SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 6, 2004

WATERMARK

ISSUE 11.19

Florida's Distinctive Gay and Lesbian Publication www.watermarkonline.com



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. PETERSBURG

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The new marquee at the Tampa Theatre, the site of the 2004 Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. See our special preview section.

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Time moves at an amazing rate. One morning this week, I wondered aloud if that Y2K thing was ever taken care of (it was — almost five years ago) and how my nephew's baby is doing (she's learning Spanish in *third* grade, so I guess she's OK).

Birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations seem to fly at us with the alacrity of a gazelle. Breathlessly, we find that hard work, perseverance and the graciousness of friends and strangers allow us to achieve some remarkable milestones.

With that in mind, *Watermark* raises a glass to several notable celebrations with this issue: the 15th anniversary of the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the 10th year of Chris Alexander-Manley's *Gay Orlando Talk* radio show on WPRK, and our own 10th anniversary.

I am honored to play a role in this newspaper. As I've said before, this is the first publication in my 20-someodd-year publishing career that I read regularly before joining. The standards have always been high with *Watermark* because it has seldom shied away from the difficult story or the ambitious idea. The newspaper's founder and publisher, Tom Dyer, set the bar very high for the dozens of writers, editors and artists who have also contributed for the past decade.

While Tom examines the past years of *Watermark's* outstanding coverage of the GLBT community in our Watercolors section, allow me to prognosticate the stories that I am certain we'll cover in the next decade.

A major Academy Awardwinning actor will come out and no one will care. By late 2005, he will continue to make the occasional rotten movie and no one will blame his choices of material on his sexuality.

Florida's gay adoption ban will be overturned. I suspect that this will occur in 2006 when conservative judges have exhausted their excuses for keeping orphaned children away from loving families simply because the adults are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Anita Bryant will never speak again.

Every county in Florida will have non-discrimination protections in place. Just as Kate Clinton said that the gay marriage debate has raged across the nation like the "Whack-a-Mole" carnival game, I believe that GLBT activists will push for these necessary non-discrimination ordinances with the same fervor that conservatives attacked same-sex marriage efforts.

While some of us live in communities that already protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in housing, workplace and public accommodations, many do not. Nondiscrimination laws are as necessary in places like Gulfport and Lakeland as they are in communities that have them, like Orlando and Miami. I want to write about the last law enacted by 2008.

Same-sex couples will be allowed to marry legally. I don't believe that it will occur nationwide, but gay men and lesbians will have options in the next 10 years. While gay marriage is an important issue for us, I suspect that it will take a lower profile once the 2008 elections are over — and once several states prove that heterosexual marriages haven't fallen apart because of us.

"Coming out" disappears from our lexicon. As society becomes more and more GLBT-friendly in the late 2000s, queer youth will less often deal with coming to terms with their sexuality. Instead, they will recognize simply that they are who they are.

Polk County will emerge as the new mecca for GLBT retirees. By 2011, the center of Greater Orlampa will play host to thousands of gays and lesbians attracted to life along the *still*under-construction I-4 — and the ability to move from the City Beautiful to Tampa Bay with ease. Gay bars will dot the interstate.

The TIGLFF will emerge as the premiere queer movie event in the U.S. On the 25th anniversary weekend, organizers will announce that festival has purchased the historic Tampa Theatre for year-round queer movie programming.

Speaking of which, *Watermark* staff writer Kirk Hartlage and contributing writers Steve Blanchard and Jessica Sattler not only chat with 2004 TIGLFF film stars Colton Ford and Dennis Christopher, but they look at where the festival has been and where its going. Check out our special preview issue.

With a glass of champagne raised to *Gay Orlando Talk*, the TIGLFF,Tom Dyer and the staff, advertisers and readers of *Watermark*, I am certain that you will find this issue to be insightful, entertaining and informative.



PREVIEW



ORLANDO

SAT., SEPT. 25

One of Orlando's most prestigious and slightly bawdy black ties fundraisers, The HEADDRESS BALL, returns to its roots in Return of the Headdress on Sat., Sept. 25. The fifteenth annual ball is a festive Vegas-style review with dinner and auctions to benefit Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, a local AIDS resource center. The event has raised over 1.7 million dollars in previous years — this year's ball at the Loews' Royal Pacific Resort at Universal returns to a competition format. Various organizations build decorative head gear - often up to 15 feet in length and height - and will be judged on creativity, show value, material usage and audience response. Tickets start at \$175 and are available at (407) 645-2577 ext. 111.

MOUNT DORA SAT. SEPT. 25

The ever-reliable **TUESDAY NIGHT FRIENDS** will host A Formal Affair, an evening of dancing, dinner and fun. While black tie is optional, the Friends hope that you'll show up in something a little dressier than your shorts and flipflops. Tickets are \$35 per person, including the buffet, \$10 without the buffet after 8 p.m. As usual, the soiree will be held at Lakes Reception outside of Mount Dora. Doors open at 6 p.m. Join the fun by visiting www.tuesdaynight friends.com or call (352) 383-9189.

SARASOTA MON., OCT 4

Numerous Sarasota and Manatee county organizations are joining forces for FAMILY VIOLENCE: NOT IN MY BACK YARD, an event to raise awareness of family violence. Local lesbian filmmaker DEBRA HUSSONG will present her documentary film Battered, Bruised and Broken, which helps put a human face on this issue. The event takes place at 6 p.m. at the Neel Auditorium on the Manatee Community College's Bradenton Campus. Call (941) 365-8751 for more information on this free event.

TAMPA BAY

SAT., **SEPT.** 25

Be like Dorothy and put on your red shoes for the first annual **AIDS WALK ST. PETERSBURG** this morning. Registration starts at 9 a.m. in North Shore Park, where the 5K (3.2-mile) walk begins and ends. The master of ceremonies is *Survivor's* **JAN GENTRY**, and the grand marshal is **TOOL** of News Talk 1040. FACT provides AIDS support services for Pinellas County and Bay Area residents. Visit www.aidswalk stpetersburg.org for information.

SAT., SEPT. 25

We love it when bears help people instead of mooch off of them. Yogi could have taken a lesson from the **WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS**, a Bay Area bear club, hosting its Seventh Annual Charity Auction at Grand Central Station, all to benefit Equality Florida. Festivities begin at 9 p.m. and include a full bid auction, silent auction, and live entertainment. For more information, or to donate items or services, call (727) 824-7810 or visit www.westfloridagrowlers.com



SWING YOUR PARTNER

SQUARE DANCING has come a long way since our middle school experiences. Not only was it difficult being the only ones good at it (gay and lesbian people know all of the dance moves, even the corny ones), but the music tended to be more GENE AUTRY and less SHEILA E. than we would have liked back then.

The Suncoast Squares, Tampa Bay's newest GLBT square-dance group, hopes to change our impressions once and for all with a fall semester of lessons on Tuesday nights at the Suncoast Resort in St. Pete.

Three free "fun nights" of learning some of the basics will be taught Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 before the lessons begin on Oct. 19. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. and last for about two hours.

Weekly lessons will cost \$5 per week, with **MIKE COX** calling the dances. Note that you don't have to be a couple to join in — nor do you have to love *Turkey in the Straw* for that matter.

This is contemporary square dancing with pop, contemporary and country music — and no dress code. If you want to come dressed in your chaps and 10-gallon hat, then yippy-kye-yay to you.

For more info, drop an e-mail to suncoastsquares @yahoo.com.



Celebrate a pair of anniversaries this week — not only is *Watermark* noting its first 10 years with this issue, but Central Florida man-about-town **CHRIS ALEXANDER-MANLEY** will host the 10-year anniversary of his queer radio show, *Gay Orlando Talk*, at noon on Friday, Sept. 24, from *Watermark's* home office.

Gay Orlando Talk is broadcast on WPRK, found at 91.5 FM on the radio dial. Chris and **MARGARET NOLAN**, a popular Watermark contributor and theatre director, plan to interview feminist humorist **KATE CLINTON**, fresh off her stop in Sarasota (see more about her on page 8).

For those keeping score, Chris originated his radio show 10 years ago from *Watermark's* headquarters. Preparations are now underway for the 20th anniversary broadcast from the newspaper's offices on Sept. 24, 2014.

EPISODE 3: THE Cat fights begin

To quote **JOAN CUSACK** in *In* & *Out*: "Is everybody gay?" On MTV's *The Real World*, that appears to be the case. The 288th season of the show, this time set in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, features the standard assortment of cliches: the red-headed slut, the sassy black girl, the blond stud, the openly gay guy and the cool black guy.

While openly gay **WILLIE** (who can easily be confused with the openly gay **REESE** from *Amish in the City*) prattled on and on about being gay during the premier episodes, cool black guy **KARAMO** hung back with the two straight guys, **LANDON** and **MJ**, who kept reassuring themselves that openly gay guys were OK.

Finally, Karamo began coming out to the roommates. Hey! What's going on here? *The Real World* is only supposed to have one gay person each season! While there seems to be little chance of a hookup between Karamo and Willie, Philly seems to be a little friendlier for brothers ... and sisters.





HURRICANE ECONOMICS

Local GLBT businesses continue to feel the effects of Charley and Frances By Kirk Hartlage

September 23 - October 6, 2004

ORLANDO - With a one-two punch, Mother Nature served Florida businesses a wallop of lost business, with the arrival of hurricanes Charley and Frances Aug. 13 and Sept. 4. The threat of Ivan making landfall in the area a week later also put business owners into a tailspin with another possible weekend of lost revenue.

The area's bars and nightclubs felt the effects the hardest, especially those that had special events planned for the typically busy Labor Day weekend. Hoping to capitalize on income lost to Charley two weeks earlier, bar owners saw only more revenue not materialize when Frances took its turn ravaging the state.

Mere thoughts of Ivan made many club owners only shake their heads in wonderment at how much devastation they could take. Some bar owners suffered more than a loss of income — structural damage to their businesses resulted in unplanned out-of-pocket expenses.

Bob Graves, owner of the Full Moon Saloon in Orlando, personally weathered the storms in good shape, even though his rustic bar may have not. Large trees from a neighboring property fell on the northern side of his building, crushing a section of the outside bar. High winds from the storms destroyed the tin roof, which surrounded the outdoor deck area. Work on replacing it with a more durable wood roof is nearly complete.

While a portion of the shade-filled backyard remained roped off because of downed limbs and other storm debris as late as last weekend, Graves hopes to have the area cleared in time for the quickly approaching Bear Bust. The annual bear run sponsored by the Bears of Central Florida will be held Oct. 22-24 and typically fills the yard to capacity and uses a portion of the area beyond the fence for private events.

Though it's challenging enough for any new business to get started, it's even more difficult to hit the ground running when it's practically being washed away. Though they had a successful soft opening of their new bar Savoy mere days before Charley arrived in Central Florida, owners George Butler and Randall Lambright found two of their first three weekends of business obliterated.

"We lost our first planned weekend of business, had a great grand opening weekend, then lost another weekend, just as word-of-mouth about us was starting to spread," Butler said. The owners were unable to provide an estimate of how much revenue was lost as they had no precedent business to gauge against. Other bars to lose some business because of lengthy power outages during the hurricanes include Parliament House, which quickly reopened with generator power, and Southern Nights.

One bright note for the Savoy found the bar one

Continued on page 9



The owners of Orlando's Parliament House have begun work on repairing the landmark marquee, which was damaged by Hurricane Charley Aug. 13. Photo by Dave Wiethop





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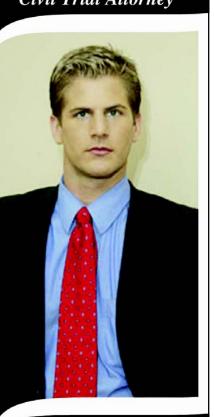
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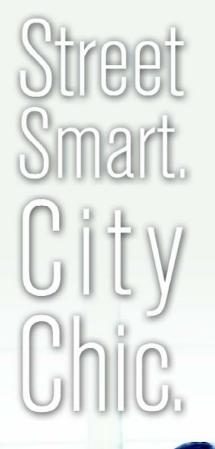
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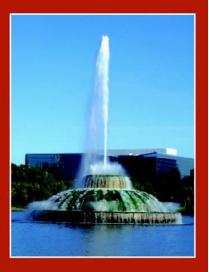


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SARASOTA NEWS

KATE CLINTON BENEFIT RAISES \$10,000 FOR ALSO

SARASOTA - The adoring fans, the sea breezes and a major fund-raising show featuring the pithy commentary from Kate Clinton turned Sarasota into the Provincetown of Southwest Florida Saturday, Sept. 18.

Appearances by the popular lesbian comic raised more than \$10,000 for ALSO Out Youth. Nearly 500 people turned out for an evening of comedy at the Players Theatre, with songs by Sharon E. Scott.

"It was a bang-up time for everyone," said promoter, activist and attorney Patricia Petruff. "I know that I had a blast."

Clinton described herself as a "lazy top" — "I'm still in charge, but I've got to lay down." The New York-based funny lady and popular P-town draw pulled back her bow and shot flaming arrows at the Bush Administration, the Christian Right and other foes of same-sex marriage.

"The issue was popping up all over the country this summer like a 'Whack-a-Mole' game. It's here! No, it's over here!" she said.

She blasted conservatives who used the same-sex marriage issue to distract attention from other, more pressing issues like the war in Iraq.

"They're saying that gay marriage would mean the end of civilization as we

know it. Well, right on!" Clinton cracked. "We're a powerful people, so let's use our power if that's what they think."

Other critics have stated that if gays and lesbians are allowed to marry, then it's just a step or two from polygamy and bestiality.

"They believe that if a committed gay or lesbian couple gets married, then people will be able to marry their pets. Gay people are, apparently, the thin firewall between them and their pets," Clinton said. "We don't need an amendment to the federal constitution maybe just a Post-It note."

Clinton and her partner of 16 years, activist Uvashi Vaid, have been ambivalent about marriage. They thought twice about getting the formal paperwork in both San Francisco and Boston.

"Our opinions about getting married depends on what day it is," she said.

On Florida weather: "I'm glad to be here between hurricanes. Could we watch enough Weather Channel? It was like the longest foreplay in history. 'Over this way, now over this way. There it is.'"

On circuit boys in Provincetown: "They all look alike. They're all very little and they seem to have short little arms, like they're cornish gay men. You wonder if they can



KATE CLINTON (LEFT) embraces Sarasota attorney PATRICIA PETRUFF at the VIP reception following the comic's show. Photo by Dave Wiethop

get food to their mouths, so for a whole week, we had longer utensils up there."

On Vice President Dick Cheney: "He's got a defibrillator. It's nice to know that someone has got good health insurance."

On Nancy Reagan: "She launched the war on drugs with 'Just Say No.' The 'thank you' was understood."

On Bill Clinton's recent press



Comic KATE CLINTON (RIGHT) signs an autograph for MARCIA FRY (LEFT). The two taught school together "some time ago." Photo by Dave Wiethop

appearances: "It's nice to see a president speak in full sentences."

On Martha Stewart: "She's going to jail for lying about something that she did not do and ... she said that she wants to be out of jail in time for planting season. If she's planting the seeds of revenge, then I'm with her."

On Showtime's *The L-Word*: "There's the criticism that the show doesn't represent all lesbians, but I must say that those are Los Angeles Lesbians. They're not doing butch and femme on the show, they're doing Hepburn: Which one is doing Audrey and which one is doing Katharine." *N Dave Wiethop*





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HEADLINE NEWS

HURRICANE ECONOMICS from page 6

of the few lucky businesses to have power restored quickly after Charley, allowing the bar to open with full power within a day or two.

"We had people in the bar on their cell phones, calling friends telling them to come over, that we had power," Butler said.

"And air conditioning," Lambright added.

Like Savoy's owners, Pulse owner Ron Legler lamented that the greatest loss was likely felt by his

bartending staff whose income is primarily driven by tips. But in a service-oriented town like Orlando, the staff is sadly likely to suffer for several additional weeks on end.

"If the waiters and bartenders in town aren't making money, they don't have money to spend," Legler said, pointing out the potential longer term residual effects of Charley and Frances. Legler reported that some good did come out of the hurricanes in that it brought a lot of the community together to offer assistance to one another. He was able to meet with other bar owners in town and find ways to work together better in the future.

But it wasn't just Legler's new club that suffered. As executive director of the Florida Theatrical Association — the group behind Orlando's Broadway series — he saw an immediate fall-off in ticket sales, particularly for next week's season opener of *Oklahoma!*

"We had just done a mass mailout for season ticket sales," Legler said. "We were doing 25 ticket sales a day but that dropped down to zero for about two weeks. It's amazing how people's priorities change right after a hurricane," he joked.

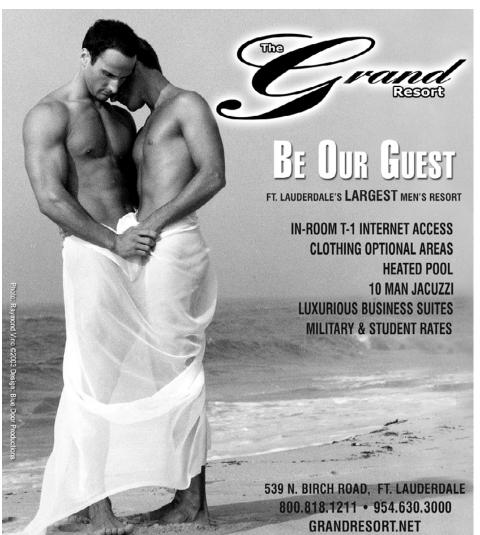
Legler felt most people were ready to get back to normal and even offered advice on how to achieve that.

"It's amazing how people's priorities change right after a hurricane."

"I think everyone's ready for a little bit of change. Of course I'd like to suggest attending Broadway theater," Legler dead-panned. Because Mother Nature chose weekends to send Charley and

Frances into Florida, the oppressive weather also affected several church collection baskets. Frances, which began on a Saturday and continued through late Sunday, forced St. Pete's King of Peace MCC to shorten its 9:30 a.m. service and cancel the second service completely. A week after Frances blew through Orlando, Joy MCC congregants were reminded that while there had been no services on Sept. 5, there were still bills to be paid.

Some businesses however were able to see a small boom in business posthurricanes. The Suncoast Resort in St.

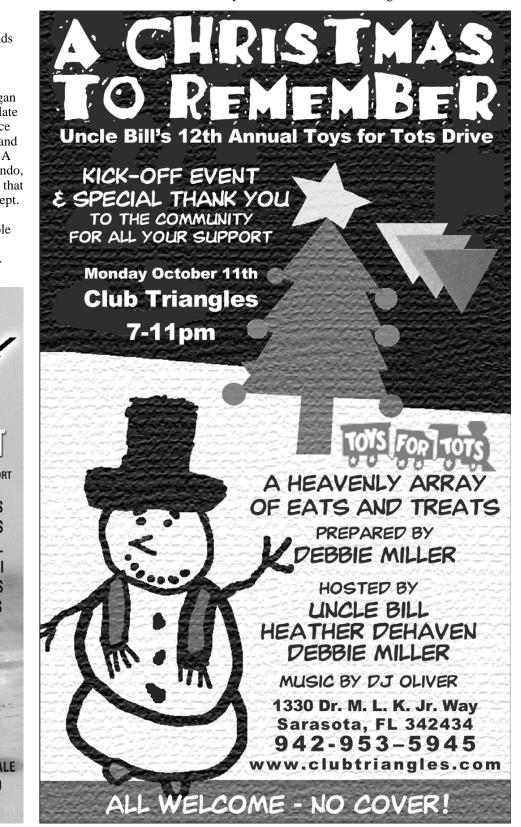


Petersburg found their rooms filled to capacity with the mandatory evacuations along the coast. Because of the evacuations, the hotel allowed guests to bring their pets. Additionally, several straight couples sought refuge at the resort according to front desk manager Mark Cwiek. After the storms had passed, the resort filled with guests who had lost power in their homes.

"We had people from Orlando to Punta Gorda turning to us after the hurricanes," Cweik said. "We had a lot more traffic flow in the middle of the week than we'd normally have." Business in the resort's bars was close to normal, though the Suncoast was lucky enough to enjoy it's first rain-free tea dance in two months on the Sunday following Charley.

The trickle-down effect of lost business following a natural disaster is even stronger when it's struck by not one but two back-to-back hurricanes. Debbie Simmons of Shelbie Press in Orlando saw a loss in her business, even from some customers she never thought would close.

"I think as people are waiting to hang on, a lot of small businesses, as they try to stick it out for loans and relief, aren't going to be able to make it," Simmons said. She reported that one of her bigger clients, a law firm, shuttered its doors. Simmons blames an already sluggish economy coupled with the hurricanes possibly providing a last knock-out punch to send many businesses down to the mat for good. **\[v]**



TAMPA BAY NEWS

TAMPA BAY BRIEFS

BLACK AND WHITE AUCTION RAISES \$21,000

Despite a change in date because of Hurricane Charley, King of Peace MCC's black and white auction raised more than \$21,000 on Aug. 29. The proceeds will benefit King of Peace's ministries.

