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SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 9, 2002



**WATERMARK**

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

# HOT WIRED



**Dirk Shafer's *CIRCUIT* adds juice  
to this year's Tampa International  
Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.**

This and more in our Film Fest pullout section.

Daytona Beach • Orlando • Tampa • St. Petersburg • Sarasota



**From the desk of  
Patty Sheehan**

August 30, 2002

Sheri McInvale for State House 36 (D)  
307 North Park Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
407.463.2992

Dear Ms. McInvale,

**"...Your support of issues that are important to our senior citizens**, such as stronger nursing home standards, protection from fraud, and affordable prescription drugs are important issues... **Your support of education**, and **your endorsement by the Classroom Teachers Association**, is also important..."

**"...Thank you for taking the courageous step of running for public office. You have my complete support in your endeavors, and my endorsement..."**

With Warmest Regards,

*Patty Sheehan*  
Patty Sheehan



**Sheri**  
**McInvale**

**For State House, District 36**



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The Festival Celebrates Its 13th Year; Dirk Shafer Directs *Circuit*; An Interview With A Gay Dog And Gay Chicken; Quick Questions With Steve Guttenberg, Full Fest Event ScheduleCover: A scene from Dirk Shafer's *Circuit*.

MS. SAMMY as "Zelda" at this year's Headdress Ball.  
Photo by Dennis Butler.



## EDITOR'S DESK

By Scott Jackson Smith

Last week I took a day off. I phoned my best friend Alicia, told her I had the day free, and ended up lounging with her in her swimming pool. It was perfect.

Later on, over a vicious game of Yatzee, she broke some news to me.

"I'm going to get married," she said while going for her small straight. "I'm going to marry Luke so he can stay in the country."

Luke is the boyfriend of a mutual friend of ours. Luke is a hard working, intelligent gay guy from the Czech Republic in the States on a student visa that's expiring far too quickly. I know that he and his boyfriend are deeply in love. It would devastate them both if Luke were deported.

But Alicia seemed reluctant to tell me the news. You see I sometimes get defensive over issues that affect the gay and lesbian community and I always preach about how we must fight for our rights on our terms. In this case, though, my response I think surprised her.

"Oh," I said gathering up the dice. "That's cool."

She didn't say anything — but the look she gave me sure did. It said, "What? No lecture? No high-and-mighty opinion? No nothing?"

"Screw the system," I went on to explain. "We didn't make these stupid rules, but it's our prerogative if we want to exploit them."

Lately I've been all about challenging the status quo. I think it stems from how often I hear the term "special rights" tossed around. Isn't "marriage" a special right offered to the heterosexual community? Don't employers that refuse to offer domestic partnership benefits ultimately give their married workers an added bonus for doing the same job as people who are partnered? These examples sound pretty "special" to me — and I think they should be contested. If we don't have rights or benefits no one should.

This got me thinking about the constitutionality of all these imposed rules. So I consulted the most respected source of information I could find: the *School House Rock* DVD.

In the "Fireworks" cartoon they sing, "The Continental Congress said that we were free. They said we had the right of life and liberty... and the pursuit of happiness." That sounds pretty non-discriminatory to me. Nowhere does it say that *some* deserve the right of life and

liberty more than others. And in "Preamble" they sing, "In 1787, I'm told, our founding fathers did agree to write a list of principles for keepin' people free."

Well, I'm sad to say our founding fathers' plan has become bastardized by fear-based religious beliefs. I just wish more people would consult the Constitution before the Bible. But to date I don't believe that either document defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman. I think the writers had more important things to think about.

Anyway, I hope Alicia and Luke will be very happy together. But if you want to help in the battle for immigration rights for gays and lesbians, call or write your elected officials and ask if they support Jerry Nadler's Permanent Partners Immigration Act. For more information visit <www.lgirtf.org>.

This edition of *Watermark* is absolutely packed with fun, interesting, and intriguing news and information. In the front half of the paper are news articles on a Sarasota police officer that was told not to wear her uniform to a gay function, an update on the Orlando anti-discrimination ordinance, and a look at another race in the 2002 election courtesy of our publisher Tom Dyer. We also have coverage of how gay and lesbian candidates did nationally in the September primaries as well as a story on the gay rights victory in Miami-Dade.

Our Lifestyles section features a chat with Heath Ledger, star of the new film *The Four Feathers* and we take you inside the Out & Equal Workplace Summit, the first national GLBT conference ever held in Orlando.

And our pullout section this issue is all about the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (what a mouthful!). We have interviews with Steve Guttenberg, ex-*Playgirl* model Dirk Shafer, and author David Leavitt. But the must-read is John Sullivan's interview with the stars of the short film *Pedro & Tony?*: a dog and a chicken — both gay and both puppets.

And that's all the space I have. As always, we hope you enjoy this issue of *Watermark* as much as we've enjoyed putting it together for you. Let us hear from you.

editor@watermarkonline.com



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## WATER PICKS / WATER COOLER

# Water Picks

EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

## ORLANDO

SUN., OCT. 6

**LIL BARCASKI** will strike up the band as she brings her fourth annual "**LILLISH FAIR**" to downtown Orlando's **WALL STREET PLAZA**. The fun starts at 3 PM and includes more than 13 bands playing live and loud on the outdoor stage and live and not so loud inside Slingapours on the acoustic stage. This year's event of all original womyn's music features performances by local rising stars The Awakening as well as a very special guest appearance from Orlando's own Amy Steinberg. Expect vendors to dazzle you with everything from food and drink to henna tattoos and tarot card readings. Admission is only \$10 with a portion of the proceeds being donated to breast cancer awareness. Interested vendors or musicians should visit [www.colorfulladies.com](http://www.colorfulladies.com) for more information or call (407) 929-4348.



LIL BARCASKI will keep the beat when she produces *Lillish Fair*, an event featuring live local lesbian music.

## ST. PETERSBURG

SAT., SEPT. 28

One man's trash is another man's treasure, or so the saying goes. With that in mind, head out to the covered parking garage at the **SUNCOAST RESORT** for a day of digging for treasure at a **TRUNK SALE** to benefit the Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus. It all starts at 10 AM and buyers are encouraged to come early to get the good stuff. You can also bring your own junk and sell it out of your trunk for a great cause. The Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus has been bringing music to our

ears for over a decade and this is a chance to give something back and have fun at the same time.

THURS., OCT. 3

With all of the heaviness that can be associated with being HIV-positive there can be times when a guy just wants to have a little fun. **LIFE HAPPENS**, a Tampa Bay **POZ** recreational group, is hosting a weekend of social activities designed with **POZ** men in mind. The gathering, held at the **SUNCOAST RESORT**, is not a circuit event but more of a social gathering or vacation getaway where attendees can meet Mr. Right or escape Mr. Wrong. Come see old friends or make some new ones as you enjoy a weekend full of activities that do not include boring lectures, seminars, or speakers. Sponsors of the event include ASAP Prevention and Testing Center, Graff Traffic, ErosUSA.com, and MC Film Festival. For more information e-mail [LightStorm2002@aol.com](mailto:LightStorm2002@aol.com) or call the resort at (727) 867-1111.

## SARASOTA

SAT., OCT. 12

Who says that religion doesn't support art or that art doesn't support religion? The **CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC** is hosting an art auction called an "**ARTRAGEOUS EVENING OF ART**" with a preview starting at 7 PM and the auction beginning 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 of elegantly framed and matted artworks. The auction will include lithographs, etchings, engravings, watercolors, silk-screens, original oils and various mixed-media. Admission for the fund-raiser is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Advance tickets will include two free raffle tickets for a drawing of two artworks, each valued at over \$300. For more information call Hank Hueber at (941) 587-1509 or Helen Sarvis at (941) 485-2965.

# Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING



## OOPS THEY DID IT AGAIN

The unforgettable Oops Guys, who wowed audiences in both Orlando and New York last year with their hilarious parody of bad lounge acts, *Asian Sings the Blues*, are taking the show out west. The group has been invited to perform at the prestigious Seattle SketchFest 2002 during the first weekend in October. The Festival takes place in the beautiful 285-seat Broadway Performance Hall in Seattle and will feature comedy acts from Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Austin, San Francisco, and Orlando. And look for the guys to unveil their new musical salute to B-movies, *That's Exploitation*, at Orlando's SAK Comedy Lab this December. For more information visit [www.kookyart.com/oopsguys](http://www.kookyart.com/oopsguys) or call (407) 827-0691.

## O, CANADA, WHO KNEW?

Perhaps to bring new meaning to the term "Mounties," the Canadian military's Department of National Defense has purchased 26 episodes of a gay fitness show to train the troops. The series, *Urban Fitness*, runs on our northernmost neighbors' PrideVision, the world's first gay TV network, and features the motto: "Feeling fit. And doing it in style." The show is the creation of host Derek Noble, a personal trainer

who counts John Cusack, Michael J. Fox, and Maria Shriver among his clients. Although Canada's military does not exclude gays, there is no information on how many GLBT soldiers, sailors, or pilots there are. The series had also been sold to TV Pride in Europe, Australian television, and Israel's Ego Channel.

## HEEL CLICKING SING-A-LONG

Journey from Kansas to Oz and back again with the *Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz*, a new interactive theatrical experience based on the most beloved motion picture of all time. The show invites audiences to celebrate the story of Dorothy and her fantastical trip through Oz by joining in and singing along to some of history's best-known and loved songs, conveniently subtitled for new fans. But wait, It gets even gayer! Imagine doing this in a theater filled with audience members dressed up as their favorite characters. The show will have its benefit premiere in Chicago this fall and will begin touring nationally and internationally in 2003. So, focus your brain, listen to your heart, and summon up your courage as you are transported to a new, colorful world of unimaginable fun.



Westward ho! FIELY MATIAS and *Asian Sings the Blues* do it "take-out" style as they head to Seattle for SketchFest 2002.



## HEADLINE NEWS

## VOTERS KEEP MIAMI-DADE GAY RIGHTS LAW



SAVE Dade's GEORG KETELHOHN: "Our margin of victory would have been even greater."

**MIAMI** - Miami-Dade's gay and lesbian community celebrated a landmark in the struggle for equality on Sept. 10: the defeat of a ballot question that had attempted to repeal a four year-old provision of the Miami-Dade County Human Rights Ordinance prohibiting discrimination against

gays and lesbians in housing, credit, employment, and other commerce.

The county's political and business leaders had pushed to keep the ordinance, fearing a boycott from gay and liberal groups and the rejection of the region's bid to hold the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

In Tuesday's primary, 53 percent were against repealing the law while 47 percent were in favor.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas, an outspoken supporter of the law, said the repeal's defeat reinforced Miami's image as a progressive, world-class city.

"All ethnic groups were on the same page today on this issue," Penelas said. "There's no room for discrimination of any sort."

A similar ordinance was repealed in 1977 after a successful campaign led by Anita Bryant. Gay rights were restored in 1998 after a new ordinance was passed.

Lorri Jean, executive director of the NGLTF, said voters' endorsement of the

ordinance confirms the country's growing acceptance of gays and lesbians.

"The victory is sweet," she said. "Miami-Dade has come a long way."

The victory occurred despite widespread voting irregularities and reports of illegalities that effectively disenfranchised swaths of Miami Beach and other GLBT voting strongholds in Miami-Dade County. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) called on Fla. Gov. Jeb Bush and the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the failures of the Florida election system.

Georg Ketelhohn, co-chair of No to Discrimination/Save Dade, added, "It's a shame that so many of the votes of our supporters were not counted. Had the election gone properly, our margin of victory would have been even greater."

"We have made history with this campaign," Jean added. "The people of Miami-Dade County have sent the Christian Coalition and its small band of gay-obsessed zealots packing! The Christian Coalition's campaign of outright lies and scare tactics didn't work."



Gay rights supporters (L-R) NINA SOFFER, MARTA PEDROSA, and EDWIN VALENZUELA cheer election returns on Sept. 10.

## GAY CANDIDATES EXCELLED — IN PRIMARIES —

Openly gay and lesbian candidates competing in the Sept. 10 and Sept. 17 primaries claimed many victories. Those advancing from the primaries will join at least 20 other gay office seekers on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

### SEPT. 10 & SEPT. 17 PRIMARY RESULTS

#### ARIZONA

**JACK JACKSON JR.** (D) for State House (Dist. 2, Flagstaff): With 24 percent of the vote, Jackson has claimed one of the two nominations possible. He is expected to win in November, becoming the first openly gay American Indian to win elective office. **STEVE MAY** (R) for re-election to State House (Dist. 11, Paradise Valley): May, appeared poised to claim one of the two nominations possible, just 13 votes ahead. But final primary election results showed May losing by 58 votes.

**PETER MORAGA** (D) for State House (Dist. 14, Phoenix): With 24 percent of the vote, Moraga has placed third. He needed to place in one of the top two spots to claim his party's nomination.

**WALLY STRAUGHN** (D) for State House (Dist. 15, Phoenix): With 40 percent of the vote, Straughn is one of the top two finishers and has secured his party's nomination. **THOM VON HAPSBURG** (R) for State House (Dist. 7, Phoenix): With 18 percent of the vote, Von Hapsburg has finished third but needed to place in the top two for the nomination.



Arizona State House incumbent STEVE MAY lost his reelection bid.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**DAVID CATANIA** (R) for re-election to the City Council (At-large): Scoring 93 percent of the vote, Catania is running strong toward November. **JIM GRAHAM** (D) for re-election to the City Council (Ward 1): With 74 percent of precincts reporting and 65 percent of the vote, Graham has prevailed in a five-way primary and is expected to win in November.

#### FLORIDA

**XAVIER CORTADA**, nonpartisan candidate for Circuit Court (11th Circuit, Dade Co.): With 19 percent of the vote, Cortada placed third in a four-way race.

#### MARYLAND

**RICH MADALENO** (D) for State House (Dist. 18, Kensington): Competing for one of the three nominations possible, Madaleno won with 17 percent of the vote and is set to become the first openly gay man in the Maryland legislature in November.

**MAGGIE MCINTOSH** (D) for re-election to the State House (Dist. 43, Baltimore): With 26 percent of the vote, McIntosh was the top vote-getter and will claim one of the district's three seats in November.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

**JARRETT BARRIOS** (D) for State Senate

(Middlesex-Suffolk-Essex Dist.): With 48 percent of the vote, Barrios has won the Democratic nod, prevailing in a 3 way race. **LIZ MALIA** (D) for re-election to State House (11th Suffolk Dist.): With 60 percent of the vote, incumbent Liz Malia fended off two challengers and has secured her party's nomination for the November general. **RICK MUSIOL** (D) for State House (2nd Plymouth Dist.): This race is too close to call and will likely be decided in a recount. Musiol has scored 2,128 votes, just three votes behind his opponent.

#### MINNESOTA

**SCOTT DIBBLE** (DFL) for State Senate (Dist. 60, Minneapolis): With 85 percent of the vote, Dibble has won the Democratic-Farmer-Labor nomination and is strongly favored to win in November. If elected, he will be the state's second openly gay senator.

#### NEW YORK

**DANNY O'DONNELL** (D) for State Assembly (Dist. 69, New York City): With 34 percent of the vote, O'Donnell has taken home the Democratic nomination and is expected to claim victory in November. Danny O'Donnell is Rosie O'Donnell's brother.

#### RHODE ISLAND

**DAVID CICILLINE** (D) for Mayor of Providence (citywide): With 53 percent of

the vote, Cicilline has won his four-way Democratic primary race. Because Providence is heavily Democratic, it is expected to become the largest city in America with an openly gay mayor this November, replacing Tempe, Arizona.

#### VERMONT

**ED FLANAGAN** (D) for State Treasurer (statewide): With 32 percent of the vote, Ed Flanagan has succumbed to Jeb Spaulding for the Democratic nomination.

#### WASHINGTON STATE

**JIM MOELLER** (D) for State House (Dist. 49, Vancouver): With 33 percent of the vote, Moeller secured his party's nomination in the "blanket" primary. (A blanket primary is one in which the voter may cast his or her ballot for a candidate of any party.)

#### WISCONSIN

**TIM CARPENTER** (D) for State Senate (Dist. 3, Milwaukee): With 53 percent of the vote, Carpenter has secured the Democratic nod and is favored to win in November. If elected, he will be the state's first openly gay senator.

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## TAMPA BAY NEWS

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For General Pride Fest Information Go To: [www.solarorlando.com/pridefest.htm](http://www.solarorlando.com/pridefest.htm)

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## SARASOTA NEWS

## LESBIAN OFFICER ORDERED NOT TO WEAR UNIFORM

**SARASOTA** - In honor of the anniversary of 9/11, the Southwest Florida Business Guild honored four openly gay law enforcement officers at their Sep. 16 meeting — but one was conspicuously out of uniform. Following orders by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill, Corrections Officer Cheryl Yuzik accepted her Certificate of Appreciation in street clothes.

Balkwill's decision was booed by more than 65 who attended the SWFBG meeting — the first after a summer hiatus for the group. It was also roundly criticized in high-profile columns in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. Columnist Tom Lyons castigated Balkwill for his "small minded" directive.

"The normally low-key, bland Sarasota County Sheriff, Bill Balkwill, looks cloddish and mean just now," Lyons wrote on Sep. 19.

The newspaper's editorial board was equally direct.

"Pride is the appropriate response for a sheriff whose valued employee is honored by the public," a Sep. 20 editorial noted.

"Balkwill's reasoning is... well, it's hard to find much reason in it."

Balkwill claimed that Yuzik's sexual orientation had nothing to do with his decision, saying that he refused to let her wear her uniform because his office had no say in which employee would be honored.

But the Sarasota, Venice and Key West police departments had no similar objections. Their honorees — Detective Chris Catanzaro, Officer

Daniel Whittaker, and Lieutenant Alan Newby — wore their uniforms proudly.

"We're putting language in our charter about celebrating diversity," Sarasota Police Deputy Chief Ed Whitehead told the *Herald Tribune*. "You've got to walk the talk."

Yuzik, 39, is limiting her comments regarding her boss's decision.



Sarasota County Corrections Officer CHERYL YUZIK (bottom center) with members of Florida LEGAL at PrideFest Tampa Bay in July. Photo by Tom Dyer.

"I'm really proud to work for the Sarasota Sheriff's Office," said the three-year veteran. "I was hurt and disappointed that I couldn't stand beside my colleagues in my uniform and represent my department."

But Florida LEGAL (Law Enforcement Gays And Lesbians) Vice-president Carroll Hunter was less guarded.

"Cheryl has no protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation, either from a union or from the city or county," Hunter said. "Her job has not been threatened, but we're concerned. Sheriff Balkwill's decision demonstrates an insensitivity towards gays and lesbians that would not be tolerated for other minorities."

A former New York City corrections officer who now lives in Sarasota, Hunter noted that uniform privileges have been

used to oppress police officers in the past. When gay cops were not allowed to wear their uniforms in the city's Gay Pride Parade, Hunter sued in 1995 and won.

The mission statement for the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office states, "We will provide fair and impartial treatment to all people." The members of the SWFBG likely want to know whether Balkwill includes employees — and gays and lesbians — in this lofty pronouncement.

▼ Tom Dyer



Sarasota County Sheriff BILL BALKWILL said sexual orientation had nothing to do with his decision.

## SARASOTA AIDS THEATRE PROJECT HOSTS BENEFIT

**SARASOTA** - A diverse sampling is planned for the 2nd Annual Night of Alternative Theatre, a Sept. 30 fundraiser sponsored by the Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project.


The event will be held at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre and will benefit Bethesda House.

Performances will range from a staged reading of a work in progress based on the acclaimed book *And the*


*Band Played On*, an abbreviated one-hour version of *The Laramie Project*, and musical selections from *When Pigs Fly*.

Tickets can be purchased at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre, and at Bethesda House, or by calling (941) 365-6348.

The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project is a group of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS whose common goal is to see the virus destroyed. ▼ Tom Dyer



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## TAMPA NEWS

## WOMEN SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURE IN GULFPORT

**GULFPORT** - It's a simple, innovative and potentially powerful idea for theatre — gather a handful of women from all walks of life, put them on a stage, and have them tell their stories.

The idea came to Fran Powers during a cross-country fundraising bicycle ride. The former high school drama teacher who married and "went corporate" returned home to Tampa Bay with a mission.

The result is Powerstories Theatre and the recurring show entitled *Let the Stories Move You*. Powers staged the first incarnation in 2000 at the Friday

Morning Musicales in Tampa. Last year it moved to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and Catherine Hickman Theatre in Gulfport. This year the shows — which wrap this weekend — are back at Catherine Hickman, where Powers hopes

to mount new versions every six to eight weeks.

There are certainly enough stories to tell. Powers finds her cast through open auditions, and she doesn't shy away from using amateurs.

"I look for sincere stories that have a universal message," she told the *St. Petersburg Times*. "And they have to have some kind of resolution. It's very important that the storyteller has resolved whatever the problem is that she's talking about."

Powers also looks for variety in her cast — including difference based on sexual orientation.

Let the Stories Move You will be performed at Catherine Hickman Theatre on Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 PM, and on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$15-20. Call (813) 258-1898 or visit <[www.powerstories.com](http://www.powerstories.com)>.



FRAN POWERS creates powerful theater with women telling their own stories

## ST. PETE TIMES EAVESDROPS AT A DIFFERENT GRIND

**TAMPA** - *St. Petersburg Times* reporter Kathryn Wexler found unexpected controversy when she dropped by A Different Grind coffeehouse and brought up the subject of same-sex commitment announcements.

The *New York Times* recently began printing such notices, and the *Orlando Sentinel* and dozens of other papers followed suit. Neither the *St. Petersburg Times* nor the *Tampa Tribune* print announcements of same-sex unions.

Gus Ignas, a cashier at A Different Grind, expressed concern that the male couple featured in the first *New York Times* announcement looked "too gay."

"I wish they were better looking," he said. "...to put a better face on our community."

Ignas' comments elicited outrage from several patrons. "Which just goes to show you, it's our own repression that's holding us back," said pharmacist Dennis DelVecchio.



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## TAMPA BAY BRIEFS



### PRIDEFEST PAJAMA PARTY POOPS OUT

Seeking to retire debt from last year's PrideFest, Pride Tampa Bay again ran into problems when the costs for their Pajama Party fundraiser failed to exceed expenses. The event was designed to turn Ambrosia, a popular downtown St. Pete restaurant, into a wild teenager's bedroom. But fewer than a dozen attended the Pajama Party, and the money raised didn't cover costs.

### EQUALITY FLORIDA THROWS 2ND CENTRAL FLORIDA RECEPTION

Congressman Jim Davis (D-Tampa) will be the featured speaker at Equality Florida's Second Annual Central Florida Reception, which takes place on Saturday, Sept. 28. The reception will celebrate Equality Florida's achievements, including passage of non-discrimination protections in St. Petersburg. Call (813) 870-3735 x.215 for more info.

### NEW GROUP FORMS FOR SINGLE WOMEN

Single women take note. A new group is forming to help women cultivate friendships and more. Gal Pals Tampa Bay will organize groups, outings, and other gatherings all designed to make it easy to hook up with others in a relaxed and informal setting. Those interested should visit the group's Web link at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GalPalsTampaBay>>.

## ORLANDO NEWS

## NON-BIOLOGICAL MOTHER FIGHTS FOR VISITATION RIGHTS



LISA COONS-ANDERSON is appealing a court's decision that denies her visitation rights.

ORLANDO - Lisa Coons-Andersen continues to work for "legal standing" for non-biological gay and lesbian parents of children in Florida.

On Sept. 18, Orlando resident Coons-Andersen flew to Texas for an

appeals hearing regarding her own daughter, Savannah, who she has not been allowed to see in several years. Lisa has diligently worked toward an agreement with her former partner that would allow them joint custody of Savannah.

"There must be a high level of cooperation between the two parents," Coons-Andersen said. "Our society must understand that this is a very emotional issue, with potential long term, damaging consequences to our children if handled

inappropriately."

Coons-Andersen said that she feels that the appeal went well.

"My attorney did a great job in oral arguments," she said. "Our side won on style and presentation and the judges were attentive and engaged."

She said that she still believes that her case has a chance.

"Unfortunately we will not know the ruling for months, hopefully by the holidays," she said.

Coons-Andersen said that she recommends that same-sex parents not only legally document their life as a family with things such as a will but also create records of parental involvement through photos,

school documents, or proof of their participation in their children's extracurricular activities.

"These may not be legally binding," she acknowledged, "but if you're caught in a dispute over the kids with your ex-partner, they can at least give your lawyer something concrete."

Coons-Andersen started a non-profit foundation called We 2 Have Parental Rights <[www.We2HaveParentalRights.com](http://www.We2HaveParentalRights.com)> to focus on bringing to light these on-going efforts for legal fairness when dealing with the gay and lesbian family. ▼ Scott J. Smith

## STILL NO DATE SET BY MAYOR TO VOTE ON DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

ORLANDO - Despite evidence that shows the majority of Orlando citizens are in favor of adding "sexual orientation" to the city's list of protected classes, Mayor Glenda Hood has yet to schedule a date to vote on the proposed language change.

Earlier this year, the Human Relations Board voted 5 - 0 in favor of protecting gays in lesbians against discrimination in housing and employment. Soon afterward, the mayor conducted a survey of Orlando citizens that showed that 56 percent of those polled are in favor of adding the amendment.

At a Sept. 9 workshop where Hood and the City Council were encouraged to ask the Human Relations Board about their endorsement of the language change, the mayor learned that letters and postcards from local residents totaled 1,300 in favor of equal rights and 700 opposed.

"She says it's not time," said City

Commissioner Patty Sheehan.

Sheehan said that she's unhappy with the mayor's unwillingness to put the ordinance to a vote.

"Win or lose, we just need to move on this issue," Sheehan said. "I have always fought for the community, and the community deserves an answer."

Sheehan said that until the issue goes to a vote she will vote negative on annexing any areas into the city of Orlando.

"I don't want to bring anyone else into a city that discriminates," Sheehan said.

The Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee has scheduled a "Give Us Our Vote" rally to protest Mayor Hood's non-commitment to the issue at the next City Council meeting. The rally will be held on Monday, Oct. 14 at 6 PM on the front steps of City Hall. ▼ Scott J. Smith

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## ORLANDO BRIEFS



### GLBT COMMUNITY-BUILDING MEETING SCHEDULED IN ORLANDO

Equality Florida's director of operations Ted Howard will help organize Orlando's first Unity Leadership Conference on Oct. 26 from 9:30 AM - 1 PM at GLBCC. Based on the model Howard developed for GLBT community leaders in Jacksonville, the conference will include roundtable meetings, leadership development training, and professional skills-building. For more information call GLBCC at (407) 228-8272.



