

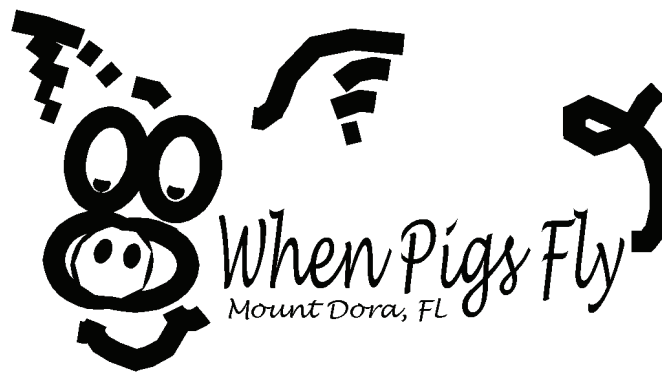
This exhibition was organized by the Fenimore Art Museum of the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown, New York.

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featuring the works of photographers Andrew Cross, UK; Torben Eskerod, Denmark; Stephen Lawson, Scotland; Elaine Ling, Canada; and Yuri Nagawara, Japan. For more information visit <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>.

ORLANDO

10TH ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA JURIED ART SHOW

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

THE BUTLER DID IT!

Through Oct. 31 at the GLBCC Center in Orlando. Voted Orlando's "Best Photographer" by *Watermark* readers, Dennis Butler shows he is more than just your average shutterbug with a showing of Xerox art, paintings, photographs, Coppola studies, superheroes and villains. For more information call (407) 896-4400 or visit <www.butlerstudio.com>.

HOLOCAUST PROJECT: FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

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

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

PETER W. BROWN: WALKING DREAMS

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

RED GROOMS: SELECTIONS FROM THE GRAPIC WORK

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

OUTDOOR SHOW

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

ARTRAGEOUS EVENING OF ART

Oct. 12. Held at the Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota. Come enjoy an elegant evening of appetizers, wine, and refreshments while viewing a stunning collection of incredible art. Auction begins at 8 PM and will include works by Dali, Erte, Rockwell, Picasso, Chagall, and many more. For more information call (941) 587-1509 or (941) 485-2965.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ORLANDO



MATT HENRY (L) and RANDY CABRAL say *Stomp*, Blue Man Group, and Cirque du Soleil influenced them to create *Anthropology*, playing at The Parliament House.

A TASTE OF THORNTON PARK

Oct. 17 from 6 to 9 PM. Held at The Veranda Bed & Breakfast. Come taste the best food, drink, and music that Thornton Park has to offer. A benefit for the Thornton Park Neighborhood Association to raise funds for their maintenance fund. There will also be a silent auction. For tickets and information call The Knowledge Shop at (407) 671-9505.

29TH ANNUAL WINTER PARK AUTUMN ART FESTIVAL

Oct. 12 - 13 at Lake Island Park. An exclusive juried show for Florida resident artists only. Come out and enjoy the art of 130 artists from all around the sunshine state. Food vendors and entertainment will also be on hand including Orlando's own Miss Jacqueline Jones. For more information on this free event call (407) 644-8281 or visit <www.winterparkartfestival.com>.

GHOST WALK

Oct. 18 - 19 at the Maitland Art Center. Take a tour of the facility that is said to be haunted by its founder, visionary artist and architect Andre Smith (1880-1959). Each evening up to 35 people will tour the facility led by staff and artists who have had unusual experiences. Cost is \$35 per person with funds going to benefit the Center's Endowment Fund. For more information or to make your reservation call (407) 539-2181.

AUDITIONS

ORLANDO

OOOPS GUYS COMEDY TROUPE

Oct. 21 auditions are by appointment only. Try out for the Oops Guys new musical celebration of cult movies, 'That's exploitation!' Needed are comic actors and actresses who sing. All vocal ranges needed. Performers will need to be skilled in the broad style of comedy and move well. All ethnicities ages 18 and up are encouraged to try out. To schedule an audition or for more information please call (407) 827-0691 and leave a message with a name and number.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

FREE VOICE MASTER CLASS

Oct. 19 in the Rehearsal Hall of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. The Education and Humanities Department of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center is offering a free voice master class with internationally recognized vocal coaches Joseph K. Meyers and Violette Vernaud Meyers. Six to eight singers will be selected in advance to perform in the master class. Interested performers should contact Joseph or Violette Meyers at (813) 960-5528.

"Calendar of Events" is provided on a space available basis and events are listed at Watermark's discretion. Press releases may be mailed to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853-3655; faxed to (407)481-2246; e-mailed to john@watermarkonline.com. Deadline for next issue: Oct. 13.

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Wine from Page 5

Latin beat. Were you listening to a lot of that type of music prior to writing that song?

No, I listen to very little music actually. I always find that my relationship with music has been more about doing it than listening to it. I didn't want to be influenced by anything other than just let it be quite an organic process.

"If You Don't Come Back To Me" and "Ski" both have a jazz flavor to them. Would you agree?

