

ISSUE 12.18

SEPTEMBER 8-21, 2005



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Florida's Distinctive Gay and Lesbian Publication  
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- The raid on the Parliament House
- Helping the victims of Katrina



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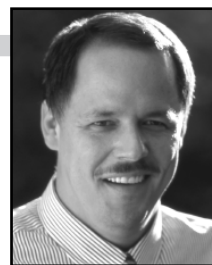
Merging styles ... fixing home-decorating stores ... shopping on-line ... Brini's new book.

## ABOUT THE COVER

You've bought the house and backed up the U-Haul. What happens when you love your new sweetheart, but hate his stuff? Tableau courtesy of Richard Laferriere and Ron Mummert of Ron's Miniature Shop in Orlando  
Photo by Travis Moore



MIKE AMERSON (left) and LEE LANDMAN trekked from Jacksonville to attend Sept. 4's Gay Days Tampa Bay at the Florida Aquarium. Read more about the weekend on page 11. Photo by Rex Maniscalco



# Editor's Desk

By DAVE WIETHOP

Even as the floodwaters continued to rise last week in New Orleans, a group of finger-waggers calling themselves Repent America began blaming yet another crisis on gay people.

In that rich tradition of the Rev. Pat Robertson — whose prediction of that hurricane that would destroy Orlando for flying rainbow flags was off the mark by at least six years and a great deal of velocity — Repent America director Michael Marcavage proclaimed that “this act of God destroyed a wicked city. From *Girls Gone Wild* to Southern Decadence, New Orleans was a city that had its doors wide open to the public celebration of sin. From the devastation may a city full of righteousness emerge.”

Oh, my goodness. I guess he didn't get his tickets for Southern Decadence, one of the biggest queer parties on that side of the Mississippi River, did he?

And while I feel badly for the losses felt by the Rev. Bill Shanks, the pastor of the New Covenant Fellowship of New Orleans, his statements prove that Hurricane Katrina even affected some idiots.

“New Orleans now is abortion-free. New Orleans now is Mardi Gras-free. New Orleans now is free of Southern Decadence and the sodomites, the witchcraft workers — it's free of all of those things now,” Shanks wailed from the safety of Jackson, Miss.

Now, allow me to drop to *his* level for a moment and point out that if God truly intended to punish any particular groups of people, He certainly managed to single out three Red States this time. You haven't seen hurricanes hit, say, Milwaukee or Kalamazoo, cities that are well outside of Jesusland, have you? (The fact that it's also climatologically impossible for Category 4 hurricanes to hit Wisconsin or Michigan is not part of this argument, but common sense and science seldom work with the Far Right.)

I believe that it's not a real crisis until gays and lesbians have been blamed for it. Rev. Jerry Falwell apologized for blaming us for the attacks on the World Trade Center, and pundits pointed to our desire for equal rights as the reason for Sen. John Kerry's defeat in the presidential race 11 months ago.

Gay priests have been attacked for the pedophilia scandals within the Catholic Church and the pursuit of same-sex marriage has been targeted as reason why heterosexual marriages fail.

Rush Limbaugh even once hinted that the Abu Ghraib prison scandal may have been the result of *homosexuals*.

If Pat Robertson would have had his act together last Christmas, he could have blamed Asia's tsunami on us as well — and trust me, I was waiting for that to happen.

But before the waters had even begun to crest in New Orleans or before the first resident of the worst-hit areas of Mississippi or Alabama had been allowed to return to what used to be their homes, nearly everyone I knew had begun to point fingers at the apparent failures of the evacuation and relief efforts.

I'm not saying that these theories are necessarily wrong; I do believe that it's a poorly timed effort. I like Sen. Hillary Clinton's idea of conducting a 9/11-style “Katrina Commission” to find concrete answers to the questions that so many have raised.

In fact, we should all take the energy that we've used in exploring the these conspiracies and convert it to cash and volunteer help for the relief efforts. On page 28 of this issue, long-time columnist Ken Kundis writes about the loss of New Orleans, a city that he has loved so much.

We've also included a short list of charities that we should all know by now — the American Red Cross, the Humane Society, the Universal Fellowship of MCCs and the Salvation Army — that deserve our attention.

While we cannot control what the Far Right will blame the gay community for next, we can prove that we're better than they are through our generous contributions and thoughtful actions. As soon as we all understand that it's really all about the future and not about the past, we'll all be fine.

This issue of *Watermark* also includes a look at what really happened at the Parliament House late on Aug. 28, as well as the continued efforts by Equality Florida to wage a boycott to support GLBT-friendly businesses in Hillsborough County.

Our fall Home Décor Issue examines what happens when styles merge when the U-Haul pulls up, as well as tidbits about fixing home-decorating shows and how to shop on-line.

In the wake of Katrina's wrath, home never looked so good. I'm sure you'll find this issue of *Watermark* to be insightful, entertaining and informative. ▼

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## PREVIEW

# Water Picks

Events You Shouldn't Miss

## ORLANDO

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 10**

The nation's first openly gay congressman comes to town for a special benefit for the ACLU of Florida. **AN EVENING WITH REP. BARNEY FRANK** begins with a VIP reception at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$50 for VIP admission and \$100 for premium VIP admission. For more information, call Elaine Ozrovitz at (305) 576-2337, ext. 13, or send an e-mail to eozrovitz@aclu.org.

**THURSDAY – SATURDAY, SEPT. 15-17**

Legs, thighs, breasts – they're not just pieces of chicken, they're human body parts which will be on display during the all-new **NUDE NITE**. There will be 200 works of edgy and provocative art, not erotica, by 100 artists, ranging from fine art, sculpture, body painting, plaster casting, live model painting, and more. The event takes place at The Cornerstone Building, 150 N. Orange Ave. Tickets are available at the door with \$5 discount coupons available at Urban Think and the Downtown Media Arts Center. For more information, visit [NudeNiteOrlando.com](http://NudeNiteOrlando.com).

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 17**

Joy MCC is hosting a **HOMEcoming PARTY**, which will feature food, dancing and other surprises. The party will celebrate "music through the decades" and participants are encouraged to dress in the style of their favorite decade. The event takes place at Vista Del Lago Ballroom, 8687 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway near Kissimmee. Tickets are \$25 each and are available through the church office. Call (407) 894-1081 or visit [JoyMCC.com](http://JoyMCC.com) for details.

## TAMPA BAY

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 10**

Trading clerical collars for chaps and spurs, it's the 34th Anniversary (!!!) **WESTERN HOEDOWN** at MCC of Tampa. The evening starts with a barbeque chicken and ribs dinner from Big John's Alabama Barbecue at 6 p.m., followed by country dancing from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and available at the church or by calling (813) 239-1951. MCC of Tampa is located at 408 Cuyuga St.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 16**

A feature-length documentary version of the Sundance Channel's series, **TRANSGENERATION**, will be screened at the Metro Center in St. Petersburg Sept. 16. The docu and the series follows four transgendered college students as they explore the various phases of their new lives. The movie includes testimony from the four subjects' families and friends and

promises to illustrate the movement toward a new definition of sexuality and gender identities. The movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Metro Center, 3170 Third Ave. N. in St. Petersburg.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 17**

The annual **PLUNGE PARTY** to benefit the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17. Tickets for the event at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa are \$20 for general admission and \$50 for VIP admission. To purchase tickets, visit [www.tiglff.com](http://www.tiglff.com) and click on "events."

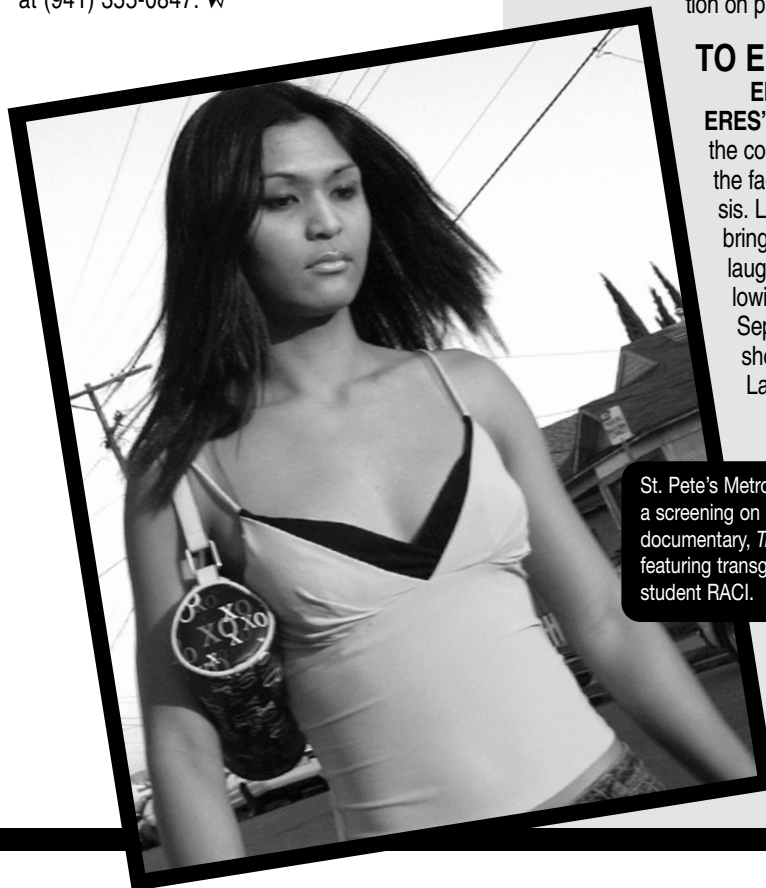
**FRIDAY, SEPT. 28**

The last screening in the **TAMPA INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL'S** summer film series will be held at St. Pete's Palladium at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, with the Spanish film, **BEAR CUB**. Sexy, thought-provoking and earnest, the film tells the story of a gay dentist in Madrid who suddenly ends up with his inquisitive nephew as his charge. Happy Hour begins at 6 p.m.

## SARASOTA

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 23**

**TRINITY CHARITIES** will host **AN EVENING WITH DON BEAUDREULT**, a benefit dinner and concert for HIV and AIDS service organizations on Friday, Sept. 23. Beaudreault, who is the pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sarasota, will perform in a variety of musical styles, including jazz, Dixieland, blues, standards and show tunes. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$20. For more information, contact Trinity Charities at (941) 355-0847. ▼



St. Pete's Metro Center will offer a screening on Sept. 16 of the documentary, *TransGeneration*, featuring transgender college student RACI.

# Water Cooler

People are Talking

## SOUTHERN FORTITUDE AFTER KATRINA'S BLAST

The physical and emotional scars from **HURRICANE KATRINA** will remain in New Orleans, Biloxi, Miss., and Gulfport, Ala., for years to come. Yet, survivors of the storm hope that it will be business as usual by late October.

Consider this e-mail that many received from **SOUTHERN DECADENCE** promoter **JOHNNY CHISHOLM** before Labor Day Weekend:

"I regret to inform you that due to Hurricane Katrina, Southern Decadence in New Orleans has been officially cancelled. For those who purchased passes for the weekend, a credit will be issued to your credit card account.

"We have been in contact with all of our staff and everyone is safe but a lot have sustained damage to their homes and property. The club (Oz, a popular New Orleans gay night spot) itself has taken some damage but we hope to re-open by Halloween.

"Thanks for the e-mails and prayers from all of you ... and your support and understanding."

The festivities were also quickly cancelled by the organizers of the 2005 Convergence, the party hosted by the Affiliated Big Men's Club in New Orleans this year. Some 600 reservations were cancelled.

For more information about Southern Decadence and Oz, visit [SouthernDecadence.net](http://SouthernDecadence.net) or [SouthernDecadence.com](http://SouthernDecadence.com).

And don't miss **KEN KUNDIS'** heart-felt column about the city he loves so much in *Watermark's* Viewpoint section on page 28.

## TO ELLEN BACK ELLEN DeGEN-ERES'

may have become the country's go-to gal in the face of a national crisis. Long-remembered for bringing some of the first laughs to television following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, her chat show returned on Labor Day without her

customary dancing — but with an upbeat, yet serious take on Katrina's devastation.

DeGeneres is a native of New Orleans, with several family members remaining in the area. She didn't dance, didn't offer her monologue but brought on an American Red Cross official to explain the need for the nation's help.

The dancing, incidentally, may return less often. The loose-limbed lesbian said the dancing was never supposed to get so much attention but sees that it resonates for a lot of people who enjoy that sense of joy.

Once again, her timing is impeccable.

## THE LATEST SAGA OF THE SASH QUEENS

To prove that a pageant is a pageant, regardless of if the contestants are women, men impersonating women or just men, all you have to do is look at the murmurs surrounding the **MR. GAY TAMPA BAY** pageant last month.

Originally, 10 contestants from bars around the Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg area were scheduled to send their contestants to the area finals at Grand Central Station. But only one contestant showed up — Grand Central's own finalist, **"MICHAEL."**

Apparently, other bar owners refused to send their winners because the finals were not held in their bars. According to pageant promoter Terry Pruitt, since those bars didn't pay entry fees, the contestants couldn't compete.

Fortunately, one bar patron decided to strut his stuff and earned a much-deserved "First Runner-Up" title. Any pageant, apparently, can have its fair share of drama — even without the wigs and two-piece swimsuits.

## HERE'S MUD IN YOUR VODKA RED BULL

Yeah, you *think* you look tough driving that SUV around town; that driving a vehicle by the name of Expedition, Sequoia, Trail Blazer or Hummer is enough to up your level of testosterone — as perceived by other drivers.

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## HEADLINE

# MINOR STINGING

A dramatic bust at the Parliament House leads to tightened policies on underage drinking by Kirk Hartlage

ORLANDO - It was a Sunday night like any other at the Parliament House – packed, and possibly a little more jubilant than usual. Hurricane Katrina, which had just done serious damage in South Florida, was headed west and away from still-jittery Central Florida. What better reason to party down at the resort's weekly T-dance?

But late on Aug. 28, dance floor lights merged with the flashing blue strobes of Orlando Police Department squad cars and the glaring whites of television camera crews. Celebration gave way to conflict and confusion as more than a dozen bartenders – some dressed scantily for success – were led away in handcuffs, forcing the nightclub to close its doors for the remainder of the evening.

Sting operations of this kind, commanded by the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, are predictable at

successful bars and nightclubs – especially those admitting patrons under the legal drinking age. But the rumor mill was soon working overtime, fueling speculation that anti-gay forces, competitors, and even that the mayor had instigated the bust.

## UNDERAGED AGENT

The Parliament House utilizes several means to ensure compliance with liquor laws. An industry-standard scanner verifies the legitimacy of ID cards. Colored wristbands then identify those under age 21 for bartenders, who serve them non-alcoholic drinks in colored cups. The system is similar to that used at Downtown Disney's Pleasure Island.

The sting used a 19-year-old plant who was denied a wristband permitting alcohol service at the door but then, according to the ABT report, was served beer by 11 bar-



On a quieter night, the marquee at the Parliament House stands as a beacon on Orange Blossom Trail. On Aug. 28, club-goers swarmed out beneath the sign as handcuffed bartenders were led away. File photo by Dave Wiethop

tenders and one waiter.

"Our bartenders say they did not serve anyone underage, but if they did, they deserve a kick in the ass," said Parliament House owner Don Granatstein later.

The 12 employees were handcuffed and led into waiting police vans. With unlocked registers and unattended bars, on-site managers immediately decided to close the huge club complex. As people streamed out of exits, ABT agents pulled several people with colored cups aside. With test strips similar to those used in high school science classes, agents tested the contents for alcohol and found no additional violations.

The Parliament House employees were charged with serving alcohol to a minor, a misdemeanor that could lead to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. The majority was released on their own recognizance; two were required to post bond based on prior infractions.

At present, none of the employees has been fired, and Granatstein has fronted costs for legal counsel subject to repayment. It is hoped that charges will be reduced or dropped. A guilty verdict would, at the very least, preclude employees from holding jobs serving alcohol for up to five years.

## POLICY CHANGES

As for the Parliament House, its all-important liquor license does not appear to be in jeopardy, but policy changes have already been implemented. Most notably, the resort will no longer allow individuals under the age of 18 into its bars and clubs. An early Sunday evening buffet and dance has in the past been accessible by minors, but that will end.

Security staff will also be increased, and armbands indicating that patrons have presented ID will now be required of everyone, not just those seeking alcohol

service.

And the resort has hired Regulatory Compliance Services, a company that provides safe service training for hospitality professionals that addresses treatment of underage and intoxicated guests. Like safe-driver school, RCS ensures compliance with Florida's Responsible Vendor Act, making it more difficult for an establishment to suffer suspension or revocation of its liquor license in the event an alcohol-related violation occurs.

RCS trains sellers of alcoholic beverages to take protective measures, like IDing anyone who looks younger than 30, everyone in large parties, and even those with wristbands who may look suspicious.

"It's not a matter of 'better safe than sorry,'" said RCS regional manager Rick Kenna, "It's what's expected."

Despite testimony from off-duty police officers hired by the Parliament House and records indicating that underage drinking policies are routinely enforced, industry insiders warn that the resort should expect a follow-up visit.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the Parliament House is subjected to another sting operation within the next six months," said RCS vice president of operations. "Whatever the reason for the sting operation, the Parliament House failed miserably."

## MAYOR BETRAYOR?

More than a week after the sting, speculation continues regarding who, if anyone, pointed a finger at the Parliament House.

Some looked upward, at the billboards dotting South Orange Blossom Trail offering homosexual conversion. The organization responsible had attempted to place one outside The Parliament House but had been thwarted. There is no direct evidence linking them to the sting.

Continued on page 21

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## SARASOTA

## MOVIE-GOERS FLOCK TO GAY, LESBIAN FILM FEST

SARASOTA - Attendance was up more than 20% over last year for each of the features at the 2005 Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Aug. 26-29.

"We kicked ass," joked Robert Macadaeg, the marketing and public relations director for the Sarasota Film Society, the festival's host. "We sold out the opening night."

The first night featured a screening of a Spanish film, *Unconscious*, a comedic Freudian mystery that chronicles the adventures of a pregnant wife and her long-suffering brother-in-law and their search for her missing psychiatrist husband. The plot's twists and turns kept the audience guessing about the characters' sexual peccadilloes, winding up to a surprising conclusion.

Proceeds from the Friday night fundraising party benefitted ALSO Out Youth. Area restaurants donated food for the party and a local band provided music for dancing.

"Tonight has been overwhelming. The movie was wonderful, the food is great and band outstanding," said Lori Stephens Tomlinson, executive director for ALSO Out Youth. "It makes me feel good that not only does the GLBT Film Festival have such strong community support, but ALSO does as well."

Ken Shelin, an openly gay Sarasota city commissioner, was among the film festival sponsors.



Girls enjoyed the opening night feature, *Unconscious*, before the Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival opening soiree. Photos by Karen S. Murray-Parker

"It's a great event," he said. "Clearly, the community is supporting the film festival. I hope more people turn out throughout the week. The sponsors are doing their part and I was glad to see tonight was a sold-out crowd."

"I support the film festival because I think it's important that our community

become part of the larger community. Sarasota's gay community is tolerated but encapsulated. I think it needs to be accepted by the greater Sarasota community and that that community needs to appreciate what we can contribute to the entire community - not just the gay community," Shelin said.

"The festival also (proves to) fellow Sarasota residents that we are people with skills and interests like everyone else."

Lois Breneman was one of the nearly 200 movie-goers who turned out for opening night.

"I think it's awesome how everyone turns out to support an event like this. It was a nice turnout and I had a great night. It's the first time I've even been to the fes-



These men enjoyed the Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival opening night fund-raiser for ALSO Out Youth.

tival and party and I plan to come back again," she said.

Organizers say she will not be alone, as they plan to continue to enhance what occurred this year at Burns Court Cinemas.

"We want to do the same thing, but only better," Macadaeg said. "It's becoming increasingly difficult to get films at a reasonable price for the festival, but that just shows how gay and lesbian films are becoming mainstreamed more and more often."

Other films featured at 2005 festival included *Wilby Wonderful*, *Fear and Trembling*, *El Favor*, *Fish Can't Fly* and *Mysterious Skin*. ▼ Karen S. Murray-Parker and Dave Wiethop

## REPORT: UNITY NEEDS ASSISTANCE

SARASOTA - Unity Leadership Sarasota, the networking organization of leaders of area GLBT groups, has met several of its missions, a panel concluded.

Still, the Unity support team recognized that there is much more work to be done - particularly in areas of communication. The support team released its report in mid-August.

"We share resources, help to promote events, and disseminate organizational calendars. But most important, we simply meet our GLBT peers every few months and strengthen our relationships," said Jim Jablonski, one of the team members.

At the same time, the group understands that it has been criticized for not having "any real teeth and that politically, the group is ineffective because we are without a means to act on important issues," Jablonski said.

After an extensive self-analysis facilitated by the Non-Profit Center, a resource for such groups, Unity drew four conclu-

sions:

— **It needs more members.** With the goal of leadership succession, a larger group would provide more opportunities to find future directors or officers.

— **More opportunities to present information are necessary.** Unity meets quarterly, usually with an organization or an individual making presentations about their work. By offering two 15- to 20-minute presentations, Unity could double the amount of information offered.

— **Topics should be varied.** The group is now soliciting subjects to be discussed during the 2006 meetings.

— **Anyone can help.** "The Unity support team is a very loose entity (that) helps run meetings, coordinates speakers, provides food and secures the meeting spaces," Jablonski said.

For more information about Unity Leadership Sarasota, contact Jablonski at (941) 359-3236 or through e-mail at jim-phl@aol.com. ▼ Dave Wiethop

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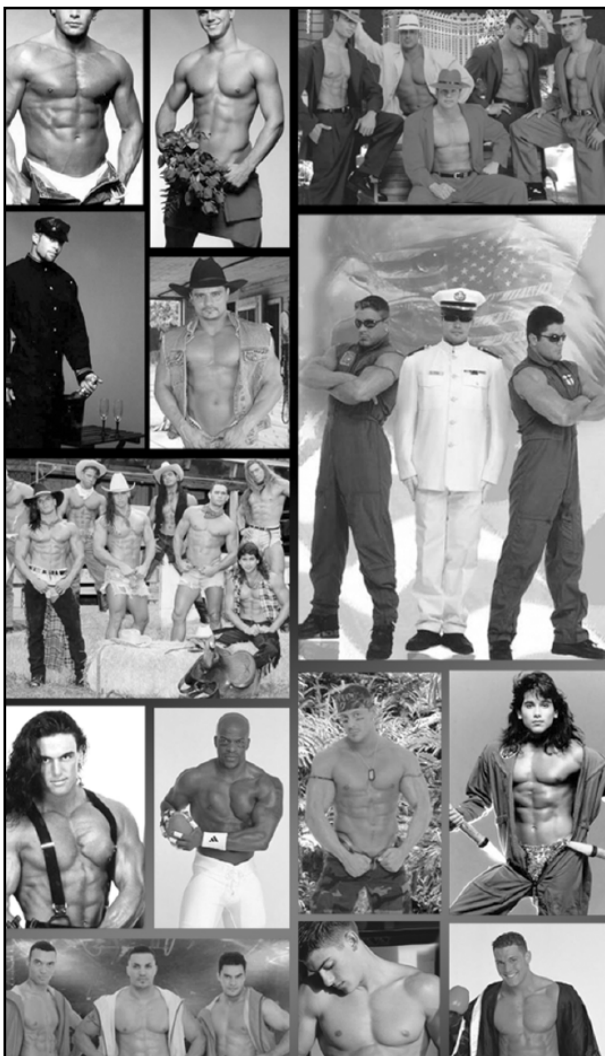
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## TAMPA BAY

## TAMPA WOMAN BLASTS COMMISSION'S ANTI-GAY POLICY

TAMPA - Almost the entire summer has gone by since the Hillsborough County Commission passed its policy to prohibit county employees from "participating in or acknowledging gay pride."

Still, the commission continues to receive regular beratings from residents and GLBT leaders unhappy with its June 15 decision — and the latest criticism may have affected two commissioners' views.