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## STATE NEWS

## HOSTS WITHDRAW FROM MIAMI CEREMONY IN PROTEST OF ANTI-GAY HONOREE

MIAMI - Cristina Saralegui, host of Univision's *El Show de Cristina*, and John Quinones, a correspondent for ABC's *20/20*, have withdrawn as hosts for Hispanic Media 100's awards ceremony after becoming aware of defamatory anti-gay attacks by one of the honorees, Eladio Jose Armesto.

Armesto, publisher of *El Nuevo Patria*, was one of the leaders of Take Back Miami-Dade, a Christian Coalition-affiliated group that unsuccessfully attempted to overturn Miami's anti-discrimination ordinance earlier this month. As part of that campaign, Armesto went on record in the *Miami Herald* and elsewhere calling gay men and lesbians "multisexual extremists" and "perverts." *El Nuevo Patria* has continuously printed defamatory statements about the gay and lesbian community, including claims that, "Homosexualists aren't interested in adults. They seek to attract boys and youths," and headlines like "Privileges for Perverts?"

Hispanic Media 100, which honors 100 reporters, publishers and broadcast

leaders of the Hispanic community for their work in Spanish-language media, announced last month that it would honor Armesto at its annual awards ceremony held in Miami on Sept. 20.

"To honor Armesto, who has used his media experience and skills to defame and oppress others, is a slap in the face to the Miami community," said Saralegui.

Quinones agreed to emcee the event after Saralegui withdrew late last week. But a few days later, Quinones also withdrew and, in a letter to event organizer Chris Day, expressed concern that the reasons for Saralegui's withdrawal were concealed from him.

"I've also spent the last 24 hours reading some of the virulent anti-gay comments attributed to him in print — and in his own newspaper," Quinones wrote. "Mr. Armesto certainly reserves his right to express his opinions. But, I too, want to express my own right not to be a part of any event that will pay tribute to anyone associated with such anti-gay views."



20/20 correspondent JOHN QUINONES: "I want to express my own right not to be a part of any event that will pay tribute to anyone with such anti-gay views."

## GAY LATINO GROUP TO KEEP NEXT MONTH'S CONFERENCE IN MIAMI-DADE

MIAMI - LLEGO — a national Latina/o GLBT organization — said it will keep next month's Encuentro, the group's conference, in Miami-Dade County. The decision is based on Dade County's vote to maintain basic rights for sexual minorities.

The international conference, is expected to attract about 1,500 attendees and generate roughly \$3 million for the Miami area.

"LLEGO will continue its plans to hold the Encuentro in Miami," said LLEGO executive director Martin Ornelas-Quintero. "Having a presence in Miami will send the message that

protecting people's basic rights is morally and economically viable to a community."

LLEGO helped mobilize and educate Latinas and Latinos, who make up an estimated 57 percent of the county population, on the issue. The organization gave more than \$30,000 in financial contributions to the Miami-Dade Unity Coalition and People for the American Way for Spanish-language campaigns on the referendum.

"Vote results prove that Miami residents are not willing to tolerate discrimination and bias in their community," said Ornelas-Quintero.

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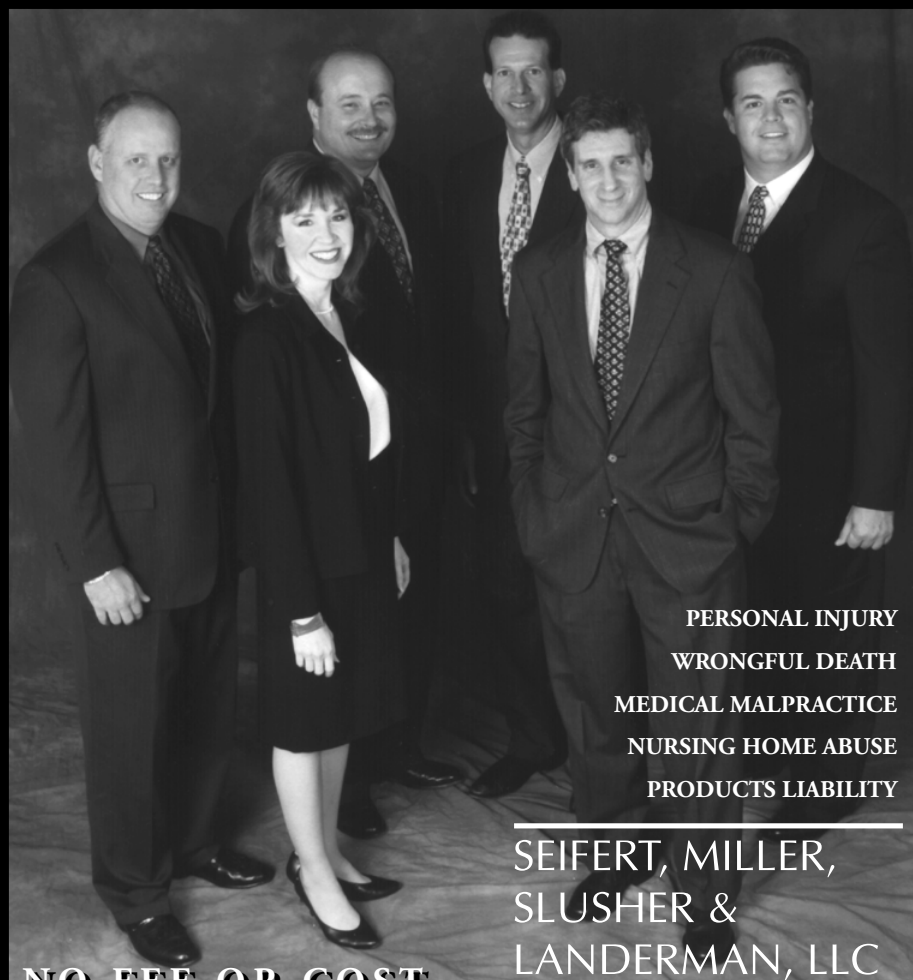
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## STATE BRIEFS



### NGLTF RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT TO EXPAND TRAINING IN MIAMI

In the wake of the historic defeat of the effort to repeal anti-discrimination protections for gays and lesbians in Miami-Dade, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced that the organization received a \$1 million grant from the Arcus Foundation to expand field organizing and training programs. The mission of the Arcus Foundation is to contribute to a pluralistic society that celebrates diversity and dignity, invests in youth and justice, and promotes tolerance and compassion.

## WORLD NEWS

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COURT STRIKES DOWN TRANSGENDERED  
CASE AGAINST WINN-DIXIE

NEW ORLEANS - On Sept. 16, a United States District Judge decided that the federal ban on sex discrimination does not apply to people who are transgendered. He then dismissed Peter Oiler's case against the Winn-Dixie grocery store chain, even though Winn-Dixie never claimed that Oiler's off-the-job cross-dressing interfered with his work in any way.

Oiler had worked for Winn-Dixie for 21 years, but in January of 2000 he was fired because he cross-dresses off-duty. Oiler and his wife Shirley lost their health insurance, and nearly lost their home. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on Peter's behalf, charging that Winn-Dixie violated state and federal sex discrimination laws.

"Discrimination based on gender identity is just as foolish and wrongheaded as all the other practices that deny people jobs and homes on account of something that has no bearing on ability or work ethic," said Joe Cook, executive director of the Louisiana ACLU.

DOMESTIC PARTNER, TERROR  
VICTIM LAW SIGNED

SACRAMENTO - California became by far the largest state to recognize domestic partners' inheritance rights on Sept. 10, as Gov. Gray Davis signed a law championed by the partner of a victim of last year's terrorist attacks. California joins only Hawaii and Vermont in recognizing such rights.

The bill lets domestic partners inherit a partner's property if the partner dies without a will. Domestic partners must be registered with the secretary of state to qualify.

It might not have become law were it not for Keith Bradkowski, said the bill's author, Assemblyman Fred Keeley, D-Boulder Creek.

Bradkowski's partner of 11 years, Jeff Collman, 41, was an American Airlines flight attendant who died on the first plane to strike the World Trade Center. Collman's benefits and belongings went to his parents; the new law comes too late to help Bradkowski. (AP)

SOUTH AFRICAN COURT RULES GAY  
COUPLES CAN ADOPT CHILDREN

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - South Africa's highest court ruled on Sept. 10 that gay couples had the right to adopt children, saying legislation preventing them from doing so violated their constitutional rights.

The Constitutional Court found that people in permanent same-sex partnerships could provide children with the stability, support and affection they needed.

Lesbian judges Anne-Marie De Vos and Suzanne Du Toit, who have been partners since 1989, had asked the court to overturn laws that prevented Du Toit from adopting De Vos's two children.

"I am ecstatic," De Vos told the South African Press Association. "I needed to know that if something happened to me, Suzanne would be able to take care of the children." (AP)

## WORLD BRIEFS



## AS PRESIDENT, DEAN WOULD RECOGNIZE SAME SEX UNIONS

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean said on Sept. 15 that if elected president he would recognize the marriage rights of same-sex couples. Dean said he would not propose a federal law to give gay and lesbian couples the right to get married, but he would advocate that the federal government recognize state laws that granted gays and lesbians the rights and benefits of marriage. "I will recognize civil unions, which will then allow full equality under the law as far the federal government is concerned," Dean said.

## OKLAHOMA CITY JUDGE RULES AGAINST CITY'S BANNER ORDINANCE

An Oklahoma City ordinance that kept a gay pride group's banners off city light poles has been struck down by a federal judge. The ordinance is an unconstitutional infringement of free speech rights, U.S. District Judge Robin J. Cauthron ruled. The order, handed down on Sept. 16, is a victory for the Cimarron Alliance Foundation, which sued the city after its application to post banners was rejected.

## SMALL PA. BOROUGH IS FIRST SMALL TOWN IN STATE TO BAN GAY DISCRIMINATION

Council members unanimously passed an ordinance that made New Hope the first small town in the state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The ordinance approved on Sept. 12 bans discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. Geri Delvich, the councilwoman who introduced the bill for the ordinance, said New Hope, an eclectic mix of antique stores, boutiques and restaurants about 30 miles north of Philadelphia, is a popular home for gay men and lesbians.



## FEATURE NEWS

# 2002 ELECTIONS CLEAR CHOICE IN SARASOTA

## U.S. House - District 13: Katherine Harris (Rep.) v. Jan Schneider (Dem.)

*This is the second in a series of profiles leading up to the Nov. 5 elections.*

**SARASOTA** - It's unusual for a state cabinet member to become a nationally known figure, but that's what happened when Katherine Harris was thrust into the spotlight as the elected official responsible for overseeing Florida's controversial election results two years ago. With her thick mane of brown hair, Tammy Faye Baker eye makeup, and Ann Taylor-on-steroids business attire,

it's no surprise that she was parodied on *Saturday Night Live* and all the late night talk shows.



Controversial former Florida Secretary of State KATHERINE HARRIS has the strong support of the national Republican Party.

A wealthy fourth generation Floridian from Bartow, Harris has a Masters degree from Harvard and has worked as a marketing executive and vice president of a commercial real estate firm. She served four years in the Florida Senate before being elected Secretary of State along with Gov. Jeb Bush in 1998. In 2000 Harris made several pivotal post-election decisions, all favoring Republican candidate and now President George W. Bush.

Her opponent is Democrat Jan Schneider, an attorney and author with even more impressive credentials. Schneider graduated from Yale Law School in the same class with Bill and Hillary Clinton. She also received a Ph.D. in political science (international relations) from Yale, and a Certificate in International Organizations from the University of Geneva. For the past 25 years, Schneider has divided her time between Sarasota and Washington, D.C., but for the last several years she has called Southwest Florida home.

As a legislator, Harris described herself as a "proactive champion of

business and economic development." No surprise then that her endorsements include the homebuilders and realtors associations for Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (see story p. 8) is also a fan.

Schneider says she'll focus on restoring confidence in the national economy, ensuring affordable health care for all, and protecting Social Security and the environment. Unlike Harris, she's also out front in terms of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"Equality is the birthright of all Americans, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation," she says. "And that includes, among other things, equal economic treatment, recognition of rights and contributions of couples, and elimination of violence and discrimination."

Triangle Democratic Caucus president Jim Merritt says Schneider is the clear choice for the GLBT community in this race.

"I've known Jan for quite a while," he says, "and she demonstrates in her own life a commitment to inclusiveness and diversity that Katherine Harris has never embraced."



Attorney and author JAN SCHNEIDER has the credentials to pull an upset against Harris.

Schneider has agreed to appear at an upcoming Oct. 24 candidate's forum sponsored by the Southwest Florida Business Guild. Harris has not responded to the invitation.

Harris and Schneider seek the District 13 seat being vacated by retiring Republican Dan Miller. Merritt believes Schneider has a strong shot at being elected. She was a strong winner in the four-person Democratic primary, and each of her Democratic opponents has since endorsed her. ▼ *Tom Dyer*

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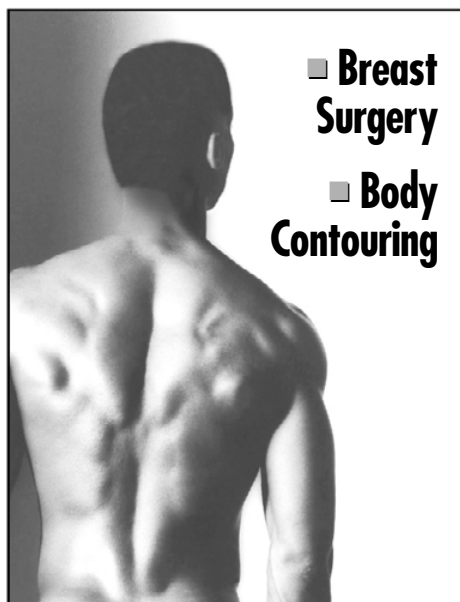
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## HOPE & HELP BENEFITS MORE THAN EVER FROM HEADDRESS BALL

**ORLANDO** - The theme for this year's ball was Broadway and Sam Singhouse emceed as the character Zelda. The festivities started at 5:30 with a VIP reception and at 7 PM the guests were invited into the ballroom for the dinner and entertainment.

Just outside the ballroom, tables were

set up with hundreds of items up for bid in a silent auction. Items included posters autographed by the casts of some of Broadway's hottest shows, gift baskets, and weekend get-a-ways for two. The total amount of funds raised after expenses was \$205,000, which organizers attribute to the

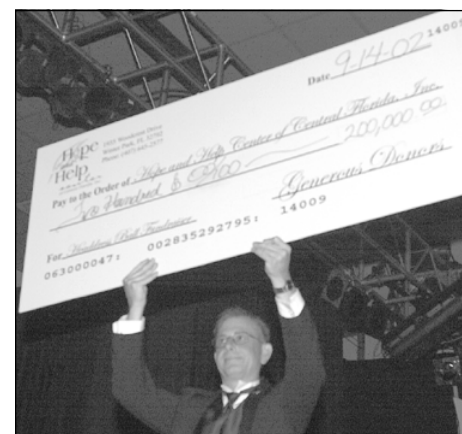
overwhelming amount of goods and services that were donated to the event. This is the first time in the history of the event that they have raised this much money.

Highlights from the entertainment portion of the evening included film and television star Jo Marie Payton, Miss Jacqueline Jones, Wendy Chioji and a cast of local singers and dancers who performed show stopping numbers from some of the greatest Broadway shows in history. Attendees were treated to music from such plays as *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Full Monty*, *The Lion King*, and *A Chorus Line*.

For the seventh year in a row Hope & Help gave out the Chuck Hummer Visionary Awards, which are presented to individuals or companies that make outstanding contributions to the HIV/AIDS community of Central Florida. This year's recipients included: Michael J. Abbott and S. Marc Thee, the founders of Marc-Michaels Interior Design Inc.; Karen L. Brown; Paul Russell Nelly; and the Premier Beverage Company. The award is named to honor the memory of Chuck



The girls got into the act with a show-stopping number from the Broadway classic *Sweet Charity*.



Hope & Help co-chair PAUL NEELY holds up a \$200,000 check made out to the HIV/AIDS organization.

Hummer III, one of the original founders and executive directors of Hope and Help and an innovator within the Central Florida HIV/AIDS community.

In keeping with the theme of the event this year's headdresses were inspired by such Broadway shows as *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, *The Phantom Of The Opera*, *1776*, and *Starlight Express*. Throughout the evening the headdresses were unveiled one at a time and then paraded around the stage, much to the delight of the audience. Some of them included moving parts and lights or other special effects.

Much of the success of this year's event has been attributed to the production team of Douglas White and D2 Productions. White comes to Headdress with many years of experience having performed at the Walt Disney World Resort for 15 years. Although an up and coming company, D2 has already produced events for such corporate clients as Radio Shack and AT&T.

For more information on Hope & Help, call (407) 645-2577. ▼  
*John Sullivan, photos by Dennis Butler*



The headdresses, like this one from the musical *1776*, were enormous and ornate.

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## HEALTH BRIEFS



### SOUTH AFRICAN SESAME STREET INTRODUCES FIRST HIV-POSITIVE MUPPET

Kami, a mustard-colored furry Muppet, likes nature, telling stories and collecting stuff. She also happens to be HIV-positive. To plaudits from education officials and AIDS activists, the producers of South Africa's version of *Sesame Street* on Sept. 17 unveiled the first Muppet infected with the HIV virus. The HIV-infected character was created at the urging of the South African government, which helps sponsor the show, to reduce stigma about the disease. According to the show's creators, Kami is a healthy, affectionate orphan who is a little shy but quickly joins in when approached in a friendly way. She also knows a lot about HIV.



Because I've heard the facts,  
and I know what's right for me.

**Stay Focused.  
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**Because it's strong and effective.** Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.\* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

**Because it's easy to live with.** VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

**Because it saves future options.** When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

**VIRACEPT®**  
nelfinavir mesylate  
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## BUSINESS NEWS

**VIRACEPT®**

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

**Information for Patients**

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

**For the Treatment of Human  
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection**

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

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

**WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?**

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

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

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

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

**DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?**

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

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

**WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?**

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

**Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:**

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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

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

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

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

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

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

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

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

**Special considerations**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

Eпивir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

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

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

**Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):**

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

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

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

**Other protease inhibitors:**

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

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

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

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

Invirase® (saquinavir)

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

**WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?**

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

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

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

**HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age**

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

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

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

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

**How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?**

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

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

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

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

**HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?**

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

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

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

**Call 1.888.VIRACEPT**

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## INTERNET &amp; TECHNOLOGY



## MY DOCUMENTS NAVIGATING ONLINE TRAVEL PORTALS

Queer computing by Erin J. Chisman

I've spent the better part of the last three weeks searching online sites for a way to get to my partner's family's home for Christmas. The fact that they live in Bethlehem, PA makes searching for flights very interesting. The only airline that flies direct is out of the Sanford airport.

So after perusing many different flight plans, I decide to call the 1-800 number. (Because no, I don't really want to have a layover in Cincinnati for four hours — and who flies west to go northeast?) Some of the information I found while I surfed was disturbing, other enlightening.

I called Delta first to see if I could use a gift certificate my father has, but according to Delta he personally has to go down to Orlando International Airport and purchase the ticket or it can only be transferred to his wife. Sure my dad is heterosexual and married to my mom, but that is not always the case in this day and age. I hung up and decided I would never travel Delta in this lifetime.

However, Southeast Airlines was more than happy to tell me about the deal where you pay a flat fee and can fly for \$59 bucks each way for a year. And they have family plans for discounts. You can join for the same fee, and two adults and two children have access to the discounted fare. Sandy, the operator, already had Kristin's and my names, so I pointed out that we were not blood relations. She chuckled a little and said that they know families are each formed differently and to join the family membership it did not have to be the narrow views of family. This was great news — but I still can't figure out if I'm the child or the adult.

After encountering this, I decided that Southeast couldn't be the only place that

was broadminded enough to recognize the alternative families prevalent in the United States. Damron, the people that make the gay guides for major cities, has online resources for booking travel arrangements <www.damron.com> and specialty publications that target sub-genres of the gay community. The site, like the company,

is associated with many other gay interests. Damron Inc., started by Bob Damron even remarks online that as businesses have grown to notice the value of the gay

dollar, competition has picked up.

Probably the biggest competitor for small gay travel businesses is going to be Orbitz. The gay travel page is actually sub-listed under their "Deals" tab at <www.orbitz.com>. Ironically, Orlando is listed as one of their gay destinations, presumably because of Gay Days. Orbitz has separate travel packages geared toward men and women. For instance, Orbitz has partnered with Olivia Cruiselines to provide women with exotic destinations.

Orbitz created a media buzz last year when they partnered with PlanetOut Media, who owns gay.com and outandabout.com, to become their exclusive travel booking engine. Orbitz is guaranteed the lion's share of click-through booking. I just need to see one more banner ad about this — or about buying *Queer As Folk* on DVD for that matter.

In the meantime when I look online for places to spend my cyber-queer-bucks I'll stay with homegrown, small palces like <www.gaytravel.com>, or Damron the originals, or even Southeast Airlines that seem to be offering services to me out of genuine acceptance of my lifestyle, not as a multimedia ad campaign. ▼

### IRONICALLY, ORLANDO IS LISTED AS ONE OF THEIR GAY DESTINATION, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF GAY DAYS.

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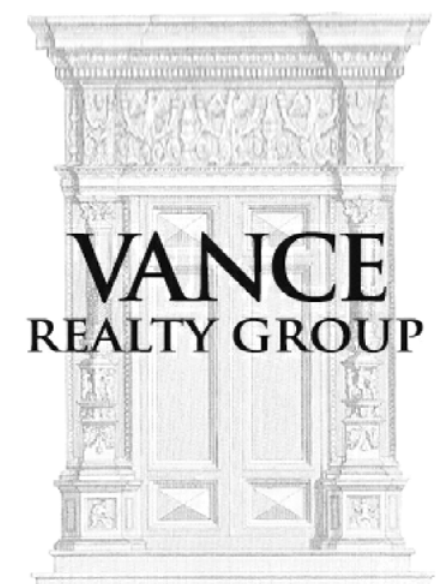
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## COMPUTING BRIEFS

### INTERNET MARKETING FIRM BRINGS NEW LIFE TO GAY ADULT WEB SITES

Gay Adult Marketing (GAM), a marketing services company dedicated to helping owners of "destination" gay adult Web services, is offering their clients a plan to achieve traffic and revenue goals. GAM, which can be found at <www.gayadultmarketing.com>, offers publicity and exposure for gay adult Web sites through a comprehensive menu of promotional services and Internet marketing techniques.

### GAY SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS HAVE A NEW ONLINE DATING SERVICE

Alt Science Connection is a new online meeting place for gays and bisexuals in science. The Web service was started recently as an offshoot of the well established Science Connection, a network for single science and nature enthusiasts seeking opposite-sex counterparts. Alt SciCon is currently free to join (it will eventually charge a small membership fee) and has a simple format that allows members to peruse information on fellow members and e-mail them through the site <<http://www.sciconnect.com/asc>>.

## BUSINESS NEWS



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## SENTINEL "BEING GAY" SERIES NABS NLGJA AWARD

**PHILADELPHIA** - The *Orlando Sentinel*, cited in the past for lackluster coverage of the local gay community, took home the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association first place award for "Excellence in News/Feature Writing." The three-part series entitled "Coming Out, Blending In: Being Gay in Central Florida" impressed judges with its scope and sensitivity. *Sentinel* columnist Mark Schlueb accepted the award at NLGJA's annual convention in Philadelphia on behalf of co-writers Kelly Brewington and Jeff Kunerth.

Other NLGJA Excellence in Journalism winners included *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Newsweek*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Kansas City Star*, and *ABC News Nightline*.

The NLGJA convention, drew more than 600 journalists and media professionals from around the country to the City of Brotherly Love, including *Sarasota Herald Tribune* columnist Jay Handelman and *Watermark* publisher Tom Dyer. Philadelphia mayor John F. Street and *Philadelphia Inquirer* publisher Robert J. Hall welcomed conventioners to Loew's Hotel, in the heart of downtown and just north of the city's thriving and historic gay neighborhood.

Street noted that Philadelphia's groundbreaking citywide domestic partnership ordinance is currently under legal attack.

"I will do everything in my power to defend domestic partnership in Philadelphia," Street said. "Philadelphia is proud of its GLBT community, and recognizes the importance of this

community to the vitality of this city."

Professionals from every major newspaper and television network enjoyed three days of stimulating panels and workshops. On opening night, *60 Minutes* correspondent Steve Kroft enjoyed repartee with *Philadelphia Inquirer* television columnist Gail Shister. After questioning Kroft about his famous interview with then presidential candidate Bill Clinton and his

wife Hillary, Shister asked, "If you were drunk enough, Steve, would you sleep with Bill Clinton?"

"I've been around long enough to know that you don't fuck with sources," Kroft countered to laughter and loud applause.

Convention keynote speaker, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, all but officially announced his candidacy for the 2004 Democratic presidential

nomination, and said that as president he would support federal recognition of same-sex civil unions. He encouraged gays and lesbians to be out and proud.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) participated in a lively discussion on coverage of Islamic gays, noting that people throughout the world and from all different religions suffer because of their sexual orientation.

At a forum on emerging gay cable options, Showtime's Gene Falk noted that the number of GLBT characters appearing regularly on primetime network television had declined by almost two-thirds. "The Fall 2002 season includes only seven lesbian and gay characters — all of whom are white," Falk said. "The diversity of the gay community cannot be conveyed this way." ▼ Tom Dyer



A reporter interviews Rep. BARNEY FRANK at the NLGJA convention in Philadelphia. Photo by Tom Dyer.

## ROSIE O'DONNELL PULLS PLUG ON MAGAZINE

**NEW YORK** - Rosie O'Donnell abruptly quit her namesake magazine last week, citing a deteriorating relationship with the magazine's publisher Gruner + Jahr USA.

The former talk show host said G+J had been gradually taking editorial control away from her in violation of their contract, and it was no longer possible for the magazine to continue. The last issue will be in December, G+J said.

"I'm sorry to have to tell my readers and my staff that my involvement in the magazine is ending, but my integrity and

name are at stake, and that price is too high," O'Donnell said at a news conference. "I cannot have my name on a magazine that will not represent my vision and ideas."

A legal battle is a possibility, although no lawsuits have been filed yet. Both sides have been feuding for months and have hired lawyers. In a memo sent to employees, G+J said that O'Donnell's sudden departure was "shocking and disappointing."