Yeah. You can sense a bit of that, a bit of jazz, a bit of blues, a bit of chanson. It's a mixture of things. I'm 41 now and I've been exposed to lots of different things. I can't tell you albums or album tracks or who the right artist is to listen to. None of that interests me, but everything that surrounds you everyday is what influences you.

"You Don't Have To Go" is the kind of emotional, belter's ballad that you do so well. Do you have a preference for ballads?

No, I really do like to mix it. My first bands I ever played in were punk bands. So, the first things I ever did were four on the floor thrash. My tastes are quite eclectic. Even if you go back to Yaz, you'll find that the songs were quite disparate and it was Vince's sound and my voice that tied them in to sounding like a

common thread. So, no I don't have anything that I prefer.

Because of your previous success with dance music, are there plans for dance remixes of any of the tracks on *Hometime*?

I think they were talking about having someone remix a track on *Hometime*. They're talking about a guy called Mike Cruz. I was just trying to get to hear about some of his stuff. I'm completely out of touch with the dance movement. To be honest with you, I've never in touch with it. I never went clubbing — ever.

Hometime is on Sanctuary Records, which is home to Pet Shop Boys and James. How do you like your new label?

So far, it's just been incredible. When my relationship broke up with Sony and I had this album and it wasn't an album that interested them, because I didn't feel they'd be able to sell it. I went to Sanctuary and I was completely blown away by the way they reacted just organically to the music. I'm really happy that it's come to them, because they care about the record. We're getting the most incredible reviews.

That's great. Congratulations.

Thank you. It's not that I'm feeling smug or anything like that. I'm just so happy. I feel so moved that the journalists out there, who it would've been very easy to say, "Alison Moyet, she's part of the 80s, it's not

relevant now we're not going to give it the air space." I knew that if people listened to it, they'd see that there was depth to it.

It's wonderful to be appreciated.

Yeah! That's what we determined too. If it goes nowhere more than this, I don't care. I feel like I stood by my guns when I knew that I was giving up a commercial career to try and make this record that I would feel good about for my whole life.

Are there plans for a U.S. tour in support of the album?

I'm just starting a tour in October in England, just a little one. It's all about how it's received. If the album's received well, then the promoters have confidence and they book you. I would come to America tomorrow because I have some brilliant fans and I've had some great gigs out there, really good times. I'd love to come back there again, but it's very much whether people are interested in having me.

Are you aware of a queer fan-base?

Oh yeah, and thank God for them!

Speaking of fans, I noticed that there were a number of fan sites on the Web. How does it feel to have inspired such devotion?

It's incredibly humbling, actually. Bare in mind, all I've ever done is sing. From the age of 15, I've never had a proper job. It's all I've ever done. [And] it's only in the last

couple of years that I've had a computer. To do little searches and suddenly find out that there are these communities of people talking about your work and supporting you was the most fantastic boost to my self-esteem. It was brilliant.



When ALISON MOYET first started out, Warner Bros. records credited her as "A. Moyet" so people wouldn't be able to tell if she was black or white, male or female, gay or straight.

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Be sure to pick up the Oct. 24 issue of **Watermark** to see who you voted the best in your area.

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- blast II SHOCKWAVE (Dec 3-4)
- Moscow Ballet's "Great Russia Nutcracker" (Dec 6-7)
- Sing Along Santa (Dec 8)

ON SALE OCT 11

- Fosse (Dec 10-11)
- George Carlin (Dec12)
- Irish Rovers Christmas Show (Dec14)
- Salute to Vienna (Jan 3)
- Swing (Jan 4-5)
- Harry Belafonte (Jan 12)

ON SALE OCT 12

- Kenny Rogers (Nov 23)

ON SALE OCT 25

- Late Nite Catechism (Dec 10-15 & 17-22)
- The Water Coolers (Feb 4-9)
- After The Storm (Jan 7-12)
- Around The World (Mar 11-16)
- Chicago City Limits (Apr 8-13)

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10 October 10 - 23, 2002

Butch is Beautiful from Page 1

everything from shirts, sweatshirts, and underwear to ball caps, boxers and sunglasses and a whole lot more.

"I figured that [the gay and lesbian community was] coming out in so many ways, why not in the clothing industry? Why not have our own design?" says Brendell. "And if Butchwear crosses over then that is a beautiful thing. It's time for us all to embrace each other anyway and this is a great way to do that."

Last year Butchwear was among the more than 200 vendors to take part in the Gay Days at Disney vendor fair — and it turned out to be a smart move for Brendell and company. Sally Kidd from News Channel 2 was there with a camera crew to do a story on the event and was fascinated with the Butchwear products.

"I told her this was the next big thing so she did an interview. We ended up with coverage all weekend long on the local news," Brendell recalls. "Sally loved it! She wore one of our visors while she walked around the event. Everyone thought that what we had was nice and at the same time really different."

Different indeed, especially since Brendell decided to target both women and men when it came to marketing her products.

"I love the men as much as the women," Brendell says with a laugh. "We are all family and what makes Butchwear so awesome is that it's not about gender. Butch is sexy, it's beautiful, and it is used on both sides of the spectrum anyway."