On Aug. 25, area residents packed a school gym in an effort to address the commission. However, only one resident spoke out about the county's anti-gay policy, which passed with a 5-1 vote in less than 75 seconds almost three months ago.

"When I came here in 1973, I knew I wasn't wanted in the schools because of my color," said Mary Turner, who is African-American. "Now I see more intolerance here — intolerance toward homosexuals. We all have to live and learn on this earth together. You may not like (gays and lesbians) and you may not want them in your house, but they are here."

When Turner spoke, a majority of those attending applauded her statements. The commissioners did not respond. Taking direction from the board's silence, Turner continued.

"Ms. Storms, I saw you on public access television condemning homosexuals," Turner said. "I have a problem with

people using public access to condemn anyone."

While Turner was talking, board chairman Jim Norman tried to speak over her, telling her it was inappropriate to attack or directly address any one commissioner. Turner simply nodded, said a quiet "I'm sorry" before continuing.

"In my generation, it was about hating a black person," Turner told the board. "We were stereotyped to be dangerous and criminals. Now this community hates homosexuals and says they are dangerous to you and the community. You as adults should know better than that. You are teaching to hate. Hate has to end with this generation."

The commissioners did not respond to Turner and Norman simply called up the next speaker.

While Turner was the only person to publicly speak about the gay pride ban, Equality Florida communications director Brian Winfield said at least a dozen were prepared to take up the issue. However, the commission agreed to listen to residents of the District 3 area where the meeting was held before listening to others.

"With their addresses listed, the commission was able to bypass a lot of people," Winfield said. "The wonderful thing is that (Turner) isn't part of any Equality Florida effort or any other groups. She lives in the neighborhood and she dis-

cussed drainage and transportation before mentioning the gay pride issue. It was very heartening for everyone there to see a person who has no immediate contact with us or any other organization, who isn't gay, who just absolutely disagreed with the commissioners and their decision on the issue."

When "everyday citizens" speak up on issues like this, often it has a more powerful effect on the commission, Winfield said. Even though others didn't get a chance to speak, Turner may have prompted at least some movement from the commission.

"After the Q and A with the audience, Commissioner Ken Hagan and Commissioner Thomas Scott agreed to meet with Equality Florida to discuss the issue in their offices," Winfield said. "That

has been the biggest challenge and one of the reasons this has been so frustrating. They passed this more than two months ago and have refused to talk about it since."

Equality Florida staffers say they won't only speak about the discriminatory aspect of the policy when meet with the commissioners, but also of its vagueness, Winfield said. Many county employees have expressed confusion concerning the policy and how it's to be implemented in governmental settings.

"It's becoming clear that there was no intention for anything to be different in the county government based on this policy," Winfield said. "It's simply a slap in the face of the gay community. Why else would they pass a policy that doesn't change anything?" ▼ Steve Blanchard

## BOYCOTT LIST SWELLS TO MORE THAN 150 GAY-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

TAMPA - More than 150 businesses are participating in Equality Florida's boycott of Hillsborough County.

According to Equality Florida's "boycott" Web site, [Boycottfl.org](http://Boycottfl.org), these businesses have already registered as "gay friendly" or "gay owned" and supportive of the community in the wake of the county commission's ban on gay pride references on county property.

"A boycott that focuses on spotlighting and encouraging businesses to stand against discrimination is a more positive and effective way to respond that builds long-term support," said Equality Florida's communications director Brian Winfield.

"While they share the same anger, they argue that a boycott would hurt friends as well as those who oppose equality, especially in a city where the mayor and city council members have spoken up so forcefully for justice."

So far, the site contains a list of businesses that have registered themselves. Soon, the list will include busi-

nesses actively approached by Equality Florida volunteers. The boycott site will include both pro-GLBT businesses and anti-GLBT businesses, Winfield said.

"We need people to tell businesses about the boycott," Winfield said. "Simply go to places where you shop and ask them to join. All they do is fill out a form, provide a copy of their non-discrimination policy or adopt a sample policy we can provide. We need the general public to be willing to ask businesses to participate. It's a large-scale education campaign. We hope the list grows and that we continue to build momentum."

Companies joining the boycott will receive stickers to place on their windows to alert shoppers of their anti-discrimination stand. Patrons are also encouraged to give a "thank you card" to participating businesses. If a patron finds a company that is discriminatory, "No thank you cards" are also available on the Web site. ▼ Steve Blanchard

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## TAMPA BAY BRIEFS

### METRO CENTER SCREENS GAY ROMANCE, JUDY GARLAND MUSICAL

The Metro Center in St. Pete will offer a handful of queerish movies this month. Beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9, the center will screen the 2003 film, *Mambo Italiano*, a comic romance set in a close-knit Italian-American neighborhood. The film stars Paul Sorvino and Luke Kirby. The center will also offer the Judy Garland classic, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11. Set during the 1903 Worlds Fair in St. Louis, the loving Smith family is shocked to hear that the father intends to move them to New York just as Garland's character has set her eyes on *The Boy Next Door*. A documentary version of the Sundance Channel's reality series, *TransGeneration*, is on tap for Sept. 16, and the Sept. 18 selection is *All About Eve*, one of Bette Davis' best.

## TAMPA BAY

## GAY DAYS TAMPA BAY TURNOUT UNDETERMINED

TAMPA - Gay Days Tampa Bay passed with little fanfare over the Labor Day Weekend.

In fact, there was so little attention that not even organizer Bud Bromwell knows if the annual event was successful or not.

"I wish that I could tell you exactly what (the number of attendees was) at places like Busch Gardens, but they have a strict policy that prohibits the release of park numbers to the public," Bromwell wrote in an e-mail.

"Additionally, numbers are tough to gauge at those events because you first have to assume every GLBT visitor is wearing red and then count those red shirts as they enter the gate."

Gay Days Tampa Bay's Web site suggested that visitors take in Busch Gardens on Saturday, Sept. 3, and the Florida Aquarium on Sunday, Sept. 4.

This year's Gay Days Tampa Bay was the third attempt by Bromwell, who arranged discounted tickets this year but did not invest any financial support.

Last year, the event was delayed because of an impending hurricane and a "Victory Party" on the warship U.S.S. Victory was held on the eve of Hurricane Jeanne. Bromwell admitted he

took a financial hit in both 2003 and 2004.

In 2005, the Tampa resident opted not to organize any circuit parties and also avoided planning any specific events. He also did not do any national advertising for Gay Days Tampa Bay. Bromwell, however, arranged discounted tickets at parks and hotels for those wanting to participate.

With Tampa Bay and Hillsborough County receiving national news with its ban on gay pride recognition in county buildings, Bromwell said hoped the GLBT community would have been motivated to participate in an event like Gay Days Tampa Bay. It seems, however, it did not.

"Gay Days Tampa Bay was a gift to a community that has not completely supported it," Bromwell said. "Over the years, many attempts have been made to involve such groups as Equality Florida, the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and the Tampa Bay Business Guild."

Bromwell says those groups have offered little support to his dream.

"If our community does not begin to value and support the talent and contributions of its members that are truly try-



LEE FREELS (left) and JONI GARBBER traveled from Jacksonville to Gay Days Tampa Bay at the Florida Aquarium on Sunday, Sept. 4, and noted that they didn't see many gays and lesbians during their visit. Photo by Rex Maniscalco

ing to make a difference, eventually those members will go elsewhere," Bromwell said. "We live in beautiful city that is a gift to us as well. What we do with it and what it becomes is ulti-

mately up to those that we allow to speak for us."

Bromwell did not say whether he intended on organizing Gay Days Tampa Bay in 2006. ▼ Steve Blanchard

## GROUP HOPES TO REVIVE A PRIDEFEST FOR FEBRUARY

TAMPA - If the Hillsborough County Commission's goal was to stifle the GLBT community in Tampa then they failed miserably.

Since the commission passed a policy to prevent county governmental organizations and employees from acknowledging or promoting gay pride, the community has become more organized than ever.

In fact, the passage of the policy may result in a rejuvenation of the once-popular Tampa PrideFest, which saw a long and strong life in the Tampa Bay Area before folding after 2002's event.

The late activist Dana Whitehurst organized the first Tampa Bay Pride celebration in 1985 and the event grew to become the biggest gay pride event in Florida.

Since folding in 2002, Tampa hasn't had any form of an organized pride event, although St. Pete Pride produced record numbers in 2005.

Organizers of the new Tampa PrideFest hope that a February 2006 event will invigorate Tampa's GLBT community, which once celebrated with 30,000 people throughout the Tampa Bay area.

After a Hillsborough County Commission meeting in July, Brian Feist told participants about the possibility of a

2006 "Winter Pride" event.

Feist is spearheading the creation of the new Tampa PrideFest and held the group's first organizational meeting Aug. 23 at the Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa.

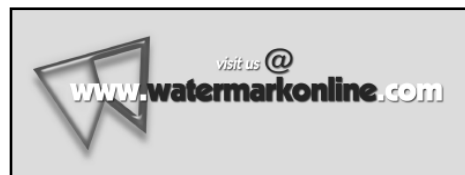
While recreating the Tampa PrideFest of the past may be difficult, Feist and his organizers hope the GLBT community is motivated enough to celebrate its diversity.

During the 2002 event, celebrity guests were abundant. Sharon Gless of *Queer as Folk* was on hand and Pat Benatar provided some entertainment for crowds at Raymond James Stadium.

Also in 2002, numerous same-sex couples held unions outside the county courthouse and a Family Values Picnic was held at Fort DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg.

So far there's no word on if those events would return with the rejuvenated celebration.

For more information on Tampa PrideFest or to volunteer, contact organizers at TampaPride@aol.com. ▼ Staff reports



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## ORLANDO GAY CHORUS SELECTS TAMPA BAY MAN AS DIRECTOR

ORLANDO - The Orlando Gay Chorus began auditions Aug. 31 and Sept. 7 with its new artistic director, Dr. James Bass, a



DR. JAMES BASS brings more than eight years of musical experience to his role as the OGC artistic director.

chorus president. “The chorus has learned a lot from its past artistic directors; Dr Charlie Callahan, Aubrey Connelly, Terry Thomas and other directors who have been part of us over the years.”

Bass replaces Thomas, who left the position this summer after five years to focus on increased responsibilities that were part of his promotion at Walt Disney World.

The chorus’ search committee interviewed 13 candidates from throughout the

Tampa Bay conductor with an extensive musical background.

“He was selected due to his experience and directing style (and because) he brings more than eight years of singing and conducting experience to OGC,” said Steve Rheume, the

U.S. and Canada, with the top two choices conducting rehearsals with the group. The performers then filled out questionnaires to offer their impressions of the candidates’ conducting styles and interaction with the chorus.

Bass, who will commute from Tampa Bay to work with the chorus, was chosen in mid-August.

“We are looking forward to continuing our musical tradition of both entertaining and enlightening as only OGC can do,” Rheume said.

The new artistic director has a doctorate in conducting, the result of a graduate fellowship with the University of Miami. He served as the director of choral and orchestral activities at the Blake Performing Arts High School in Tampa. A baritone soloist himself, Bass has appeared with the Florida Orchestra, the Miami Bach Society and the Palm Beach Symphony.

The chorus, along with its Out Loud! Ensemble will next appear at *An Evening with Rep. Barney Frank* on Sept. 10. The OGC’s first concert of the 2005-06 season, *A Credit Card Christmas*, has been scheduled for Dec. 10-11 at the Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins College.

For details about upcoming OGC performances, visit [OrlandoGayChorus.org](http://OrlandoGayChorus.org). **W**  
*Dave Wiethop*

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## ORLANDO

## FORMER RAINBOW CITY OWNER, THORNLEY, DIES

ORLANDO - Peter Thornley, who once owned one of the area's first retail shops catering to the GLBT community, passed away Friday, Aug. 26. He was 63.

At one time, Thornley's Rainbow City helped define the area of North Mills Avenue between Colonial Drive and Virginia Avenue as Orlando's GLBT district.

During the store's heydays, the Vi Mi District solidified its recognition as the core of the city's "gay ghetto" and helped draw the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center of Central Florida from Colonial Drive to two doors down from Rainbow City.



Orlando's now-closed pride shop, Rainbow City, may be the legacy of PETER THORNLEY, who died Aug. 26.

While people connected to other businesses extended sympathies to Thornley's family, several declined to comment upon his role in Orlando's GLBT community citing his seemingly divisive reputation.

Rainbow City opened in 1995, initially offering T-shirts, flags and other items showcasing the gay rainbow pride flag. The shop's colorful rainbow awning helped advertise the store – and the neighborhood. Within two years, the store's popularity had taken off, and Thornley quickly expanded the shop into a vacant space next door, more than doubling the store's square retail space.

The influx of businesses in the area put a strain on an already tight parking situation and, according to some in the community, Thornley often had cars towed from the shop's back alley parking lot. Other troublesome situations with neighbors led many to see Thornley as divisive.

"Unfortunately, Peter never came across as a community player," said Debbie Simmons, owner of Shelbie Press. "Different people have their own baggage, and sadly, Peter's seemed to spill over to his dealings with the community."

But she was quick to point out that, at least in one instance, she saw a glimpse of Thornley's community spirit.

In 1998, *Watermark* sponsored an effort to fly the rainbow flags throughout Downtown Orlando. Though supporters had followed proper procedures, anti-gay activists petitioned the city to not allow the flags to be flown. During city commission hearings, the opposition appeared wearing black armbands. Thornley responded by fashioning makeshift armbands from a roll of rainbow-striped cloth and distributed them to the flag project's supporters.

Despite Thornley's actions that day, many in the community felt that the openly gay businessman alienated himself from the best interests of the city's GLBT population, a situation Simmons described as "unfortunate."

Besides owning Rainbow City, Thornley also owned a residential real estate venture and a miniatures company, Cottage Industry, which specialized in doll-house accessories. He had retired from a career teaching French at Edgewater High School and in Newport, R.I. He had traveled throughout Europe and was a member of Mensa.

Still, the pride shop, which closed about a year ago, may be one of Thornley's biggest legacies.

Over time, the increased acceptance of gays and lesbians in mainstream society counterbalanced the GLBT community's diminished need for pride merchandise. At one point, Thornley found sales in the shop dropping from \$4,000 a day – a total once typical in the days leading up to each year's Gay Days Weekend – to less than that per year. Last October, Thornley closed Rainbow City.

During the store's closing, Thornley joked about a button the store once carried that said, "We are so *over* the rainbow" a sentiment that seemed to express the collective thought of much of the GLBT community.

Thornley is survived by his partner, Guillermo Rodriguez of Orlando. A memorial service was held at the Lake Ivanhoe Chapel of Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home Sept. 3. Memorial contributions can be made to the Orlando Gay Chorus. ▼ *Kirk Hartlage*

### ORLANDO BRIEFS

#### ARTIST LARRY DAVIS TO BE HONORED WITH SEPT. 24 RECEPTION

The Queer Art Collective and the GLBCC will host a reception in honor of artist Larry Davis at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24. Davis' works remain on display throughout September. The reception and the exhibit is free and open to the public.

#### FIREFIGHTER CALENDAR SALES WILL BENEFIT GLBCC

GayOrlando.com is now selling the Seminole County Professional Firefighters 2006 Calendar as a benefit for the GLBCC. The calendar, which features beefcake photos of local firefighters, was created to support the Haven for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife. For details and to buy the calendar, visit GayOrlando.com.



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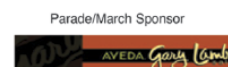
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## STATE

## HRC, EQUALITY FLORIDA: 2006 WILL BE A TOUGH YEAR

ORLANDO - Equality Florida and the Orlando chapter of the Human Rights Campaign braced supporters for the uphill battles facing the GLBT community in the next year, both in the state legislature and at the polls. The two groups hosted a town-hall style meeting in Orlando.

One potential bright spot is Rep. Sheri McInvale's decision to again sponsor a bill that would allow gay and lesbian foster parents to adopt if it is in the best interest of the children.

Equality Florida executive director Nadine Smith called the current ban on gay and lesbian adoptions, "insulting.

Whether or not you want to adopt children, you should be concerned about this law. The law says that gays are harmful to children."

McInvale has worked closely with Equality Florida to change the nation's only outright ban prohibiting gays and lesbians from adopting. Attempts to have the bill heard last year were defeated on technicality, but McInvale said all obstacles have been removed for this year's session.

She has worked with State Sen. Nan Rich of Palm Beach, an adoption expert, to ensure the bill is also heard in the Senate.

"We know we have the necessary bipartisan support," McInvale said. "Last year we didn't have a companion bill in the Senate which is why the bill didn't get heard," McInvale said. "This year we're filing bills with the exact same language in both the House and Senate."

The Orlando Democrat said she felt compassionate about the adoption issue, admitting that it is as much a gay and lesbian rights issue as it is also a children's rights issue.

The proposed language states that gays and lesbians may adopt if a court finds that the adoptee recognizes their foster parent as a parent and that adopting will be more important to the child's development and psychological needs than if the child were to remain in temporary placement.

"We're advocating on behalf of children and trying to right this wrong," McInvale said, adding that those opposed to the bill's passage will only be able to do so by demonstrating their own bigotry. "We know what we're up against, which is why we're pushing this as a children's rights bill. I'm not trying to diminish what this will mean to the gay community, but I'm tired of people attempting to use bigotry to fight this. I know those barriers exist but we're ready for the challenge."

Calling the Statehouse a challenging political climate, McInvale said she has learned to pick her battles as a member of the minority party.

"This battle has been chosen with a lot of thought," McInvale said, adding that she plans to introduce the bill on the first day of the new session on March 6.

The fight for progressive change for the GLBT community will be challenging in the Republican-held Statehouse, as will efforts at the voting booth.

Smith said polls conducted by Equality Florida left the GLBT community in a quandary, with nearly equal numbers of those polled stating they did not believe in same-sex marriage but did agree with civil unions.

During the meeting, which attracted more than 100 people, Seth Kilbourn, vice president of HRC's marriage campaign, talked about the certain-to-be-proposed state constitutional amendment to

ban same-sex marriage in the Florida during the 2006 election cycle.

"The good news is that there is change being made in some states besides Massachusetts," Kilbourn said. Though no state is close to granting marriage licenses as the Bay State has done, Connecticut is poised to join Vermont in granting state-level spousal rights, California is discussing domestic partner rights, while same-sex couples in Hawaii, Maine and New Jersey have access to some benefits through statewide domestic partnership programs.

"In Florida, we need to do a better job of discussing this with friends and family," Kilbourn said. "We need to have those difficult conversations because the people who don't like us are passionate about it and passionate about harming us."

Smith agreed, saying that the GLBT community must be as motivated to defeat the amendment as its foes are focused on passing it.

"We must organize as if the marriage ban will be on the ballot in 2006, because it will be," Smith said.

Smith also described Florida as "the most contested political real estate in the country." The current political picture will be directly affected by a renewed push for redistricting in the state.

Equality Florida will renew its support for the safe schools bill, which will tackle the increasing attacks of GLBT youth and other victimized students. Smith noted that Florida is the most violent state in the country for hate crimes, with attacks rising 33% in the past year.

For more information on Equality Florida, visit [EqualityFlorida.org](http://EqualityFlorida.org); for more information on HRC, visit [HRC.org](http://HRC.org). **W Kirk Hartlage**



Equality Florida's NADINE SMITH says she's certain that a ban on same-sex marriage will be put before Florida voters in 2006.



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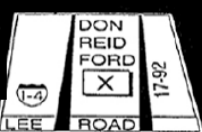

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### STATE BRIEFS

#### HIGH COURT ASKED TO REVIEW GAY MARRIAGE AMENDMENT PLAN

The Florida Supreme Court received petitions Sept. 1 asking the justices to review a citizens' initiative that would amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriages. Attorney General Charlie Crist asked for the mandatory reviews to make certain that this proposal -- as well as a proposal to force lawmakers to life some sales tax exemptions -- are constitutional before they go before voters. Florida4Marriage.org, a group with ties to the Christian Right, is now conducting a petition drive to put the same-sex marriage ban on the November 2006 ballot. Florida already bans gay marriages, but the group's leaders say they're fearful of "activists" judges who may try to overturn the law. A proposed amendment must be reviewed once it receives 10% of the more than 600,000 signatures needed to get onto the ballot.

## GAY RIGHTS GROUPS OPPOSE ROBERTS' CONFIRMATION

WASHINGTON - Five national GLBT organizations have announced together their opposition to the confirmation of John G. Roberts Jr. as the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Those groups include the



The HRC says that there is evidence that Supreme Court nominee JOHN G. ROBERTS JR. is no friend to equality

Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Stonewall Democrats, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and PFLAG.

The confirmation hearing on Roberts was scheduled to begin on Sept. 6.

"Judge Roberts has such a narrow view of what the courts can and should do, it's a wonder he wants the job at all," said HRC president Joe Solmonese. "Ultimately, this is about an individual's right to privacy. From women's rights to religious freedom to civil rights, there is powerful evidence that Judge Roberts would rule against equality."

Kate Kendall, executive director of the NCLR said, "There is nothing in Robert's history as a lawyer, policy maker, or judge to indicate that he would be anything other than hostile to the claims of those seeking to preserve affirmative action, reproductive freedom and fundamental rights."

In an e-mail to its supporters, HRC said, "We have opposed only those (judicial) nominees whose records indicated a clear hostility to the enforcement of civil rights." However, the HRC did not oppose Roberts in 2003 when he was nominated and confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which often is called the second most important court in the nation.

"My disappointment with HRC's posi-

tion is that they are allowing ideology to trump interest, something our political organizations should never do," said a politically attuned Democrat and former senior staff member at HRC. He asked not to be identified because of his current affiliation.

"I would have argued for an endorsement of Roberts the moment it was revealed that he helped on Roemer," the staffer said. That 1996 Supreme Court decision struck down Colorado's Amendment 2 as discriminating against gays and was the first major victory for the community in the court.

"Roberts is clearly qualified, is likely to be confirmed, and it would have been in our best interest to have been seen supporting him. Opposing him after his (perceived or real) help on Romer violates one of the central rules of politics: You should always dance with the fellow that brought you to the party."

Some organizations have resisted jumping on the opposition bandwagon.

Lambda Legal has initiated a "Courting Justice" campaign based upon 30 questions it would like Roberts to answer during the hearing, and it is pressuring senators to seek answers to them.

Log Cabin Republicans remained in a "wait and see mode" up to the last few days before the confirmation hearings. The National Black Justice Coalition expressed "concern" about Roberts when the nomination was made, but it has gone no farther, saying only that it would closely monitor the hearings.

It is highly unlikely that the hearing will produce any blockbuster revelation or exchanges.

Given Roberts' apparently unanimous support among Senate Republicans, the favorable reception he has received from many Democrats, and the willingness of only a handful of liberal Democrats to support him, it is very likely that Roberts will be confirmed and take a seat on the high court when it convenes on the first Monday in October. ▽ *Bob Roehr*

## LICENSE ISSUE HALTS 'NAKED BOYS'

MILWAUKEE - Those *Naked Boys Singing!* hope to resume taking off their clothes next month.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center plans to reopen the musical revue, which features nudity, in mid-September, said Richard Hart, the center's attorney. Police shut down the show Aug. 18 in a dispute over whether the center needed a theater license for the production.

The center received a letter from the city's license division indicating officials believed the center's nonprofit status meant it did not need a theater license after all, Hart said. The center started staging performances of *Naked Boys Singing!* Aug. 11 and was scheduled to continue them until

Sept. 3.

*Naked Boys Singing!* has run into trouble with authorities before in such cities as Provincetown, Mass.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Atlanta. Eventually, all three cities held performances of the show.

The claim filed contends that police selectively enforced the license ordinance against the center and seeks about \$630,000 in punitive damages, legal fees and lost revenue. It says that proceeds from the production had been designated for various AIDS research groups and theater groups.