Continued Page 20

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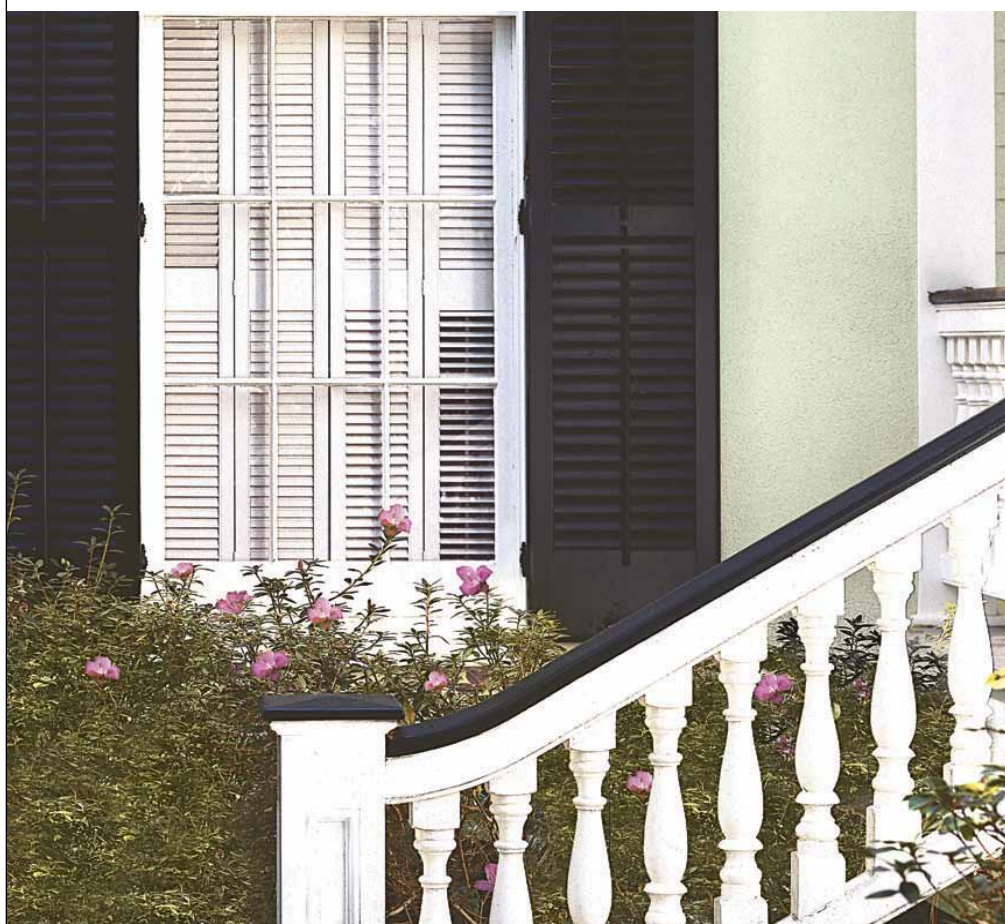
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## BUSINESS NEWS

## ROSIE PULLS PLUG

Continued from Page 18

Samir A. Husni, a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi, said the collapse was inevitable because O'Donnell's views and causes were too extreme for a mass audience. O'Donnell, who is gay, has championed issues such as gun control, breast cancer, adoption and homosexuality in the magazine. (AP)



ROSIE O'DONNELL: "I cannot have my name on a magazine if I cannot be assured that it will represent my vision and ideas."

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## WOMAN-OWNED SEX TOY STORE CELEBRATES A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

This year marks the 25th anniversary of legendary sex toy, book and video retailer Good Vibrations, making it the oldest women-friendly, worker-owned adult toy store in the world. Good Vibrations was launched by sex therapist and educator, Joani Blank, in 1977 to help adults seeking accurate sex information and good quality sex toys. Since its beginning 25 years ago, the Good Vibrations brand name has become a recognized leader in the adult industry and among consumers.

## CHICAGO'S LIVE GAY RADIO PROGRAM CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS

Tens of thousands of listeners and hundreds of guests later, Windy City Radio celebrates its one-year anniversary at Chicago's largest FM talk radio station, WCKG 105.9 FM. Windy City Radio was created in the summer of 2001 from the folding LesBiGay Radio, which aired in Chicago and the suburbs on AM stations for seven years. Also helping gay radio return to the airwaves were corporate sponsors Bud Light, Subaru, Majestic Star Casino, Bert Weinman Ford and American Airlines.

## GAY NEWSPAPER GIANT BEING SUED BY FORMER EMPLOYEES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A lawsuit for nonpayment filed by two former owners of the *Washington Blade* is another sign of the perilous condition of Window Media, the holding company that last year purchased the gay newspaper and its sister publication in New York City for approximately \$3.6 million. The company also owns gay newspapers in Atlanta and Houston, and closed one in New Orleans that it had purchased.

Donald J. Michaels and James H. Lamont Jr., former publisher and assistant publisher and principle stockholders of the *Blades*, filed suit in D.C. Superior Court against Window Media for nonpayment of money owed them as part of that sale.

Purchase of the *Blades* was completed on May 16, 2001, with Michaels and Lamont agreeing to finance a share of the deal through a deferral of payments and interest to them that would stretch out over seven years.

Since that time, employees of the *Washington Blade* petitioned to form a union, the paper has gone through three news editors, and few editorial employees remain from pre-purchase days. The New York paper has cut publication from weekly to every other week and has

lost its entire editorial staff. The office is being run by an employee on temporary assignment from Atlanta.

The financial underpinnings of the purchase seem to have come apart practically from the start. In a letter dated Feb. 12, 2002, Silicon Valley Bank issued a notice of default by Window Media on their million-dollar loan. Standard banking practice is to try to work out these types of issues prior to issuing a formal letter. It suggests that the company had not been compliant with their agreement for some time.

Window Media in turn used their nonpayment to the Bank to argue that it was no longer obligated to pay the full purchase price. It sought to adjust downward the amount that it owed Michaels and Lamont by \$428,350. It failed to make payments to the pair scheduled for May 16.

This cascade of events caused Michaels and Lamont to seek legal redress and culminated with filing their lawsuit on August 9. They seek accelerated payment of all that is owed them, as is stipulated in a provision of the sale agreement, and barring that, foreclosure and return of their property, the *Blades*. ▽ Bob Roehr

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## VIEWPOINT



## WHAT WOULD GREG DO? DRAG QUEEN PHOBIA

Viewpoint by Greg Triggs

Sometimes you have to admit to your feelings, no matter how unpleasant or unfair. You've just got to own up and amends must be made. This is such a time because I am guilty of prejudice. I am a former bigfag — or, a bigoted faggot. That's right, you read it here. Greg Triggs is a recovering drag-queen-a-phobic.

Years ago in the late 1980s, back in Madison, Wis., a fabulous faux female named Sass DuBois had a crush on me. I can still see her lacquered eyelashes fluttering when I entered a room. Breathtaking. She was glorious — her own thick, blonde hair tumbling past her shoulders and the shapeliest legs ever to be shoved into a pair of L'eggs. On stage she was sophisticated, sexy and funny. Off stage he, Brian was his real name, was kind, bright and handsome. He was generous and fun. And ultimately he was a missed opportunity. After trying to win my affections for a while, Sass DuBois gave

up and floated into the sunset wearing a blue sequined mini-dress.

I was 21 years old and had just started being open about the whole gay thing. I wanted men and I wanted them badly. Brian spent a good deal of his time as Sass, a woman. It was hard to get perspective on that. I was simply too

young and inexperienced. Now, fast forward to the new millennium. Sometimes over a glass of sassy merlot I think of

him as the boy-girl that got away.

Surely I was not the first queer boy to pass up the golden ring attached to the lobe of a dragster, but I regret it just the same. Drag queens deserve respect from others and themselves. In *Torch Song Trilogy*, circa 1978, Harvey Fierstein in full regalia says, "Once the E.R.A. and gay civil rights bills have been passed, me and mine will find ourselves swept under the carpets like the blacks done to Amos, Andy and Aunt Jemima." History has

proven him wrong.

Sadly, the Equal Rights Amendment never passed and thanks to the Broadway version of *Hairspray*, Harvey Fierstein is back in a girdle.

I admire drag queens because they give themselves permission to be who and what they are — to the nth degree — in a manner that I never have. That requires a strength that is hard won. And respect must be paid.

The illusion alone is worthy of a great actor. It took Jude Law, a team of ten stylists and three hours a day to transform him in *The Road to Perdition*. Give Jim Bailey a tub of foundation, a gift certificate to the Fashion Bug and a roll of duct tape and you'll have a pretty girl in half an hour.

The accomplishments of the drag community in Orlando are astounding. Who works harder on the benefit circuit? The Headdress Ball raised over \$200,000 for Hope and Help this month. Sam Singhaus, as his latest creation Zelda, led the feminine power posse to a helpful end.

Watching the show at this year's Headdress Ball, I was struck by how talented so many of the drag performers in town are. They came. They sang. They conquered. And the chosen of Central Florida were cheering them on with cash falling out of their wallets. The drag artists lived up to a word that is thrown around far too much.

They were and are *fabulous*.

Unfortunately this epiphany came too late for me. Never shall I know the pleasure of wiping Sass DuBois's Max Factor off my lips. Every year the memory of Brian fades a bit and my esteem grows. It takes a lot of guts to strap on your stiletto heels and walk along the cornfields of Wisconsin in a Versace knock-off. I wish I had known that when I knew him.

So, as I drink tonight's glass of merlot, I raise it to Miss Sammy, Zelda, RuPaul, Darcel, Miss P., Carol, Dame Edna, Carmella, Hedwig, Nazhoni and Sass DuBois. Here's to you, ladies. You've got balls. ♡

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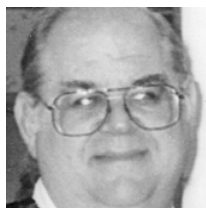
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## VIEWPOINT / MAIL



## PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE

By Syd and Enid Jackowitz



### SYD SAYS:

Happily the good citizens of Miami-Dade saw fit to reject the efforts of "Take Back Miami-Dade" (TBMD), a coalition of Christian conservatives who were trying to repeal the Miami-Dade law protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. The effort was defeated by a slim margin of about 53 percent to 47 percent.

A few weeks ago the *Orlando Sentinel* had a disturbing article about TBMD

and Nathaniel Wilcox, former civil rights activist and co-chairman of TBMD. Wilcox was focusing on the African-American vote, which many felt would be critical. His argument was that anti-gay discrimination pales against what African-Americans face.

"Don't come talking to me about discrimination," Wilcox was quoted as saying. "I don't find no gay slums. I don't find no gay water fountains. I don't see no gays riding the back of the bus."

What kind of thinking is that? In order to be entitled to civil rights protection must the gay community have suffered at least as much as the African-American community? With all the discrimination the African-American community has endured, I would think Wilcox and his group would be against discrimination of any kind. Denying one group their rights won't increase the size of anyone else's rights, doing so diminishes everyone. Civil rights are not a pie to be divided, with a limited number of slices. The concept of civil rights is that everyone is entitled to a full portion.

How can a former civil rights activist take this position? It makes no sense. The answer? Wilcox's organization, Pulse, was funded by 57 churches endorsing the repeal effort. In the *Orlando Sentinel* article, a noted African-American psychologist is quoted saying, "Most blacks believe God hates homosexuals, that it is an ungodly way of life, and that gays choose it." So the message becomes it's OK to discriminate against gays because the Bible says so. An interesting position since history has shown that a literal reading of the Bible has not always served African-Americans well.

It's shameful that those African-Americans supporting Pulse, who have suffered tremendous discrimination in this country, would be on the side of those attempting to deny others their civil rights. As an African-American substance abuse counselor in Miami said, "Any inch of

discrimination is wrong. Everyone needs a fair opportunity."

This attempt to repeal the law is a reminder that even when victories are achieved, the gay community has to be vigilant in protecting its gains.

Unfortunately, the Christian Coalition continues to fight, even as the tide is changing. With only a 3 percent margin of victory, I would guess that Miami is not free of this issue yet.

### A CANDLE CAN SHARE ITS LIGHT WITHOUT LESSENING ITS OWN GLOW.

### ENID SAYS:

While on vacation in western North Carolina we heard about a great fabric store in a small South Carolina town, not far from where we were staying. Since it was a short trip, we went exploring.

As we approached the entrance to this small sleepy southern town, I did a double-take. There perched on the official town flagpole in the middle of the street was a large confederate flag proudly waving. On the side of the road, barely visible, I spotted a couple of small American flags and a sign with the town's name, dated 2002. From the look of things it could have been 1902.

Was the flag a symbol of historic pride? Maybe. But, I wondered how welcoming it would feel to African-Americans, to Jews, or gays? What if Michael and Shawn were with us, how welcome would they have felt? This wasn't a place we wanted to be, so we left. But, the trip was a reminder that prejudice is still alive in our country, sometimes in unlikely places... like Miami-Dade.

Nathaniel Wilcox seems to be saying in the *Sentinel* article that gay people haven't suffered enough to be entitled to civil rights. So, how much suffering is enough and who will be the judge? Wilcox?

It's not easy to lay your burden down when you feel others haven't grasped the full measure of your struggle. But, comparing pain and suffering is a trap that makes for a poor yardstick. Is anything gained by hoarding civil rights and denying them to gays and lesbians? Will it increase the rights of African-Americans? A candle can share its light without lessening its own glow. It's ironic to think that Wilcox's organization, Pulse, who knows full well what discrimination can do to the soul of a people, instead of illuminating the dark, would be the ones trying to douse the flame. ▽



### SUPPORT THOSE THAT SUPPORT YOU

I am sorry to hear about A Different Grind ["Swan Song For A Tampa Gay Landmark?" Issue 9.18]. I go there every time I am in Tampa. Bill Kanouff has done a lot for the community. It just seems to me that the community could give back by shopping there. The community will realize their loss when there's no other place to go.

Michael Kelly  
Daytona Beach

### GROUP HUG

We wanted to thank you so very much for the terrific story you did on Tuesday Night Friends ["Lake County Gay And Lesbian Group Attracts Hundreds," Issue 9.17]. It captured what we are all about and helped to bring about 150 people to our following gathering. We appreciate your kind words, enthusiasm, and encouragement.

Marsha Blum and Glenna Burch  
Mt. Dora

### I HEAR YOU, BROTHER

It's unfortunate that Tomes & Treasures is in financial distress ["Swan Song For A Tampa Gay Landmark?"

Issue 9.18], but having been the owner of two of Florida's most well known gay bookstores I can relate to the stress and anger that Bill Kanouff is experiencing. Being the caretaker for an institution in the gay community can be an exhausting and thankless task. Kanouff should be applauded for his stamina and hard work.

Bruce Ground  
Orlando

### CONCERNED ABOUT THE CENTER

I've been involved with The Center in Orlando for more than two years... as a member and as facilitator of the Womyn's Exchange.

There is great concern about the ads running for the upcoming PrideFest which make it appear to be more of a circuit party for men than a coming together of the community. Trends such as these make the women I've spoken with feel less welcome at The Center, and the perception of a "boy's club" certainly deprives The Center of valuable input and participation from women.

The Center is a valuable resource. With leadership we can reach far into the community. Let's keep at it.

Andria Auerbach  
Orlando



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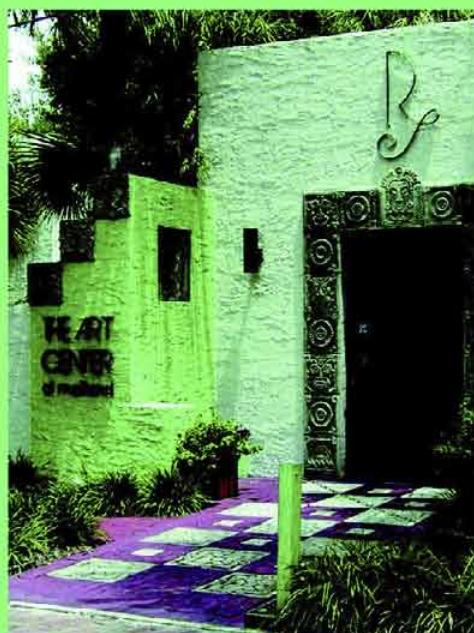
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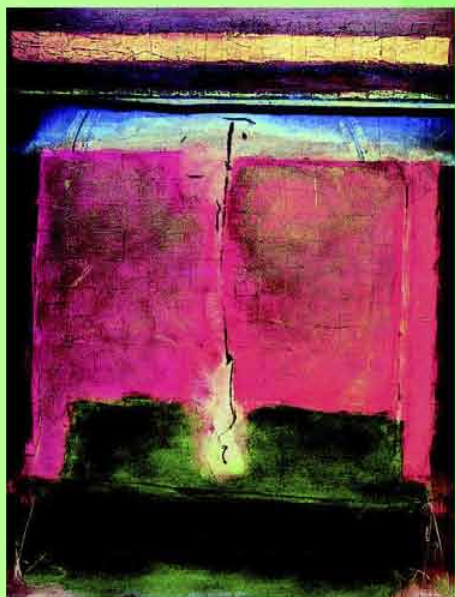
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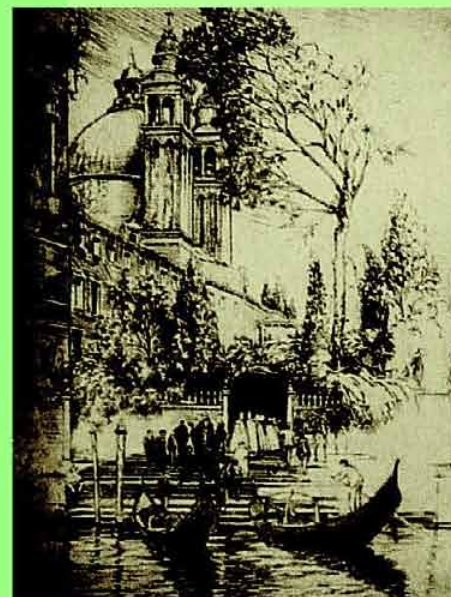
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# Lifestyles

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Issue 9.20 Sept. 26 - Oct. 9, 2002

## Four Feathers in his cap

**Heath Ledger,  
star of the new  
film *The Four  
Feathers*, talks  
about his career  
that began by  
playing gay.**

By Tim Nasson

NEW YORK - Heath Ledger's name is not quite as famous as I thought. Not only did more than one friend of mine not know who Ledger — one of *People's* "50 Most Beautiful People" — was, but Ledger himself admits that not many people other than his friends, colleagues, and family know who he is.

At the moment it is not as surprising since he currently sports a nearly shaved head, (for a role in the upcoming *Ned Kelly*), and not the gorgeous curls that he is so somewhat well known for.

I asked Ledger what celebrity had done to him since we had last

talked during the summer of 2001, the month before his starring turn in *A Knight's Tale*, which was a year after he portrayed Mel Gibson's son in *The Patriot*. Ledger also co-starred in last year's art house hit, *Monster's Ball*, playing the son of executioner, Billy Bob Thornton.

"I can walk down Fifth Avenue, here in New York City, sit at a table on the sidewalk, eat lunch and not be noticed, at least to my knowledge, even once," he proclaims. "The same in Los Angeles or London," he continues. "And I don't mind it one bit. I relish my anonymity."

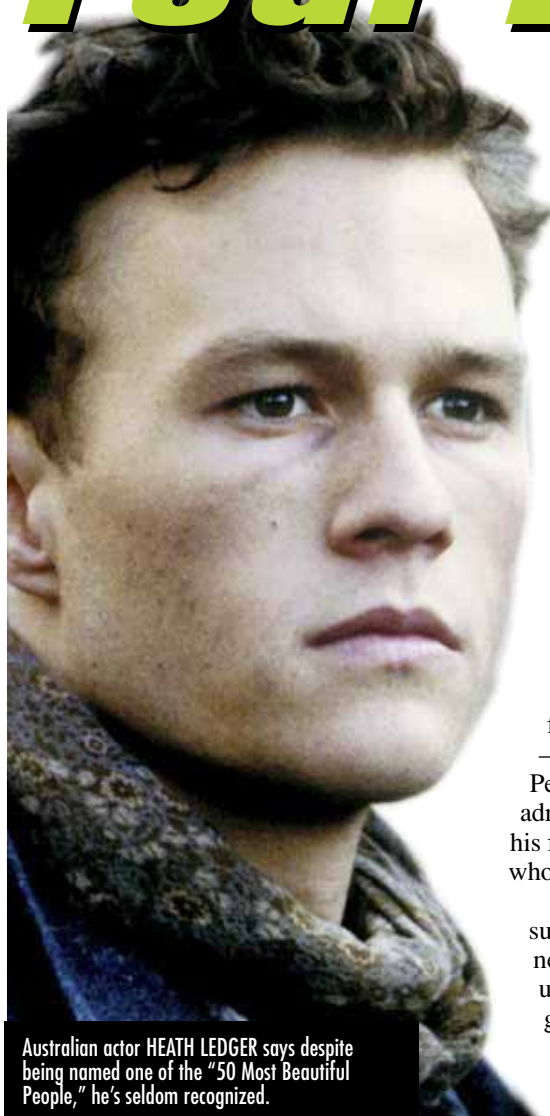
If Paramount, *The Four Feathers's* domestic distributor, has its way, Ledger's drop dead gorgeous, pretty-boy face and name, Heathcliff, derived from the book *Wuthering Heights*, will finally become famous in his own right. *The Four Feathers*, scheduled for release on Sept. 20, is the year's first big budget period piece and Ledger has the lead.

Shekhar Kapur, whose last movie, *Elizabeth*, was nominated for Best Picture, directs *The Four Feathers*. As did *Elizabeth*, *The Four Feathers* goes back in time to Victorian England. This time around Kapur tells the story not of "The Virgin Queen," but the fictional tale of Harry Fevershem, one of Britain's finest, youngest soldiers and accomplished rugby players. Harry's engagement — to Kate Hudson's Ethne — awakens a sense of self-doubt and when his regiment is called to active duty in North Africa to fight the Sudanese rebels, he resigns his commission; wherein come the four feathers.

Ledger tries to explain, in the simplest of terms, how the title of the movie is derived.

"My role reads as a coward on the surface and coward soldiers were handed a white feather, the symbol of cowardice, by any who thought of them as cowards." Excusing Harry's behavior, Ledger laughs, "But Harry was not a coward. Resigning from the army was the most honorable thing he could have done. He was honest to himself."

Continued Page 30



Australian actor HEATH LEDGER says despite being named one of the "50 Most Beautiful People," he's seldom recognized.



WES BENTLEY (L) and HEATH LEDGER star in the new film *The Four Feathers*, directed by Elizabeth's Shekhar Kapur.



Out & Equal co-chair STAN MADRAY, executive director SALISSE BARRY, and keynote speaker DEBBIE GUPTA were in Orlando for the organization's 12th annual workplace summit.

## CORPORATE MEMO

**THE OUT & EQUAL WORKPLACE SUMMIT DELIVERED A POWERFUL MESSAGE TO CENTRAL FLORIDA BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT. BY SCOTT J. SMITH**

ORLANDO - "Leadership is not about telling people what they want to hear," said Vermont Gov. Howard Dean to a record-breaking 450 GLBT workplace advocates who descended on Walt Disney World in Orlando from Sept. 13-15.

Dean was a keynote speaker at the 12th annual Out & Equal Workplace Summit, three days of workshops, keynotes, and awards. The summit marked the first time a

national GLBT group had been hosted in the state.

Dean, who was one of the three-day convention's keynote speakers, was not only making a statement about business leaders, but political ones as well. In his address, Dean took Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood to task for constantly pushing back the decision to add "sexual orientation" to the list of the city's protected classes.

"There will be those who are incensed, but 90 percent of people believe in equal rights, and she will earn those people's respect for doing the right thing," Dean said.

Dean, who championed the legislation that created civil unions in his state, received an enthusiastic response to his presidential aspirations at the summit by committing to take his leadership on GLBT civil rights to the White House. But although he is proud of those who supported the civil union bill in the face of severe criticism, he

Continued Page 36

## LIFESTYLES



## WATERCRESS WHEN GOOD GIRLS GO BAD

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

**I JUST JOINED THE NLGJA.** No, it's not another alphabet agency set up by Eleanor Roosevelt to keep us working until prosperity returns. It's the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, which has just set up a Central Florida Chapter. If you're a member of the press and want to join, send me an e-mail to [WaterCressGuy@aol.com](mailto:WaterCressGuy@aol.com) and I'll give you the details about our next meeting. It's a good group that meets to exchange ideas about our craft and to provide support and indulge in a bit of networking as well. Plus, we eat!

**WELL,** it's that time of year again. What time, you ask? Miller time? Swing time? Twilight time? No, it's time for the Miss America pageant! And if I had time, I would go online, check out the contestants, and make a prediction. Wouldn't it be nice, though, if Miss Delaware won? It *would* be about time.

"Miss Delaware spends her summers harvesting clams for Jesus while writing Braille romances for the unfortunates among us. She would like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, and promises to do just that if she wins."

I love seeing the contestants from the first few years. They all resemble Mary Pickford; they all look like they were told not to bathe for a week; and they all have legs built for mountain climbing, not promenading. So, tune into this space in two weeks and we'll discuss who won, well after everyone else is over it! (And did Mr. Slaymaker make a guest appearance?)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY GIRLS?

"Martha. Rosie. Oprah." That's the mantra I live by, and now they're all in trouble! Martha's up for alleged insider trading shenanigans. Rosie's fighting with her publisher over editorial content in her magazine. And Oprah, according to the tabloids, is ballooning out of control. They usually show her in a ratty bathrobe, sans makeup, hair frowsy and unkempt, looking like Sofia in *The Color Purple*.

Does anybody actually believe what they read in the tabloids? I see them lined

up in all their lurid glory when I shop the downtown Publix (hi Rob!), and it looks like a freak gallery. And poor Martha! They always show her half-falling out of a limousine, caught off-guard, her hair flying every which way, and her stretch pants bulging in nineteen different directions. Why can't they be nice? Rosie gets the short end of the stick, though; now that she's gone and had her hair styled in that practical, fuss-free way, they've resorted to making her look as much like a lumberjack as they can.

After seeing these photos, I'm

convinced the tabloid press is misogynistic and plain awful to women. It's like they can't stop themselves from showing them in the worst possible light, and I'm

surprised there haven't been more lawsuits. I even remember seeing Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell in the newspapers back in the 1970s, badly photographed at a fundraiser, looking like haridans. Joan saw herself and said, "If that's how I look, then they won't see me again." And they didn't!

**DELAWARE** is a very nice place to be if you're gay. Close to Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia,

it's an easy escape toward sanity when you find yourself surrounded by One Too Many Du Ponts. (Delaware is also the gateway to Maryland.)