FIRST AIDS WALK ST. PETERSBURG PLANNED RAIN OR SHINE

The first annual AIDS Walk St. Petersburg, sponsored by For AIDS Care Today (FACT), will take place rain or shine on Saturday, Sept. 18. Registration at North Shore Park begins at 9 a.m., and the 5K (3.2 mile) walk through downtown begins at 10. The Master of Ceremonies is *Survivor*'s Jan Gentry, and the Grand Marshal is Tool of News Talk 1040. Visit www.aidswalkstpetersburg.com for more information.

RESCHEDULED GAY DAYS TAMPA BAY LAUNCHES THIS WEEKEND

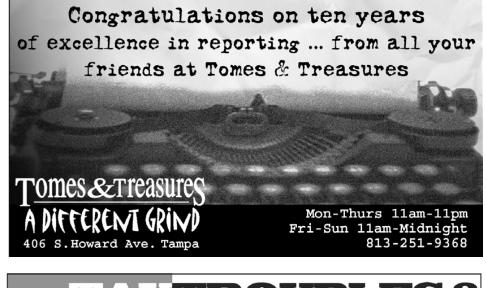
Rescheduled after Hurricane Frances' visited Tampa during Labor Day Weekend, the Second Annual Gay Days Tampa Bay takes place Sept. 25-26. Events include Gay Day at the Florida Aquarium on Saturday, Sept. 25, followed by the much-anticipated circuit-style Victory Party from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on the SS Victory docked behind the aquarium. On Sunday, attendees are encouraged to wear red for Gay Day at Busch Gardens, and then head to Absolution at The Castle in Ybor City that night. Those who have purchased advance tickets can pick them up at the Florida Aquarium on Saturday until 5 p.m. Visit www.gaydaystampabay.com or call (813) 209-0109.

ROTC-ST. PETERSBURG TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE AND PRACTICE

They debuted to rave reviews at this summer's sweltering St. Pete Pride. Now the Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps is holding open recruitment for their upcoming fall and holiday season. Many members of the high-energy performance group, which uses flags, rifles, sabres and batons, have previous marching or color guard experience, but ROTC is open to everyone. Weekly rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons at the Suncoast Resort. The group is holding an open house on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Suncoast's Aztec Room, followed by a hands-on equipment rehearsal on the tennis courts. Call Frank at (727) 822-6982 or email rotcstpete@verizon.net for more information.

SALON PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS GROUP'S FUTURE

Participants in the St. Petersburg Salon, a women-only space, will meet at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 24, to discuss the viability and future of the organization. The salon is a monthly meeting of lesbians, bisexual women, transgender women and women-identified women. The gathering will be held at the Friends Meetinghouse at 130 19th Ave. SE.





SISTERS TO STAY WITH GAY FOSTER DADS

TAMPA — Curtis Watson and his partner are finally ready to move on with their lives.

After initially granting Watson, 40, long-term non-relative custody of a set of troubled sisters in March, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Irene Sullivan last week denied a motion that would have placed the children back into Florida's foster care system.

The Florida Department of Children and Families appealed Sullivan's March decision after child welfare workers turned down a Hillsborough County couple interested in adopting the children. DCF claimed that workers did not exhaust every resource to find an adoptive home for the sisters before recommending permanent placement in a foster home headed by two gay men. Watson said the decision brought him extreme joy.

"I'm relieved that me and my family will be able to move on and continue our daily routines," Watson said.

Judge Sullivan's decision came after testimony proved the girls, who had been taken away from their biological parents after experiencing severe physical and psychological abuse, had flourished in the Watson home.

"Every witness who dealt directly with the two girls was absolutely unanimous that they should stay with the two dads," said Karen Doering, attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who attended the hearing in support of Watson and his attorney, Deborah Cerminaro Eldridge.

"This case absolutely highlights the need for the state to remove the ban on adoption by gay households. This law was designed to harm gay people, but this case illustrates that the people who are really injured are the children," Doering added.

While delivering the ruling, Sullivan thanked Watson, a licensed foster parent, and his partner for doing what no other foster family had done for the girls putting a stop to a previously continuous cycle of abuse. She said the state should also thank the men and learn from their parenting rather than try to take the girls away from the only secure family environment they have known.

The girls, now 6 and 7 years old, were placed in the men's home last year after a desperate DCF caseworker asked Watson if he would take in a young girl so violent and volatile she had been placed with 17 different foster parents in a 60-day time span.

Then something miraculous happened. The temperamental child formed a bond with the men. Shortly afterward, the caseworker allowed the girl's sister to live with them.

When it came time to evaluate the girls for placement, representatives from Family Continuity Programs recommended that the girls stay in the Watson home.

DCF caseworkers sometimes grant nonrelative custody to foster parents of children who have experienced severe abuse. The arrangement is long-term, but unlike adoption the court still retains some measure of control.

It is not possible for Watson and his partner to adopt the sisters because of Florida's law banning homosexuals from adopting children. There is, however, no state law that prevents gays and lesbians from becoming foster parents.

At the hearing last week, courtappointed clinical psychologist Robert S. Klein testified that the sister's behavior improved dramatically shortly following their arrival to the Watson home. He said removing the volatile girls from Watson's custody would cause irreparable harm.

"For the first time in their lives, the sisters have finally been able to trust and respect adults — an enormous feat for any foster parent to conquer," Klein said.

State attorney Dane DiSano said he is not certain whether or not the state will appeal this ruling.

Watson and his partner have been together for 8 years and, in addition to the two girls in question, they currently parent four additional foster children. *N Jessica Sattler*.



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ORLANDO NEWS

ORLANDO BRIEFS

RAINBOW HEALTH FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 25

Orlando's GLBCC will host a Rainbow Health Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. The fair will offer testing for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, as well as massages and vendors. For more information, call the center at (407) 228-8272.

LILISH FAIR RETURNS TO SINGLE-DAY FORMAT

The 2004 Lilish Fair has been set for Oct. 10 — and will return to Downtown Orlando. The festival features women's music and raises money for breast cancer research. Afterwards a party will be held at Kate O'Brien's. For updates, visit www.lilishfair.com.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN MEETUP SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 28

The Human Rights Campaign meetup for September has been set for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the GLBCC. The meetups have been organized in an effort to gain unity with other HRC groups and provide a strong front against discrimination. For more information about the meetups, contact the center at (407) 228-8272.

FIRST WEGMAN MEMORIAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 29

ORLANDO - The first of three tributes to the late Orlando performer Paul Wegman will be held Wednesday, Sept. 29, at one of his favorite venues, the Parliament House's Footlights Theatre.

The tribute will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wegman, also known as the sassy Miss P, helped put the resort on the GLBT radar with his bawdy, brassy shows.

A smaller, more traditional memorial service will be held at Joy MCC on Saturday, Oct. 2. The service is being planned by Wegman's brother, David Wegman.

Orlando's theatrical community is planning a tribute at Margeson Theatre in Loch Haven Park's Shakespeare Center on Mon., Oct. 25. The celebration will highlight Wegman's contributions to the area's theater scene.

Local theater fixture Michael Wanzie and Lantern Light Studios are producing a video montage of Wegman's more memorable moments on stage.

Taped remembrances of many in the community have been collected and will be made part of the presentation as well. The video will be shown at the Parliament House and Margeson Theatre events.

Friends and family have asked for locals to contribute to a newly created scholarship fund created in Wegman's memory, which will be given to a local theater student. DVDs of the video montage are being duplicated to sell, with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. **▼**

GAY CHORUS SETS DATE FOR BENEFIT

WINTER PARK - The Orlando Gay Chorus will present *A Lotta Night Music*, a benefit dinner and concert, on Friday, Oct. 29, at the Winter Park Farmer's Market.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 7 p.m., followed by a gourmet dinner and entertainment. Music soloists will include Amy Gifford, Greg Ruffer, Trina Gregory, Mark Klingaman, Stephen Brooks and Dawn Wicklow.

Dinner guests will be entered into a drawing to win 30% of the proceeds raised at this event as well as many other gifts and prizes.

Tickets, which are \$100 each, are available at www.orlandogaychorus.org or by mailing a check to OGC, P.O. Box 3103, Orlando, FL 32802. Black tie is optional. ₩

COUPLE HOSTS FUND-RAISER

WINTER PARK - A Winter Park couple will host a fund-raiser for Democratic candidates on Sunday, Oct. 3, billing the event "Marys for Kerry — and Other Gay-Friendly Candidates."

Jim Welch and Joe Mundy promise bloody Marys and sparkling conversation about voters' roles in the upcoming November general election. The fundraiser will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the couple's home.

The cost is a \$20-per-person donation. For more information and to join the party, call (407) 657-7924.

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ORLANDO NEWS

ORLANDO PRIDE SHOP FACES END OF THE RAINBOW

ORLANDO - When Rainbow City, Orlando's only remaining pride store, opened, it quickly drew attention with its bright awning. But as the multi-hued window shading has faded, so, too, has its sales. Peter Thornley, the store's owner, has announced that the shop will be closing its doors for good within the next few weeks.

But does the closing of Orlando's pride store represent more than a decrease in sales? Does it signify a lack of community pride as well? Thornley is attempting to look at the closing in a positive light.

"It shows that we (gays and lesbians) have become more mainstream," Thornley said. "There's less of a need to display our pride, and that's a good thing." He's seen a shift in the merchandise he sells. While one-liner T-shirts have always been popular, years ago they were much more "in your face." Thornley said that today's shirts are much subtler with their screenprinted expressions.

In the store's opening years, the most popular merchandise was jewelry and bumper stickers and pride-related goods, particularly T-shirts. These days, it's underwear, lubricants, condoms and picture books that mostly move off the shelves. "Sex sells," Thornley laughed. He added that he hasn't ordered a rainbow flag embroidered T-shirt — once a store staple — in more than two years.

Thornley finds people just aren't displaying pride flags — on their person, homes or vehicles — as they once did. He believes it's that people just don't feel a need to "advertise" anymore. He jokes about a button the store carried that said, "We are so



Rainbow City owner PETER THORNLEY says that pride merchandise isn't selling the way it used to.

over the rainbow" a sentiment that, in one sad way, seems to express the collective thought of much of the gay community. "There's a whole generation that

doesn't even understand the significance of the pink triangle," Thornley said. (For those who don't — it was the symbol Nazis tattooed onto gay prisoners of war to distinguish them from others in the concentration camps.)

But Thornley's thoughts on the acceptance of gays today are hard to ignore. "You pretty much have to be wearing blinders these days not to be able to recognize gays today or know that we exist," Thornley said. He points to the popularity of shows like *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* as proof of the acceptance of gays in mainstream culture.

"The only people really who are buying the rainbow flag merchandise still are the occasional one-man pride parades that you see," he said. And as far as which side of the community has supported his store, Thornley has tracked sales and his customers for years. His numbers show a far greater amount of merchandise sold to gay men — more than 90% — than purchased by lesbians.

Even for that bastion of gay activity in Orlando — Gay Days — Thornley has seen a decline in red shirt sales over the years. Whether it's due to a lack of concern about being seen in the color of the day or if ticket sales and attendance are down is uncertain, but the days of strong sales the week prior to Gay Days are long gone. Daily sales once topped out at \$4,000 daily during the days leading up to the early June festivities but Thornley said his numbers haven't come close to that either this year or last.

Thornley has come to believe his store doesn't need to exist as a lot of the merchandise available can also be purchased on the Internet. "I can't keep operating a business at a loss," Thornley said. Rainbow City's sales are running at about half of what they were three years ago.

But a drop in gay pride business is not limited to Orlando. Vendors of the gaythemed merchandise Thornley sells tell him that the economy is down and that his store is not the only one suffering. Thornley adds that friends Mark Bias and Carrie West, owners of the MC Film Fest at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg, a store selling similar types of gay-themed merchandise, have said their business is down as well.

Thornley anticipates the shop will remain open only a few more weeks at most.

Since he owns the building, Thornley has no pressure to rent the location to another tenant, despite rumors that the store is being forced out by potential development in the area. Thornley is sure the next tenant will be a retail store in order to keep the location up to par with local zoning ordinances.

Rainbow City began after Thornley saw a Dallas street filled with gay-themed merchandise stores in 1995. He figured if that this southern city could handle a strip of similar stores, then Orlando could handle two stores. Thornley opened his store a month later on Mills Avenue, one shop south of the store's current location. The store's opening helped to establish the ViMi area as Orlando's gay district.

By 1997 the store's popularity had taken off, and Thornley quickly expanded next door, more than doubling the store's square retail space. When business began to drop years later, Thornley moved Rainbow City completely into the more northern location solely, recently renting out the original southern shop to Orlando Consignments.

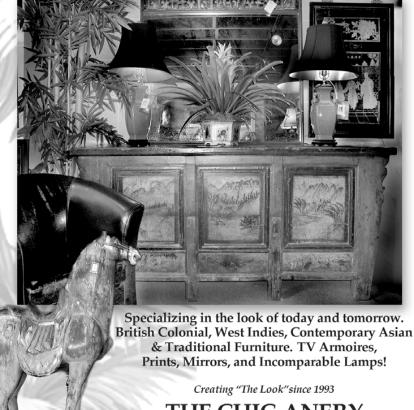
Despite being such an "out and proud" retail shop, Thornley said he never experienced problems. About the worst situations were the few times that rednecks, as Thornley called them, would drive by and yell "faggots" from their truck windows.

"But half the time, they'd usually yell it at a group of lesbians," Thornley said, laughing at the improper use of the derogatory term. One Christmas morning Thornley said all the businesses in the area found Bibles left on their doorsteps, an act he describes as "very thoughtful." ♥ Kirk Hartlage

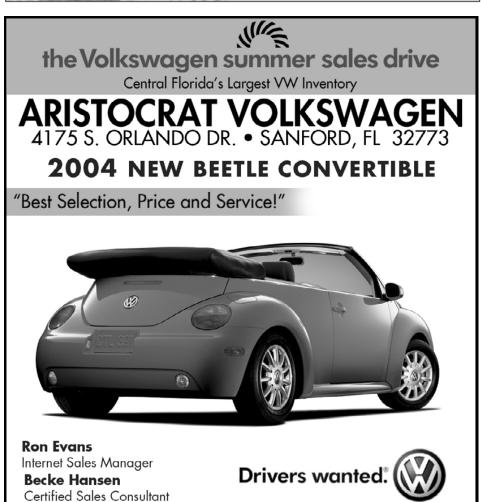


STATE NEWS

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HURRICANE THREAT PUSHES WOMENFEST TO OCT. 8-11

KEY WEST - Postponed because of threats by Hurricane Ivan, Key West's popular Womenfest 2004 has been rescheduled from Sept. 7-12 to the Columbus Day weekend of Oct. 8-11.

Now in its 17th year, Womenfest will include a golf tournament, group commitment ceremony, dances, parties and a comedy concert by humorist Kate Clinton.

Clinton's show is set for 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, at Holiday Inn Beachside, 3841 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Currently on the Mad Vow Tour, Clinton has appeared on Comedy Central, Entertainment Tonight and recently spoke at a benefit for Sarasota's ALSO Out Youth. For more information and tickets to Clinton's show, call (305) 292-4008.

Womenfest participants will take to the links beginning at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, for the Southernmost Women's Invitational Non-Profit Golf Tournament at the Key West Golf Course. The shotgun start, best-ball scramble tournament benefits WomanKind Inc., which provides healthcare for women in the Florida Keys. Attractions are to include cash prizes and an after-party and awards ceremony at Aqua Nightclub, 711 Duval St.

The tournament entry fee is \$75 per person. For information, contact Babs Wade at (305) 294-1445 or e-mail keywestvationcenter.com.

At 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 10, women who want to celebrate their partnerships can gather for a group commitment ceremony at Pearl's Rainbow Guesthouse and Patio Bar, 525 United St. To be officiated by Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley, the ceremony is to include a brunch buffet, champagne and a certificate of union for each couple.

Cost is \$75 per couple and \$35 per guest. For information and to register, call Pearl's Rainbow at (800) 749-6696.

Other events will include happy hours at Pearl's Rainbow, a women's dance party with a guest DJ at Aqua and poolside games and contests scheduled Sunday and Monday at Atlantic Shores, the coordinator of the festival. Womenfest draws about 5,000 to Key West each year. **▼**

AIDS dementia is a mental condition

with similarities to Alzheimer's that

reduced coordination.

dementia.

occurs in a small percentage of people

with AIDS. It causes a slowing of mental

processes that leads to memory loss and

Drug therapies that became available in

Santiago said he had never heard of a

"A person with AIDS dementia would be

unlikely to engage in violent types of activity

that required coordination, such as shooting

a gun," according to Dr. Steven Santiago, medical director for Care Resource, an HIV/

AIDS service agency in Miami.

the mid-1990s have decreased the incidents

of AIDS dementia by more than 50%.

murder being associated with AIDS

ACTIVISTS DISPUTE MURDER SUSPECT'S DEMENTIA CLAIM

FORT LAUDERDALE - Some AIDS activists in the Fort Lauderdale community have objected to a man's statement that he allegedly killed a sheriff's deputy because he suffered from AIDS dementia.

Kenneth P. Wilk has been accused of gunning down Det. Todd Fatta and wounding Sgt. Angelo Cedeno when he was served with a warrant for possession of child pornography. Wilk shared the house with his partner, Kelly Ray Jones, a registered sex offender with a history of arrests for child pornography and soliciting sex from minors.

During his arraignment, Wilk told the judge that he had full-blown AIDS and AIDS dementia, according to the *Express Gay News*.

STATE BRIEFS

WYNONNA TAPPED FOR HER FIRST OLIVIA CRUISE

Country music singer and songwriter Wynonna has been tapped to perform for the Olivia Cruise scheduled for Jan. 29-Feb. 2 based out of Port Canaveral. This is the first time for the Grammy nominee — and sister of actress Ashley Judd — to work with Olivia. Other performers on this four-day cruise to the Bahama Islands include Elvira Kurt, Lisa Koch, Zoe Lewis and Halcyon. For more information about the cruise, visit www.olivia.com.

GAINESVILLE PRIDE SET FOR OCT. 8-16

Gainesville's GLBT community will kick off its Seventh Annual Pride Week with a community awards dinner on Oct. 8, followed by its third annual pride parade and downtown pride festival on Oct. 16. The parade and festival are cosponsored by the city's Department of Cultural Affairs. The pride events were moved to October in 2000 to take advantage of cooler temperatures and allow for greater participation by university students. For more information, visit www.gainesvillepride.org.



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NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WORLD BRIEFS

GAY GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL RATING REMAINS ON TRACK

A month after he shocked New Jersey residents by announcing he had had a gay extramarital affair and would resign, Gov. James E. McGreevey's approval ratings have remained steady, according to a new poll. In the poll, 46% of voters surveyed approved of McGreevey's performance in office. In a poll taken after his Aug. 12 announcement, McGreevey's approval rating was 45%.

POLICE ARREST MAN IN 30-YEAR-OLD MURDER CASE

Baltimore prosecutors have filed papers seeking the extradition from Boston of a man wanted for the 30-year-old murder of a man outside a west Baltimore bar. Michael Hughes, 58, was arrested in Boston for allegedly stabbing a man he thought was gay. Police then discovered that Hughes was wanted for the 1974 Christmas Eve killing of 40-year-old McKinley Johnson in Baltimore. Johnson was killed while making Christmas baskets and giving them away inside a West Baltimore bar.

TENNESSEANS URGED TO TAKE GENTLE ATTITUDE TOWARD GAYS

Several hundred people, including four current and one would-be member of the Tennessee Legislature, attended a gathering in Johnson City encouraging the adoption of anti-gay-marriage laws. The group also was urged to take a gentle attitude toward gays. Opponents of anti-gay-marriage amendments point out that Tennessee has one of the highest divorce rates in the nation, and argue that divorce creates far more homes without both a mom and a dad than do same-sex couples with children.

IOWA TRANSGENDERS CHANGE BIRTH CERTIFICATES

At least 21 lowans in the last five years have obtained new birth certificates after undergoing sex-change operations. They've been able to rewrite the story of their births under a 28-year-old state law that allows sex-change recipients to petition for new birth certificates that show their new gender. Iowa's 21st birth certificate change since 1999 was approved by a judge last month.

VIETNAMESE TELEVISION TACKLES GAY STORY LINE

Vietnam's favorite TV show, *The Crime Police*, opened its new season this month by tackling a taboo topic — the lives of gay adults — and offering a lesson about tolerance. The plot is groundbreaking for this communist country where sex is mentioned only in whispers, homosexuality is still largely considered a disease, and the state tightly controls publishing and broadcasting.



TORONTO - An Ontario court has approved Canada's first same-sex divorce after a judge ruled that the definition of spouses in the Divorce Act is unconstitutional.

The lesbian couple — identified in court documents only as J.H. and M.M. — had been together for almost 10 years when they married in June 2003, shortly after the Ontario Court of Appeal legalized same-sex marriages. They separated five days later.

