

ISSUE 12.07

APRIL 7 - 20, 2005



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- Cris Williams Heads to Tampa Bay
- Morgan Fairchild Takes It Off in Orlando
- Student Safety Bill Dies in Tallahassee

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Style Network's BRINI MAXWELL knows the difference between taste and tackiness.



Singer/songwriter CRIS WILLIAMSON heads to Gulfport for an April 21 concert. Margaret Nolan's interview with her appears on page 29.

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EDITOR'S  
DESK

By  
**Dave Wiethop**

I am "Catholic by association," meaning that I understand Catholicism quite well without the benefit (or, perhaps, the burden) of actually being Catholic. I grew up in a small Catholic town and later moved to a huge Catholic city. Many of my friends were — and still are — somewhat Catholic, although many disagree with the Vatican on major issues.

I've attended Lutheran church services for years and today I prefer the "Lutheran-like" 8:30 a.m. service at my MCC because it *feels* Catholic — by association, of course.

Catholics shoulder a heavy burden as they balance the promise, the history and tradition of the church while they cope with realities of today. This intrigues me. They have a heavy ration of hope that is somehow contradicted by the church's legacy.

We seem to be living in a very Catholic time. Pope John Paul II's death has certainly reminded us about the influence of the church and how its strong conservative stances on women's and gay issues simply fail to reflect today's society. For example, the Vatican's refusal to endorse the use of condoms in a world where AIDS spreads rapidly is not only an antiquated idea but a dangerous one. It's also folly to turn away from the intelligence and dignity of women who not only seek larger roles within the church but deserve them.

John Paul's passing on April 2 has caused many of us to reflect upon his role as the most visible — and likely the most powerful — church leader in the world. While he allowed the Catholic Church to move into the year 2005 in some ways (check out the Vatican's Web site at [www.Vatican.va](http://www.Vatican.va), for example), his views on gay issues were old-fashioned, archaic and occasionally mean-spirited. The pope's latest book calls gay marriage a part of "a new ideology of evil" — *please*.

Yet, another Catholic newsmaker has intrigued me nearly as much as the pope: Bob Schindler, Terri Schiavo's father. Driven to the point of obsession to keep his daughter alive through whatever means possible and desperation poured from him during each press conference he held. While I disagreed with Schindler's belief that his daughter would somehow recover, I can understand his efforts to sustain her.

My father has been seriously ill for the last 10 years. He has always had

acute respiratory complaints, something that I have inherited. (I would have much preferred to inherit his business acumen or mechanical abilities, but that's another matter.)

He's suffered at least two major strokes and required an emergency tracheotomy and a three-month stay in an acute care unit several years ago. My father bounces back each time, yet with less and less resiliency. During the last extended hospital stay, I marveled at the wires and tubes that sustained this once-robust man. The man who I feared and respected for much of my life lay crumpled like a toy animal missing most of its stuffing. I and the rest of my family moved from the roles of the protected to that of the protectors.

My family discussed the future without talking about the obvious concern; the darkest humor crept in at unbelievably bad moments. I asked my father's physician if he would be able to play the violin once he recovered (the doctor did not get the reference — or appreciate the joke), but the assumption was that there would be a recovery. We really weren't sure. Would we allow "the tube to be pulled," as in today's vernacular? Thank God we didn't have to make that decision.

It took many, many months for my father's recovery to begin and we're grateful in ways that are difficult to express.

Yet for as much as I disagreed with the actions and statements of Bob Schindler and John Paul II, I do admire them for their faith. Science and society often proves that there is much more at work in this world than simply faith, yet faith is a good place to start.

Welcome to *Watermark's* annual Spring Home Décor Issue, the largest issue of the year so far. This is always a fun edition to publish because so many of us truly enjoy the spaces in which we inhabit.

We take a look inside some intriguing spaces that reflect the tastes and styles of the owners, and we offer tips for your own home from Style Network's home décor maven Brini Maxwell.

With a bucket of celery green interior latex paint in one hand and a paint roller in the other, we know that you'll find this issue of *Watermark* to be informative, insightful and entertaining.

[editor@watermarkonline.com](mailto:editor@watermarkonline.com)



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16 Donna Summer LIVE  
17 The Pat Metheny Group  
18 Paul Anka  
19 The Beach Boys  
20 Funny Stuff Circus

St. Petersburg Times Family Theater Series

- 22 Susan Anton in Concert  
22 The Juilliard String Quartet  
31 The Kingston Trio

## APRIL

- 1 Tori Amos **Just Added!**  
2 Art Garfunkel in Concert  
4 The Nelson Riddle Orchestra  
6 Mannheim Steamroller  
7 Rodney Carrington  
8 Glenis Redmond  
8 Russian National Ballet Theatre - "Giselle"  
10 Bunnica  
12 & 13 Engelbert Humperdinck  
14 Dennis DeYoung & the music of STYX  
15 Todd Rundgren & Joe Jackson  
16 Midori & Robert McDonald  
19 Aretha Franklin Farewell Tour  
20 Trinity Irish Dance Company

22-24

Grease with Frankie Avalon

St. Petersburg Times Broadway Series

Mandy &amp; Chazley Gordon

CARRABEA'S

25

Basia featuring Matt Bianco in Concert **Just Added!**

28

Billy Idol **Just Added!**

30

Alexander Who's Not, Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going To Move

St. Petersburg Times Family Theater Series

## MAY

- 7 Kelly Clarkson **Just Added!**  
12 Hayley Westenra in Concert  
15 Spring Encore! Pinellas Youth Symphony and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Children's and Teen Choirs  
28 Stone Soup & Dragon Dumplings Presented by Eckerd Theater Company

## JUNE

- 9 Richard Elliot, Rick Braun, Peter White & Jonathan Butler Jazz Attack **Just Added!**  
19 Al Jarreau, Boney James & Cassandra Wilson **Just Added!**

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PREVIEW

# Water Picks

EVENTS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

## SARASOTA

**SUN., APRIL 10**

Performing tunes from the American songbook, cabaret performer **STEVE ROSS** comes to Sarasota's Players Theatre for an ALSO Out Youth fund-raiser. Performing music by Gershwin, Porter, Berlin (not the Terri Nunn-fronted version) and others, Ross is seen as the quintessential New York nightclub performer. Reservations for the 7 p.m. performance of *Steppin' Out with Steve Ross* can be made at (941) 957-0802.

**SUN., APRIL 17**

What better way to support GLBT's youth than to go bowling in nothing more than boxer shorts? That's exactly what will happen at the seventh annual **BOWLING IN BOXERS** event at the AMF Gulf Gate Lanes. The event is sponsored by **A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN**, Sarasota's GLBT bowling league and all funds raised benefit the ALSO Out Youth program and the Gulf Coast Men's Chorus. Your \$10 ticket – when purchased in advance – not only gives you access to bowling, but to the best boxers contest (for both men and women) and entertainment by **SKULLDUGGERY**, Sarasota's local jam band. The event begins at 7 p.m.

## TAMPA BAY

**SAT., APRIL 9**

An evening of erotic spoken word, art and performance, it's **THE APRIL FOLLIES**, presented by **DIANA BROWNING** of Poetry on the Edge. She's teased us with images of a bodacious belly dancer, a yet-to-be-discovered Picasso, a performance poet who could make a drill sergeant blush, and three lovely lady performers. The fun and frolics start at 8:30 p.m. at The Look Salon/Gallery, 209 N. Armenia Ave.

**SAT., APRIL 16**

Women's music pioneer **CRIS WILLIAMSON** will perform April 16 at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater in Gulfport at 7:30 p.m. The popular female singer will perform selections from her newest CD, *Real Deal*, and also offer some of her popular, older favorites as well. Tickets range from \$20 to \$25. To purchase tickets, music, visit [Criswilliamson.com](http://Criswilliamson.com).

## ORLANDO

**THURS.-SUN., APRIL 7-10**

Would you like me to seduce you? When it's Morgan Fairchild asking the question, it's hard for any man – gay or straight – to say no to **THE GRADUATE**. Watch the former *Flamingo Road*er expose her, um, craft in the touring version of the Broadway comedy. Though they may be appropriate for last month's performance of *The Mikado*, leave the opera glasses at home. Graduation ceremonies run through April 10 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center. Tickets available at the box office or at (407) 839-3900.

**SAT., APRIL 9**

An artists' reception for the **FLORIDA QUEER ART COLLECTIVE** – QUACK – takes place at the GLBCC from 7 to 9 p.m. and features works judged in the group's second annual **SPRING ART SHOW**. Florida QUACK is comprised of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and supportive artists. The public is invited to the reception and the exhibition, which will hang through April. ▼

# Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE DRAG QUEENS GONE?

With tickets sold, the venue booked and the judges prepared, it looked as if the **MISS ILLUSIONS NATIONAL PAGEANT** was set to have an impressive first year at the Centro Asturiano Theater in Tampa. But one thing was noticeably missing – contestants.

The pageant, scheduled for March 20 and 21, was cancelled when organizers realized that **ONE CONTESTANT** wasn't quite enough for a pageant. This posed a problem, especially for ticketholders who had paid \$20 and were expecting two evenings of entertainment and pageantry. Couple that with the discovery that the theater did not have the proper insurance for such an event changed the course of the doomed pageant.

The pageant

immediately went from a two-day event to a one-day event – and eventually a no-day event. The pageant was officially cancelled March 21. So far, no plans have been revealed concerning a rescheduled Miss Illusions Pageant in Tampa. Until then, there will be no reigning Miss Illusions representing the Gulf Coast this year.

## THEN THEY ALL TRADED KEYS AND FAUX-FINISHED

Sure, *Watermark* has joked for two months that **PAIGE** should do the national tour of *Chicago* now that she's no longer with gay-favorite *Trading Spaces*. Guess who shows up in Orlando rehearsing with the tour and visiting the **DRAGON ROOM** during the cast party?

There's no word if Davis will head to the New York production or if she did any stenciling while in the City Beautiful.

## SPEAKING OF THINGS WE NO LONGER WATCH

It's "pilot season" in Hollywood, meaning that those creative types are assembling what could be the next **DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES** — (or more likely, the next *Commando Nanny*).

Among the more intriguing concepts: **BERNADETTE PETERS** and **CHRISTINE BARANSKI** as an adopted mother and a birth mother battling over their son's attention; *Old Christine*, where **JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS** deals with turning 35 (presumably for the ninth time); *Notorious*, a sitcom based on the life of **TORI SPELLING**; and *South Beach*, which sounds canceled even before any actor has been cast.

But our favorite so far: *Don't Ask*, about a married father of two (played by **ALAN RUCK**, who's been touring in *The Producers*) who leaves his wife (played by *3rd Rock from the Sun*'s **KIRSTEN JOHNSON**) for her male therapist. Those plans for sitcoms starring **ELTON JOHN** and **MELISSA ETHERIDGE**? Not happening. The networks will disappoint us with their fall schedules in May. ▼



Songstress **BERNADETTE PETERS** is shooting a pilot for a sitcom costarring fellow Broadway diva Christine Baranski.

## HEADLINE NEWS

## 'ROBBED, NOT BEATEN'

Florida lawmakers kill the latest safe schools bill on a technicality By Dave Wiethop

TALLAHASSEE - The bullies may have won again in Florida.

The retooled safe schools bill, now called the Student Safety and Campus Violence Prevention Act, was knocked out on a technicality by opponents who saw the legislation as a way to give "special rights" to GLBT students.

Despite the endorsement by more than 90 civic, family and governmental groups — and widespread bipartisan support in

the Florida House and Senate — the Student Safety Bill was defeated in a House committee when a supporter left the hearing chambers to introduce another bill.

This is the fourth time such a bill has been brought to Tallahassee lawmakers. The Student Safety Bill would have provided educators with training to properly respond when they hear a student bully another one with sexist, racist or homophobic slurs.

"Too many educators don't recognize the psychological damage being done by the relentless bullying targeted children face," said Nadine Smith, the executive director of Equality Florida.

Despite the intentions of the bill, Smith said she's dismayed at the depths of the homophobia within its opponents.

"There are those who oppose this bill because it protects all students, including those who are bullied because they are gay.

Their animosity toward gay people runs so deep that they would rather see a desperately needed bill die than to protect gay students from harassment and bullying."

## POLITICAL MANEUVERING

More than 60 students and youth advocates headed to Tallahassee on Wednesday, March 30, to tell the lawmakers about the bullying rampant in their schools. Many of them were prepared to talk about antagonism they faced because of perceived religious beliefs, their gender, ethnic background or sexual orientation and identity.

Dozens of supporters packed into the House Pre-K to 12 Education Committee, prepared to offer reasons why the Student Safety Bill must become Florida law.

Karen Gonzalez, 18, a Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School student, was cut off in mid-testimony as she described being bullied because of her Spanish accent. She was the only person in support of the bill who had even a brief opportunity to speak.

Others were noticeably disappointed.

"I traveled here on behalf of the 360,000 students in Miami-Dade high schools to plead with the legislature to pass this bill," said Arielle Maffei, 16, and a leader with the Miami Dade Student Government Association. "We students voted unanimously to make stopping the harassment and the bullying our No. 1 priority. This committee did not listen to our voices. They did not care."

Another student grimaced that, "They won't make me give up. I feel robbed, not beaten."

The opposition was allowed two speakers — David Caton and Nathaniel Wilcox — who were both allowed to complete their testimony without interruption. Wilcox dismissed students' stories of harassment and attacked the bill as "a Trojan horse" intended to help GLBT students.

"Just like the legislators who hide behind other arguments, even these rabidly homophobic groups felt compelled to speak in code about their opposition, calling the bill a 'Trojan horse.' There is victory in the fact that they felt the need to conceal their blatantly homophobic attitudes and motivation while talking to the committee," Smith said.

Finally, committee chairman Rep. Ralph Arza, R-Hialeah, called for a vote on the bill while a key legislator was out of the room presenting a bill on the House floor, defeating the effort.

"We had the votes," Smith said. "If not for Arza forcing the vote, we would have prevailed in the committee 5 to 4."

After the hearing, however, their hostility was more obvious, as one of the bill's opponents loudly challenged supporters trying to talk to legislators.

"Tempers flared on our side a bit in response and I was struck by how the very dynamic of bullying that we were there to address was playing out in the hearing

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Continued on page 7

## HEADLINE NEWS

**ROBBED** from page 6

room,” Smith said. “Students came to adults with stories of harassment and bullying and the adults did not help. In the hearing room, right-wing bullies harassed our students and supporters, began name-calling, dismissed their stories of being tormented.”

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Some political observers say the spring 2005 legislative season seemed like the right time for the Student Safety Bill. With strong bipartisan support — which is crucial in the GOP-dominated Florida Legislature — the bill earned the endorsement of more than 90 diverse local, state and national organizations, including the PTA, People for the American Way, NAACP, Florida Women’s Consortium, Florida Education Association, Florida Association of School Psychologists, AFL-CIO-Florida and NOW.

The bill was sponsored by Republican Sen. Mike Bennett and Democratic Rep. Ken Gottlieb, modeled after laws introduced in other states that have proven effective in reducing bullying, harassment and violence and increasing students’ safety and sense of well-being.

After the bill was killed, Gottlieb



Equality Florida executive director **NADINE SMITH**: Too many educators don’t see the damage done by relentless bullying.

invited supporters to his office to strategize about the next steps to revive it. One possibility is to add it as an amendment to other bills in the House and Senate.

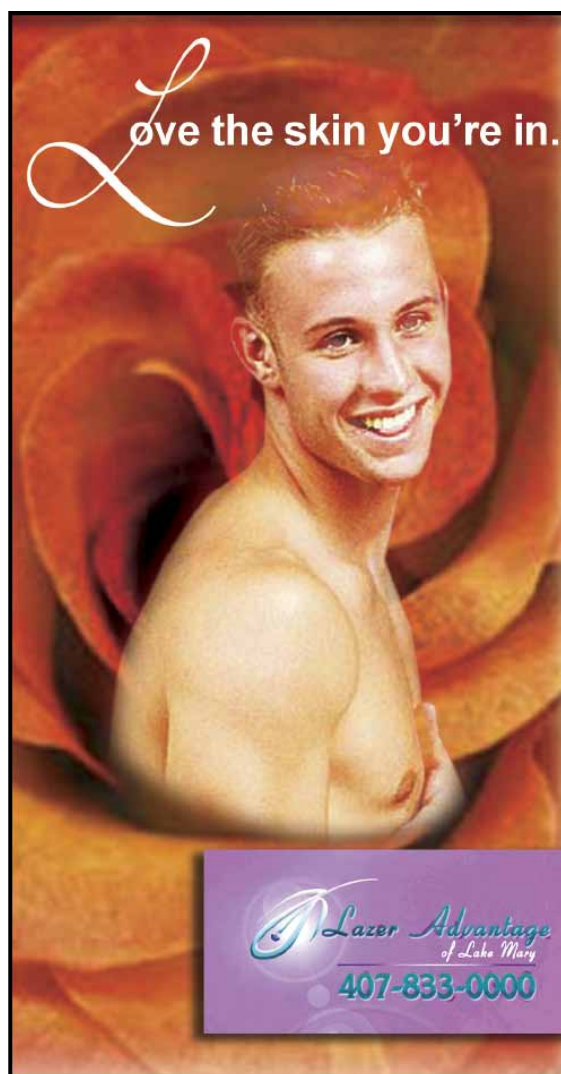
Equality Florida officials are asking voters to contact their legislators to tell them about how disappointed they feel that this bill has died. Lawmakers also need to be urged to champion this type of legislation in the future, Smith said.

The human rights organization also asked voters to thank Rep. Lorraine Ausley,

Rep. Gus Barriero, Rep. Frank Farkas, Rep. Ed Jennings, Rep. Joe Pickens and Rep. Curtis Richardson for their support of the Student Safety Bill.

And if anything else comes from this experience, supporters say that they will only work harder for a safe schools bill in the next legislative session.

“For those who have just joined the effort this year, it was an infuriating wakeup call to how indifferent legislative leaders can be to real harm being done in our schools,” Smith said. “We need both perspectives as we move forward — a deep appreciation for the fact that we are making real change and the impatient refusal to settle for anything less than what is right and fair.” ▼



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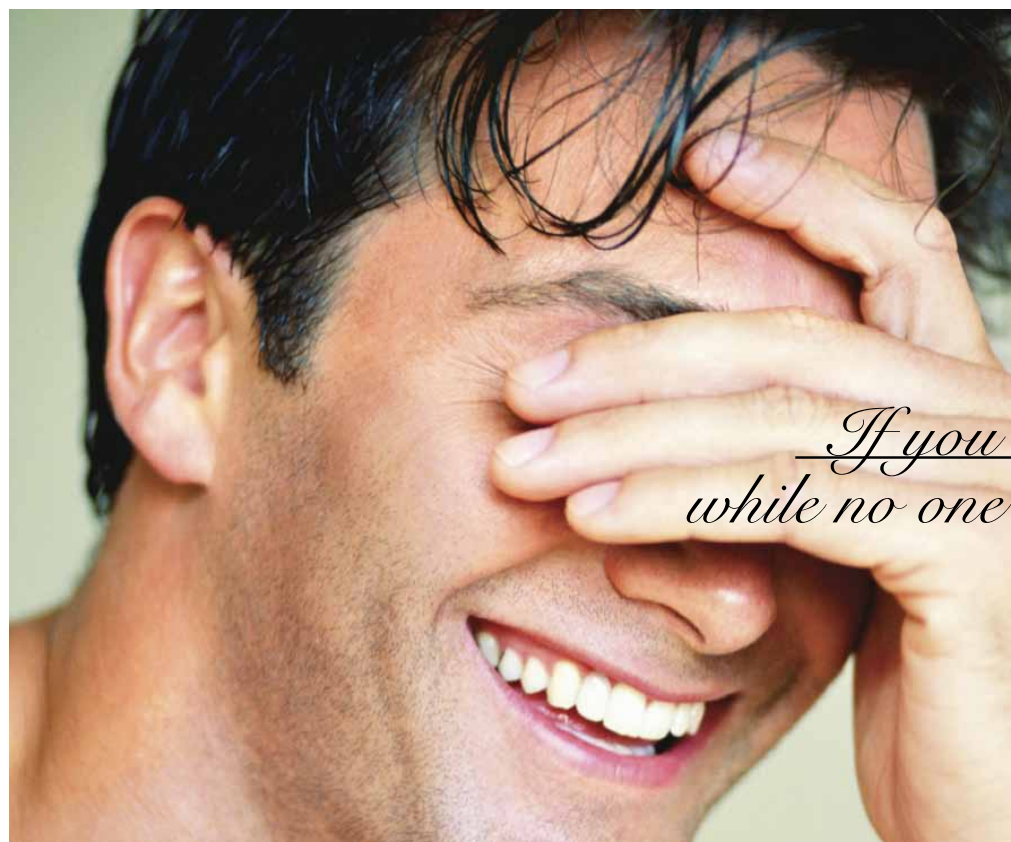
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## ORLANDO

## ORLANDO BRIEFS

## MANES SEEKS ORLANDO MAYOR'S POST IN MAY 3 ELECTION

Openly gay Orlando Weekly columnist Billy Manes has thrown his hat into the ring as a candidate for Orlando mayor in the May 3 election. Manes said he believes that the city must "move forward, not regress to a time over a decade ago when deals were made in back rooms in the best interest of developers and moneyed corporations." He said that he would not be a career politician, " beholden to political interests." Others seeking the job are former Mayor Bill Frederick, businessmen Ken Mulvaney and Edward Lopes and retired Orlando police Capt. Sam Ings. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer was suspended from office after his March 10 indictment on a charge of violating state election laws.