You have to be careful, though, because it's easy to miss. Say, after passing through Baltimore, you've decided to reach into the glove compartment for some Crackers 'n' Cheese. Upon doing so, you'll find that you're arrived in Pennsylvania before you've finished unwrapping the little, protein-laden snack.

When you look on a map, The First State is right across the water from Portugal — a handy fact to keep in mind after you've spent a week at Rehoboth Beach wondering what to do after you've played all the video games in the arcade. Actually, Rehoboth Beach is a lovely place to visit, though I've only been there virtually.

Thanks to the wonders of Cyberia, I've discovered that there is a Women's Christian Temperance Union water fountain placed where Rehoboth Avenue meets the boardwalk. I guess this is to remind us not to indulge too heavily in Manhattans while strolling the sands? And, thoughtfully, some of the first lots platted were designed so that everyone would have a view of distant Portugal. Wasn't that nice? That's what I like about Delaware: everyone's so considerate of everyone else, and it's not even in the Midwest. ▼

### POOR MARTHA! THEY ALWAYS SHOW HER CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, HER HAIR FLYING EVERY WHICH WAY, AND HER STRETCH PANTS BULGING.



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## LIFESTYLES



## THE LIBERAL ARTS LESBIAN A WORLD WITHOUT KEN

Speaking Out by Sarah Viren

The other day I was over at a friend's house. She was playing with Barbies. It may seem like a rather odd pastime for a 24-year-old woman but, hey, she's a self-proclaimed bisexual fag-hag. She loves Barbies — always has.

I, on the other hand, have little interest in Barbies. As a child I liked to chop off their hair. I liked to change their outfits and I loved to contort their legs and arms in a million different positions. My favorite part of the Barbie was her ability to bend her knee just one notch in the wrong direction — in a completely inhuman fashion. The leg always made a little pop at that point and you knew you could go no further. And no, I am not a sadist.

But I haven't seen or held a Barbie in a long while. I forgot how you could push their heads down to make them look like no-neck freaks. I forgot what fun it is to play with their slightly sticky straight and almost invariably blonde hair. I also forgot — until my friend put two particularly perky tanned dolls together in a mock kiss — how we used to make Barbie and Barbie perform acts of pseudo-lesbian sex together in the deep recesses of my huge childhood closet.

Of course we didn't call it lesbian sex. We just didn't have enough Kens to go around. I owned only one and he got boring after awhile. No real hair, no fun clothes, and his body parts were even stiffer than those belonging to his female counterpart. So we would pretend one Barbie was the girl and the other was the boy (if only we knew about drag queens in those days). You could push their hollow plastic heads together in a kiss or just bang their hard, pointy, cupped-hand bodies together to simulate sex. (Lord knows that if I tried the same moves on a woman now I would never get laid again.)

I know lots of people who have stories similar to this. It might have been with a couple G.I. Joes or Cabbage Patch Kids. Children usually have vague ideas about sex. Thinking back on this whole experience, it strikes me that the plethora of Barbies and other female dolls thrust upon

me by doting relatives almost forced me to explore the forbidden world of same-sex love.

There were so many Barbies and barely any Kens. Because of low supply, Ken and his clones were in high demand. Some kids may have mourned this fact. But my childhood friends and I just didn't care. We practically forgot about Ken. We forgot about the boys because the girls were just so much more interesting and present.

Did Mattel do this on purpose?

Perhaps just as the makers of Teletubbies are trying to turn infants gay with Tinky Winky, so too are Barbie's creators pumping out future lesbians by inundating us with masses of pointy-boobed women to play with.

I can't say that Barbie's body has had any effect on the kind of women I am attracted to, but being able to play "house" or "love" with Barbies did normalize the concept for me — at least in some abstract way. All my friends did it.

I agree with those that berate the unrealistic contours of Barbie's body. Her shape is an awful model for young girls to look up to. Obsessions with clothes and hair that Barbie propagates are unhealthy. Barbie is, in sum, a pretty shallow doll.

But, like anything commercialized in this world, she has her potential. It's called appropriation. Barbie can be self-esteem devaluating, superficial play toy. Or she can be an avenue to lesbian exploration for the curious and lost little tomboy.

For some, like my friend, she is both. ▽

### BECAUSE OF LOW SUPPLY, KEN AND HIS CLONES WERE IN HIGH DEMAND.



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## LIFESTYLES



## PAST OUT WAS JAMES DEAN GAY?

Gay and Lesbian History by Paula Martinac

James Dean's premature death in a car crash, after having made only three movies, transformed the enigmatic young actor into a legend, the subject of books, films, and plays. Over the years, one of the most enduring questions about Dean, whose androgynous, almost delicate, looks were alluring to both men and women, concerns his sexuality — was he straight or gay, or did he fall somewhere between the two ends of the Kinsey scale?

Dean's success in Hollywood — where he moved from his Indiana hometown in 1949 at age 18 — did stem in large part from the contacts he made with influential gay men. One of his few documented homosexual relationships was with Rogers Brackett, the sophisticated, 35-year-old radio director of a prestigious advertising agency, whom Dean met in the summer of 1951 while working as a parking attendant at CBS. Just two weeks after they met, Dean began living with Brackett in his Hollywood flat. Brackett used his social and professional connections to find Dean work on radio shows like *Hallmark Playhouse*. By Labor Day, Dean was also

getting bit parts in movies.

Later that year, Dean moved with Brackett to New York, where Dean began getting television work and eventually theater parts, including a pivotal role as a gay Arab houseboy in Andre Gide's *The Immoralist*, opposite Louis Jourdan. That, in turn, garnered the young actor the lead role as Cal Trask in the Elia Kazan film *East of Eden*.

While in New York, Dean began dating a singer-dancer named Elizabeth "Dizzy" Sheridan, who seems to have been his only serious girlfriend; he even asked her to marry him.

"He did not want to be gay," Sheridan recalled years later, a telling statement that, coupled with the fact that he continued seeing Brackett, hints at a possible practical side to Dean's romantic involvement with Sheridan. Being openly (or even too suggestively) gay would have quickly ended his career at that time, when gay actors like Rock Hudson were being forced into sham marriages to protect their image.

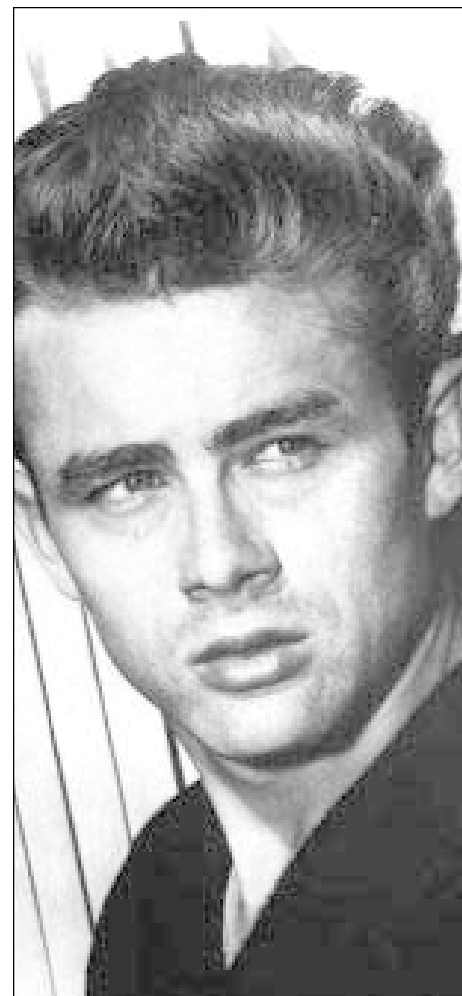
It's not surprising, then, that when Dean's movie career began to take off, he

started appearing at Hollywood events with pretty starlets on his arm. The press — and his studio, Warner Brothers — made much of his supposedly passionate love affair with the lovely Italian-born Pier Angeli. But though Dean's colleagues and friends maintained that he was heartbroken when Angeli decided to marry singer Vic Damone, Dean's relationship with Angeli was, she herself later said, "all so innocent."

Another of Dean's documented gay relationships was with Jack Simmons, a young actor who, by all accounts, was devoted to him; they lived together at Simmons' apartment during the filming of *Rebel Without a Cause*. Studio officials did not seem to mind, perhaps because the Warner publicity machine was busily getting articles like "The Dean I've Dated," by Lori Nelson, into fan magazines.

Dean took the secret of his sexuality to his untimely death, which occurred soon after he finished filming *Giant*. Although Dean can hardly be called straight, it remains unclear if he identified as gay or bisexual, or if he was questioning. Since he was only 24, his sexual identity may, in fact, have been still in formation. ▽

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author. She can be reached care of Watermark or at [POcolumn@aol.com](mailto:POcolumn@aol.com).



Though he can hardly be classified as "straight," JAMES DEAN's true sexual orientation remains a mystery.

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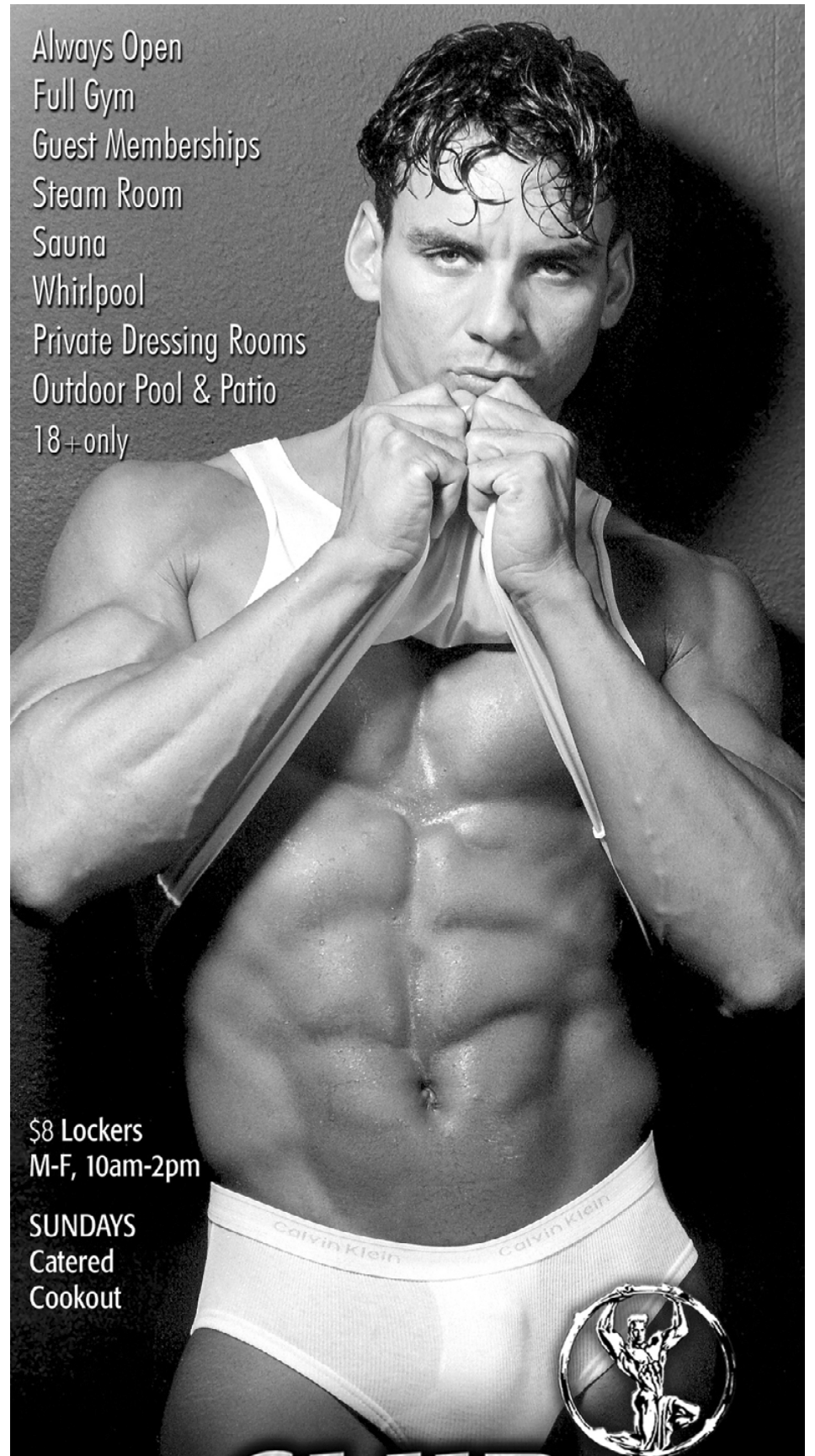
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## LIFESTYLES cont.

## FOUR FEATHERS

Continued from Page 25

Nonetheless, Harry's father and his three best friends disown him after sending their feathers. To add fuel to the fire, Harry's fiancée breaks off the engagement and falls for his best friend, a real soldier, played by *American Beauty's* Wes Bentley.

"Harry is tormented," says Ledger, "and needs to do something to prove to all who doubt his reason for resigning from the army that he did so not out of cowardice but for personal reasons."

In his effort to regain the love and trust of his father, friends and former fiancée, Harry embarks on an undercover journey, dressed as an Arab, through the North African desert, attempting to rejoin his

regiment in Khartoum, only to find out that they have been taken prisoner in their own British fortress by Sudanese rebels.

"Working on *The Four Feathers* was not fun and games," admits Ledger. "Unlike *A Knight's Tale*, a medieval fairy tale, which was filmed in Prague, there were no bars or clubs to go to in the middle of the desert for three months."

So what did he do to keep from going crazy?

"I acted crazy," he says, explaining and demonstrating with his long fingers and arms what he did to keep himself occupied. "On many nights, I would play drums with the Sudanese, get drunk and smash red wine bottles around. It looked like a fucking tribal ritual, or something. Trust me, though. There was nothing else to do."

While Ledger looks better than ever during the first half hour of *The Four Feathers*, with greased down curls, devilish smile, university rugby uniform and barely clothed body during a locker room scene, his looks take a turn for the rougher when he is trudging through the desert.

"Those makeup women were amazing," he says. "They really made me look ugly."

Ledger is speaking of the grizzly beard he sports, which he says, "I couldn't have grown on my own if I tried. I can't even grow a five o'clock shadow. The wigs were amazing, too. I can grow my hair long, as you have seen in some movies, but with this, the sand everywhere, my hair, if they used the real thing in the movie, would have gotten matted and really nasty. Come to think of it, perhaps they should have just let it go. It would have saved them money on the hair people and it would have looked like anyone's would have looked after being lost in the desert for days, clinging to life."

Some may be surprised to know that Ledger gained fame not as a movie star, but as a television star.

"I finished high school a year early, at sixteen, and decided to make the move from Perth, Australia, where there is nothing, to Sydney. So my best friend and I drove 2,600 miles," searching for fame and fortune.

His breakthrough role was that of a gay character on one of Australia's most popular shows, *Sweat*.

"My father didn't think I was going to

take a gay role," reveals Ledger. "But I wanted to take the role that no one thought I would take and give it all I had."

Ledger's decision paid off. Not only did he get rave reviews for that performance, he soon landed an agent in the U.S. and starred in his first movie, *Ten Things I Hate About You*, the only "teen" movie he has ever done, and "will ever do."

While twenty-three year old, bright-eyed, bushy-haired Australian, Ledger's professional career is one that satisfies him — his personal life is another matter.

"While not many regular people notice me on the street, it seems that the camera-toting tabloid reporters all know me," he says. "The stories that they write about me in those magazines aren't what offend me. I don't care what they write about me and who I am having sex

with. First of all, they aren't in my house or hotel room so they really don't know what's going on. What creeps me out is when people are so pathetic that they follow me around for the whole day, everywhere that I go, hiding behind a bush and popping out snapping pictures. They really need to get a life."

Whether his pictures snapped by tabloid photographers are worth anything, it seems that the big pictures are worth a lot. Ledger got a \$2 million paycheck for *The Four Feathers* alone. And if Ledger continues to make sound choices, as he has thus far in his fairly short movie career, he will see that his pictures, on and off screen, are worth more than he could ever have imagined. ▼



HEATH LEDGER in *The Four Feathers*: "On many nights, I would play drums with the Sudanese, get drunk and smash red wine bottles around."

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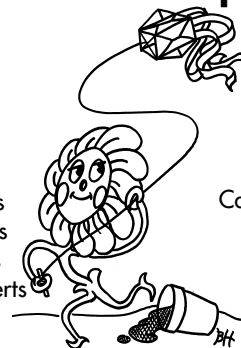
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# CALENDAR *of Events*

## Theatre & Film

### ORLANDO

#### THE FANTASTICKS

Sept. 26 - Oct. 27 at the Mad Cow Theatre at Avalon Island. 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.

#### INTO THE WOODS

Sept. 17 - Oct. 5 at the Annie Russell Theatre. With a new twist on our favorite fairy tale characters, this irreverent musical, with all its magic and menace, is sure to enchant everyone who sees it. For ticket information call (407) 646-2145.

#### OLIVER

Oct. 4 - 20 at the Helen Stairs Theatre for the Performing Arts in historic Sanford. Produced by the Wekiva River Players. For ticket information call (407) 321-8111.

#### DRACULA

Oct. 3 - 13 at the Seminole Community College Fine Arts Theatre. Produced by Orlando Theatre Project and based on the novel by Bram Stoker, the blood-thirsty count rises once again just in time for the haunting season of Halloween. For ticket information call (407) 328-2040.

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#### ANIMAL CRACKERS

Oct. 1 - 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.

#### 2002 BROADWAY BALL: THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Oct. 5 at the Carol Morsini Hall. The Board of Trustees of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center present their annual grand black-tie gala. This year's event will celebrate Disney's <The Lion King> and features a five-course dinner on the stage, a martini and cigar bar under the festival tent, and entertainment straight from Broadway. For more information call (813) 222-1000 or visit <www.tbpac.org>.

#### 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 / SPACE COAST

#### LEE ANN WOMACK

Oct. 3 at the King Center for the Performing Arts. Lee Ann's sweet vulnerable voice perfectly captures the tender sentiment of her lyrics. With hits like "I Hope You Dance," "The Fool," and "A Little Past Little Rock," this superstar will wow you. For ticket information call (321) 242-2219.

### ORLANDO

#### LILLISH FAIR

Oct. 6 at Wall Street Plaza. Lil Barcaski's annual music fest starts at 3 PM. Special guest Amy Steinberg. For more info call (407) 929-4348 or visit <www.colorfulladies.com>.

#### 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.

#### MICKY ROONEY AND JAN CHAMBER

Oct. 8 at the Helen Stairs Theatre for the Performing Arts in Sanford. Spend the evening with this legend of the silver screen and his special guest. For ticket information call (407) 321-8111.

#### GISELLE

Oct. 4 - 6 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center. The Orlando Ballet opens its season with this tale of a heartbroken peasant girl who transforms herself into a spirit and haunts the forest to save her lover's life. For ticket information call (407) 426-1739 or visit <www.orlandoballet.org>.

#### SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

Sept. 27 at The Social. Singer, songwriter, musician, and provocative force of nature, Sophie B. Hawkins swings into town for a show that is sure to reflect her unique artistry and musical talents. For more information call (407) 246-1419.

## TAMPA BAY / GULF COAST

#### FLORIDA ORCHESTRA

Salute to America. Oct. 6 at Ruth Eckerd Hall. For ticket information call (727) 791-7400 or visit <www.rutheckerdhall.com>.

#### SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

Sept. 28 at Jannus Landing in St. Petersburg. For more information call (727) 896-1244.

## 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>.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK MITCHELL

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

### ORLANDO

#### BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Oct. 3 at the Orlando Museum of Art as part of their First Thursdays themed-art events. Works by these women artists will emphasize strength, identity, beauty, voice, grace, boldness, and all that celebrates women. For more information call the museum at (407) 896-4231 or visit <www.OMArt.org>.

#### ROLLIN'S OWN: FACULTY ARTISTS FROM THE COLLEGE

Through Oct. 6 at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College. Members of Rollins College faculty display recent paintings, photographs, prints, and sculpture.

## 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.

#### PENCIL, PAPER, PASTELS AND MORE

Through Sept. 29 at the Adrian Howard Galleries. Included in this exhibit are the imaginative graphite interpretations of Jay Herres, Vince Pizak, Michael Chestnut, John Mowder and the figurative and animal drawings of Jennifer Hough. Also included are pastels by one of our featured artists, Gary Gessford. Located at the

Suncoast Resort in St Petersburg. Call (727) 865-6906 for gallery hours.

#### OUR MEMBERS REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11

Through Oct. 5 at the Art Center of Sarasota. The exhibit features a collection of compelling work created by the Center's member artists. The theme of the show is works created by or as a result of the tragic events of last Sept. 11. For more information call (941) 365-2032 or visit <www.artsarasota.org>.

## Auditions

### TAMPA BAY / GULF COAST

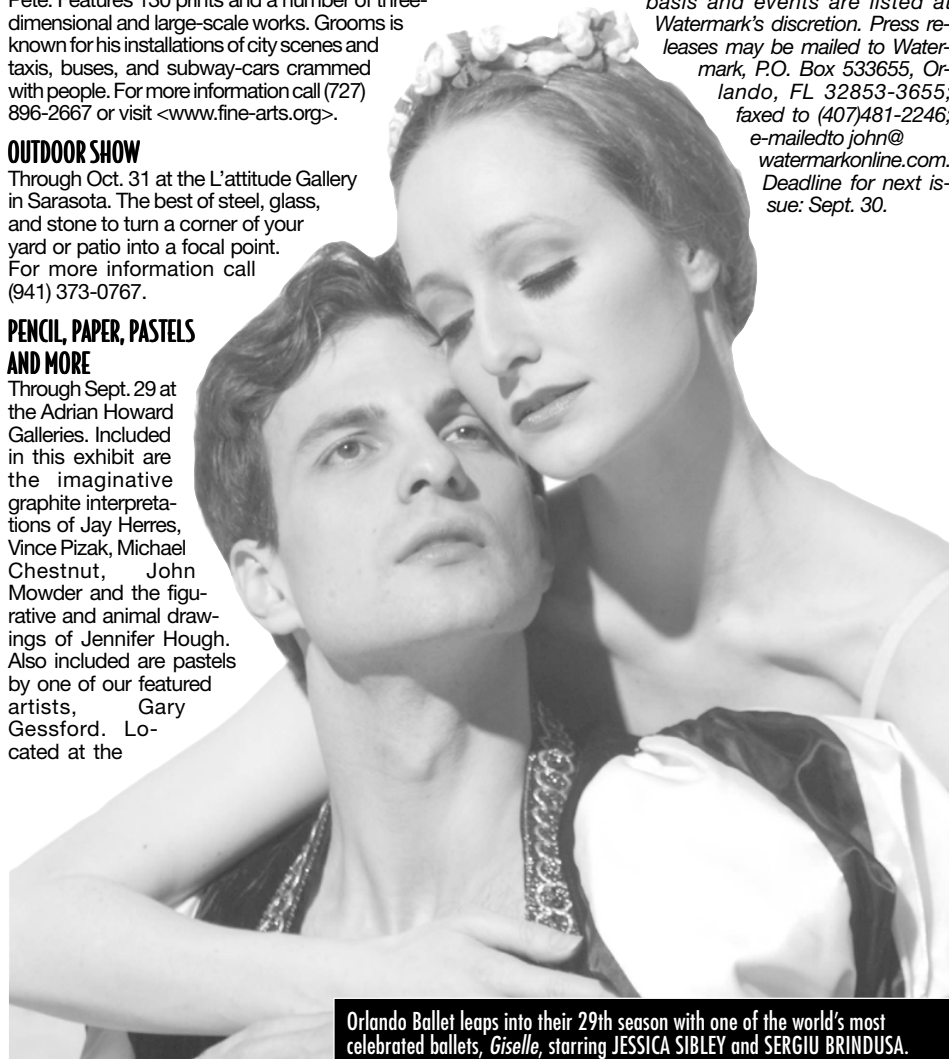
#### FREE VOICE MASTER CLASS

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 to discuss previous training and possible repertoire to be sung. This class is free and open to the public to observe the process of how vocal coaches work with selected singers.

#### JEFFREY

Sept. 29. Central Stage Theatre Company will hold auditions for the play by Paul Rudnick at 7 PM and Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 7 PM. Roles available for seven men ages 18-55 and one woman age 25-40. Central Stage Theatre Company will also hold auditions for a South Florida tour of *Holiday Wishes from the Homefront*, a USO style musical review, on Sat., Sept. 28 at 1 PM. Roles available for two men and two women, 21-35, who harmonize well and read music. They are also searching for a drummer and bass guitar player to accompany the show. For more information call (727) 327-PLAY or visit <www.centralstagetheatrecompany.com>

"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: Sept. 30.



Orlando Ballet leaps into their 29th season with one of the world's most celebrated ballets, *Giselle*, starring JESSICA SIBLEY and SERGIU BRINDUSA.

**CORPORATE MEMO***Continued from Page 25*

said, "The most important act of courage is gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people standing up to say who they are and demanding respect."

Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan echoed Dean's sentiment when she spoke the following day.

"The only way justice will prevail is if good people stand up and be counted," she told the crowd.

Summit Co-chair Stan Madray said that the Orlando conference was the most heavily attended conference in its 12-year history. He said that it shows that GLBT people are taking the message reiterated by both Dean and Sheehan to heart.

"Last year there were about 300 people in attendance at the summit in Cincinnati," Madray noted. "This year we've seen nearly 500 workplace equality advocates from across the country here in Orlando."

Out & Equal's Board President Allen Mann said that it was also gratifying to know that many conference attendees came to Florida with their partners and children.

"A lot of people's partners and kids are

out enjoying the theme parks," Mann said. "Even though some of them may not attend the summit, it's good to know that it's because of the summit that they're here in Orlando making themselves visible."

High visibility was a major theme that threaded its way through the entire summit. Not only were GLBT individuals there to find

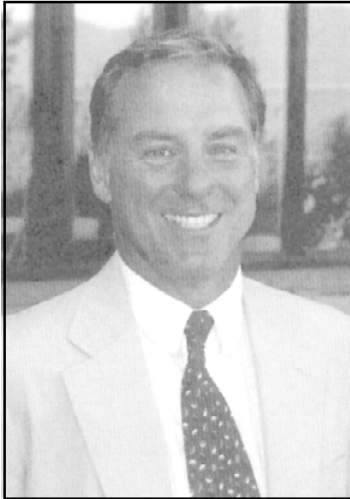
out what they could do to push for more equitable workplace policies, but many corporations were also present to show their support of issues that affect the GLBT community. Diverse business giants like Procter & Gamble, Microsoft, Motorola, and the Walt Disney World Co. were all represented.