It was only a matter of time before the word spread and people everywhere wanted to get their hands on some Butchwear of their own: men and women, young and old, gay and straight, and, of course, butch and femme. The line is now carried locally at both Orlando and Tampa Urban Body locations, The Store at the Suncoast Resort, and at Pride Factory in Ft. Lauderdale. Butchwear can also be found nationally at boutique and specialty stores in New York, Provincetown, Chicago, and Key West. By the end of October you'll see Butchwear on the guys at DudeDorm.com, a Web site with live Web cams in a house full of hot young men.

Right now Brendell has a full time staff of four and the way things are going she may soon have to do some hiring.

"There is no limit to Butchwear; we want to be everywhere," says Brendell.

Brendell says that the Web has played a large part in the brand gaining exposure over the past several months. She says the Web site, <www.butchwear.com>, is constantly being updated and

improved. She and her staff have also traveled all over to take their logo to Pride events like Womyn's Fest in Key West and it appears that all the work is paying off.

"We recently hooked up with drag kings Darla and the Rascals and they are now

Coming soon is a line of more lady-like items that will be called "GG" — which stands for "girl-girl." Brendell is also working with a designer whose clothes are featured at Urban Body to create more upscale clothing for men, including clubwear and swimsuits.

The whole experience has been equal parts hard work and fun for Brendell and her staff. Being on the road so much can exhaust a person, but Brendell says they try to be at every event that they are invited to.

"I kind of like to think of myself as the Tom Cruise of Butchwear because he is very personable in whatever he does," says Brendell. "I like to be out there and I love seeing everybody's reaction to it. And so far there has been no negative feedback at all."

Eventually Brendell would like for Butchwear to have its own merchandise outlet. But until that day, continuing promotions online and at gay Pride events is proving to be lucrative. At Tampa Pride last July Brendell had the chance to meet *Queer as Folk* star Sharon Gless and took advantage of the opportunity to introduce her to the Butchwear line.

"She was so nice and she loved Butchwear," remembers Brendell. "She introduced me to one of the show's producers and we are talking to them now about getting Butchwear on the show."

So get your Butchwear now before the likes of Justin, Brian and Emmett are sporting the BW logo all over Showtime and you end up on a backorder list. The best way to purchase or find out where to buy the products is through the Web site, <www.butchwear.com>. ▼



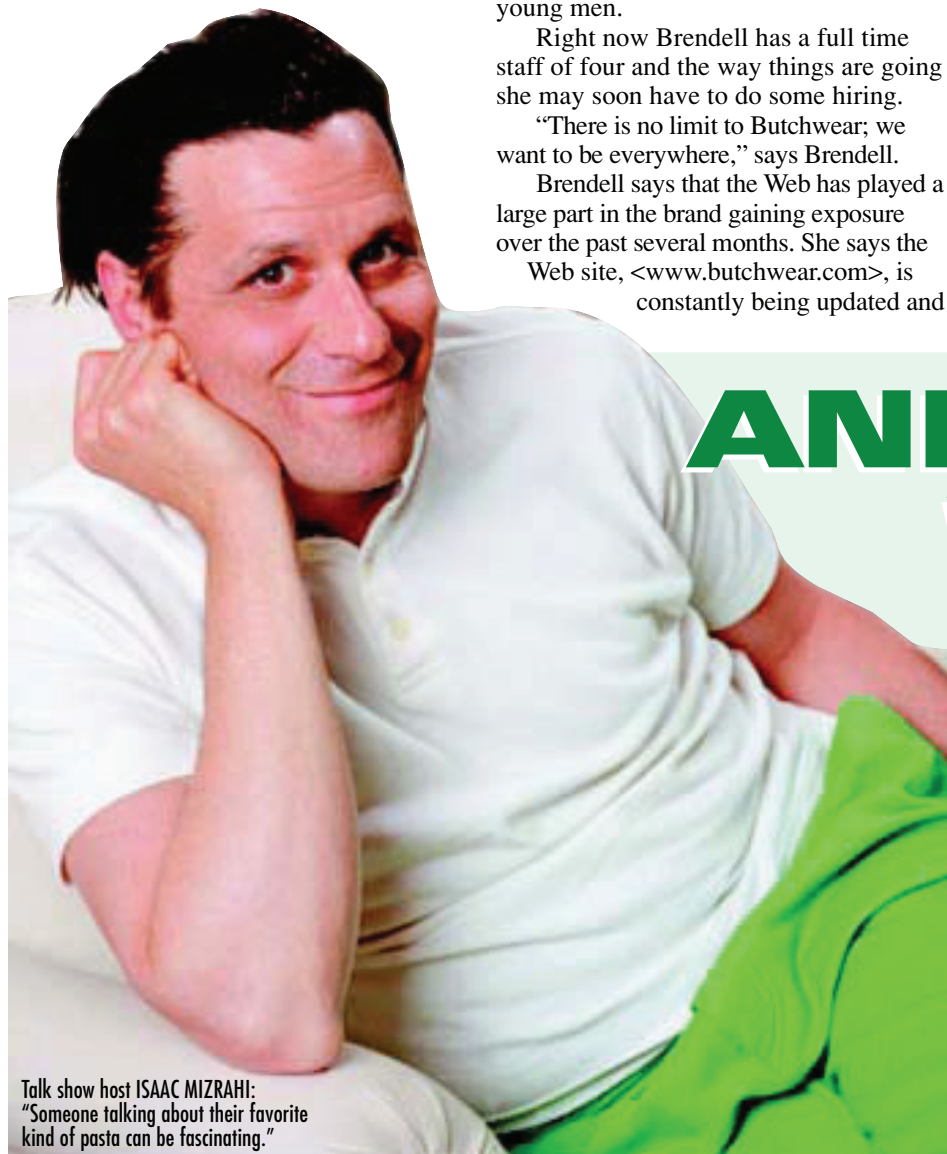
Aside from clothing items like boxer shorts and muscle shirts, Butchwear offers a wide array of accessories, including sunglasses, knitted caps, and baseball hats.