## FILM FEST FEATURES DOCU ABOUT HIV-POSITIVE MODELS' PHOTO

The Florida Film Festival will present the documentary, *Positively Naked*, at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Enzian Theatre in Maitland and 2 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at the Regal Winter Park Village. The documentary by Arlene Donnelly Nelson and David Nelson profiles photographer Spencer Tunick as he assembles 85 HIV-positive men and women as they pose nude in a Manhattan restaurant for a historic cover photo for *Poz Magazine*. The film is on a bill with the documentary, *The Royal Academy*. For more about the film festival, visit [FloridaFilmFestival.com](http://FloridaFilmFestival.com).

## GLBCC ANNOUNCES ORLANDO PRIDE PICNIC EVENT

The pride committee at the GLBCC has announced a new June pride event for Orlando's GLBT community: a "fun-raising" picnic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 18. The picnic will be held at the Bill Frederick/Turkey Lake Park, 3401 Hiwassee Road, Pavilion No. 4. There will be no vendors so attendees are encouraged to bring their own food and beverages. For more information on the family reunion contact Bob King, director of the GLBCC at [bob@glbcc.org](mailto:bob@glbcc.org).

## PARK AVENUE DOGGIE ART FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL 17

Pet and art lovers will have another opportunity to indulge their interests with the Second Annual Park Avenue Doggie Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 17, in Downtown Winter Park. In addition to offering pet-inspired arts and crafts, the festival will feature pet photographs, advice from pet trainers and an appearance by nationally recognized animal communicator Kimberly Sannella. The festivities will be found along the corners of Park and Lyman avenues. Pets are welcome to attend. For details, contact the Doggie Door at (407) 644-2969.

PLACE  
MICHELLE  
VALEN-  
TINE HERE  
  
(SPOT)



## A RALLY TO END THE GAY ADOPTION BAN

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Union at the University of Central Florida hosted a rally on March 29 called "Kids Come First" to draw attention to the need to repeal the state's 28-year-old ban on adoption by gay and lesbian parents. Featuring an exhibit that portrays the real victims of the law — the children — the rally featured speeches by prominent GLBT leaders. Kids Come First speakers and volunteers pictured are DARRIN CARRINGTON (from left), organizer MALLORY WELLS, Equality Florida field organizer VONN NEW, Orlando city commissioner PATTY SHEEHAN, UCF Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Union president JOE SAUNDERS, attorney MICHAEL MORRIS and Orlando Gay Parents Group's LISA GRAY, with event organizer SHANNON BRADY at the bottom.

FACES CLUB HOSTS FUND-RAISER  
FOR LEGENDARY BARTENDER

ORLANDO - Faces Club and Lounge will be sponsoring a car and motorcycle poker run to raise funds for one of the club's popular team members. In addition, the bar will feature prizes, drink specials and happy hour throughout the daylong event on Sunday, April 10.

The fund-raiser and benefit proceeds will go toward helping Jimi Sue (also known as Jim Stump), a team member at Faces Club and Lounge, who recently suffered a stroke and is scheduled to receive triple bypass surgery.

At each stop of the poker run, participants will receive a poker card, and at the end of the run, the player with the best poker hand wins. Participating businesses include Fairvilla MegaStore, The Parliament House and Wylde's. Sign up begins at 10:30 a.m. at Faces, 4910 Edgewater Drive and the sign-up fee is \$10.

A native Floridian, Jimi Sue served in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Orlando's Colonial High School. While serving, he was selected Airman of the

Year, a highly coveted award within the military branch.

After leaving the Air Force, Jimi Sue began a 30-year administration career working for various government agencies. For a short period of time, Jimi Sue was manager of a Sheraton Inn while attending college. He ended that career after being shot 5 times and robbed at the hotel.

The name "Jimi Sue" came about during his early years as a drag queen while living in San Francisco. Jimi Sue did comedy drag at various Bay Area clubs, including the only existing lesbian club in 1970s San Francisco.

After living in Washington, D.C., for a while, Jimi Sue returned to Orlando and became a bartender at many defunct — but popular in their time — gay bars throughout the city. Despite retiring in the 1990s, he was called back to service by team members of Faces, where he works today.

For more information on the event, contact Sue or Mary at (407) 291-7571. ▼  
*Kirk Hartlage*

## BABES IN BONNETS COLLECT \$6,249

ORLANDO - Easter Sunday found churchgoers and egg-hunters out en masse, but the Parliament House played home to a Babes in Bonnets fund-raising event, founded and hosted by local drag impresario Carmella Marcella Garcia. The standing-room-only affair and auction in the resort's Footlight Theatre raised \$6,249 for the Genesis Community Program, an after-school intervention program for high-risk youth residing in Orlando's Parramore neighborhood.

Founded in 1994 by Daisy Lynum and Jeff Horn, the program provides mentoring, school supplies, clothing, emergency financial assistance and more to children and

families in need.

Performers included Garcia, Chantel Reshae, Wanda Woolworth, Rusty Faucet and Darcel Stevens who not only auctioned off her Easter Bonnet but her entire outfit as well for an additional \$600. Upon securing the bid, Stevens immediately disrobed and dressed the lucky bidder.

Also modeling and auctioning off their bonnets were Parliament House owner Susan Unger and Orlando City Commissioners Daisy Lynum and Patty Sheehan. Ericka Dunlap, Miss America 2004, also attended and donated her personal tiara for the auction, raising \$500. ▼  
*Staff reports*

## GAY DAYS

## ORLANDO WON'T BE AMONG EXHIBITORS AT TRAVEL EXPO

ORLANDO - Orlando will play host to the 13th Annual Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo during Gay Days Weekend. Curiously, one city will not be represented at the exposition: Orlando.

"We are especially pleased to welcome more than 16 convention and business bureaus, which represent major cities that realize the importance of gays and lesbians to their growth and long-term success," said Brian Bottorff, Gay Day Partner, who is quick to point out one omission. "At this point the only city not committed, unfortunately, is our own Orlando."

The expo, however, will feature more

than 50 different booths, including a dozen convention and business bureaus from across the world. Held at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa, the travel show will feature both mainstream companies and gay-owned and operated travel suppliers, including airlines, tour operators and rental car providers. The travel show takes place Friday, June 3, from 2 to 9 p.m. at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa and will run in conjunction with Gay Day Central's Business Expo, which will be held throughout the weekend. The event also serves as a benefit for the national HIV/AIDS Nightline.

▼ Staff reports

## Q TELEVISION AGREES TO COVER GAY DAYS WEEKEND EVENTS

ORLANDO - For the first time ever, Gay Days Weekend coverage will be broadcast daily on a national satellite television network.

GayDay.com has signed a sponsorship/partnership agreement with Q Television to offer live broadcasts daily from Orlando. Representatives from GayDay.com were recently at the Q Television Network studios in Dallas discussing Gay Day weekend on the network's live *Out on Q* show. The network is also considering producing a documentary on the history of the 15-year-old event.

Q Television now covers all of the nation's gay rodeos and has signed a partnership to televise the Gay Games in Chicago next summer. The network has also recently signed agreements to broad-

cast in Canada and Australia, with additional plans to be on Direct TV in the near future. The GLBT television company recently signed a nationwide carrier deal, bringing the network's programming to 16 million potential viewers by June 1.

The agreement, with Products On Demand Channel Inc., will make Q Television's signature programming available to 107 stations. Q Television programming will be shown two hours daily in an effort to continue the national interest shown by carriers as well as potential subscribers. The signature programs available to be shown in its entirety are Q Television's incredibly popular, *Q on the Move* and *In Focus*, two programs that are anticipated to be shown on an unscrambled basis. ▼ Staff reports

### GAY DAYS BRIEFS

#### HARD ROCK LIVE BOOKS THE VILLAGE PEOPLE FOR JUNE 3

Another national concert act will head to Orlando for Gay Days Weekend. The Village People will appear live in concert at Universal Studios' Hard Rock Live, 8 p.m., Friday, June 3. This 1970s-era group may be the quintessential classic disco act, embraced both by the GLBT community and straight wedding reception DJs across the country. Reserved balcony seating and general admission standing-room-only floor tickets are \$25 each and available at the Hard Rock box office or at (407) 341-LIVE.

*Slashed*



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2005 PRIDEFEST EVENTS**

SARASOTA - Sarasota Pridefest 2005 organizers say that while fund-raising efforts may have been more sluggish this year, the festivities surrounding the May 14 weekend will remain joyful for everyone.

The event's organizers saw some money go toward hurricane and tsunami relief efforts instead of Pridefest, causing several events to be combined or down-scaled this year.

"When all is said and done we'll be doing very well as far as sponsorships go," said Leslie Dawley, executive director of Sarasota Pridefest.

The 2005 Bowling in Boxers, a benefit sponsored by A League of Our Own, will raise money for ALSO Out Youth and the Gulf Coast Men's Chorus instead. A Casino Night fund-raiser, originally scheduled for Monday, April 11, has been postponed. Details on the new date and time have yet to be determined.

This year's theme is "Into the Future!"

Previous years' Pridefests saw two separate kickoff parties for women and men.

This year, the two parties will be combined into "Fusion," held 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Friday, May 13. The Waterside Room at the Sarasota Quay will host the party featuring a performance by Jasmine Skiies. Admission is \$10.

Pridefest takes place noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at the Roberts Arena on the Sarasota Fairgrounds. Admission is \$7 and will feature performances by Kim English and Vernessa Mitchell.

The alcohol-free party will take place at the Hammond Commons Building on the grounds of the Ringling School of Design, from 8 p.m. until midnight, Saturday, May 14. Partiers will dance to the theme of "Disco Into 2005." Contests will include best disco outfit and others.

Dawley is still encouraging the community to serve as volunteers and financial supporters for the 2005 Pridefest events and hopes to secure as much advance commitment as possible. For more information on Pridefest events, visit [SarasotaPride.com](http://SarasotaPride.com).

▼ Kirk Hartlage

**SARASOTA BRIEFS****PRIDEFEST CASINO NIGHT FUND-RAISER POSTPONED**

The Casino Night fund-raiser for Sarasota Pridefest originally scheduled for Monday, April 11, at Club Heat has been postponed. The rescheduled date and time will be announced soon. Sarasota's Pridefest is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, at Roberts Arena.

**CABARET PERFORMER SWINGS INTO SARASOTA APRIL 10**

New York cabaret singer and pianist Steve Ross will bring those swingin' New York-style tunes to Sarasota's Players Theatre for a one-night-only performance Sunday, April 10. The presentation of *Steppin' Out with Steve Ross*, featuring the music of Gershwin, Porter, Berlin and Coward, will help raise money for ALSO Out Youth. Tickets can be purchased by calling (941) 957-0802.

**BOWLING IN BOXERS TO BENEFIT ALSO, CHORUS THIS YEAR**

A League of Our Own's popular springtime benefit, Bowling in Boxers, returns Sunday, April 17, as a fund-raiser for ALSO Out Youth and the Gulf Coast Men's Chorus. For \$10, participants can take part in the Best Boxers contest (for both men and women, and hear the music of Skullduggery, an increasingly popular area jam band. The festivities begin at 7 p.m. AMF Gulf Gate Lanes.

**DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL RELOCATES TO SARASOTA**

Recognized as one of the most important documentary film festivals in the U.S., the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival moves from Durham, N.C., to the Burns Court Cinemas on Thursday through Sunday, April 7-10. The Sarasota Film Festival presents 11 films in competition through a special digital syndication agreement with Emerging Pictures at the Burns Court Cinemas. Films include *The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo* and *The Beauty Academy of Kabul*. Showtimes and tickets can be found at (941) 955-FILM.

**GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS OFFERS SPRING CONCERT ON MAY 7**

The Gulf Coast Men's Chorus of Sarasota has announced its spring concert and cabaret. *North, South, East and West Side Story* takes place 8 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Players Theatre, 838 N. Tamiami Trail. Admission is \$20 and tickets may be purchased on-line at [www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org](http://www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org). For more information, contact Phillip Alexander at (941) 957-0404.

**GAY ISRAELI FILM TO OPEN AT BURNS COURT CINEMAS**

The gay-themed film by Eytan Fox, *Walk on Water*, will open at Sarasota's Burns Court Cinemas on Friday, April 29. The film looks at a homophobic Israeli intelligence agent who is assigned to assassinate a Nazi war criminal, only to befriend his target's gay grandson. Israel's top film actor Lior Ashkenzai stars. Fox directed the popular queer drama, *Yossi and Jagger*, which earned raves two years ago.

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## TAMPA BAY

## USF LAUNCHES NEW GLBT ALUMNI GROUP APRIL 21

TAMPA - The University of South Florida's Alumni Association hopes to reach out to its GLBT alums and friends with a new group that will launch later this month.

The new Gay and Lesbian Alumni group will be part of the university's alumni association. This effort is the product of discussions by USF's Committee on Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, an advisory panel to university president Dr. Judy Genshaft, comprised of faculty and staff.

"The group is dedicated to welcoming students – our future alumni – into its community as an opportunity for networking, mentoring and socializing," said Dr. Mark Hafen, who is a member of



USF's DR. MARK HAFEN said that the alumni association's support for the new GLBT group is "tremendous."

USF's Department of Geography and CISOGI.

The university will sponsor a kickoff party for GALA on Thursday, April 21, at 6 p.m. in the College of Education's TECO Room.

"This is a pretty big deal for USF and the support we're getting from the alumni association is tremendous," Hafen said.

"So we're hoping for a good turnout at this event."

The celebration will include musical selections, food, beverages and ample networking opportunities for

area business owners and business leaders. The event will also feature guest speaker Karen Doering, staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. She will be joined by members of USF's PRIDE Alliance, faculty, staff and other community members.

For more information or to RSVP for the April 21 event, contact Merrell Dickey at (813) 974-8842 or [mdickey@admin.usf.edu](mailto:mdickey@admin.usf.edu), or Hafen at (813) 974-4777 or [mhafen@cas.usf.edu](mailto:mhafen@cas.usf.edu).

▼ Staff reports



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### IT'S ALWAYS HAMMER TIME

This participant in the Gulfport Womyn's Festival concentrates on the task at hand during the Second Annual Handywoman Tool Competition Saturday, March 19. Other competitors tossed balls into makeshift toilets (the seats down, of course) and carried floor tiles using plungers. Several hundred women enjoyed music by popular local groups, took part in health seminars and watched scrimmages by the Tampa Bay Terminators. Photo by Trina Gregory

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# TAMPA BAY

## TIGLFF SNARES SUNDANCE CHANNEL AS A SPONSOR

**TAMPA** - The Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has scored a coup, lining up the Sundance Channel as the official cinema sponsor of its upcoming TIGLFF Summer Film Series at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg.

According to TIGLFF president Mariruth Kennedy, this has been a goal of the festival to show films throughout the year and across the bay in St. Petersburg. Now in its 16th year, the acclaimed event has also sought more national exposure. The Summer Film Series and Sundance Channel sponsorship accomplish those goals.

"We hope people will show the same enthusiasm for our summer films as they do for our festival entries," Kennedy said. "And the Palladium Theater allows us to showcase another beautiful and historic Bay Area auditorium."

The annual film fest takes place each year at the Tampa Theatre over 11 days in early October. With more than 150 films and upwards of 16,000 attendees, it is among the largest GLBT film events in the nation.

The Sundance Channel showcases independent film and festival entries that often never make it to the big screen. It has become a premier showcase for GLBT

cinema, and is currently broadcasting the eight-part documentary *The Staircase*, about a closeted gay man in North Carolina accused of murdering his wife.

Film "Feastivals" in St. Petersburg and Tampa, where patrons eat dinner in private homes and then attend a film screening, have successfully raised money and consciousness for TIGLFF already this year. The award-winning *Latter Days*, about a closeted Mormon missionary in West Hollywood, was the featured film at Sunrise Cinema in Hyde Park on April 3. On Friday, April 15, the acclaimed Kinsey Sicks drag singing and comedy troupe will perform at a TIGLFF benefit at the Centro Asturiano Theater at 1914 N. Nebraska Ave. in Ybor City. Tickets are \$28 in advance, \$30 at the door and can be purchased at (813) 404-5818.

The first film in TIGLFF's Summer Film Series will be *April's Shower*, a comedy starring Honey Labrador (*Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*) that was popular with both women and men at last year's festival. It begins at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25. Subsequent films will be on the fourth Wednesday of each month through September. Visit [www.tiglff.com](http://www.tiglff.com) for up-to-date information. **▼ Staff reports**



### A RAINBOW OF EASTER EGGS

Close to 100 GLBT parents and their excited kids gathered at Al Lopez Park in Tampa on Saturday, March 14, for an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt. Now in its third year, the event is the most popular gathering of the year for the GLBT Parents of Tampa Bay. In addition to the egg hunt, kids enjoyed an egg coloring contest, egg/spoon relay race, and playing together and with their parents on playground equipment at the park just north of Raymond James Stadium. "The radical right is trying to deny us family," said organizer Cathy James, "so it's more important than ever that we support each other and show people the love in our families." For more information contact [cathy@smith-tv.com](mailto:cathy@smith-tv.com). Photo by Rex Maniscalco

## TAMPA BRIEFS

### DONTAMEND DECLARES TAX DAY AS PROTEST DAY

Before the Revolutionary War, American colonists protested against taxation without representation. DontAmend Tampa Bay will pick up where our Founding Fathers left off by holding a "No Taxation With Discrimination" protest on Tax Day - April 15. "The protest is designed to highlight the fact that gays and lesbians pay equal taxes without equal rights," said organizer R. Zeke Fread. It will take place at the Main Post Office at Tampa International Airport from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Constitutional amendments banning gay and lesbian marriage have passed in 11 states, and are under consideration in Florida and throughout the country. "It is critical that our voices be heard and our faces remain visible," said Fread. Visit [dontamend@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dontamend@tampabay.rr.com) for more information.

### 10TH FLAMINGO FLING PARKS AT SUNCOAST APRIL 14-17

Lambda car group members from as far away as California, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and New York will attend the 10th Annual Flamingo Fling car enthusiasts event. The Suncoast Resort will serve as host hotel, but activities are scheduled at Rolls Royce and Bentley of Tampa Bay, Land Rover, Dimmit Luxury Cars and at the world-renowned Alain Cerf Collection. There will also be a sunset dinner on the beach and "Taillight Glow Contest" at Suncoast. Visit [Flamingoautogroup.com](http://Flamingoautogroup.com) for details.

### GAY PRIDE VISIBLE AT DEVIL RAYS OPENING GAME

Thanks to Georgie's Alibi, as many as 120 gays and lesbians sat together to root for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays during their April 4 opening game at Tropicana Field against the Toronto Blue Jays. The tickets were available to fans willing to make a made a donation to St. Pete Pride. More than 25,000 are expected to attend St. Pete Pride festivities from June 22-26. The deadline for sponsorship is May 1. Media sponsors include Out, Instinct, The Advocate, Watermark and The Gazette.