Superior Court Justice Ruth Mesbur on Sept. 13 struck down the section of the Divorce Act that said only spouses defined as a man and woman — can divorce.

"The definition of a spouse is unconstitutional, inoperative and of no force and effect," Mesbur said.

Lawyer Martha McCarthy, who represented one of the women, said the ruling is historic.

"We believe that this is not just the first gay or lesbian divorce in Canada, but actually the first gay or lesbian divorce in the world," she said outside the court. "It's an important step when we talk about the legal landscape as it exists at the moment. It means that the Divorce Act, which was one of the few statutes that required some consideration after we won the freedom to marry, has now also been amended to take into account same-sex marriage."

In July, less than 24 hours after the couple's divorce petition was publicized, the federal Justice Department conceded that excluding gays and lesbians from the definition of spouse in the Divorce Act would prohibit them from divorcing and was therefore unconstitutional.

"It would be absurd to say it's legal to get married but not divorced," McCarthy said. "As usual, though, the federal government's approach to all things involving same-sex issues is, 'If we can obfuscate and delay, we will.""

Mesbur reserved judgment on whether she'll rewrite the definition of spouse. McCarthy said the couple realized their marriage was a mistake and there was no reasonable possibility of reconciliation.

"They ironically believed marriage would solve their problems," she said.

The Supreme Court of Canada will hold a hearing on the federal government's draft legislation legalizing same-sex marriage across Canada, McCarthy added. Four Canadian provinces allow same-sex marriage: Quebec, Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia. The Yukon Territory also allows same-sex marriages. (*AP*)

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REAL ESTATE

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BANNED IN LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, La. - They can party all night on Bourbon Street, but gay and lesbian Louisiana residents won't be allowed to marry their partners. Voters in the state overwhelmingly approved a state constitutional amendment banning samesex marriages and civil unions.

The race was close even in New Orleans, home to a politically strong GLBT community, with the ban winning support in the city. Still, the ballot drew barely more than a quarter of the state's 2.8 million voters to the polls.

Christian conservatives had conducted an intense grassroots lobbying campaign for the amendment, which had been expected to pass easily. The civil rights group Forum for Equality promised legal action against it.

"I am disappointed that so many Louisianians either did not read the amendment or are so afraid of gays that they voted for this amendment anyway," said John Rawls, an attorney for the civil rights groupt.

He reiterated the group's contention that the amendment does far more than stop gay marriage and that it could affect many private contracts between unmarried couples, gay or straight — a claim its supporters dispute. Still, Christian conservatives remained focused on maintaining the ideal of traditional marriages.

Louisiana already has a law stating that marriage can be only between a man and woman, but supporters of the amendment want to protect that law in the constitution. The amendment also would prohibit state officials and courts from recognizing out-of-state marriages and civil unions between gays.

Rawls said there were many possible grounds for challenging the results. One appeared on Sept. 18, when voting machines were delivered late to some New Orleans precincts, keeping some from casting ballots for hours.

State director of elections Frances Sims said at least 59 precincts did not have voting machines when polls opened because officials with New Orleans' clerk of court's office failed to meet drivers who tried to deliver the machines earlier that morning. The problem was solved by midday.

Similar amendments to ban same-sex marriage are on ballots in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah. Petitions in Ohio are still being verified. (*AP*)

LAMBDA LEGAL BATTLES OKLAHOMA ADOPTION LAW

NORMAN, Okla. - Lambda Legal has challenged Oklahoma's anti-gay state adoption law, one of the most restrictive outside of Florida.

The law was passed quickly at the end of the Sooner State's legislative session in April and forbids the state from recognizing "an adoption by more than one individual of the same sex from any other state or foreign jurisdiction."

The law was intended to prohibit gay and lesbian couples living outside of Oklahoma from adopting children from the state. A prior state law already prohibited in-state same-sex couples from co-adopting children, although gay and lesbian individuals may adopt.

"This drastic law could be interpreted to nullify legal adoptions of children by same-sex couples in other states when they are in Oklahoma," said Brian Chase, Lambda Legal's attorney on the case.

Two of the plaintiffs in the case, Anne Magro and Heather Finstuen, are parents to 6-year-old twin girls born to Magro in New Jersey and adopted by Finstuen under New Jersey's second-parent adoption law. The couple has since moved to Norman.

Finstuen said she worries Oklahoma may challenge her legal status as a parent. (*AP*)

STUDY: 'DON'T ASK' IMPAIRS MORALE

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - A new study has concluded that gays and lesbians serve openly in the Middle East without undermining unit cohesion or the missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

When gay personnel are open about their sexuality, they report greater success in bonding, morale, professional advancement, levels of commitment and retention and access to essential support services, the report by Dr. Nathaniel Frank found.

It also stated that the military's "Don't

Ask, Don't Tell" policy impairs the capacity of gay troops to develop bonds of trust, minimize stress, prepare for deployment, focus on their mission, advance professionally and access support services, including medical and psychological consultations.

These effects appear to have an impact not just on gays, but on those around them by creating an atmosphere of dishonesty and distrust as well as disrespect for the law and the principles of integrity that are essential to military service, the report found. \mathbf{N}

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MAC COSMETICS AWARDS **GRANT TO AIDS INSTITUTE**

TAMPA - The AIDS Institute has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the MAC AIDS Fund to be used for ongoing community education and public awareness efforts of HIV and AIDS.

The Tampa Bay-based national organization was presented with the grant Sept. 16 at the MAC Cosmetics store at Saks Fifth Avenue in West Shore Plaza.

According to Dr. Gene Copello, the organization's executive director, part of the grant money will also be used to expand TAI's efforts through Action Link, its electronic news service, and the agency's Action Alert e-mail system.

"It's an honor to be able to collaborate with such a respected and internationally

recognized organization such as MAC," said TAI board president Marylin Merida. "Through this partnership, we can help shape how individuals, communities and governments respond to AIDS in the United States and worldwide.'

The MAC AIDS Fund was established in 1994. Introducing its first Viva Glam lipstick that same year, MAC decided that its entire selling price of the lipstick line would benefit the AIDS fund. To date, MAC Cosmetics has provided over \$36 million for fund through both the Viva Glam lipsticks being sold worldwide and the annual Kids Helping Kids Card Program.

For more information about TAI, visit its Web site at www.theaidsinstitute.org.

which provides HIV-related prescription

drugs to those without access to basic HIV treatment, was increased by only \$35

million — falling far short of the \$217

The committee also approved only flat

The only substantial increase was \$1.1

funding for the prevention programs at the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Despite the insufficient funding levels for

these critical programs, the appropriations committee disappointingly increased

National Institutes of Health, which will

funding for abstinence-until-marriage

programs by \$36.5 million overall.

billion for medical research at the

benefit HIV/AIDS research.

million needed to support this critical

FUNDING FOR AIDS SERVICES PLATEAUS IN SENATE PLAN

program.

WASHINGTON - A U.S. Senate committee flat-lined the funding for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act and other federal AIDS and HIV programs.

"This funding short changes the fight against HIV/AIDS," said Human Rights Campaign president Cheryl Jacques. "Prevention is our only vaccine and we need to get it out to those most at risk: young people, gay and bisexual men and people of color communities."

In approving the flat-funding levels, the Senate Appropriations Committee provided no increase for most of the programs in the CARE Act - with the exception of one program, the Aids Drug Assistance Program. However, ADAP,

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CRACKING DOWN ON BATHHOUSES

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a law that would require sex clubs and gay bathhouses to obtain health permits in hopes of reducing high HIV rates. The action follows a federally funded study of two Los Angeles bathhouses in 2001 and 2002 that found 11% of the patrons tested positive for HIV - double the rate for gay men nationwide and nearly seven times that of the general public.

JAM JAY ROBBINS, M.D



Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine. Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine in Infectious Disease. Member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine, HIV Specialist, HIV Medical Assoc.

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The word on HIV:

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you

I SHOLIN-YOU AV

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.



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Aug 2004

Individual results may vary.

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

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

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

 [†] REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.
 [†]People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

You and your doctor can < fight HIV your way.



F1-K0098V

WWW.REYATAZ.COM

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ[®] (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What impor-

ation should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medici Read the Patient Information that comes with REVATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REVATAZ 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 HEYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodificiency vins. (HV), HV 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 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. Poportunistic 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

O NOT take netraine and clines. (See "What important information should I know about taking HEYAIAZ WUL 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 pre-scription 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?

- What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take HEYATAZ? 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 while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Deviation
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of pass-ing 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 REYATA2?"
- effects of REYATA2?" If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATA2?" If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATA2?" 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 infor-mation, 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?

- How should I take REYATA2?
 Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATA2 that is right for you.
 For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
 For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR* (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
 Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking.
 REYATA2 is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATA2 with SUSTIVA* (efavirenz) or with NIREAD* (tenoforir disoproxil tumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR* (ritonavir).
 Always take REYATA2 with food (a meal or navel, b neho) in work hetre. Swallow the cansules whole
- 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® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ
- hours before or 1 hour after these m , edicin
- 2 nours before or 1 nour 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
- If you miss a dose of RETATAC, 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 REYATA2? 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 we after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- vellowing 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 REYATA. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ

some partents with nemopnita 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 ("buffab 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 health-care provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT[®], MIGRANAL[®], D.H.E. 45[®], ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE[®], and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
 VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).

RONLY

- OBAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID[®] (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:
- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan used for cancer)
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of billrubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

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

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis). • St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).
- Do not take the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:
- VFEND[®] (voriconazole)
- The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:
- CIALIS[®] (tadalafil), LEVITRA[®] (vardenafil), or VIAGRA[®] (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE[®] (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN[®], QUINIDEX[®], and others).
- VASCOR® (bedridil, used for chest pain).
 COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL[®] (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN[®] (desipramine), SINEQUAN[®] (doxepin), SURMONTIL[®] (trimipramine), TOFRANL[®] (imipramine), or VIVACTIL[®] (protriptyline).
 Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE[®] or NEORAL[®] (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE[®] (sirolimus), or PROGRAF[®] (tacrolimus).
- The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other

FORTOVASE®. INVIRASE® (saguinavir).

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

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

- 1. Know all the medicines you take.
- Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
 Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provide
- How should I store REYATAZ?
- Store REVATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
 Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

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

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

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

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

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Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

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

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Revised July 2004

BUSINESS NEWS

COUPLE SHARES A VISION TO OPEN NEW BAR, SAVOY

ORLANDO - Partners in life and in business, George Butler and Randall Lambright are the men behind Orlando's newest gay bar, Savoy. But spending as much time together as they have has helped sharpen a vision the two men have shared in opening a new high quality bar with just the right atmosphere for Orlando's gay community.

Though hurricanes Charley and Frances hampered the bar's opening, wiping out two of their first three weekends of business, the bar has quickly developed a loyal following.

Mother Nature's fury was but one of the struggles in successfully opening the bar. The two men claim to have driven up and down each street in town 10 times in order to find the perfect location. Having found the Orange Avenue antiques district location in December, the couple set about reconstructing the building.

"We stripped the building down to the bare walls," Lambright said. "We had to re-do everything — plumbing, electric, as well as making the space handicapped accessible."

But as both men work as managers in the banking software development field, they had plenty of procedures already written and ready to go, once the building was primed to be open.

The work has paid off. The 2,800square-foot space features a new 50-foot long custom made bar, enormous mirrors, three chandeliers and a self-playing piano. The piano separates vocals through the bar's speakers but keeps the keyboard's sound central to the instrument.

Lambright and Butler decided to open the bar because, at the time of their initial planning two years ago, they felt there wasn't a location in town where they felt 100% comfortable.

"We wanted something more upscale, with plenty of seating, muted tones on the walls and easy on the eyes," Lambright, 38, said. At the time of their initial planning, new establishments like Lava Lounge, The Peacock Room and Pulse were not even on the radar. "Our goal was to create a place that is upscale, comfortable, and clean."

"We're fussy with cleanliness," Butler, 41, said. Though the business has hired a full-time cleaning person, Butler admits he sometimes leaves his day job early to help out and make sure all the details are attended to as he sees fit.

Though the couple has no previous experience in the hospitality industry, they've done plenty of research to make sure their bar is successful. They've hired Billy O'Leary who oversees the day-today operations as Savoy's general manager. Lambright and Butler made sure O'Leary clearly saw their vision of providing a high-quality establishment for Orlando's gay community. Butler said he and his partner don't see themselves as managing partners, but as owners who are



The Savoy, Orlando's newest gay bar, is located along North Orange Avenue's antiques district. Photo by Kirk Hartlage

taking more than a vested interest in the upkeep of the bar's quality. Finding the right staff was as critical for them as finding the right location.

"Being perfectionists," Lambright said, "it's been difficult to get others to see our vision." Joking about the in-town comparison, he admitted he incorporated Disney's ideal of having customers only see their establishment as perfect each and every time they come in.

Getting the word out through teaser ads has help build their business, but the most success they've had is through word-of-mouth. And though there are other similar newer bars that have recently opened in town, the couple said it is only in the best interest of all.

"There's a reason a Home Depot will open across the street from a Lowe's," Butler said. "It's not to steal customers but to create more business for everyone." On that note, they'd like to see the area become more of a destination, with a shuttle or pedicabs operating between the local nighttime establishments. "We'd like to see the area become an even more gay-friendly area."

The couple admits that lots of giveand-take has kept their relationship strong — one that was cemented with a marriage trip to Massachusetts. It's a trait that carried through to the planning of the bar. Anything from seat colors to decorations, the two kept each other in check, making sure that everything was indeed a joint decision. They only wish they could spend more time with the bar, admitting it's been difficult turning over their "baby" to someone else.

The next evolution of the bar is to finish constructing a patio in back. The importance of finding a location that would easily house a patio was critical in deciding where to build Savoy. Beyond the appeal it has to Floridians, incorporating an outdoor space also had sentimental appeal to Lambright and Butler as the two men first met on the patio of the Cactus Club.

When presented with that concept of nostalgia affecting their vision, Butler said he was sure it "happened all the time."

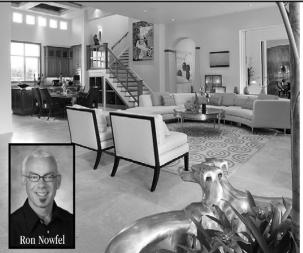
"True, but do they last 11 years?" Lambright said. ₩ *Kirk Hartlage*

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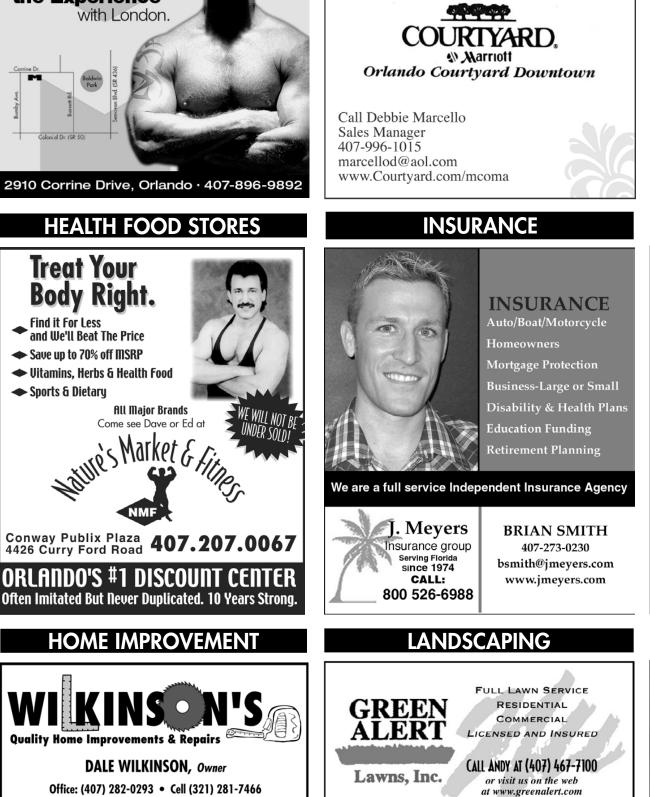
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BUSINESS

COUPLES COULD LOSE MONEY UNDER CALIFORNIA'S DP LAW

SAN FRANCISCO - California's landmark domestic partners law goes into effect on Jan. 1, but many gay and lesbian couples are choosing not to register, fearing financial woes under the new law.

Many committed couples are worried they could lose public benefits or face financial or legal trouble under the new law, which extends state marriage rights and responsibilities to same-sex partners.

More people terminated their state domestic partnerships in July and August - 202 and 111, respectively — than in any month since January 2000, when the registry started.

Over the summer, the 28,083 couples who have registered under the current, weaker law received letters from the secretary of state's office, warning of potentially undesired consequences of the new law and the Jan. 1 deadline for

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opting out. Observers wonder if those letters prompted many of the domestic partner terminations.

For some gay couples, particularly those starting new families, registering is critical because the new law guarantees parental rights to the nonbiological parent.

But for others, the risks outweigh the benefits.

Some wealthy gays and lesbians are hesitant to register because they don't want their income, assets and debt to become community property. Under the new law, they could lose half their assets if they dissolve a partnership.

Paying taxes is another complicated matter, partly because registered partners won't be allowed to file either federal or state taxes jointly.

Advocates are also advising undocumented immigrants in relationships with U.S. citizens to stay away from the registry because it could be interpreted as an intent to stay in the U.S., possibly leading to deportation.(AP)

ENTREPRENEUR PLANS NEW TRANSGENDER 'TERMINATOR'

Gov. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER is ripe

for satire, a lobbyist said.

SAN FRANCISCO - If you can't beat 'em, join 'em: A Democratic lobbyist said that he plans to distribute a transgender bobblehead doll of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to satarize his "girlie men" remark

earlier this year. Plans call for the doll to wear a hot pink dress

and matching pumps. The Republican

governor and former *Terminator* star first uttered the phrase during a budget fight with the state's Democraticcontrolled legislature. "Girlie men" harkened back to the *Saturday Night Live* sketch featuring two bone-headed bodybuilders who used it to insult people they didn't like.

California Democrats — and members of the state's GLBT community — took offense.

"If there is a perfect example of a girlie

man it's Arnold," said lobbyist John Edgell, adding that Schwarzenegger's jibe at Democrats and efforts to halt the sale of an earlier bobblehead doll both invited satire. "I'm driving home the point to

Schwarzenegger and his closest advisers that it's the American public's right to poke fun at politicians," Edgell said. "If they have a problem with that they can sue me."

The lobbyist already has had some experience with the former lobbyist's attorneys. Earlier this year, Edgell developed a similar bobblehead doll of the governor in a business suit with a rifle to make a

political statement about his violent action films. One of Schwarzenegger's companies sued Edgell, forcing him to remove the weapon from the doll.

The new version of the doll should hit shelves in early October. \mathbf{N}

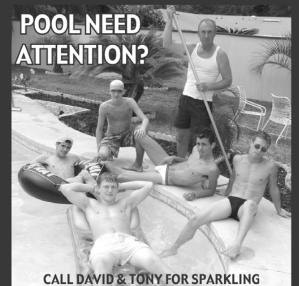
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PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED RAISING THE STAKES WITH HURRICANE CHARLEY

When Charley truly

arrived, it was as

though he brought

with him a dozen

screaming children.

by Ken Kundis

As a lifelong Florida resident, the prospect of a hurricane is something I've always simply lived with. Stories of the power and fury of them was exciting as a child.

I remember being in eighth grade at Tuskawilla Middle School when Hurricane David was to tear through. I was supposed to be scared. Certainly my parents were anxious. Of course, I knew nothing of homeowners insurance or investing in property or worrying about the health and safety of my offspring.

When the storm raged — and comparatively speaking it was a summer shower compared to what we've recently endured — my sisters and I couldn't contain our excitement. This was something exotic, something different, something distinctly Floridian. There was a part of me that was proud to go through a hurricane, as if being a true Floridian

wasn't bestowed upon you until you could say you had done so.

Fast forward almost a quarter century and I now own my own home. I have my insurance and look at my house as the best — and biggest investment I have made. As Charley bore down

upon central Florida, most of my family, which now lives on Florida's Space Coast, began calling my house every couple of hours to see if I was making the appropriate plans: Had I boarded my windows? Would I at least go to my oldest sister's house in Altamonte Springs?

No, I said. I would stay exactly where I was. My block house — built in 1952 — had surely survived more hurricanes than me. I needed to be near if something did happen, I told them. That sated their anxiety for a while.

A while only lasted until the next phone call. My sister Sandi couldn't help but call her baby brother as the news unfolded on her TV.

"Kenny, I think you really need to go to Lydia's." The urgency and concern in her voice — while well-intentioned — did nothing but remind me of my different status in my family. Because I didn't have a spouse and children around me, I should find a family to stick to during this crisis.

With the hour approaching until the curtain rose on Charley, my sister pulled out the big gun. She had my father call me.

"You need to get your ass over to Lydia's," he said in his poetic way. No, Dad, I told him, I would be just fine where I was. Sandi grabbed the phone.