"This issue has really put a black eye on the city," said Don Hoffman, a co-director of the center. (AP)

## NATION/WORLD BRIEFS

### BERLIN MAYOR BLASTED FOR WELCOMING LEATHER, LATEX FESTIVAL

Berlin's openly gay mayor rejected criticism from the conservative opposition for his decision to send a greeting to a leather and latex fetish gathering, accusing his opponents of being "small-minded." Mayor Klaus Wowereit welcomed the participants of the Folsom Europe festival in Berlin recently. The conservative Christian Democrats described the message from Wowereit as "unspeakable." "Glorifying violence and sadomasochistic excesses is to begin opting out of society," said Nikolas Zimmer, the Christian Democrats' leader in the Berlin state legislature.

### BRITISH SOLDIERS RECRUIT BY MARCHING IN PRIDE PARADE


The British military has found a new way to solicit new recruits: 10 British soldiers and members of the Royal Air Force joined thousands of gay men and women in a gay pride parade in Manchester, England, recently. Supporters packed 10-deep cheered as they waved to the crowds. The British government lifted a ban on gays serving in the country's armed forces in 2000 after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the restriction was a violation of human rights. "We don't really care what sexual orientation you are if you want to come and join us in the Army," Warrant Officer Lutha Magloire said. "Whether straight or not the Army does not care and does not ask that question to recruits."

### LAWMAKERS SEEK TO SWAP CIVIL UNIONS FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Massachusetts lawmakers will consider replacing same-sex marriage in the state with civil unions when they meet for a constitutional convention scheduled for Sept. 14. House and Senate members have already approved the proposed amendment, but Massachusetts' constitution requires both houses to approve the language in two successive sessions. Once approved, the amendment can be put before voters. Equality Massachusetts' leaders call this amendment "wholly unacceptable." Other GLBT activists say they're confident the measure will be defeated during the convention.


### MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS FOR MURDERING TRANSGENDER

GLBT advocates in Fresno, Calif., are outraged over a four-year jail sentence for a man convicted of killing a transgender woman. Estanislao Martinez admitted to stabbing the victim, identified as Joel Robles, 20 times in August 2004. Martinez had brought Robles home for the evening and then murdered his guest after discovering Robles was biologically male. Martinez was sentenced after his lawyers used the "gay panic" defense.




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## SPIRITUALITY

## POTTER'S HOUSE FOUNDER TO STEP DOWN IN JANUARY

TAMPA - The Rev. Robert Morgan says he sees the need for a bridge between the GLBT community and gay conservatives – and the Potter's House Fellowship founder believes he can mend the divide.

"I feel I can speak the language of both sides," Morgan said. "It's like being bilingual. Too many people in the GLBT community can't see the conservative point of view from their GLBT brothers and sisters. The same goes for conservative gay people looking at the overall community. That's a bridge I want to help build."



The REV. ROBERT MORGAN plans to concentrate on political work in January.

Thus, Morgan has set out on a new journey. After founding the gay-affirming Pentecostal church Potter's House in Tampa seven years ago, he has been a staple in the area's GLBT community. He and the church were even featured in the documentary *Fish Can't Fly*, which focuses on GLBT citizens and religion.

In early August, Morgan resigned his post as head pastor of Potter's House effective Jan. 26, but that doesn't mean he won't still be active in the church. He just plans to focus on a broader spectrum.

In late January, associate pastor

Steve Andrews will take over the day-to-day dealings of the church while Morgan takes on the task of working full-time with the Human Rights Campaign and the Log Cabin Republicans. Another reason for his resignation, Morgan admitted, is to spend more time with his two teenage sons and his aging parents.

"My parents are getting older and so are my children," Morgan said. "I want to spend more time with my kids but the church needs a full-time pastor. I cannot give that to them. People love Steve and I'll stay on as founding pastor. It will be a great change for everyone involved."

#### LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS MAY SEE SOME CHANGES

Morgan hopes to see many national changes to accompany his personal ones.

In the spring, Morgan attended the Log Cabin Republicans' convention in New Orleans and was "fired up" from the experience. He had so many ideas after the convention to help GLBT people on the national level that he decided a resignation was in order.

"I resigned so I can build bridges to the Christian Right, which is setting the agenda politically these days," Morgan said. "I want to appeal to different congregations, both straight and gay. Middle America's view of gay people will change."

Morgan is a fourth-generation Pentecostal — and a political conservative. Many people have difficulty believing "gay Republicans" actually exist, Morgan said. His goal is to show his

Christian counterparts that there is such a creature and he already has plans to fulfill that goal.

"Many (Log Cabin Republicans) are from Catholic backgrounds and may not speak the evangelical language required to build that bridge to other conservatives," Morgan said. "I understand the mentality and the lingo of the Christian Right and as people of faith, we can change minds. To change the impression of gay people, we have to focus beyond the Jerry Falwells, Pat Robertsons and James Dobsons of the world."

Morgan hopes to incorporate an office of chaplain into the national Log Cabin Republicans organization. Thus far, the national LCR lacks a presence in the religious faction of America, Morgan believes, and this would be a way to start.

"If we have an on-staff chaplain who can travel, we can build those bridges faster," Morgan said. "We have to show religious leaders that GLBT people are religious too. We are the same with one fundamental difference in our beliefs."

#### A SYMPOSIUM FOR HRC?

Morgan has begun working with Harry Knox, HRC's director of religion and faith programs. Both of the men want to set up a symposium for conservative, GLBT Christian leaders who can sit down for a roundtable discussion with moderate to affirming straight faith-based groups.

While Morgan never expects some of the mainstream religious leaders such as Robertson, Falwell and Dobson to participate in such a discussion, he said he believes there are enough religious leaders out there willing to listen. If this happens, he said, changes are inevitable.

"We want to talk to people who will have an open mind," Morgan said. "We already have some people talking outside their churches about the symposium. It will definitely happen."

The Christian Right does a phenomenal job in its efforts to influence the American culture, Morgan said. Yet, he said he's aware that the conservative arguments against rights for gays and lesbians fall apart because of their historical contexts.

"Their misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Scripture has been around so long that (religious leaders) still have gay people duped that their interpretation is the only way," Morgan said. "If they would use the rules of interpretation taught in Bible colleges, they would see their interpretation is wrong. But they only see their interpretation. In the long run, I think we can change that."

Pentecostal pastors preach that the Bible is the Word of God, Morgan said. That belief is different than the

## TAMPA CHURCH EXTENDS HAND TO ORLANDO

ORLANDO - Finding a Pentecostal church that opens its arms to the GLBT community can be tough.

For seven years, Tampa Bay residents have had Potter's House Fellowship, founded by the Rev.

Robert Morgan. Now, the Orlando area has its own version with Oasis Fellowship, a church nurtured by Potter's House.

The Rev. Debreita Taylor has been an associate pastor at Potter's House for two years and will soon make the weekly drive to Orlando with her partner and minister of music, Sue Love. Beginning Oct. 2, she will shepherd her own congregation Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. inside the Days Inn, 1103 Doris St., Altamonte Springs.

"We are mothering her church through Pastor Brei," said the Rev. Robert Morgan, founding pastor of Potter's House. "She had a ministry every Wednesday at her home and this group grew. As these people came together in that area, we had the basis for the new congregation."

Potter's House and Oasis Fellowship are both part of a network of gay affirming churches called Reconciling Pentecostals International. ▼ *Steve Blanchard*  
For more information, visit [www.pottershousefellowship.com](http://www.pottershousefellowship.com) or [www.oasisfellowship.net](http://www.oasisfellowship.net).



The REV. DEBREITA TAYLOR will shepherd a new gay-affirming Pentecostal congregation in Orlando.

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches mostly because Pentecostal views are much more conservative, Morgan said.

"Of course I don't want to speak for the UFMCC, but our church has a real appetite for the Bible as the Word of God," Morgan said.

"It's about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and we still have the evangelical fundamentalism within our churches." ▼ *Steve Blanchard*

### SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS

#### BLESSING OF THE PETS SET FOR OCT. 2 IN ST. PETE

King of Peace MCC in St. Pete will host a blessing of the animals at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, at Crescent Lake Park, 22nd Avenue between Fifth and Seventh streets North. Participating animal companions will receive commemorative certificate of blessing. The church is sponsoring a donation drive of needed items to be delivered to the SPCA. A collection truck provided by Florida Lifestyles Realty will be at the park to accept gifts for homeless animals. Suggested donations include cat litter, dry or canned dog and cat food and non-glossy newspapers. For those unable to attend the blessing, the church will serve as a collection site as well.

#### JOY MCC CELEBRATES HOMECOMING ON SEPT. 17

Tickets are now on sale for Joy MCC's homecoming party, set for Saturday, Sept. 17. The soiree, which will feature food, dancing and other surprises, will celebrate "music through the decades" and participants are encouraged to dress in the style of their favorite decade. The party takes place at Vista Del Lago Ballroom, 8687 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway near Kissimmee. Tickets cost \$25 each and are available through the church office. Call (407) 894-1081 or visit the church's Web site at JoyMCC.com for details.

#### MCC OF TAMPA OFFERS MOTORCYCLE AS PART OF FUND-RAISER

The MCC of Tampa will award a Harley-Davidson 100th Anniversary XLH 1200 Sportster motorcycle, valued at about \$10,000, to the winner of the Oct. 8 drawing. The benefit will help the MCC Legacy League's retirement funding for the Rev. Troy Perry. The tickets are free, but a \$50 donation fee is suggested because the efforts support a charitable purpose. Tickets can be purchased at the church at 408 E. Cayuga St. in Tampa. For details, call the church office at (813) 239-1951.



## HEALTH

## TWO AIDS ORGANIZATIONS LOSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

WASHINGTON - Marsha Martin and Terje Anderson, the executive directors of AIDS Action and the National Association of People With AIDS, are leaving their respective organizations.



AIDS Action chief MARSHA MARTIN joins the Washington D.C. AIDS/HIV Administration.



NAPWA executive TERJE ANDERSON says he's ready for a role with less stress.

Martin moves across town to head up the troubled HIV/AIDS Administration for the city government of Washington, D.C.

"She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and considerable expertise in the field of HIV/AIDS," Mayor Tony Williams said. "She has the skills that are needed to move the agency forward."

Martin's tenure during her three years at AIDS Action had not been easy. She inherited an organization that had been destabilized by rapid turnover at the top.

Furthermore, it was a period that saw federal funding fail to keep pace with a growing national HIV caseload. Eligibility was tightened and waiting lists for services grew in many states and localities. And while the number of service organizations that were mem-

bers of AIDS Action grew, the budget did not.

She also took hits from some AIDS activists for trying to work with the Bush Administration to improve programs and funding. She previously worked as a special assistant on HIV issues to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala during the Clinton Administration and headed up a program for the homeless in New York under Mayor David Dinkins.

Martin takes over an \$80 million a year program whose previous director was fired one week ago, after barely a year on the job, for mismanaging the agency. Washington has the highest rate HIV in the nation, with an estimated 1 in 20 persons infected with the virus.

Anderson will leave NAPWA at the end of the year. He has served as executive director of NAPWA for five and a half years and prior to that was director of policy. He also served on the board of directors before assuming a paid position with the organization.

Clinton appointed Anderson to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, where he chaired the prevention committee.

"I have never had, and will probably never again have, a better job than this. Working with NAPWA I have had the opportunity to play a leadership role on the issues that matter most to me as a person living with HIV/AIDS," he said.

The job is a demanding one and Anderson said he is ready for less stress. He said he's looking at a variety of future employment opportunities and pledged to remain active in the fight against AIDS and with NAPWA after he departs. The organization has begun the search process and anticipates a smooth transition. Both Anderson and his predecessor, Cornelius Baker, were promoted from within. **▼**  
*Bob Roehr*

## AIDS DEATHS IN PRISON DECLINE

WASHINGTON - Prisoner-rights advocates are crediting improved medical care and better separation of violent and peaceful inmates for a big drop in death rates behind bars in the U.S. from AIDS, suicide and homicide.

Death rates from AIDS-related causes in jails also fell sharply, from 20 per 100,000 in 1988 to eight per 100,000 in 2002.

In state prisons, AIDS-related death rates fell from 100 per 100,000 inmates in 1995 to 15 per 100,000 in 2002, the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported.

State prison homicide rates declined by more than 90%, from 54 per 100,000 in 1980 to four per 100,000 in 2002, the latest year for which data is available,

Jail suicide rates fell more than 60%, dropping from 129 per 100,000 inmates in 1983 — when suicide was the leading cause of death among inmates — to 47 per 100,000 in 2002.

One reason for the downward trend is that advocacy groups have become much more aggressive in filing lawsuits to improve conditions behind bars, said Kara Gotsch, public policy coordinator for the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project.

The prevalence of gangs in prisons spurred violence that prompted corrections officials to pay more attention to classifying inmates, Gotsch added.

Today, there is better screening, better training and better mental and medical health staff, researchers said. (AP)

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

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

**Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines:** ergot medicines, Versed<sup>®</sup>, Halcion<sup>®</sup>, Orap<sup>®</sup>, Propulsid<sup>®</sup>, Camptosar<sup>®</sup>, Crixivan<sup>®</sup>, Mevacor<sup>®</sup>, Zocor<sup>®</sup>, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex<sup>®</sup>, Nexium<sup>®</sup>, Prevacid<sup>®</sup>, Prilosec<sup>®</sup> or Protonix<sup>®</sup>. Do not use Viagra<sup>®</sup>, Levitra<sup>®</sup>, Cialis<sup>®</sup>, Vfend<sup>®</sup>, Advair<sup>®</sup>, Flonase<sup>®</sup>, or Flovent<sup>®</sup> while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription**

**and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

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

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

your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

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

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

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

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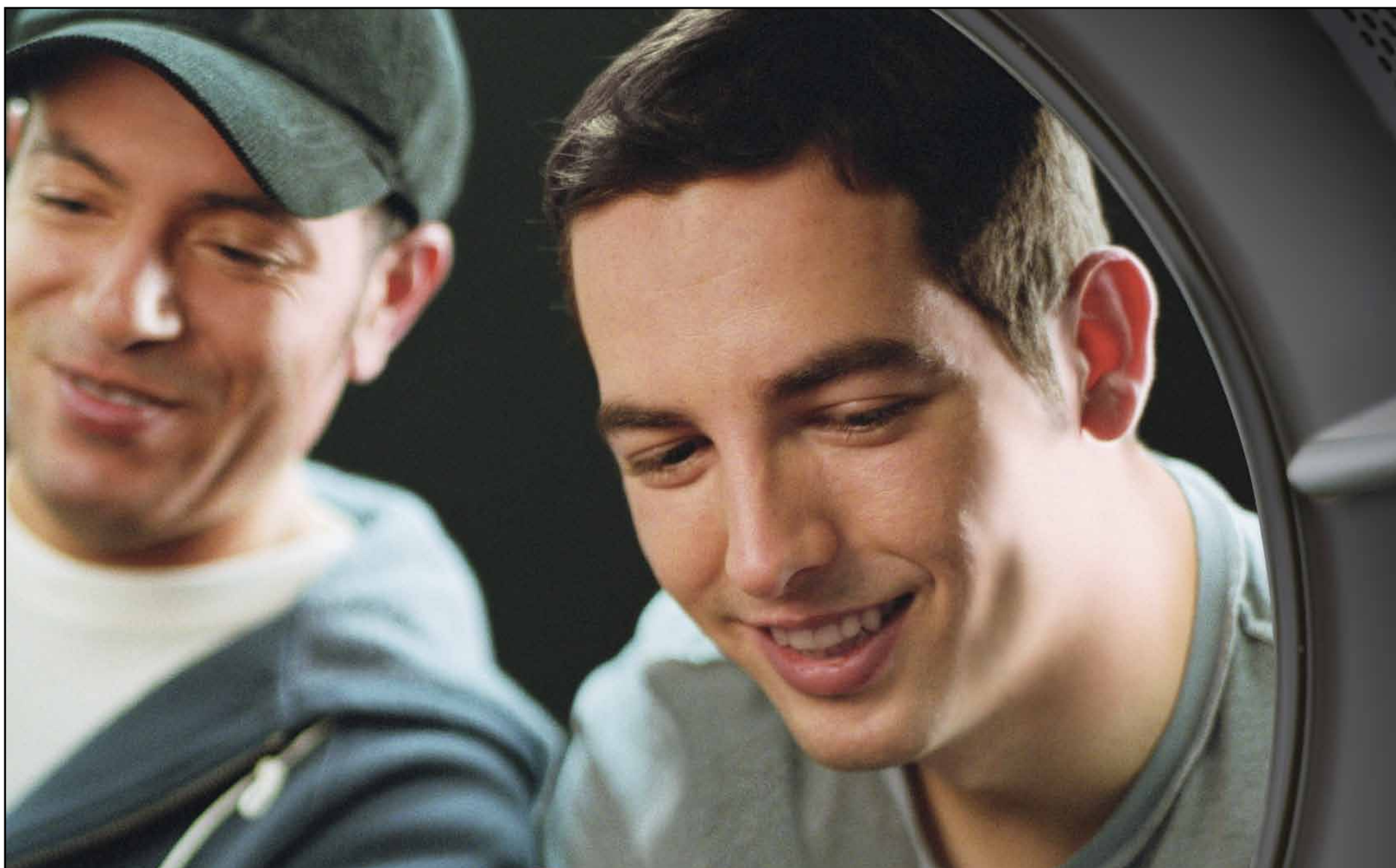


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- ◆ Two pills taken once a day (with a snack or meal)<sup>‡</sup>

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

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

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

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# REYATAZ<sup>®</sup> (RAY-ah-taz)

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

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**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ.** Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

### What is REYATAZ?

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

### Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

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

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

### Who should not take REYATAZ?

#### Do not take REYATAZ if you:

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

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

#### Tell your healthcare provider:

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

### How should I take REYATAZ?

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

### Can children take REYATAZ?

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

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

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

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

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

- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.

This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

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

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

- VFEND<sup>®</sup> (voriconazole).

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

- CIALIS<sup>®</sup> (tadalafil), LEVITRA<sup>®</sup> (vardenafil), or VIAGRA<sup>®</sup> (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPTOR<sup>®</sup> (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE<sup>®</sup> (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN<sup>®</sup>, QUINIDEX<sup>®</sup>, and others).
- VASCOR<sup>®</sup> (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN<sup>®</sup> (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL<sup>®</sup> (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN<sup>®</sup> (desipramine), SINEQUAN<sup>®</sup> (doxepin), SURMONTIL<sup>®</sup> (trimipramine), TOFRANIL<sup>®</sup> (imipramine), or VIVACTIL<sup>®</sup> (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE<sup>®</sup> or NEORAL<sup>®</sup> (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE<sup>®</sup> (sirolimus), or PROGRAF<sup>®</sup> (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL<sup>®</sup> and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR<sup>®</sup>, FLONASE<sup>®</sup>, FLOVENT<sup>®</sup>), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR<sup>®</sup>.

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

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

### Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception.

REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

### Remember:

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

### How should I store REYATAZ?

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

### General information about REYATAZ

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

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

### What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

**Active Ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

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

\* VIDEX<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. COUMADIN<sup>®</sup> and SUSTIVA<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. DESYREL<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Mead Johnson and Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.



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

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Revised June 2005  
Based on package insert dated June 2005

## HEADLINE NEWS

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE from page 6

Granatstein had different theory. He said an agent told him that ABT was responding to a complaint filed by a rival GLBT bar. Noting that the fire department routinely responds to anonymous and unfounded complaints that the club is filled beyond capacity, Granatstein said that he would not be surprised that the source was a competitor.

Most provocative is the allegation made by a local publication that Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer instigated the sting. According to the *Orlando Weekly*, Dyer received an e-mail from RadioGuyRob@aol.com on Aug. 15 stating, "Mayor Dyer ... Did you know that underage children can party at the Parliament House on Sunday nights? No ID needed ... This is so wrong... (You) need to look into ... Please advise... Thank you."

The *Weekly* said his constituent correspondent, Laura Bornfreund, then forwarded the email to Police Chief Michael McCoy.

### STILL CARDED AT 40

Regardless, Parliament House patrons have expressed their sympathies.

According to the resort's public relations manager, within days they had received nearly 50 e-mails from customers supporting the establishment. Many said they had witnessed resort staffers dismiss patrons who attempted to purchase alcoholic drinks for underage people.

"One gentleman said he knew we were diligent about checking IDs because he was 40 and got carded every time he came to the Resort," said Michael Wanzie.

Orlando City Commissioner Daisy Lynum, who lives across Rock Lake from the resort, also called to offer her support.

"The commissioner joked that she had spent more time here than most straight people, and that she had witnessed the diligence we use to enforce our drinking policies," Wanzie said.

And where some see problems, others see opportunities. Wanzie noted that within days of the incident, the resort had been contacted by up to 60 individuals looking to replace the arrested bartenders.

Wanzie says his biggest regret is the loss of a Sunday afternoon event that made it possible for GLBT minors – many disenfranchised — to interact with other gays.

Is that really so wrong? ▼

## PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN 'CARDING' CUSTOMERS

**ORLANDO** - Florida's No. 1 industry is tourism, so it's no surprise that many gays and lesbians work as waiters and bartenders in establishments that serve alcohol. Here's a Q&A that will help you avoid problems.

### What's the best way to protect myself from charges of serving to minors?

Religiously check IDs. Ask for ID for anyone that appears under the age of 30. Embrace being a carding Nazi.

### What forms of ID are acceptable?

Government issued drivers licenses (domestic or foreign), State issued identification cards, military IDs, passports.

### How do I know if the ID is valid?

Look for the statement of purpose. Does it say "drivers license"? Does the ID have a picture, an expiration date and a signature? The expiration date should match the birth date, unless the ID holder was born on April 29. The first letter of the driver's license number should match the first letter of the last name. The middle two numbers will match the year of birth. The three digits following the year of birth indicates gender: if the number is 500 and higher, the ID will be held by a female; 499 and below, a male. The last digit of those same three numbers relates to the date of birth.

### What are some tricks used to alter

### IDs?

Frayed edges may indicate the top layer of an ID card has been lifted in order to make changes. Close inspection may show that certain numbers have been changed with whiteout and markers. Also, on a Florida ID, the edge of the photo should stop between the letters "I" and "D." But these days most false IDs are counterfeit – particularly state IDs – as opposed to being altered.

### What about holograms on IDs?

Each state has specific markings and holograms. False IDs or altered IDs have generic holograms such as keys or words like "authentic" or "genuine."

### What if it's too dark in my establishment to see the ID properly?

Among your serving tools – a pen, change, and a bottle opener – should be a flashlight. You can also shine the flashlight behind the ID to identify any signs of tampering or alterations.

### What if I'm busy? I can't be expected to check every ID, can I?

Yes. The law holds all servers and bartenders to the same standards.

### Can a server refuse service when an ID is questionable?

Yes, but be sure your establishment has a sign posted advising customers that the establishment reserves the right to refuse service to anyone. ▼ *Kirk Hartlage*



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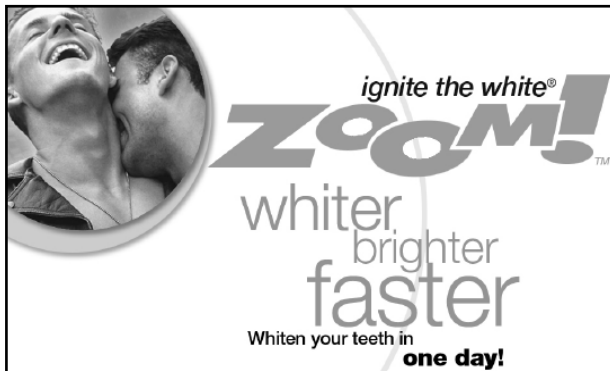


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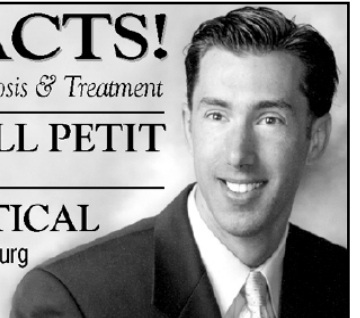
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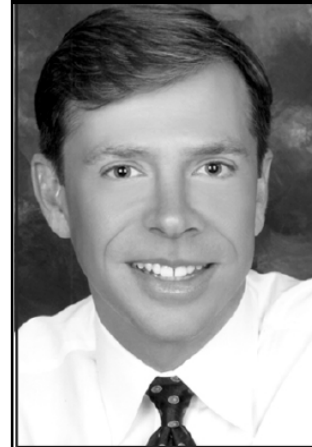
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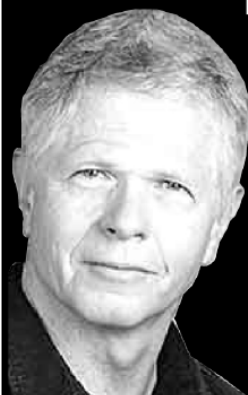
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## VIEWPOINT



## PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED NEW ORLEANS BECOMES THE BIGGEST UNEASY

By Ken Kundis

I first traveled to New Orleans in 1984. I was a senior in high school and had already decided, sight unseen, that Tulane University was to be my college choice. Already accepted, a negotiation with my father resulted in Tulane over Dartmouth (my first choice) and Stetson (his).