wearing some of our gear during their

performances," says Brendell.

Also on Brendell's agenda is giving something back to the community.

"There is so much that this company wants to do as we grow. We want to be a corporation that helps people — whether it's fundraising for HIV/AIDS or breast cancer research — it isn't just about us selling the clothing," says Brendell.



Talk show host ISAAC MIZRAHI: "Someone talking about their favorite kind of pasta can be fascinating."

AND FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T SO BUTCH

Fashion designer turned television host Isaac Mizrahi talks about the second season of his cable show.

By Frazier Moore

NEW YORK - "I'm such a bundle of ambivalence," says Isaac Mizrahi, looking perplexed. "That's my problem. Or," he adds helplessly, "my virtue." Either way, at age 41, he's still deciding

what to do when he grows up. Already, he's been a fashion designer with his own celebrated line. He was the subject of the 1995 documentary *Unzipped*. He starred in a one-man off-Broadway show called *LES MIZRAHI*. He even served as a residential makeover artist, helping retrofit a prewar Manhattan apartment house with luxury pieds-a-terres.

Then, last year, the openly-gay Mizrahi decided to freshen up the TV talk show scene.

Cont. on Page 14



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ORGANIZATIONS & MEETINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

BREAKTHROUGH

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

BREVARD LESBIANS

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

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

DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION

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

FUN COAST BEARS

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

GALBA

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

GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

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

GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD

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

OUTREACH, INC.

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

OVER THE RIVER

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

PFLAG DAYTONA

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

SPECTRUM

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

ORLANDO

AA WAKE UP CALL

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

BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER

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

BMCO

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

BOOKLOVERS

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

CENTAUR

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

CODA

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

COLAGE

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

CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

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

EVOLVE

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

FREEDOM OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

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

GALA

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

GALIXY

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

GAP

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

GAY SKATE

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

GIRTH AND MIRTH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

GLBCC-THE CENTER

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

GLBT PARENTS GROUP

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

GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES

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

HARBOR HOUSE

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

JOYRIDERS

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

LAMBDA CAMPING

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

LOG CABIN CLUB OF ORLANDO

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

LONG YANG CLUB

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

MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

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

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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

MISHPUCHA

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

OPEX

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

ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

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

ORLANDO MEN'S DISCUSSION

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

ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS

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

ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB

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

OWLS

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

PFLAG

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

POLY-CENTRAL

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

POSITIVE SUPPORT

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

PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

PRINCIPLE BEFORE PERSONALITIES

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

PRISM-EA

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

RAIN

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

RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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

RAINBOW NA

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

RAINBOW SPIRIT

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

REFLECTIONS

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

S.H.A.R.E.

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

SISTAH CIRCLE

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

SUNSHINE RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

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

TEEN ACT (AIDS COMMUNITY THEATER)

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

TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

UCF GLBSU

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

WILLOW

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

THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE

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

WE 2 HAVE PARENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

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

TAMPA BAY AREA

BAMACT

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

BROTASSPEAK

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





CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS
Lesbian, feminist chorus. Meets Sun., 6:15 PM; MCC Tampa. (813)679-7585; CrescendoSings@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP
Writers workshop for PLWAs. Meets Thurs.; 6 PM. (727)327-2969

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

FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP
Meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727)895-4439.

FACE TO FACE YOUTH GROUP
Youth group for GLBT and their supporters ages 14-21. Meets Sun.; 7 PM. (813)935-4101; Fce2FceYouth@aol.com.

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

FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB
Playing card variety. (813)832-2999.

FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP
Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. <www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogrpp/>.

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

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

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

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

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
Meets Wed.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
Meets Fri.; 10 AM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meets every evening; 8:15 PM; 3644-A Henderson Blvd.. (813)273-8741.

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

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

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

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

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

GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE
Meets third Wed.. (813)960-3022.

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

INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG
Meets at UU Church of St. Petersburg. (727)898-3294.

L.I.G.H.T./FACT
Free dinner on the first Tues. of the month. 140 4th St. N at the St. Petersburg Cathedral Parish Hall. (727)895-4439.