### GLSEN HOSTS "BREAKING THE SILENCE" SOCIAL

On Wednesday, April 13, GLBT students throughout Florida will observe a "Day of Silence" at their schools to signify their invisibility at school and in society. After school, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network will host a "Breaking the Silence" social at Sacred Grounds Coffee House at 4819 E. Busch Blvd. Members of local Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapters will provide cookies and other refreshments.

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## FBI, POSTAL SERVICE JOIN PROBE IN HIV NOTIFICATIONS

**WEST PALM BEACH** - The FBI and the U.S. Postal Service have joined the criminal investigation into the disclosure of the names and addresses of some of the 6,500 HIV/AIDS patients in Palm Beach County.

County Health Department Director Dr. Jean Malecki said that the FBI and postal inspectors have joined the police probe of two incidents in which a confidential list of names of those with AIDS or who are HIV-positive may have been used illegally.

Florida requires people who carry HIV to register for monitoring purposes. Disclosing the list is a crime. A confidential list of about 6,500 HIV carriers was mistakenly e-mailed to about 800 county health workers in February. At least 16 people opened the e-mail. The list did not include addresses.

In early March, HIV-positive people on the county health department list received letters telling them to call an

Indiana company to volunteer to help local families dealing with AIDS.

One letter said, "Your name appeared on a list of HIV-AIDS patients for Palm Beach County."

The Indiana company, which does electronic billing for doctors' offices, had no knowledge of the letter and told callers to contact the health department. Malecki and other health officials have said they do not believe the mailing letters came from the e-mailed list because the original did not include addresses.

"The FBI and U.S. Postal inspectors have the resources to trace DNA on the envelopes from this mailing," Malecki said. "We're hopeful that they can find out who did this. It's really a despicable crime and has terrorized some of the people on the list."

Another investigation by the state Health Department's inspector general into the original e-mailing of the list continues, Malecki said. (AP)

## 4,000 EXPECTED AT AQUA GIRL

**MIAMI** - The fifth annual Aqua Girl 2005 is expected to draw more than 4,000 lesbians and bisexual women from across the country for pool parties, dances and comedy May 12-15.

The weekend festival started as a fund-raising dance by a group of dedicated community-minded women from Miami and New York. Aqua Girl is believed to be the largest charitable women's event in the country. All of the net proceeds benefit

South Florida's Women's Community Fund, which helps lesbian, bisexual and transgender women through education, awareness and grants.

The weekend will be overseen by WCF president Alison Burgos and Aqua Girl co-chairs Vivian Lamadrid and Soraya Swingen.

For more information, call the Aqua Girl hotline at (305) 532-1997 or visit [aqua-girl.org](http://aqua-girl.org). **Staff reports**

### STATE BRIEFS

#### DAVID SEDARIS TO READ FROM HIS WORKS AT UF'S PHILLIPS CENTER

Openly gay essayist, author and National Public Radio commentator David Sedaris will read from his work, answer questions and sign books at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. Sedaris has earned acclaim for his autobiographical stories included in four best-selling volumes, including *Barrel Fever*, *Naked* and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*. He and his actress sister, Amy Sedaris, collaborate on plays under the name "The Talent Family." Tickets are \$25-\$35 and are available by calling (800) 905-ARTS or through Ticketmaster.

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## NATION / WORLD

## NATION/WORLD BRIEFS

**BILL WOULD ALLOW MICH. DOCTORS TO REFUSE TREATMENT TO GAYS**

The Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill that would allow health care providers to refuse treatment to gays and lesbians based on "moral, ethical or religious grounds." The bill now goes to the Republican-controlled Senate. The GOP-dominated House passed the bill at the urging of the Michigan Catholic Conference. The Conscientious Objector Policy Act would allow health care providers to assert their objection within 24 hours of when they receive notice of a patient or procedure with which they don't agree. However, it would prohibit emergency treatment to be refused.

**ORE. COUPLES CONTRIBUTE TO MARRIAGE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION**

Gay and lesbian couples in the Portland, Ore., area are contributing photos, DVDs and other memorabilia from the brief window in 2004 when they were allowed to marry legally. The collection, dubbed the "Wedding Album Project," will be on display for a month in Multnomah County before it is turned over to the Oregon Historical Society for its research archives. One woman Xeroxed her journal entry from the day of her wedding, while others wrote testimonials about their time together, their year of being married, and the backlash against gay marriage in Oregon, which culminated in a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

**ARK. LAWMAKERS SAY BALD PEOPLE NEED RIGHTS IF GAYS GET THEM**

Legislation to add sexual orientation to characteristics protected under Arkansas' 1993 Civil Rights Act stalled in a House committee after opponents said the move would create a number of problems under the state's labor laws. Opponents also said they wondered if civil rights legislation should be passed to protect fat and bald people as well. Democrat Rep. Lindsley Smith, the bill's sponsor, said gays and lesbians need special protections because they are the target of hate crimes.

**SINGAPORE REFUSES TO ALLOW JASON AND DEMARCO CONCERT**

Singapore denied a request by a gay Christian support group to hold an AIDS charity concert on April 3, saying the lead performance by an American duo, Jason and deMarco, would be against the public interest because it promotes a gay lifestyle. In a written appeal, the organizers told Lee Boon Yang, the minister for information, communications and the arts, that the goal of the concert was to raise awareness about AIDS rather than promote "alternative lifestyles." Supporters of the duo said that Jason and deMarco were an example of a committed, monogamous relationship. Singapore has allowed other performances by openly gay performers, including k.d. lang and the Pet Shop Boys.

## GAY MARRIAGE BAN ERODES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW

**CLEVELAND** - Ohio's new ban on gay marriage has an effect that few people in the Buckeye State expected: It took the teeth out of the state's domestic violence law.

Ohioans passed the same-sex marriage ban on Nov. 2, and the law is considered to be among the broadest in the country. Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Stuart Friedman ruled recently that the ban on legal recognition of any couples — gay or straight — now curbs the penalties in domestic violence cases between unmarried individuals.

Before the amendment was passed in November, courts applied the domestic violence law by defining a family as including an unmarried couple living together as would a husband and wife, the judge said. The gay marriage amendment no longer allows that. As a result, Friedman changed a felony domestic violence charge against Frederick Burk to a misdemeanor assault charge. Burk, 42, of Cleveland, is accused of slapping and pushing his live-in girlfriend during a January argument over a pack of cigarettes.

His public defender, David Magee, had asked the judge to throw out the charge because of the new wording in Ohio's constitution that prohibits any state or local law that would "create or recognize a legal sta-

tus for relationships of unmarried individuals."

Because Burk had a prior domestic violence conviction, the latest charge was a felony that could have resulted in an 18-month jail term; a misdemeanor assault carries a maximum sentence of six months.

Some gay rights advocates said they believed the confusion may lead to some voters changing their minds about supporting the amendment.

"In some ways for us this ruling is a blessing because it points out everything that folks were saying prior to (the amendment) becoming law, that there would be unintended consequences not just for gay and lesbian families," said Lynne Bowman, head of Equality Ohio.

Camilla Taylor, a lawyer for Lambda Legal, said it was obvious Ohio's amendment was meant to ban gay marriages and not to affect anything else.

"The people of Ohio never intended to subject unmarried Ohioans to abuse in their own homes, and I'm sure the courts will recognize this," Taylor said.

She said that Lambda Legal is worried about domestic violence victims who may suffer while the courts and lawmakers work out the confusion. Domestic violence laws offer quicker and sometimes stricter protections for victims, advocates say. (AP)



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## NATION / WORLD

## MAINE'S GOVERNOR SIGNS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL

AUGUSTA, Maine - Maine's Gov. John Baldacci signed a law that bars discrimination against gays and lesbians in Maine after the bill won a strong vote of approval in the state's Senate and House.

The bill adds protections to the Maine Human Rights Act. Supporters said Maine is lagging behind the other New England states by not having a law that bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"We're not leading, but we're in fact following," said Sen. Scott Cowger, noting that Maine's Latin motto translates to "I lead."

"As a gay man myself, I know for a fact that we need this bill," added Cowger, D-Hallowell.

Sen. Barry Hobbins, D-Saco, noted that witnesses lined up at a recent hearing to tell first-hand stories of discrimination



Openly gay Maine legislator Sen. SCOTT COWGER: The state must protect its GLBT residents.

at work, at inns and in banks because of their sexual orientation.

The bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act by making it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identification in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education. The law now prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, disability, religion, ancestry and national origin.

Baldacci said on March 31 that "This is a proud day for Maine. Our doors are open to

all people."

Opponents of the bill contend that it was pushed through quickly to give the opposition less time to prepare for a petition drive that could force a "people's veto" referendum on the bill should it pass. Maine voters have rejected similar gay rights measures in recent years. (AP)

## ISRAELI COUPLES SEEK LEGAL RECOGNITION OF MARRIAGES

JERUSALEM - Two gay couples petitioned Israel's Supreme Court to overrule a decision by the Interior Ministry and recognize their 2003 Canadian marriages, an Israeli human rights group said.

Yoav Leff of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel said the group submitted the petitions on behalf of Yossi Ben-Ari and Loren Shuman, and Yosef Bar-Lev and Yaron Lahav, who married in Toronto in 2003.

Leff said the petitions were submitted after the Interior Ministry refused to recog-

nize the couples' unions.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabine Haddad acknowledged the couples had submitted written requests for the ministry to recognize their marriages, but said it was obligated to turn them down because Israeli law does not recognize same-sex marriages.

Leff said the petitions on behalf of the two gay couples were based on a Supreme Court decision from the 1960s which obligated authorities to recognize a foreign marriage between a Christian and a Jew. (AP)

## IOWA MURDER SEEMS SIMILAR TO DEATH OF MATTHEW SHEPARD

WATERLOO, Iowa - People who knew Jason Gage of Waterloo, Iowa, say he had a rare ability to energize any room, made friends easily and would do anything for someone in need, like the time he gave a drunk stranger \$46 for a taxi ride home.

Reports that Gage may have made sexual advances toward his alleged attacker and the outpouring of grief has many here drawing parallels to the brutal 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student who was lashed to a Wyoming fence, beaten and left in the cold to die.

The 29-year old waiter, who dreamed of one day styling hair in a big city salon, was also openly gay and, friends say, a persistent and flamboyant flirt.

Gage was found dead in mid-March ago in his downtown Waterloo apartment, bludgeoned with a beer bottle and stabbed in the neck with a shard of glass. Within hours, police had arrested 23-year-old

Joseph Lawrence and charged him with first-degree murder.

"Parts of the equation are different, but the end result is the same," said Chris Thompson, one of Gage's friends. "There seems no doubt to me that he died because of his lifestyle ... that this was a crime of hate."

According to a police affidavit, Lawrence, who had moved from Arizona a month earlier, acknowledged to striking Gage twice with bottle in the head and stabbing him with a piece of glass. Lawrence's fiancée, Elizabeth Hostetler, said he told her Gage had made sexual advances. One of Matthew Shepard's attackers had claimed he snapped in a drunken rage when Shepard made a sexual advance.

Unlike other states, Iowa does not have a hate crime classification for murder. If convicted, Lawrence faces life in prison without parole. (AP)

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## SPIRITUALITY



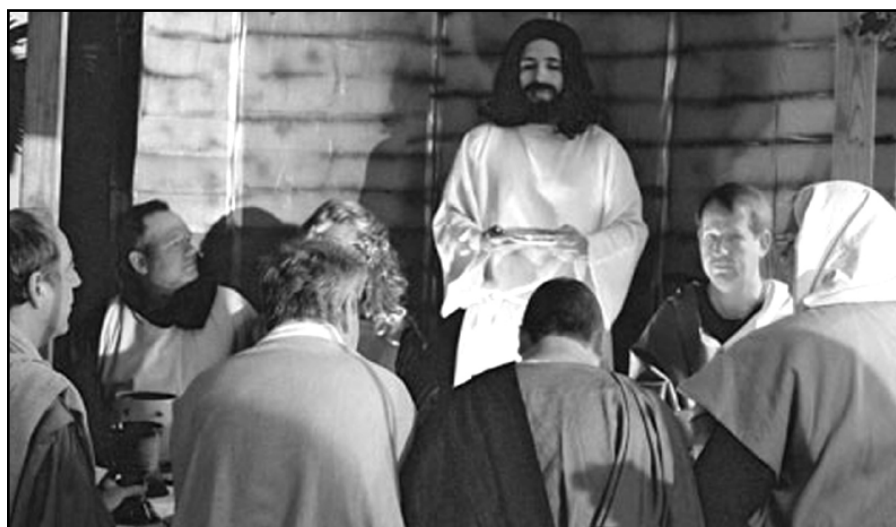
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### 'BECAUSE HE LIVES'

Members of the Joy MCC Drama Team re-enacted the final days of the life of Jesus Christ in the elaborate musical production, *Because He Lives*, presented to a huge crowd on Palm Sunday, March 20. Photo by Larry Hermann



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## CLERICS BALK AT PRIDE EVENT IN JERUSALEM

**JERUSALEM** - Even though some of the most powerful clerics in Israel have joined in a rare alliance to protest the scheduling of a GLBT festival in Jerusalem, organizers said the remarks will only make them more determined to host WorldPride.

In a shared news conference, Rabbis Shlomo Amar and Yona Metzger joined Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah and other Christian and Muslim officials to request the cancellation of the 10-day WorldPride festival, planned for Aug. 18-28.

The WorldPride event, last held in Rome in 2000, is to include street parties, workshops and a gay film festival. Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox Jewish mayor, Uri Lupolianski, says he is powerless to interfere, as public events are licensed by the police, not city hall.

Metzger, chief rabbi representing Israeli Jews of Ashkenazi, or European, origin, pleaded with the festival's organizers to take it elsewhere.

"Please do not damage the holiness of Jerusalem," he said. "Preserve its character, preserve its peace ... cancel your plans." Another cleric remarked that Jerusalem was "not the 'homo land,' but the Holy Land."

Opposition to the happening has forged some unusual alliances. Earlier this month evangelical Christians and rabbis from the United States joined forces with ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews to warn that holding the festival in Jerusalem could provoke divine retribution along the lines of the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Muslim cleric Abdel-Salem Menasra repeated that warning during the press conference.

"God destroyed those cities and everyone in them," he said. "I'm warning everybody, God will destroy Jerusalem together with the Jews, the Christians and the

Muslims."

GLBT activists and clerics dismissed those remarks as ultra-conservative rhetoric.

"We are deeply saddened that once again, religion has been used to attack God's gay and lesbian children," said the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder of the 43,000-member United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Perry, who is co-chair of an Interfaith Gay Clergy Conference to be held at WorldPride, added, "We are coming to Jerusalem. And we are coming with gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender clergy of many faith communities. Jerusalem is our Holy City too."

Perry questioned the clerics' motivations for their protests of WorldPride.

"They have a right to their views," said Perry, "but they don't have a right to globalize their prejudice and infringe on the freedoms of others. True spiritual values are about inclusion and welcome, not attacks and threats."

Jerusalem Open House director Hagai El-Ad, one of the festival organizers, said that the offensive tone of the protesters' remarks made him even more determined to press ahead with plans for the Aug. 18-28 event.

"If anyone had any hesitation about how important this event is, after the unfortunate remarks made at Wednesday's press conference, I think no such questions remain," he said. "It's important that one of the first signs of interfaith dialogue we have encountered here in Jerusalem takes place around such a negative message."

In the past, the Israeli GLBT community has held small marches in Jerusalem that have passed relatively peacefully, with a few shouted insults from onlookers and minor acts of vandalism. ▽ *Associated Press, with staff reports*

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## SPIRITUALITY

# GAYS CAN BECOME PRIESTS IN SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**LONDON** - Being a practicing homosexual is no bar to becoming a priest, the Scottish Episcopal Church says, a stance that puts it at odds with the Anglican Communion in other parts of the world.

In a response to a February meeting of 35 top world Anglican leaders, posted on the church Web site, the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church said it had "never regarded the fact that someone was in a close relationship with a member of the same sex as in itself constituting a bar to the exercise of an ordained ministry."

The bishops also said clergy on occasion responded to requests to give a blessing to same-sex couples.

It is believed to be the first time the Scottish church has publicly declared their position on gay clergy and blessings of same-sex couples, which have long been unwritten but commonly held acceptances.

The announcement comes at a delicate time for Anglicans worldwide and is in contrast to the Scottish Episcopal Church's sister body, the Church of England, which will ordain gays and lesbians only if they are not in a physical relationship.

At the recent crisis meeting of Anglican leaders in Northern Ireland, the issue of homosexuality threatened to split the international Anglican Communion. Anglican leaders, meeting near Belfast,

asked the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) for three years — a move some fear could be the first step toward a permanent split in the communion.

The two churches were also invited to explain to the council in June the theological reasoning behind the consecration of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire and the decision by one Canadian diocese to authorize the blessing of same-sex unions. (AP)

## SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS

### RAINBOW PROMISE MCC OFFERS BISTRO D'AMORE DINNER DANCE

Rainbow Promise MCC will host its first-ever Bistro d'Amore dinner dance from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Lakeland's Lake Mirror Auditorium. The soiree will celebrate the church's friends and supporters, as well as its members, put together in a "supper club" type dinner and dance. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, visit [rainbowpromisemcc.org](http://rainbowpromisemcc.org).

### KING OF PEACE MCC ADDS ADDITIONAL SERVICE MONTHLY

King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg will offer a second Sunday contemporary worship once a month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 10. Visit [kingofpeacemcc.com](http://kingofpeacemcc.com) or call the church at (727) 323-5857 for details.

### CARMELLA MARCELLA GARCIA TAPPED TO EMCEE JOY MCC'S TALENT SHOW

Popular entertainer Carmella Marcella Garcia will host a talent show in Joy MCC's sanctuary at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 7. If you would like to perform, visit the church's Web site at [Joymcc.com](http://Joymcc.com).

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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.holyspiritc.org](http://www.holyspiritc.org).

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#### 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 p.m. at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. (813) 988-5283.

#### INTERWEAVE OF CLEARWATER

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

#### KING OF PEACE MCC

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

#### MCC OF TAMPA

Worship services Sunday at 10:30 a.m.. Mid-week dinner on Wednesday at 6 p.m., with worship at 7 p.m. 408 E. Cayuga St. (813) 239-1951 or [UFMCC Tampa@aol.com](mailto:UFMCC Tampa@aol.com).

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#### 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 a.m. each Sunday at 4133 Thys Road, New Port Richey and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (727) 849-6962 or [www.jord1.com/Spirit](http://www.jord1.com/Spirit).

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

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#### UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY

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#### CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

Traditional worship services at 9:15 a.m., and a contemporary service at 11 a.m.. Friday services at 7 p.m. with a 6 p.m. social. 7225 N. Lockwood Ridge Road. (941)355-0847 or [Trinity1srq@aol.com](mailto:Trinity1srq@aol.com).

#### DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

Mass for GLBT Catholics Sundays at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. (941)359-9504 or [www.dignitysarasota.com](http://www.dignitysarasota.com).