Upon arriving, I immediately knew I had gotten the better end of the deal. For an 18-year-old panting for independence, New Orleans seemed like Nirvana. Cultured and erudite enough to legitimately claim to my parents that it would be an enriching experience, New Orleans also was teeming with opportunities for the sort of excess and decadence every college freshman craves.

My four years of college fulfilled

every hope I had on that first visit, and so many others I hadn't anticipated. Coming of age in New Orleans created the man I am today. More than that, as with anyone who has spent any time in the Crescent City, I must acknowledge that the gritty, ribald place slips under your skin and won't ever leave. Simply put, there is no place in the world quite like New Orleans, somehow European and yet distinctly American. Unapologetically free-wheeling yet unrelentingly Southern.

For most gay people who have visited New Orleans (which, if you've lived long enough, is probably most gay people), the city is Mardi Gras, or more recently, Southern Decadence. Plastic beads, show-us-your-dick and four-day benders. A permanent Bacchanalian feast steaming up from the delta, New Orleans has always hosted

**As we watch with dismay, horror and empathy, and we inevitably think about our experiences with weather, and we think also of those people whose lives have been turned completely inside-out and upside-down.**

the sort of non-judgmental attitude – *laissez bon temps roulé* (let the good times roll), in the city's own parlance – that gays and lesbians crave.

However, it always has been so much more. From the personification of Southern Gothic in the Garden District and the mossy opulence of Uptown, to the hard industry of the Central Business District and the quirky characters and some of the nation's deepest history in the French Quarter, New Orleans is a lyrical, lilting checkerboard, a study in contrasts and confluence, that brought us Tennessee Williams and the cultivation of the first truly American form of music in the jazz that permeates the city's nightlife.

And now it is under water. Since I arrived in 1984, I have been hearing about the threat a large-scale hurricane – The Big One – posed to a city shaped like a soup bowl pressed down to the water line of a bathtub.

With Lake Ponchartrain on one side, the Mississippi River on the other and the mighty Gulf of Mexico just out of view, water is what made New Orleans through shipping and trade, and it may very well be water that tears it back down. But to even bring that up at this point seems like mean-spirited I-told-you-so-ing.

For me personally, it could have been much worse. My best friend and college roommate John and his lover, Kenneth, have made their home in the French Quarter for more than a decade. As a professor at our alma mater, John, who was more of a buttoned-up Northern Virginian when I met him, has become as much a part of the city as the city has become a part of him.

Kenneth, a Louisiana native, is so clearly a product of the city and the region. His open personality and appreciation of the absurd have always seemed to me to be a personification of New Orleans, and all its shadings and flavor.

A deserved opportunity for John to head up NYU's undergraduate French department and its incumbent move to Manhattan now seems like a stroke of luck consistent with winning the lottery. They packed their belongings and left a charming but somewhat fragile French Quarter apartment a scant four weeks ago.

They have watched CNN from their new home, seeing familiar places twisted into bizarre, practically oceanic tableaux with a combination of thankfulness, awe and some understandable guilt.

For me, I'm just relieved for them. But through them I've met so many wonderful, colorful characters. Living in the French Quarter for 10 years will fill your life with more interesting people than your imagination has the right to consider. And once you pass St. Ann Street – the Lavender Line – in the French Quarter, nearly all of them are gay.

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### UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

**WEB:** UFMCC.com.

**NEEDS:** Cash and prayers. The site offers a variety of ways to help not only affected church members in the area, but a means of communicating what donors have to offer.

### HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S.

**WEB:** HSUS.org.

**NEEDS:** Cash. Donations will be used for supplies to care for stranded animals throughout the Gulf Coast, as well as rescue efforts.

### RAINBOW WORLD FUND

**WEB:** Rainbowfund.org/donate.

**NEEDS:** Cash. 100% of proceeds from this GLBT fund will go to America's Second Harvest.

### SALVATION ARMY

**WEB:** SalvationArmyUSA.org.

**NEEDS:** Cash. A \$100 donation will feed a family of four for two days, provide two cases of drinking water and one household clean-up kit. ▼

So as we watch with dismay, horror and empathy, and we inevitably think about our experiences with weather last year and what may be coming our way, we think also of those people whose lives have been turned completely inside-out and upside-down.

We think of those who not only have lost their homes, all of their belongings and in many cases their livelihoods. Yet, a relationship with a place that has always been harsher than most also rewards those that embrace it with an uncommonly rich experience.

Many of our brothers and sisters have been dealt a hand that none of us can even fathom. Surely the country will rally behind the whole city, but as you hold your breath for New Orleans, keep a special hope for those whose lives behind the Lavender Line will never be the same. ▼

*Ken Kundis is an Orlando writer and native who can be reached at ken@watermarkonline.com.*



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## VIEWPOINT



## CURRENTS JUDICIAL REVIEW A PLEA FOR COMMON SENSE

By Georgia Jenkins

We the people, in recognition of the fact that the judicial system in this country is in serious need of major surgery, recommend the following reforms be implemented immediately in order that we might all get on with our lives.

**ARTICLE I:** The playground method of jury selection will cease immediately. No more attorneys wrangling: "OK, I'll give up the single black mom. But you've gotta dismiss the one-armed vet with the Confederate flag tattoo." "Done."

Henceforth, summoned jurors will take a simple test to ascertain only that they have the common sense that God gave a turnip and will then serve on the jury irrespective of personal philosophy, life experience or body odor, for so must we endure our peers in the world. Also, no juror shall be dismissed for having knowledge of a high-profile case before the trial. Jurors should be somewhat engaged with the world they live in to be eligible to participate in decisions regarding a person's life.

Under what rock did attorneys manage to find 12 people who swore they knew nothing of the O.J. case or of Jeff Dahmer's appetite? This is a certain method of seating only the dumbest of the accused's peers on the jury, and as such

will be prohibited.

**ARTICLE II:** Defense attorneys will be obligated to submit before judge and jury to a polygraph examination to answer this question: "Do you truly believe in your client's innocence?" Attorneys will be able to provide counsel regardless of their answer, but we the people believe a jury has a right to know the heart of the accused's representative.

**ARTICLE III:** No more of this refusing to allow a defendant's past behavior to be included in his prosecution or defense. We the people recognize that people are the sum of their parts; if a defendant hacked up his neighbors 10 years ago, it is most certainly relevant to his

current behavior. To ignore this is idiotic. We evaluate character in all other arenas to determine safety and sanity; the courts shall also demonstrate at least that much good sense.

**ARTICLE IV:** On a related topic, no more strategic decisions to keep the defendant from the stand because his attorney feels the jury won't be impressed with his client's presentation. Defendants will be required to make a statement on the stand. The jury and community have a right to hear the story right from the accused's mouth as well as from his attorney's professional pitch.

neys' professional pitch.

**ARTICLE V:** Parole board members shall be given a significant pay increase to compensate them for the following changes: Vicious killers who are approved for parole will reside with each member of their parole board for a period of three months. This should provide residence and integration for the parolee for a period of at least a year. After parolees successfully complete this integration period without hacking up their host families, communities may share the board's degree of confidence regarding the offender's successful rehabilitation.

**ARTICLE VI:** All sentencing guidelines will be held to a standard of common sense that currently cannot be found in too many cases. The national average sentence of six years' imprisonment for murder and 10 years for simple possession of marijuana reflects a stupidity which we the people find untenable.

And we the taxpaying people do *not* need to pay for the incarceration and upkeep of the Martha Stewarts of the world or, for that matter, such quaint minimum-security cottage complexes as the one in which she was incarcerated. Enough with the country clubs already. We the people say, "Are you kidding us with that?"

While the average cost of housing a prison inmate in the U.S. stands at around \$20,000, there are working adults trying to support families on considerably less, and state budgets sure aren't allocating money to pay for the roof over their heads.

Having submitted these Articles, we the people will weigh in with further common sense if the jurists we depend upon for communal safety cannot seem to extricate their heads from their asses. ▼

Georgia Jenkins is a Daytona Beach writer, paramedic and massage therapist who can be reached at [georgia@watermarkonline.com](mailto:georgia@watermarkonline.com).

**If a defendant hacked up his neighbors 10 years ago, it is most certainly relevant to his current behavior.**

## Mail

### WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES TO WORK PROACTIVELY

I attended the Sarasota screening of *Fish Can't Fly*, then watched *Rome* on HBO and then caught *The Laramie Project*. I'm not sure if the evening was invigorating or depressing.

After the *Fish Can't Fly* screening, an audience member raised the question about how the ex-gay movement is underwritten.

The Rev. Nancy Wilson, one of those featured in the documentary and the moderator-elect of the UFMCC, responded bluntly that the movement has lots and lots of money to promote a fallacy. This money, she said, comes from political interests — not true spiritual and Christian interests.

She also said that it is important to respond to negative statements from the Far Right by putting our best foot forward and provide good examples of the GLBT community. Films like *Fish Can't Fly* do exactly that.

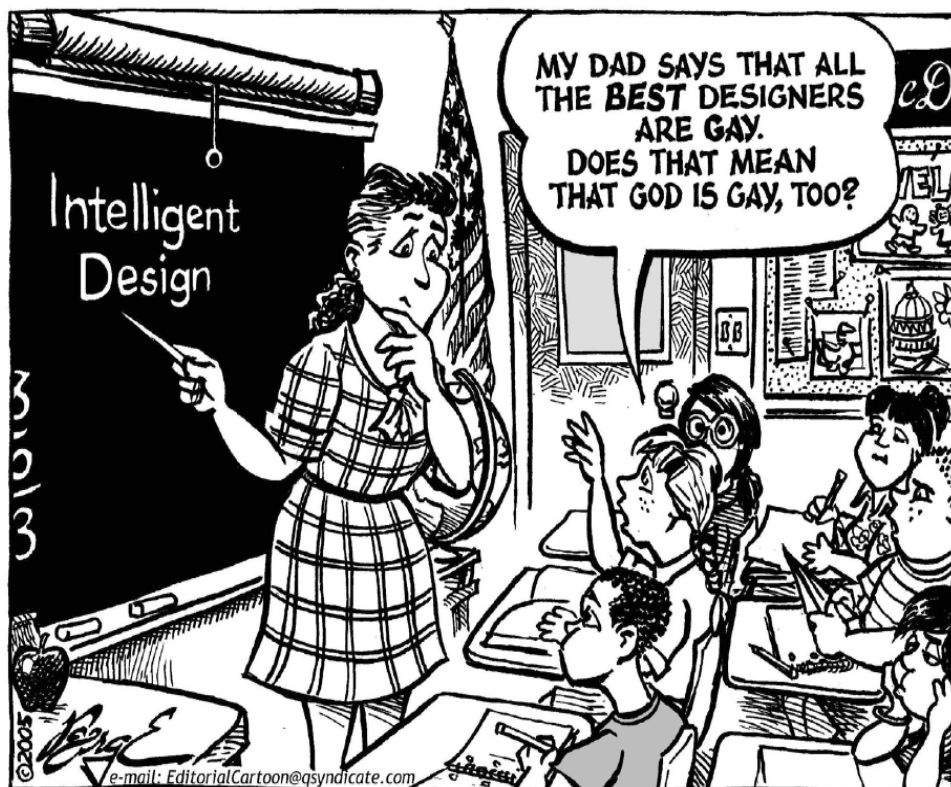
It is important that we stop spending our resources defending our position and place more emphasis on the promoting our position.

So what else can we do to make positive efforts to deny our enemies the right to condemn us? We can support those in our leadership positions who we trust to take a positive message to the local political communities, the nation and the world. You don't have to mortgage your house, you just have to give up a few bucks. Those who hate us are spending millions to spread their hatred and while we could never match their dollars we can be more positive in how we spend ours.

Many in the gay community have biological children and need to tend to their needs but we all have a responsibility to the young gay men and women who come after us. We have a responsibility to ensure that when we move on we have left a legacy that improves their lives.

**Bart Coyle  
Bradenton**

Letters to the editor are always welcome, but they may be edited for length or clarity. Submit them to [editor@watermarkonline.com](mailto:editor@watermarkonline.com) or to Letters, Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32803. ▼



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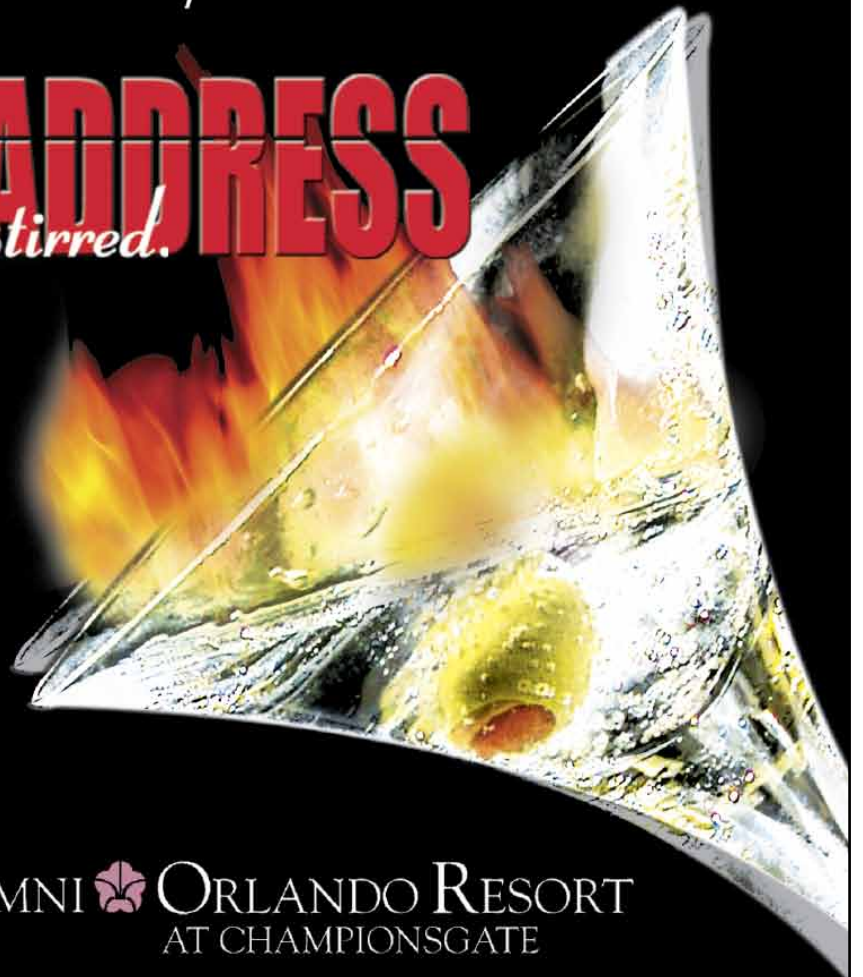
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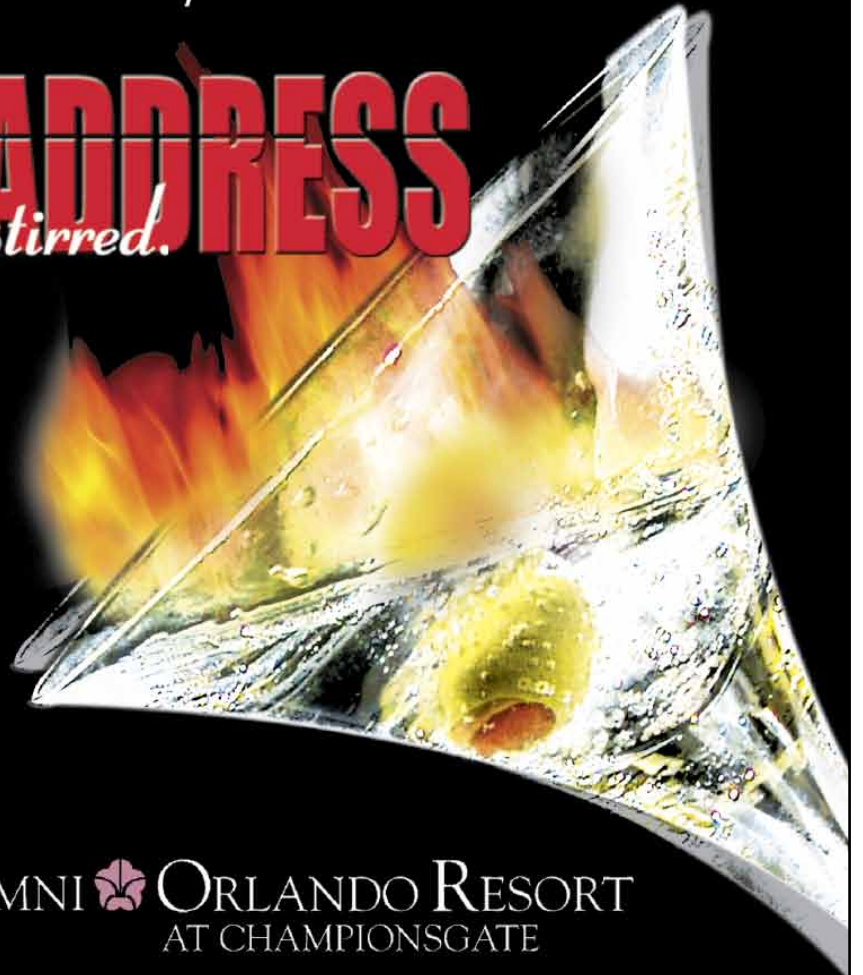
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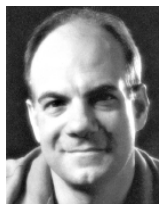
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## WATERCOLORS



## WATERCRESS THE AVIARY LIFE OF OUR VERDANT OASIS

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

CARDINALS HAVE TAKEN OVER the backyard here, causing us no end of concern because their red robes and pom-poms frighten away the lizards. Ha! The feathered kind have decided to nest within the turk's cap bushes, a wall of which we have planted between our house and The People Next Door — not out of rancor, naturally, but in case we grow old enough to wander outside in our 80-year-old birthday suits.

"Hey Amber, ya gotta see this! There's a couple of shar-peis standing on their hind legs in Jim and Kirk's yard!"

Oh, the things that have gone on in that verdant oasis of ours. We used to have a spa out there, but a freeze managed to crack the pipes, and so we had it hauled out. You know what happens when you throw 18 gay guys into a hot tub. Suddenly, everyone becomes very Continental with their Roman hands and Russian fingers. Who can even begin to relax? In that light, I'll keep the yard devoted to flora and fauna.

And I have to say that, this year, we are thankfully free of mockingbirds, which can be very aggressive. The things had taken up residence outside the front door

where I used to live with Richard many years ago. When I came home from work, I would honk so that Richard could come out of the house waving a stick at the birds which, for some unknown reason, always chose to attack me.

Into the house I would run, protecting my eyes with my hands and yelling bloody murder. (Ever try sightless running and shrieking? Oh, the walls I ran into!) I always say that I love nature in spite of what it's done to many of my friends, but I fear that it's working on me as well ... and the results won't be pretty!

**ORGANIZING IS SOMETHING** that I indulge in when the walls of this house begin to creak and groan from the sheer effort involved in keeping all my papers and mementoes in place. And, because there are two people living here, with a combined age of almost 104 years, you can

**I am surprised that not a single gay person has called for Pat Robertson's assassination, but then I realize — we're better than him.**

imagine the stuff we've accumulated; I wouldn't be surprised to find a moose head and a dressmaker's dummy in the attic, just to complete the hackneyed scenario to which we have fallen hostage.

Therefore, we have begun a wholesale, indiscriminate slaughter of anything that's unable to jump out of the way as we approach with our vanilla-scented garbage bags and grinding, pulsating shredder. Together we plan to tear and pillage our way through the past, making way for a lemon-scented future lined with shining wooden floors and yawning caverns of empty closet space.

Now, that's a lovely theory, as I was explaining to Mom on the phone.

"I still have Maria's letters," I said. "Remember when we were writing back and forth in the 1960s?"

"Oh my God, I forgot to tell you," Ma said. "Her mother died, you remember Lillian? I got back from my cruise and there was a letter from Maria and her sister Barbara."

So we had a long talk about Lillian, Maria and Barbara, Lillian's sister Marta, and Lillian's mother Concetta, who talked non-stop whenever she visited Brooklyn from Miami.

"Give me the girls' addresses," I

finally said, "so I can drop a note and say, 'Hi.' It's only been 35 years! And I'll enclose a nice sympathy note."

So it sounds like I'll be replacing letters from the 20th century with letters from the 21st. Like sand through the hourglass, so pass the days of our lives. And at this rate, I'll never get caught up.

**VIRGINIA IS OUR CURRENT STOP** on my Gay 50 Tour, which means we are almost to the end of the alphabet. Known as the Old Dominion; Charles II added the state to his other possessions — France, Ireland and Scotland. Imagine keeping track of that many people?

Luckily for us today, the gay people of Virginia have Pat Robertson to observe and try to prevent their moral turpitude.

His bone-headed pronouncements and typically right-wing Republican back pedaling reinforce the fact that his brain should have been removed, placed in a jar and sent to Johns Hopkins many years ago for observation and eventual disposal. I am surprised that not a single gay person has called for *his* assassination, but then I realize — we're better than him.

On another note, do you know anyone from Virginia who speaks with the old Tidewater accent? It's said that it's the most beautiful American accent to be heard. And you know us: We're *all* about style. ▼

*Jim Crescitelli is Watermark's oldest living contributor and can be reached at [watercress@watermarkonline.com](mailto:watercress@watermarkonline.com).*

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Lilla Cabot Perry (1848-1933), *Japanese Children*, oil on canvas, ca. 1898-1901  
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## WATERCOLORS



## AMAZONS CONSIDERING ART AND THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

By Karen S. Murray-Parker

I've come to the conclusion that lesbian artists are obsessed with the feminine mystique. I noticed this while browsing through the vendor booths at the recent Michigan Women's Music Festival. With rare exception, there were more vulvas, labia, and breasts than I could count, portrayed in everything from glass art and pottery to painting and jewelry.

Womb art was pretty popular too, but that had more to do with Goddess art, which was another common theme. My eyes became blurred from so many renderings of the *Venus of Willendorf*.

Since at my age my body is mysteriously beginning to look like the *Venus of W.*, I was mildly flattered that women might want to display such Rubenesque images in their homes. It gave me hope that some women might still find me attractive since none of the fad diets I've been trying are helping peel off the extra 30 pounds I've put on since my hysterectomy. But I digress.

Of course, when you attend a festival where naked breasts commonly flap in the wind and many totally naked women walk around with painted and unpainted bodies, the nude female body loses a lot of its mystique. Well, sort of.

I saw big boobs like mine that dangle almost down to the waist (a sad consequence of aging and my old bra-burning days), perky breasts with nipples that almost seemed surreal because they were so large. And bushes in every color of the rainbow revealing to me that there are a lot of real blondes and redheads in the world.

Not that I was obviously looking or anything like that. I was merely taking an objective survey for purposes of this column (Alta, I hope you're reading this).

Since I am a painter and sculptor, I found it interesting to share these observations with the artists in question at their booths. I paint my share of images of naked and otherwise clothed women. In my early feminist days, I painted a lot of vaginas and breasts in defiance of 1970s politics, but as I grew older the feminine form seemed less dramatic to me. I drifted toward metaphysical themes, but now I think I abandoned those labia, vulvas and breasts too soon.