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, where the conference took place, was a welcoming environment. Signs and marquees greeted guests, and the resort's employees were not only helpful, they were inquisitive about and supportive of the summit.

"One of the reasons we wanted to hold this

year's summit in Orlando was because we wanted to honor the work Disney and many other companies that have offices in the area have done for workplace equality," said Selisse Barry, executive director of Out & Equal.

Barry went on to say that conference



Vermont Gov. HOWARD DEAN at the Out & Equal Summit: "Ninety percent of people believe in equal rights."

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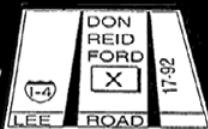
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organizers also knew about the city's seeming reluctance to protect gays and lesbians from housing and employment discrimination.

"It's part of our mission to give a little push to entities that are not quite up to speed on issues of equality," she said.

At the Saturday night "Outies" Awards banquet, American Airlines was given the Workplace Excellence Award for companies that have historically supported GLBT employees. The Significant Achievement Award for a company that has made the most progress toward GLBT equality in the past year went to JP Morgan Chase, which added "transgender" to its corporate equal employment opportunity policies.

Transgender issues were prevalent during the summit. One of the Saturday plenary sessions, featuring American Airlines senior Vice President of Human Resources Susan Oliver, focused solely on the subject.

Following the "Transgender Issues on the Job" plenary was the "Working Across Borders: The International GLBT Experience," where those in attendance were surprised when transgender persons were not discussed. Stonewall U.K.'s Director of Policy and Public Affairs Debbie Gupta continuously referred to the community as "GLB."

At the Q & A afterwards, Gupta was asked about the omission of transgender individuals in her address.

"Transgendered persons have had governmental protections for over 10 years in the U.K.," she said. "Gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are still waiting. Policy should change this year, but so far the only entity in which GLB discrimination is not permitted is in the military."

The final keynote address from former

National Organization of Women (NOW) President Patricia Ireland focused on the link between the women's movement and the campaign for GLBT civil rights.

"Everyone suffers when masculine behavior is established as the norm," Ireland said. "The primary cause of homophobia is not sexuality but society's need to establish and enforce clear gender roles."

The 450 people who participated in this year's Out & Equal Workplace Summit were treated to quite a bit of eye-opening news and opinions. And with more than 60 workshops to choose from, it was impossible to gather all the information that was being offered over the course of three days.

"I had become pretty burned out when I came to this conference," said one participant on the way back to the airport. "But now I feel re-energized and ready to face the challenges ahead."

Barry said that next year's conference is being held in Minneapolis.

"There are a lot of corporations based in Minnesota that deserve recognition for their progressive workplace policies," she said with a twinge of activism in her voice, "there are also businesses like Best Buy — and they still need that little push." ▽

To learn how to get involved with Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, contact their offices at (415) 439-4272 or visit <www.outandequal.org>.

**www.WatermarkOnline.com**



## Discrimination & Politics

at the Metropolitan Business Association's  
**October 3rd event, 7 - 9PM**

Hosted by the Four Points Sheraton  
Located at 151 East Washington St. in Downtown Orlando

**Dr. David Baker-Hargrove, Ph.D., LMHC, DAPA**  
*Sociological & Psychological Impacts of Discrimination*

&

## CANDIDATE'S FORUM

### Invited to Speak:

Orange County Commission, District 4 - Linda Stewart & Clarence Hoenstine  
Orange County Public School Board, District 2 - Tim Shea & Ray Lord  
Orange County Public School Board, District 1 - Joie Cadle & Barbara Trovillion-Rushing  
State House #36 - Sheri McInvalde & Patrick Howell  
State House #35 - Marni Berger & Jim Kallinger  
State House #38 - Jim Martin & Fred Brummer  
State House #49 - Jose Fernandez & John Quinones

**RSVP requested but not required**

**Call Carl Johnson at 407-353-0347 for more information**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT - NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION**

### LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING MBA EVENTS:

10th Anniversary Buyer's Guide • November 5th Social - Lava Lounge  
December 3rd Social - "Celebrating 10 Years of Achievement" Holiday Awards Party



## LIFESTYLES / SPIRITUALITY

## TRANSITIONS



MICHAEL SLAYMAKER

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** MyOptics optometrist **DR. DAVID RICE** (9/20), Orlando mortgage broker **DON HOWAT** (9/23), Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance activist **MICHAEL SLAYMAKER** (10/7)

**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:** *Frankenstein* film director **JAMES WHALE** (9/22), film director **PEDRO ALMODOVAR** (9/25), *Cats* inspiration **T.S. ELIOT** (9/26), playwright **ROBERT PATRICK** (9/27), novelist **TRUMAN CAPOTE** (9/30), writer **GORE VIDAL** (10/3), writer **ANNE RICE** (10/4), first lady **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** (10/11)

*"Transitions" may include memorials, remembrances, weddings, anniversaries, promotions and other announcements. Listings are free of charge. Please send submissions (with photo, if possible) to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32865-3655 or e-mail to mail@watermarkonline.com or fax (407)481-2246. For further information, call (407)481-2243 ext. 20.*

## SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

## DAYTONA BEACH/SPACECOAST

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

## HOPE MCC

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

## SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS

Meets the first Saturday evening of each month at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Palm Bay. Call (407) 452-2436.

## 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 &amp; CHURCH

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

## SOUL-UTIONS

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

## UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSLIST SOCIETY

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

## UPLIFT MINISTRIES, INC.

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

## TAMPA BAY

## AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

## BETH RACHAMIM SYNAGOGUE

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

## 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.francishouse.org>.

## INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

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

## INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

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

## KING OF PEACE MCC

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

## MCC OF TAMPA

Liturgical and Evangelical Christianity. Worship services Sunday at 10:30 AM. Mid-week dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM,

ADVICE-O-RAMA  
THE AGE OF CONSENT

Advice by Keith Baber, M.Ed.

Dear Keith,

I have been going out with the same guy for almost two years. We have a great relationship and the sex is wonderful too. We love each other and have no problem saying it and we get along really well. There is only one problem: he's 28, I'm 17. Because of the age difference, we don't do a lot of hanging out with his friends or mine due to the fact that a lot of them would have

a problem with it.

I am out to my mom and she knows I have a boyfriend but if she had any idea of his real age she would go through the roof. I love him and want to move in with him when I turn 18 next year but until then we have to keep things undercover and not let too many people know about it.

My friends that do know say they are concerned because they claim it is against the law. I do not want my boyfriend to get into trouble or even worse, end up in jail. He says things will be okay if we just keep on the way we have until I am legal age. I am afraid though that he might jump ship at the first sign of trouble or if his friends pressure him enough.

I don't go out with guys my own age because I am attracted to guys a little bit older and more mature. I met him online and we chatted for a few weeks before we ever did anything, so it is not like I rushed into this. I want to know if I should stay with him despite our friends' warnings or should I let him go to keep him out of trouble? Please let me know what you think.

Signed,  
Young and Not So Dumb

Dear Young,

It is a challenge to develop and effectively maintain a relationship when there is a significant age discrepancy. The problem becomes more complicated when the individuals involved are from different generations. When one person is a minor there is an imbalance of power and a concern that the minor is being exploited.

You state that your current age is seventeen and that you have been involved with a 28-year-old man for two years. If my math is correct then you started seeing him when you were 15 and he was 26. I am troubled that a man of his age would elect to become involved with a 15-year-old boy. I must question his motives. This relationship is inappropriate and illegal no matter how mature you view yourself.

When people find healthy relationships they want to celebrate and share their experiences with close friends. Your relationship appears to be based on secrets, lies and shame. If this relationship was right for you, your energy would be directed in a more positive way. You would not be writing to me about deceiving your mother, isolating yourselves and feeling worried about him being jailed for his actions.

I encourage you to end this relationship and seek counseling for yourself. Your participation in counseling will provide you with the opportunity for understanding why this relationship is wrong. ▼

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 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>.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

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

## 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.

Send news about your local church or spiritual organization to:  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

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students. Other services also available. Call Chris 407-405-6710 or visit me on the web at <http://community.webtv.net/harveystone/HOLLYWOOD>

**Conquer Impotence\*** - Safe, Natural, \*non-medical [www.MyGreatSuccess.com](http://www.MyGreatSuccess.com). Office Sessions Too.

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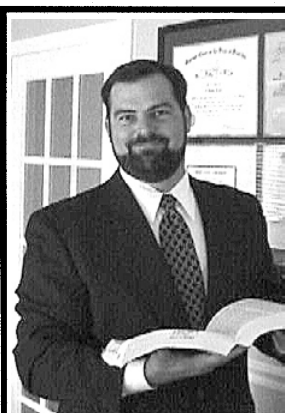
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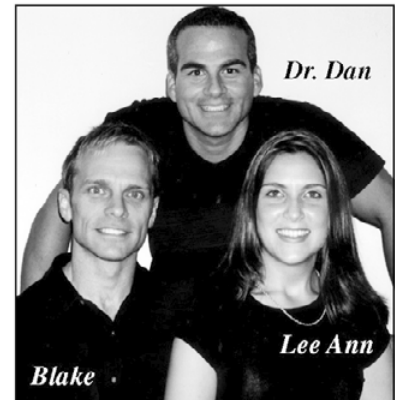
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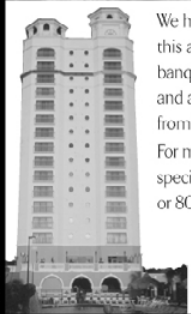
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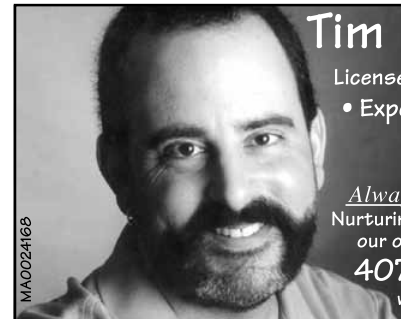
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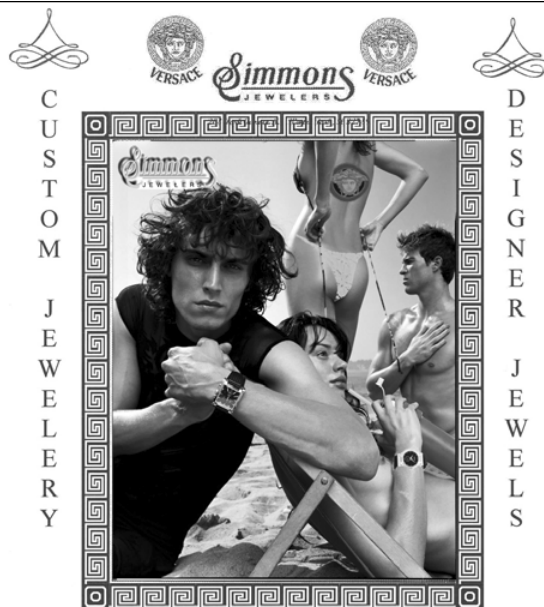
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## SPORTS

## SARASOTA BOWLERS GIVE TO DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS



**SARASOTA**- Sarasota's GLBT bowling league, A League Of Our Own, held its tenth anniversary bowling banquet on Monday, Sept. 16. Three times each year, the league donates all of its prize monies to worthwhile organizations in the area. At the banquet, the league distributed its \$5,000 summer season prize money to seven different organizations chosen by members of the league. Recipients of this year's contributions from A League Of Our Own include: left to right (back row) LEON WEINSTEIN, co-chair, PFLAG Sarasota; HAROLD YOUNG, director of communications, Community AIDS Network; PATTI BRANARD, director, Pet Support Services; SAMUEL WOODHAM, executive director, Charlottee HIV/AIDS Network; JIM JABLONSKI, president, A League Of Our Own; (front row) Sister FRANCES NEVOLO, OLC, executive director, Bethesda House; SHELLEY CRAIG, executive director, ALSO For Gay Youth; and DEBBIE ROGINSKI, executive director, AIDS Manasota.

## TAMPA'S FRANCIS HOUSE HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY

**TAMPA** - The sixth annual Francis House Golf Tournament tees off on Friday, Oct. 11 at the Saddlebrook Resort in nearby Wesley Chapel.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble event is \$115 per person, and includes admission to a Grand Picnic Buffet. Infinity of Tampa Bay is also putting up an Infinity G35 for anyone scoring a hole in one.

A putting contest begins at 7 PM, and the first golfers swing away at 8 AM.

Proceeds benefit Francis House — a day respite center for those affected with HIV/AIDS. Services at Francis House include day care, support groups for teens and adults, recreational activities, meals and transportation. For more information contact Lori at (813) 237-3066. ▼ *Tom Dyer*

## SPORTS BRIEFS



## PRO WRESTLERS GET HITCHED ON THE MAT

World champion tag-team wrestling partners Billy and Chuck (a.k.a. Monty Sopp and Chuck Palumbo) made their union slightly more permanent when they tied the knot on Sept. 12. The ceremony took place during a UPN wrestling broadcast. "It's a same sex wedding or — as the gay and lesbian community would call it — a commitment ceremony on our season premier edition of *Smackdown*," said Stephanie McMahon, World Wrestling Entertainment's (WWE) creative television director. Billy and Chuck have played with sexual ambiguity since they joined the WWE, but Sopp and Palumbo say out of the ring they are heterosexual. "We're entertainment," McMahon said.

## BOWLING PIN ART TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

Fifty local artists have donated their time and talents for the Signature Bowling Pin Art Auction. These artists have transformed old, battered pins into remarkable works of art. The bowling beauties will be judged and auctioned off at the Bowl-O-Drome party on Sept. 27 at 6 PM at Colonial Lanes in Orlando, with a portion of the proceeds going to the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), a nonprofit benefiting local youth. For more information, write to [pindaddy@bowl-o-drome.org](mailto:pindaddy@bowl-o-drome.org) or go to [www.oaf.com](http://www.oaf.com) and click on the "Welcome to the Bowl-O-Drome" link.

## 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](mailto:GayBikeOrl@aol.com) or call Mike at (407) 230-6798.

## GAY &amp; 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 &amp; WALKERS

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

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## 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 9AM in Old Hyde Park

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

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

Harold, (813)933-7144. [hharkins@mindspring.com](mailto:hharkins@mindspring.com).

## SAGA (MIXED) - RAINBOWLING 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](http://www.suncoastsoftball.org)>.

## TAMPA BAY WOMYN'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](http://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](http://www.geocities.com.tampagayvball)>.

## TEN PIN PRIDE LEAGUE - RAINBOWLING LEAGUE

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

## TWEDT'S PRIDE - RAINBOWLING 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](mailto: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.



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## ORGANIZATIONS



## MS. KNOW IT ALL THINK NOW SPEAK LATER

Astrology by Diane Wilde

Mercury and Venus will drive your energies this month. And they're going to have some fun wrecking havoc with our minds and our relationships. So take a deep breath and leave yourself extra time to get where you're going.



### SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21:

Don't let this month's energies make you cross and unreasonable. Cooperation with loved ones will ease the tension, and while the good times won't exactly be rolling, they won't be dragging either. And the real good news is that you'll finally feel in synch with the world.



### SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21:

You need to batten down the hatches and take cover because there's a storm coming. People will test your patience and your communication skills, so please think before you speak rather than do damage control afterwards. Look to the past to build a stronger future.



### CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19:

While it seems that everyone else is taking a time out, you are ready to move and shake. You thrive on work and crave responsibility. And while you appreciate romance, you'll have little time to spare on such frivolity.



### AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18:

You've come to a fork in the road and must decide to move forward into your future. Before you let go of your mistakes, own up to them. Forgive yourself for not coming up to your own expectations, and try to meet your needs in better ways in the future.



### PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20:

You've got a lot on your plate — not to mention your mind. Your creative juices are flowing, yet you still have some unfinished business to tend to. It took a long time to get where you are, but take a break and have a good time every now and again.



### ARIES MAR 20 - APR 20:

Normally you rush full speed ahead and damn the consequences. However this

month's energies urge you to slow down. This might prove difficult only if you insist on ignoring the lessons of the past. You can have fun no matter what, so get out there and socialize and network.



### TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20:

Relationships of all kinds will come under scrutiny, and things you may learn could leave you feeling insecure and unhappy. It's important to take this time to rethink, revamp, and regroup. Use this opportunity to pamper yourself and look for what you really want out of life.



### GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 20:

There are lots of changes in store for the twins, and as usual it's hard for you both to agree on what you'd like to change. Go with the flow and see where you wind up. By next month a plan will appear, and you will be happily on the move again.



### CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 23:

The challenge is to remain snit free and to be open about what makes you so snippy. Remember that conversation and compromise avoids conflict and consternation. If you communicate you will have clear sailing for the rest of the year. This should be a pleasant month for you.



### LEO JULY 24 - AUG 22:

Don't be so quick to open your mouth and roar — you know how much you hate to have to apologize. There are lots of things that need to change within you as well as your kingdom. Take a deep breath, let it out slowly, and smile — because this too shall pass.



### VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22:

You will ask yourself some hard questions like, "What do I want and how am I going to get it?" Relish the down time you have and don't be afraid to be by yourself. You don't need to be a hermit, just become more selective about whom you spend time with.

## ORGANIZATIONS & MEETINGS

### DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

#### BREAKTHROUGH

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

#### BREVARD LESBIANS

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

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

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

#### DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION

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

#### FUN COAST BEARS

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

#### GALBA

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

#### GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

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

#### GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD

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

#### OUTREACH, INC.

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

#### OVER THE RIVER

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

#### PFLAG DAYTONA

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

#### SPECTRUM

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

### ORLANDO

#### AA WAKE UP CALL

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

#### BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

#### BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER

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

#### BMCO

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

#### BOOKLOVERS

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

#### CENTAUR

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

#### CODA

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

#### COLAGE

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

#### CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

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

#### EVOLVE

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

#### FREEDOM OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

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

#### GALA

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

#### GALIXY

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

#### GAP

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

#### GAY SKATE

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

#### GIRTH AND MIRTH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

#### GLBCC-THE CENTER

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

#### GLBT PARENTS GROUP

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

#### MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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

#### MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

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

#### METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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

#### MISHPUCHA

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

#### OPEX

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

#### ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

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

#### ORLANDO MEN'S DISCUSSION

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

#### ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS

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

#### ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB

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

#### OWLS

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

#### PFLAG

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

#### POLY-CENTRAL

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

#### POSITIVE SUPPORT

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

#### PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

#### PRINCIPLE BEFORE PERSONALITIES

# ORGANIZATIONS

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.

Overcoming the challenges of meeting and keeping a partner. Meets weekly. \$10, two Orlando locations. Call Joseph Salg at (407) 716-7207.

## 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. uctglbsu@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.

### BROTHASSPEAK

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; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

### FACT TRANSGENDER HIV/ AIDS GROUP

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

### FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813)832-2999.

### FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

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

### 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 management, 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 Marshall Center. (813)974-4297.

### PRIDE TAMPA BAY

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

### PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY

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

### PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY

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

### RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB

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

### RAINBOW FILM SERIES

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

### RAINBOW READERS

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

### RAINBOW SURF 'N' SAFARI CLUB

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

### RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

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

### SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

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

### SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

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

### STARBUSRT 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; Sncdtthr@aol.com.

### SUNCOAST PRIDE

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

### TAMPA BAY BEARS

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

### TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

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

### TAMPA BAY GAY COOKING CLUB

Meets monthly in the Tampa Bay Area. For more information visit <www.alexfrades.com/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. tbn@tampabay.rr.com <www.tampabaynaturists.org>.

### TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.

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

### TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

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

### TRUE EXPRESSIONS

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

### WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

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

### WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPABAY

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

### 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. (941)923-INF0.

### 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>.

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.

**SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - WATERMARK – ATTN: EDITOR - P.O. BOX 533655  
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## FILTH



## FILTH IT'S "ASK BILLY" TIME AGAIN

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

Well, it's Sept. 11 and I'm writing to you from the comforts of an undisclosed location — much like Dick Cheney. And although I planned on bringing you our "What ever happened to..." column, I went through your recent letters and thought that this was a perfect week for another "Ask Billy" column.

To kick things off, our first letter comes from Dwayne in San Francisco, who writes: I was reading some articles about Sept. 11 because I was interested in gay rugby player **MARK BINGHAM**. Most people say that Bingham "probably" helped thwart the hijackers, but I haven't found anything more specific than that. Could you do some research?

We may never know exactly what happened on United Flight 93, but everyone on board should be considered a "hero" since their collective actions may have saved thousands of lives. That said, I too can't find any specific reference to Bingham's role in the attack against the terrorists. We know that he called his aunt and mom, told them that he loved them and that some people were going to do something. I believe that the whole story

about his participation got started once his mom gave an interview the day after the tragedy and said, "Knowing Mark, I'm sure that he was involved."

Randy in San Diego asks: I had a great time at Gay Day in Anaheim last fall. Do you know any details about this year's event?

Do I? The annual Gay Days at Disneyland in Anaheim will take place on Oct. 4 - 6. You can find a full list of activities for the weekend on their fabulous Web site <www.gayday2.com>. Aside from the daytime park activities, the organizers will host the first ever private gay dance party within the park! "Kingdom" takes place at Frontierland's Festival Arena on Saturday, Oct. 5 and will feature the DJ talents of **CHRIS COX**.

Tony in Washington tells me: I'm in love with Hardy from *Big Brother 2*. I know that you have some nude photos of him, but I was wondering if he had any plans to show off more of his amazing body.

Fans of **HARDY-AMES HILL** can rejoice. Hardy appears in the softcore porn flick *Summer Desire* and spends

most of his screen time naked.

Kelly in Milwaukee begs: Could someone please tell **MARIO LOPEZ** that his hair is too long?

Mario, your hair is too long. (Oh, come on. You all know he's reading this!) Cory in Long Beach has a confession: I'm addicted to *Battle Dome* and have been trying to place **DOA** ever since I saw him. A friend of mine told me he did gay porn, but I don't believe it. Is it true?

That's what friends are for. **DOA** is really **CHAD ULLERY** (also known occasionally as Chad Bannon, Dusty Mannings, and Todd Marshall). Chad did some fitness and sportswear modeling, and appeared nude in *Playgirl* and *Advocate Men*. But the story doesn't end there. Back in 1992, Chad (as Todd Marshall) made his gay porn debut in Catalina's *Behind the Barn Door*, in which he can be seen bottoming for a delicious Bo Summers. He did a handful of other skin flicks, ending his illustrious career in 1998 in Leisure Time's *Assume the Position*.

Luis in Philadelphia tells me: I've heard lots of rumors about a recent *Real*

*World* star having a past as a hooker. Any truth to the gossip? I've withheld this boy's name because — well, because I want to. I'm not one to gossip, but it would appear that the rumors are somewhat true.

I did some digging and it seems that prior to his *Real World* stint, this lanky lad worked in a popular dance club where the buzz is that he sold more than just drinks. "Substances" and "sex" were two things that you could get from him — for a price. Rumor has it that he was also the plaything of several well-connected men in that city by the sea, but those connections don't seem to have amounted to more than a hill of beans. His porn connection, however, continues to thrive, thank you very much.

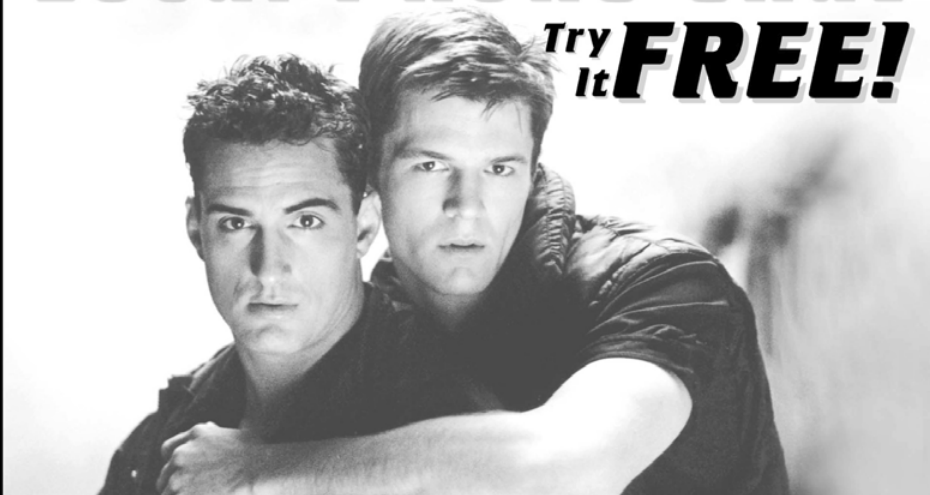
When I can give you a few celebrity nudes, identify a gay porn star, plug a gay event, and give advice to the young, then we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. If you have more questions, drop a little e-mail to Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Mario cuts his hair. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ♥



Body builder **CHAD ULLERY** was at the bottom of his career before making it to the top on *Battle Dome*.