"Please. We don't want you to be alone."

"I'm not alone," I contended. "Boris is here too." I knew it was a facile argument, because my rottweiler would have no choice but to come with me wherever I went, but my point to them was deeper. This is my house and my own version of a family — at least for right now — and I was going to do this my way.

When the storm did come, it did so in acts, like an opera. The 12-foot picture window in the front of my house suddenly had become an enemy and I set up camp in a hallway, complete with blankets, pillows and candles. Once the lights went out, the glow of the candles didn't provide the same amber-tinted excitement they had two-and-half decades before.

When Charley truly arrived, it was as though he brought with him a dozen screaming children. Although it was pitch silent in my house, just outside a cacophony ensued. As trees creaked and

metal crashed against itself in a dance unseen, I could only catalog what I thought I heard. *That's my mailbox flapping up and down. That's the hammock I forgot to take down. That's my magnolia tree.*

And so it went for the better part of two hours. The dog was no

help. He buried his snout in my armpit and panted. At one point I was certain the roof was pulling away from the house. Every note and click, howl and woosh took on a deeper, more sinister dimension. What was I doing there by myself, I began to wonder. What if something *does* happen? It was the strange set of noises that shook me clear of my desire to stand firm on the homestead.

The sounds of this hurricane were unfamiliar to this Floridian. They may have been the same as for David, but the stakes were much higher for me this time.

When Frances came to call, I went to Lydia's house at the first sign of trouble. Throughout, I played games in candlelight with her children. Boris was put through his paces by my niece. We had meals together and talked and laughed. If there was howling, I didn't hear it.

I felt a little foolish about my insistence before and very lucky for many reasons. As we listened to the reports of the storms coming closer to the Space Coast, we called my sister in Palm Bay every couple of hours.

Ken Kundis is an Orlando writer who can be contacted at pavlovich0131@ msn.com.

ΥΙΕΨΡΟΙΝΤ



FLORIDA BAR REMAINS DIVISIVE ON GAY ADOPTIONS

I read with disappointment that the Family and Public Interest Law Section of the Florida Bar Association will delay their request to lobby for the overturn of the ban on gay adoption, citing possible "divisiveness" within the Florida Bar on this issue.

This "divisive" issue has already been endorsed by AMA, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, numerous child advocacy groups, religious groups and Senate President Jim King (R-Jacksonville).

Why? Because an entire class of Floridians are being treated as secondclass citizens, while thousands of children languish in foster care while waiting for adoption. I gave up the hope long ago that the Florida Bar would ever be ahead of the curve on any issue, but I would at least hope that we wouldn't be behind the curve on something as important as this.

Patrick Howell Orlando

SHOW UP AND VOTE, **OR KEEP QUIET**

Being an activist for so long, I am

appalled at the apathetic attitude of the gay community and its expertise at leaving it to the "other guy."

There are elections coming and I implore you to get to the polls and vote. Remember, it's not the ones who do who get them elected, but those who don't who keep them out. See the percentage of votes to prove my point. You don't have to get on a soap box or lead a parade down Main Street, though it would help. Just show up at a polling booth and cast your vote.

Show up or shut up. There again, maybe you want to go on being treated as second-class citizens and being denied your equal rights. It's your choice to stop leaving it to the "other guy." Be one of the builders of the U.S. where no one will be denied or left behind in the world of tomorrow.

Someone once said that the gay community is like a tea bag: You don't know how strong it is until it's in hot water. Let's show these politicians how strong we are.

Scotty Buchanan Lakeland

Have something on your mind? Write a letter to the editor. Drop it in the mail to Letters, c/o Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853 or send an e-mail to editor@watermarkonline.com.



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highlighting *Watermark's* memorable first 10 years

1994

Steve Gunderson becomes the first Republican congressman to come out.

With a 24-page first issue, Orlando attorney Tom Dyer launches *Water-mark* in September with a staff of three. Amanda Bearse (*Married*With Children) is on the cover.

Tampa fends off an attempt to repeal the city's ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood makes her first appearance before a GLBT audience and says, "I will not be an advocate for your community.3

Watermark publishes its first guide to gay pride events, including the fifth annual Gay Day at Disney.

President Bill Clinton signs an executive order forbidding the denial of security clearances on the basis of sexual orientation.

A gay man is murdered after admitting his crush on a straight friend on *The* Jenny Jones Show.

Watermark expands to Tampa Bay.

6

Tampa hosts GALA Festival V, a quadrennial gathering of GLBT choruses. It is the largest convention in the city's history to that point.

President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act, denying federal benefits to same-sex spouses and allowing states to disregard same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Waternark grows to 60 pages, begins printing in four-color process and includes its first national advertiser -Miller Brewing.

In Romer v. Evans the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Colorado's Amendment

Continued on page 34

NANS HELD TO THE LIGHT

How Watermark went from idea to obsession to reality... to surprise By Tom Dyer

Ever had a thought that grew into an obsession? That's the way it was with me and Watermark.

In the spring of 1994, I went to a Metropolitan Business Association meeting. The guest speakers were a smattering of local public office holders, including Orange County Chairman Linda Chapin. Their remarks were well meaning but uninformed and even condescending. I was frustrated that only the few dozen people in attendance would ever know what was said.

And there was no way to initiate a dialogue about this within our community. The only GLBT newspaper in Orlando was the Triangle, a competent monthly published by what was then GLCS, but more a calendar of events at the center than a launching pad for ideas or advocacy.

A few days later, I was in Atlanta having lunch in Virginia Highlands. Southern Voice had just been delivered, and everyone seemed to be reading the city's excellent weekly newspaper for the GLBT community. I began to fantasize about people sitting in outdoor cafes in the awakening Thornton Park neighborhood reading Orlando's GLBT newspaper.

The image was so invigorating that I called that day and asked to meet with the publishers of Southern Voice. Chris and Leigh, life partners who have since sold the newspaper to Window Media, were skeptical, but they indulged my many questions and I left loaded down with media kits, business cards and notes. I went back to my hotel room, and with the ambitious Atlanta skyline as backdrop I began sketching out ideas and crunching numbers.

It was a process that consumed me for the next several months. I took long walks around Lake Eola and thought about little else. Eventually I shared my obsession with my parents, expecting

them to redirect me to my law practice. Mom said, "There's a reason you can't shake this, so go for it." My dad, who'd recently suffered a stroke and was unable to speak, expressed agreement by raising his good arm in a fist. My goal was to offer a conduit for information, but also to

make a statement about the strength and vibrancy of Orlando's GLBT community. Hence the name "Watermark" — a demarcation point. Only after the first issue was published did a wise reader point out the more inspiring symbolism: A watermark is a transparent insignia on fine stationery, visible only when held up to the light. What a wonderful metaphor for being gay. And that was

Continued on page 44

Watermark publisher TOM DYER: "I wanted Waterm ark to reflect the richness of the gay experience. Photo by Jim Bo

TER COLORS

furry, slimy



32

WATERCRESS NOT SO PREPARED OR HURRICANES

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

"YOU DON'T HAVE A GRILL?" my mother asked us, incredulously, in the middle of Hurricane Frances. Apparently I have shamed the family by not having one of these staples of Brooklyn life on the back porch, ready to be forced into action should the electricity go out.

They're always ready, those people. The women in my family are noted for making beauty parlor appointments well in advance of any family celebration such as a wedding or a First Communion because, God forbid, you shouldn't show up in church wearing curlers under a kerchief. Shame! The shame of it all.

Anyway, as Ivan threatened, we still didn't buy a grill. It just has never been a priority since moving to Florida. It's hot enough on the back porch without adding to the misery by firing up a bag of briquettes in a cheap, blue, three-legged aluminum grill which teeters vicariously between A Slight Lean and Total Disaster every time the wind blows.

It's easier to manually open a can of salmon, which tastes just as good as tuna fish when you really come down to it.

AND WHAT DO YOU DO when the

wind is howling outside? You can't watch The Birds on DVD for the millionth time because the flickering juice is just enough to return you to the beginning each time, and how many times can anybody watch Tippi Hedren walking into a pet shop?

I came up with many ways to pass the steamy hours: I arranged ancient photographs in an album, laboriously writing things like, "This is a picture of Grandma's grandma, who died in 1942 at the age of 89, meaning she was born in 1853." (And that accompanies a photograph of an old Italian lady in

black, looking for all the world like she'd rather be at the circus than having her picture taken.)

I threw away years' worth of old letters, keeping only the ones that held hair clippings or multi-paged plaudits of my fabulousness. Those ex-paramours really had a way with words, those guys did. At one point, thanks to the rapidly

reason and found myself Nairing the cat and then realized: We don't have a cat. What was that furry, slimy thing covered in aloe-scented hair remover?

BUT ENOUGH of hurricanes as I'm sure you're as bored as I am hearing about Charley and Frances and Ivan ad nauseum. We have two giant pieces of protective paneling to remove from our sliding glass doors. I suppose we could cut them up and make end tables, but since when do end tables come made from plywood and composition board? (See? How sad. Our two sheets of

protective wood don't even match.) But we're glad What *was* that that it wasn't as bad as it could have been probably because I sprinkled the doors and thing covered in windows with Holy Water. aloe-scented Hey, you never know! HAPPY BIRTHDAY hair remover?

TO US, by the way. Yes ... you're reading Watermark's Tenth Anniversary issue!

We started way back in 1994, and I was one of four rotating columnists who would expound on one topic every other issue. My first appearance was in Volume 1.2, and what a thrill it was seeing my name and face stacked in every gay bar and gayfriendly business in the land!

Soon they asked me to come up with a column idea which would run in every issue, and WaterCress was born. This is No. 233,

for those of you who keep count, which means I've set down more than 225,000 words in print.

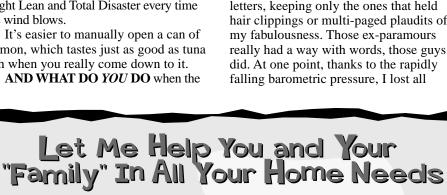
And it's always been fun being recognized, complimented, written to, chastised and hollered at, as all of that feeds into the writer's ego, a horrible little monster that needs constant nurturing. The question that seems to come up most about WaterCress, almost always accompanied by a quizzical look, is "Just how do you come up with the things you write?'

Well, somewhere along the way - in the first grade, I think — I missed a few days of school and, thus, important instructions about how to live the rest of my life. So, whatever I see and hear goes through a slightly skewed filter and ends up on paper like it's been written from another dimension.

I get amused when somebody tries to correct what I've written in here, by saying "all gay New Yorkers aren't like that." Well, maybe not in reality, but on my own little planet they sure are, because I pull the strings and write the code.

Those who "get" it usually occupy planets near mine; those who don't, well ... everybody can't be in the same club! So to Tom, Dave and all the staff and past editors and Watermark bees: congratulations, and thank you for a rewarding 10 years! ₩

Jim Crescitelli can be reached at WaterCressGuy@aol.com.





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AMAZONS WAITING PATIENTLY TO GET MARRIED

Speaking Out by Karen S. Murray-Parker

It is one thing to write as a journalist about gay marriage and another as a lesbian to want to marry the woman I love and not be able to do a thing about it.

Back in July, my partner, Alta, and I were seriously discussing flying to Massachusetts and getting married. We've already bought our wedding rings and want to marry, both to express our love for one another and to take advantage of the legal rights such a marriage would ensure.

Unfortunately, until the legal issue of residency requirements in Massachusetts is resolved, it would be questionable if our marriage in that state would be legal since we are both Florida residents. I talked with a lawyer friend of mine, who recommended we wait to get married in Massachusetts until the states' antiquated 1913 residency requirement law was successfully challenged and knocked down.

Then it will be "Hello, P-town and let the wedding bells ring!" Until then, we wear our wedding rings with good intentions and no legal foundation.

Technically right now, although we both enjoy good relations with our children and families,

should one of us become ill, the other has no recognized legal right to make decisions about health care or even visitation rights should one of us have to be hospitalized. We could give each other power of attorney, but that could be contested by family members.

I'm lucky that once I become a fulltime employee at the hospital where I work, Alta can be added on to my policy as my partner. While I'm glad the company recognizes domestic partners, I wish I could call Alta my spouse instead of just a partner. It seems like secondclass citizenship to me.

We plan to buy a home together, a common enough goal for most married couples. But because we are a lesbian couple, we have to have specific legal papers drawn up to cover the bases should something happen to one of us.

Each of us wants to provide for the other in case illness or death should separate us, but we have to be careful to cross our T's and dot our I's to ensure that our wishes will be followed. Families don't always follow the inheritance wishes of loved ones when it comes to money issues.

I just finished filing my taxes (I know, I was a little late). I usually take deductions and file long forms to take

advantage of as many tax credits as possible. If Alta and I were legally married, we could take advantage of federal tax credits and pay less taxes. That's a dream right now with all the opposition to any federal recognition of gay marriages or civil unions.

There's also the issue of inheritance of Social Security benefits or pensions if one of us should pre-decrease the other. Because we are a lesbian couple, neither of us could draw on the other's benefits. It's a bitter pill to swallow.

Were either Alta or I of child-bearing age, we'd also face the difficulty of child custody issues since Florida forbids gay adoption. Either of us could bear children, but should we wish the other to have legal or joint custody of our children, there would be no legal recourse for us to fall back on.

Both Alta and I have been married to men and took our legal rights as married partners for granted. We

Why doesn't the global society wake up and reevaluate its priorities?

know what we are being denied in terms of legal rights because we are gay, and we are angry about it. We also resent that we

have to think twice about holding hands in public, calling each other endearments in front of straight people or be

concerned about offending a stranger's sensibilities because we are two women in love with one another.

We look at the world around us, with wars waging across the globe, people killing one another because they are of different religions, gays being beaten and treated like social pariahs, the environment being trashed and innocent lives being destroyed because of corporate greed. How has global humankind come to this impasse? Why doesn't the global society wake up and reevaluate its priorities?

Our lives are microscopic in comparison to the rest of the world, but they are our lives and we have the intrinsic right to live our lives in peace, harmony and respect.

For the two of us, change could begin with that Massachusetts residency law being overturned. I want the simple right to call the woman I love my legal spouse. Won't you please, Mr. Governor, change your mind about a century-old law and allow me to marry the woman I love? \mathbf{N}

Karen Murray-Parker is working on a masters degree and writing a novel. She lives in Sarasota and can be reached at dolphinwahini@aol.com.



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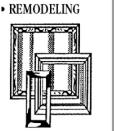
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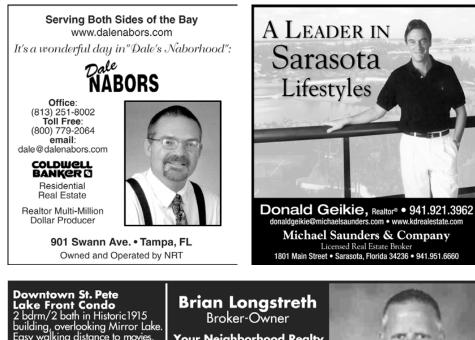
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TIMELINE from page 18

2, which prohibited gay equality measures within the state.

Timothy Hooper-Ellet is caught after embezzling \$30,000 from Orlando's GLBCC.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is defeated in the U.S. Senate.

1997

Watermark produces the first largescale nighttime party during Gay Days Weekend. More than 2,500 attend Beach Ball at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon.

Ellen DeGeneres comes out twice - as her character on the *Fllen* sitcom, and as herself on the covers of Time and Newsweek.

Andrew Cunanan murders fashion designer Gianni Versace in Miami.

Kevin Kline kisses Tom Selleck in the Paul Rudnick-penned hit In & Out.

1998

Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat, is the first open lesbian to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Watermark adopts a new tabloid-size magazine format and introduces the distinctive "W" masthead logo.

Matthew Shepard is beaten and left to die tied to a fence post in Wyoming.

The Suncoast Resort opens in St. Petersburg, and the Sawmill Campground opens in Dade City.

Watermark obtains permission to hang rainbow flags throughout downtown Orlando during Gay Pride Month. **Televangelist Pat Robertson predicts** doom, and the ensuing debate mobilizes the city's GLBT community like never before.

High school teacher Mike McKee comes out in Watermark, making him the first openly gay teacher in the Orange County school system. McKee remains in his position today.

Watermarkonline.com debuts.

1999

The Vermont Supreme Court rules that gay and lesbian couples must have the same rights as married heterosexual couples.

With 5,500 attendees, Watermarkproduced Beach Ball sells out for the first time.

The New Jersey Supreme Court declares the Boy Scouts policy of excluding homosexuals discriminatory.

Watermark purchases and relocates to an office complex in Orlando's Colonialtown South area. The newspaper also opens Tampa Bay offices at the Suncoast Resort.

Will & Grace debuts. The bawdy sitcom with openly gay characters is an instant hit.

2000

Patty Sheehan becomes the first openly gay person elected to Orlando City Commission.

Watermark expands coverage to the Sarasota/Bradenton area, increasing circulation to 18,000 every two weeks.

HBO's Queer as Folk debuts.



Tampa Police officer Lois Marrero is shot and killed in the line of duty on the first day of Tampa's PrideFest celebration.

Terrorists hijack commercial airliners and fly them into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. A gay man - Mark Bingham is instrumental in thwarting a fourth hijacked plane headed for Washington D.C.

State Rep. Allen Trovillion tells a gay student, "God destroyed Sodom and Gomorah, and he's going to destroy you."

2002

Ordinances banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation pass in St. Petersburg, Orlando and Sarasota.

Acknowledging the difficulty in juggling event planning and journalism, Watermark sells Beach Ball to Mark Baker Productions.

PrideFest Tampa Bay books a star-studded lineup and loses close to \$100,000, sealing the eventual downfall of the event. That weekend, three gay men are brutally attacked after the Wet Party.

2003

Queer Eye for the Straight Guy is a surprise hit for the Bravo network.

Gay-friendly Pam Iorio is elected as Tampa's mayor.

The first St. Pete Pride draws 10,000 to that city's Grand Central District.

Episcopalians appoint openly gay Rev. V. Gene Robinson as a bishop.

Responding to a Canadian Supreme Court decision, two provinces in Canada begin marrying gay and lesbian couples.

The U.S. Supreme Court declares sodomy statutes unconstitutional, effectively decriminalizing consensual adult gay sex.

2004

Two young gay men disappear in downtown Tampa. One is found murdered. The other remains missing.

Patty Sheehan wins re-election to a second term as Orlando City Commissioner.

Same-sex couples begin marrying legally in the state of Massachusetts.

President George Bush seeks passage of a constitutional amendment banning samesex marriage.

Watermark celebrates its 10th anniversary. 🕏



ŃEIGHBORHOOD

F R COLORS

QUOTE some favorites from our first 10 years

"I liked cheap, twist-top wine coolers... and in the

scope of rehab, that was

fairly humiliating."

"I felt like what I was feeling was very subversive, something that would not be accepted. So I was in the closet, and I occupied my time doing theater at Winter Park High School and the Central Florida Civic Theater.'

AMANDA BEARSE (Married...With Children), August 1994, on growing up gay in Central Florida.

"I wish that I could commit to one part of my life. Drag queen. Actor. Front desk clerk. But Paul can't be happy with just one of those three.

PAUL WEGMAN, a.k.a. Miss P, December 1994.

"I will always support civil rights, equal rights. But I will not support an issue that will divide. If sexual orientation is to become protected, it has to come from the Federal level."

Orlando Mayor GLENDA HOOD, January 1995.

"I'm glad not everyone waits until their brother becomes Speaker of the House before they become active."

CANDACE GINGRICH, March 1995, referring to brother Newt

Ginarich. "The most difficult,

frustrating thing about being out is trying to convince other people how freeing it is." JANIS IAN, June 1995.

"There are still a whole lot of people who have a hard time thinking of this as a minority rights issue.'

Orange County Chairman LINDA CHAPIN, June 1995.

"Until five years ago, gay magazines were incredibly salacious. They basically conceded that all this orientation was about was getting off." ANDREW SULLIVAN, September 1995.

"You're either happy with who you are and live openly in the world, or you don't. Then your life is only as good as the number of times you say, 'ves.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN, June 1996, at Tampa's GALA Festival V.

"One reason that so many gay men are good at individual sports like diving and figure skating is because success in the sport can be substituted for success in life.'

Orlando-based Olympic diver **PATRICK** JEFFREY, September 1996.

"Things here are on a strict up-and-up basis. My integrity has always been my stock in trade." GLCS treasurer **TIMOTHY HOOPER-ELLET**, June 1997, before being convicted of embezzling \$30,000 from the organization.

"He was soft-spoken, nice, polite, quiet. He had a beautiful smile and beautiful teeth."

A Miami hotel owner, referring to Gianni Versace

murderer ANDREW CUNANAN, July 1997.

"I don't think the public has any concept of the price paid by a successful professional athlete who comes out.

BILLIE JEAN KING, August 1997.

"It absolutely broke my heart. It made me physically sick.

TONI TENNILLE, October 1998, referring to the murder of Matthew Shepard.