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

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

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

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES
A community services organization offering HIV/AIDS case manage-

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATION H.O.P.E. OF PINELLAS, INC.
St. Petersburg AIDS organization dedicated to the needs of the minority community. (727)822-2437; POCAS@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB
Investment club for the GLBT community. Meets monthly. (813)962-8459.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD
Meets second Tue. (813)237-3751; <www.tbhg.org>.

TAMPA BAY GAY COOKING CLUB
Meets monthly in the Tampa Bay Area. For more information visit <www.alexfrades.com/tampabaycookingclub>.

TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS
Meets Mon.; 7 PM; Old Springs Theatre. (727)865-9004.

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

TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.
Pasco and Hernandez chapters. Meet first Sun.; Oakhill Hospital. Citrus County chapter. Meets second Sun.; Cellar Pub. (727)863-6112.

TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF
Periodic social gatherings for both hearing and non-hearing gays. (813)236-3123.

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

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

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

SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

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

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

HOUSE OF BLUES
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Sarasota - 1055 S. Tamiami Tr. #112 (941)265-2658

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

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

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

GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB
"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com or jimbofia@yahoo.com.

GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS
Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941)377-9043; <www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org>.

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

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

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

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Lake Mary Centre (407)833-0848

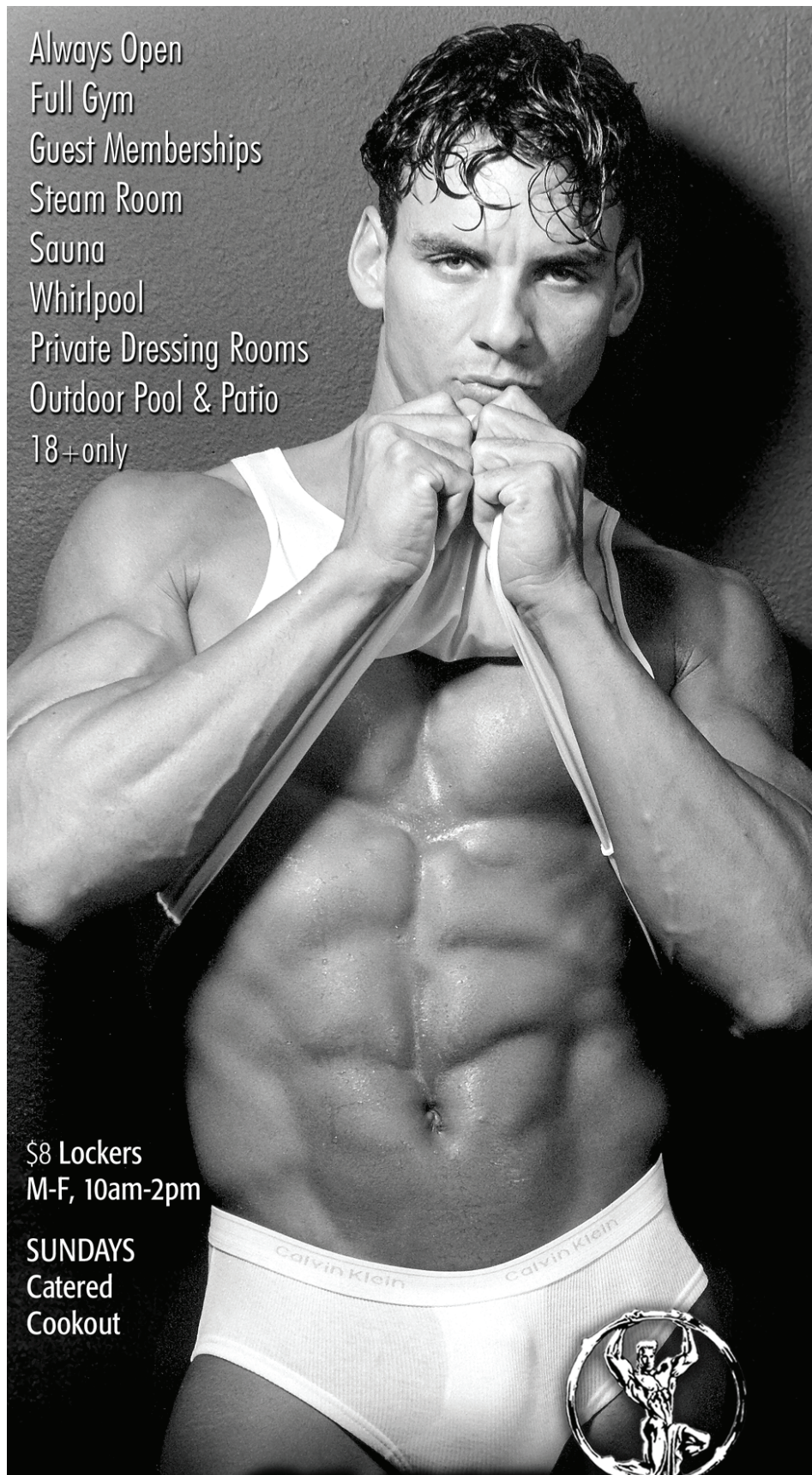
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Mizrahi from Page 10

Last month, *The Isaac Mizrahi Show* began its second season on cable's Oxygen network, and by now the method to Mizrahi's many-splendored madness comes clear: He does what he likes.