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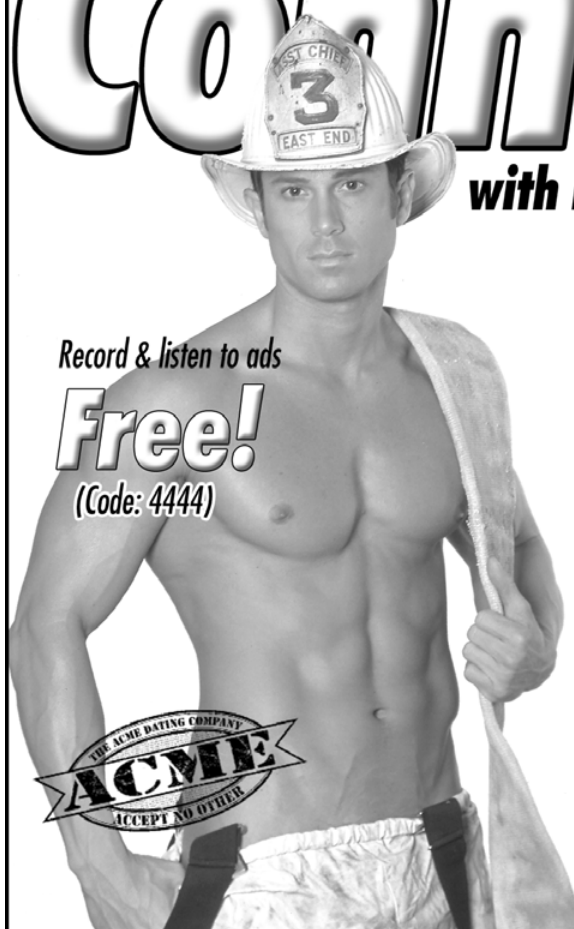
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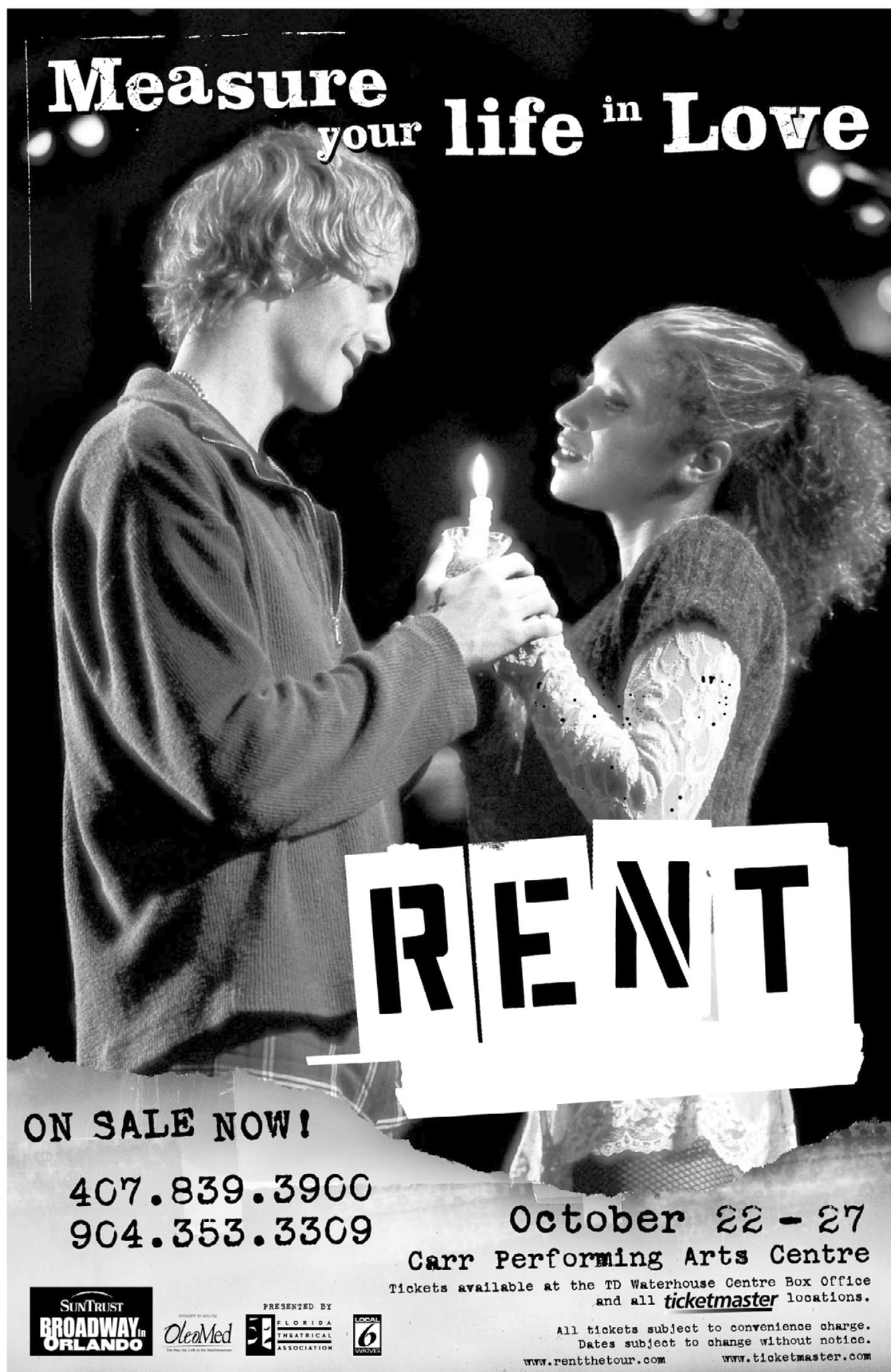
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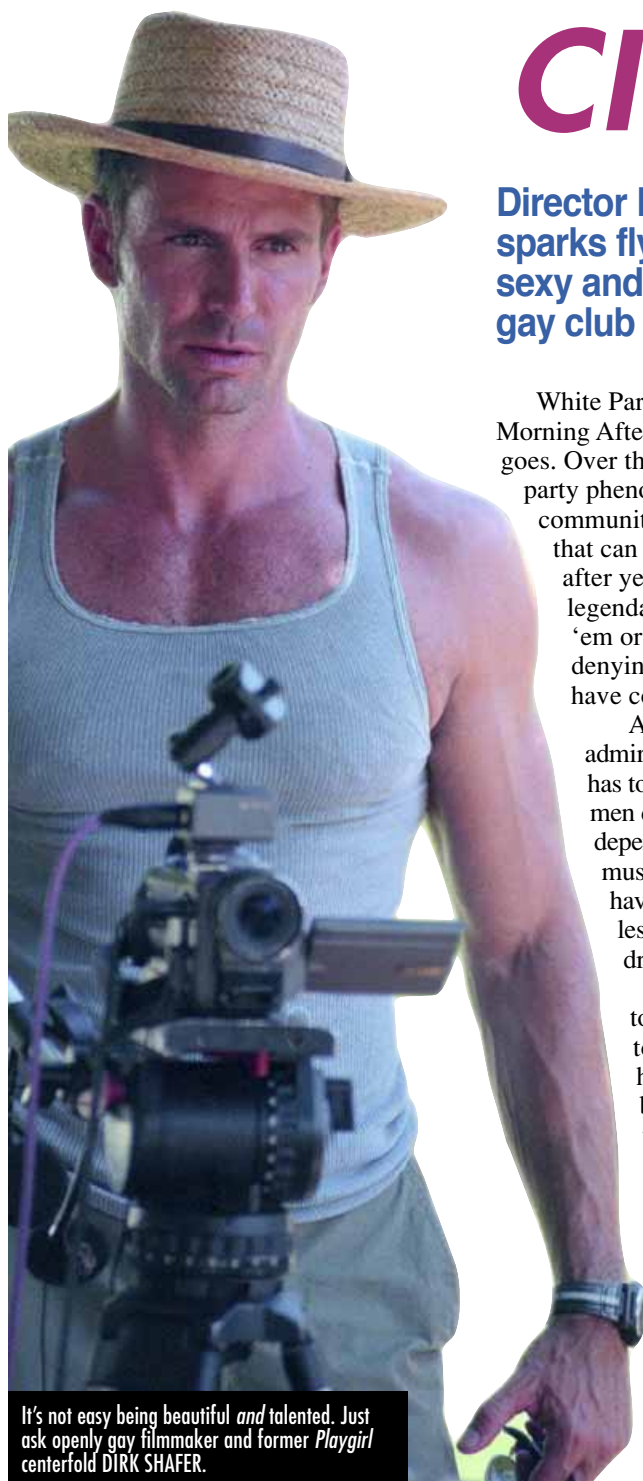
Watermark's guide to the

# Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2002

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 9, 2002

ISSUE 9.20

## FROM CENTERFOLD TO CIRCUIT KING



**Director Dirk Shafer makes sparks fly with *Circuit*, his sexy and dramatic look at gay club life.** By John Sullivan

White Party, Black Party, Blue Ball, Morning After Party, and on and on it goes. Over the past ten years the circuit party phenomenon has swept the gay community and grown into something that can no longer be ignored. Year after year they get bigger and more legendary than ever before. Love 'em or hate 'em, there is no denying the role that these events have come to play in gay culture.

And while we all don't mind admiring the beauty that the circuit has to offer — the sea of shirtless men dancing like their abs depended on it, the throbbing music and pulsing lights — many have turned a blind eye on the less than glamorous things like drugs and unsafe sex.

But still we are drawn to circuit parties like moths to a flame, and now someone has finally taken a no-holds-barred look at what makes the circuit life great — and not so great.

"If there were a party where straight men could go to where there would be beautiful topless women dancing and being free with their bodies, they would be the most popular parties on the face of the earth," says former *Playgirl* Man of the Year

turned filmmaker Dirk Shafer.

OK, so maybe he's never been to spring break in Florida. But Shafer will attend Tampa's International Gay And Lesbian Film Festival in October to promote his film *Circuit*, which takes a deep look into the oft-mistook for shallow world of circuit parties.

*Circuit* tells the tale of John, an ex-cop goodie two shoes from the Midwest, played by straight hottie Jonathon Wade Drahos, who succumbs to the lure of the circuit world and ends up tasting both ends of what it has to offer. With the help of plastic surgery junkie and hustler Hector, John tweaks his way into membership in the steroid-shooting, party drug abusing, circuit club.



JONATHON WADE DRAHOS stars as John, an ex-cop turned party-goer in Dirk Shafer's *Circuit*.

Shafer, who wrote, directed, and starred in 1996's *Man of the Year*, based on his real life experiences as a closeted *Playgirl* centerfold, and fellow screen writer Gregory Hinton based most of the film's characters on real people that they have known in and around West Hollywood.

"I think I have met at least a dozen or so people that have lived the story of John. I see them everyday, the people who come out here and are relatively



The Historic Tampa Theatre, built in 1926, is the perfect setting for a gay and lesbian film festival.

## LUCKY 13 FOR FILM FEST

**The Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival mixes parties and crowd pleasers with cutting edge cinema in its 13th year.** By Tom Dyer

**TAMPA** - According to Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival director Margaret Murray, the annual early October event really starts to take shape months earlier, usually around June.

"After hours of poring over film Web sites, attending festivals, and sitting through countless video screenings, some sort of theme usually begins to emerge," Murray says, surrounded by precarious towers of videotapes in her small office at Equality Florida headquarters on Swann Ave. "It's as if filmmakers have tapped into a common zeitgeist about the state of the world around them."

Murray says the theme of this year's festival is best described as journeys — both outward and inward. But her own journey as festival director is still gaining speed and direction. This will just be Murray's second year overseeing the festival, and already she's left a significant mark on the 13-year-old event that has become the pride of gay Tampa Bay. With an annual budget of more than \$180,000, and a lineup of between 60 and 70 films, the festival is expected to attract more than 15,000 this year.

Touted for her encyclopedic knowledge

It's not easy being beautiful *and* talented. Just ask openly gay filmmaker and former *Playgirl* centerfold DIRK SHAFER.

Continued Page 18

Continued Page 3

**ALSO INSIDE:** Steve Guttenberg • Full Festival Schedule • Author David Leavitt • A Cock & Bulldog Love Story





# TAMPA FILM FEST

2 September 26 - October 9, 2002

## OCTOBER'S QUEENS OF COMEDY



### Notorious C.H.O. Opening Night Film Thursday, Oct. 3rd 8:00 pm

"More funny lines than there were  
in all three Austin Powers movies"  
- Bay Windows

### All The Queen's Men CLOSING NIGHT FILM Sunday, Oct. 13th 7:30 pm

"Brilliant - Some Like it Hot meets  
The Guns of Navarone"



### The Cockettes Tuesday, Oct. 8th 7:00 pm

"Cockettes - the rise and fall of  
the acid queens"  
- Salon.com



### Friends and Family Tuesday, Oct. 8th 8:45 pm

"A hilarious cross between La  
Cage Aux Folles and The  
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## LUCKY 13

continued from page 1

of independent film, and an almost obsessive drive to view each new offering, Murray ensures that the Tampa Film Fest lineup will be diverse and respected.

"She does a wonderful job," says Film Fest board secretary Jim Harper. "We're very lucky to have her."

Murray hopes the board will keep her around for a while. She's proud of what the festival has accomplished, particularly staging last year's event on the heels of 9/11, and this year's strong lineup filled with "hidden

treasures." But as someone who has attended just about every GLBT film festival on the planet, she has an ambitious and energizing vision of what the Tampa Film Fest might become.

Murray points to a wish list with four key components.

"First I'd like to see us be more of a resource for filmmakers," she says, noting that this could be accomplished with some combination of prize money, completion funds, grants and residencies.

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is a good example. With close to 100,000 annual attendees and a budget in the millions, San Francisco's respected 26-year-old film festival is the driving force behind a thriving lesbian and gay film community. Levi Strauss sponsors a \$10,000 "First Feature Award" at the festival, and "Stu & Dave's Excellent Documentary Award" is worth the same amount for hungry filmmakers.

Next, Murray would like to see a stronger international lineup at the Tampa Film Fest. As an example, she points to an Oct. 7 offering this year. *Days (Giorni)* is a subtle and beautiful Italian film about the vagaries of the heart long after coming out has ceased to be an issue. Murray says its one of her favorite films in the festival.

"It's always a balancing act," she laments. "Some of the best gay and lesbian films are from other countries, but they're not always easy for American audiences to digest... there's that whole subtitle thing."

Just four years old, the Miami International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival features a lineup about the size of Tampa's, but a full fifty percent originate from outside the United States. Reflecting Miami's demographics, many are from Spanish-speaking countries. Likewise, San Francisco's festival highlights films from the Far East and Asia.

Preferring to feature a cross-section of the best from throughout the world, Murray doesn't want to similarly pigeonhole Tampa's international offerings. "I prefer to think of us as anti-niche," she says.

Murray also wants to develop a reputation for screening cutting edge and thought-provoking documentaries. She particularly admires the London International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in that regard.

"The longer I work in the film festival world, the more I see how incredibly politically correct they're getting," she observes. "London's not like that. They really take risks."

In that regard, Murray notes that the venue for Tampa's Film Fest - the gorgeous 1,400-seat Tampa Theatre - is a bit of a "double-edged sword."

## "IT'S HARD TO JUSTIFY SHOWING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT A TRANSGENDER MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT WHEN YOU HAVE THAT MANY SEATS TO FILL,"

"It's hard to justify showing a documentary about a transgender member of the New Zealand Parliament when you have that many seats to fill," she notes.

This year the

Tampa Film Fest will also screen a small number of films at two smaller locations — Centro Ybor Muvico and TECO Plaza. Murray says that multiple sights are likely part of the Film Festival's future.

Finally, Murray wants to see the Tampa Film Fest develop into a multi-leveled cultural event for the entire city. She notes that Seattle and Rochester, New York, have been particularly good at creating that kind of environment.

"While the festival is going on, I'd like to see art openings down the street and panel discussions three blocks away," she says, "...things that would transform the city for a brief but wonderful period of time each year."

To a great extent, Murray will create that kind of atmosphere at this year's festival, Oct. 3-13. The Opening Night Party in front of the Tampa Theatre on Franklin Street and at TECO Plaza is followed by the local premiere of *Notorious C.H.O.*. The film version of comedian Margaret Cho's outrageous and enormously



Tampa Film Fest director MARGARET MURRAY with board secretary JIM HARPER: "I'd like to see us be more of a resource for filmmakers."

gay live show is expected to sell out.

During the next week-and-a-half there will be live appearances and panel discussions featuring actor/director Steve Gutenberg (*P.S. Your Cat is Dead*), director Dirk Shafer (*Circuit*), Native American actor Evan Adams (*The Business of Fancydancing*), acclaimed author David Leavitt (*Food of Love*), director Catherine Crouch (*Pretty Ladies! A Super 8 Explosion*), director Marilyn Freeman (*Group*), and Ruthie and Connie, the subjects of the acclaimed documentary of the same name.

On Oct. 9 the much-anticipated screening of *Claire*, a new silent movie filmed with a vintage 1920s hand-cranked

camera, will feature accompaniment by musicians from the Florida Orchestra. And on Oct. 13, Equality Florida once again sponsors an afternoon street festival and expo on Franklin St., while movies inside the Tampa Theatre are bookended with performances by Crescendo, the Men of Crescendo, the Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus and more.

Other highlights are too numerous to mention — a complete schedule of film offerings and events follows on page 5. Like the festival, Murray's goal for attendees began to crystallize last June.

"I hope that each person who sits in a darkened theater enjoying the festival is taken on a journey," she says. ▼

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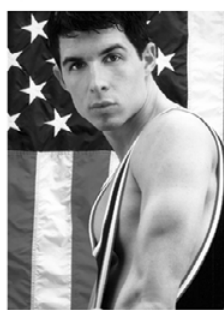
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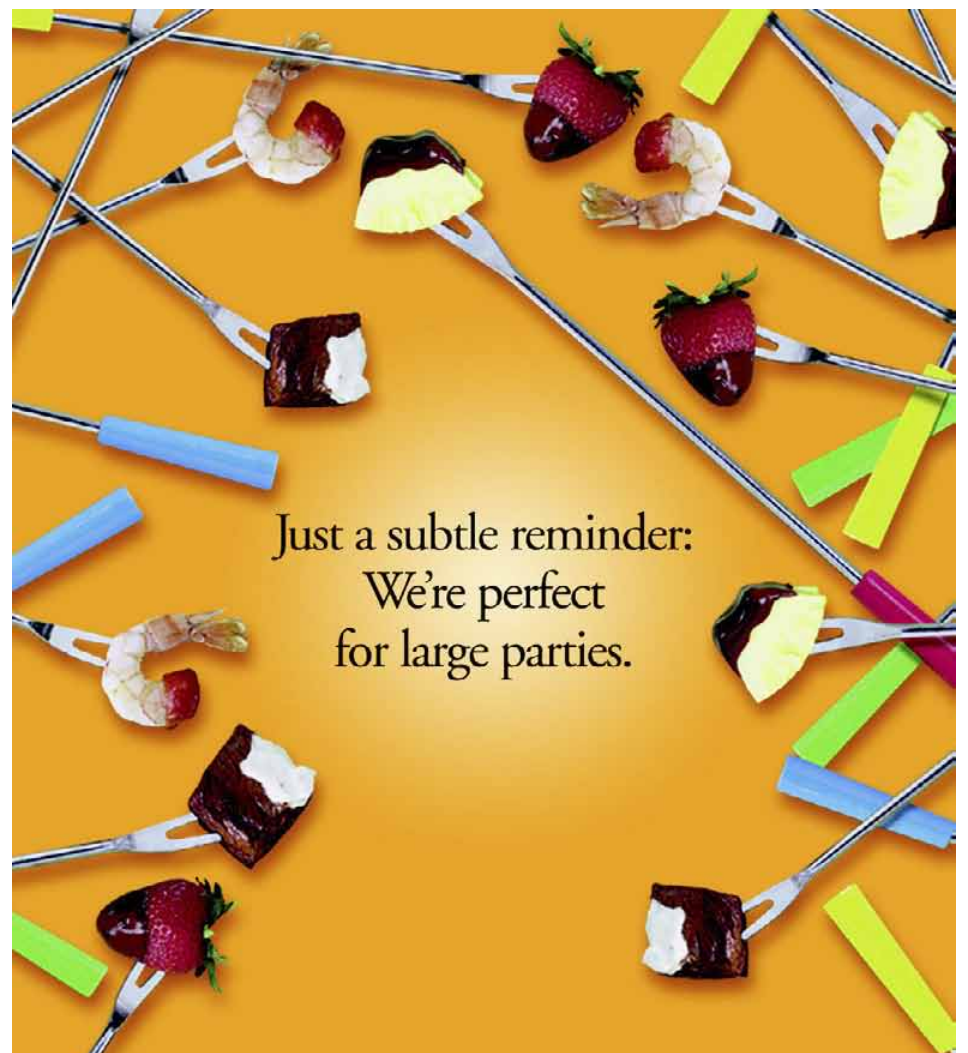
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## TAMPA GAY & LESBIAN FILM FEST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For more information on tickets and show times, go to <www.pridefilmfest.com>.  
All films are playing at the Tampa Theater unless otherwise noted.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 3

#### 6 PM OPENING NIGHT PARTY

#### 8 PM NOTORIOUS C.H.O.

Margaret Cho's film chronicles her misadventures, including a first-time visit to a straight S&M club, her partiality toward dykes who resemble John Goodman, a fisting experience with a lesbian dwarf, and her gay-porn-reading mother.



### FRIDAY, OCT. 4

#### 7 PM BY HOOK OR BY CROOK

This indie tragi-comedy has protagonist on her way to the big city. En route she meets Valentine, a deliriously expressive adoptee in search of the

*Karmen Gei*, despite its controversial genesis, is a story about the overwhelming desire to live life as you desire.

mother she never knew. The two join forces and learn the meaning of "poise under pressure."

#### 9 PM THE TRIP

Writer-director Miles Swain creates a compelling love story to chronicle the crucial years in our history between the dawn of gay liberation and the advent of AIDS activism. There is both comedy and drama in abundance.

#### 11 PM WEBCAM BOYS

Following a group of ten men over four months, the film crew caught even more on camera than they bargained for as the webcam boys' lives changed in unforeseen ways once their private lives are literally shown, raw, live on the net.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 5

#### 12:30 PM FILMMAKING THROUGH THE AGES

Visiting filmmakers discuss why they chose to tell their stories in the manner they did. Panelists include: Milford Thomas, director of the silent film *Claire*; Amy Nestor, award winning local director of *Deseo*; T. Joe Murray, Florida animator and creator of *Little Tommy Goodwilly*; and Erica Friedman, founder of lesbian anime site *Yuricon*.

#### 2 PM KARMEN GEI

This remake of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, confiscated by the government of Dakar for two years after its debut at Cannes, takes place amid the enduring vitality of a women's prison on Goree Island, the infamous African slave portal.

#### 3:45 PM REAL FAMILY VALUES

These filmmakers examine the ways in which we adhere to, or branch out from, contemporary gender roles in this trio of thought provoking documentaries.

#### SOME REAL HEAT

A searing documentary about the relatively small world of San Francisco's female firefighters.

#### FAMILY VALUES

This one goes where no one else wants to... murder scenes.

#### THE LAST DAY OF NOVEMBER

Examines the manly act of hunting through gestures, rituals, and dress.

#### 5:30 PM IT'S OUR LOOK AND WE'RE STICKING TO IT

Is there such a thing as lesbian fashion? These short films take an irreverent look at the many ways in which lesbians (and the rest of the world) define themselves.

#### BETTER BUTCH FASHION

A Jewish mother assists her lesbian daughter with life choices.

#### SIZE 'EM UP

Samantha discovers new things about breasts, brassieres, and how to improve her soccer game.

#### AMERICAN MULLET

Documentary suggests that we stop talking about the mullet and rather talk to people who have mullets.

#### LESBIAN FASHION

Watch as Ellen DeGeneres, Kate Clinton, Lily Tomlin and many more women struggle to define lesbian fashion.

#### SHE WEARS CUFFLINKS

Poet K. Anne Rickertsen marvels over a double-breasted suit and how wearing it can inspire a girl.

#### BUTCH SPA DAY

The squirming starts as butches experience ladylike activities such as exfoliating, pedicures, astringents and waxing.

#### 8 PM VENUS BOYZ

The life of a drag king. For some it's a way of life, for others it's a sexy pastime - but for all it's a road to self-expression and self-discovery.

#### 10:30 PM CIRCUIT

Handsome small-town cop John is dazzled by the fast, open

ways of West Hollywood. He joins the circuit life with its sexual pleasures and ecstasy (and ketamine, cocaine, steroids and GHB, for that matter).

### SUNDAY, OCT. 6

#### 11 AM NOT FOR ADULTS

More fun than you've ever had in somebody else's shorts.

#### GAY LIFE FOR BEGINNERS

Where we teach queer newbies the rules of gay life in nine easy steps.

#### BACKSEAT DETOUR

It's Thanksgiving eve and a college freshman finds herself trapped in the backseat of her parents' car.

#### SAILOR MOON

Here we have Ami and friends in all their anime glory, just doing what comes naturally to young cartoon lesbians.

#### PEDRO + TONY

A dog and a chicken enjoy a meaningful gay relationship and learn to work through their interspecies prejudices.

#### TEMPORARILY INSANE

A frustrated actress goes on a temp job in character but runs into trouble when she falls for her supervisor.



SHAWN HATOSY struggles to define his role in his private school's hierarchy in *Borstal Boy*.

Continued on Page 7

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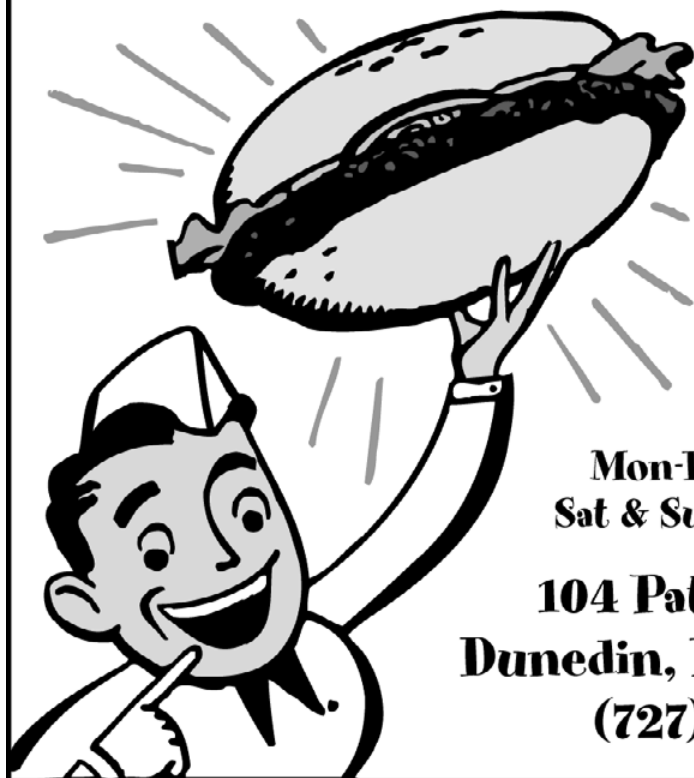


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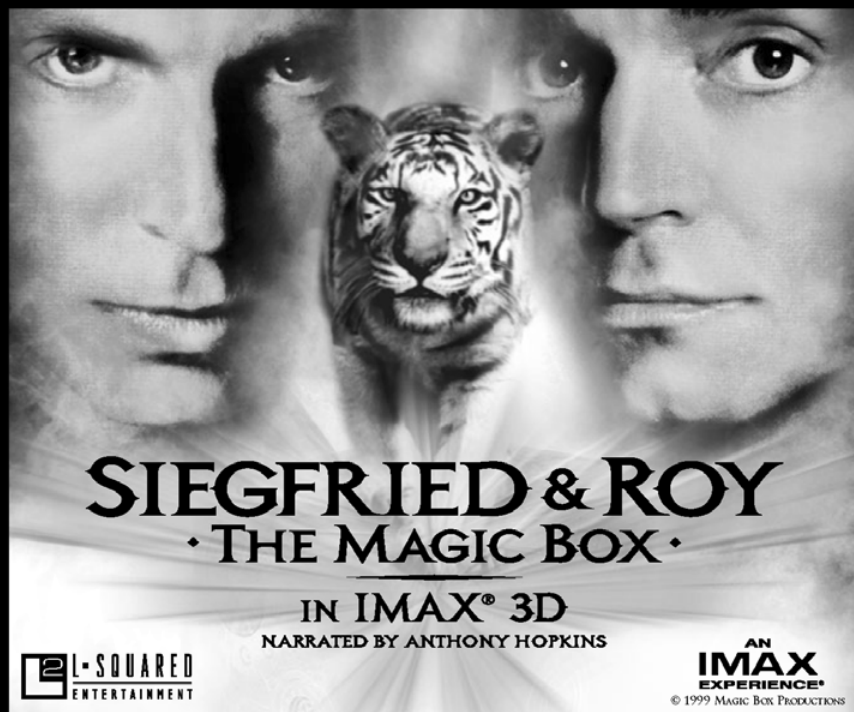


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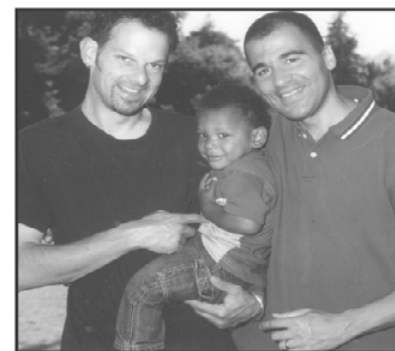


**Notorious C.H.O.**  
Opening Night Film  
Thur, Oct. 3rd, 8pm  
Tampa Theatre

*"Let me tell you about  
my mother..."*

**Daddy and Papa**  
Sun, Oct. 13th, 1:30 pm  
Tampa Theatre

*"I never imagined my most  
radical act would be the most  
traditional thing in the world-  
becoming a parent"*



**Ruthie & Connie**  
Closing night film  
Sun, Oct. 13th, 5pm  
Tampa Theatre

*"They're grandmothers! They're  
lesbians. And they're HOT" Join  
Ruthie and Connie for a Q&A after  
the screening*



**Claire**  
Wed, Oct. 9th, 8pm  
Tampa Theatre

*"A magical tale of love, family  
and an ear of corn"*  
Special presentation: This silent  
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MICHELE GREENE (L) and ERICA SCHAFFER find that love and romance can be *A Family Affair*.