The artists I spoke with told me they were still expressing the themes we

had promoted so passionately in my hippie days: pride in the naked female form and our sexuality.

I guess I've missed something over the past three decades. Looking around at young women today with thongs flashing out of their low-slung pants and skirts and bra-less tits poking out beneath skimpy tank tops, I thought modern women had great pride and freedom in their bodies and sexuality these days, and didn't mind flaunting the same.

I hate dating myself, but I can remember when wearing a mini-skirt above the knee would bring on gasps of disapproval. I watched the MTV Video Music Awards and saw mini-skirts that barely covered the butt and no one uttered a word of protest.

Au contraire, I was informed by these modern day feminists/artists at the fest. I was informed that nowadays the marching theme is pride in women's bodies in all their many and varied forms. Why then, I wondered, were most of the breasts, vulva, labia and naked bodies I saw portrayed

in the artwork in the vendors' area, that of slim, tight, and perky body parts?

Except for the goddess artists, there were almost no pleasantly plump or even obese women in any of the artwork. The truth is that sex sells and sex is usually defined as some slim, tight, perky babe with an idealized body.

So I've decided to rebel once again. I'm dropping painting all my Zen paintings of Buddha (a current theme of mine) and I'm going to go back to painting nudes of women, but with a subtle twist.

My models will be bodacious babes with boobs down to their waist and plump curvaceous hips. I will lay them on their backs and sides as if they are the mountains and hills in a geographic landscape. The idea will be to present real women as the foundation of the earth. As a kind of oblique homage to that goddess theme with a more modern twist.

They probably won't sell, but at least then I'll be more in tune with my artist sisters ... helping to perpetuate that feminine mystique. ▼

Karen S. Murray-Parker is a Sarasota writer and nursing student who can be reached at [amazons@watermarkonline.com](mailto:amazons@watermarkonline.com).

I drifted toward metaphysical themes in my artwork, but now I think I abandoned those labia, vulvas and breasts too soon.

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## WATERCOLORS

# HER DOUBLE LIFE

Lesbian writer Leslea Newman ventures back to the 1970s with her new book, *Jailbait* by Gregg Shapiro

Author Leslea Newman has earned considerable praise for her children's books that include *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, as well as her young adult works, such as *Fat Chance* and *Good Enough to Eat*.

Now, she's exploring the world of a teenage girl, Andrea Robin Kaplan, a lonely sophomore who becomes the object of the affections of a pedophile.

His inappropriate attentions are an unexpected reprieve for Andrea from her social outcast status at school and her dutiful daughter role at home. Although she knows it's wrong, it is through this painful and complicated experience that Andrea is able to emerge as a stronger and smarter person, and one who regains control of her life.

Recently, Newman talked about the 1970s, being the second-fattest girl in class and lesbian high school seniors.

**WATERMARK:** *Jailbait* is set in the early 1970s. Why did you choose 1971, and not, say, 1981, for the setting of the book?

**LESLEA NEWMAN:** When I wrote the first several drafts, I really didn't have a

time frame in mind; I just assumed it was contemporary. And then my very wise editor at Random House said to me. "This doesn't read like a contemporary novel. It reads like the 1970s. So, you need to either bring it into the present or set it back in the past."

When she said that, I immediately got very excited about the idea of setting it back in the past and I think that's what was happening all along. It's the time when I was a teenager so I think it was easiest for me to get in the head of a teenager by putting her in the time period when I was her age. That's kind of the reason, and then it became so much fun.

Her brother Mike really epitomizes that time period; he was a really fun character to develop. I sent away for *TV Guides* from that era, I looked up slang, I looked up the Top 40 hits during that time, and I really got into it.

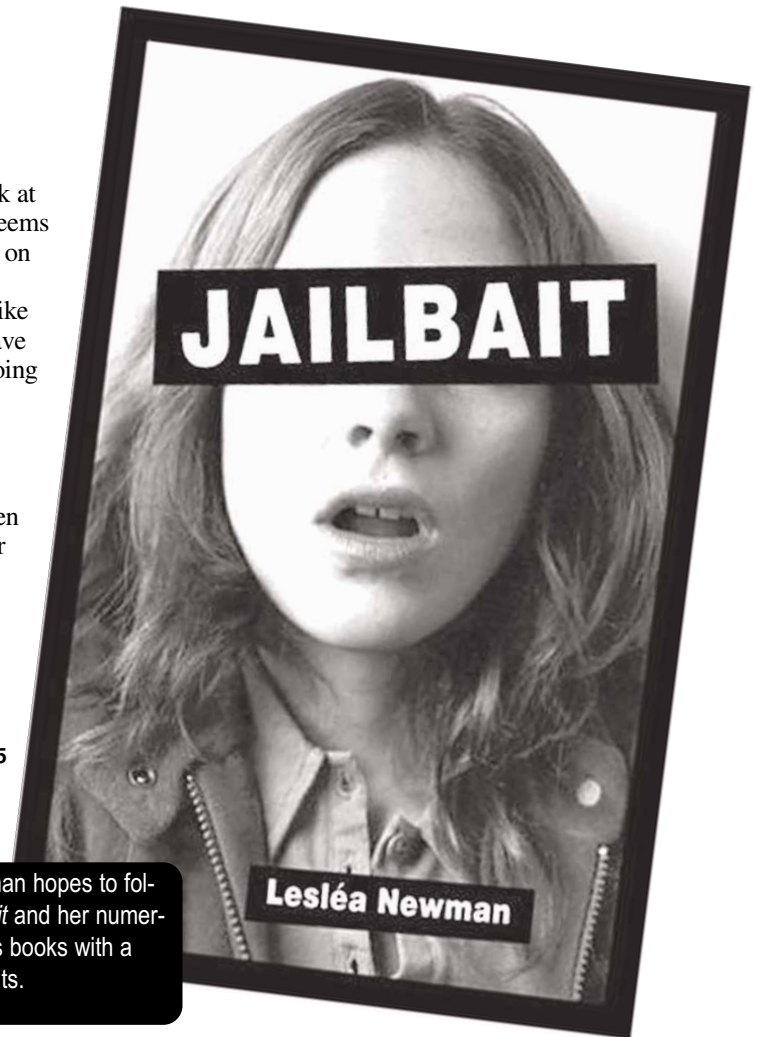
***Jailbait* also examines parent/child relationships. Do you think they have changed much in 30-odd years?**

One would like to think so. I'm not a parent so I can't really speak from direct experience, but from the teenagers I have

met, when I go to talk at schools, etcetera, it seems like it really depends on the family. There are some kids who feel like their parents don't have a clue as to what's going on in their life, and that's probably true. And, there are some parents who are very active and maybe even over involved in their kids' lives.

I do know that teenagers have been and will always be very smart, and very capable of leading

**Continued on page 35**



Leslea Newman hopes to follow up *Jailbait* and her numerous children's books with a novel for adults.

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## WATERCOLORS

NEWMAN from page 34

double lives if they choose to.

**Jailbait depicts the cruelty of teens to one another. For instance, classmate Donald Caruso relentlessly teases Andrea, especially when he calls her a lesbian and a dyke in a derogatory fashion. Can you say something about the cruelty of teens, in both the pre- and post-Columbine culture, and why you chose to depict that in the book?**

I think Columbine is a perfect example. I think teenagers are incredibly cruel and I think it all comes from their own insecurity. If somebody else is being picked on, then I won't be the one getting picked on.

I, in fact, was the second fattest kid in my high school and junior high, and I'm so ashamed to say that I participated in the teasing of the first fattest child because it wasn't me. Of course any child who is perceived as different, whether in fact he or she is or not, is a target. I mean there was a kid in my school who had four gray hairs. That kid was teased mercilessly for that, and of course any kid who was perceived to be gay or lesbian, that was just it.

In fact, in 1999, I was invited back to my own high school, Jericho High School on Long Island, (where) I was inducted into their Hall of Fame. They did not tell the students that I was a gay writer, they just said I was a writer, and they didn't tell them anything about what I had written, so I wound up coming out to 300 high school students during an assembly. (I decided to) because it's pretty impossible to talk about my work and not come out, not that I want to be closeted anyway.

They were asking me all these questions and I asked them,

"What's it like for a gay or lesbian student here at Jericho High School in 1999?" There was this dead silence, and then one kid piped up from the back and said, "We don't have any gay or lesbian students here," which of course wasn't true.

A year later, I got an e-mail from a young woman who said that she was now in college, and she was at that assembly, and she knew she was a lesbian all through high school but wouldn't dare come out because she knew how much she would have been tormented. She was so happy that I was at that assembly.

**You would have thought, even six years ago, that there were gay-straight alliances in schools.**

Right, and that just showed me how little has changed. Even here in Northampton (Mass.), a.k.a. Lesbianville, U.S.A., I had spoken at the high school, and after I spoke — this was very moving to me — a guy stood up, who seemed like



Author LESLEA NEWMAN has explored body image and sexuality issues through many of her young adult novels, including her latest effort, *Jailbait*.

your basic football player type, and he said, "After hearing you speak I'm going to stop using the word 'fag' the way I use it because it's not right," and that floored me.

**In *Jailbait*, you have worked in literary allusions to Kerouac and Ginsberg, as well as an example of a poetic form. Do you feel it is your responsibility as a writer to include such things for the purpose of expanding the minds of younger readers?**

I wasn't really thinking about it in that way. I was so into the character Mike, who is Andi's older brother, and he's this hippie wannabe. Bob Dylan is his idol, and he just idolizes Ginsberg and Kerouac and all those people, so it just really

came out of this character.

**In the book, which I imagine will have a considerable female readership, you also address the theme of body image, something with which both Andrea and her mother struggle.**

I've been writing about body image for a very long time. In my first novel, *Good Enough to Eat*, which came out in 1986, that was pretty much the theme and the topic of the entire novel, and I think that every teenage girl is acutely aware of her body; whether it's too big, too little, if certain parts of it are shaped *wrong*.

I think that in some ways, especially during the teenage years, biology is destiny and girls certainly know that.

Also, the way the media portrays young women and the ideal that young women try to live up to are impossible, the start of Andi's torment is because she has a very large chest and that really shapes her life in many ways. ▼

**"Any child who is perceived as different is a target. I mean, there was a kid in my school with four gray hairs. The kid was teased mercilessly for that."**

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WATERCOLORS

# THRILL ME

Gypsy announces an ambitious 2006 season  
By Dave Wiethop

TAMPA - Continuing its ambitious mission of offering classic GLBT plays and musicals and new works, Gypsy Productions has announced its tentative 2006 season.

— **Boys in the Band**, Jan. 13-Feb. 5. This ground-breaking piece by Mart Crowley premiered in New York in 1968 and has been credited with changing the way that theatre portrays gays.

— **Blackout**, March 3-26. A world premier of a play that looks at what happens to a bisexual college professor who blacks out after drinking at a party where he has been named Teach of the Year.

— **Women Behind Bars**, April 21-May 14. In this satire on B movies of the 1950s, Mary Eleanor, an innocent duped into crime, lands in the Greenwich Village Woman's House of Detention that is presided over by a massive matron with a taste for sadism and female flesh. The off-Broadway play has remained popular since its 1976 inception.

— **Thrill Me**, July 7-30. An audience favorite when it premiered simultaneously at the Orlando Fringe Festival and off-Broadway in May, the one-act musical recounts the chilling tale of childhood friends — and eventual lovers — Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb.

— **Psycho Beach Party**, Aug. 25-Sept. 17. Described as *Gidget* crossed with *Three Faces of Eve* and *Mommie Dearest*, the comic romp pokes fun at beach movies and mental illness in a manner that only Charles Busch can provide. Complications arise when a movie starlet hides out among the beach bums who have eyes on Chicklet, a surfer girl with multiple personalities.

— **Twilight Of The Golds**, Oct. 13-Nov. 5, 2006. Jonathan Tolins' play considers what could happen to the average family, typified by the Golds, if science could allow parents to learn the sexual orientations of their unborn children.

Other highlights for the 2006 season will include **ICONS: Lesbian and Gay History of the World**, May 26-June 4; the **Night of Alternative Theatre**, June 19; and a Christmas show, Nov. 24-Dec. 17.

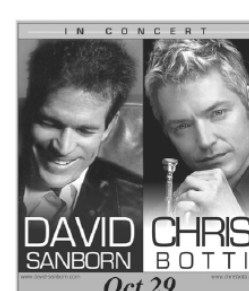
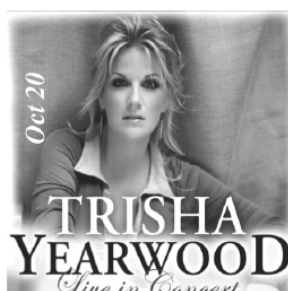
The current season includes **Sordid Lives**, Del Shores comic play about white trash families, which plays through Sept. 18, and the American premiere of Dorothy Dittrich's **When We Were Singing**, musical that looks at the lives of some friends and lovers in New York.

Tickets may be purchased through the Suncoast Theatre Box Office at (727) 456-0500. The theatre is located at the Suncoast Resort St. Petersburg. ▼ Dave Wiethop



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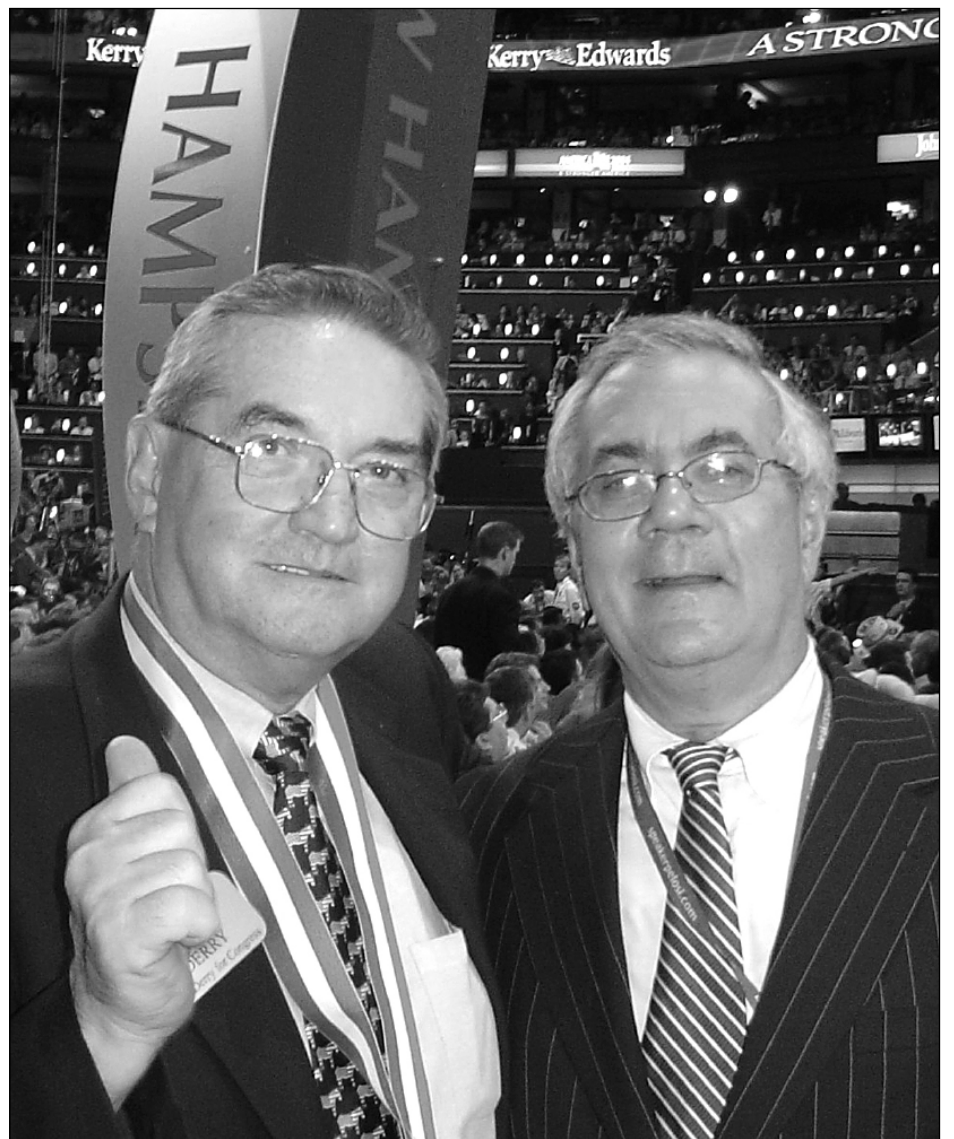
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U.S. House candidate BOB DERRY of Pinellas Park (left) and REP. BARNEY FRANK, D-Mass., on the floor of the National Democratic Convention last summer.

#### FRANK from page 31

Civil Liberties Union.

“An Evening with Congressman Barney Frank” takes place at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Orlando Centroplex Expo Centre. General admission tickets are \$20, though VIP seats and sponsorships are also available.

Before officially starting his two-week vacation, Frank spent time with *Watermark* discussing the state of humor with minorities, what the National Rifle Association is doing right, and what’s wrong with putting our faith in gay pride parades.

**WATERMARK:** Congressman Frank, you were voted the funniest congressman in Washington by a D.C. publication. How does one go about winning an award like that?

**BARNEY FRANK:** I have a very low boredom threshold. I find if I don’t then I try to think of things in a funny angle. The single biggest reason to be funny is so I can get through the day. I do important work and I’m glad to do it, but if things weren’t boring from time to time,

then no one would pay me to do it.

I’ve been lucky to see things in a funny perspective. It can also be useful in a political situation. As tragic as the Terri Schiavo thing was, the Republican position was so ludicrous that humor became a useful way to point it out.

“The single biggest reason to be funny is so through I can get through the day.”

For example, having Bill Frist — Dr. Frist, the eminent doctor — say that he had been able to discern eye contact with someone who turned out to be brain-dead and blind. Or, when

members of Congress kept making these medical announcements that Terri Schiavo can think and feel and that she might be able to come out of this, they should have announced, “We’re not doctors, we just play them on C-SPAN.”

I think humor is a way to illustrate the total lack of logic of some people’s positions in a way that other people will remember.

**A lot of people look to gays as a source of comic relief. Do you think being gay helps with being funny?**

No. But it is the case that minority groups that have suffered various forms

Continued on page 39

## WATERCOLORS

FRANK from page 38

of persecution, oppression, discrimination in varying degrees, humor is often one of the ways in which you cope with that. One way in which you cope when you're in that minority is to make fun of the people who are discriminating (against you).

There's black humor, Jewish humor, gay and lesbian humor – these have all been responses by people who have been discriminated. But that goes with the form it takes.

I don't think that there is any special dispensation towards being funny because of anything. I think most human characteristics seem to be fairly randomly distributed across the demography.

**You are on summer vacation. How does a well-known congressman spend his summer vacation?**

I was going to go to Israel as part of a delegation of gay and lesbian Jewish people that was sponsored by the National Jewish Federation — I thought that was a very impressive thing. It said a lot of things about Israel and about the Jewish community here.

Then I planned to spend some time in my district and some time in Provincetown, but my mother died on Aug. 7. She had taken ill suddenly and went very quickly, so I've been tending to family.

**You just worked as part of a bipartisan effort to introduce legislation that would give federal protection to the victims of hate crimes.**

It's interesting because for the first time it's transgender-inclusive. It's the first federal bill that we've introduced that has major support.

We had this debate in the community where people were saying that the job discrimination bill should cover transgender people. But groups including the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

AN EVENING WITH  
REP. BARNEY FRANK

**WHEN:** 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10.

**WHERE:** Orlando Centroplex Expo Centre.

**HOW:** General admission tickets are \$20. Call Elaina Ozrovitz at (305) 576-2337 ext. 13, or via e-mail at eozrovitz@aclufl.org.

and others were supporting a hate crimes bill that was not specifically transgender-inclusive. I thought, frankly, that was backwards.

Politically, it's a lot easier to deal with the transgender issue in hate crimes. You start, it seems to me, with where you can make your strongest case and then you build on your strengths.

**What are some things the gay community is doing right?**

The main thing we're doing right is being honest about who we are. There have been enormous changes for the better over the past 30 years that are primarily driven by our community being honest about who we are. When we talk

honestly about our sexuality, it's called "coming out." Straight people also discuss their sexuality, but when they do it, it's called "conversation."

That's been a major factor, and then we have gotten political. At first,

demonstrations and marches were important because people didn't know who we were and didn't know we were around. Now, though, the most important political gains in America are made through the voting booth.

The National Rifle Association doesn't have demonstrations, the AARP doesn't have demonstrations. They vote. They register. They pressure politicians. We've started to do that but we don't do

**"Things that make you feel good emotionally are not always the things that have the best political impact."**

enough of that. There are too many people who are in gay bars on Saturday night who don't vote Tuesday morning.

There's still a lack of political participation – serious, thoughtful political participation. Once you register to vote, you find out everybody you can vote for or against, watch what they do, if they don't do the right thing you complain to them, if they do the right thing you support them. Our opponents do that better than we do.

**It does seem often that there's a lack of community within the GLBT community.**

That's part of the problem – people only vote for president. We can't win when that happens. Take the NRA as our model. They all register to vote, they listen when the bill comes up, and they get in touch with you when they tell you they want you to vote for this and that they'll be watching you. We've gotten better at that, but not nearly good enough.

If people want to advance our ability to be treated fairly, voting is a hell of a lot more important than a gay pride parade.

If you can do both, fine. But if you only have the energy to do one, vote and don't go to the parade.

**Orlando's parade is coming up in a few weeks. It's interesting you bring that up.**

What people don't understand is that parades are for fun – and so are demonstrations. They are for emotional support. They have nothing to do with affecting public policy. Nobody in Washington cares if there are 800,000 or 1 million people on the mall because no one knows who's district they're in and *we're not even here on a Sunday*. It's disproportionate.

Things that make you feel good emotionally are not always the things that have the best political impact.

**Do you have any suggestions on how to motivate part of a community that the only association they have with other gays is in clubs on Saturday night or on the Internet?**

My only advice is that if you want to change your status, fine. But there may be people who say, "You know what? I'm well off and I have health benefits and my partner has health benefits and nobody's discriminating against me — I don't care."

This is particularly the case if you happen to be a middle- or upper-class white guy who lives in a metropolitan area. You may not feel much discrimination. If you don't care about other people, then I suppose you can say (that you're OK with the way things are).

But if you resent the discrimination felt by others, or you want to get married some day, then political participation is the only way. ▼



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## WATERCOLORS

McCLELLAN from page 44

Comprehensive Research Institute, which specializes in HIV and AIDS research. The glass vessel is an homage to not only the Art for Life name, but to the return of the event, which was resurrected in 2004.

"I am honored to have been asked to be part of this event again and to especially have my piece picked," McClellan said. "This is something I wanted to get behind and when I was contacted about it last year, I immediately started thinking about the organizations it benefited and how I wanted to portray Art for Life in a vessel."

The result is a vessel featuring some recognizable buildings from Tampa's skyline and the familiar Art for Life column. The two charitable organizations benefiting from the upcoming event are very special to McClellan, who is very familiar with their work.

Project Return is a non-profit organization assisting those with mental illnesses to become productive members of society. The work of St. Joseph's Research Institute is known nationwide for its advances in HIV and AIDS treatments.

**"You can get \$10 for a vase, but you can get any price you want for a vessel."**

### CREATING A UNIQUE CANVAS

McClellan said that he first became interested in blowing glass at 5 years old while visiting West Virginia. When he watched the normally hard, translucent material take on new shapes at the whim of an experienced glass blower, he knew it was something he wanted to try. The Orlando native and Tampa resident eventually saw a small ad in a Tampa newspaper and began taking lessons on the craft.

"Learning how to blow glass was a very difficult process," McClellan admitted. "I knew that if I took the class I would always continue with it. I'd come in two hours early and kept calling (my instructor) for two years after the class asking questions. He kept

putting me off and that would get me more pissed off, which was the best thing that could have happened."