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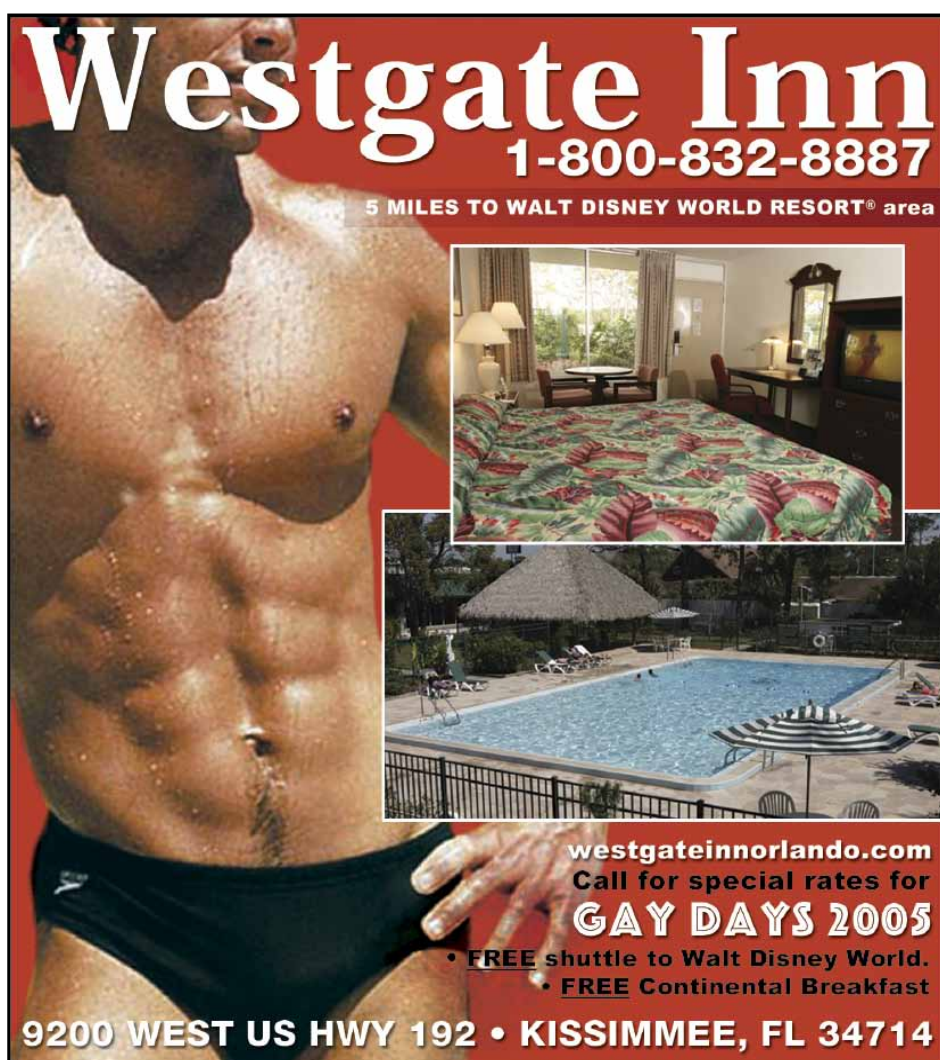


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## RESEARCHERS: CRYSTAL NEEDS 'REBRANDING' AS DANGEROUS

WASHINGTON - Some 15% of gay men say they had used meth during their most recent sexual encounter, third only to alcohol and marijuana, according to a 2004 survey in San Francisco, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Still, that's enough to warrant considerable attention during the spring meeting of the National Coalition for LGBT Health in Washington on March 14.

Meth users in San Francisco were 1.7 times more likely to test positive for gonorrhea, nearly two times more likely to have chlamydia, and nearly five times more likely to have syphilis. In New York, HIV-positive men were nearly three times more likely to report meth use during their most recent anal sex encounter.

Why is crystal meth getting all of the attention?

CDC researcher Gordon Mansergh acknowledged that "It's the drug *du jour*, in some ways. Meth is something that we've seen an increased wave coming in the last 10-15 years. It becomes a community consciousness because of the rapid increase, but also because of the rapid devastation."

Mansergh noted that because researchers tend to focus on all substances — and not just crystal meth — not as much is known about the effects of the drug.

"I think the risks around alcohol abuse are better known. I wonder how many young gay men may get in over their heads before they realize what their risks are with meth," said David Haltiwanger with the Chase-Brexton Clinic in Baltimore. "Part of what we need to do is rebrand crystal meth so that it is not considered just another innocent party drug, but a much more dangerous drug."

Jay Dagenhart became infected with HIV while addicted to meth. His addiction also led him to "losing just about every job that I had during my addiction, being



CDC researcher GORDON MANSERGH says that crystal meth is "the drug *du jour*."

gay-bashed, having a gun pulled on me, and finally becoming homeless; all because of my crystal meth addiction."

His was the most riveting presentation heard at a session on crystal meth at the coalition's meeting in Washington on March 14. Dagenhart and a group of other recovering addicts formed the Philadelphia Crystal Meth Task Force ([meth2death.org](http://meth2death.org)).

"We are tired of pushing this under the rug and not discussing it, so we are going to

talk about it in very bold ways, to change the conversation," he told a panel during the conference. The goal is to change community values so that using crystal and having unprotected sex or being up all night dancing is seen as inappropriate behavior.

"We are saying, 'Do you realize how addictive this is?'" It is based on a model developed in New York. Dagenhart recently went to a bathhouse in Philadelphia. When he disclosed his HIV status to men there, the first five turned and walked away.

"The only person who was willing to have sex with me was the crystal meth addict," he said. "As gay men we sexualize everything; we shake hands with our penis."

Treatment specialist Phil McCabe noted that many people continue to use meth as a self-medication for depression, and one of the physical symptoms of stopping meth use is long term depression as the body recovers. He does not believe the community is prepared to deal with that. While the focus today is on prevention, "We have to balance that with treatment" to help people stop using meth.

"We need to understand the social context within which people in our community are using crystal meth, and the meaning that people are assigning to that use," added David Acosta, coordinator of HIV/AIDS prevention programs for the city of Philadelphia. ▽ *Bob Roehr*

### HEALTH/HIV BRIEFS

#### AIDS MEMORIAL DESIGN OFFERS SENSE OF LOSS, RENEWAL

A design by two New York architects was declared the winner in a competition to create a centerpiece for a 7-acre garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the only federally recognized AIDS memorial in the country. Living Memorial, by Janette Kim and Chloe Town, features a stand of black carbon fiber trees, a charred wood deck and a burned, bark-like walkway that in time will sprout greenery — elements borrowed from a fire-scarred forest to evoke a sense of loss and renewal. Conceived in 1989 by a group of residents, the National AIDS Memorial Grove originally was designed as a living memorial that relied more on its natural setting than man-made features to send a message. Before the memorial can be built, some \$2 million must be raised.

## BUSINESS

### PRIVATE GAY CHARTER HALTED IN NEVIS BECAUSE OF NUDITY

**BASSETTERE, St. Kitts** - The government of St. Kitts and Nevis said that it barred a gay and nudist cruise from stopping in Nevis because of concerns of illegal public nudity on shore, not because the passengers were gay.

Port authorities stopped the Polynesia, a ship carrying 110 mostly American passengers and 35 crew members, in mid-March as it approached the port in Nevis' capital, Charlestown. The ship had been chartered by Gay Naturists International.

Nevis' Tourism Minister Malcolm Guishard said that when customs officials boarded the ship most passengers were naked and the captain couldn't guarantee they would be clothed on shore — something the captain has denied.

Public nudity is illegal in St. Kitts and Nevis.

"If this ship had been chartered by a heterosexual clothing-optional group, our decision would have been exactly the same," Guishard said.

The cruise ended in St. Maarten, a Dutch Caribbean territory. The cruise company, Windjammer Barefoot Cruises, is based in Miami Beach, and the cruise was organized by Miami-based gay travel company Source Events.

Cornelius "Casey" Plantefaber, said that three officers boarded the ship and

demanding he accompany them to a meeting onshore. The one-hour meeting included port authority, police, customs and immigration officials.


According to Source Events, Plantefaber was told, "This is a Christian community, and being gay is against the laws and morality of the island — especially during Holy Week. You may not even swim in our waters."

Oral Brandy, acting general manager for the Nevis Port Authority, said that he agreed with the captain's recollections, but said Holy Week had nothing to do with it.

"If it had happened at another time of the year it would be the same thing," he said. "If people come to the island and they are gay, we don't get into their personal aspects and find out if they are gay. We recognized that they were naked on board, most of them, and they wanted to come ashore like that."

The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association has stated that Nevis is gay-friendly and has welcomed GLBT charters in the past.

Government spokesman Erasmus Williams said that while sodomy is illegal in Nevis, "We welcome all visitors. We've had gay ships in St. Kitts in the past, and the visits have gone off without problems. I'm surprised that Nevis officials didn't let them in." (AP)



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### BUSINESSBRIEFS

#### NAVATILOVA SIGNS DEAL TO REPRESENT OLIVIA

Martina Navratilova has become a celebrity spokesperson for Olivia, a lesbian-owned travel company best known for its cruises for women. As part of a six-figure, one-year contract with the company, Navratilova will make appearances at Olivia events, appear in print ads for the company, wear the company logo on her shirt and shorts during tennis tournaments and be a guest on Olivia cruises. The tennis player said that this is the first deal that she has gotten because she is gay. "Hallelujah," she told the New York Times. Just recently, Navratilova sued the Rainbow Card for misusing her images in advertising after requesting an end to it.

#### CONSERVATIVE PUBLISHER BUYS MARY CHENEY'S MEMOIR

A new subdivision of Simon & Schuster devoted to conservative books has agreed to publish a memoir by the openly lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney. The book by Mary Cheney, a top aide during her father's campaigns in 2000 and 2004, is the first acquisition for Mary Matalin's publishing subdivision, Threshold. Simon & Schuster did not say how much it paid for the memoir. Cheney's sexuality became a political issue during the 2004 presidential debates. Her mother, Lynne Cheney, called Sen. John Kerry's reference a "cheap and tawdry political trick."

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#### MARRIAGE BAN COSTS GAY, LESBIAN COUPLES HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

Same-sex couples in Connecticut suffer tens of thousands of dollars in financial penalties each year — and hundreds of thousands over a lifetime — because they cannot marry, according to a study released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. One couple profiled in the study earns about \$75,000 a year and pays \$2,689 more each year in state and federal income taxes than a married couple earning the same amount, because the two men cannot file a joint return. If one man, who works for the state, died as a result of a work-related injury, his partner would receive no workers' compensation benefits. But if he were married, his spouse would receive more than \$34,000 per year in benefits.

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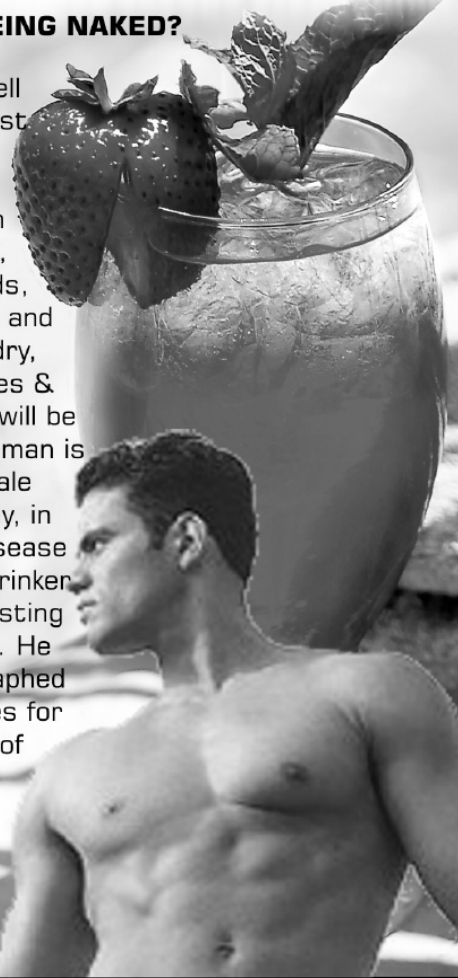
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## LATE-BREAKING NEWS

## POPE REMEMBERED FOR HARD-LINE STANCE ON GAYS

VATICAN CITY - While millions mourn the April 2 death of Pope John Paul II, social critics have begun to assess his 26-year papacy. To his critics, the pope refused to keep pace with the demands of his flock or any of the changes in the modern world.

"He will be remembered for his strong voice on human rights and dignity," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, a U.S. outreach to GLBT Catholics. "His record on gay and lesbian issues is not as admirable. His pontificate was marked by an end to dialogue on many theological issues, including homosexuality. He closed the windows of renewal that were opened by Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council."

The Vatican was frequently criticized for its opposition to the use of condoms in fighting AIDS, a position that stemmed from its condemnation of artificial birth control. While offering the church's help and solidarity to AIDS victims, John Paul and Vatican cardinals counseled that abstinence was the best way to prevent the spread of the virus.

In February, the Vatican released a new book, *Memory and Identity*, in which the pope described same-sex marriage as

part of "a new ideology of evil" that threatened society. The book is based on conversations with philosopher friends as well as with his aides, with this portion devoted to the pressures on the European Parliament to legalize gay marriage.

"It is legitimate and necessary to ask oneself if this is not perhaps part of a new ideology of evil, perhaps more insidious and hidden, which attempts to pit human rights against the family and against man," the pope said, as quoted in the book.

GLBT activist groups spoke out against the book. Jewish and German

groups also condemned it because of John Paul's comparison of abortion to the Holocaust.

John Paul's hard-line stance on homosexuality and women's rights also led to further strained relations with the Anglican Church. The Vatican sharply disagreed with the U.S. Episcopal Church's appointment of the first-ever openly gay bishop, the Rev. V. Gene Robinson. John Paul also took exception to the Anglican Church's ordination of women, even though the Catholic Church began to formally permit women to serve at the altar, approving a practice that was already widespread in the U.S. and western Europe.

When the church in the United States, Ireland, Australia and elsewhere was hit by

the clergy sex abuse scandal that undermined its moral voice and damaged it financially, some blamed the celibacy requirement for discouraging many potential candidates for the priesthood.

The pope refused to budge on that issue, or other points. He once told reporters that the Catholic Church should not be viewed as a democracy or an association of "free thinkers."

To John Paul, it was a question of protecting what he called the "truths of the faith." his conservatism was often seen as coming from his formation in the Polish Catholic Church, a body that remained immune to liberalizing trends in the West during the four decades of communist rule.

▼ Associated Press, with staff reports

## ROBINSON: WE SHOULD NOT FEAR DEATH

ROCHESTER, N.H. - The Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire says he has a living will and would not want to be kept alive indefinitely on a feeding tube, as Terri Schiavo was.

Speaking at the final service of the Church of the Redeemer on April 2, Bishop V. Gene Robinson said Christians should not fear death.

"Think of the number of times Jesus Christ says to you and me, 'Fear not,'" Robinson said. "Be not afraid. Death is not anything you and I have to be fearful of."

Robinson, who is gay, said both he and his partner have living wills and plan to donate their organs.

"We've both put in writing that we don't want these extraordinary measures once our quality of life is such as it was, I think, with Ms. Schiavo," Robinson said, adding, "It's hard to think of that as life."

Schiavo died in a Pinellas Park hospice after her husband won numerous court battles giving him the right to remove her feeding tube.

Doctors said she had been in a persistent vegetative state for 15 years, but her parents fought to get the feeding tube reinserted while supporters kept vigil outside the hospice. (AP)

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## VIEWPOINT



## PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED SUDDENLY, I FIND I'M THE ODD MAN OUT

By Ken Kundis

May 15, 2005, will represent my one-year anniversary of deciding to quit drinking. I'll spare you the confessional.

Augusten Burroughs does a vastly superior job than I ever could describing what it feels like to quit drinking in his autobiography *Dry*. Let's just say my quitting drinking was necessary and leave it at that.

However, one thing that has struck me as odd and interesting is how differently I'm treated when the information is made known. Gay men in particular have looked at me with a combination of fear and loathing when hearing about my decision to turn my back on smart cocktails and Sunday morning hangovers.

The first reaction I receive is typically one of people attempting to distance themselves from my drinking, to differentiate their own experience, to explain why quitting isn't necessary for them.

"Wow, you must have been really bad to have to quit," said one old friend with whom I had done a big chunk of my drinking seven years ago.

"No," I said. "I just got tired of it."

This is always met with skepticism, as if I had been secretly drinking nail polish remover while sitting on the floor of my

kitchen and just didn't want to admit it. *I mean, why else would you quit drinking, his eyes were saying to me, unless you had a real problem.*

Despite their discomfort at first, my friends who continue to drink (and strangely enough there are fewer and fewer in my life, which was not intentional), they are, ultimately, my friends and eventually they will get around to congratulating me on making a positive decision for my health. By and large, our relationships are unaltered by the fact that I simply choose to drink water or tea at dinner while they have margaritas.

Nor does anyone seem particularly compelled to *not* drink in front of me. Since I didn't go the traditional, 12-step-making-amends-go-to-meetings sort of route, my drinking friends don't seem to worry much about having alcohol in front of me. Which, as it turns out, is perfectly fine. To my unending surprise, it just hasn't been that tempting or that big of a deal. I do understand how lucky I am to not be struggling more.

So with my friends, family and me on the same page, I figured that my life was basically unchanged from my drinking

days, with the exception of now possessing a much sharper mind, healthier body (particularly stomach!) and 15 fewer pounds to carry. That is until I attempted to go out.

Going to a gay bar presented the first opportunity to really be tempted by alcohol. Truth be told, I've never been naturally comfortable in and among the happy hunting grounds of gay life. I used alcohol – to excess it turns out – to lubricate my somewhat introverted personality and loosen my stubborn tongue.

There was a period of my life when I could safely say I had never met someone in a bar and went home with them without having been substantially drunk at some point in the evening. Getting laid is easy when you're drunk and don't care – or know – how you look. I was like a lot of people, who could take a nothing day and suddenly make it all seem *much* more than worthwhile by simply drinking a couple of beers and downing three shots of tequila.

Remove that crutch and I found myself feeling awkward and impatient with the whole experience. Even the smell of the bar itself was trying to find and flip a switch in my head telling me to jump in and drink. Alcohol, as I suspected, had been the fuel to a decade's long bar crawl. Cruising is harder and that magical sweeping sense of fun is difficult to come by when you don't drink, particularly when you get the sense at least, that everyone else is either drinking or drunk.

Further, drinking just water in a gay bar casts a suspicious light on you. In this day and age, if you are seen drinking water in a bar, people think you're rolling. It's that simple. And while I have nothing specifically against ecstasy (either the state of being or the pill), I'd almost rather be stumbling around drunk than having people think I'm on drugs.

Stumbling around drunk is something that no one thinks they do, of course. That is the other important discovery I made in going sober to a gay bar. There are lots of people there who have had way too much to drink and don't know it. For the better

part of 15 years, I was one of them. It does make me cringe when I see someone who is visibly impaired, not because I'm worried about them or judging them, but rather because I know that if they could see themselves clearly at that moment, they wouldn't like what they'd find staring back at them. Mostly, though, I cringe because I know that that was me, and I fear for the

impression I must have left with countless people as I slurred my way through a story no one cared about.

So does this mean just no more gay bars for Ken? Sober friends provided the best roadmap. There is no doubt that the act of going out is different than it used to be. The habit of going by

myself to the bar, having a couple of cocktails and an hour – with a promise to be home by midnight – turning into 3 in the morning is a thing of the past. My expectations have changed from the bar being the final and sole destination to the bar being a stop along the way, a layover on the way to or from somewhere else.

And it is a place to go with friends. Nothing is more boring than sitting around a bar alone waiting for enough chemistry to happen to meet someone. That was true when I was drinking; the wait now would be excruciating. I also have less patience to wait it out. With a clear mind, I can see quickly whether or not I'm going to enjoy myself and I'm much more likely to leave within the first 15 minutes than I ever was when I'd have a drink in my hand.

As I'm driving home after bolting from the discomfort, I have felt whimsical and sad at the passing of that period of time, when evening of cocktails, cruising and music would set me happily spinning for hours a night, into the early morning. It is all only made okay when I get home, go to bed, and wake up the next morning.

With a clear head, a calm stomach and a well-rested body, it all makes sense again.

Ken Kundis is an Orlando writer and native who can be reached at [pavlovich0131@aol.com](mailto:pavlovich0131@aol.com).

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# VIEWPOINT



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When I was a young man heading for Vietnam from Philadelphia, I had the opportunity to visit my sister and her young family, who were living on the West Coast at the time. The night before I was to board my flight to go overseas was a restless one, as some can understand.

While I was tossing and turning all of a sudden the bedroom door opened. I couldn't see anything but I heard a rustling on the floor and then all of a sudden next to my ear I heard the soft sound a young child saying "ribbit." That was the voice of my oldest niece, who at the time was about 4 years old.