Originating both from within and beyond his gallery-like studio ("a big white box," he explains, "like a blank page"), the show often finds the host sharing a fun activity with his celebrity guest while they chat.

On future segments, he grooms his dog Harry with Natalie Portman, designs a cocktail dress for Selma Blair, works out with John Leguizamo, goes thrift-shopping with Kristin Davis and bowls with Juliette Lewis.

Think of each encounter as a talk-show play date, not only amusing to watch, but also putting the guest at ease. Which facilitates disclosure.

Any subject, large or small, is fair game. "Someone talking about their favorite kind of pasta can be just as fascinating to listen to as them talking about global warming or any other monumental topic," Mizrahi says.

Another episode featured comedian Janeane Garofalo with her two large Labradors. Kid and Dewey frolic with Harry while their owners discussed smoking, standup comedy, sex (she swears she never slept with off-and-on friend and collaborator Ben Stiller) and the desperate self-image of so many young women.

"I want to know who everybody wants to like them," Mizrahi says.

But along the way, one of Garofalo's dogs interrupted things by urinating on her leg. This is not only a funny moment, but also, by provoking her into an unrehearsed response, as revealing as a talk show is ever likely to get.

"That's theater, people! Go with it!" laughed Garofalo, startled yet a good sport. Conversation resumed as she dutifully scrubbed Formula 409 into the stain.

"My favorite segments are when something like that happens," Mizrahi said later to a reporter. "Even when it's a foolish little thing — that's what really

happened on that stage at that time with that person."

No wonder he embraces the unexpected. He embodies it. Although a darling of Manhattan's arty in-crowd, Mizrahi, whose surname in Hebrew means "man from the East," was raised just east of Manhattan in Brooklyn, in a close-knit community of Syrian Sephardic Jews.

His father, a children's-wear manufacturer with whom he had a "distant and complicated" relationship, nonetheless advised 12-year-old Isaac on buying his first sewing machine — and even threw in the extra \$40 it cost.

Mizrahi went on to study dance, music and drama at Manhattan's High School of Performing Arts. After graduation, he enrolled at the Parsons School of Design.

Although he created the dazzling 1930s costumes for last season's Broadway revival of *The Women*, he has been out of the rag trade since folding his couture line four years ago.

"I don't like fashion," he declares. "I like clothes."

Besides, he likes making things other than things you can wear: His TV show, for instance, which he approaches as a line of 30-minute video creations.

He's doing the show he set out to do, he says, and having a ball. But he does acknowledge one concern: that, with its all-white studio and voguish guests, *The Isaac Mizrahi Show* might at first glance strike a viewer as all too cool.

"Uh-uh!" he insists, drawing a sharp distinction between cool-as-pretentious and cool-as-smart. "Besides, I think there's always something about my show that brings it right back down to an un-cool level."

Namely him. In many ways he is still that kid from Brooklyn: curious, creative, playful.

"I like really simple, basic things," Mizrahi says. "I'm really an earnest guy. I can't lie. I don't drink. Ice cream is my favorite thing in the world. I feel like that's what my show is about."

Maybe not such a bundle of ambivalence after all. ❧



ISAAC MIZRAHI folded his designer label four years ago: "I don't like fashion. I like clothes."



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- THE CABANA BAR:**
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LAKELAND

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- JOEY'S:**
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- RAFTERS:**
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- SUNCOAST RESORT HOTEL:**
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- D&C'S PLAYHOUSE:**
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- ROWDY'S:**
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- THERAPY:**
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Do you have a favorite bar or club we're overlooking?

Let us know at editor@watermarkonline.com



TOP TEN BEAR BUST "DO'S"

1. **DO** wear boots of any variety (possibly except go-go).
2. **DO** wear natural fibers: flannel, cotton, leather.
3. Speaking of leather, **DO** break it out if you own it, but don't forget October in Florida ain't cool and breezy.
4. **DO** talk about your softball team, your truck, your piercings, your trick from the previous evening, or your bear tattoo.
5. **DO** take your shirt off if you feel it. No one will judge you.
6. **DO** suspend shaving for a week (face and/or back).
7. **DO** order a beer. Or two. Or ten.
8. **DO** cheer for the contestants in the various contests.
9. If someone yells "WOOF" at you, **DO** be flattered.
10. **DO** enjoy the great camaraderie and playful lust with the handsome crowd from across the country, and have a great time at Bear Bust 2002.

Bears from Page 1

substantial. When that many Bears come out of hibernation for five days, it gets noticed.

Bear Bust and the Bears of Central Florida remain closely associated with the Full Moon Saloon — "The Moon" to its hundreds of regular and devoted patrons. Owner Bob Graves is a member of BOCF, and he mans his bar with employees and volunteers to ensure that Bear Bust runs smoothly each year. The result: wall to wall bears throughout the long weekend. Facella notes that Graves and his staff are an



Pool games at the Ambassador Hotel: Bears (at least the gay male variety) are known for their playful, affectionate sexuality. Photo by Tom Dyer.

enormous help in coordinating the event.