At the time, McClellan and his partner owned several stores at the Tampa Airport. The couple would travel to New York and would buy pieces of art to resell. Eventually, McClellan found himself buying for his stores during the day and learning more about blowing glass at night.

"I initially studied an Italian technique while in New York," McClellan said. "I'd see these guys blowing these huge pieces a few guys down from me, but I wasn't ready for that. It took me about two years to get a better command for the material and I was lucky enough to have some of those guys working with large objects willing to teach me."

To fund his continuing education, McClellan took on a job as a waiter. The commitment has obviously paid off.

### MCCLELLAN, THE ARTIST

Since learning his craft, McClellan has become well known at museums and art festivals across the country. He claimed top honors at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, the Melbourne Arts Festival, Chicago Old Towne Festival, Coconut Grove Arts Festival and Winter Park Arts Festival.



Duncan McClellan's piece, *Return to Life*, is an homage to the Art for Life event, which was resurrected in 2004. The piece will be auctioned on Oct. 1.

Besides training in Tampa and New York, he has also studied in Murano, Italy, and his pieces are on display at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Mobile Museum of Art and even at Raymond James Financial Services, Planet Hollywood and Walt Disney World attractions.

"The universe or whatever spiritual aspects you believe in created us to create," McClellan said. "God made us all to be creative and I believe that's the only commandment we have."

Creating these pieces is a very personal and subjective process.

A vessel goes through a long and difficult journey that can sometimes take up to a year, McClellan said. It may begin as a sketch long before the final sandblasted vessel makes any public appearance, but time frames vary. Sometimes, a piece will be completed in 30 hours. Others have taken more than 400 hours. Either way, there's only one way to know when a piece is done and ready for the world.

"They have a saying that when the artist says it's done, it's done," McClellan said. "I've been accused of

overdoing things but I'm the artist and I have the right to create what I want to say, and I know when what I want to say is complete." ▼

### TO BID ON DUNCAN McCLELLAN'S *RETURN TO LIFE*

**WHAT:** Art for Life, a benefit for Project Return and St. Joseph's Comprehensive Research Institute.

**WHERE:** Higgins Hall, 5225 N. Himes Ave., Tampa.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 1. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the voice auction beginning at 8 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the event. For more information, call (813) 990-8981, ext. 1, or visit [ArtforLifeTampa.com](http://ArtforLifeTampa.com).

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# CALENDAR of Events

## ART & EXHIBITS

### ORLANDO

#### AN AMERICAN SAMPLER

American folk art is the art of the people — often forgotten men and women. The Mennello Museum of American Art focuses on folk art at its beautiful location on a small lake in cultural Loch Haven Park. The museum's current exhibit features portraits and landscape paintings by major American artists from the late 19th and early 20th century. Works by Lilla Cabot Perry, John White Alexander, John Sloan and Rockwell Kent will be shown through Sept. 25 alongside the museum's permanent collection of works by Earl Cunningham. The museum is located at 900 E. Princeton St. For more information, call (407) 246-4278 or visit [MennelloMuseum.org](http://MennelloMuseum.org).

#### 30/30: A COMPACT JURIED COMPETITION

The Maitland Art Center plays host to this unique juried art exhibition, judged by nationally and internationally recognized artist Dorothy Gillespie. 30/30 denotes the limited size of the artwork - works may not exceed 30 by 30 inches or weigh more than 30 pounds. The show is limited to Florida artists and will include many from the Central Florida area. The show runs from Sept. 9 to Oct. 23; admission to the galleries is free but donations are accepted. The Maitland Art Center is located at 231 West Packwood Ave. For more information call (407) 539.2181 or visit [MaitlandArtCenter.org](http://MaitlandArtCenter.org).

#### M.C. ESCHER: RHYTHM OF ILLUSION

Get a new perspective when you explore the creative process of one of the world's most popular and intriguing artists of the 20th century, Maurits Cornelis Escher. Escher has earned worldwide renown for his precisely rendered visual illusions that range from an image of never-ending steps to a flock of geese flying in two directions at once. His art, often seen as trippy mind puzzles, challenges and captivates. Escher created in two dimensions a world of fantastic spatial and planar geometric rhythm - precise illusions of his own making. The show runs through Oct. 30 at the Orlando Museum of Art. The museum is located at 2416 N. Mills Ave. For information, visit [omart.org](http://omart.org).

## COMEDY

### ORLANDO/SARASOTA

#### DREW CAREY AND THE IMPROV ALL STARS

Drew Carey, why have you forsaken us? Funny sitcoms are disappearing and you once had two good shows on the alphabet network (*The Drew Carey Show* and *Who's Line Is It Anyway?*), which have now been relegated to syndication and ABC Family. At least you're bringing your schtick on the road with your improvisational comedy all-stars to Central Florida. First are two shows at Orlando's Hard Rock Live on Friday, Sept. 16, followed by two shows at Sarasota's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Saturday, Sept. 17. Tickets are available at the box offices or by calling (407) 351-LIVE in Orlando or (941) 953-3368 in Sarasota.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

#### WOMEN'S LABOR DAY DANCE

An all-women dance party is scheduled at the Gulfport Casino Sept. 10 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$12 each and a cash bar will be available. Participants are encouraged to dress as their current or dream profession. Last month's party sold out, so get your ticket fast. The Gulfport Casino is at 5500 Shore Blvd. S. in Gulfport.

#### TRANSGENERATION SCREENING

The premier of the Sundance Channel's documentary following four transgendered college students, *TransGeneration*, will be screened at the Metro Center in St. Petersburg Sept. 16. The movie includes testimony from the four subjects' families and friends and promises to illustrate the growing movement toward new definition of sexuality and gender identities. The movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Metro Center, 3170 Third Ave. N. in St. Petersburg.

#### PLUNGE PARTY

The annual Plunge Party benefit for the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is slated for 7 p.m. Sept. 17. Tickets for the event at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa are \$20 for general admission and \$50 for VIP admission. To purchase tickets, visit [www.tiglff.com](http://www.tiglff.com) and click on "events."

## THEATER

### ORLANDO

#### MENOPAUSE: THE MUSICAL

Inspired by a hot flash and a bottle of wine, *Menopause: The Musical* has helped thousands of women celebrate "the change" with a lively parody of re-lyricized classic Baby Boomer hits. The show opens again in Orlando at the Darden Adventure Theatre on Sept. 13, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are available by calling (407) 514-2199. For more info, visit [MenopauseTheMusical.com](http://MenopauseTheMusical.com).

### TAMPA BAY

#### SORDID LIVES

Family. Funerals. Feuds. Food. Fidelity. Fanatics. Female Impersonators. It's the stage version of the hit cult movie send up of the whitest of everything that is white trash. Even if you're not from the Bible Belt or have never been in a Trailer Park, *Sordid Lives* just might make you want to tease your hair up a little higher and wear a little more make-up. The play has been called "The most delicious combination of emotion and laugh out loud hilarity to

come along in the new millennium." The show takes the stage through Sept. 18 at the Suncoast Theatre at the Suncoast Resort, 3400 34th St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets available at the box office or by calling (727) 456-0500. For more information, visit [GypsyProductions.org](http://GypsyProductions.org).

#### STOMP

The original pots and pans entertainment offering, this Broadway encore returns to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center after playing to sell-out crowds for more than 11 seasons. *Stomp* takes the everyday sounds of pipes and brooms, lighters and garbage pail lids, and creates the extraordinary. *Stomp* plays through Sunday, Sept. 11, in Carol Morsani Hall. Tickets available at the box office, at (813) 229-STAR or at [TBPAC.org](http://TBPAC.org).

#### THE DRAWER BOY

A new and well-reviewed mystery, *The Drawer Boy*, opens the American Stage's 28th season Sept. 9-Oct. 2. The play by Michael Healy looks at what happens to farmers Angus and Morgan when their lives are interrupted by a playwright who's doing some research. Special "Pay What You Can" nights are scheduled for Sept. 20 and 27 performances. Call (727) 823-PLAY to buy tickets and visit [AmericanStage.org](http://AmericanStage.org) for details. ▼



DREW CAREY, who seems funnier in syndication, leads the Improv All-Stars when they visit Orlando's Hard Rock Live on Friday, Sept. 16, followed by two shows at Sarasota's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Saturday, Sept. 17.

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## TAMPA BAY TEAM EARNS NAGAAA D-DIVISION TITLE

**SAN DIEGO** - The Simons and Leoni Titans of Tampa didn't only beat the Nashville Shock - they pummeled them 21-6.

The Titans, sponsored by Simons and Leoni Home Loans in Tampa, walked off with the Open D Division of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance title in August at the 29th Annual Gay Softball World Series.

The 2005 series saw more than 180 teams from 39 softball leagues in 35 cities compete.

Teams competed in a multi-elimination, round robin tournament, ensuring no team would be immediately eliminated from the competition. Many teams

played multiple games throughout each day to jockey for higher seed positions as the division championship games drew near.

In the A division, the Los Angeles Vipers defeated the Fort Lauderdale Stingers with a solid 13-6 victory. The D.C. Disturbance claimed the B division's title after downing the San Francisco Spitfire 9-5.

In the Open C Division, the Seattle Blue Sox defeated the San Francisco Scorpions 20-17 to win the championship.

Softball teams in Tampa and Orlando will begin their 2005 season Sept. 11. For more information, visit [NAGAAA softball.org](http://NAGAAA softball.org). *Steve Blanchard*

## RELIGIOUS GROUP PROTESTS GAY NIGHT AT PHILLIES GAME

**PHILADELPHIA** - What started as a festive atmosphere at the Philadelphia Phillies' Gay Community Night was interrupted when two men unfurled a banner declaring "Homosexuality is a sin. Christ can set you free."

To add insult to injury, organizers of the event learned the Phillies gave the men, members of Repent America, permission to display the sign. The banner covered a row of eight seats in the high right-field stands.

The banner was displayed in the fourth

inning and eight to 10 people stood in front of the banner in an effort to block the view. Fans cheered when the men removed the sign in the sixth inning and followed security out of the park. However, the stadium did not force the men to remove it.

One of the men had been at two previous Gay Community Nights to share his anti-gay rhetoric. This was the first year such a sign was displayed, however. *Staff reports*

## GAY GAMES CHICAGO SIGNS DEAL WITH Q TELEVISION

**CHICAGO** - Chicago organizers of Gay Games VII signed a contract with California-based Q Television Network granting the media outlet rights to the 2006 games.

The deal, valued at more than \$3.2 million, allows the new network to air the games on its television, radio and Internet outlets July 15-22 of 2006. Q Television,

while a paid cable network, will unscramble its signal during the week of the Gay Games to ensure broad-based access to the pageantry of the ceremonies, exciting sporting competitions and views of Chicago.

The deal does not, however, prevent mainstream media outlets from covering the games. *Staff reports*

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### NAVRAILOVA WINS ROGERS CUP DOUBLES; MAURESMO DEFEATED

Martina Navratilova and Anna-Lena Groenefeld rallied past Conchita Martinez and Virginia Ruano Pascual 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, Aug. 20 at the doubles finals at the Rogers Cup in Toronto. The openly lesbian Amelie Mauresmo, who holds two Rogers Cup titles, wasn't able to keep up with French Open champ Justine Henin-Hardenne, who defeated her 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 in a thrilling match. Henin-Hardenne broke right back, and reeled off five games in a row. The Belgian then went to defeat compatriot Kim Clijsters for the 2005 title.

### WHITE SOX MANAGER BLASTED FOR 'CHILD MOLESTER' JOKE

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen's insult of a friend has led to some harsh criticism from GLBT activists. After finishing an interview at Yankee Stadium on Aug. 8, the loose cannon Guillen recognized a friend and shouted, "Hey, everybody, this guy's a homosexual! He's a child molester!" Observers said the man thugged Guillen. *Newsday's* Wallace Matthew noted that "The juxtaposition of righteous indignation followed almost immediately by incredible insensitivity would actually have been funny if it had not been so uncomfortable. And hypocritical, not to mention offensive."

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## WATERCOLORS



## FILTH SEACREST TO SHARE SQUARE WITH SENIOR SHOWMAN

By Billy Masters

"She's let herself go. I can't see a comeback on the cards." – **CHRISTINA AGUILERA** gives us her two cents on the post-pregnancy fate of **BRITNEY SPEARS**. And isn't the phrase "in the cards?" What's "on the cards?"

Britney may not reclaim her pop princess title, but she's got other attributes left to exploit. According to a British documentary called *Britney's Redneck Roots*, Spears allegedly purchased **KIM CATTRALL's** book, *Satisfaction: The Art of the Female Orgasm*, in an effort to keep then-beau **JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE** happy (because those tips really helped the now-dissolved Cattrall marriage).

Someone went on record as saying, "Britney gives the best blow job ever." Alas, that quip has been cut from the documentary.

Someone who's never been shy about her oral expertise is **PAMELA ANDERSON**, who endured one of the least funny roasts on Comedy Central by a group of no-talent hacks (with the exception of **BEA ARTHUR** and

**COURTNEY LOVE** – who probably doesn't even remember being there). But didya know Pam's mother wishes her daughter was a lesbian?

"I've definitely had opportunities with women. My mum has said that she wished I was gay – I don't think she likes my taste in men." Bring Courtney home and we'll see how thrilled Mom is with your taste in women!

**DICK CLARK's** publicist has announced that Dick will return to his duties hosting the 34th edition of *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*, but he'll have a co-host – **RYAN SEACREST**. As part of Ryan's deal, he will be the executive producer of the show and has also been named to take over the show when Dick is no longer with us. This may sound mean, but (as one of my best friends would say) I'll bet dimes to donuts that Dick doesn't make it to *this* New Year's Eve! I could be wrong – and I'll cop to it if he shows up (and, no, being driven through Times Square in a hearse definitely does not count).

Back in his prime, **TAB HUNTER** was one of the hottest and hunkiest guys

around – and he didn't mind flaunting his physique for the cameras. For years, a grainy photo of an allegedly young and naked Tab sitting in a chair, legs akimbo, has circulated. Adding credence to that allegation is a new crystal-clear photo that does indeed appear to be Tab in the same chair, wearing the same watch and absolutely nothing else. All I can say is ... wow! Check it out for yourself at Filth2Go.com.

Mark from somewhere in Cyberspace also has photos on his mind: "I saw two pictures in a magazine, entitled *Speedo Do's and Don't's*. One is of **DAVID BECKHAM** playing on the Riviera and one is of **SEAN ASTIN** working on his new film as a swim coach. I'll admit the washboard abs on David are great, but Sean looks pretty good for a slightly overweight straight guy. The banana in his hammock is a *great* deal bigger than David's."

Thanks for the heads up, Mark. I'll post the photos, but I'm sorry to say, I can't share your enthusiasm for Sean. I just remember how cute he was in *Toy Soldiers* (I'll run a nude from that film to remind you). Still, he looks OK in that **JIM BELUSHI** sorta way. But you are right – his penis in the red Speedos appears to be quite impressive, to say the least (if you're into that kinda thing). I don't think I need to justify my running the David Beckham photo. You can find 'em both on Filth2Go.com.

As a little bonus, everyone is talking about the photos of **JUDE LAW** putting on his boxer

shorts on the balcony of his mother's home in Vaudelnay, France. Why was he naked on Mom's balcony? Who knows? But thank God the paparazzi were there to capture some very clear, close-up shots of his uncut penis (which I'd already seen when he appeared on Broadway). And, yes, I'll run these photos – 'cause I'm a giver.

Could it be that a certain pop pup is inching back into his cedar closet? So say sources close to the crew cut kid, who has reverted to his roots. I'm told that those rumblings about him coming out are decidedly premature. Not only is he staying put, but he's bringing that well-known fag hag in to keep him company. Don't be surprised if rumors surface of a wee one en route – although we'd be awfully surprised if it ever arrived.

When I can accommodate Tab, Sean, Jude, and Becks (take that, Britney), it's definitely time to end yet another column. I dunno about you, but I'm a little hot and bothered with all the man-meat this week. Or maybe it's the weather. Either way, I ain't complaining. Sadly, the Filth2Go Beach House will soon be shut for yet another season, I'll be back in LA, and the summer will be history. The seasons may come and go, but Filth2Go.com is forever. And, of course, no matter the season, no matter my locale, I am still here to dish dirt and deliver dick. Just write me at [Billy@filth2go.com](mailto:Billy@filth2go.com), and I promise to get back to you before **MERV** takes out a hit on Dick! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ▼

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**RYAN SEACREST** not only has a farm he'd like Dick Clark to purchase, but a bucket available for kicking as well.

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WATERMARK'S

# HOME DÉCOR ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 8-21, 2005

12.18



She likes 1980s black-laquered chic and you cherish your grandmother's antiques. Design experts say that all is not lost — if you're willing to compromise. Photo by Travis Moore

## Your home décor decisions can test your relationship when the U-Haul arrives

By Dave Wiethop and Steve Blanchard

**BRADENTON** - Consider the story of Stephen Caldon and Gary Nunez of Bradenton.

When the two first moved in together almost four years ago, Caldon had a collection of "Pier 1-style" furnishings and accessories, while Nunez cherished his home décor that reflected life in Puerto Rico.

"It was a weird mesh at first," Caldon says. "He had some really cool pieces to put in the house, but it was too cluttered for me. I'm a minimalist and tend to avoid the knick-knacks that just sit around and do nothing."

But for Nunez, those knick-knacks reflected his heritage and his culture.

"Puerto Rico will always be my home," Nunez says, noting that he really wanted to stand firm on keeping these items as part of his day-to-day life. What were these two men to do?

### What if you don't want to compromise your tastes? Tips on page 14.

Ah, the joys of moving in together. Not only is there the sheer contentment of no longer facing an empty bed alone at night, but there is that marvelous ability to decrease personal expenses by sharing the bills.

Despite the bliss, there's also the struggle of combining the objects of your desired with your own. You're living in a material world, and chances are, if you're gay or lesbian, you're both material girls.

Whether the two of you are domestic-partnered, civil-unioned, married or just living in sin, the potential for your and your new roommate's home decorating styles clashing is quite strong.

Now, the real test will come when you pack your belongings and

your furniture and make the move in together. If you're lucky, your senses of style will combine as beautifully as your tastes in wine. If not, you may be faced with a task that's equal parts home décor and couples therapy to create your happy home.

"Every situation is different," says Orlando area designer Dan Bray. "One person usually has a stronger desire or tendency to be the one with the design sense and the other one has the sense to let it happen. The results can be really great or disastrous. Yet, you have to find that balance."

### IT'S NO LONGER ABOUT YOU

It used to be so simple. Mom took care of the interior of the house — after all, she was the immaculate housekeeper — and Dad simply went along with her decisions in the spirit of harmony, knowing well that he got

Continued on page 16



Your home is more than just a place to hang your hat. In fact, it should also be a place to hang — and use — your fireman's uniform too.

## BONUS ROOM

A play room isn't difficult to create — and it doesn't have to lower your home's resale value

By Dave Wiethop

**SOMEWHERE ALONG THE I-4 CORRIDOR** - If your dad had an extra room in the house, he'd probably turn it into his "den." He could watch the Bucs, sit in his underpants and drink beer — or leer at unscrambled pornos beamed through the satellite dish.

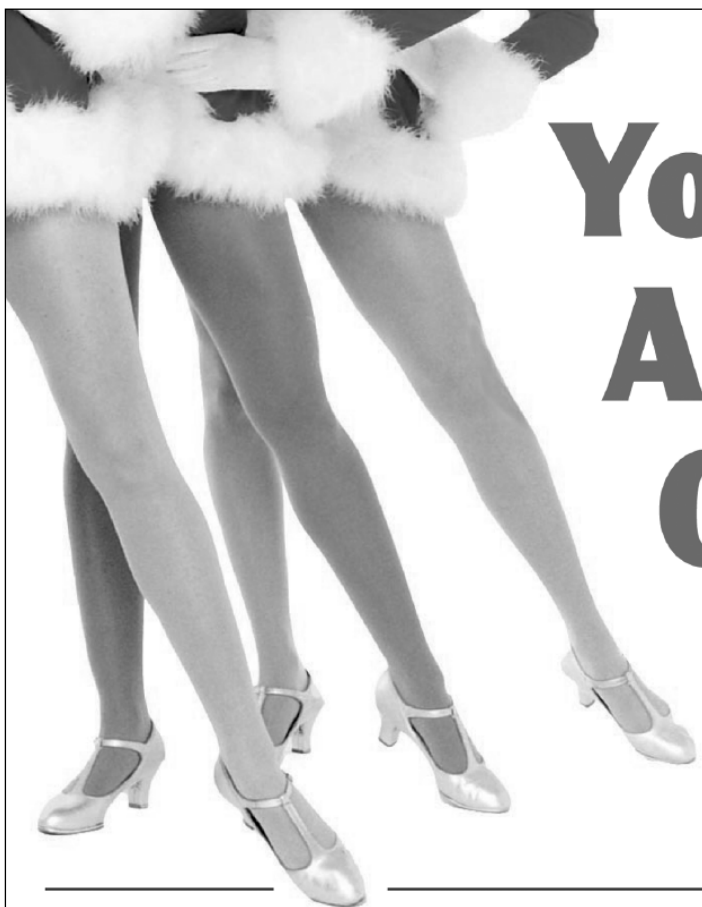
But you're not your dad.

That spare bedroom or garage workshop could become a "dungeon" or a play room for sex if you want to use some elbow grease, a bit of cash — and a lot of imagination.

For tips on creating this ultimate sexual fantasy room, we went to "Lance Redwood," a man who lives somewhere in *Watermark's* readership area. Because he hosts parties in his play room on an invitations-only basis, he demurs when it comes to giving his real name, his location or the specifics about his play room.

It is impressive room, however — a testament to creativity, power tools and an impeccable sense of design. The room can accommodate

Continued on page 8



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# DECORATORS, HEAL THYSELVES

Here are 10 ways for home-improvement shows to regain their credibility **By Dave Wiethop**

The problem may have begun with *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

With the first complete emotional breakdown by an entire family at the sight of a refrigerator that dispenses both chilled water *and* ice without opening the door, the giddy home-improvement programs perfected by the gayest network of all, HGTV, began to take themselves very, very seriously.

No longer were the decorators simply slapping up some faux finishes and peppering rooms with finials like machine-gun fire; the new rooms had begun to *mean* something to the inhabitants. People had now begun to cry when they saw those finials because, with God as their witness, they've never had such beautiful finials before.

Then, *Trading Spaces* lost Paige Davis and the clean-house shows began to feel as boring as cleaning an actual house. Something was remiss in the world of home-decorating TV. Our shows felt somehow off ... somehow broken.

Oh, where is Nate Berkus when we need him the most?

However, the home-improvement show is not without repair, but it will take a little more than a glue gun and a paint roller to make things right. Here are 10 ideas.

**1. No more kids.** *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* makes us cringe because nearly each episode features an 8-year-old girl scream about a new Kenmore refrigerator as if she's just seen Justin Timberlake

riding a pony through McDonalds. Real children don't get excited over Kenmore appliances so stop making them do it. It's just creepy.

**2. Don't allow designers to say "kitschy," "eclectic" or "fabulous" ever again.** This means that *Queer Eye's* Fab Five and Fab Four will never be able to speak, but I can live with that.

**3. No more green walls.** I invented a drinking game a year or so ago: Every time someone paints a wall some shade of green on HGTV, take a drink. You'll be completely pissed by lunch time.

**4. Seek the truly dysfunctional among us.** *Trading Spaces* was only interesting when people hated – or pretended to like – the faux fireplaces and bathrooms filled with thousands of silk flowers. Now, the only real emotion comes from cuts of homeowners saying, "Oh, I hope they don't paint the walls orange," juxtaposed with images of the neighbors doing exactly that. *Oh, my God.*

Style Network's *Clean Sweep* gets it right, though. One recent episode featuring a troubled mother-daughter combination ended with Mama Morticia storming out of the room, shrieking, "Why couldn't you just paint the walls white and leave me alone?!" *The Sopranos* wishes it was this compelling.

**5. Make use of some of the stuff people already have.** People own things because, for the most part, they like it better than the hand-made garbage some of these shows will produce. Instead of making a headboard out of twine and Popsicle sticks, why not glom onto that heirloom piece that needs a little paint?