My niece grew up to be one of the smartest people I know. She is a nurse and I spoke with her the other night. She wanted to talk seriously with me. She has been watching the Terry Schiavo case and was wondering if I had a "living will."

I told her I did and that my living partner

is in charge if I should be incapacitated. She was very concerned about this for two reasons. Would Florida courts respect my wishes since we are gay and did I define exactly what I wanted regarding a feeding tube?


I believe the current Florida courts would honor my will that states that my partner is the one who has the right to carry out my wishes. My niece indicated that I needed to place into my living will that a feeding tube should be removed if there is "no hope," according to qualified physicians vs. hocus-pocus religious fanatic quacks.

I have made those changes and also inserted that as a Florida resident I fully appreciate the good work of people who work in the field of exterminating bugs, but, under no circumstances should a termite exterminator from Texas have any say in my life and death decision.

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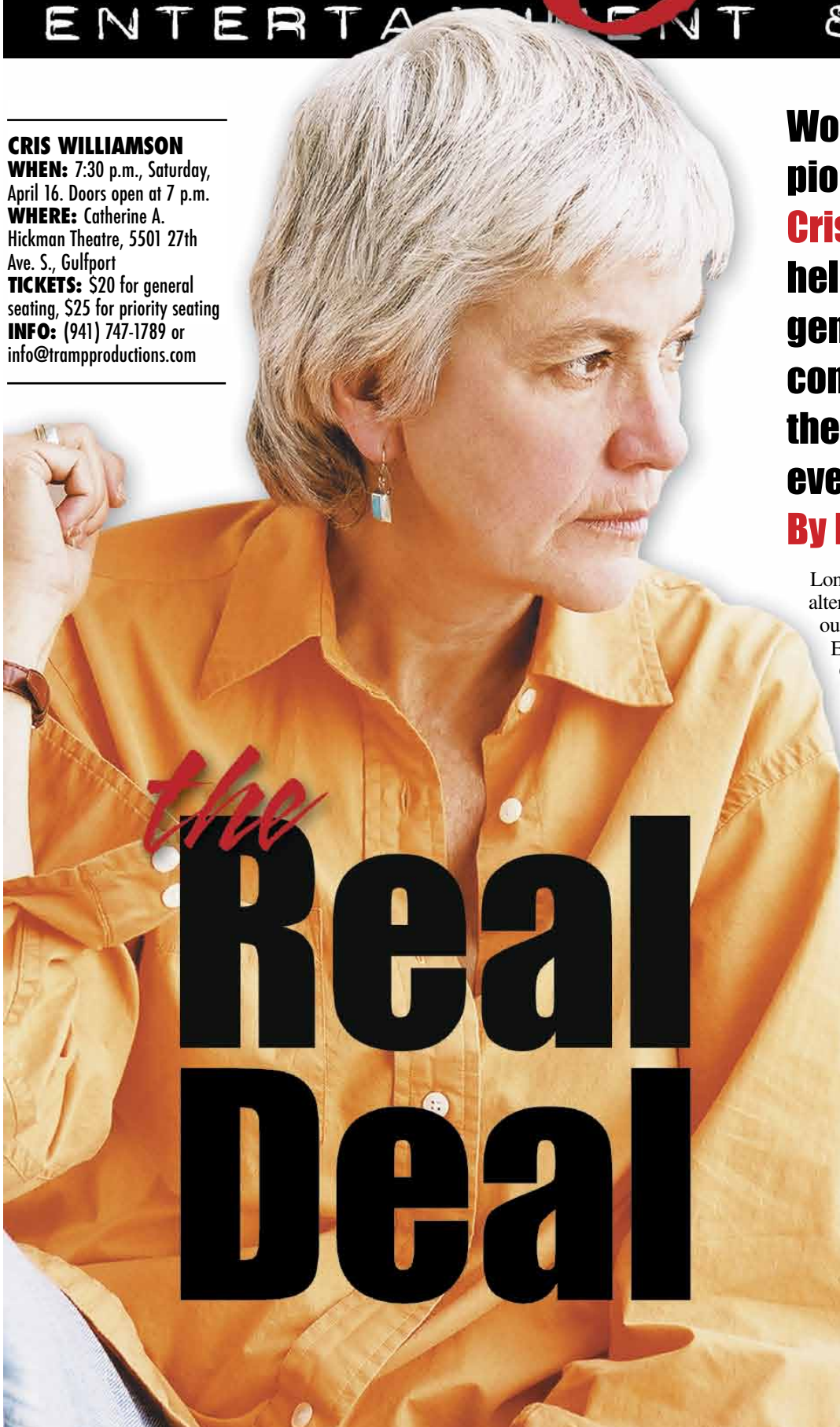
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## Women's music pioneer

**Cris Williamson** helped start the genre — and continues to fulfill the dream with every concert

**By Margaret Nolan**

Long before there was a thriving indie alternative music market or successful out-lesbian rockers, Melissa

Etheridge, k.d. lang, the Indigo Girls, Ani DiFranco or even *The L Word*'s Leisha Hailey, lesbian singer-songwriter Cris Williamson pioneered the way by co-founding a record label and defining a new art form for the genre of "women's music."

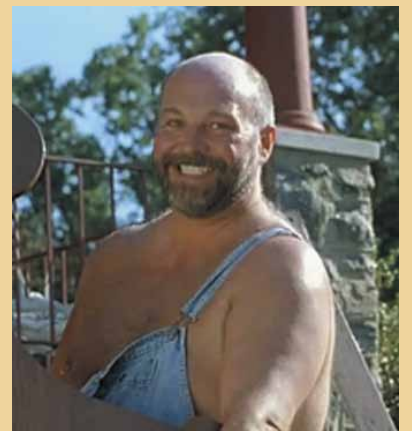
But don't ask her to define women's music.

"How do you define fire?" she asks back. "It's not so much a genre but was more a form of consciousness — how women think and feel and relate and deal with power."

For her avid fans, old and new, who flock to her sold-out concerts and who have bought her 20-plus albums, Williamson's music and powerful lyrics feed the spirit and provide words and imagery that soothes, enlightens and inspires. Her music has and continues to stir souls and open minds with music that celebrates human strength and resilience. Bonnie Raitt, a frequent collaborator and fan, has said that Williamson's music was "like hearing honey

Continued on page 41

## SMARTER THAN THE AVERAGE BEAR



*A Dirty Shame's* Momma Bear, David Dunham, will MC F.U.R. Fest

**By Kirk Hartlage**

**ORLANDO** - Central Florida's gay community has certainly become familiar with its bear subset, much of it thanks to the influx of bears, grizzlies, otters, wolves, cubs and other hirsute homosexuals each October during Bear Bust — one of the largest events of its kind anywhere.

But many don't know the Bears of Central Florida also host a similar event each Spring. Though smaller in size and attendance, the Florida Ursine Retreat, or F.U.R., weekend April 15-17 attracts much of the same beastly crowd as its fall Bear Bust brother. The bears are also a charitable organization, donating funds to local needy causes, including the American Cancer Society, Camp Challenge and Joy MCC's

Continued on page 45

## WATERCOLORS



## WATERCRESS SARASOTA: PRIMED FOR A METRO MAKEOVER

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

**SARASOTA** is a small fishing village located on the west coast of Florida, and it is to there that I hied myself recently. To avail yourself of gay life, you ask me? No, not at all; I get enough of that in Orlando. I went to spend the day with my family, who live and labor in that isolated burg, far from the metropolitan din and excitement experienced in real cities.

Yes... Sarasota is a sleepy little town, awash in art (all those Ringlings), precious boutiques (St. Armand's Circle), and sand dollars (Siesta Key). It's got a potentially quaint downtown which could really be made into something along the lines of Winter Park's Park Avenue, or even Orlando's Thornton Park, but noooo ... and why?

Because the vertical mausoleums that sprout like fungi within the tonier districts tend to be populated by the likes of Mr. and Mrs. Drooping Stuff-Drawers — and they don't like noise. Witness the contretemps when a group of downtown merchants held their version of Third Thursday; a children's choir was told to stop performing by police after the Stuff-Drawers called to complain about the din.

Yes, Sarasota is the sort of town held

in the vise grip of men who wear green golf pants with little frogs imprinted on them, and they can usually be seen escorting slightly younger women whose lipstick matches the pink hibiscus on their Lilly Pulitzer skirts. It's definitely in need of new blood, what social writer Richard Florida calls the creative class: young, artistic types whose vision of a thriving city usually doesn't limit itself to miles of bocce fields and shuffle-board courts.

I wrote to the folks at *Sarasota-Manatee Business Magazine* and asked them to come see what we're doing in Orlando, after I read that a downtown development director had quit in frustration. They expressed interest, so let's see what happens. They're getting there, slowly. There are lots of cool little shops and great bookstores, but I'm sure the active residents would like to see somewhat more going on at night. A little night music, maybe.

**SOUTH CAROLINA** is not as gay friendly as one would hope, having been

run for so many years by people like Strom Thurmond. Straight out of a B-movie featuring restless bloodhounds, sweating women wearing low-cut blouses, and men whose idea of fun is hunting rats at the dump, Strom's Palmetto State has lingered for years in a comatose haze which rarely shows signs of lifting.

And what a moral and upstanding guy he was — we all know Big Daddy's penchant for straying. Politics aside, there's a simple beauty to be seen in South Carolina. Driving through it in 1970 with my aunt and uncle, my 14-year-old eyes were keen to sight any signs of racial prejudice, but instead they were captivated by rampant kudzu snaking along fences and devouring trees and telephone poles, forming haunting green sculptures alongside U.S. Highway

301.

We stayed a night at a monstrosity of a motel complex called South of the Border, and I was amazed at all the dirty books for sale in the gift shop. And I didn't realize I'd picked a guy up in the lobby until I hurried back to our room after smiling at him while browsing through brochures and then realized he was following me.

The next morning, a Sunday, my aunt insisted that we go to mass, and so we had to drive the Chevy Nova into Dillon and find a Catholic church, which was like looking for a needle you-know-where. My

aunt had her hair in curlers, and was wearing shorts and a shell blouse when we went up to communion; boy, did we get looks!

It was very dramatic. I'm sure they still talk about the Yankee tramp who traipsed through mass wearing nothing but her two-piece crocheted bikini. A few years ago a friend told me his mom was a Miss South Carolina from years ago, and she would sometimes make him stay home and watch soap operas with her.

The last I heard of South Carolina was when I was in Savannah, and every drag queen at the One Bar was introduced as coming direct from Columbia.

**SOUTHERN NIGHTS** is apparently heading toward a new incarnation, and the Cactus Club is casting an eye toward upscale places like Pulse and Savoy in a desire to be reborn into a more — shall we say — discriminating manner. Well, I'm very prescient.

Years ago I'd wondered why there were no swank nightclubs in Orlando, but now it seems like everybody wants to pass a few hours with their beakies dipping into Manhattans. Do you know why? Because we're a lot older, that's why. We're finally being catered to! We've lived the disco years, weathered the 1980s, caromed through the 1990s, ushered in the Aughts and now it's time to finally sit down quietly with friends for a few drinks. Bottoms up, I say!

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

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# WATERCOLORS



## AMAZONS OUR FAMILY JUST KEEPS GROWING AND GROWING

By Karen S. Murray-Parker

I'm sitting on my back deck by the pond with an early morning cup of tea, musing on how far I have come from two years ago, when I'd decided to be single the rest of my years, travel the world and forsake serious relationships.

It was a classic case of self-delusion.

Boy, am I glad. Back then I was fresh out of a seven-year relationship that had been far more frustrating and depressing than it was fulfilling and emotionally satisfying.

In retrospect, Alta, my new partner, finds it hard to understand how my ex-girlfriend and I ever got together and wonders what in the world we had in common. The other day she suggested that my ex might have had some kind of energy drain on me, which considering how tired I felt through most of that relationship, might have some credence.

Anyway, a year or so later, I met Alta and I knew that she and I would become fast friends and hopefully lovers. Since we were both cautious due to having been burned more than once, we spent a lot of time getting to know one another marveling over how much we *did* have in common. We still do.

She couldn't be more different from my last partner and is so like me in so many ways that it is almost surreal. But she is still an individual and we don't always agree about things.

Take my sailboat for instance. It's a 30-foot Pearson that I've had since 1990. I'm a licensed captain and take people out for charters or sailing lessons when I'm not in school or working my day job. Or at least I was, until Hurricane Charley blew through last summer. When I got back from St. Martin's in the Caribbean, I found my boat de-masted and badly damaged but at least floating. It was a sorry sight and enough to depress even an optimist like me.

Alta thinks the boat is way beyond repair and I should just give up and junk it. But the boat represents my freedom on the water and I'm just too stubborn to give it up. I have no idea how I'm going to repair it but I refuse to give it up.

She sees the boat and just feels frustrated there is no way we can go out sailing on it right now. I see the boat and remember many days sailing under a good wind down in the islands and know what can be again. But what is wonderful about Alta is that even though she thinks it is a hopeless case, she puts aside her doubts and rows out to the

boat with me every couple of months to check it out, help clean it and if necessary bail any water that's seeped in through the damages on the deck. She does this stoically and with a minimum of complaints. I love her for that alone.

I shouldn't be surprised at her generosity of spirit but I always am. When we first met I had four cats and a daughter. In past relationships both had been an issue. Alta took to the cats and daughter with ease. They just seamlessly flowed into one another. She has two sons and I hit it off with both of them the first time we met. We have become one big extended family that just keeps getting bigger and bigger, even though that wasn't the plan at first.

Since we both love to travel, we agreed that four cats was about all we could handle. But I'm an animal lover and so is she, so once we bought a home large enough, we have filled it with the four cats, two rabbits, one bird, a pond full of fish and are in the process of looking for a dog. Now we are going to make a lot of

petsitters rich.

The house is becoming a lush garden because we both love making things grow and creating a beautiful home filled with light and color. We can't go to a garden center together without packing the car to bursting with plants (lemon trees *can* fit into small hatchbacks if you are creative) and busting our budgets. Our well-ordered lives that we had both so carefully planned out prior to our meeting is now topsy-turvy and we love it.

To add to the general chaos, my daughter is moving in with us this summer to finish college. Alta was the one who suggested the idea and this speaks a lot for her and why I love her so much. The family just keeps growing and this house is so filled with love and laughter I look back on the person I was two years ago and can't believe how naïve I was. I'm one lucky lesbian.

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](mailto:Dolphinwahini@aol.com).

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## WATERCOLORS

## THRILL RIDE

Openly gay 'American Idol' contestant Jim Verraros finds his debut album to be a Rollercoaster By Gregg Shapiro

**NEW YORK** - Singer and songwriter Jim Verraros made headlines a few years ago as an openly gay finalist on the first season of *American Idol*. He is about to make waves again when his solo debut album, *Rollercoaster*, hits shelves later this month. At around the same time, Verraros will be seen in the gay-themed feature film, *Eating Out*.

Verraros recently chatted about his new CD, his movie role and, of course, the show that put his name in lights the first time.

**WATERMARK:** Your new album, *Rollercoaster*, opens with the suitably named dance track, *Move*. I often wish that we heard more gay artists being played in dance clubs. Is that a motivating factor for you in recording dance tracks?

**JIM VERRAROS:** To be honest with you, being an openly gay male going to those clubs, I'm constantly disappointed in a lot of the music. I'm such a huge fan of vocal artists and people who can sing, quite frankly. It's funny to see that these gay men are oblivious to vocals.

Clearly, you go to a club to dance and

if the beat moves you, you dance. With me, I wanted to write songs that were a) vocally challenging and b) different from the rest of the stuff that's out there. There are a lot of Idols who haven't tapped into the whole gay fan base and with me it was really important to do that because there are gay men who can relate to me in a lot of ways.

**There is also a Latin-pop feel to the disc, on songs such as *Forbidden Love* and *You're Getting Crazy*, both of which include Spanish language lyrics.**

There's something about salsa and Latin music that is so addictive and makes you want to dance. There's a lot of sexual energy that comes from songs like that. Again, it's just me trying to stand out from the crowd, as far as Idols are concerned. I think a lot of reviewers have said things about Idols still coming into their own or trying to find their voice. I think that I, as a

musician, cannot be boxed into one genre. I'm influenced by so many different people, ranging from Tina Turner to Janet Jackson to George Michael.

***Hold On* and *One More Time* are reminiscent of his *Faith*-era work. Is he a major influence?**

Absolutely. I have been in love with him since I was young.

**In addition to producing *Rollercoaster*, Gabe Lopez co-wrote or wrote all of the songs. What makes your working relationship work?**

There's a certain kind of chemistry. He knew from the minute he met me the direction in which he was going to take me. At

the time, I wanted to emulate a Norah Jones/Harry Connick, Jr. type of thing. He said, "Maybe we can do that for a song, but I don't think that's where we are going to take you." That falls into that whole safe genre — very ho-

hum. It fills a niche, but he saw edge within my voice and I had so much versatility that we took the path of the younger George

**Are you prepared for the demands of balancing a music and movie career, especially with your movie *Eating Out* about to open in theaters across the country?**

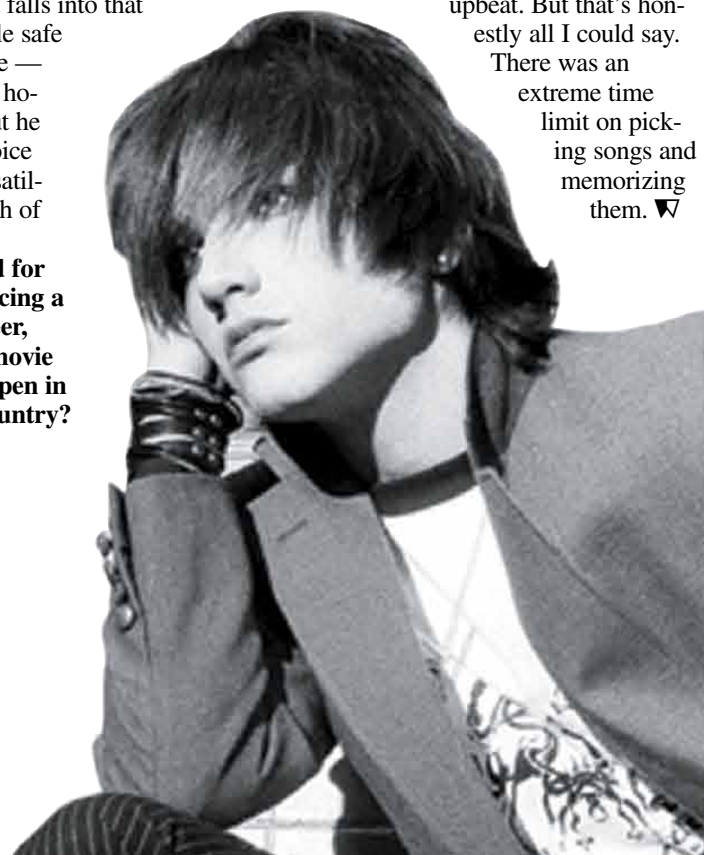
Singer-songwriter JIM VERRAROS said he wanted to record dance tunes that were different from everything else out there.

I think a lot of kids who are doing the whole double-career thing, like Hillary Duff, Lindsay Lohan and Jesse McCartney, and even Jennifer Lopez, are all kind of mediocre at what they do. I want to be amazing at what I do.

I don't want to take on anything that I can't handle or that I can't do to the best of my abilities. I remember watching this interview with Hillary Duff where she said that she didn't write any songs on her first record because she didn't have any time. To me, that's just a lame excuse. How can you be a musician and not want to write your life experiences? She's only 16, but I'm sure she's lived through some kind of hell or struggle.