"Bob and the guys at the Moon really help a lot," Facella said. "Bob charges us no fee to have the event in his bar and he handles lots of the arrangements himself. It really is a great relationship we have." With each passing year, the theme for Bear Bust has taken on more prominence. This year, according to Facella, everything from the decorations to the

parties will center around one concept: Halloween.

"We have a wide variety of Halloween-based things," he said. "From a haunted-house style 'Walk Through to Hell,' to decorations that will be both funny and sinister, to the optional evening event at Islands of Adventure's Halloween Horror Nights. It should be a lot of fun."

But the Bears of Central Florida also

know a good thing when they see it, and many aspects of Bear Bust remain constant. San Francisco comedian Danny Williams will once again serve as emcee for the requisite Bear

contests. The host hotel will remain the faded Ambassador Hotel just a city block from the Moon near the corner of Orange Blossom Tr. and Colonial Dr. And of course the main attraction will remain the Moon and its mountain lodge trappings, bursting with hirsute men of all shapes and sizes.

While Bear Bust remains popular, Facella expressed uncertainty about the future of such events.

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TOP TEN BEAR BUST "DONT'S"

1. **DON'T** wear sandals. The bar and hotel get very crowded and rambunctious.
2. **DON'T** wear bike shorts, International Male garb or half shirts.
3. **DON'T** wear cologne or deodorant — also known as bear repellent.
4. **DON'T** talk about your diet or exercise regimen.
5. **DON'T** shave any part of your body (except possibly your head).
6. **DON'T** be surprised by openly and robustly displayed 'affection,' particularly late night and out of doors at the host hotel.
7. **DON'T** order a Cosmopolitan, a fuzzy navel, or any variety of daiquiri.
8. **DON'T** get drunk and try to molest the contestants in the various contests.
9. If someone grabs you, **DON'T** get offended. Bears are uninhibited in their affection.
10. Bears are sensitive and territorial about their event and their group and take it all surprisingly seriously. **DON'T** write a perfectly benign, but mildly critical observational editorial about Bear Bust. Just trust me on this one, okay?

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Thousands of big furry guys are expected at the Full Moon Saloon for Bear Bust 2002. Photo by Tom Dyer.

Scott McGillivray now oversees a magazine called *100% Beef*, but that title has yet to provide the same opportunity for building a conduit for communication in the way *Bear* did.

With or without attendant media, Bear Bust continues to be one of the top tickets on the Bear run scene, along with Chicago's Bear Pride and San Francisco's Bear Rendezvous. And Facella notes that BOCF and the Moon are already planning improvements for next year.

Bowing to pressure from some attendees, Facella says they have begun scouting new hotels to replace the Ambassador Hotel, a former Howard Johnsons that has seen better days.

"We really want people to continue to have a reason to come to Bear Bust," Facella said. "We feel like it's a wonderful time, and we want to make sure the most people possible can join us." ▼

"Well, the economy obviously plays a large part in these things, but it remains to be seen whether Bear Bust and other Bear events will return to the same numbers as before," he said. "I would hate to say that Bear events have run their course."

One recent and significant change is the loss a key community-building player — *Bear Magazine*. The publication, an unexpected phenomenon when it first came out more than 10 years ago, ceased operations a year ago.

"*Bear* was the best way that I knew of to share information about events like ours nationally and internationally," Facella noted. "The way a lot of the Bear community communicated with each other is gone now."

Former *Bear* publisher



Comedian DANNY WILLIAMS (left) will once again serve as master of ceremonies at Bear Bust. Photo by Tom Dyer.

BEAR BUST GLOSSARY OF TERMS

WOOF - The ubiquitous Bear call, "Woof" typically indicates someone's attraction to another, or just an appreciation of someone's form. Sort of a sexual "Aloha." Variations are "Woofa" and "Oof."

BEAR - A man (he will tell you) who embraces and celebrates his masculinity, including his facial hair, manly scent, and large, powerful body. While Bears are often stereotyped as bigger than average, many people who identify as Bears do not fit that mold.

CUB - A young Bear or Bear-in-training, or sometimes a man who assumes the submissive role in a relationship with another Bear.

OTTER - A hairless cub.

WOLF - A hairy man who is typically leaner than the average Bear.

POLAR BEAR - An older Bear with white body or facial hair, or in some cases, a Bear with blond facial and body hair.

MUSCLEBEAR - Bears who focus on physical fitness and muscular development.

BULK MALE - A Bear of the biggest variety.

SASH QUEEN - A repeat contestant at various Bear contests on the Bear circuit.

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FILTH ACCOSTING CELEBRITIES WITH AUNTIE JOAN

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

Drama at the 54th Annual Emmy Awards actually began four days before the big event with a tense meeting between **STEVE KMETKO** and E! CEO Mindy Herman. In the midst of a contract negotiation, Stevie wanted more money than E! was offering. Knowing that he was expected to cover the Emmys, Kmetko thought that he had the network over a barrel...until Mindy picked up the phone and called Todd Newton (20 pounds heavier since his marriage and baby).