**6. Find Paige Davis and return her to *Trading Spaces* – fast.** She can do the road show of *Chicago* when she's 40.

**7. Involve more gay couples.** We're just funnier, better-looking and more ambitious. And we invented home décor. We even invented the accent over the "e."

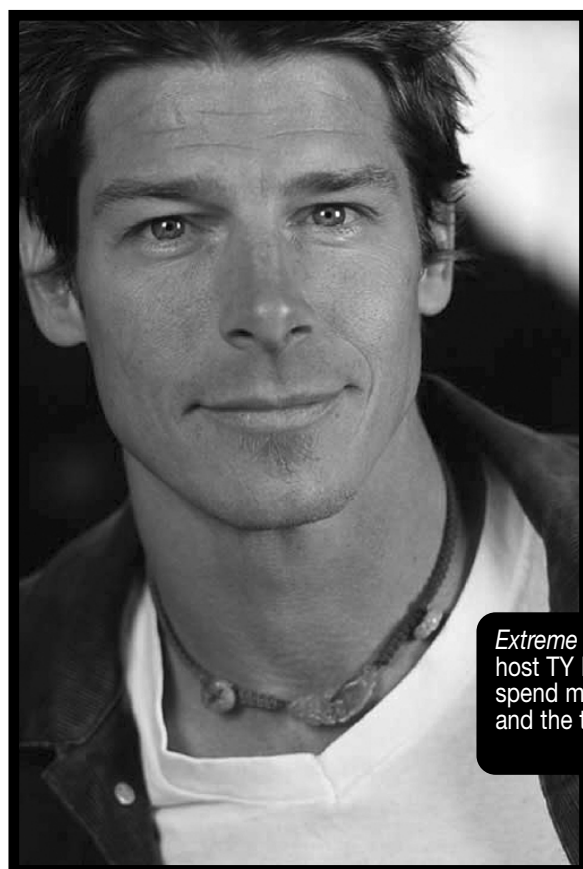
*Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* host TY PENNINGTON needs to spend more time with his shirt off and the tears stifled.

**8. Be realistic.** Have at least one episode where a designer/professional organizer uses the phrase, "And this is where you keep your porn."

**9. No more "reveals."** They're *sooo* 2001.

**10. Follow up with each makeover.** It's one thing to repaint, move the furniture and fill the room with new tchotchkes to replace the homeowners' old tchotchkes, but it's another thing to live in those crappy rooms. We want to see what the homeowners got rid of – and how quickly they did it. ▼

PAIGE DAVIS, it's time to come back to *Trading Spaces* before we completely forget that the show was ever on television.



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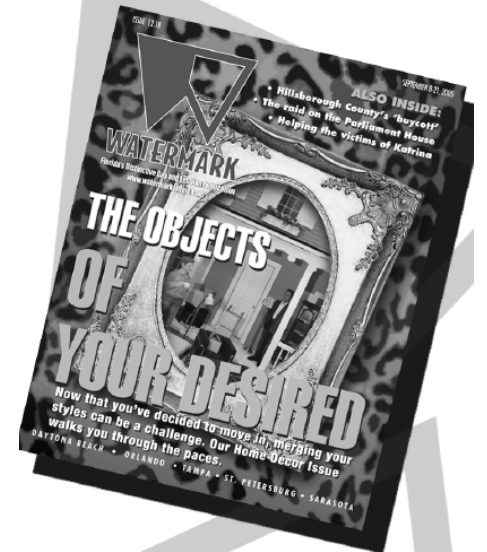
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# STYLE MAVEN AND AUTHORESS

Brini Maxwell becomes a fabulous author with her new *Guide to Gracious Living* By Lawrence Ferber

For almost 10 years, Brini Maxwell has been spreading the joys and retro-fab of gracious living. First, through a cable public access program, then a bigger, better show on the Style Network. Now you can have a bit of Brini and those indispensable tips, recipes, and philosophies 24 hours a day with her first book, *Brini Maxwell's Guide to Gracious Living: Tips, Tricks, Recipes and Ideas to Make Your Life Bloom*. The book will be available next month.

Illustrated with retro 1950s-60s style photos and graphics, and blessed with Maxwell's so-slightly-subversive sensibility — "Living graciously is an art, but it's not one of the easy arts ... like sculpting with cross sections of animal cadavers," she writes.

The *Guide* is a perfect companion to Style Network's *The Brini Maxwell Show*, Season One of which is available on DVD. Season Two kicks off in October. Maxwell is the alter-ego of New York-based Ben Sander, whose love for thrift store vintage items and gracious living led to Maxwell's creation and a 1998 public access show.

It's important to chat with a style maven now and then, and this time, she talked about not becoming the next Martha Stewart and what the new season holds.

**WATERMARK: How did this book and its structure come about, Brini?**

**BRINI MAXWELL:** It was pitched by the merchandising department at the Style Network to the publisher and they snapped it up. I tried to cover everything that happens within the span of an ordinary person's year. The everyday mundane things that go on are in Chapter One. Chapter Two is for when you have guests over, when you entertain. Chapter Three is for when you travel and then the milestones that happen maybe four or five times within your life.

The book leaves room for future publications — books about holiday entertaining, and other things like that. I'm excited about future possibilities as well.

**Did any hot tips not make it into the book?**

Well, if you notice I don't include a section on how to have a gracious sex life. And my guacamole recipe — it doesn't have tomatoes in it. That's something a lot of people don't know about me. I have a tomato aversion.

**Have any of your tips backfired on you?**

Oh yes. We were doing an episode this season about Hawaii and Hawaiian influence in culture. One of the things was flaming food — you can see the disaster brewing in that segment — and how to soak bread cubes in lemon extract. Lemon extract's a wonderful accelerant if you ever need one. It lights very quickly and burns with a beautiful blue flame.

So we soaked these bread cubes and strung them on skewers to use as garni in drinks. I lit the cube and was holding it and showing it off to the camera. We used a wooden skewer so of course it burned right through and fell onto the counter! It taught us you have to watch what you're doing when you're dealing with fire and food.

**What are some of the most dubious tips you've found or heard?**

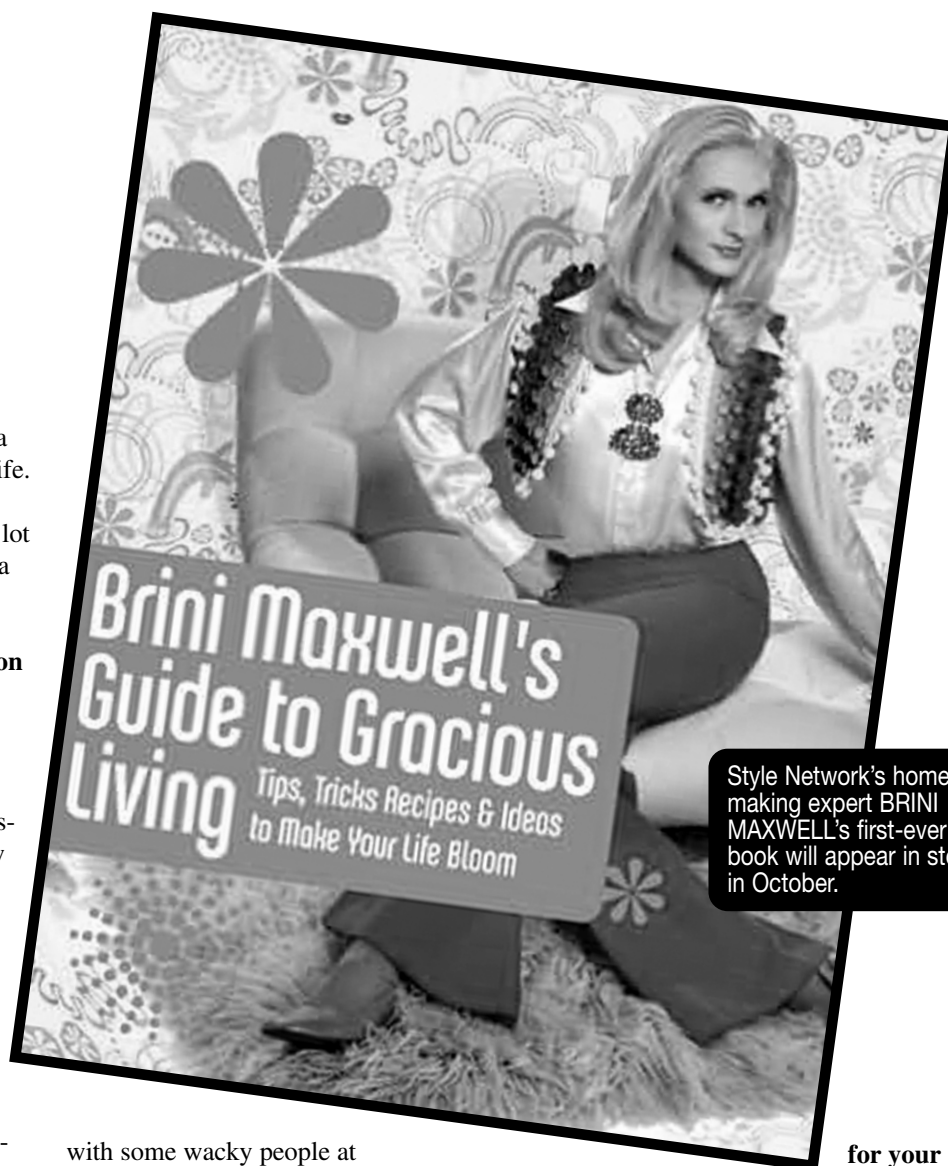
Someone sent me a recipe — I haven't tried it yet — called potato candy. It's mashed potatoes that have been sweetened and baked. And then there's a wacky hangover cure. You slice a lemon in half and take the halves and rub them in your armpits. For some people it works like a charm and others go, "Why did I even try this, it's so stupid."

**What changes will we see on Season Two of the show?**

It's a little more refined, pulled together. Each episode is more chock full of useful information. It's just hitting our stride

**Any special guests this season?**

Oh yes. We had lots of fun this season. We did have some really fun times



Style Network's home-making expert BRINI MAXWELL's first-ever book will appear in stores in October.

with some wacky people at places like Los Angeles' erotic museum. Then we had great guests who made some fun recipes with us like on the hippie episode.

**Will you offer any gay marriage tips?**

We actually didn't go into that this season. We were discussing the possibility but it was a little much for us to surmount this time around. Perhaps for Season Three.

**When Martha Stewart was about to go to prison, there was a lot of press about "finding the next Martha." You were one of the people considered in the running and garnered a lot of visibility. Are you disappointed that Martha's back and has reoccupied her throne?**

Not at all. I never thought of myself as the next Martha Stewart. I always thought of myself as the next Sue Anne Nivens. I think Martha's pretty smart to get where she was. She slipped up but then who doesn't.

**Do you think the clink be as good**

**for your career as it**

**has been for Martha's? Any plans to land in the pokey?**

Well, instead of investing in the stock market, I invest in the vintage fondue pots. I don't think there's any insider nonsense going on with that market

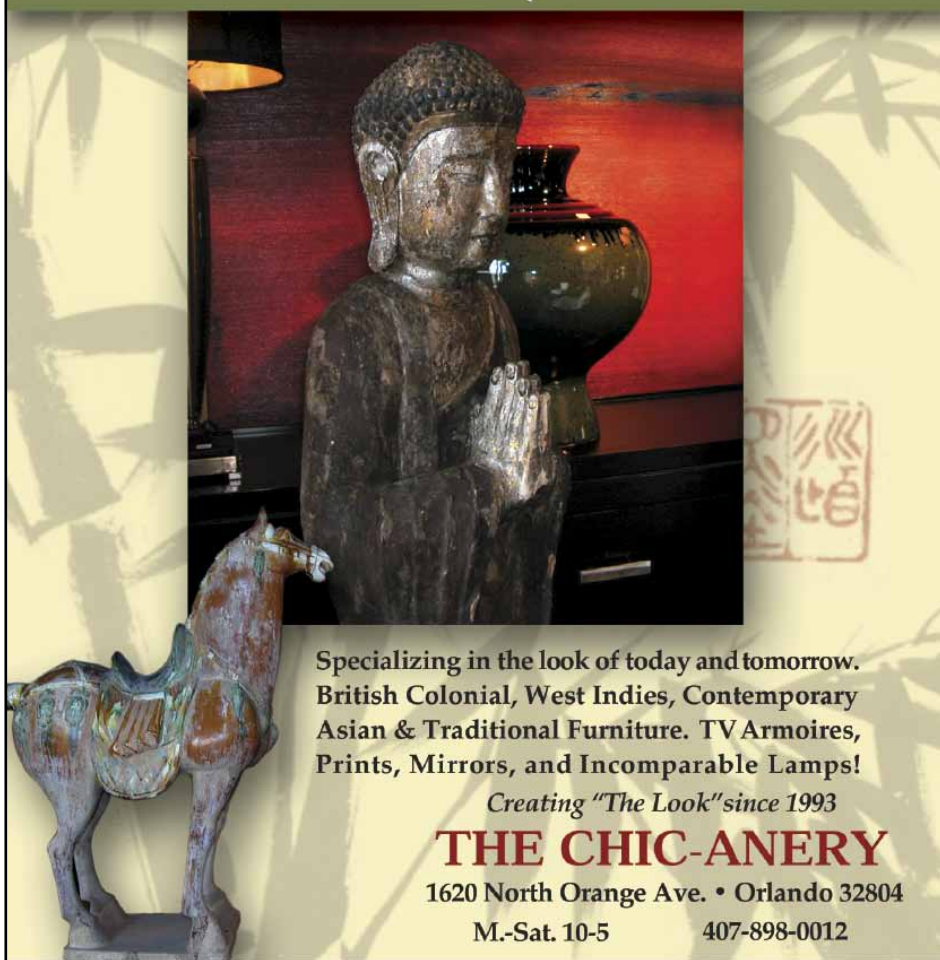
**In your experience, does the general public respond to Brini as a character or an actual authority?**

I think people regard me as an authority. I have had people write in for information, and questions about how to deal with certain subjects. So yes, I do think people respond to me as an authority, which is nice. I get e-mails from 12-year-old girls and 80-year-old women and married couples, middle-aged men, a broad range. Oddly enough I get a lot of e-mails from gay men. I don't know why that is.

**What about the Style Network? How do they regard Brini?**

They've been very good about taking me at face value. They've been very open and understanding about what I do and the kind of style I have and the quirky quality of what I do. It's been a very positive experience. ▼

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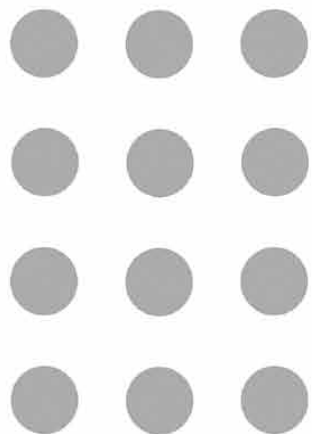


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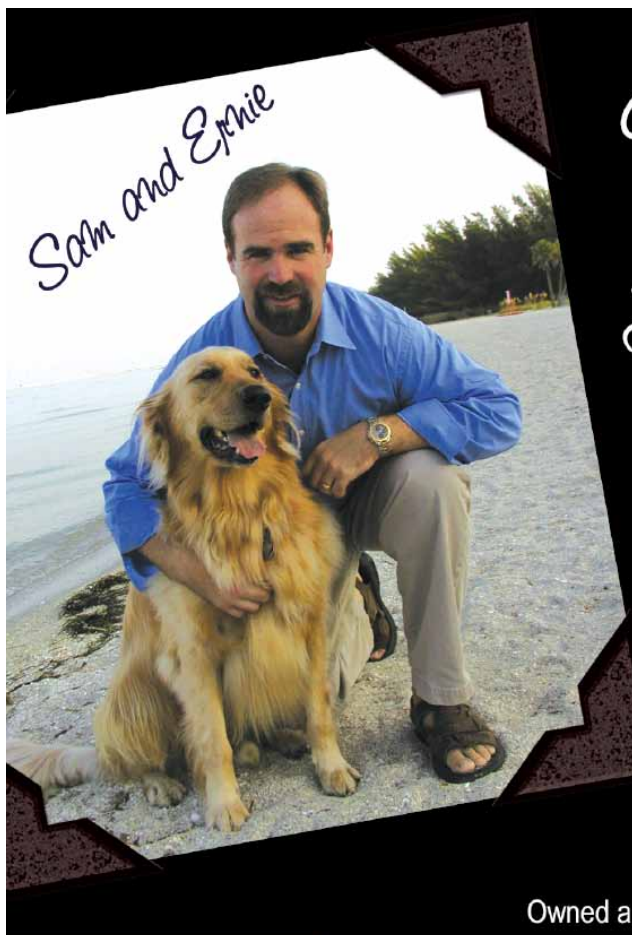
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**BONUS ROOM** from page 1

several dozen people at a time and keep them entertained alone, in pairs or in groups. Slings hang from the ceiling, a wide-screen television offers some motivation, and curtains create privacy in corners. The lighting is dim, sexy and suggestive, and yet visitors can leave the room believing that they may have just seen everything.

While, Redwood says that while he has spent upwards of \$10,000 on the room itself (and that doesn't include some of the accessories, as they say in interior design parlance, such as boots, posters and leather gear), such a project doesn't have to be expensive. And, it won't necessarily lower the resale value of your home if you have been thoughtful about the décor.

**WATERMARK: How do you make that decision to redecorate a room as a play room?**

**"LANCE REDWOOD":** If you have enough sexual activities with other people in your home, then it's probably time to consider it. Even more importantly, a play room will keep your guests in a certain part of your home if you don't want them in certain places like your private bedroom or your home office. It's sometimes just a matter of security.

**"There are builders in our community who may be very excited to work on a project like this."**

Your decision really depends upon what you're doing — and how many will be involved in it. You should make the room happen if you're really going to use it.

**What's an ideal space for a play room?**

Ultimately, it should be self-contained. I've seen large storage closets converted nicely, as well as spare bedrooms, garages, workshops, whatever. You can convert a 12-by-12 bedroom into a room with a sling and a glory hole and still have enough space for several people to play.

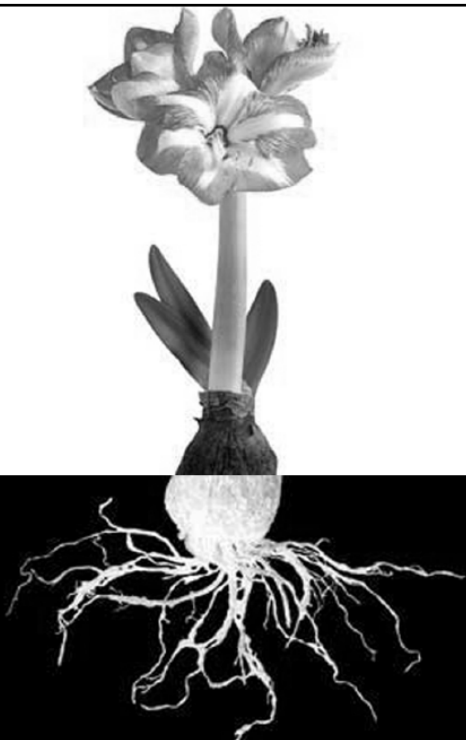
**Do you need much space?**

It depends on the traffic you expect. A storage room can hold a sling and a glory hole — and that's about it. A garage can become an entire fire station, if that turns you on. You also need enough space to display your collections. If you collect rubber boots, you need enough space to make them accessible, for example.

You can also make a play room outside. My play area has an outdoor component because of the swimming pool.

**What considerations do you need for an outdoor area?**

Continued on page 9



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## HOME DECOR

**BONUS ROOM** from page 8

First, you need a privacy fence — and one that's high enough. Even if you have a fence that's 6-foot high, it doesn't do the job if your neighbor's pool sits on a build-up of a foot or two. You should also be aware of neighbors' houses with second-story windows that could look right into the play area.

**What are some of the considerations when choosing the décor for your play room?**

Everything should be built for safety — and the amount of action that it's going to get. Remember that the materials must be scrubbed clean after each use, so think about vinyl coverings instead of cloth upholstery and tile floors instead of finished wood or concrete floors.

Remember that lighting also plays a big role. Make good use of dimmers and colored lighting instead of bright, bold lights. No one likes to play in a department store. You can get the lighting from a home-improvement store and it doesn't have to be that sophisticated.

The only difference is the how far your imagination can run. I've seen play rooms with barracks bunks each equipped with its own fan, its own lighting and a privacy curtain.

You also can outfit your room with a television and a video player to help the action. I have a giant-screen television so a lot of guys can see it at once.

And a lot of the décor depends on what type of fantasies you have. If you can get some faux stone wall coverings, you can create a dungeon. I've seen motifs that include dude ranches, firehouses — that's really popular — jails, medical offices and one Victorian library. That was in the home of a guy who was really into feet.

I've even seen someone create a maze with plants indoors. It was pretty interesting.

**How often do you tweak the décor of your play room?**

I've changed mine three times in three years. You really need to tweak it because tastes change. You can't do the same thing forever — and other people will get bored with it. You should really create a budget that allows it to have a shelf life.

**How do you communicate with a contractor if you need work done like this?**

You have to be very clever in what you tell them you're creating — if you can't do the work yourself. There are also some real Bible-thumper contractors who just won't go for this, and they probably won't take the job.

But there are builders in our community who may be very excited to work on a

project like this and may have ideas that could improve or enhance what you're trying to accomplish. They may even be able to guide you in what you're doing. You may even be able to find these contractors among the people you've encountered in other playrooms.

**This requires building permits and the whole nine yards, doesn't it?**

It can, if you're altering the structure of your home.

**I would imagine that the play room should be easily "straightened up."**

It doesn't have to take much, if everything is easily removable. Just take the sling down, remove the Marines posters and replace them with something a little more neutral. You also need to develop a good sense of B.S. for when non-players ask about the room. Think of it like the characters in the movie *A Dirty Shame*: There are the "neuters" and the "sex maniacs." You should be able to have a version of the room for both.

**Could a play room affect the resale value of your house?**

There are several ways to answer that. You have to remember that if you sell the house, you're probably not going to sell the equipment in the room with it. A St. Andrew's Cross, for example, can be very expensive and

you're probably going to take it with you.

But you should also understand that a lot of people are not going to be into this. So, when you put your house on the market, put things away and it becomes a spare bedroom again.

If a potential buyer notices the bolts in the ceiling and recognizes that it could hold a sling, it may become a major selling point. Even before you put the house on the market, you might want to let people know that you're selling it. That guy you're playing with might be interested in making a deal with you. ▽



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## HOME DECOR

## WEB DESIGN

Shop for home décor from your actual home with these sites we love **By Tom Dyer**

With high-speed access – and rising gas prices – there's every reason to shop for furniture and home and garden décor items on the Web. Sit in the room you're seeking to decorate and sip coffee while you browse through items that often can't be found in local stores. If nothing else, you'll get lots of ideas before you head out shopping.

A few cautions, though. Keep a tape measure handy so you can size items that usually look larger in photographs. Pay special attention to finish and fabric options – color representations are frequently inaccurate on the Web.

If you order items that don't work, pack them up and send them back immediately. On-line retailers are usually liberal about returns, but the longer it sits the more likely it will end up in your garage.

Here are some great Web sites to get you started.

– **BallardDesigns.com** – Huge catalog outlet for traditional furniture and accessories.

– **Chiasso.com** – Colorful, modern furniture and accessories perfect for condo living.

– **CrateandBarrel.com** – Comfortable yet urban, with the common sense to offer an on-line outlet shop.

– **DCOTA.com** – Web site for South Florida's Design Center of the Americas, featuring mostly modern, mostly breathtaking designer furniture from more than 100 suppliers.

– **DWR.com** – Design Within Reach has stunning classic furniture by the likes of Gehry, Le Corbusier, van der Rohe at (somewhat) more affordable prices. Make that condo-in-the-sky a showplace.

– **FrankLloydWright.org** – Furniture, accent pieces and conversation starters for your restored bungalow.