**Looking back on your experience as a contestant on *American Idol* was there anything you would have done differently?**

I say that I would. I think that I would have picked a different song. For the top ten competition, I probably would have tried something more upbeat. But that's honestly all I could say. There was an extreme time limit on picking songs and memorizing them. ▼



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# WATERCOLORS

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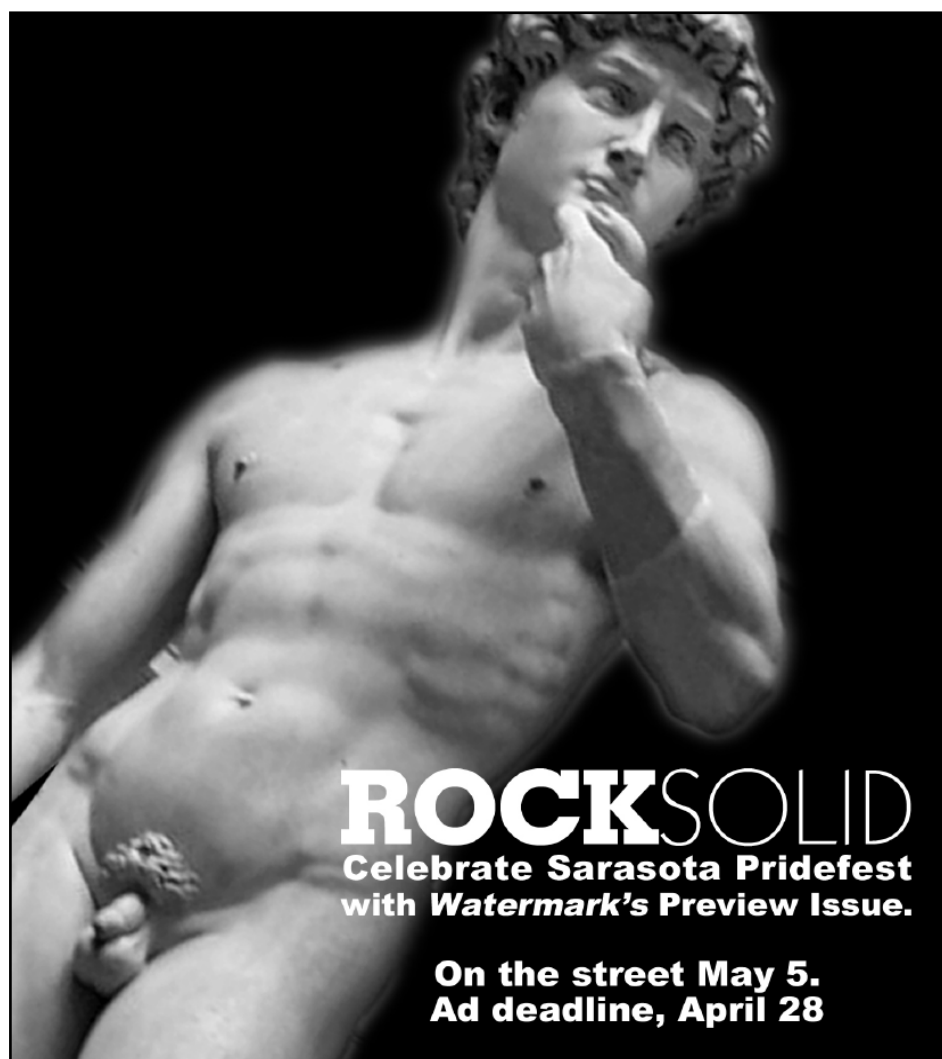
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## WATERCOLORS

# DRAMA QUEEN

Morgan Fairchild may play a seductress in *The Graduate*, but she's an activist off-stage By Kirk Hartlage

**ORLANDO** - Though numerous actors can be stereotyped by the roles they play, in many cases those roles are a complete opposite of their true personalities. The case has never been truer than with actress Morgan Fairchild. Known for her brash, sassy and — may we say it? — *bitchy* characters, the woman behind those roles is about as far removed from those qualities as the Right Wing is to reality.

Speaking with *Watermark* by phone from Fort Lauderdale, Fairchild comes across as down-to-earth, well spoken and extremely educated. Matter-of-factly using scientific terms with five and six syllables while discussing the AIDS epidemic is near cause to make a gay college educated journalist re-research the disease, just for his own self-knowledge and awareness.

Fairchild is nearing the end of a seven-month national tour with the comedic stage version of *The Graduate*, which seduces Orlando April 5-10 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center. Fairchild plays the pivotal role of Mrs. Robinson, the woman who seduces an innocent college grad who

## THE GRADUATE

**WHO:** Starring Morgan Fairchild

**WHERE:** Bob Carr Performing Arts Center

**WHEN:** Through April 10

**TICKETS:** Available by calling (407) 839-3900 or online at [broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://broadwayacrossamerica.com).

then falls in love with her daughter. The character is the latest in a string of out-there brassy dames Fairchild has portrayed, from soap opera vixens in such 1980s soaps as *Falcon Crest*, *Dallas* and *Flamingo Road* to memorable guest appearances on television shows from *Roseanne* to *Friends*.

But no role has put Fairchild as much in the spotlight as her current one: the show features a scene where Fairchild briefly exposes herself *au naturel*. Here, with *Watermark*, she also exposes her sense of humor and draw to gay audiences.

**WATERMARK:** You've more than endeared yourself to the gay community

through your work in AIDS education. Among other things, you've appeared on *Nightline* and spoken for former Surgeon-Gen. C. Everett Koop at various AIDS events.

**MORGAN FAIRCHILD:** I wanted to be a doctor as a kid and I've always followed science very closely. I was tracking AIDS before it had a name, when it was just a cluster of 13 cases in New York and then 11 in San Francisco.

They were putting me on *Nightline* because they didn't have anyone else at the time that could explain it on a layman's level. There was a backlash on the gay community, which was completely unfair. It's a disease we have to deal with as a society and not with discrimination.

**Where do you think we are with all of this today?**

They've made more progress — and faster — than any other major disease. It's also helped open up new scientific fields. The progress in research is moving really well. But I'm

very concerned about the amount of apathy some have developed: older people through burnout and younger people through a lack of understanding, throwing caution to the wind because of the new drugs available. There's an increase in infection rates and a rollback in some of the behaviors. I'm not trying to be anybody's mom, telling people how to live their lives. But crystal meth is causing rates to rise.

I worry about young gay people who didn't see the early devastation and think it's OK to go with the flow. You can't do it with this disease, or with malaria, or any other disease. You have to look at it as a doctor, as an epidemiologist. There are easy ways to keep the rates of infections down — and we all know what those are — and people have got to keep doing those to stop the rates from skyrocketing.

**You come across as very impassioned about this.**

Well, sometimes you talk to younger gay men who think it's all fine. It ain't fine! Who knows how long the current medications will keep working? Whatever it is — for liberty, for health — you must be vigilant. That's true also when it comes to maintaining your rights and way of life.

Continued on page 35



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# WATERCOLORS

**DRAMA** from page 34

Besides your work in AIDS education, you've also endeared yourself to the gay community through your love of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia, which leads me to ask: Morgan, are you secretly a gay man?

(Laughs) Yeah – you figured it out. RuPaul and I have been pulling this off for years. The hormones are really good.

I identified with Marilyn for her vulnerability, and there was a certain sensitivity underneath what she portrayed in public. There were a lot of icons from the 1950s, but Marilyn connected with so many people because she had that sense of vulnerability that a lot of us – me and a lot of gay men – connected with. She was like the little kid that just wants to be loved.

**You're practically the queen of dramas – both daytime and nighttime.**

A lot of people consider what I was doing as a drama, but a lot of my work is comedy, just not a traditional sitcom with a set-up and a punchline. A lot of my characters have been what I brought to the show.

Traditionally, there's more thought gone in to the good guys, who are usually the protagonist. When you're the villain you've got to figure out your own background.

**How do some places react to the nudity?**

Opening night of the tour was in Fayetteville, Ark., and they *cheered*. You have to realize that it's a university town – it's much hipper than you'd think. They got all the jokes, the subtleties, and as an actor, that's encouraging.

**Do you ever pretend the audience isn't there, especially when you do the nude scene?**

You can never go on auto-pilot. People think you can but if you do, you die. The audience can tell. You just try to find the pockets if the audience that seem to get it more than others, the ones that laugh more, and play to those people.

**I don't imagine it's as glamorous on the road as one might expect.**

No, most of it is spent in the hotel. Today, I'm doing press all day, and spending some time in the gym. When you have a nude scene it's a great motivator to work out and to skip pasta. You really do live a boring existence on tour like this. On your day off you go to the airport and change cities.

**You just have another month of being on the road doing the show. What do you have planned afterwards? What are you doing on that first day after the tour?**

Actually, I have a dentist appointment the very first day I get back! It'll be nice to be in my home again, back in my garden. Have lunch with my friends. I'd love to get a good massage, especially after all these nights in these heels. ▼

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## WATERCOLORS

## CALENDAR of Events

## ART &amp; EXHIBITS

## ORLANDO

## THE WHIMSICAL WONDEROUS WORLD OF WILLIAM WASSIL

An exhibit sure to bring out the kid in everyone, this retrospective exhibit at the Maitland Art Center is a reflection of Wassil's artistic nature, life experiences, observations and deep sense of humor. Chief among those life experiences is Wassil's past work as a visual art administrator for the Orange County Public School System. The exhibition runs through April 24. Admission to the Maitland Art Center is free, though donations are accepted. The Center is located at 231 W. Packwood Ave. For more information, call (407) 539-2181 or visit [www.maitlandartcenter.org](http://www.maitlandartcenter.org).

## CONCERTS

## ORLANDO

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

The Orlando Philharmonic pays

tribute to the Olympics and other sporting activities in this, the final program in the 2004-2005 Darden Family Series. Music from John Williams' stirring *Olympic Fanfare* and *Bugler's Dream* (familiar to all as the music used to signal the start of the games) highlight the program. Also on the program is *Casey at the Bat*, inspired by a famous poem written by Ernest L. Thayer. Not only will you catch great music from the orchestra, but you'll also be able to partake in a variety of events prior to the 3 p.m. performance including basketball throwing, batting practice, mini-golf and all those other sports things your father attempted to do with you the back yard. With the help of Philharmonic musicians, you can also try your hand at a variety of instruments from the orchestra and take a turn as conductor of the orchestra at the popular conducting station. The concert will be Sunday, April 17, at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre and pre-concert activities begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are available through the Philharmonic's box office at (407) 770-0071 or visit [www.orlandophil.org](http://www.orlandophil.org).

## MARTHA WASH

The headline entertainer at the Parliament House's Orlando White Party, Wash is indeed the undisputed queen of clubland. Her songs are often ones of inspiration, thanks in no small part to her gospel upbringing. They're songs that in some ways have mirrored her career with it's highest of highs and lowest of lows. Wash has long had a strong connection with gay audiences. She was first heard performing background vocals for 70's singing sensation Sylvester, arguably the first openly gay performer of the disco era. Her vocals in *It's Raining Men* have insured her place in the Gay Anthems Hall of Fame while her later hits, both accredited and not have connected with dance floor audiences everywhere. Wash sings live in the courtyard at 1 a.m.

## GULFPORT

## CRIS WILLIAMSON

Tramp Productions, which brought comedienne Kate Clinton to town last fall, will present An Intimate Evening with Cris Williamson on Saturday, April 16. Proceeds of the concert will be shared with ALSO Out Youth. Williamson, a pioneer in the womyn's music movement, will perform tunes from her new CD, *Real Deal*, in her concert at the Catherine A. Hickman Theatre in Gulfport. Priority seating tickets are \$25, general admission tickets are \$20 and all tickets can be purchased by calling (941) 747-1789.

## TAMPA

## THE KINSEY SICKS

America's favorite dragapella beauty shop quartet comes to town for a special fund-raiser concert for the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Combining award winning a cappella singing, sharp satire and over-the-top drag, The Kinsey Sicks have developed a large and loyal following. The men behind the dresses are actually an interesting lot. They include a Harvard-trained civil rights lawyer who authored Clinton's HIV policy during the 1992 presidential campaign, and a University of Chicago-trained lawyer and linguist who authored Chicago's gay rights ordinance, passed into law in 1989. The Sicks take the stage at 8 p.m., Friday, April 15, at the Centro Asturiano Theatre in Ybor City. Tickets are available at Tones & Treasures and at (813) 404-5818.

Got wood? You will at *The Whimsical Wondrous World of William Wassil* exhibit at the Maitland Art Center.

## THEATRE

## ORLANDO

## THE LADIES OF EOLA HEIGHTS

On stage together for the first time, Miss Sammy joins Michael Wanzie, Doug Ba'aser and Tommy Wooten for the latest saga of Wanzie's Orlando anthologies. We can only hope the upcoming Gardens resort names one of their buildings ... or storage units ... after the famed trailer park so often eulogized in Wanzie's productions. Comedy, drama, lip-sync and bitchiness culminate at 8 p.m. at the Parliament House Footlight Theatre. The show has been extended again through April 16. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved at (407) 540-0317.



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**Fore Play** Emerald City 9pm-3am **dj Jay-R**

FRIDAY 5/27

**Bounce 1** Hilton on the Beach 4pm-8pm **dj Tracy Young**

**HURRICANE** Hilton on the Beach 10pm-3am **dj Kimberly S.**

SATURDAY 5/28

**Bounce 2** Hilton on the Beach 4pm-8pm **dj Alyson Calagna**

**Forbidden 1** "the girl party" Flounders on the Beach 9pm-3am **dj Mary Pappas**

**Sweat** Emerald City 9pm-3am **dj Roland Belmares**

**Spellbound 1** the Annex 3am-9am **dj David Knapp**

SUNDAY 5/29

**Abracadabra** 10pm-4am **dj Manny Lehman**

**Forbidden 2** "the girl party" Flounders on the Beach 9pm-3am **dj Mary Pappas**

**Spellbound 2** the Annex 3am-9am **dj Barry Harris**

MONDAY 5/30

**Climax** Emerald City 9pm-3am **dj Dewight Barkley**

Illuminations for the weekend provided by: **Ross Berger** and **Parker**

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## O R G A N I Z A T I O N S



## ORGANIZATIONS &amp; MEETINGS

## DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

**BREAKTHROUGH**

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

**BREVARD LESBIANS**

Lesbian social group. E-mail penny@digital.net or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrevardLesbians>.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

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

**DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION**

[www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm](http://www.gaydaytona.com/DBRBA.htm) or e-mail us for more information at [gntlbear@comcast.net](mailto:gntlbear@comcast.net).

**FUN COAST BEARS**

Social group that meets the 3rd Suns each month at 3 p.m. at Rumors on Nova Road, Holly Hill. E-mail [bears@funcoastbears.org](mailto:bears@funcoastbears.org) or go to [www.funcoastbears.org](http://www.funcoastbears.org) for more info.

**GALBA**

GLBT group. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University student group. (904) 226-7222. [www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html](http://www.db.erau.edu/campus/student/clubs/galba/index.html).

**GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP**

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

**GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD**

Guild of gay-friendly businesses. Meets every third Mon.; 7 p.m. (386) 322-8003; [www.gaydaytona.com](http://www.gaydaytona.com).

**OUTREACH, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. Offers testing, counseling and support groups. (904) 255-5569; [www.outreachinc.org](http://www.outreachinc.org).

**OVER THE RIVER**

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

**PFLAG DAYTONA**

Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Meets third Tues.; 7 p.m.; Hope MCC in Daytona, 500 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US1). (386) 322-4169; [support@pflagdaytona.org](mailto:support@pflagdaytona.org); [www.pflagdaytona.org](http://www.pflagdaytona.org).

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**SPECTRUM**

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

## ORLANDO

**AA WAKE UP CALL-FRIDAY**

Twelve-step AA program geared towards diversity and fellowship. Meets Fri.; 7 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL-SATURDAY**

12-step AA group. Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.; GLBCC (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**AA WAKE UP CALL - SUNDAY**

Twelve-step program. Meets each Sun.; 10 a.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Social group for bears and their admirers. Meets second Sun.; 4 p.m.; Full Moon Saloon. (407) 896-0239; [www.bocf.org](http://www.bocf.org).

**BMCO**

Big Mens Club of Orlando. Social club for big men and their admirers. Visit [communities.msn.com/BIGMANSCLUBO-FORLANDO/whatsnew.msnnw](http://communities.msn.com/BIGMANSCLUBO-FORLANDO/whatsnew.msnnw) or call Ricky at (407) 422-6040 or (407) 310-7612.

**BOOKLOVERS**

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

**CENTAUR**

Central Florida AIDS United Resources. Offers counseling, support groups, educational programs and HIV testing. Phone (407) 849-1452. Hotline: (407) 835-4130.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA GAY & LESBIAN LAW ASSOCIATION**

Networking group for GLBT legal professionals. Meets second Thursday of the month. Contact Larry Smith (407) 838-4052; [LSmith@Cabaniss.net](mailto:LSmith@Cabaniss.net)

**CODA**

Twelve-step program dealing with codependency. Meets Thurs. at 7 p.m. at the Center. (407) 228-8272.

**COLAGE**

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

**COUNTRY SATURDAY NIGHTS**

GLBT country music, dancing, refreshments. For more info: visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~countrysaturdaynight/>

**CRYSTAL CLEAR**

Crystal Meth Anonymous provides support, fellowship, and creation of a safe environment in which to stay clean. Saturdays 4-5:30 p.m., GLBCC, 946 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. (407) 228-8272

**DIGNITY**

Meets every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Center. Come and celebrate mass and enjoy a social hour afterward.

**FLORIDA GREAT OUTDOORS**

A social outdoor recreation group for the GLBT community. Check [www.floridagreatoutdoors.org](http://www.floridagreatoutdoors.org) for a schedule.

**GBT MEN**

Meets at the Center every Weds. at 7:30 p.m. We are a support / discussion group for adult gay, bisexual, or transgendered men.

**GLBCC-THE CENTER**

Hosts various social groups and offers programs assisting the GLBT community. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**GLBT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY**

Meets at 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month at GLBCC; [kenkaz@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kenkaz@cfl.rr.com).

**GLBT YACHT CLUB**

Meet other GLBT boat owners for day trips to Disappearing Island and other destinations. Call John (407) 353-5529.

**GNOMES**

Gay Naturist Orlando Males Evolving Socially. For information visit [www.naturalmales.org/gnomes](http://www.naturalmales.org/gnomes) or call (407) 540-9391.

**GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES**

A social group for same-gender couples. Call (407) 246-4726 or visit [www.greaterorlandocouples.org](http://www.greaterorlandocouples.org).

**HARBOR HOUSE**

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

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

Meets fourth Tues of the month at The Center at 7 p.m. [www.uniteHRCFL.org](http://www.uniteHRCFL.org)

**LAMBDA CAMPING**

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

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF ORLANDO**

Inclusive, diverse Republicans. Meets first Tues.; 7 p.m.; Orange County Republican Headquarters, Royal Oak Village Shopping Center, 148 S. Semoran Blvd. (407) 896-7745; [www.lcorlando.com](http://www.lcorlando.com).

**LONG YANG CLUB ORLANDO**

International social group for single men and couples of Asian and various ethnic backgrounds. Visit [www.longyangclub.org](http://www.longyangclub.org), email [orlando@longyangclub.org](mailto:orlando@longyangclub.org) or call Billy at (407) 908-1122.

**METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

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

**NA RAINBOW RECOVERY**

Twelve-step narcotics recovery program geared toward gay community. Meets Wed.; 7:30 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 142 E. Jackson. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**OPEX**

Pansexual support group. Meets first Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**ORLANDO GAY CHORUS**

Community chorus; welcomes everyone. Meets Wed.; John & Rita Lowndes building. (407) 841-SING; [www.orlandogaychorus.org](http://www.orlandogaychorus.org).

**ORLANDO GAY PARENTS GROUP**

Play groups, social events, networking for parents. Meets first Saturday of the month. (407) 420-9955; [boyds@earthlink.net](mailto:boyds@earthlink.net).

**ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS**

O-QUAC. Social/resources group for GLBT academics and intellectuals. [cschippe@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:cschippe@mail.ucf.edu); [tpugh@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:tpugh@mail.ucf.edu).

**ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB**

A gay men's group to network with other professionals meets monthly. Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/flausaguy/myhomepage/club.html>.

**ORLANDO YOUTH ALLIANCE**

Central Florida's GLBTQ youth group meets each Tuesday night at 6:15 p.m. For meeting location, call (407) 599-7453.