"If we want to be recognized as a political force, we need to take advantage of this opportunity.' PATTY SHEEHAN, March 2000, on the eve of her election to Orlando's City Council.

"Tampa. It's such an evocative name for a town, possum - one we women can readily identify with. And Watermark? Strange name for a newspaper, really."

Barry Humphries as DAME EDNA EVERAGE, January 2001.

> "When I got in trouble at the White House, gay men were the ones who kept me alive.' EARTHA KITT, March 2001, referring to her

famous Vietnam-era protest.

"I think the Republican viewpoint offers more opportunity to consider new and different solutions to the most difficult problems we face." Openly gay state congressional candidate PATRICK HOWELL, August 2002.

"It's my cunt. It likes to be called that. Well... it answers to that anyway.'

MARGARET CHO, March 2003, in Watermark's sex issue.

"I liked cheap, twist-top wine coolers... and in the scope of rehab, that was fairly humiliating.' PAULA POUNDSTONE, March 2003.

"Who says you can't put mascara on false eyelashes?

TAMMY FAYE (BAKER) MESSNER, September 2003.

"We did a concert recently and the whole first two rows were entirely in drag... as me!" DONNA SUMMER, October 2003.

"Stars today have no stage training, like Katharine Hepburn or Bette Davis. Who do people impersonate these days? How do you do a f***ing Nicole Kidman impersonation?'

CHARLES NELSON REILLY, January 2004.

"Here's a radical thought for gay men. Try living beneath your means."

Best-selling financial adviser ANDREW TOBIAS, March 2004.

REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

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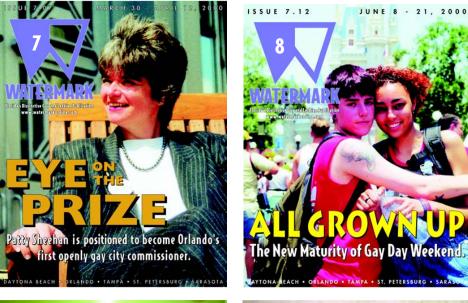
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COVERS some favorites from our first 10 years



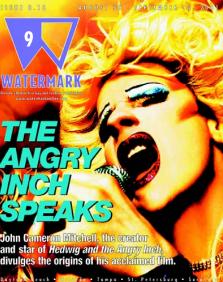
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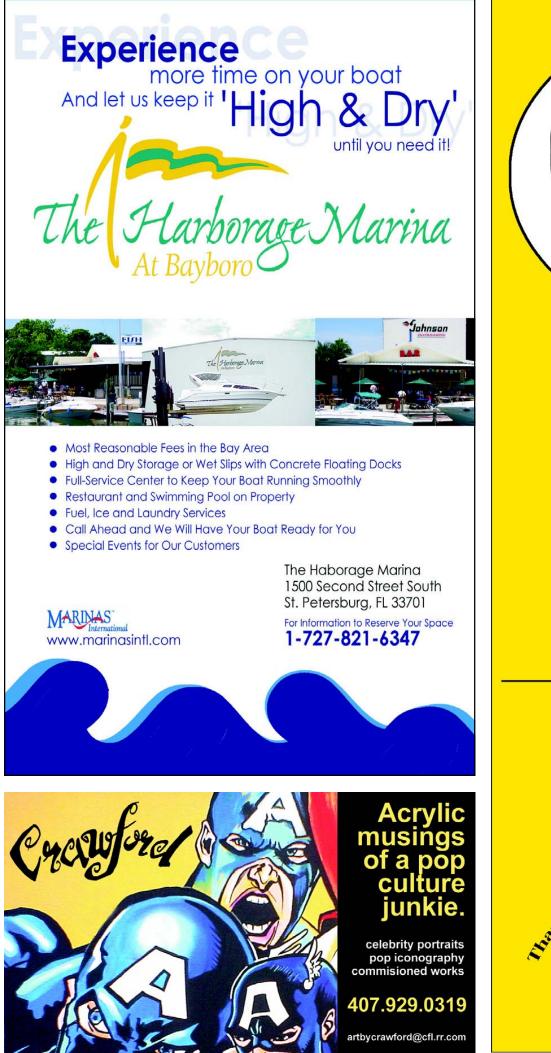
(1) December 21, 1994. Photo of Paul Wegman as P by Jill Porter. Design by April Gustetter. (2) February 7, 1996. Photo of Brad Beeney (left) and Ken Fendick by Jill Porter. Design by April Gustetter. (3) March 20, 1997. Photo of Greg Louganis courtesy of Mr. Louganis. Design by Todd Utterback. (4) July 24, 1997. Photo of Gianni Versace courtesy of AP. Design by Todd Utterback. (5) June 25, 1998. Photo of Chastity Bono stylized by Miguel Noir Studio. Design by Derek Cavilla. (6) October 29, 1999. Photo for Chastity Bono stylized by Miguel Noir Studio. Design by Derek Cavilla. (6) October 29, 1999. 1998. Photo of Matthew Shepard stylized by Derek Cavilla. (7) March 30, 2000. Photo of Patty Sheehan. Design by Derek Cavilla. (8) June 8, 2000. Photo of Gay Days 2000 by Tom Dyer. Design by Derek Cavilla. (9) August 30, 2001. Photo of John Cameron Mitchell as Hedwig courtesy of Waazville Pictures. Design by Dana Hill. (10) July 18, 2002. Photo of Stephen Hair courtesy of Mr. Hair. Design by David Stowe. (11) November 21, 2002. Photo of Cirque du Soleil's Mark Ward by Christine E. Reynolds. Design by David Stowe. (12) March 13, 2003. Photo of Margaret Cho courtesy of Ms. Cho. Design by David Stowe.













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"Halcyon" will be hosting karaoke on Friday night in the LumberYard, our 4000 square foot dance club. Music festival begins Saturday afternoon.

Regular camping rates apply • Website is:www.lumberjackscampground.com For reservations and confirmations call: 478-783-2267

WATER COLORS

KING OF PEACE HOSTS PET BLESSING

ST. PETERSBURG - King of Peace MCC will host a blessing of the pets at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, at Crescent Lake Park, 22nd Avenue between Fifth and Seventh streets North.

Participating animal companions will receive their own commemorative Certificate of Blessing and two complimentary gifts to take home.

The church is sponsoring a donation drive of needed items to deliver to Friends of Strays, this year's beneficiary of the event. A collection truck provided by corporate sponsor, Florida Lifestyles Realty, will be at the park to accept gifts

CONSERVATIVE BROADCASTER **DENIES GAY TRYST**

LOS ANGELES - The founder of the largest Christian broadcaster, Trinity Broadcasting Network, paid off a former male employee to keep quiet about allegations that they were intimate.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Enoch Lonnie Ford, 41, threatened to publicize details of his alleged affair with TBN founder Paul Crouch, 70, but legal agreements kept the accusations from being made public.

Ford met Crouch in 1991 at a network-affiliated drug treatment facility. He started working for Crouch's company the next year at a phone bank. According to a friend of Ford, the two men had a sexual encounter in the fall of 1996 at a network-owned cabin.

During this time, Ford faced several problems. He served six months in jail after pleading no contest in 1994 to having sex with a 17-year-old boy. He also served a month in jail two years later after pleading guilty to possession of cocaine.

After being released from a drug treatment program, TBN fired him in 1998. Ford sued, claiming that the firing was unjust. The suit yielded a \$425,000 settlement. But in exchange for the money, Ford promised to keep quiet, according to the Times.

Ford would later test the terms of the settlement, threatening to go public with a manuscript of the alleged affair unless Crouch paid him \$10 million. The Times reported Crouch took additional legal action through private arbitration to suppress the manuscript.

In court papers, Crouch denied the allegations. TBN claimed Crouch reluctantly agreed to settle with Ford on the advice of attorneys.

But Ford's friend told the paper the stories are true. "Lonnie had a lot of bad traits; one thing he isn't, and that's a liar," Sandi Mahlow said.

TBN calls itself the largest Christian television network and airs shows like The 700 Club that condemn homosexuality. \mathbf{W}

for homeless animals.

Suggested items include kitty litter of any type, dry and canned dog and cat food and non-glossy newspapers. King of Peace, 3150 5th Avenue North, will also serve as a collection site for donations intended for Friends of Strays for those unable to attend the Blessing of the Animals.

For more information, call Kay Wade, director of communications for the church, (727) 323-5857, or send an email to kop-mcc@ij.net.

The pet blessing has been scheduled for the day before the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the animals. $\mathbf{\nabla}$

SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS

SARASOTA, ST. PETE MCC PASTORS TO SWAP PULPITS SEPT. 26

Church of the Trinity MCC's Rev. Nancy Wilson will preach at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, worship service at King of Peace MCC. Sarasota's Rev. Rick Sosbe will speak at 11:07 a.m., while the Rev. John Gill from King of Peace will spend Sunday with Trinity.

JOY MCC TO CELEBRATE HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Joy MCC will celebrate its annual homecoming with a special service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26. The service will replace the usual 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. sermons that day. Afterwards, the congregation is invited to stay for a potluck luncheon, followed by special music. For more information, contact the church office at (407) 894-1081.

FRANCES CUTS SERVICES SHORT AT KING OF PEACE

Braced for Hurricane Frances on Sept. 5, a group of 53 - a fraction of the 280-350 who usually attend - took part in shortened services at King of Peace MCC. Pastors reworked the 9:30 a.m. service and canceled the 11:07 a.m. services altogether.

SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

DAYTONA BEACH / SPACECOAST COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

HOPE MCC

All faiths welcome at 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. Services are Sun-days at 11 a.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (386) 254-0993.

ORLANDO

DIGNITY/ORLANDO Meets for Mass and social hour, held at 5 p.m. Sundays at the GLBCC, 946 N. Mills Ave. www.dignityorlando.org.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO

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

GATEWAY FOR INTEGRATED CONSCIOUSNESS

A spiritually-based transformation-oriented workshop for GLBT and friendly people. For more information visit www.mensinnerjourney.com or call Dan at (407) 895-1194.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORT GROUP

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

HOPE UNITES CHURCH

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

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

JOY MCC

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

NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at 406 E. Amelia St. Call (407) 648-8880 or visit the Web site at www.new-hope.info for info. **ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE**

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

PATHWAYS MINISTRIES & CHURCH

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

SOUL-UTIONS

Wednesdays from 7-9 PM Downtown Orlando. Metaphysical-Meditation group. Discover inner peace and empowerment while building community. (407)492-7405.

UNIVERSITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

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

UPLIFT MINISTRIES, INC.

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

TAMPA BAY

AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

BETH RACHAMIM SYNAGOGUE

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

BREATH OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH

An all-affirming and nondenominational ministry rooted in Christ and biblically based, pastored by Rev. J. Ricc Rollins, II. Service is at 10:30 AM. At the Doubletree Hotel, 4500 West Cypress Street, Tampa Bay. (813) 873-1889.

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH All are welcome at this Christian church. 1025 7th Ave. N., St. Pe-tersburg. (727) 823-1806 or www.christcornerstone.com. Rev. Joyce

CONGREGATION B'NAI EMMUNAH

Reform Judaism synagogue. Shabbat Evening Services are at 8 PM every Friday with Rabbi Shimon Moch. 3374 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 938-9000 or www.bnaiemmunah.org.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN

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

FELLOWSHIP/BIBLE STUDY

formation, call (813) 494-5736. FRANCISCAN CENTER

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

FRANCIS HOUSE

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

HOLY SPIRIT ECUMENICAL CHURCH

A fully affirming and inclusive Catholic community for all people of faith. Sundays at 10am at the Quality Inn at 20162 US Hwy 19 N (Druid Rd-south of SR 60) in Clearwater. Call (727) 709-1542 or visit www.holyspiritecc.org.

INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

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

INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

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

KING OF PEACE MCC

Worship services are at 9:30 AM and 11:07 AM each Sunday at 3150 5th Ave N., St. Pete. Prayer/Communion service is at 6:30 PM each Thursday, followed by dinner and bingo. (727) 323-5857.

MCC OF TAMPA

Worship services Sunday at 10:30 AM. Mid-week dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM, with worship at 7 PM. 408 E. Cayuga St. (813) 239-1951 or UFMCCTampa@aol.com. Rev. Phyllis E. Hunt, Pastor

POTTER'S HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

Spirit-filled ministry offering hope and the love of Christ for all people. Sunday services at 10 a.m. at 3702 W. Kennedy Blvd. (813) 238-6330. or www.pottershousefellowship.com or PoHoFellow@aol.com.

RAINBOW PROMISE MCC

Meets at 10:30 a.m. at 1145 U.S. 92 East, Auburndale. The Rev. Karen Ducham officiates. Call (863) 802-6769.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

Worship service at 10:30 AM each Sunday at 4133 Thys Rd., New Port Richey. Night services of prayer and praise on Wednes-days at 6:30 PM. (727) 849-6962 or www.jord1.com/Spirit.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BROOKSVILLE Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM at the Pines Conference Cen-ter, 7029 Cedar Lane, Brooksville. Call (352) 796-4457 or rbkeim@gte.net. Chaplain Bob Keim.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERBURG Worship services are at 11 AM each Sunday, 719 Arlington Ave. N. (727) 898-3294.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST (HURCH OF TAMPA Worship services at 11 AM Sundays, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd.

UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

scmcc@mindspring.com

SOULFORCE

Sunday meetings at 9:45 AM, service at 11 AM. 710 Crenshaw Lake Rd, Lutz. (813)909-9590 or visit cttampa.tripod.com.

UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY Outreach by Unitarian Universalists to the local GLBT com-munity. For more information call (727) 531-7704.

SARASOTA

Rev. Nancy Wilson leads traditional worship services at 9:15 AM, and a contemporary service at 11 AM. Friday services at 7 PM with a 6 PM social. 7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd. (941)355-0847 or Trinity1srq@aol.com.

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

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at the ALSO drop in center, 1624 Ringling Blvd. Contact Luann Conaty at (941) 493-9036, e-mail Soulforce.swflorida@verizon.net, or visit www.soulforce.org.

Meets at 9 AM for traditional services and 11 AM for contem-

porary services on Sundays with Rev. Dr. Sherry L. Kennedy. 3276 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL (941)484-7068 or e-mail

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

WATER COLORS



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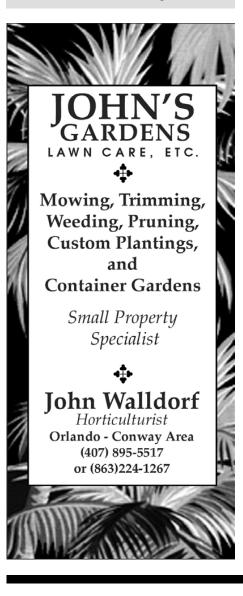
"Just About Perfect" Scott Joseph - Orlando Sentinel

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RT & EXHIBITS ORLANDO

POLITICKED

With one of the most unique acronyms around, the Florida Queer Artist Collective or Quack, presents this politically themed art exhibition at the GLBCC throughout the month. Participants in the month-long show are displaying works that express their individual views on topics related to various political discourses. Of course, their tag line says that they are pissed off and are speaking out. Caution! It's an angry gay and lesbian mob and they're armed with paint brushes! We'll assume the paint's dry at their exhibit, which runs through Sept. 30 at the GLBCC, located at 946 N. Mills Ave. For more details, call (407) 228-8272.

HAND-HELD FANS

In one of the most well-timed events ever, the Orange County History Center presents this special display, perfect for the heated, humid days of summer. Maybe next summer they can offer an exhibit of tarps, sandbags, and other past ways Floridians have dealt with hurricanes. Like many an organization at Atlanta's sweltering gay pride parade, merchants in the 1800's often distributed fans as advertising promotions decorated with paintings or photographs of celebrities of the day. Other fans on display include elegant folding fans made of silk, feathers or carved wood. The History Center will display these fans and more, but only through September 27 and admission is \$7 for adults. And, with no irony whatsoever, the display can be viewed in air-conditioned comfort at the Historical Society's home at 65 E. Central Blvd. For details, call (407) 836-8500 or visit www.thehistorycenter.org.

CO-CONSPIRATORS: ARTIST AND COLLECTOR

When most gays and lesbians remodel their homes, they ask their friends or neighbors to store an extra table or chair or two while the construction takes place. In the case of New York partners Dr. James Cottrell and Joseph Lovett, they're loaning their contemporary art collection of 70-plus pieces to the Orlando Museum of Art through Halloween. It's a show of wide ranging styles and mediums, including watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings, metal, marble and wood sculpture, mixed media works, pastel and charcoal drawings, etchings and photographs. Cottrell and Lovett purchased many of the pieces before the artists had achieved recognition. At least two well-known gay artists' works are part of the show — Keith Haring and Robert Mapplethorpe. Admission is \$8 for adults but residents of Orange, Seminole, Lake and Osceola counties receive free admission on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For further information, call (407) 896-4231 or visit the OMA's Web site at www.OMArt.org.

CONCERTS Lakeland

CHER

Do you be-lieeeeeve in... No, Cher. We don't. We don't believe anything you say - not any more. Your alleged Farewell tour has seen more miles than Evita's own farewell tour following her death. Though you see your countryside by bus and the Argentinean first lady saw hers posthumously from her casket, you both still have something in common: You are both extremely well-preserved. If you could turn back time? C'mon, isn't that what all the Botox is for? Catch the wonder that is Cher, live (we think) Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

SPECIAL EVENTS ORLANDO

EPCOT FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

There's a popular game that Disney cast members like to play on their days off, one that many locals engage in as well. No, it's not "Teeth Knocked-Out-in-a-Fight or British tourist?" — it's the ever-popular "Drink Around the World" game. Played at EPCOT's World Showcase, the contest typically starts with everyone in your group enjoying a frosty frozen margarita at the Mexican pavilion. Participants then follow the path clockwise around the lagoon, enjoying a signature drink from each country along the way — all in an attempt to see how many countries can be played only one month of the year, during the Food and Wine Festival each fall. However, this year's fest has been extended,



Orlando artist LANI BRITO stands with her piece, *Liberty Cries*, at the recent opening of the Florida Queer Artist Collective's show, *Politicked*, at the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Community Center. Photo by Dave Wiethop

starting the "season" of Drink Around the World two weeks early on Oct. 1; the festival runs through Nov. 14. Disney sets up kiosks representing more than 20 international regions with beverages and nibbly bits available to sample, generally at prices no more than a few dollars apiece. There are also wine seminars, culinary demonstrations, chef dinners and a concert series featuring a varied lineup encompassing classic rock, oldies, country and dance. For more details, call (407) WDW-FEST or visit www.disneyworld.com/foodandwine.

SARASOTA

SARASOTA FILM SOCIETY NO-NAME PARTY

It's a club, but the only requirement to join is that you like films. The Sarasota Film Society is hosting an informal get-together designed to thank its members for supporting the group, and to gather as many area movie-geeks in one place at one time, short of a queue line at the box office for the next installment of *Star Wars*. It's the first in an irregular series of informal gettogethers designed to thank the society's membership with free food and the opportunity to blab freely with their compatriots about new films, art films, popular films and all things film. The cult meeting, er, club party is Sunday, Oct. 3, at the St. Thomas Moore Church Chelsea Center. It's a casual dress event with Dixieland Jazz provided by Mike Moran. For more information on attending or joining the society. call (941) 364-8662 ext. 30.

TAMPA/ORLANDO

HOWL-O-SCREAM AND HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS

Central Florida's theme parks offer up special night-time hours and added-in haunted houses and other scary attractions for the frightful fall season. Tampa's Busch Gardens gets the scare started Sept. 25 while Universal Studios expands it's fright-fest to both of its parks beginning Oct. 1. Howl-O-Scream at Busch Gardens features six houses, four scare zones and six of its incredible coasters – in the dark! Tickets and more information are available at www.buschgardens.com. At Universal's Halloween Horror Nights, both parks will be open for the first time with 7 haunted mazes, scare zones, specially trained "scareactors" and ... no, we're not making this up ... a haunted comfield that is being grown on one of the studio's back lots. Tickets and more information are at www.halloweenhorromiolnts.com.