"Todd, whatcha you doing Sunday? Want an Emmy shift?" Todd said sure and Steve got his parking validated. What will happen to *E! News Daily*? One of E!'s first reporters, hottie Michael Castner (20 pounds lighter since the Zone diet), is the front runner for that job — which would bring the network full circle.

Getting to the red carpet early, I took my usual position by Auntie **JOAN RIVERS**. Wasn't Joanie looking good this year? And she's recovered nicely from her recent surgery - except for that bump on her cheek...or was I not supposed to mention that? Oops.

Then we were joined by someone who's never been called too thin — **PAULA ABDUL**. Paula told me that she's in the middle of recording a new album (that no one will buy) which will be distributed by a record label (that

needs a tax write-off for this fiscal year). She also let me know that Ryan Seacrest and Simon Cowell are the only two people with contracts for *American Idol II*.

"I'm still in negotiation," she added, which told me that the producers still haven't heard back from **TAYLOR DAYNE** or **NIA PEEBLES**.

OPRAH WINFREY obviously walked right by the E! Pavilion, but then doubled back.

"I gotta go say hi to Joan," she said. The Oprah was completely at ease and having a great time. "What's to be nervous about? I already know I won, so I'm having fun." Little **FRANKIE MUNIZ** zipped by.

Nope, that was **FREDDY RODRIGUEZ**. Oh my God, it's both of them. Wouldn't they make a cute couple? Throw in **ELIJAH WOOD**, and you'd have three people who couldn't get onto Space Mountain! But what is Freddy doing with **QUEEN LATIFAH**? That's his wife?

Come on! You're kidding, right?

ELLEN DEGENERES showed up with gal pal **ALEXANDRA HEDISON**. (That Ellen's always nice — not *real* nice, but nice enough.)

DORIS ROBERTS: classy, classy, classy. **RAY ROMANO** dashed by, confident that this was his year. **PATRICIA HEATON** obviously thought this was another awards show because she showed up with a prominently displayed pair of golden globes.

The cast of *Friends* showed up — and poof, they were gone. Since the group was giving out the first award of the evening, they were whisked backstage and skipped the red carpet

completely. But we could see that **MATTHEW PERRY** was with his mom, and **MATT LEBLANC** was with that perpetual fiance (whatever) and seemed to once again be double dating with **JENNIFER ANISTON** and **BRAD PITT**. (Truthfully, Matt and Brad made a cute couple.)

ANGELICA HUSTON confided in me that she has not given up on bringing **MARIA CALLAS'** story to the big screen. That'll kill Faye, particularly since Angelica hopes to have her old flame **JACK NICHOLSON** play Onassis, and Dunaway will probably end up with **DANNY BONADUCE**!

During the show, **WENDY MALICK** and **TYNE DALY** spent more time at the bar in the lobby than anyone else. At one point, Tyne took her daughter's arm, saying, "Mama's a little tipsy." Careful — you don't want that falling on you!

Sexy **SIMON BAKER** was not at all happy about presenting with **HEATHER LOCKLEAR** and was grumbling about it to anyone who would listen. Seeing him reminded me of that delicious nude photo I came across from his modeling days. In person, he was much cuter and younger looking than I ever would have imagined.

Worst dressed? Stockard, Stockard, Stockard, what were you thinking? Bad dress, bad hair, bad everything. I love her and wanted her to win both awards, but she needs some fags around her — and fast!

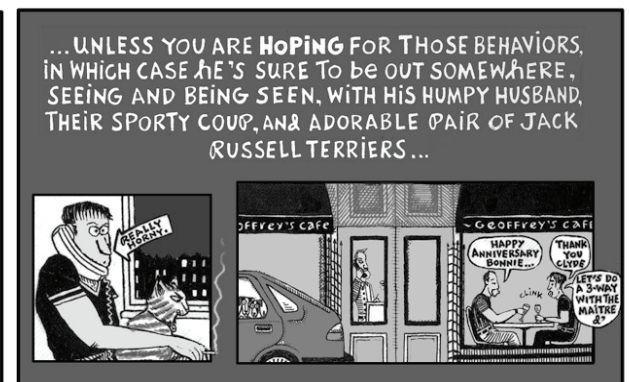
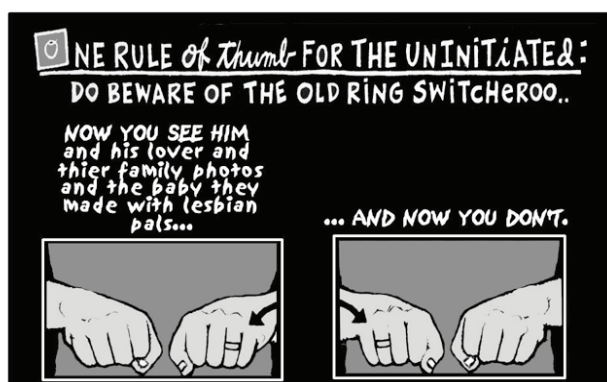
Fan letters? Send 'em to the usual place — Billy@filth2go.com — and I promise to get back to you before I replace Kmetko (it could happen). Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ♪



It's a good thing she can act because **STOCKARD CHANNING** sure doesn't know how to dress.

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by Eric Orner



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