**PFLAG**

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

**POLY-CENTRAL**

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

**PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

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

**RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

GLBT group of Democrats and Independents. Meets fourth Mon.; 6:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**RAINBOW SPIRIT**

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

**REFLECTIONS**

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

**S.O.E.L. -- SISTASHOOD OF EBONY LESBIANS**

African-American women come together to grow socially and emotionally. Meets first Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. <http://lesbianlit.meetup.com/85/>.

**TRANS CENTRAL STATION**

A transgender, transsexual, transvestite, cross dressers, & gender benders discussion group meets first Tues., 7 p.m., The Center. (407) 228-8272.

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sun.; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org).

**UCF GLBSU**

University of Central Florida Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union. Meets Tue.; 8 p.m.; Student Union Building on Main Campus. [ucfglbsu@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfglbsu@ucf.edu).

**THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE**

Social/support group for all womyn of all orientations. Meets Thurs.; 7:30 p.m.; GLBCC. (407) 228-8272; [www.glbcc.org](http://www.glbcc.org).

**TRIANGLE TEES**

A gay & lesbian golfing group that works with area courses to get special tee times and group rates. [www.triangletees.com](http://www.triangletees.com).

**TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Levi/leather/uniform social group. Meets first Sunday of the month; 1 p.m.; GLBCC. (321) 549-0713; [www.tridentcfl.org](http://www.tridentcfl.org)

**WILLOW**

Social group for women who live in Lake County. Meets 2nd Sun.; Mt. Dora Chamber of Commerce. (352) 383-2165.

**WOMEN HERE AND THERE**

A group of lesbians and gay-friendly women. To learn more about WHAT, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/W-H-A-T>.

**ZEN SITTING GROUP**

A place for GLBT Zen Practitioners. Second and fourth Tues. of each month at 7 p.m. at Avalon on Hillcrest. For more info visit [www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter](http://www.lonekimono.org/ZenAtTheCenter).

## POLK COUNTY

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Dining out, meditation, movies and more. For more info, visit: [www.geocities.com/caulhunter\\_98/BNAS.html](http://www.geocities.com/caulhunter_98/BNAS.html)

**POLK COUNTY GAY LESBIAN ALLIANCE**

Check its Web site, [www.pcglgla.org](http://www.pcglgla.org), for activities and announcements.

**POLK COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN INFO LINE**

For the GLBT community in Polk County, (863) 229-8126.

**POLK COUNTY HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Mission, 180 E. Central Ave., Winter Haven. Call Gary (863) 401-3204 or Merry at (863) 606-9288.

## SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

**ALSO OUT YOUTH**

GLBTIQ group for youth between the ages of 13-21. Drop-In Center. Email: [program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org](mailto:program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org), (941) 951-ALSO (2576). Youth crisis pager (941) 951-ALSO (2576).

**CHICK HAPPY HOUR**

Women get together monthly for cocktails and socializing. Call (941) 544-0945 or write to ChickHappyHour@aol.com for details.

**DYKE NIGHT LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUP**

Lesbians ages 21-35 and friends gathering. Meets first Sun. of each month. [program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org](mailto:program.coordinator@alsoyouth.org) or call (941) 951-2576.

**GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE**

Provides information about local faith, social, support organizations and events to the GLBT community. (941) 923-INFO.

**GLAD**

A Manatee Community College social and support group. <http://hometown.aol.com/mccglad/myhomepage/gaylesbian.html>.

**GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB**

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." [GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com](mailto:GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com) or [jimbofla@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbofla@yahoo.com).

**GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS**

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941) 377-9043; [Gulfcoastmenschorus.org](mailto:Gulfcoastmenschorus.org).

**PFLAG SARASOTA**

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

**PRIMETIMERS SARASOTA**

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

**READING GROUP**

Gay men's reading group; fourth Weds. each month. (941) 359-8212.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD**

Meets third Mon.; 6 p.m.; Quay. (941) 953-8419; [www.swfbg.org](http://www.swfbg.org).

**SUNSET BEACH WALK**

Meet Wednesdays by 6:30 p.m. (Daylight Savings Hours only) at the Siesta Beach Pavilion.

**TRINITY CHARITIES, INC.**

HIV/AIDS service organization. (941) 355-0847; [www.trinitycharities.org](http://www.trinitycharities.org).

## TAMPA BAY AREA

**AIDS AWARENESS**

An HIV education group. (727) 502-0188 for more information.

**BA.M.ACT**

Local chapter of the National Organization of Black and White Men Together. Call (727) 461-2617 or visit [www.geocities.com/bamact\\_fl](http://www.geocities.com/bamact_fl).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets second and fourth Thurs.; 7 p.m.; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813) 871-2232.

**BOAT AND SCUBA WEST OF TAMPA BAY**

A social and recreational club of GLBT outdoor enthusiasts. Meets the first Weds of the month. Visit [www.boatand-scubawest.com](http://www.boatand-scubawest.com).

# ORGANIZATIONS

## BROTAS SPEAK

Discussion group for same-gender-loving men of color. Meets second Sun., 5 p.m. at the Equality Florida Offices. (813) 236-8809.

## CHASE

For youth ages 13-24 affected and infected with HIV. Free and confidential. Meets last Monday of the month 5:30-7:30 p.m. (727) 215-2914; Yes@westcare.com.

## CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS

Lesbian, feminist chorus. Meets Sun. 6:15 p.m. MCC Tampa. (813) 679-7585; CrescendoSings@aol.com.

## THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Located next to Equality Florida, 3708 Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116; www.tampacenter.org.

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH

Meets third Thurs. 6:30 p.m. 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 870-3735.

## EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS

Meets last Thurs. 7 p.m. at Positive Expressions. (727) 527-3197.

## EZRA GROUP

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

## FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tues. from 6:30-8 p.m. at 136 4th St. N., St. Petersburg. (727) 895-4439.

## FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday at 136 4th St., N., St. Petersburg. (727) 895-4439.

## FACE TO FACE YOUTH GROUP

Youth group for GLBT and their supporters ages 14-21. Meets Sun. 7 p.m. (813) 935-4101; Fce2FceYouth2aol.com.

## FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813) 832-2999.

## FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

Central Florida Region Lambda Car Club International. www.hometown.aol.com/flamingoautogrpf/.

## FLORIDA GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT

An education and advocacy organization for the trans/gender community and our allies. Meets 2nd Sat. at Equality Florida. (813) 870-3735 or www.forge.8m.com.

## FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES

Social group for same gender couples. P.O. Box 7925 Tampa, FL 33679-7925 email: chaircouple@fgcc.com web: www.fgccouples.com

## FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Pasco County's only AA meeting for GLBT individuals. Meets Sun. 7 p.m. Spirit of Life MCC. (727) 849-6962.

## FRIENDS CLUB FOR GAY MEN

Gay men's social club. A wholesome, healthy atmosphere to make new friends. (813) 960-1664.

## FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY

Not-for-runners only GLBT club. Meets Sat. 9 a.m. Old Hyde Park Village and Wed. 6:45 p.m. Fred Ball Park. (813) 891-7098.

## GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Wed. 7 p.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave.

## GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Fri. 10 a.m. at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 875-8116.

## GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets every evening; 8:15 p.m.; 3644-A Henderson Blvd. (813) 273-8741.

## GAY FUN CLUB

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

## GAY MEN'S OUTDOOR GROUP

Biking, hiking, canoeing, diving. (813) 961-6871

## GAY SKATE

Tue. 9 p.m. United Skates of America. (813) 876-5826; members.aol.com/tampagayskate.

## GIRL TALK

Tuesdays at The Center, 3708 W. Swann Ave. (813) 645-2213; Girltalkers@aol.com.

## GLBT PARENTS OF TAMPA BAY

Social group for GLBT parents (custodial and non) and their children. Meets monthly. Cathy\_James@yahoo.com.

## GLSEN TAMPA BAY

Organization working to end anti-gay bias in Hillsborough County schools. Meets third Fri. (813) 258-8817; GLSENTB@aol.com.

## HIV TAMPA BAY

A Web site devoted to helped those living with HIV and AIDS in the Pinellas and Hillsborough counties area. www.hivtampabya.net.

## INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG

Meets at UU Church of St. Petersburg. (727) 898-3294.

## KAPPA XI OMEGA SORORITY

Nationwide community-based sorority for professional adult lesbians headquartered in Tampa. Meets every other Monday 9 p.m. online. membership@kappaxiomega.org or www.kappaxiomega.org.

## L.I.G.H.T./FACT

Free dinner on the first Tues. of the month. 140 4th St. N at the St. Petersburg Cathedral Parish Hall. (727) 895-4439.

## THE LINE

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

## LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY

Meets 3rd Weds of each month. 7 p.m. at HoHo's chinese, 9 p.m. at Different Grind. (727) 455-9866; lcrampabay.com

## L.O.L.A.

Lesbians On the Lookout Association. Social club for womyn. pianolez@aol.com.

## METROPOLITAN CHARITIES

A community services organization offering HIV/AIDS case management, counseling services, referrals and thrift store. In Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. (727) 321-3854. metrocharities.org.

## THE METRO CENTER

Pinellas County's GLBT center. Metrocharities.org/ or call (727) 321-3854.

## NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

## OUT OF THE CLOSET THRIFT STORES

All proceeds benefit AIDS and breast cancer patients in St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay areas. 631 4th St. North, St. Pete. (866) 250-1959.

## PFLAG TAMPA

Meets second Tues.; 7 p.m.; The Center in the Equality Florida Building, 3708 Swan Ave. (813) 239-2070; PFLAGW@aol.com.

## OPERATION H.O.P.E. OF PINELLAS, INC.

St. Petersburg AIDS organization dedicated to the needs of the minority community. (727) 822-2437; POCAS@aol.com.

## PFLAG PINELLAS

Meets fourth Sat at 10 a.m. at Saffron's Restaurant, 1700 Park St. N. St. Pete. (727) 345-7688 or email Pflag@tampabay.rr.com.

## POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

Empowering HIV+ individuals by supporting their self-expression. www.positiveexpressions.org.

## PRIDE AL ANON FA.M.I.LY GROUP

Meets Wed. and Fri.; 6:30 p.m.; King of Peace Church. (727) 323-5857.

## PRIDE ALLIANCE

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

## PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY

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

## PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY

AIDS service organization. (813) 238-2887; www.pwac-tampa.homestead.com.

## RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB

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

## RAINBOW FILM SERIES

GLBT films. 7 p.m., 2nd Sat. of each month except Oct., in the social hall of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, FMI (727) 531-7704.

## RAINBOW READERS

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

## RAINBOW SURF 'N' SAFARI CLUB

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

## RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

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

## SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

(727) 896-SLAA or www.tampabayslaa.com.

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

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

## ST. PETE PRIDE

For updates on upcoming events, visit www.stpetepride.com.

## STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK

Support group for cross-dressing and transgendered persons. Meets at 7 p.m. on the third Sat. of each month. Call Georgia (727) 523-8760.

## SUNCOAST SQUARES

Tampa Bay GLBT square-dancing. Classes Tuesday evenings at the Suncoast Resort, Room C-104. Call John and Leo at (727) 343-8466; suncoastsquares@yahoo.com

## TAMPA BAY BEARS

Bears social club. Meets second Fr.; 7:30 p.m.; Suncoast Eagle Bar. TampaBayBears.com.

## TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

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

## TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; 7 p.m.; Suncoast Resort. (727) 865-9004.

## TAMPA BAY LESBIANS

Social, sporting, cultural activities. http://escape.to/TBL.

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

Tampa Area Naturists Gay and Lesbians Outdoors. Gay and Lesbian and bisexual naturists outdoor activity club. (813) 962-8459.

## TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

Socials for both hearing & non-hearing gays. (813) 236-3123.

## TRUE EXPRESSIONS

Tues. 2 to 6 p.m., Thurs. and Fri. 6 to 9 p.m., Sun. from 4 to 9 p.m. (727) 898-TRUE or visit www.true-expressions.org.

## UNA-VOCE: THE FLORIDA MEN'S CHORALE

Meets Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at MCC Tampa, 408 Cayuga Street. Anyone is welcome to join. Una-Voce.com.

## WESTCARE TRANSGENDER SELF-AWARENESS

Educational group. Meets Wed. at 7 p.m. at 1735 MLK St. S. in St. Pete. For information call (727) 502-0188.

## WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

Bear club. Meets first Sun.; DTs. (727) 824-7810 info@west-florida-growlers.com; Westfloridagrowlers.com.

## WOMYN'S EXCHANGETAMPABAY

A womyn's mix. Sundays, 3p.m. at Gulfport Beach. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomynsExchangeTampabay.

## YES (YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES)

Provides free HIV testing. In Pinellas, at WestCare Florida, 1735 Martin Luther King Jr. S., #125, St. Pete. (727) 502-0188. In Hillsborough, at THAP, at 712 W. Ross Ave., Tampa. (813) 226-2141.

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## WATERCOLORS

**CRIS** from page 29

dripped on a cello."

Now, 40 years after the release of her very first recording and more than 30 years after her signature record, *The Changer and the Changed*, Williamson is touring with a new release, *The Real Deal*, conducting songwriting workshops and continuing to have a magical influence over her fans. She'll perform in Gulfport on Saturday, April 16.

Her path was inspired from the beginning. In 1964, at the age of 16 she released her first album, *The Artistry of Cris Williamson*, recorded in one take at a radio station in her hometown in Wyoming.

"I was living in a town of 11,000. I was very visible as a singer and I sang for all high school musicals, Lions Club functions, etc. It was expected of me. And luckily I was blessed with a huge imagination," Williamson recalls.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, Williamson attended college at the University of Denver, played in bands and formed a tribe of like-minded artists "living off the land" and "setting her foot on her path" with a series of fortuitous events.

After playing a gig in Washington, D.C., in early 1970, she was interviewed on a feminist radio show where the now-famous catalytic birth of an idea took place. She and the hosts talked about how difficult it was for female artists to get recording contracts, radio airplay, artistic control and overall respect. During the discussion Williamson came up with an idea, "Well, why don't you start a record company?"

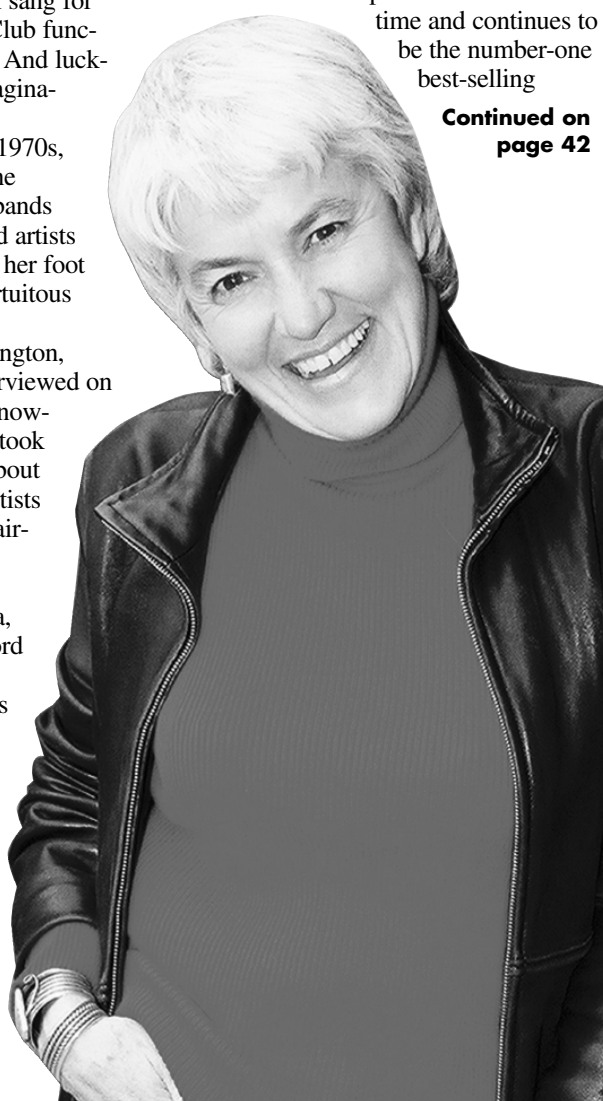
The next day, Olivia Records was born. It was the first record label run by a coalition of determined women — women engineers, women producers, women distributors — affording female musicians opportunities that heretofore had not been offered by male-controlled corporate labels. It was also during this time that Williamson began collaborating with other out singer-songwriters Meg Christian, Holly Near, June

Millington and Tret Fure, among others, all movers and shakers in the women's music movement and Olivia artists.

"Some of us played at the first big national Women's Music Festival in 1974, at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana," she said. (This festival predated the first Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.) "It was the first big one and hundreds of women came mainly from word of mouth. It was this exciting maelstrom of events. We played for free. We knew that the time had come and this was huge."

The following year, in 1975, Williamson released her timeless and powerful classic, *The Changer and the Changed*. It remains one of the top-selling independent albums of all time and continues to be the number-one best-selling

**Continued on  
page 42**



# LEATHER STRIP/BOY

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**CRIS** from page 41

women's music album.

*Changer* dealt with spiritual issues, celebrations of sensuality, heartbreak, and honest lyrics about a woman loving another woman. Many women felt it helped them through painful coming-out experiences

**"I pray every time I play, 'Help me make something beautiful tonight.'"**

and to have the courage to face dark times in their lives. It was also the album that catapulted Williamson's career into full tilt.

"When I wrote the album, I was healing myself. I wanted to make beauty," Williamson says about the album.

"Honestly, I didn't have that intent to be a 'savior.' I pray every time I play, 'Help me make something beautiful tonight.'"

Playing live concerts and connecting with an audience is "very, very important" to Williamson. She likens a live performance to "a feeling like unrolling in front of the audience like a blanket. Maybe they will see or hear something that they didn't hear the night before."

And when audience members sing along with her classic songs *Waterfall*, *Sweet Woman* or *Sister?*, Williamson says that "It feels like church ... feels like spirituality ... It's like a communion and communication, like the sun coming up and hitting your face."

Williamson left Olivia Records in 1995. The record company had decided to become a travel business, booking women's cruises and women's getaway vacations. She later started her own label, Wolf Moon Records, and now wholly owns all of her music from the last 30 years.

Though she is credited as one of the main originators of women's music, she feels that her music and lyrics are really genderless and resonate with the human condition and soul.

"I write about personal experiences," she explains. "An artist is a reflection. I hope to have an impact on life, as much as life has had on me. We must become live dreamers (and) the object is to understand one another and ourselves. We're all in the same boat of life."

She also has hope that music can transcend even the most difficult chasms faced today.

"We as a gay community must show the way of what diversity really is. The issue of getting married, for example, (mandates that we must) get bigger and wider than 'us vs. them.'"

She pauses to think about that last statement.

"Ignorance is correctable," Williamson reflects. "Republicans should come out and experience our concerts!" ▽

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## WATERCOLORS



Actors DAVE MORETTI (left), JEFFREY AUERBACH and DAVID A. DUNHAM frolic in a scene from John Waters' film, *A Dirty Shame*.

**DUNHAM** from page 29

Winnie Toal Food Bank.

This year, the BOCF has invited actor David A. Dunham to serve as the weekend's host and master of ceremonies. Dunham recently played "Momma Bear" in John Waters' latest film, *A Dirty Shame*, a comedy that not only presented a variety of sexual kinks and fetishes, but brought furry gay men to the forefront.

In the film, Tracey Ullman runs a convenience store, suffers a concussion and wakes up a raging sex addict. She's "rescued" by Johnny Knoxville who decrees her the 12th apostle of his underground sex addicts gang who are trying to take over Baltimore.

"Then there's the Neuters who are fed up with the sexual revolution and try to stop it," Dunham says. "It's like *Dawn of the Dead*, but with sex addicts."

Dunham plays one-third of a bear family that's just moved in to the neighborhood; the family is also part of the underground sex addict club. ("We're three of the 12 apostles," Dunham laughs.) Through the course of the movie, Ullman learns that the everyday people she knows – the policeman, the mailman, the janitor at her work are all part of the club.

Indeed, the film is Waters' way of answering Mr. Roger's age-old question, "Who are the people in your neighborhood?" By the director's account, your neighbors are good people, no matter what, how and who they do behind closed doors.