T H E A T R E Orlando

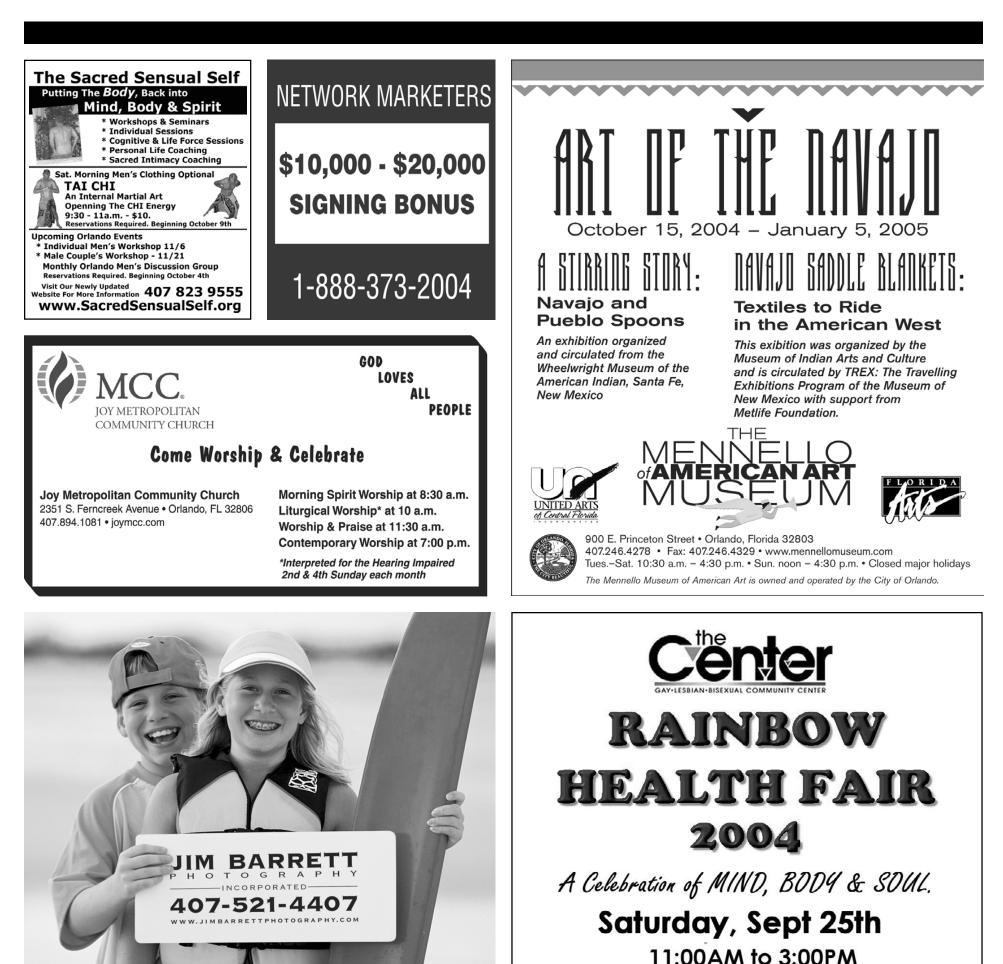
CAROLINA MOON: A CAMPY TRAILER TRASH TRAGEDY The popular comedy, penned by Michael Wanzie – recently named one of Watermark's Top 100 Movers and Shakers - returns for a limited engagement at the Parliament House's Footlight Theater. When the show opened in August 2003, it played to packed houses and became the longest running theatrical presentation in the history of the entertainment complex, assuming you don't count evening conversations with Darcell Stevens as theatrical The show's return this fall will feature original cast members Wanzie and Tommy Wooten who between them portray 11 different characters in a mad-cap comedic walk down Central Florida's memory lane. Real estate mogul Phil Rampy, Orlando City Commissioners Daisy Lynum and Patty Sheean along with Real Radio personalities Bubba Woop-Ass Wilson and The Sexv Savannah figure into the storyline. Walt Dinsey World, Chastain's Restaurant, Tupperware International Headquaters, and La'Belles Furs are just of few of the local businesses (past and present) which are mentioned in the play. Curtain time is 8 p.m. each Saturday evening through Oct. 9. Tickets are available by calling (407) 540-0317 and are \$15.

Lients

TAMPA BAY

BENT

When you hear director Travis Keller say he waited 25 years to get *Bent*, he's not talking about enduring a guarter of a century of sobriety. Instead, the Gypsy Productions Inc. founder is pleased to have secured the rights to produce Martin Sherman's Tony-nominated play and worldwide hit *Bent*. Keller finds the company's ability to present the show in a special 25th anniversary celebration of the production particularly poignant right now in terms of what is happening in the U.S. with gay marriage, gay rights and basic civil rights issues. Sherman's *Bentis* a searing, heartbreaking drama which takes a powerful and provocative look at the persecution of hundreds of thousands of homosexuals during the Holocaust. A love story at its heart, Bent tells of the strength of the human spirit. *Bent* originally opened in London in 1979 with lan McKellen in the lead role. Later that year the play moved to Broadway with Richard Gere and Michael York each portraying the central character over its multi-year run. Audiences were overcome with disbelief, shock and awe by the theatre experience they witnessed. A film version of the movie later starred Clive Owen and Mick Jagger. Gypsy Productions Inc. will also announce its 2005 season during this production. The show runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. The show closes Sunday, Oct.10.Tickets are \$15, though a special "Hospitality Night" performance is scheduled for Sept. 27, at 8 p.m. for those who work in the hospitality industry and are unable to attend a weekend showing. Tickets for this performance are at a "starving artist" rate of \$10. The Suncoast Theatre is located in the Suncoast Resort complex, 3000 34th St. S., St. Petersburg and tickets are available at the box office or by calling (727) 456-0500.



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WATER COLORS

HELD TO THE LIGHT from page 18

44

certainly an equally compelling goal for me and a reflection of my own personal journey. I wanted *Watermark* to look honestly at problems and challenges but also to reflect the richness of the gay experience.

I started the paper with just \$30,000 in investment capital — way too little, but anyone who's tried will tell you that raising money is time-consuming, and I wanted to get to work on the paper. April Gustetter, Keith Peterson and I cranked out a 24-page first issue with Winter Park actress Amanda Bearse (*Married* ... *With Children*) on the cover. We've since interviewed such GLBT luminaries as Lily Tomlin, Billie Jean King, Greg Louganis, Ellen DeGeneres, k.d. lang and many more.

Almost immediately I was drawn to the vibrant and more political GLBT community in Tampa Bay. The advantages to covering both cities were soon obvious, and award-winning journalist Todd Martinez-Padilla Simmons came on board before our first birthday. I fell for the area and bought a small bungalow in St. Pete. I now divide my time between Orlando and St. Pete and help direct a talented Bay Area/Sarasota staff of more than a half dozen writers, photographers and advertising sales representatives.

Beach Ball was never part of any business plan, but it figures prominently in *Watermark*'s history. I thought it would be fun to commandeer a local water park at night so that gays and lesbians could frolic and dance together. We leased Typhoon Lagoon the night before Gay Day at Disney. It cost a bundle, but 2,500 people bought \$25 tickets and we broke even.

But Beach Ball proved to be a mixed blessing for *Watermark*. The revenues helped purchase office property and cover operating deficits, but they also allowed us to ignore the root causes of those deficits. As the party grew, it became very much a circuit-type event — and an enormous distraction from the newspaper. I sold Beach Ball to Mark Baker Productions and it's a decision I've never regretted.

From that initial issue 10 years ago I've been amazed by the steady stream of talent that has appeared at *Watermark's* door — G, L, B *and* T, all seeking the opportunity to write or take pictures or otherwise work with us in some way. Suffice it to say that we would not be here today — healthy, mature and braced for the next 10 years — without these contributions. My sincere thanks to all.

I'm often asked whether *Watermark* has plans for future expansion throughout the state. Not hardly. It is challenge enough to cover three distinct, vibrant communities, to dissect the evolving GLBT experience and to remain accessible and relevant in an era of rapidly changing media options. My goal, with the help of *Watermark*'s crack staff, is to simply get better at this. **N**



TRANSITIONS

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: indie film queen MARY KAY PLACE (9/23); Kermit's fist buddy JIM HENSON and chronic heterosexual F. SCOTT FITZGERALD (9/24); pushy Oscar winner CATHERINE ZETA-JONES and omnipresent retiree BARBARA WALTERS (9/25); Cats meow T.S. ELIOT and IVAN ("Ding!" "Chomp!") PAVLOV (9/26); crabby teenager AVRIL LAVIGNE (9/27); apple producer GWYNETH PALTROW (9/28); gone, but not forgotten film star MADELINE KAHN (9/29); Victor or Victoria JULIE ANDREWS and unctuous gadfly TRUMAN CAPOTE (9/30); trying-too-hard KELLY RIPA and gayest thing in New York REX REED (10/1); elder statesman GORE VIDAL (10/2); PFLAG member ANNE RICE (10/3); gone and perhaps forgotten film star CAROLE LOMBARD (10/6).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Watermark Central Florida sales rep KEVIN THORNTON (9/25).

Transitions are all about good times and bad times. Submit news about new jobs, promotions, passings, birthdays, anniversaries, civil unions yes, even weddings! Drop us a line to editor@watermarkonline.com, or send a snail mail to Transitions, Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853-3655.



Gay writer and gadfly TRUMAN CAPOTE would have been 80 on Sept. 30.



Famously fey critic and essayist REX REED thinks about the 66 candles on his cake on Oct. 1.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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ORLANDO

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LESBIAN RANKED AS TOP TENNIS PLAYER

ST. PETERSBURG - A French lesbian tennis player has become the world's top-ranked player, according to rankings from the St. Petersburg-based Women's Tennis Association.

Amelie Mauresmo, who won the silver medal at this summer's Athens Olympic Games, is only the second female athlete to hold the top spot without having won a Grand Slam tournament. Mauresmo's only appearance in a Grand Slam final was the 1999 Australian Open.

"Hopefully, now the Grand Slams will follow," she told reporters earlier in September. "It's all about building things step by step. This gives me an incentive to work and work."

At the U.S. Open Mauresmo lost during the quarterfinals to Elena Dementieva, currently ranked fifth in the world. She lost the Women's Tennis Gold Medal last month to Justine Henin-Hardenne, now ranked fourth.

Mauresmo, 25, holds 13 WTA singles titles. She revealed her sexual orientation during an interview with a French newspaper in 1999. Since then, she has suffered homophobic comments about her strength and athletic style not being "feminine" enough.

"As long as she's comfortable with herself that's all that matters," said Tyler

SPORTS BRIEFS

ORLANDO SOFTBALL LEAGUE DELAYS SEASON OPENER

The effects of hurricanes Charley and Frances are being felt in Orlando's gay softball community. The Central Florida Softball League season opener, planned for Sunday, Sept. 12, was delayed for two weeks to Sunday, Sept. 26. An estimated 20 teams will compete in B, C-Competitive, C-Recreational and Women's Divisions. Games are played between noon and 5 p.m. at the Lake Fairview Park softball fields at the corner of Lee Road and Orange Blossom Trail. New teams and players are encouraged to join and should contact CFSL commissioner Jane Upton at (407) 893-4966 or by visiting www.cfsleague.org.

TAMPA SOFTBALL OFF TO STRONG START

The Suncoast Softball League started league play on Sunday, Sept. 12, with the Krewe, Mojo, Keith's and Heat al taking early leads in their various divisions. All players must be registered on their team's roster and have league fees paid by Sunday, Sept. 26, to continue playing this season. Also, the new Baxter's Disasters team will be hosting a fund-raiser to offset tournament costs on Saturday, Sept. 25, at Baxter's at 1519 S. Dale Mabry Blvd. In addition, a post-games party and cookout will be held following the Sunday, Sept. 26, games at The Male Room, sponsors of Fusion, Thunder and Heat. The male Room is located at 4502 S. Dale Mabry Blvd. For more information on any Suncoast Softball League activities, visit www.suncoastsoftball.org.

FORMER ORLANDO PRO TEAM CLINCHES CONFERENCE TITLE

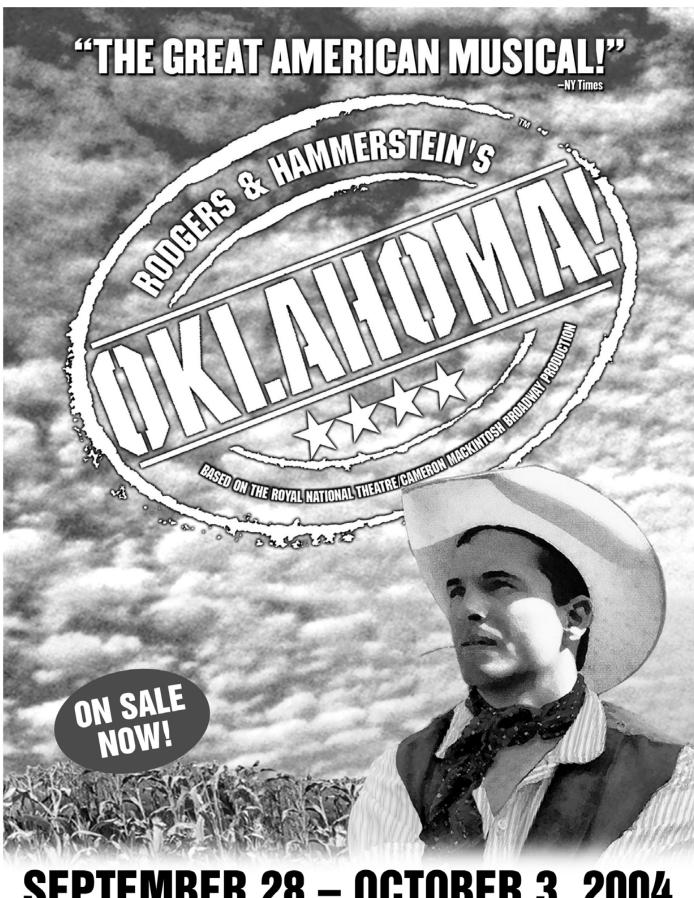
The Connecticut Sun women's professional basketball team – formerly the Orlando Miracle – clinched the WNBA Eastern Conference regular-season title recently. Defeating the Indiana Fever on the final day of regular season play, the Sun took the East's top seed for the upcoming league playoffs starting on Saturday, Sept. 25. Connecticut and the New York Liberty each finished the season with 18-16 records, but by winning the tie-breaker, the Sun open the best-of-three playoff series against Washington with a home field advantage. The Sun is making its second consecutive playoff appearance, making post-season play once in four years in Orlando.

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Hoffman, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Professional Athletes Association. "Maybe she can encourage other (lesbian athletes) to not hide." \mathbf{N}





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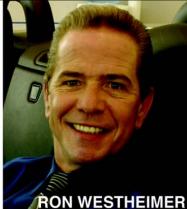
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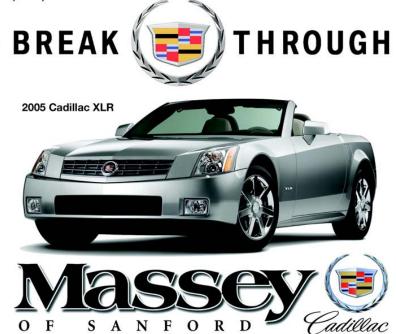
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What makes a **CLASSIC**?

With more than 40 full-length docus and features this year, the TIGLFF may have the next must-see films By Steve Blanchard

TAMPA - No one knows how may hours Keven Renken has spent in theaters and on his couch watching GLBT-themed films the past year. But if you calculate the average two hours per move and the 40 full-length features and documentaries playing at thiis year's Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, you can come up with some impressive numbers.

The programming director of TIGLFF has viewed countless movies in preparation for the organization's 15th year in Tampa Bay. The festival will begin Oct. 7 and run through Oct. 17.

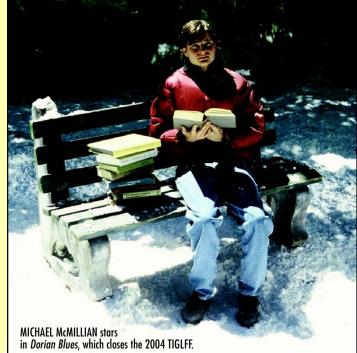
"Many people have a misconception of independent films and gay and lesbian films," Renken said. "These are anything but goofy films. We have some strong pieces this year."

The 40 films are all unique and special in their own right. But whether the film is a horror flick, a documentary or just a

coming of age story, one thing remains constant — the theme is life in the GLBT community. And it's the family feel of the GLBT community watching the films that makes the festival so appealing.

"Even before I worked for

the film festival, I would go because you see friends and you feel like you're in a theater full of people with something in common," Renken said. It feels very special and heart-warming. These films really relate to the audience because they are



usually about something we have all experienced."

Renken has the difficult job of picking the best out of many, many films. One of his favorites this year is *Dorian Blues*, which is familiar in that it relates a coming of age story about a high school teenager dealing with his sexuality, but does so in a humorous and witty way.

> "I've never seen a movie about accepting yourself made in quite this way before," Renken said. "Coming out stories are usually painful and we the audience suffer too because we've been through it. This shows that pain but it is

also one of the funniest films I have seen in a long time. It's amazing to find that balance of comedy and drama and walk that balance. The humor is witty like Woody Allen."

Dorian Blues will play the final night of the festival, but gay

coming out stories aren't all the festival has to offer. On the other end of the scale you have *Hellbent*, which Renken describes as one of the most fun films of the festival. The movie is a gay slasher film that can really surprise an audience.

"If you like horror films, you'll love *Hellbent*," Renken said. "It's one of the most entertaining couple of hours I've spent in a gay film. You have your requisite attractive, young men. But this film is genuinely scary. I saw it in a theater and there are some jumpout-of-your-seat moments. The

Continued on page 7

NOT JUST MOVIES ANYMORE

TAMPA - About 13,000 moviegoers will take part in the Oct. 7-17 Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival — and the event is more than just what's on the silver screen.

In addition to the 106 features, documentaries and shorts, the festival will include:

OPENING NIGHT PARTY: 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 7, in the TECO Atrium. The 1950s theme honors the film, *Straight-Jacket*.

GAY HORROR FILM WORKSHOP: 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, featuring former TIGLFF executive director Margaret Murray.

MEN'S PARTY: 11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, at Chrome. Colton Ford, the star of *Naked Fame*, will perform tunes from his new CD.

BUSINESS EXPO: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 10, in TECO Plaza across from the Tampa Theatre. It's sponsored by the Tampa Bay Business Guild and featuring a political expo sponsored by Equality Florida.

WOMEN'S PARTY: 9:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15. At the Radisson Riverwalk. Michelle Wolff, the star of *Mango Kiss*, and Lee Friedlander, the director of *Girl Play*, will take part.

GAY MARRIAGE WORKSHOP: 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, featuring National Center for Lesbian Rights attorney Karen Doering and lesbian publisher Judy Wieder.

AIDS WORKSHOP: 3:15 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, featuring Tampa Bay physians and infectious disease specialists Dr. Dorry Norris and Dr. Michael Dunn.

CLOSING PARTY: 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17. outside of the Tampa Theatre. For tickets and more information, visit the TIGLFF Web site at www.tiglff.com. ₩





"It usually takes about 20 years for a film to be considered a classic, but there are plenty on their way."

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THEIR WILDEST DREAMS

Organizers believe the TIGLFF can become the nation's top gay film fest By Jessica Sattler

"Having the first

lesbian president

speaker wouldn't

be the keynote

be bad either!"

Fast-forward 10 years to a world beyond trucker hats, capri pants and lowcarbohydrate diets. Imagine an America devoid of the raw food movement and gas-guzzling SUVs. Picture a time where reality television has lost its luster and has left American voyeurism to once again become infatuated with film.

While this year marks the 15th anniversary of the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, board president Mariruth Kennedy, programming director Keven Renken and vice president David Hansen have some fun-filled

fantasies of how TIGLFF could become synonymous with San Francisco's Frameline Film Festival or Los Angeles' Outfest in 10 years.

Their imaginations have conjured aspirations ranging from adding a couple monumental parties to building a starstudded opening night gala of Oscaresque proportions. Kennedy, who calls herself the realist, splurged her creative aspirations for the 25th anniversary: "I would love to see a star-studded opening night gala. I mean, really roll out the red carpet for Ellen DeGeneres to perform. Having the first lesbian president be the keynote speaker wouldn't be bad either!"

Hansen has his own ideas about opening night.

"My dream would be to have Madonna and Cher performing a duet concert on opening night. "I think I could die happy if I could be able to work backstage with performers like Cher and

Madonna," Hansen said. In 10 years' time, Esther will have

changed her name back to Madonna, and will have reverted to her material girl ways, Hansen speculated. And since Cher will most likely still be rocking the world's venues with her farewell tour, a stop in Tampa Bay shouldn't be out of the question. Hansen added that he would also like to



Film festival board president MARIRUTH KENNEDY sees the event growing each year.

see an attendance topping 50,000 and to have the films shown at a handful of venues.

"It would also be nice to bridge the gap between Tampa and St. Petersburg and get the whole bay area involved," Hansen said.

Renken hopes that selling out the Tampa Theatre would become the rule rather than the exception. He would love for TIGLFF to host a formal cocktail party and to throw year-round events to remind attendees that the TIGLFF is not merely a once-a-year affair.

"Mostly, I think it would be amazing to see more of the filmmakers and actors

in attendance," Renken said. "And I think the addition of an awards show would add prestige to the film festival."

Kennedy believes that any goal is possible and dreaming big lays the path to success. She said that most of the board's lofty pursuits are actual possibilities. TIGLFF is already one of the nation's largest GLBT film festivals.