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Cute Skateboarders, organized crime, and the quest for an empty swimming pool make up this fairy tale.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

His parents are away, the beer is gone, and our young star is about to find out the peril of watching infomercials.

## 1:30 PM SIR: A NORMAL GUY

An intimate insightful chronicle of over 15 months of over Jay Snider's female-to-male (FTM) transition, beginning prior to hormones and concluding after top surgery. Preceded by TRANSJAN, a short film on the transition of Tampa transgender activist Janice Josephine Carney who will attend the screening, and participate in a Q&A afterward.

## 3 PM GEORGIE GIRL

Meet the newest member of New Zealand's Parliament, Georgina Beyer: former showgirl, former sex worker, former actress, and former man.

## 4 PM FOOD OF LOVE (At Centro Ybor Muvico)

Eighteen-year-old Paul is an aspiring musician who finds himself drawn into an affair with his idol after a gig as his page-turner. Author David Leavitt will be in attendance.

## 5 PM HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID

Fun spoofs of some of Hollywood's classic films.

## AARON BROCKOVICH

Tampa filmmaker Sharon Stone created this parody of the Julia Roberts movie, *Erin Brockovich*.

## GOOD FAGIOLAS

Gives new meaning to the classic Scorsese film.

## RESERVOIR DYKES

This spoof of the uber-macho Tarrantino classic follows protagonist Mr. Pink.

## TAXI LESBIANS

Another spoof of a classic Scorsese film.

## THE GAY GRADUATE

That sexy Mrs. Robinson is up to no good...

## ANGELS OUT OF THE CLOSET

Newly dubbed scenes from *Charlie's Angels* where Sabrina and Kelly come out of the closet.

## JEFFREY'S HOLLYWOOD SCREEN TRICK

Takes pot shots at all those feel-good gay movies we've endured in the past few years.

## JAN MICHAEL VINCENT IS MY MUSE

A humorous look at movie star worship

## LITTLE TOMMY GOODWILLY

## 6:30 PM MEMENTO MORI

The first gay film from Korea, this movie smuggled the love affair at its heart under the eyes of social censors by disguising it as a horror movie, and in the process it became a cult hit.

## 8:45 PM BORSTAL BOY

This is a memorable look at the life of Irish literary lion Brendan Behan. Set primarily in the boys' reform school that Behan spent time in after his arrest on political terrorism charges, this is a highly stylized snapshot of a young man's sexual and intellectual coming of age.

## MONDAY, OCT. 7

## 5 PM KE KUALA HANIA

Drag queens in hula skirts anyone? Socio-politically insightful and emotionally engaging, this documentary examines racism, gender politics, spirituality, and HIV through a specific portion of gay culture.

## 6:45 PM P.S. YOUR CAT IS DEAD

Steve Guttenberg pulls triple duty — he wrote, directed, and stars — in this black comedy about life, love and a little bondage.

## 7:30 PM GIRLS CAN'T SWIM (At Centro Ybor Muvico)

This story begins lightly as the teenage girlfriends Gwen and Lise, who have spent summers together since childhood, eagerly await their reunion.

## 8:45 PM DAYS (GIORNI)

A successful bank manager, Claudio, is the responsible member of his family but the real upheaval starts when he begins a torrid affair with young Andrea.

## TUESDAY, OCT. 8

## 6:45 PM COCKETTES

An expertly assembled account of the ultimate in hippie drag: a motley show troupe that was the toast of San Francisco when subversiveness was celebrated in high and low society alike.

## 7:30 PM REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA (At Teco Plaza)

A gender-bending roller coaster ride that will leave your head spinning with its compellingly beautiful visual imagery. The film is about a young girl who wants to be a prince — but not necessarily a boy.

## 8:45 PM FRIENDS AND FAMILY

"A cross between *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Sopranos*." And once you step foot into the wacky world of two adorable men, who just happen to be hit men for a ruthless Mafia Don, you'll roar with laughter the whole way through.

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9

## 8 PM CLAIRE

This film tells the tale of a rugged, gray-bearded gay farm couple that discovers a luminous moon child amid their corn harvest. Director Milford Thomas and composer Anne Richardson will attend the screening and hold a Q&A afterwards.

## THURSDAY, OCT. 10

## 7 PM SUGAR SWEET

This is a brash and sexy urban drama about the lives and loves of a group of lesbians struggling to make sense of their frenetic lives in modern-day Japan.

## 8:45 PM LIANNA

Set in an uptight academic town amid the repression of sexual double standards, *Lianna* is the tale of a young woman's sexual awakening when she meets Ruth, a professor whose urbane sophistication wildly entices Lianna.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 11

## 6:45 PM LAN YU

Lan Yu, a provincial boy newly arrived in Beijing to study architecture, finds a suitable arrangement with Chen Handong, the head of a trading company.

## 9 PM GUARDIAN OF THE FRONTIER

Three young women, bored with the rigors of university, needy boyfriends, and demanding parents, decide to canoe down the Kolpa River. What begins as a relaxing journey turns into a psychological drama.



The magical silent film *Claire* will be accompanied by musicians from the Florida Orchestra.

Continued on Page 8

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# TAMPA FILM FEST

8 September 26 - October 9, 2002

Continued from Page 7

## 11 PM WHEN BOYS FLY

Sparkling glitter. Revealing attire. Beautiful bodies. Pounding music. A sea of drugs. This is a non-fictional account of the circuit party scene.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 12

### 11 AM NOVELA, NOVELA

This film takes us behind the scenes of *Sexto Sentido*, one of Nicaragua's most surprising media successes: a socially conscious telenovela produced by the feminist non-profit group Puntos de Encuentro.



*Cockettes* looks at a tribe of queer, hippie, street performers circa 1970.

### 12:15 PM LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

Casual sex runs the gamut and this program shows it all.

#### OUT IN THE OPEN

An inside look at outdoor sex.

#### DOORS CUT DOWN

Features young men defying authorities, parents, and the police as they search for a little privacy.

#### HISTORIA DE AMOR EN EL BANO PUBLICO

A harshly beautiful look at young men and their fantasies.

#### BABY BLUE

A young man muses on the love he once shared.

#### BOYFRIEND

Complications alter the balance of a weekend affair.

### COFFEE, DESSERTS, LIGHTFAIR

Two friends realize they're dating the same man.

### 2:30 PM GIRL'S SHORTS

More shorts made with womyn in mind.

#### PUSSIES FROM OUTTA SPACE

A cartoonish adventure that blends the silent film genre with Hollywood B-horror.

#### LADIES TEA

An animated lesbian bar is deconstructed like a football field diagram.

#### LESBIANS WATCHING STRAIGHT PORN

Find out what happens when someone puts the wrong tape in the VCR.

#### MASTER LIBATION

Animation featuring a lusty naked lady who is hell bent on getting off.

#### BAR TALK

Takes us through a memorable line-up of women at the local club scene.

#### ON BECOMING A WOMAN

Follows one of the most important paths a girl follows on her journey to womanhood: love.

#### INTERVIEWS WITH MY NEXT GIRLFRIEND

A blind date is grilled with every intimate question anyone would ever need to ask.

### 4:30 PM GROUP

Follows eight women through 21 weeks of group therapy where they realize how challenging and stressful a "queer-friendly" support group can be. Director Marilyn Freeman will attend the screening.

### 6:30 PM A FAMILY AFFAIR

When Rachel Rosen is dumped, she flees New York for the comfort of mom's house in sunny California. Mom tries her best to cheer Rachel up by parading a stream of potential girlfriends in front of her.

### 9 PM THE BUSINESS OF FANCYDANCING (with THORN GRASS)

A highly personal tale of a successful gay writer who returns

to his former home on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

### 11 PM LUSTER

A sex-fueled tale of unrequited love, this film chronicles the lives of poets, record store clerks, painters, rock stars, and journalists, following these erratic individuals through a variety of settings, from orgies to book signings.

## SUNDAY, OCT. 13

### 11 AM THE LAST YEAR (At Teco Plaza)

Summer's over and Paul, in his final year of Bible college, has some "straightening out" to do, according to his father. But Paul just wants to re-kindle a flame with the hunky Hector, who has seemingly vanished.

### 1 PM QUEERCORE/SKIN (At Teco Plaza)

*Queercore* takes a look into the underground queercore scene, featuring interviews and performance footage of acts like The Gossip, Limp Wrist, and Dangerous. *Skin* follows William Byrd, a young gay skinhead living in Austin, Texas.

### NOON OLIVER BUTTON IS A STAR

A delightful and family-friendly production cleverly interwoven with a reading of *Oliver Button is a Sissy* to a first grade class, archival film clips, personal interviews, and home movies

### 1:30 PM DADDY & PAPA

This movie follows the filmmaker and his partner's decision to have a child. Offers filmgoers a chance to understand the very personal choices gay men and women make when they decide to buck conventional wisdom.

### 2:30 PM CONCERT: CRESCENDO/GAY MEN'S CHORUS

### 3 PM KALI'S VIBE (At Teco Plaza)

No longer content sitting home nights while her girl's out having fun on the side, protagonist Kali breaks it off and immerses herself in her job as a social worker while trying to play the dating game.

### 5:00 PM RUTHIE AND CONNIE

They're Jewish. They're grandmothers. They're lesbians. And they're hot! The story of these two grandmothers from Brooklyn, who winter in West Palm Beach, has set the world on fire.

### 5 PM YOUNG VOICES, NEW SOLUTIONS (At Teco Plaza)

Local and national cultural activists will be on hand to discuss youth's image in the media, how to create social change on a shoestring, and how to make your voice heard over the din of well-funded politicians.

### 6:30 PM FINDING YOURSELF (At Teco Plaza)

Two films that center around young lesbians and their heroines.

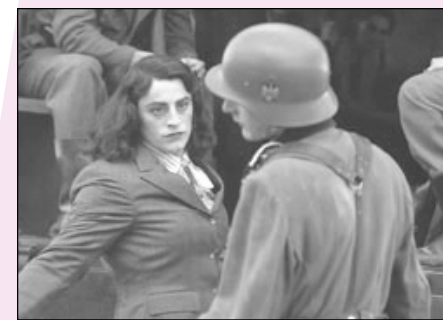
21 Being fifteen isn't always the easiest thing in the world, and for Leigh, life as a suburban lesbian just isn't cutting it.

#### PRETTY LADIES: A SUPER 8 EXPLOSION

Is a playful, all girl black and white fantasy that begins as a cute send-up of old silent comedies and morphs into a deliriously erotic, effects-filled dreamscape. Dir. Catherine Crouch will attend the screening.

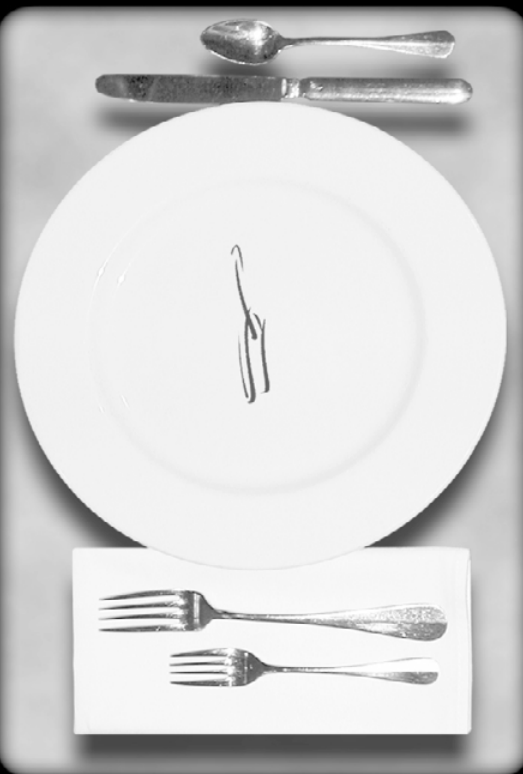
### 7:30 PM ALL THE QUEEN'S MEN

A farcical WW II-era tale about allied agents crossing more than just enemy lines. Matt LeBlanc and Eddie Izzard don dresses to end the war.



MATT LEBLANC stars as an undercover soldier in *All the Queen's Men*.

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The Pearl Fishers - 2000  
photo: Frank Atura



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10 September 26 - October 9, 2002



## A COCK & BULLDOG LOVE STORY

Short film *Pedro + Tony?* shows that gay dating can be "ruff," especially when your lover is not of your species. Interview by John Sullivan



PEDRO the dog and TONY the chicken find love and laughter in their animated short film.

Sometimes love is found in the most unlikely places and with the most unlikely individuals. They do say, after all, that opposites attract. So why be surprised that a dog has found love with a chicken?

That's right, a male dog and a male chicken. Pedro the dog and Tony the chicken are the subjects of an animated short film that examines the ins and outs of an interspecies relationship.

Pedro and Tony shared a little bit about themselves with *Watermark* and brought new meaning to "doggy style" along the way.

**WATERMARK:** How long have you been together now?

**PEDRO:** Umm, I think it has been six years now.

**TONY:** No, no. We haven't been together for six years honey — you're imagining things. It's been about a year and a half.

**P:** Well it feels like six years.

**T:** It would be about seven in dog years, wouldn't it?

**How did you two meet?**

**T:** It was old-fashioned animal magnetism actually. I saw him at a bar and he came over and licked me. Is that the way you remember it?

**P:** I, um, guess so.

**So it was love at first lick then?**

**T:** It was love at first lick. That's the way I like to think of it.

**When did you know for sure that you were in love?**

**T:** I knew right away, but I don't think Pedro knows yet.

**P:** Well, you know, I am not that fast so it takes me a while. Maybe it took me a month or so to get to that point but I had my U-haul ready.

**What was the coming out process like for each of you?**

**P:** For me it was not so bad really. When you think about it, dogs are all about unconditional love. This kind of stuff is not so much an issue with us.

**T:** My family is very liberal so when I first came out I think everyone pretty much expected it. You see, I am the most colorful one in my family... literally. I have much more orange than my brothers or sisters.

**P:** And it looks good.

**T:** Thank you. So when I came out my parents basically just thought that they would accept it and I would end up turning straight. They thought it was a phase. About a year later, when I was bringing other attractive animals home, they were like, "OK, you need to get over this."

**As an interspecies couple, what has been the hardest thing to overcome?**

**P:** Tony's a little cocky so it took me a while to get used to that. I guess in my eyes I expect that of poultry, but it took me a while to adjust because most of my partners before him were dogs. Like Tony said, his

parents are kind of patronizing, so...

**T:** I sort of inherited that a little bit.

**P:** A little bit?

**T:** There are a lot of cultural differences that I didn't expect when I first met Pedro. He's cute, he's furry, and that's enough for me. But I realized that dogs and chickens really do things differently. It's very hard to hold a dog up to chicken standards and vice-versa. The more that I have known Pedro, the more I realize that there's a lot of different types of wisdom out there. You just have to respect the ways other people do things.

**So have you guys ever given any thought to parenting? And would you go for a puppy or a chick?**

**T:** I think Pedro wants offspring more than I do.

**P:** Yeah, I have a lot of friends who have been going that route, so it has been on my mind.

**T:** Pedro, are you set on having it be a dog as a child? Do you care what species our kids are?

**P:** You know, if you are more indifferent than I am, then we may as well have a dog, I guess. We can always get a bird dog, right? A pointer or a beagle.

**Have you always been attracted to dogs Tony?**

**T:** No, I've actually been attracted to a variety of barnyard animals.

**Pedro have you always been attracted to chickens?**

**P:** When I was younger I used to chase chickens a lot but I didn't take them seriously back then. I was more serious about dogs as far as relationships went so this is fairly new for me.

**Who is the top and who is the bottom?**

**T:** (clucking) What a silly question!

**P:** I consider myself versatile, but you know...

**What keeps you two together?**

**T:** Companionship has a lot to do with it. When I first met Pedro I had a lot of ideas about what the relationship would be like. But I have moved past that now. It's a lot more about he cares for me and I care for him, and that ultimately is what really matters.

*Pedro + Tony? is part of the Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Fest's "Not For Adults" program on Oct. 6 at 11 AM.*

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## TAMPA BAY BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

### PINELLAS

#### 1. BACKROOM BAR

The oldest continuously gay bar in Tampa Bay. (Bartenders Timmy and Richard have each been there more than a decade.) Pool, darts, huge outdoor patio. karaoke Mon. and Fri. 14601 Gulf Blvd. across from the Gulf of Mexico in Madeira Beach. (727) 392-2814.

#### 2. BLUE JEANS

Beer and wine bar just west of the Gandy Bridge attracts mostly women, but lots of men, too. Darts, pool, live acts. Dart league on Tue., karaoke on Fri, DJ on Sat. 10387 W. Gandy Blvd., St. Pete. (727) 576-2583.

#### 3. BT'S WATERSIDE LANDING

Tampa Bay's northernmost nightclub celebrates 10 years in 2002. Large dance/show area, light meals. Bingo on Mon., karaoke on Tue., strippers on Thu., drag shows Fri. and Sat. 7737 Grand Blvd., New Port Richey. (727) 841-7900.

#### 4. 1470 WEST

Popular in N. Pinellas for more than a decade with men and women of all ages. Recently renovated with three bars, courtyard, dance floor. karaoke on Wed., country on Thu., and drag shows on Sat. 325 Main St., Dunedin. (727) 736-5483.

#### 5. GEORGIE'S ALIBI

This upbeat video bar with huge windows and a streetfront patio draws patrons from Tampa and Sarasota. The owner of the popular Ft. Lauderdale

club has found success in St. Pete, too. Dance floor, pool, darts, shows, and good food. What2Wear clothing is next door. 3100 3rd Ave. N. (727) 321-2112. [www.georgiesalibi.com](http://www.georgiesalibi.com).

#### 6. GRAND CENTRAL STATION

Formerly DT's, but only the location remains the same. Remodeled with large dance floor and show area, patio, pool, darts. Dancers most nights. In neighborhood undergoing gay gentrification. 2612 Central Ave., St. Pete. (727) 327-8204.

#### 7. THE HAYMARKET PUB

Recently renovated, and featuring live dancers, pool, and guaranteed friendly bartenders. 8308 4th St. N., St. Pete. (727) 577-9621.

#### 8. THE HIDEAWAY

Next door to The Haymarket Pub, this friendly women's bar has also been remodeled. Pool, karaoke, nightly specials. 8302 4th St. N., St. Pete. (727) 570-9025.

#### 9. LOST AND FOUND

Large Clearwater club with three bars, dance and stage area, pool and game room, novelty store. Porch bar features "Water Works" with wet strippers on Sun. afternoon. Karaoke on Thu. 5858 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater. (727) 539-8903.

#### 10. THE OAR HOUSE

Neighborhood bar between St. Pete and Gulfport features lots of friendly regulars and pool, darts, and finger foods most nights. 4807 22nd Ave. S., St. Pete. (727) 327-1691 and [oarhouseofstpete.com](http://oarhouseofstpete.com).

#### 11. THE OTHER SIDE

Beer and wine bar draws mixed neighborhood crowd. Sandwiches and appetizers, pool, darts, video, patio, and two "singing bartenders." Recently remodeled with expansion plans. 5571 4th St. N., St. Pete. (727) 528-9843.

#### 12. THE PRO SHOP

Surrounded by highrises, this cozy and popular Clearwater institution recently celebrated it's 25th anniversary. Pool, video, novelty shop, patio, and the flirtest bartenders in Pinellas. 840 Cleveland St., Clearwater. (727) 447-4259.

#### 13. RAFTERS

Recently moved to new location with the feel of a western saloon. Mixed and friendly crowd. Piano bar, pool, darts, karaoke on Thu. 5304 N. 66th St., St. Pete. (727) 549-9041.

#### 14. SHARP A'S

Large dance and stage area for popular drag shows. Pool, video, bingo on Tue. and darts on Wed. 4918 22nd Ave. S. (Gulfport Blvd.), Gulfport. (727) 327-4897.

#### 15. SPORTS PAGE PUB

Largo women's bar with pool, darts, dance floor, live acts. Karaoke on Wed. 13344 6th St. N., Largo. (727) 538-3430. [www.sportspagegirls.com](http://www.sportspagegirls.com).

#### 16. SUNCOAST RESORT

Huge complex features hotel, shops, restaurants, piano bar, dance bar, poolside Tiki bar, and leather bar. Popular Sunday T-dance and watch for lots of special events. 3000 34th St. N., St. Pete. (727) 867-1111. [www.suncoastresort.com](http://www.suncoastresort.com).

#### 17. SUNDAZE

Pinellas County's newest women's space is open Fri.-Sun. Large indoor bar and spacious outdoor patio host DJ Sapho and bands like Halcyon and Pop Zero. Plans call for expansion to the adjoining hotel and restaurant. 107 3rd Ave. S., St. Pete. (727) 692-8613. [www.wetsundaze.com](http://www.wetsundaze.com).

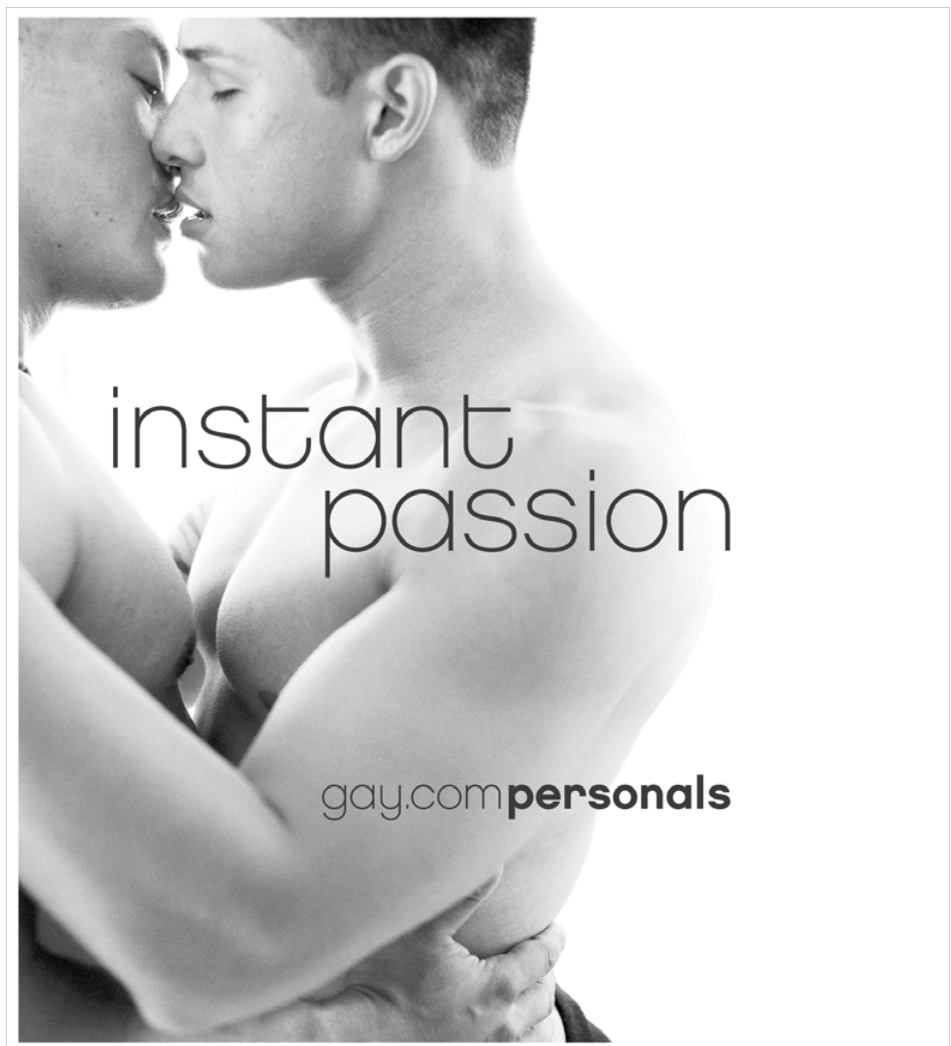
### TAMPA

#### 1. BAXTERS

Popular S. Tampa bar with pool tables, darts, and a back patio. Male dancers Thu.-Sat., and karaoke Wed. and Sun. 1519 S. Dale Mabry. (813) 258-8830.

#### 2. THE CHAMBERS

This huge two-level club just north of downtown used to be a stripper bar, and boy do those male dancers have fun with the stage poles. Upstairs there's dance, video, and a stage for performers



like Stephanie Shippae. Cover charge. 1701 N. Franklin St. (813) 223-1300.