– **FrontGate.com** – Home accessories, specializing in outdoor living. One-of-a-kind items include an inflatable poolside movie screen. Sister Web site grandinroad.com features interiors.

– **Gumps.com** – San Francisco-based store has beautiful accessories and art, specializing in Oriental, seasonal.

– **HomeDecorators.com** – Furniture, rugs, windows, outdoors. Wonderful, exhaustive resource for decorating.

– **IH.Abbingdon.com** – Metal ceiling, backsplash and medallion tiles. Take

a look and the ideas will flow.

– **PotteryBarn.com** – Fun catalog and Web site will give you lots of ideas before you hit the stores.

– **RestorationHardware.com** – Beautiful, often overpriced furniture and accessories. The bathroom fixtures are to die for.

– **Roche-Bobois.com** – Over the top gorgeous modern furniture. Think if the lived in Miami Beach.

– **SmithAndHawken.com** – Do you have a yard or patio? Visit this Web site.

– **SmithNoble.com** – Nothing but window treatments. If you can't find what you want here, board it up.

– **Storehouse.com** – Simple, elegant furniture bridges the gap between traditional and modern.

– **TheCompanyStore.com** – Linens, window treatments, rugs that you won't find anywhere else.

– **Waterworks.com** – Faucets, sinks and toilets as art.

– **WestElm.com** – Affordable, beautiful modern furniture, linens, accessories for your condo. ▼ *Tom Dyer*



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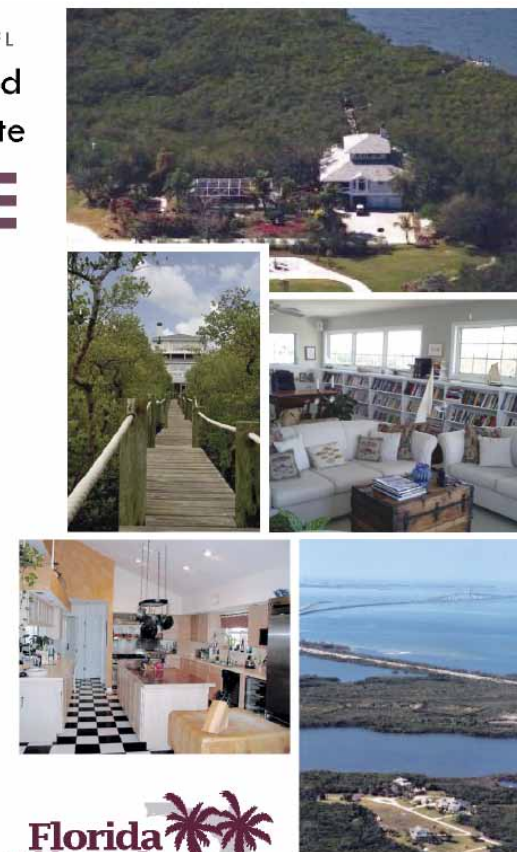
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# IF COMPROMISE DOESN'T WORK

Declare yourself queen of the castle — or simply divide and conquer! **By Kirk Hartlage**

You've tried making concessions in your home. You've relegated your E-Z Bake Oven collection to the garage and you've struggled to adjust to the glare of the Target-colored furnishings.

And it still doesn't work.

In the spirit of news-you-can-use, *Watermark* offers these suggestions:

— **Elect yourself queen of the castle.**

Decide that it's your way or the highway. Convincing your partner that you're right is easier than you think. Tell him you just read in the latest *In Style* that his favorite coked-out lip-syncing music whore just decorated her home with the color you want for yours.

Coerce your gal pal to believe that cheetah prints/tiki torches/polka dots/brushed scarlet velvet is the new black.

"I have very strong opinions about design and I talk about it a lot," says one friend. "The sheer cumulative effect of my bossiness is what gets my way." When it comes to winning arguments, sheer volume is indeed the way to go.

— **Divide and conquer.** That trick your parents used with dividing the back seat in half with masking tape in order to separate

you and your siblings during long car trips? Take that concept to heart. Let each of you have your own room(s) in the house where your say — and only your say — goes.

If one of you is experienced in landscaping, you may want to divide the decorating duties between inside and outside. This approach works best in places like Florida where you'll actually be able to enjoy both the inside and outside of your house throughout the year.

— **Hire a decorator.** If divorcing couples, business professionals and Fortune 500 companies can hire arbitrators, why can't the two of you? Agree to disagree, but allow a neutral third party to evaluate your goods. It may take a third set of eyes to see that your framed series of retro vinyl disco 45s and his series of miniature salt and pepper shakers of South American landmarks actually share a common color palette.

Let a professional mix and match between your two collections, and introduce some new colors, styles and acces-

sories that blend the best from both worlds and reinvigorate it all with some new life.

— **Pick a neutral color and go with it.** Neutral here does not necessarily mean whites, tans, beiges or taupes. By neutral,

we mean a middle-ground shade on which the both of you can agree. Once you've collectively decided on a pigment, pick up several cans of spray paint in that color and, just like Ted Turner did with all those black-and-white movies, re-col-

orize everything you own.

— **Start over.** It's a safe bet that at least a few of the items each of you have will enable you to recall the thoughts of someone else. That beautiful vase your ex bought for you while away on business in Barcelona, the exquisite table you and your first partner bought while antiquing in Vermont, the futon where that hottie you met on-line did all those crazy tongue tricks that your new partner wouldn't conceive of doing ... sell it. Sell it all.

Use the profits to start fresh and buy all

new goods — together. Not only is getting that old stuff out of sight a sure-fire way to get those exes out of mind too, but you'll be creating a world of new memories with your new partner.

— **Find a partner with the same tastes as yours ... or lack of them.**

You've got that list of qualities that make up Mr. or Mrs. Right. As important as the physical and emotional traits are, why not include a checkpoint for a partner's particular style and tastes in home decorating? Love may conquer all, but can it really override you living in a style akin to *Sanford and Son*?

— **Give up and give in.** Let your partner have her or his way. Certainly there will be more important battles to come than having to choose between antique and shabby-yet-chic picture frames.

Embrace the fact that it's all part of the live-in relationship process and these types of issues are merely occupational hazards when it comes to no longer living alone.

The peace between the sides will certainly lead to more of you getting a piece — now all you'll have to do is talk your lover into keeping the lights low so you won't have to look at his god-awful trinkets. ▼

**Coerce your gal pal to believe that cheetah prints/tiki torches/polka dots/brushed scarlet velvet is the new black.**

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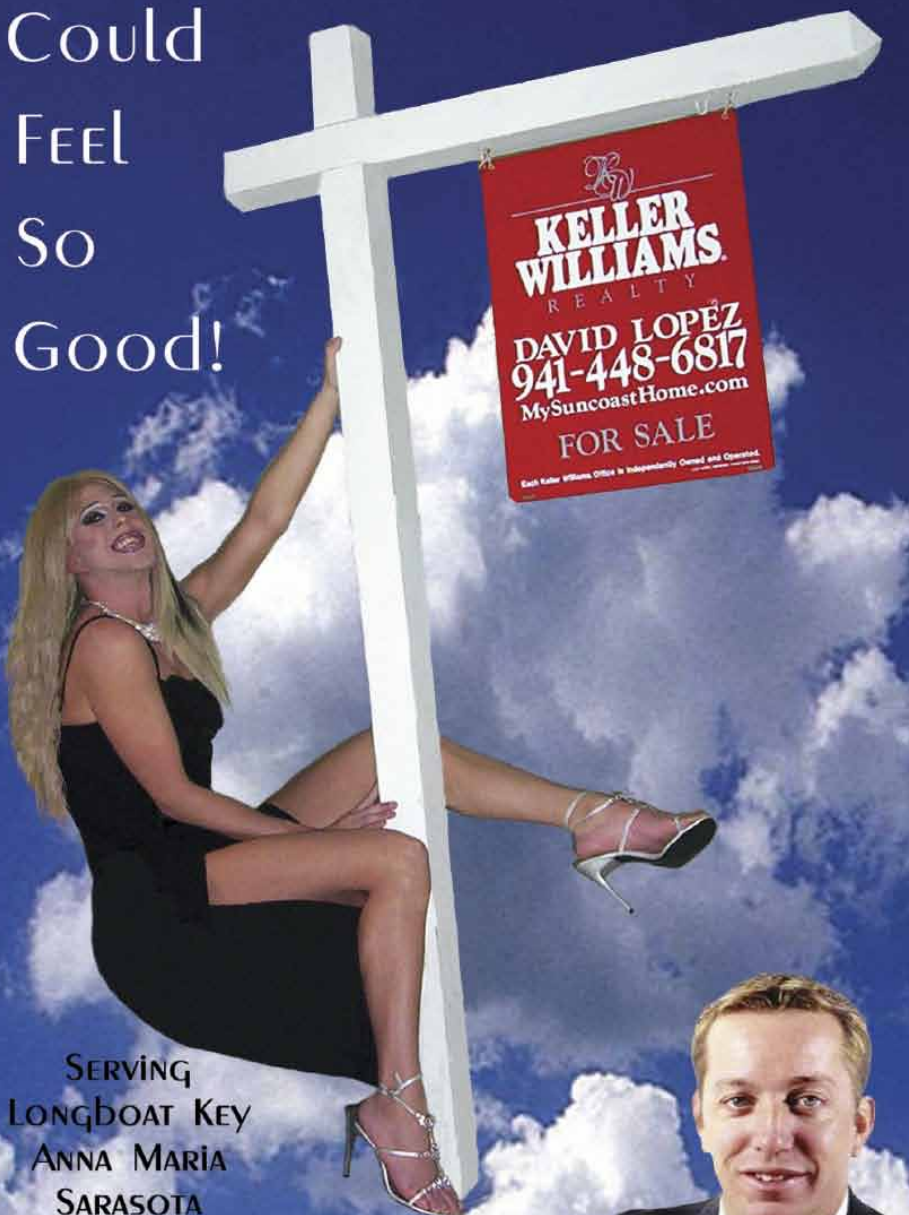


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## HOME DECOR

**WHO'S IN CHARGE?** from page 1

to choose the cars and the lawnmowing equipment.

That model doesn't work for gays and lesbians, especially baby boomers who grew up watching that dynamic. Same-sex couples need to determine their own dynamics and respond.

Designers note that some homes reflect everything but the tastes of the people who live there.

The homes can feel inordinately influenced by the neighborhood, the home-builder or the statements that the individuals want to make.

"I've seen some terribly pretentious homes that were designed to inform people about (the homeowner's) job status," Bray says.

Another mistake that couples make is failing to recognize that the individuals need both voices to be heard in the decorating process. Bray knows one pair who had fairly disparate tastes. One guy liked a very low-key, clean and spare home — and the other had a collection of Santa Clauses that had to be reckoned with.

It would have been criminal (and could have been a source of much angst)

to have asked for Santa to beat a hasty retreat back up that chimney, so St. Nick *et amis* remain, albeit in a tasteful display in one room. Bray notes that everyone's happy, and the display is both reflective of the collector and fits in with the décor nicely.

That's the way it should be.

"If you go into the project with the sincere design to embrace one another's interests, you're going to be successful.

**"There has to be a lot of give-and-take and recognizing that there is a genuine appreciation for one another. When you're tapping into what's important to one another, that's a beautiful thing."**

But there has to be a lot of give-and-take and recognize that there is a genuine appreciation for one another," Bray says. "When you're tapping into what's important to one another, that's a beautiful thing."

And as your relationship deepens, this may well be seen in the choices the two of you make in your

home.

"When someone says that they can see the both of you in your house, then that's really the ultimate compliment," Bray says.

It's also imperative to recognize that your home is an on-going project.

"Homes evolve. They tell a story and they have imperfections that make the home perfect," Bray says.



Your tastes may clash, but remember how much you appreciate one another, design experts say, as you're assembling your home. **Photo by Travis Moore**

Bradenton's Caldon and Nunez found that to be the case -- well, sort of.

"Fortunately, Stephen and I found a happy medium," Nunez says. "I agreed to store some of my stuff and a lot of his Pier-1 stuff stays in closets."

Now the two both work for Macy's department store and have found that

through employee discounts, discovering that the proper style for their homes has become a snap.

"Before, it was about our individual preferences," Caldon laughs.

"Now, it's about the best deal we can get with our 10% discount on merchandise." ▼

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## HOME DECOR



## ADVICE-O-RAMA

# MAYBE HE NEEDS PROFESSIONAL ATTENTION

By Keith Baber, M. Ed.

Dear Keith:

I think my better half has Attention Deficit Disorder. If the focus of everyone's attention isn't on him, he'll work very hard to make it happen.

I mean, he used to be a really nice, low-key guy, but over the last few years, he's developed into a shrieking harpy who has opinions about everything and makes demands on everyone if things don't go exactly his way. I'm seriously embarrassed when we go out to dinner with friends because I know that eventually, he'll cause a scene.

Any advice?

Impatient in Inverness

Dear Impatient:

How does one respond when his or her partner acts totally foolish in a social situation? What is best is to remember that we have very little control over how another person behaves. What we do have control over is how we respond to it.

From your description, his behavior appears to be attention-seeking at any cost, socially aggressive, controlling and immature. Most people who meet someone like this at a social situation will simply regard him as an ass and never invite him over again.

I think that the best that you can do for your partner is to assist him in getting an appointment with a qualified therapist ASAP. The therapist can diagnose and then treat the problem. Your conversations with your partner about his obnoxious social behaviors must be direct, matter-of-fact and honest about the effects that his actions are having an effect on you and your couple-ship.

In the meantime, it probably makes sense to think twice about accepting any more social invitations. If he does not change, be prepared that the invites will eventually cease.

Dear Keith,

What's the proper way to invite yourself to use a new acquaintance's well-equipped "sex room"? I'm just wondering.

Tied Up (Soon, I Hope) in Tampa

Dear Tied Up (Soon, I Hope),

Sexual fantasies can be an incredible part of one's sex life. Furthermore, the enjoyment obtained when sexual inhibitions are thrown to the wayside can be wonderful for all consenting adults. The good news here is that you are aware of

your new acquaintance's "sex room."

Anticipation and waiting for the ultimate sexual encounter can in fact heighten the experience. It might be more fun and enjoyable if you attempt to seduce yourself into the room.

This can be done through non-verbal messages that are centered around what you want and what he likes. Be clever, mysterious and direct with your approach. If he does not take the bait then let him know in no uncertain terms where you want to go.

If he still doesn't get it, than accept the fact that he is not interested and than move along. ▼

*Advice-O-Rama is written by Keith Baber, LMHC, a certified clinical supervisor. If you have questions for him, drop a note to editor@watermarkonline.com or to Advice-O-Rama, Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32803. Baber is accepting LMHC interns in need of clinical supervision. For details, call him at (407) 579-7001.*

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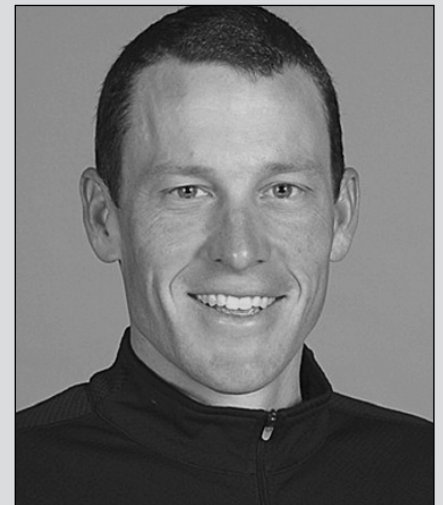
## TRANSITIONS

## CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:

Punkish partier **PINK** and *Crazy* chanteuse **PATSY CLINE** (9/8); comic clown **ADAM SANDLER** (9/9); Mr. Witherspoon **RYAN PHILLIPPE** (9/10); ex-Mr. Grace Adler **HARRY CONNICK, JR.** and lost-but-not-forgotten **KRISTY McNICHOL** (9/11); velvet teddybear **RUBEN STUDDARD** (9/12); well-designed woman **JEAN SMART** (9/13); royal heartthrob **PRINCE HARRY** (9/15); this week's Mr. Jennifer Lopez **MARC ANTHONY** (9/16); rubber-bracelet ground zero **LANCE ARMSTRONG** (9/18); sandwich fan "MAMA" **CASS ELLIOTT** (9/19); Paris' bitch **NICOLE RICHIE** and former fat girl (and Sawmill pond) **RICKI LAKE** (9/21).

## AREA DEATH: JAMES ROY

**COON**, 52, died Monday, Aug. 15, in Orlando. He was a hair stylist at La Gallerie in Winter Park for more than 20 years and leaves behind beloved friends Robert Yaniz, Guy Davis, Annie Schuck and Becky Newman. A funeral service was conducted Aug. 20 by Collison Family Funeral Home in Winter Park.



**LANCE ARMSTRONG**, trend-setter. Thanks to him, who 34 on Sept. 18, we feel guilty for not having a rubber rings around our arms.

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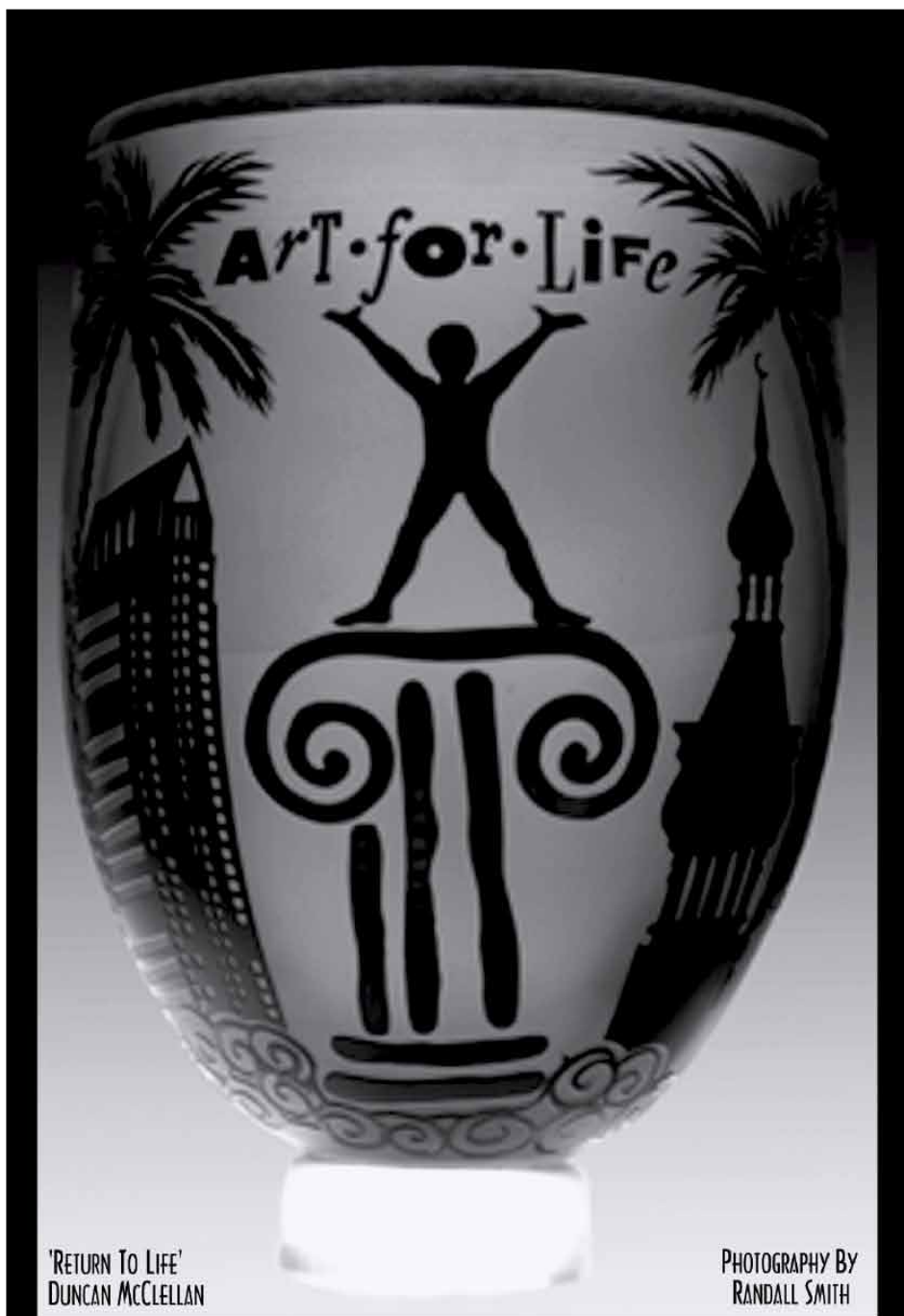
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## YOUR HEALTH NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE A PUSHY QUEEN

By Diane Wilde

**ARIES – MARCH 21-APRIL 20:** It's time to act upon all the information you've been gathering, and bring your ideas into reality. In order to achieve your goals, you'll just have to get more organized. Renewing your commitment to exercise and diet will bring great benefits immediately.

**TAURUS – APRIL 21-MAY 21:** Watch out world! You're ready for some hot, romantic-comedy adventures, not to mention, some plain old, ordinary fun. It's been a while, but don't worry, you still remember how. You've had time to process all that's happened and your own part in creating your circumstances, and now you get to create a happier you.

**GEMINI – MAY 21-JUNE 21:** Now's the time to put your house in order, finish old projects and start something new. Past issues still need to be addressed. However, you're in a better position to find solutions, especially when you think compromise, rather than confrontation.

**CANCER – JUNE 22-JULY 22:** Make sure you take every opportunity to enjoy networking to increase business opportunities, and let as many people as possible know who you are and what you do. Don't get pulled into conflicts at home or in business. Just be diplomatic when stating your opinions and open-minded when listening to other views.

**LEO – JULY 23-AUG. 22:** You're more focused than usual on finances and career and more determined to stream-line your "to-do" list into more manageable chunks. When making financial decisions, make sure you have all the facts, and then don't second-guess yourself out of the deal. Be sure everyone involved has the same commitment and expectations as you.

**VIRGO – AUG. 23-SEPT. 23:** As long as you take the time to examine all of the facts, you can feel comfortable with the changes you're about to make. Take charge whenever possible now, but be careful that you don't go overboard and push others into deeper waters than they can handle. Don't be surprised at the insights and realizations that will enable you to change directions.

**LIBRA – SEPT. 24-OCT. 23:** You'll have a unique opportunity to re-examine situations and events from the past with the

future in mind. It's important that you put disappointments behind you. Take some time for some needed spiritual and physical rest and relaxation. Organizational skills will be needed; schedules must be kept. You'll be busy but happy, so no worries.

**SCORPIO – OCT. 24-NOV. 22:** You get help from the universe in the form of friends and family, but only if they know you need it. However, not everyone has to know everything. Allow your dreams and fantasies to guide your waking self to expand your business base. Be sure that your plans are based on reality. The self-doubt of the past has been replaced with a confident optimism.

**SAGITTARIUS – NOV. 23-DEC. 21:** Revamping your life means changing your focus and rethinking your strategies for winning friends and influencing people. Cooperation with those in charge will get you rave reviews, but going along kicking and screaming and making snide comments won't get you anywhere.

**CAPRICORN – DEC. 22-JAN. 20:** You'll have to walk a fine line between looking at the situation as it actually is and not believing it, and looking ahead to how to make it more of what you want and need it to be. It's important to consider different points of view while making sure that your own thoughts and feelings are clearly understood. Don't just say what you think they want to hear.

**AQUARIUS – JAN. 21-FEB. 19:** You're more focused on career and finances, especially when it counts. Revamping the existing framework, especially the old budget, should be on top of the "to-do" list, as well as creating new ways to re-energize yourself. It's equally important to find time for more quality time for yourself, by yourself, and also with your near and dear, or even near and far.

**PISCES – FEB. 20-MARCH 20:** Relationships of all kinds take center stage, as you will reap the most benefits by partnering and sharing not only resources and creative ideas but the work load as well. You'll have to be willing to listen and accept another's opinion and expertise as being as valid as your own. The bottom line is cooperation with a trusted ally. ▼



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