She anticipates at least 13,000 moviegoers Oct. 7-17 and has worked with volunteers to plan a variety of events to accompany the 106 films that will be shown at the Tampa Theatre and Sunrise Cinemas at Old Hyde Park Village.

Filmmaker and former TIGLFF board member Amy Nestor said she is excited about the past, present and future of the film festival. She has been a regular attendant since 1995 and one of her films, *Butch Day Spa*, was featured during the 2002 festival.

"I am amazed by the great quality of films we are able to bring in to the festival," said Nestor, who is producing the festival trailer for the second year in a row. "In 10 years, I would love for it to be the No. 1 festival in the country with people coming from all over the world."

Kennedy said she can't say enough about how important she feels the festival has become to the community.

"It's just so powerful to be in a place where people can go and hold hands and eat popcorn and not have to worry about what the person next to you will think if you lean in a little closer to your lover," Kennedy said. ₩





COLTON FORD: EXPOSED

The performer makes the transition from gay porn to music in the documentary, Naked Fame By Kirk Hartlage

hen word got out that the Tampa Bay Gay and Lesbian Film Festival would include an appearance by two ex-porn stars, many wondered if they hadn't taken a page out of the now-defunct Tampa Pride's playbook on fund-raising.

This time though, the arrival of Colton Ford and his partner, Blake Harper, in Tampa Bay is not geared to any type of pillaging or plundering cruise. Instead, their appearance Saturday, Oct. 9, is tied to the showing of their new documentary, *Naked Fame*, as part of the festival's 15th anniversary. The film chronicles the couple's decision — as Glenn and Peter — to leave the porn and, in Ford's case, re-invigorate his music career.

Though Ford is most known to gay men for his enormous talent on-screen (pun completely intended), prior to starting in porn he sang with several R&B recording stars including Chaka Khan, Keith Sweat and Vanessa Williams. After one label curtailed a recording project he'd done with a famed black music producer when they discovered Ford was white, the well-muscled man found himself back at his day job as a bank's regional volunteer manager. Approaching 40 and bored with his work, Ford joined his new lover Peter, aka Blake Harper, in the adult film industry, in an effort to jumpstart his true ambition to be a dance music artist.

Watermark interrupted Ford/Glenn while doing household chores to speak about his movies and what the cameras *don't* show.

WATERMARK: What was it like having cameras follow you around, reality TV style, to film the documentary? I'm thinking it might not been as intrusive for you as for some other people, seeing as you've had some of the more intimate moments of your life previously caught on film.

COLTON FORD: At first we had the notion that it would be a lot of fun, we were looking at it in a playful way. But after about a month we started shifting our attitude... not that it was a negative thing. We were living in at Chi Chi La Rue's place (a 24-

hour Web-cam apartment) when we started, so we were used to having cameras on us all the time. But after a while we got to the part where we felt there was no private time. So we'd go over to Canter's — it's a famous deli in Hollywood — around midnight just to find some time to ourselves.

You get to a point where you're not aware of the cameras, like when you realize you've been picking your nose, you just gotta say, "Well, everyone's done it." When you're doing a porn film, you're only exposing a piece of yourself to the camera. Doing the documentary, we had a strong awareness of our responsibility we wanted it to represent us well, obviously, but it also gave us a chance to show a strong gay relationship and how we manage the twists and turns.

The response to your film so far has been very good.

The first film festival we did in Miami, we had already seen two or three edits of the film by that point and we felt it represented us well. But sitting with 300-400 people, people who don't know you, you just wanna stop the film and explain more about what's going on. It was difficult to go through that.



COLTON FORD's duet with Pepper Mashay, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, exploded up the charts and across dance floors this summer.



In Naked Fame, COLTON FORD (R) and BLAKE HARPER expose their private parts while leaving the adult film industry.

Odd that it would slightly unsettle you — you've no doubt had your other films play in the background when you've done club appearances.

It takes on a whole new dynamic with a documentary. You're letting people in beyond the surface. Granted, I'm an exhibitionist to a degree, it's titillating to me to be on screen. But here we're letting people into our lives. You're definitely more vulnerable.

At this film fest, like the other ones you've done this summer, you've done appearances after the film to take questions from the audience. So here's your chance: What questions are you really tired of answering?

(Laughs) Actually, most of the Q and A's I've done have been really sophisticated. We get asked more about our relationship, like, "How did you guys manage the experience moving forward after the film?" But that's not something I'm tired of being asked. I am tired of answering what my dick size is.

After doing a documentary and seeing eight months of our lives onscreen, it's like an open therapy session. A lot of guys are curious on how we deal with doing the porn thing and having an open relationship. I don't think our community has any real model for how to have a functional gay relationship. It's just been a great opportunity to connect with guys in the community trying to figure out how they fit in this whole thing called life.

The film shows how your porn experiences have shaped people's opinions of you. What are some of those opinions?

Porn films are much like mainstream movies. It's about capturing the shot, capturing the fantasy. If it's done well, it speaks to people. The thing about adult films, very specifically, is that, in essence, people are having sex with you. It can be a pretty dramatic mark when you're dealing with fantasies.

When we've met people in appearances

in a club, it's a sexually charged atmosphere. That's what they've seen, it's more salacious. You're dealing with people who are already in a sexual mindset. Sometimes it's hard for them to see beyond that mindset.

What did being in porn do to shape your own opinions about it?

What I recognized when I got into it was that I'm just sharing "it" with more people. We get "it." People get "it." Oprah Winfrey gets "it." We all get "it."

When I tell people I've spent time on a porn set — as a journalist they're usually like, "Wow, that must have been hot!" When, in reality...

Yeah, it's not what you see on screen. It's all about capturing the shot, whatever's needed that the director needs to get the viewer off. It's not about pleasure — it's very mechanical.

What I got conscious of, after the first five minutes of everybody standing around naked with hard-ons, was that it's no big deal. The people who do films, making the films, it's work. Like anyone else, they wanna do what it takes to get it done and get home.

But you must have had some

preconceived notions about the industry. I had misconceptions, but I was not

one to watch porn. I didn't follow it but I knew what my boyfriend did for work. When I first dated Blake I knew where he was in pecking order, but I knew him as Peter. He got to know me as Glenn. I got to know this lovely, funny, intelligent, unaffected person.

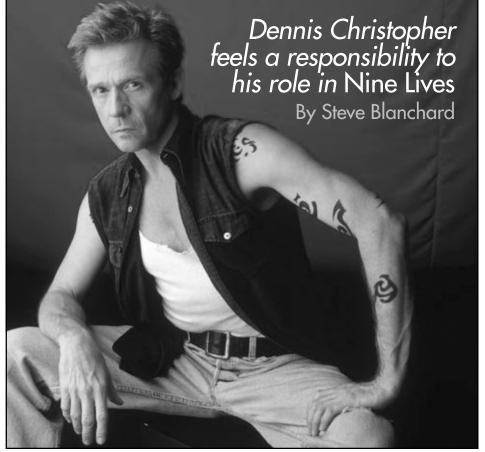
Perception is a powerful thing, but it's not always accurate. \mathbf{N}

NAKED FAME

WHEN: 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9. WHERE: Tampa Theatre **TICKETS:** At the door or through the festival's Web site, www.tiglff.com



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Character actor DENNIS CHRISTOPHER headlines as one of nine gay people involved in Dean Howell's Nine Lives.

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Responsibility is something many of us may take for granted. With responsibility comes stress and stress often ties to work. For Dennis Christopher, that work comes in the form of roles, most recently in the independent film *Nine Lives*.

Christopher, probably best known as the lead in the 1979 film, *Breaking Away*, appears in *Nine Lives* as one of nine gay people struggling with life's issues, including HIV and AIDS.

The film, directed by Sarasota native Dean Howell, will be featured at the upcoming Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Thursday, Oct. 14. *Watermark* caught up with Christopher while he was working on an upcoming project in New York.

WATERMARK: Nine Lives was Dean Howell's directorial debut. Do you think he did a

NINE LIVES

WHEN: 9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 14 WHERE: Tampa Theatre. TICKETS:

At the door or through the festival's

Web site, www.tiglff.com

good job and what was it like working with him? DENNIS

CHRISTOPHER: I found him to be a calm and focused director, which is a

great attitude when you are working on a low-budget film. He never let the lack of funds or facilities frustrate him on the set. This is important when working with actors and a crew that is not being paid.

This film deals with issues prominent in the GLBT community. Were you nervous about playing a gay man?

I was no more nervous about playing a gay man than I've been about playing any role. The nervousness I have comes before the curtain goes up or the film starts rolling. I feel a responsibility to the character, the story and the director to be as truthful and as fearless as possible in creating the behavior of the character.

Speaking of nerves, with all the sexual encounters in this film, did you have any fears about filming these love scenes that even director Dean Howell describes as risqué?

Love scenes always get you a bit nervous for all the obvious reasons. Fearlessness helps, also a closed set. Like good sex, so much depends on your partner. I've done three sex scenes on film not including the two in *Nine Lives*. After the first take I'm usually able to relax.

Were you looking for a project like *Nine Lives*?

Dean and I had seen a play called *Complications*, and after it we talked about how cinematic the story was. I had no idea he would adapt it and make it into a film. I've always encouraged independent theater and film projects. So when my good friend stepped up to the plate I had to, in some way be involved.

Can you offer a glimpse of your

character in Nine Lives?

My character is a man who is all about raising his younger autistic brother. It defines his life more than anything else. He finances this expensive responsibility by selling crystal meth. It affords him the money and time to care for Maxie. He is a deeply flawed man who avoids any romantic involvement, partly because he's HIV-positive and partly because nothing gives him the joy and satisfaction of his relationship with his brother. His sexuality is more of a release than a form of intimacy.

Why were you so willing to participate in a gay-oriented project like *Nine Lives*?

This is a story, period — a film, not a "gay-oriented project." When it comes to art, I don't believe in such things. It's hard enough for a writer, producer,

director or actor to express what they have to say without restricting it to a niche.

You've had quite a long career. Your more popular

roles include the film *Chariots of Fire* and as Jack on the television series, *Profiler*. What got you started acting and what are your most memorable experiences?

My first time out was on stage in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Being in front of an audience and connecting with them is an incredible and intoxicating feeling. On film, working with Fellini, Robert Altman and James Bridges comes to mind and *Breaking Away* holds a special place in my heart.

You know, I've worked with such amazing people its really hard to pinpoint one. Having said all that, I really loved working on *Six Feet Under* last season.

Where do you see yourself five years from now?

In five years I hope to be working on the re-election of John Kerry and John Edwards.

What have you been up to since *Nine Lives* wrapped?

I've been writing, mostly with partners. But I hope to be writing on my own soon.

With so many roles compiling your career, you've had a taste of all types of work. How has that helped shape your career and the future of your career?

Going from a young leading man to an established character has been a journey that keeps unfolding every day. Also, series television is something that really interests me. After getting my feet wet playing Jack on *Profiler*, I found that getting to do a character over an extended period of time can be a very gratifying experience.



It's love, romance and sweetness in Mango Kiss, debuting on Oct. 15.

CLASSIC from page 1

crowd absolutely loved this film." Taking the time to speak on all 40 films

is impossible, Renken admits. But synopses of each film are available on the festival's Web site - www.tiglff.com - and elsewhere in this special pullout section.

No one seems to know exactly what it takes for a film to turn into a cult classic or to become one of those pivotal films in history, but Renken thinks this year's crop of films could withstand the test of time.

We are in a different climate than we were in, say, the renaissance that was the early 1990s," Renken said. "It usually takes about 20 years for a film to be considered a classic, but there are plenty on their way."

Renken called Priscilla, Queen of the Desert as a modern classic that

becomes more popular with each passing year. "This was very popular

at the film festival and I hear many people say how much they enjoy that film," Renken said.

Go Fish, a popular women's film, and Bound are also holding up very well, Renken said.

"And The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love is strong for women, as is Better than Chocolate. That one is looking like it's carrying a lot of weight," Renken said. "But there are documentaries

that hold their own as well." Renken pointed to The Times of Harvev Milk as a modern classic.

"The early 1990s was about a rebel attitude," Renken said. "But we're not in that rebel phase now. This year we're more in a political phase."

And of course as every news junkie knows, the big issue for the GLBT community this year is gay marriage, which has taken center stage in the 2004 presidential election.

"Tying the Knot is a documentary about gay marriage," Renken said. "There are many films out there on the subject and we could have had a film festival completely dedicated to gay marriage. But the reason I wanted this one is because almost half the story is based in Tampa."

The film deals with the death of Lois

Marrero, a Tampa Bay police officer killed in the line of duty two years ago. Her surviving partner was denied surviving partner benefits.

"I would have done a disservice if I didn't get a Tampa story out there to a Tampa audience," Renken said.

Florida and Florida filmmakers have a strong presence in this year's festival. Many films pay homage to the Sunshine State or at least were directed by Florida natives. Dean Howell, a Sarasota native, will show his debut film, Nine Lives, at the TIGLFF. Fellow Sarasotan Tom J. Murray brings his documentary, Farm Families, to the festival as well.

"We really have a sub-theme of Florida directors and filmmakers this year," Renken said. "There are a lot of

artists from our community. I love for the film festival to be as supportive of local filmmakers as we possibly can and having the chance to focus on Florida as much as we can is a great opportunity. Other films to look for this year include Brother to Brother, an African-

American film about the Harlem Renaissance. The film is scheduled for the festival's middle-of-theweek center piece and Renken says it's one of the best films at the festival.

The 15th annual Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will add something new to its recipe this year as well. Renken said filmmakers, actors, actresses and the films can all expect to be honored with the juried awards. A panel will select the best men's feature, the best women's feature and the best short. Winners will receive cash prizes.

The Audience Favorite Awards will also be presented. Members of the audience can vote for their favorite actors and actresses — both leading and supporting — throughout the festival.

"I know that some of these actors and actresses won't come to Tampa right away to pick up these awards," Renken said. "But in a few years down the line, they will become more popular and the next thing you know, the nation will talk about who won what at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival." 🔽



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In a few years the nation will talk about who won what at the Tampa International Gay and

Lesbian Film

Festival.



All events will be held at the Tampa Theatre unless otherwise noted.

THURSDAY, OCT. 7 6:30 p.m. OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

7:30 p.m. STRAIGHT-JACKET

From the same folks who brought last year's camp classic *Girls Will Be Girls* comes this hysterical and heart-felt send-up of Hollywood in the 1950s. Handsome leading man Guy Stone (Matt Letscher from TV's *Good Morning, Miami*) is the male star of the moment and actively seeking the lead in the big-screen extravaganza *Ben Hur*. But he must prove he's hetero enough to play such a masculine role. With a likely-to-be-a-lesbian agent, an amused butler and a new wife in the wings, Guy finds love with the boy next door.

ALSO: WORK IT OUT

Kym Vaitiekus' short looks at a demanding customer's request that takes its toll.

FRIDAY, OCT. 8

5:30 p.m. DRAG KINGS ON TOUR Sonia Slutsky's documentary profiles a motley crew of gender-bending performers taking to the road in an RV on a 16-city *Kingdom Come* tour. ALSO: XX TO XY: FIGHTING TO BE JAKE One man's search for love coincides with his journey towards his true gender identity.

7:45 p.m. APRIL'S SHOWER

In Trish Doolan's zany debut feature, a love-struck maid-of-honor plans a shower for her ex-lover. By the time the shower begins, the maid-of-honor begins to unravel until she drunkenly reveals to the partygoers that she and the bride were once lovers. Needless to say, chaos ensues, and in the true style of a farce much goes wrong with the world before everything is once again set right.

9:45 p.m. SUGAR

Mixing the comic dynamics of *Catcher in* the Rye with the freakish sensibilities of David Lynch, *Sugar* is a coming-of-age film based on JD, a book of short stories by the guerrilla porn-tinged filmmaker Bruce LaBruce. The film tells the tale of Cliff, who turns 18 and is encouraged by his drug-dealing 12-year- old sister Cookie to go downtown and get laid. He finds himself adopted by the people of the street, and is attracted to the street hustler Butch. The film features Sarah Polley (last year's *The Event*) and Maury Chaykin.

ALSO: MY GERMAN BOYFRIEND A short by Wayne Yung.

11:45 p.m. MID-NITE MOVIES:TALES OF

MERCEDES -BENZ

LUST AND CAMP

Shorts include: With What Shall I Wash?, Annie Dearest: The Real Miracle Worker, AutoMoLove, Poster Girl, Gay by Dawn, Sperm Whale, Wads and Wads, Succubus, Just for Leather, Straight Sex and SuperFag.

SATURDAY, OCT. 9

11 a.m. I LOOK UP TO THE SKY NOW

The uplifting, composite video self-portrait, compiled by Barbara M. Bickert and 11 GLBT youth between the ages of 18 and 25, displays a confidence and self-assurance that is both heart-warming and life-affirming.

ALSO: LET'S GET REAL

Debra Chasnoff's latest documentary features interviews with a wide variety of students to find out directly the short and long-term affects of bullying in schools are.

ALSO: FAIRIES

Thomas Gustafson's mini-musical looks at a victim of school bullying who finds both comfort and inspiration.

1:30 p.m. QUEER COUTURE

A collection of shorts including: Beneath the Surface, Straight in the Face, Pyongyang RoboGirl, Talk Salo, Woof, A Woman Reported, Red Flag Women, Hummer, Drive Thru, That Thing We Do, Soccer Practice, A Wonderful Day, The Offering, Wild Boys and J.P.

4 p.m. WORKSHOP: FROM FRANKEN-STEIN TO HELLBENT: GAY HORROR THROUGH THE AGES

Former TIGLFF executive director Margaret Murray takes viewers through the

AGUAR

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adiamond@crowndealerships.comMichael Harrison
mharrison@crowndealerships.comMs. Rikke Michelsen
rmichelsen@crowndealerships.com

history of horror films, demonstrates how elements of homosexuality have been present in horror almost from the very beginning, and suggests that perhaps horror with lesbian and gay protagonists may be a natural outgrowth and continuation of prejudice and persecution. The workshop will be co-moderated by local writer Steve Barton (also known as Uncle Creepy), who is a regular contributor to *Fangoria* magazine.

5 p.m. BALLROOM

Atmospheric and moody, this tale of a pair of leather bear artists who contend with their daily routines becomes a surrealistic film of psychological terror. Set in the old ballroom that has become their home on the French coast, the pair find the house has become a chaotic supernatural influence for spinning their lives toward a nightmarish end.

7 p.m. HELLBENT

The horror film mates with the gay film in a big way in this breakthrough slasher film that was the subject of a nationwide online contest to find a title. Director Paul Etheredge-Ouzts' film looks at four young attractive gay men who attend an immense Halloween party and are slowly and systematcally stalked by a muscular figure lurking in the shadows wearing a devil's mask and carrying a very big knife.

9 p.m. NAKED FAME

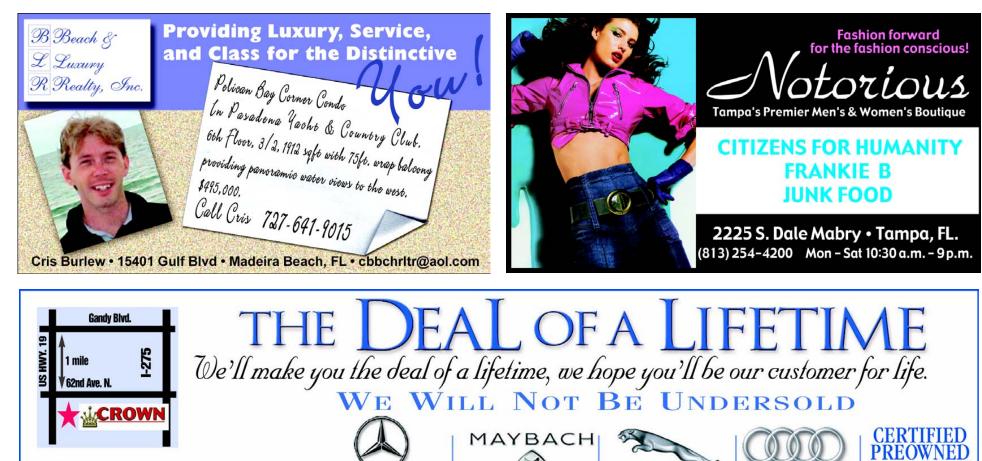
The documentary chronicles the lives of porn stars Colton Ford and Blake Harper through their respective decisions to leave the porn industry for new careers, and a new life

Continued on page 10

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together. The film follows Ford as he leaves the adult industry to seek a career as a pop star, and Harper as he pursues his dream of becoming a registered nurse. Ford and Harper will attend the screening.

11 p.m. MEN'S PARTY

Chrome at Club XS, 238 S. Franklin St. Show your movie ticket or Crown Circle Pass and pay a discount admission. Colton Ford will perform from his new CD. Also, meet Ford in the VIP Lounge after the performance.