### 3. THE CHEROKEE CLUB

Brick and brass make this possibly the nicest women's club in the state. Located above Cafe Creole in Ybor City, featuring two bars, dance floor, pool. Open Fri. and Sat. only. Cover charge. 1320 E. 9th Ave. (813) 247-9966.

### 4. CITY LIMITS

Pool table, darts, dance floor, lounge, and full restaurant in the only bar in East Tampa. Karaoke on Thursdays, Latin Night on Sundays. 902 E. Brandon Blvd., Brandon. (813) 571-7200.

### 5. CITY SIDE

A South Tampa institution for 11 years, this neighborhood bar is popular after work and draws a good crowd most every night. Don't miss Sandi Moody on Wed., Fri., and Sun. Karaoke on Sat. and Sun. 3810 Neptune Dr., just off Dale Mabry. (813) 254-6466.

### 6. FACTORY

Huge dance club goes gay in a big way on Friday nights. Two huge dance floors, five bars, outdoor patio, upstairs private room, live shows and dancers. Cover after 10 PM. 802 E. Whiting St.

(813) 805-2028. [www.factorytampa.com](http://www.factorytampa.com).

### 7. 421 SALOON

Friendly South Tampa neighborhood bar features pool, patio. 421 S. MacDill Ave. (813) 354-8797.

### 8. JOEY'S

Formerly The Northside Lounge and The Brigg, now completely redone as a friendly neighborhood bar for North Tampa. Jukebox, darts, and a pool table that's always in use. Karaoke on Wed., strippers on Sat. 9002 N. Florida Ave. (813) 935-9771.

### 9. THE JUNGLE

South Tampa bar features upscale decor, patio, dancers, pool and darts. Big on Friday, but always popular. 3703 Henderson Blvd. (813) 877-3290.

### 10. KEITH'S

Cheers-like atmosphere with regular clientele, popular in North Tampa for 14 years. Pool, darts, patio, karaoke on Wed. A free buffet on Sun. attracts local softballers. 14905 N. Nebraska Ave. (813) 971-3576. [www.keithsbar.com](http://www.keithsbar.com).

### 11. KI KI KI III

Small and cruisy neighborhood bar just west of downtown is a Tampa staple. 1908 W. Kennedy Blvd. (813) 254-8183.

### 12. KIM'S

Recently moved to a new location, Kim's is a great place for women to party and play. Dance floor, pool table, patio, live entertainment, and four popular owners who make sure everyone has a good time. 2408 W. Kennedy Blvd. (813) 254-4188.

### 13. METROPOLIS

Convenient to downtown and South Tampa, popular and intimate bar has dancing, pool, darts, strippers on Fri. and Sat. Popular late. 3447 W. Kennedy Blvd. (813) 871-2410. [www.metrotampa.com](http://www.metrotampa.com).

### 14. PLEASUREDOME

Tampa's huge "alternative playground" is gay on Thursdays. Live shows. 1430 E. 7th Ave., Ybor City. (813) 247-2711. [www.pleasuredomeonline.com](http://www.pleasuredomeonline.com).

### 15. TROPICS

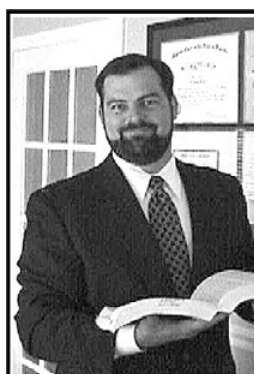
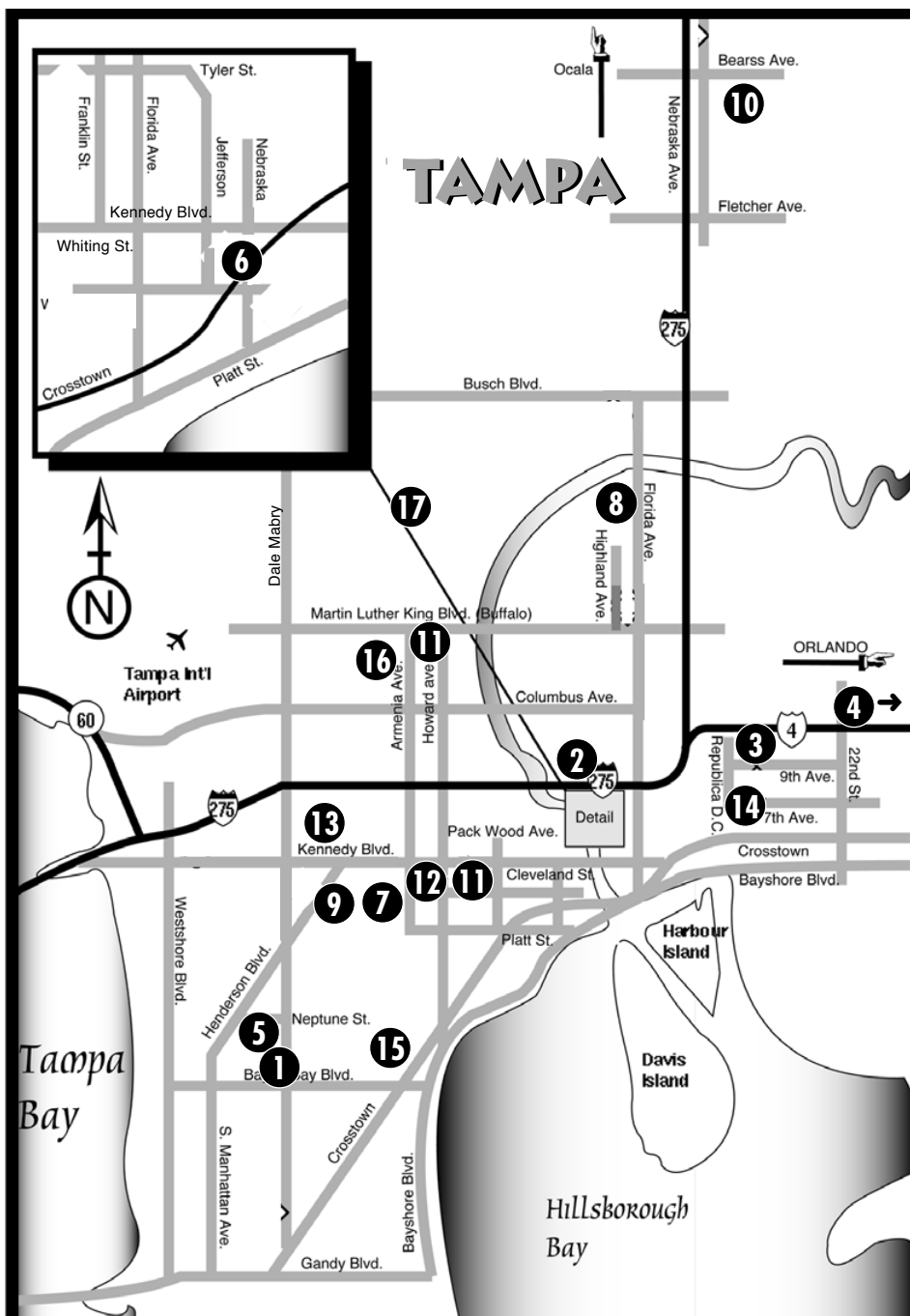
Popular and upscale gay restaurant and lounge in Palma Ceia neighborhood of South Tampa. The food is great, and expect to see friends. Open 4 PM-midnight. 2801 S. MacDill Ave. (813) 837-1836.

### 16. 2606

Cruisy levi/leather bar with two levels, dancers, video porn, leather shop, pool, darts. Always fun, but most popular late. 2606 Armenia Ave. (813) 875-6993. [www.2606.com](http://www.2606.com).

### 17. VALENTINE'S

North Tampa nightclub with a salsa beat. Dance floor, stage, pool, patio. Country on Mon., karaoke on Wed., strippers on Thu., drag on Fri., and talent shows on Sun. 7522 N. Armenia Ave. (813) 936-1999. [www.valentinesnightclub.com](http://www.valentinesnightclub.com).



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## THE UNLIKELIEST GATOR

ACCLAIMED NOVELIST DAVID LEAVITT NOW TEACHES AT U OF F, AND WILL VISIT TAMPA TO DISCUSS THE FILM ADAPTATION OF ONE OF HIS NOVELS. BY TOM DYER

GAINESVILLE - Some would say David Leavitt has led a charmed life.

He grew up in privileged Palo Alto, California, attended Yale University, and was published in *The New Yorker* at age 21. Award-winning novels and short story collections followed, bringing Leavitt success enough to divide his time between the states and such exotic locales

as Barcelona and Rome. His second full novel, *The Lost Language of Cranes*, was made into a groundbreaking film for public television.

And now he's landed in Florida's most atmospheric college town — Gainesville — where he lives with partner and collaborator Mark Mitchell in the bucolic Duck Pond district and

teaches creative writing to masters level students at the University of Florida.

But in truth, Leavitt is less like a character in a Jackie Collins novel, and more like a character in, well, one of his own. His stories are rich with the tortured internal dialogue of characters that are as ambitious as they are insecure. And he captures the superior self-loathing of the closeted intellectual with breathtaking insight. All in language that is as unexpected as it is beautiful.

As one reviewer noted, "Leavitt has no qualms about showing up his alter ego's moral and emotional shortcomings." For gay men skilled at ethical gymnastics, Leavitt's novels are liberating in their fluorescent truthfulness.

One of Leavitt's most plot-driven books — *The Page Turner* — is his second to be filmed, and it is one of the most anticipated offerings at this year's Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Re-titled *Food of Love*, it was adapted for the screen and directed by Leavitt's friend, Spanish filmmaker Ventura Pons.

*Food of Love* is about gifted piano student Paul Porterfield, and his involvement with a famous and much older concert pianist.

"Ventura wrote me and said he wanted to do a movie based on the book, and I was all for it," Leavitt said. "His films are wonderful — very intimate and unflinching."

Although Pons lifts much of the dialogue from the book, Leavitt did not help directly with the screenplay. Instead, he reviewed a final draft and suggested minor revisions.

"I think it's a beautiful film," he said. "The actors are very much like the characters I envisioned."

Until recently, Leavitt lived primarily in the Italian province of Tuscany. But Gainesville has been home for the past two years.

"The university was looking for a fiction writer, and they invited me to apply," Leavitt said. "Mark grew up near Tallahassee and I've always had a fondness

for this part of the country. I love it."

Leavitt also loves teaching, despite a problematic relationship with some of his own mentors. In fact his most recent full novel, *Martin Bauman; or, A Sure Thing*, uses the title character's conflicted feelings for a charismatic mentor as a plot pivot.

"I learn an enormous amount from my students," Leavitt said. "But it's necessary to be tough sometimes. If not, they won't learn anything. Inevitably though, the students do most of the teaching themselves."

Asked if he participates in the University's best-known extracurricular activity, Leavitt chuckles.

"I wouldn't go to a football game for all the tea in china," he said. "I try to avoid those crowds."

Leavitt says Gainesville is a good place to write, but his students make clear that the process has changed for him.

"It comes naturally to young writers,"

Leavitt said. "They have stories that they urgently have to tell, and the writing is almost an intuitive, natural act. The older you get, the more inventing you have to do, and the more self-conscious you become. But in some ways it's more rewarding... you have to go into your imagination."

Like Andrew Holleran, who also lives near Gainesville, Leavitt has mined all levels of the gay male experience in his novels. But his next

book will be different.

"I'm getting a little tired [of those themes]," he said. "I think historically they've been a part of gay experience, but I don't think they have to be... I don't think they reflect any sort of universal truth about our lives. And the novel I'm working on now is not gay at all. Human experience is universal. There's no reason to be limited." ▼

David Leavitt will attend the screening of *Food of Love* at Centro Ybor Muvico on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 PM, and will answer questions afterward.



Author DAVID LEAVITT: "The older you get, the more inventing you have to do."

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### DAVID LEAVITT: A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

**FAMILY DANCING: STORIES** (1984) - Interplay between different characters - a gay son bringing his lover home, a boy who's parents are divorcing, a woman facing chemotherapy — at turning points in their lives.

**THE LOST LANGUAGE OF CRANES** (1986) - A family is tested when secrets of both father and son are revealed.

**EQUAL AFFECTIONS** (1989) - Gay siblings have an unwell mother and philandering father.

**A PLACE I'VE NEVER BEEN** (1990) - A collection of 10 short stories.

**WHILE ENGLAND SLEEPS** (1993) - Love grows between London aristocrat and a communist worker.

**THE PAGE TURNER** (1998) - An affair between a concert pianist and his protege blooms in Barcelona and Rome, despite a mother's interference.

**ARKANSAS: THREE NOVELLAS** (1998) - Possibly Leavitt's best work, including "The Term Paper Artist" about a writer who drafts college papers for sex.

**MARTIN BAUMAN; OR A SURE THING** (2000) - A young writer tries to find his voice and himself amidst strong personalities amongst New York literati.

**THE MARBLE QUILT** (2001) - Nine stories focusing on human relationships set throughout the twentieth century.

**IN MAREMMA: LIFE AND A HOUSE IN SOUTHERN TUSCANY** (2001) - Humorous stories about life in a poor region of the Italian province.



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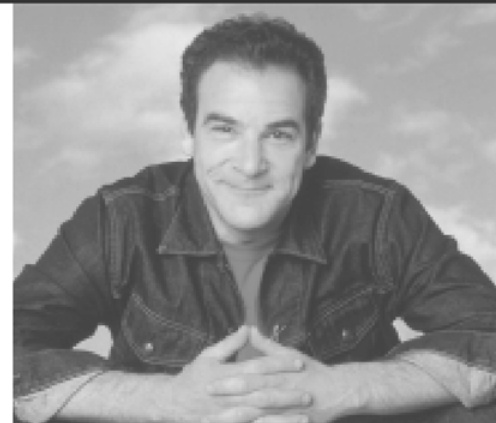
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## KEEPING UP WITH STEVE GUTTENBERG

Out of breath actor Steve Guttenberg talks about his directorial debut *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*. Interview by John Sullivan

Steve Guttenberg was huffing and puffing when I spoke with him via telephone last week. I knew the adorable star of films like *Can't Stop the Music*, *Cocoon*, *Police Academy*, *Three Men and a Baby*, and *Short Circuit* was a busy guy, but it sounded like he was sprinting all over southern California as we chatted. I kept thinking that this poor guy needs a rest.

As it turned out, though, Guttenberg, was talking to me while he was putting miles on his treadmill from the comfort of his office. While going about his daily workout routine, Guttenberg explained that despite a successful film career, his roots are in theater. That's how he decided that his first project as director/producer/co-screenwriter and star would be an adaptation of the stage comedy/drama *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*.

In the movie, Guttenberg plays Jimmy Zoole, an actor/writer/avant-garde puppeteer. On New Years Eve, Jimmy is mourning the death of his best friend, is dumped by his girlfriend, and finds out his cat has died. Before he can wonder what more could go wrong, he finds a hunky gay burglar hiding under his bed. Filmgoers can find out what happens when *P.S. Your Cat is Dead* is previewed at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival on Oct. 7.

**WATERMARK:** What made you decide to write, direct, and star in *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*?

**STEVE GUTTENBERG:** I've been making movies for 25 years and I felt that it was time. That's basically it. I felt that it was time to step out and do my own production.

**What about the character Jimmy Zoole appealed to you?**

I thought that it was going to be a little bit of work to play that part and I was up for the challenge. I felt that he comprises some qualities that are very topical today: loneliness and the desire for control. That really is something that is so prevalent in our world today.

**The circumstances that lead to Jimmy snapping are all things that could happen to anyone. Do you think that we all have that potential in us, to just go over the edge like that?**

Yes. That's the meaning of the whole piece, that we are all very common that way. At one point in our lives pretty much everybody is that desperate. You find yourself very unhappy and you need to fix things. There are many times in our lives where we find ourselves at a loss. Many times at the middle of our lives a crisis will occur that defines us. Part of the play deals with the fact that



STEVE GUTTENBERG co-wrote, produced, directed, and stars in the movie *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*, playing at the Tampa Gay and Lesbian Film Fest on Oct. 7.





sometimes it takes a crisis to wake us up — and Jimmy's had a crisis.

**What is it that you want the audience to take away from this film?**

(Laughing) That they loved this movie and that it was great and they are going to tell all of their friends!

**Why do you think it took as long as it did for a film version of the novel and play to be made?**

There is no explaining art and how long art takes to do. Most movies take six or seven years from the time that the idea is borne and it develops.

Everything takes a lot of time; it's the natural way.

**The character of Jimmy seems to be mistaken for gay at every turn. Is this something that you have to deal with?**

Hmm, no. Yet I think that Jimmy is questioning his sexuality, without a doubt. He's questioning a lot of things in his life.

You spent some time in the Tampa Bay

**area back in the mid-80s when you were filming *Cocoon*. Do you have fond memories of your stay here?**

I have many and it would be hard to describe all of them. Just I thought it was an idyllic spot. The people were great. I really, really enjoyed myself.

**P.S. Your *Cat is Dead* is dedicated to James Kirkwood, who wrote the novel, and also Sal Mineo, the late actor. How does Mineo figure into this?**

He played the part originally onstage in San Francisco. He was also supposed to play the part in Los Angeles but two weeks before the play opened he was murdered as he

walked home from rehearsal.

**Do you have a favorite actor you have worked with?**

I don't have a favorite of the people I have worked with. They were all pretty great. I would love to work with Jessica Lange and I would love to work with Sean Penn. I



STEVE GUTTENBERG says *P.S. Your Cat is Dead* is a darkly comedic look at the crisis it sometimes takes to wake us up.

think he is just such an amazing power. I would also love to work with Martin Scorsese or to have the opportunity to work with Brett Ratner, who I think makes great movies. I think I would also like to have the opportunity to work with Wynona Ryder, she's really talented. I would also like to do something that has John Williams' music on it because I think he is just a tremendous icon.

**What's next for Steve Guttenberg?**

I don't know. I have a lot of good possibilities, a few movies, and I've got some plays. I am developing a bunch of things, some comedies. It's like I have a bunch of things on the stove and we are waiting to see what's ready first. ▽

*P.S. Your Cat is Dead* is playing at the Tampa Theatre on Oct. 7 at 6:45 PM.

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## CIRCUIT KING

continued from page 1

naïve and have stars in their eyes,” says Shafer. “The whole mystique of being more beautiful, and becoming more popular seduces them. They get so caught up with being the queen of the prom that they end up losing their income and they become crystal addicts.”

This aspect of the circuit scene isn’t only visible in L.A. and the other gay Meccas but also in smaller cities across America. Shafer’s film shows how easy and ugly the downward spiral into drug dependency can be.

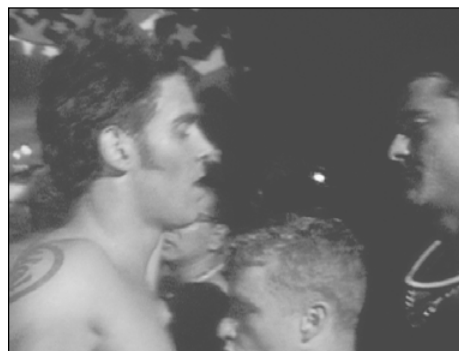
“I think it’s partly because society puts such a negative spin on being gay,” says Shafer. “Growing up we are always taught that being gay is bad, it’s different, and it’s unusual. I think drugs open us up and allow us to be more warm and loving to each other. The down side is that unfortunately they are dangerous, unhealthy, and they make you depressed.”

Without trying to pass moral judgement one way or the other, Shafer’s film allows us to see the circuit world from every level. From the promoters and the entertainers to the party-goers, *Circuit* shines a light on more than just the dance floor. And Shafer, who annually attends at least one circuit party, says his film is very close to the truth.

“I have connected with guys at these things and I’ve had a twenty-minute kiss

session without coming up for air — so I know what it can be like,” Shafer says. “I wanted to tell the dark and the light side and I wanted to keep it as truthful as possible.”

The cast of *Circuit* is comprised mainly of straight actors, but several gay celebs make appearances. Jim J Bullock, *Grease* director Randal Kleiser, Bruce Vilanch, and a rock hard pop singer Paul Lekakis, who shows that he still has some



Hector (JOHN KHABBAZI) gets close to his buddies while dancing in director Dirk Shafer’s *Circuit*.

boom-boom left, are all in the movie.

Although it was fairly easy to find openly gay stars to fill the supporting roles it was a bit harder to find anyone who was willing to take on the lead roles and any implications about their private lives that came with it.

“There were a few soap stars and people on series that we approached that were just so afraid of the material. They

read it on the page and they can’t see it,” says Shafer.

Many actors who were interested in the film were afraid that if they did the movie then they would be forced to confront being gay publicly. When it came time to promote this film they would have to risk being asked the inevitable questions about their own sexuality.

“They are just too afraid to come out,” Shafer says of those closeted actors. “Most of the actors that I know who are working are still too afraid of gay roles or coming out.”

So casting problems aside, one has to wonder what it was like to direct gorgeous straight guys in steamy gay sex scenes. Shafer says that before he cast his leads he sat the actors down and had a rather graphic talk about what was going to be expected of them.

“I tried to scare the shit out of them up front so they would know going in not to take the part if they were going to get cold feet,” says Shafer.

Shafer says that he had to choreograph *Circuit*’s love scenes in order to get what he wanted.

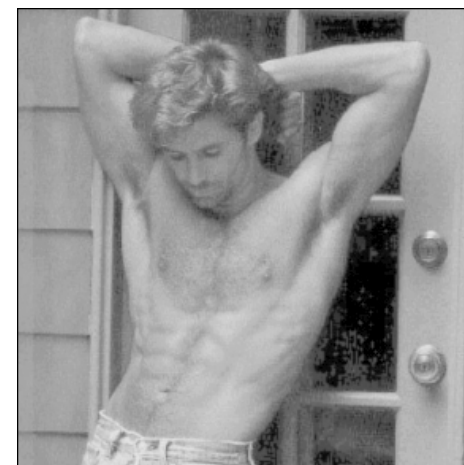
“I had to tell them, ‘OK, now your going to lick his neck from the bottom of his collarbone all the way up to his earlobe,’” says Shafer. “I couldn’t just say, ‘Spank his tight, sweet little virgin ass! You like that, don’t you?’”

With *Circuit* in the can and two more movies on the way — one that he wrote

and directed for MTV and the other a gay romantic comedy — Shafer admits that his centerfold days are far behind him.

“Yeah, I would like to do a re-pose like Nancy Sinatra but I’d like to wear boots of my own,” he says with a laugh. “The first time that I saw a naked guy was in *Playgirl*. I always thought that being in *Playgirl* would be the ultimate compliment. That was the only magazine that mattered to me so once I did it I had no desire to do it ever again.” ▼

Film goers can see Shafer at the Tampa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival screening of *Circuit* on Sat., Oct. 5 at the Tampa Theatre at 10:30 PM.



Before he became a director, DIRK SHAFER was *Playgirl*’s Man of the Year, an experience he later turned into a movie comedy.

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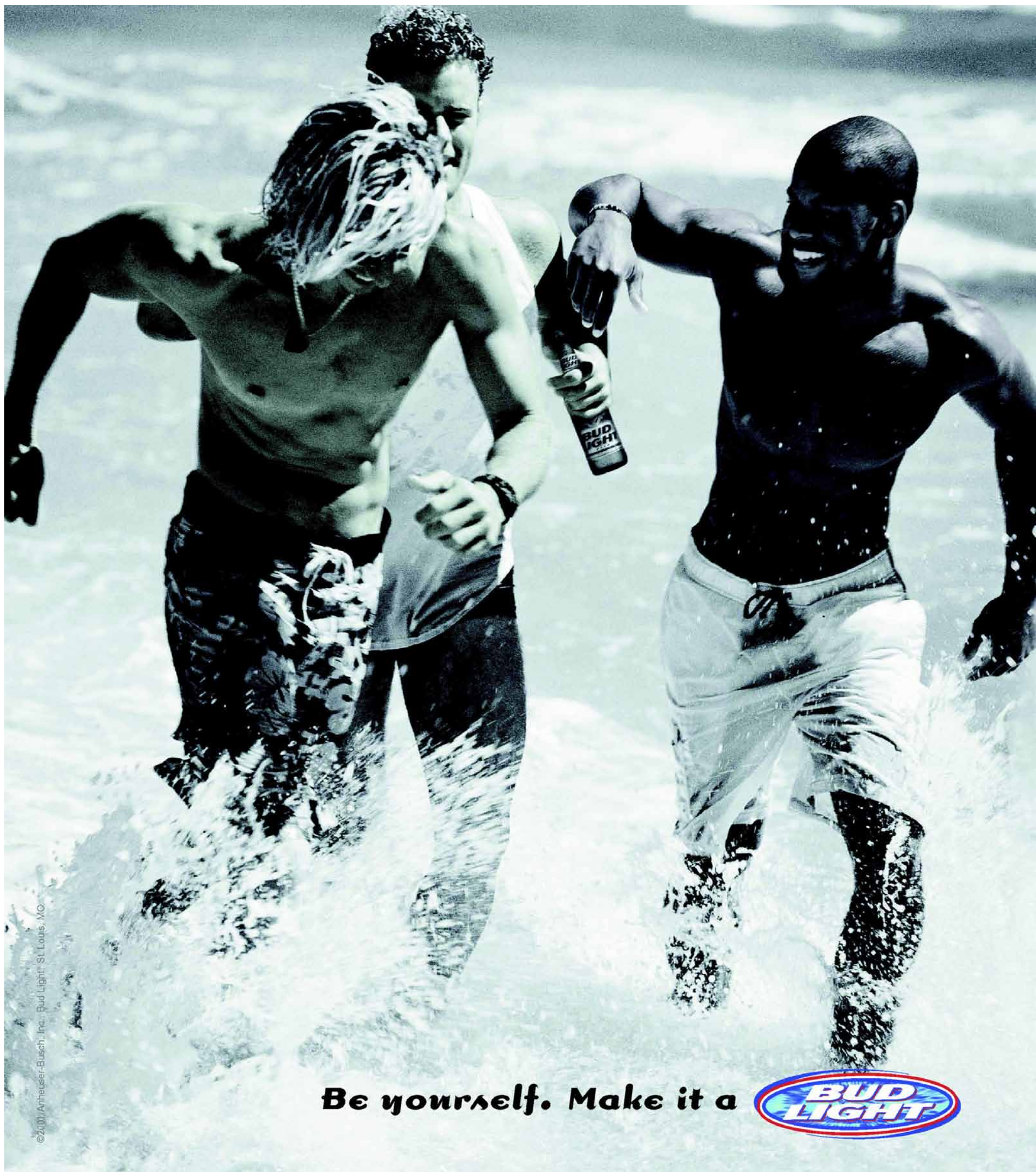


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