SUNDAY, OCT. 10

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. BUSINESS EXPO

Sponsored by the Tampa Bay Business Guild

11:30 a.m. A SWISS REBEL: ANNEMARIE SCHWARZENBACH, 1908-1942

Queer before her time, lesbian writer and photographer Schwarzenbach struggled with addiction, romanced women in the Middle East and Asia, and kept company with the likes of Erika and Klaus Mann. This pivotal story of liberation, expression, and conflict won the Best Documentary Award at the Milan Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

ALSO: EVERYTHING MUST COME TO LIGHT

This unique documentary short takes us to the heart of South Africa to explore the relationship between sexuality and spirituality through the eyes of three Sangomas (females culturally identified not only as "lesbian," but also as "medicine women").

ALSO: SUMMER BRUNCH

Samira Zingaro's colorful short about two women share a champagne brunch of orgasmic proportions.

1:30 p.m. GRANDE ECOLE

With equal helpings of fully nude collegiate swim team guys and philosophical contemplation on its plate, this French film brings together the most recognizable and likable elements of French culture: liberal sexual politics and peculiar intellectualism. A character study of college roommate chums and their lovers, *Grande Ecole* is a complex and highly erotic tale of sexual exploration.

3:45 p.m. LENGTH DOESN'T MATTER: BOY'S SHORTS

Shorts include I Am a Boyband, Oedipus n+1, I Like Mike, Whiz Kids, Lookin' Cute and Feelin' Cute, Love and Deaf, "+," Looking for Mr. Right, MadonnaLogue, A Kiss in the Snow and Waiting for the Ball to Drop.

6:15 p.m. GOLDFISH MEMORY

According to one of the characters in this film, goldfish have "only a three-second memory and are fated to repeatedly swim in the same troublesome currents of pain and delight," a fact that is later likened to human being's propensity to try and try again at romance. Reminiscent of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, here is the rare film that dares offer a portrait of gay men, lesbians and heterosexuals. Hailing from modern Dublin, this one is sure to make anyone laugh — and more than a few cry. Who winds up with whom? Who is pregnant and whose baby is it? *Gold-fish Memory* is a witty and idyllic treat for all ages — and one that is not to be missed.

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ALSO: LUCKY BUGGER

A short that follows a young boy who finds a delightful surprise in the dunes.

8:15 p.m. COWBOYS AND ANGELS

David Gleeson's sweet and engaging feature about Shane, 20-year-old civil servant already bored with his job and looking for an affordable flat. Enter Victor, a hot young gay fashion student who seems to be leading the kind of life (except for the whole sleeping with boys thing) that Shane longs for. Plus, Shane develops a fast infatuation with Victor's best friend Gemma, so sharing the rent on a flat with Victor seems the logical thing to do. To Victor, Shane is a project that would challenge the *Queer Eye for the Straight Eye* guys, but he plunges in with both feet, making him over in his own image.

ALSO: COFFEE

Todd Bartoo's short story of gossip and java.

MONDAY, OCT. 11 7 p.m. DANGEROUS LIVING

Dangerous Living is a festival award-winning look at homosexuality in the third-world Middle East and Global South. Directed by John Scagliotti, producer of the award-winning documentaries *Before Stonewall* and *After Stonewall*, this film is a collection of heartbreaking portrayals, though the end result is a hopeful testament to the powers of enduring friendship and impenetrable free will. Narrated by Janeane Garofalo and focusing on the "Cairo 52," who were arrested and tortured for their lifestyle in 2001, *Dangerous Living* tributes the emerging social movements at work to put an end to the suffering of GLBT folks outside the Western world.

ALSO: DIARY OF A MALE WHORE

Set in present day Tel Aviv, this short film exposes the political oppression of the Arab and Israeli conflict while focusing on the impact that the nature of power had on a young prostitute.

7 p.m. UN AMOUR DE FEMME Sunrise Cinemas

Dance is a central theme of *Un Amour de Femm*e, a sensual, heartbreakingly intense feature from France. Marie, a fierce, independent dancer, becomes the object of affection for Jeanne, a married student in her class who finds her teacher to be what's missing in her life. Their affair threatens to destroy everything in the student's life. French with English subtitles.

8:45 p.m. SLUTTY SUMMER

Slutty Summer may be a vanity project (written, directed by, and starring Casper Andreas), but it still speaks to a universality about the ways we find to deal with love in our lives. Andreas stars as Mark, a young writer who has just been through a very painful break-up with his lover. To make ends meet, he gets a job as a waiter in a trendy café and encounters a barrage of memorable characters.

ALSO: FOREVER BOTTOM

A short tale about the insatiable sexual appetite of the Asian male.

TUESDAY, OCT. 12 7 p.m. FARM FAMILY

Sarasota's Tom J. Murray's documentary debunks any accusations that rural life is an

invalid way of life for gays and lesbians. Spanning the Midwest and portions of the South, Murray's project details gay life outside of the metropolises. Exploring the lives of gays and lesbians who grew up in rural areas, as well as those of queers who chose the shelter of the motherlands over big-city life, this is an insightful and often inspiring work. This film won the top documentary prize at the Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Director Tom Murray will attend the screening.

ALSO: MARKET THIS! QUEER RADICALS RESPOND TO GAY ASSIMILATION

Queer radicals organize against the commodification of queer culture and global capitalism in an attempt to raise consciousness and fight for their right to be "individual."

7 p.m. ADORED: DIARY OF

A MALE PORN STAR Sunrise Cinemas

A rollicking, sugar-coated, and very brave feature, Marco Filiberti's *Adored* utilizes *Citizen Kane*-style techniques portraying the fictional life of Riki Kandinsky, a dapper gay porn stud who achieves mainstream fame, adopts a lovable little boy and dies mysteriously. Eschewing a lurid tale of the hard-core sex industry in exchange for the melodramatic, *Adored's* celebration of familial ties and friendship is winsome and crowd-pleasing enough to recall such popular films as *About a Boy* and *Billy Elliot*.

ALSO: QUEER WEB

J.T. O'Neal's short tale of cruising on the Internet.

9:15 p.m. PATERNAL INSTINCT

Murray Nossel's festival favorite, *Parental Instinct* is a candid display of two very likable — and quite handsome — gay male professionals who seek to be fathers through the use of a surrogate mother and artificial insemination. Providing voice not only to the struggles of the gay-fathers- to-be, but also to the biological mother (who herself is a practicing witch), this is a very personal film that sheds new light on an often-debated issue. Nossel's camera follows the members of what are essentially three distinct families as they make difficult decisions and face the trials and tribulations of conception.

ALSO: GAY COPS: PRIDE BEHIND THE BADGE

Charley Lang's documentary short chronicles the challenges of out GLBT police officers and their triumphs for both their profession and for queer culture.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13 6:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE BY THE

PHOENIX: WOMEN'S VOICES RISING

7 p.m. FALSE OFFENDER

Fraught with suspense, this Spanish-language thriller details the situations surrounding Carla, a married lesbian wrongfully accused of murdering a teenage girl. Harassed by journalists and ostracized by most others she has contact with, her only friend is her attorney, who is nonetheless losing patience with her client. Suddenly, a mystery man seems to be everywhere she goes, and more young women are murdered. No one, especially the police, believe her

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when she tries to report that she knows who the real killer is, leaving her vulnerable and afraid for her own life.

7 p.m. ARISAN!

Sunrise Cinemas

Once a month a close circle of friends gather, put their money together and draw lots to see who wins the pot. All the while, the friends brag about their accomplishments and stations in life. This is arisan, a unique Indonesian social practice, and it sets the stage for the comic, dramatic and melodramatic goings-on in this charming gay romance. This film was a hit in Indonesia and featured the country's first onscreen kiss between two men. The film has also been credited with reviving the Indonesian film industry.

9 p.m. BROTHER TO BROTHER

Rodney Evans, formerly a director of documentaries, brings style as well as significant substance to his film feature debut about one man's experience as a gay man in the African-American culture. The protagonist, Perry Williams, meets an elderly black man in a homeless shelter who turns out to be a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 1930s. As the friendship develops, the man helps Perry realize his role in the development of a gay black history.

THURSDAY, OCT. 14

6:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE BY NO MORE SILENCE

7 p.m. CLARA'S SUMMER

A sexy French coming-of-age drama for women, Clara's Summer takes viewers to summer camp with the title character, who decides with her best friend Zoe that it's time to experience carnal pleasure with a member of the opposite sex. Zoe's initiation doesn't go at all well, so she offers herself to Clara instead. Clara refuses and Zoe goes back to Sebastien, leaving Clara without any friends at the camp. However, she soon casts her eye on Sonia, who is gorgeous and sophisticated.

7 p.m. PROTEUS

Sunrise Cinemas

John Greyson, who brought audiences the festival favorites Zero Patience and Lilies, has come back a story based on the Robben Island sodomy trial of 1735. In vivid detail the film recounts the love story of Claas Blank and Rijkhaart Jacobsz, as they served time on the South African island prison. Their initial sexual encounters are fast and furious, but love begins to grow in this harsh surrounding.

9 p.m. NINE LIVES

Floridian Dean Howell's provocative film about lives intertwined, Nine Lives zooms in on Ronnie who waxes on about his love affairs, past and present; introspective drug dealer, Mikey, who has a casual infatuation with a sexy hustler, Bo; television producer Daniel, his hunky boyfriend and their pool boy; Lisa and her perpetually late husband, Ralph, who are preparing for their first child. The film features graphic sexuality and heartfelt performances by such well known actors as Dennis Christopher (Breaking Away) and Debra Wilson (Mad TV). Dean Howell will attend the screening.

ALSO: OBEDIENCE

David O'Brien's short about racism and S/M sensibilities.

FRIDAY, OCT. 15 5:30 p.m. MANGO KISS

Based on a successful play by Sarah Brown, Mango Kiss has been a popular staple of lesbian and gay film festivals for more than a year. It follows the adventures of Lou and Sassafras, two friends and fellow performance artists who decide to more to San Francisco. A cast of colorful characters (including Oscar nominee Sally Kirkland) adds to the fun. The film's star, Michelle Wolff, will attend the screening.

7:30 p.m. GIRL PLAY

What do you do when true love comes and you're already in "the relationship?" Such is the complicated question raised in Lee Friedlander's film Girl Play. Based on a Los Angeles stage play, it is based on the true lives of Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, who both wrote the screenplay and star in the film. Lee Friedlander will attend the screening.

ALSO: LIPSTICK

Michael Apted's short about secret girlfriends.

7:30 p.m., WILD SIDE Sunrise Cinemas

Following the success of his highly erotic international hit Come Undone, Sebastian Lifshitz serves up a minimalist portrait of polyfidelity, focusing on the audacious romantic entanglement between a gay man, a bisexual prostitute and a free-wheeling transsexual named Stephanie.

9:15 p.m. PERFORMANCE BY UNA VOCE

9:30 p.m. WOMEN'S PARTY

Meet Michelle Wolff, the star of Mango Kiss, and Lee Friedlander, the director of Girl Play, after the films. The Radisson Riverwalk at 200 North Ashley Drive in Tampa is the host to this party by the water where both the view and the women are something to behold! \$10 per person, includes food, cash bar and reduced valet parking.

9:45 p.m. YOU I LOVE

Arguably the most romantic film in this year's lineup comes from, of all places, the former Soviet Union. Post-Soviet Russians appear to be hip and chic as they go about their business in Moscow, particularly Timofey, a successful advertising executive who meets Vera, a well-known on-air TV news anchor and quickly falls in love. Everything seems to be going fine until one night Tim hits Uloomji, a young Mongolia zookeeper, with his car. Tim takes him home, where the uninjured young man soon takes to all the latest modern conveniences - and takes to Tim as well.

ALSO: STYX

This short film is an allegorical tale of love and lust between two young men in a small sea-faring town that has its roots in Greek mythology.

11:45 p.m. SUPERSTAR IN A HOUSE-DRESS: THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF **JACKIE CURTIS**

One of the brightest underground superstars that surrounded Andy Warhol during his studio period from the 1960s into the 70s,

Jackie Curtis could rightfully be called a gender outlaw. This revealing documentary, interviews a number of Curtis' contemporaries, including Harvey Fierstein, Joe Dallesandro, Sylvia Miles, Paul Morrissey and Lily Tomlin, who also narrates, and Holly Woodlawn (who, along with Curtis and Candy Darling were often referred to as the unholy trinity of the Warhol stable).

ALSO: ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

The tragic story of Gwen Araujo, who was murdered by four men who demanded to know her sex, is the focus of this short.

SATURDAY, OCT. 16

11:30 a.m. SAPPHIC SEDUCTIONS: **GIRLS SHORTS**

Short films include RepoDyke, Little Black Boot, Kristy, Charisma, Jangri, Is Your Wife a Secret Lesbian?, You Fake, F** Stop, Home for Christmas, Pai n, The Telephonist and Afterschool Delight.

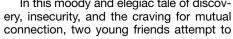
1:45 p.m. THE GRAFFITI ARTIST

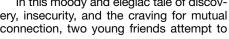
This quiet, mannered feature depicts the gritty reality of the street through depiction of the life a homeless skater-boy graffiti artist with soulful eyes who falls in love with another of his kind. The rainy climates of Seattle and Portland are romanced by a rousingly contemporary musical score by Kid Loco and the stage is set for this, a timeless story that understands how very fragile and fleeting love can be.

ALSO: WAVES

*Tours

In this moody and elegiac tale of discov-







push their bond beyond the confines of friendship.

4 p.m. ROUND TRIP

Anat Waxman gives an award-winning performance in this Israeli feature about a woman, Nurit, stuck in a lifeless marriage and dead-end job. Nurit eventually flees to Tel Aviv with her children where she struggles to live life independently and on her own terms. She hires a housekeeper and the two find themselves falling in love. However life intrudes and Nurit is faced with making difficult decisions about her future.

6:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE BY CRESCENDO

7 p.m., WORKSHOP: 1,600 REASONS WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

Tampa Bay attorney Karen Doering, who appears in the documentary feature Tying the Knot, shows exactly why gay marriage is such an important issue in America today. Judy Wieder, well known publishing figure, will moderate the panel. Topics include Marriage Myths and Facts and Why Religion Should Play No Role in the Marriage Equality Debate. Also on hand will be Mickie Mashburn, surviving partner of Tampa policewoman Lois Marrero and also a subject of the film, who will help answer questions after the workshop.

8 p.m. TYING THE KNOT

Jim DeSeve's Tying the Knot couldn't have come at a more opportune time. Combining

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FEST GUID

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archival footage with true-life accounts of lesbian and gay couples who are denied the basic human rights afforded straight couples; this documentary is a damning portrayal of injustice, discrimination and intolerance towards human beings and their basic human rights. First, historical and legal experts are interviewed to explain how the institution of marriage began as a legal arrangement and how it has evolved into the union of two people in love that it is today. The story that hits closest to home, however, is that of Tampa police officer Mickie Mashburn who is wed to fellow officer Lois Marrero and then is denied her partner's pension after Marrero is killed in the line of duty.

10 p.m. EATING OUT

One of the most popular staples in the lesbian and gay film festival circuit this year, Eating Out is probably the date movie of this year's lineup. The name actor in this goodlooking, appealing young cast is Jim Verraros (the first season of American Idol) who plays Kyle, a young musician who pines after hot fellow music student Marc. Kyle's roommate, equally hunky straight guy Caleb, has very recently taken a fancy to Marc's roommate Gwen, who has a disturbing habit of dating gay guys. Before you know it, Kyle and Caleb have hatched a plan where Caleb will pretend to be gay in order to get closer to Gwen.

ALSO: TWO MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT A short about a shy guy who gets a brutal put-down at a bar.

SUNDAY, OCT. 17 1 p.m. LONGTIME COMPANION

In 1990, the first year of the festival, there were few films being made to which gay men could relate - and even fewer that addressed the tragedy of AIDS. Along came Longtime Companion, written by gay playwright Craig Lucas and, for almost the first time on the screen, gay men were portrayed as whole, three-dimensional characters with loves and hopes and dreams Featuring Campbell Scott, Mary-Louise Parker, Dermot Mulroney and Bruce Davison, who earned an Oscar nomination for his efforts.

3:15 p.m. WORKSHOP: AIDS IN AMERICA: THEN AND NOW

Viewing Longtime Companion again fourteen years after its release makes one wonder



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how much has truly changed in the fight against AIDS since 1990. Dr. Dorry Norris and Dr. Michael Dunn, well-known Tampa doctors and infectious disease specialists, will address that issue and others in this informative and sobering workshop.

4 p.m. THE HUNGER

Vampirism has always been a staple of horror films throughout cinematic history. Once the AIDS epidemic began, however, they took on a whole different resonance, since the spilling of blood, which changes the person into something horrible, could easily be seen as a metaphor for the devastating disease which ran rampant through the gay community. Released in early 1983, Tony Scott's The Hunger already reflected such a metaphoric representation. This features Catherine Deneuve, David Bowie and Susan Sarandon.

6 p.m. CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION

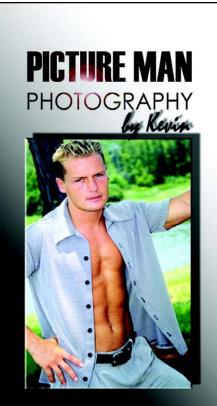
After The Hunger, satisfy your hunger with food served right outside the historic Tampa Theatre. Visit with friends and make new ones.

7:30 p.m. DORIAN BLUES

If Woody Allen were to blend his sophisticated wit with The Breakfast Club, the end result would doubtless be something like Dorian Blues. Michael McMillian (TV's What I Like About You) stars as the slightly gawky yet intelligent Dorian Lagatos. He confides to his brother that he's gay and he tries to "cure" himself of homosexuality.

ALSO: HUNG UP

Jonah Markowitz's short about one boy's revenge. 取



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CATCHING UP WITH LIZ, JACKMAN AND 'ROCKY'

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

Although I field questions from the fans on a daily basis, I like to occasionally answer a few in print in a special edition of *Ask Billy*. Let's see how many I can get to.

Adam in Key West referred to my recent review of **HUGH JACKMAN** in *The Boy from Oz*: "I'm so jealous that you got to see Hugh on stage. Is there any chance that he'll extend his run on Broadway, or maybe take the show on the road?" By the time you read this, *The Boy from Oz* will have closed — on Sept. 12, to be specific. Because Jackman is a film star, the ramifications of tying up his schedule have been costly (he's been with this show for over a year).

And since the musical has been universally panned (save for some individual performances), it would be virtually impossible to continue without someone in the leading role who could sell out the house solely on the basis of his name.

There are rumors that Hugh is considering a limited run of the show in Los Angeles, London or even Sydney. There's also a rumor that a film will be made of the musical but, given the paucity of the material, I find that implausible. At one point, there was talk of a live PBS telecast, but it's too late now.

Ian in Virginia wrote a *very* long email and had one question that I can address here: "When I saw *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* for the first time and saw the guy who played Rocky, I knew I was gay. Can you tell me anything about him? Do you have any nude photos?" How adorable — young love.

Well, Ian is young; **PETER HINWOOD** is 58 years old, but he was indeed a hottie in his day. I've done some research on Hinwood, and it seems that *Rocky* was his last acting job — and actually only his third screen credit. At the time, he was a model and, not surprisingly, was cast solely on the basis of looks. His lack of experience resulted in all of the character's lines being cut he didn't even do his own singing!

People tell me that Peter was shocked at the success of the film and became a virtual recluse as a result of his cult following. I hear he is now an antique dealer in London. As to your more pressing question — do I have nude photos? Of course I do. To see Peter in all of his glory, head to

Filth2Go.com. I'll even give you a peek at



Based solely on her history and public appearances, LIZ TAYLOR is not a well woman.

what he looks like now.

Not every question is about a hot guy. We also get lots of questions about legendary celebrities — like this one from Shelly in Austin: "A friend of mine read that **ELIZABETH TAYLOR** is very ill and in a nursing home. I know she's had health problems, but how bad is she?"

Elizabeth is not in a nursing home. She is still living in Bel Air, but her health has certainly declined. Over the last few years, her behavior has been increasingly erratic, leading some to speculate that she is abusing drugs or alcohol again. But to me it's clear that she has a degree of brain atrophy and the onset of dementia that is a result of years of substance abuse.

I have some knowledge of this disease, and the symptoms are unmistakable — the unsteadiness on her feet, the shuffling when she walks, the slurring of words, inappropriate and erratic cackling, disorientation, etc. People close to Taylor whisper that she also has the beginnings of Parkinson's, a disease that often accompanies dementia.

Elizabeth has chosen not to issue any public statement regarding her health and still occasionally makes limited public appearances, but even those have been greatly diminished.

Of course, my blind items are the most popular part of the column, and Mark from Toronto asks...oops, I knew it — my editors just told me I'm over my limit. That means I can't tell Mark about that high profile couple who've been having marital problems. I was dying to reveal how the hubby decided to surprise his soon-to-be ex in her dressing room, only to find her in the middle of an oral exam — with her hunky male co-star! Another one bites the dust, as they say.

I'll answer more questions next month. In the meantime, you can contact me for some one-on-one attention. Just write to Billy@filth2go.com and until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. **N**





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