The film is also one of the first mainstream movies – well, as mainstream as a John Waters' movie can be – to recognize the bear community.

"John was really fascinated by the bear community, he really got into it,"

Dunham says. "It happened while he was in San Francisco during IBR (International Bear Roundup). He thought it was fascinating."

Dunham says that, despite sleeping in a tree, feeding honey to a partner or watching a *National Geographic* special on real bears having sex as he does in the movie, Waters "gets it right" in his exaggerated portrayal of the bear community.

"He really did his research. When the movie execs asked him what 'bears' were, he told them to type it into a Google search. They were amazed, to say the least!"

Because the movie presents bears in a non-threatening manner, Dunham is poised to be seen as a representative of the community. Though he laughs about the thought of being an iconic figurehead of bears everywhere, it's a position he's happy to have.

Though acting since he was 5, the art of portraying others became something he only pursued on the side as a second profession. Through a series of events that included the death of his partner two years ago, Dunham decided to make acting his full-time career. Recently having moved to L.A. to pursue his dreams, he left behind a position in marketing with Black & Decker.

"I decided life was too short not to pursue my dreams," Dunham said, "So I quit my corporate job. I hated it – it wasn't my passion."

*A Dirty Shame* is not the first John Waters film Dunham has appeared in; he's been cast as background characters in two of the director's previous productions. Dunham says he knows Waters can be very loyal to his casts and hopes to be considered for future roles for Baltimore's gift to Hollywood.

Dunham's next project – a non-Waters

production – is tentatively titled *Another Gay Movie*. He describes it as a spoof on teen movies and gay genre movies.

"There's a scene where the gay high school students form a softball team, and they're playing another team, the Bad News Bears." Yep – that would be where Dunham's character enters.

Though the bear community is now being seen by the mainstream, Dunham finds he must often explain his profession to those he meets within the gay community. Dunham is, by far, smarter than the average bear.

"When I tell some gay guys I'm an actor, the first thing I hear is 'Porn?'" he laughs. The man, who turns 40 a mere two days before his appearance in Orlando, sees himself as an actor first and a bear second.

"I'm not trying to blaze a trail. Not every role I play is going to be a bear character or a gay man, though I have no problem opening doors," he says. Dunham made the conscience decision to be an out actor in Hollywood, believing that the industry town is far more receptive to openly gay actors than before.

Dunham says he will never compromise himself for the sake of his career – he says he already did that at Black & Decker.

Though he's enjoying adjusting to life in L.A., Dunham says the bear community there isn't as cohesive as the one he left behind in Baltimore, thanks to the overall spread of Los Angeles.

"There's no real 'bear central' here. Like in San Francisco, if you hit the Starbucks in Castro it will be filled with bears. Like everything in L.A., the bear community is so spread out. Still, it feels like I've been here forever," he says.

Living in a highly competitive town with so many beautiful people – Dunham says even the bears in L.A. are prettier – can present its challenges. He's found a near-subconscious attitude among many residents believing that there is always someone better around the corner.

"Part of the energy here, even within the bear community, is that image is everything. Even though you may represent some bear qualities, you're still expected to be pretty."

Dunham's looking forward to the DVD release of *A Dirty Shame* as much as anyone. (Sadly, he'll have to wait like the rest of us. The release date, originally scheduled for last month, has been pushed back to June.) As part of the disc's extras, he was interviewed about bears and the bear community.

"Who the hell knows anymore what we are," he laughs. "In a lot of ways, what we originally tried to escape from – as far as escaping stereotypes – we've created our own. Like, at I.B.R., you can see two or three distinct groups. Why can't there be more intermingling?"

Currently single, Dunham admits that he's not attracted to one particular type of guy. And though that guy may or may not be a bear is something that occasionally weighs heavy on him.

"It's like I'm constantly feeling guilty

## F.U.R. WEEKEND

### Friday, April 15

–A Dirty Shame Party, 7 p.m., Full Moon Saloon. Pre-DVD release party. Meet and greet with David A.

Dunham, who will also serve as guest of honor and MC. **Saturday, April 16**

–F.U.R. Dineout, 7 p.m., O'Boy's BBQ, W. Colonial Dr. –Central Florida "Best of" Contest, 9 p.m., Full Moon Saloon.

### Sunday, April 17

–Afternoon Cookout, 1 p.m., Full Moon Saloon. –Twisted T-Dance, 6 p.m. to midnight, Full Moon Saloon.

if I'm attracted to someone who's not a bear. Am I breaking the rules? Am I going to jeopardize my inclusiveness in the bear community if I'm attracted to a person that's not a bear," he says. If anything, Dunham says he's attracted to masculinity and fellow creative types.

Unlike many others who hit the big 4-0, Dunham is actually looking forward to reaching that milestone.

"I've gotten philosophical about it. I've been in transition over the past two years, but I'm still in shock about it. Forty always seemed so far away. It snuck up on me. I remember my parents turning 40 and thinking that seemed so *old*. But honestly, I finally fell like I'm caught up where I'm supposed to be," he says.

Turning 40 also has given Dunham a new outlook on life.

"My guiding philosophy is to do everything you do with passion and you'll be happy," he says. ▼



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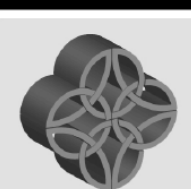
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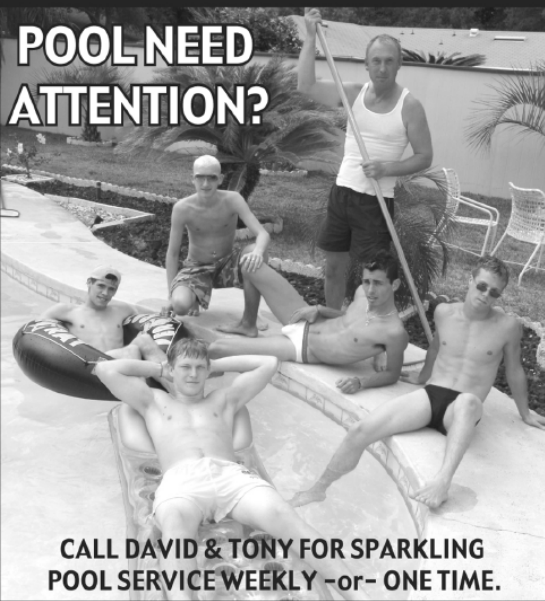
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By Diane Wilde

**ARIES — MARCH 21-APRIL 20:** You've set your sights high, and you want to aggressively pursue your goals. Wait until the right time towards the end of the month. You are your own worst critic, and it's unusual for you to be totally satisfied with your performance..

**TAURUS — APRIL 21-MAY 21:** Don't be surprised when the past suddenly shows up in your present — if not in person or via technology, then in your dreams. Stay focused on your current projects, but re-energize yourself, and put some focus on your physical and emotional needs.

**GEMINI — MAY 22-JUNE 21:** Life is treating you better than it has in some time, so use this positive energy to help make positive changes, like replacing good habits for bad ones. Give in to your wanderlust, even if it's just a trip cross town, explore and enjoy the unusual and the different.

**CANCER — JUNE 22-JULY 22:** Your focus on furthering your career and increasing your financial security will assure that you will achieve your goals, yet you will also have to commit to even more hard work to fully realize new opportunities. Use your determination to fine-tune yourself.

**LEO — JULY 23-AUG. 22:** Having fun while networking with friends, old and new, is only part of the gift package, as you also have the opportunity to woo, to mentor, to lead and to guide. However, you will have to do some hard work as you re-evaluate your past, and your part in it.

**VIRGO — AUG. 23-SEPT. 23:** Improvement is your key word, as you actively seek to expand beyond your current financial position. Your energy is supercharged now, and you're excited about the possibilities. Just make sure to use logic, not just or wishful thinking when making plans.

**LIBRA — SEPT. 24-OCT. 23:** There will be lots of opportunities for romantic trysts, business propositions and creative endeavors, you'll be thrilled to know. And yes, you will still need to take care of business and your life, but you have more than just a case of wanderlust now.

**SCORPIO — OCT. 24-NOV. 22:** Get ready to get really busy, and you owe it all to your friends, because even those you rarely see or have just met, keep coming up with offers you can't refuse. More income means there can be more money spent on sprucing up the new, improved you and having your home reflect your new outlook.

**SAGITTARIUS — NOV. 23-DEC. 21:** You finally have a month filled with all the things you love, you'll be involved with creative projects and other creative people. You're happiest when you're busy, so get ready to smile until it hurts because a very special someone insists on having your attention too.

**CAPRICORN — DEC. 22-JAN. 20:** Your career gets some help from like-minded colleagues, and projects that have been troublesome or stalled will benefit from their insights. Your relationship and home-based projects could use some hands-on from you too, so roll up your sleeves and get busy.

**AQUARIUS — JAN 21-FEB. 19:** Being charming and friendly comes naturally to you, and your great ideas are coming fast and furious, just be aware, and beware, of your tendency to go over the top. That includes over-reacting, overexuberance, overindulging and generally overdoing it.

**PISCES — FEB. 20-MARCH 20:** Even though you're really busy, and feel like you can't do another thing, many more things will come your way that are just too good to pass up. Use your famous intuition to "vibe" on the offers and opportunities to see which to take. ▼

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## TRANSITIONS

### CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS:

Filmmaker, winemaker and star-maker **FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA** (4/7); well-done *Medium* **PATRICIA ARQUETTE** (4/8); now chasing a different Sex and the City **CYNTHIA NIXON** (4/9); Our Journalism Lord and Saviour **JOSEPH PULTZER** (4/10); Grammy Joplin channeler **JOSS STONE** (4/11); Partridge pin-up **DAVID CASSIDY** (4/12); still staying together **AL GREEN** (4/13); Roseanne's heroine **LORETTA LYNN** (4/14); two Darrins but only one Samantha **ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY** (4/15); what did she do to deserve this? **DUSTY SPRINGFIELD** (4/16); in need of a new *Alias* after *Elektra* **JENNIFER GARNER** (4/17); insulting canine friend **CONAN O'BRIEN** (4/18); Transylvanian transsexual and *Spamalot* star **TIM CURRY** (4/19) and *Desperate* granddad **RYAN O'NEAL** (4/20).



Oh, cheer up, CYNTHIA NIXON: You only turn 39 once. She will celebrate in the city, possibly with some sex, on April 9.

Have a birthday to announce? A promotion? A civil union/Massachusetts marriage/holy union? Let us know. Send a note to [editor@watermarkonline.com](mailto:editor@watermarkonline.com) or to *Transitions*, Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## CITRUS CLASSIC, MERRITHEW WIN TOP GLTA AWARDS

**TAMPA** - Tampa's Citrus Classic Tennis Tournament has been named "Best Tournament" and Orlando's Daniel Merrithew was named "Best Player" by the national Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance.

The Citrus Classic Clay Court Championship, held annually during Thanksgiving weekend, is sponsored by Advantage Tampa Bay, the Bay Area's only GLBT recreational and competitive tennis league.

The awards were presented during festivities held in conjunction with GLTA Champions race and the Miami Art Deco Open. Each of the organization's 6,000 members was given a chance to vote on the

awards; Tampa was chosen the top tournament out of 40 possible GLTA tournaments held in major U.S. cities and around the globe, including Milan, Amsterdam, Madrid and London.

ATB encourages all its members, regardless of level of play, to participate and promote the sport of tennis in GLTA events, as well as U.S. Tennis Association and local K-Swiss tennis leagues. The group boasts over 80 active members in the Tampa bay area and offers Team Tennis and Ladder programs, open play and social events. For more information, call (813) 854-8277 or visit [www.atb-tennis.org](http://www.atb-tennis.org). **Staff reports**

## ORLANDO PLAYERS DOMINATE ORANGE BLOSSOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

**ORLANDO** - Despite consistent rains, the Sixth Annual Orange Blossom Tennis Championships took place over Easter Weekend, with numerous winners coming from Orlando.

Orange Blossom Tennis Association president Jerry Cramer called the weekend an international event as players from Canada joined other competitors from 18 states and Washington D.C. In all, 157 players competed in 11 divisions of singles and doubles play, including Opens, 35-Plus, A, B, C and D.

Local winners included Open

Doubles champions Clint Lyons and T.J. Jones; C Doubles champions Sal Capozzi and Roel Hinojosa; and C Singles winner Ed Fasullo. The A Doubles finalists, also from Orlando, were Scott Crews and Mike Hancharik. Orlando was also represented by players or teams in the finals of the A Doubles and 35-Plus divisions.

Cramer said donations to charity from this year's tournament should exceed last year's total of \$5,000. Last year's funds were donated to the St. Francis House and the Genesis Community Tennis Association. **Staff reports**

## TERMINATORS TACKLE MAYHEM, 24-6, IN 2005 OPENER

**ORLANDO** - The Tampa Bay Terminators defeated the Orlando Mayhem, 24-6, in both teams' opening game April 2 at Dr. Phillips High School.

The Mayhem moved up and down the field methodically, putting up 17 points, despite the Mayhem's best efforts. In the third quarter the Mayhem were able to put together a drive to score the team's only points of the game.

The Terminators' defensive coordinator Shawn Millard said, "Our defense played very well but we still have room for improvement. Orlando's offense has improved a great deal and can see a huge change from last year to this year."

Veteran Terminators' quarterback Kim Shaw led the team, throwing for two touchdown passes and one on a 30-yard

TD run up the middle.

"I'm very pleased with our efforts on both sides of the ball. The ladies played well and I'm very proud of them" stated Terminators' head coach Nick Soucy.

With a Jacksonville loss in Atlanta, Tampa is now in first place in the South Atlantic division.

The Terminators have a new home field this season. Beginning with the April 16 matchup against Mayhem, the team will play at Jefferson High School on West Cypress Street in Tampa. For more information about the Terminators, visit [TampaBayTerminators.net](http://TampaBayTerminators.net). For more about the Mayhem, visit [OrlandoMayhem.com](http://OrlandoMayhem.com).

Both teams are part of the Independent Women's Football League. **Staff reports**



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# A Retro Retreat

A **Sarasota**  
 couple creates  
 a stunning  
 getaway in  
 Downtown  
 St. Pete  
 By **Tom Dyer**

**ST. PETERSBURG** - Interior designer Samir Hanna and his life and business partner, Roger Brown, scouted for an investment property for years. The couple wanted to take advantage of the booming real estate market and possibly find a retreat within driving distance of their Sarasota home.

Numerous Bay Area properties were rejected until their friend Ed Biggs, a designer and owner of Home Resource in Sarasota, told them about a new project – a 10-story apartment building in downtown St. Pete undergoing a condo conversion.

Built by developer Thomas Mahaffey Jr., the Deco-inspired Carlton Towers was described as “swank” when it first opened in 1963. Four decades and some ill-conceived renovations (Greek columns!) had since turned the building into a tired eyesore.

But it was a solid building with clean lines, and the location – two blocks from Tampa Bay and just north of the University of South Florida

campus – remained stunning. Most of the 184 units have a gorgeous waterfront view that encompasses downtown high-rises, The Pier, Albert

Whitted Airport, USF, the Dali Museum, and on a clear day, the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

New owners renamed the condo complex “The Beacon” and hired Biggs to oversee design elements of a \$6 million renovation. The result is a building that

embraces the best of South Beach: hip, fresh, design-conscious, beautiful. A stylish club area and clean, well-equipped fitness center overlook the classic and inviting pool. A rooftop

**Continued on page 11**

**“I wanted it to be as fun as the building and downtown St. Pete.”**



## Domestic Scientology



Style Network’s Brini Maxwell offers tips on walking that line between kitsch and clever By **Kirk Hartlage**

Martha could have stayed in prison a few more months, as far as we’re concerned. We’ve got Brini now.

Sabrina “Brini” Maxwell (as created by Fashion Institute of Technology graduate and performer Ben Sander) is not only a retro-obsessed domestic diva, but also *the* up-and-coming go-to gal for home décor ideas.

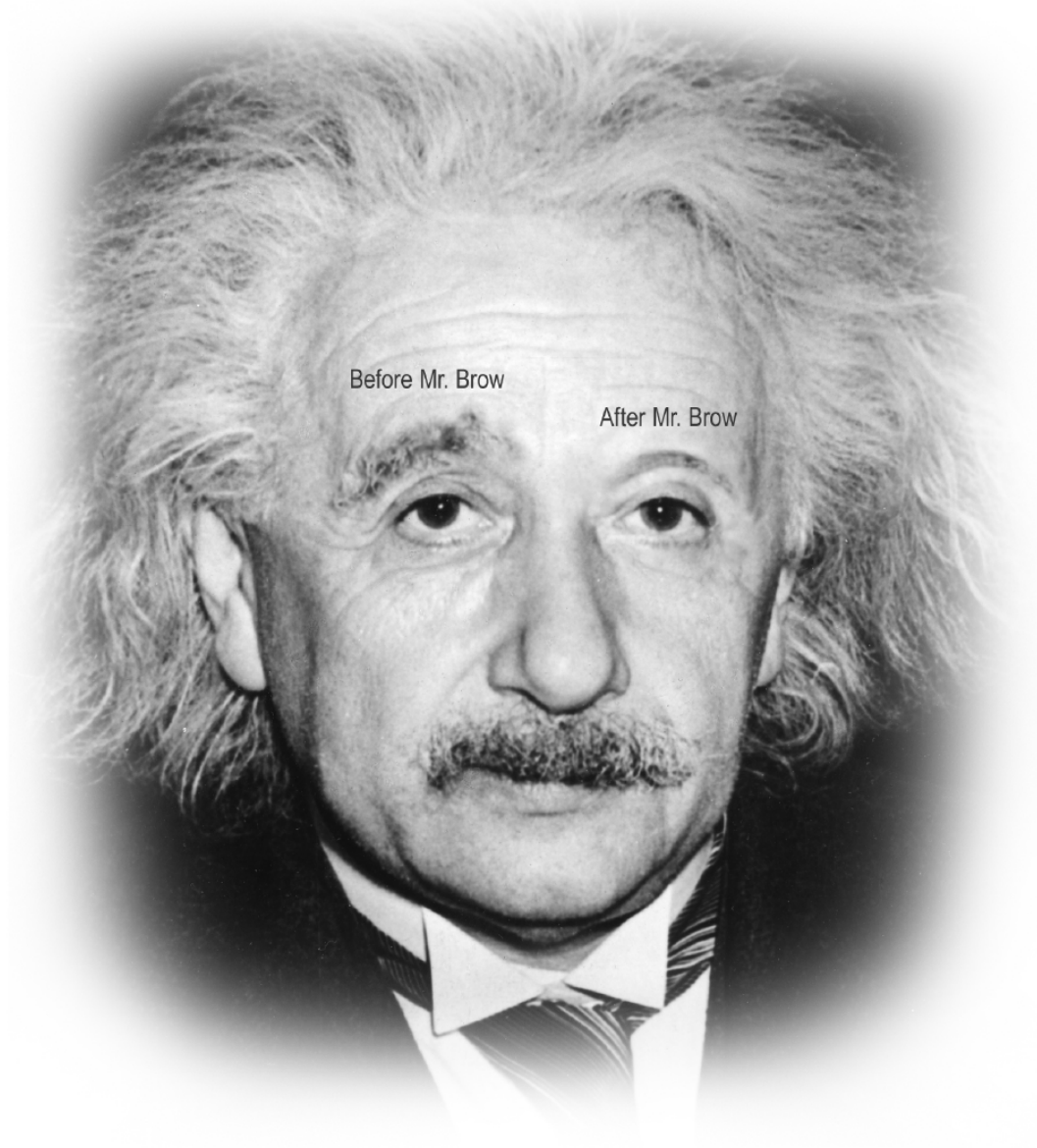
Maxwell first began sharing her vintage/classic know-how with her fellow Manhattanites in 1998 through her self-titled public access television show. With an emphasis on uncompromising fabulousness, she quickly garnered a devoted fan base and established herself as the Big Apple’s “It Girl” for vintage fashion and mid-century modern treasures.

The ex-Army brat spent much of her childhood on military bases around the world; her transient upbringing has led her to favor a



Above: **SAMIR HANNA** (left) and **ROGER BROWN** in their Downtown St. Petersburg condo. Above Left: A red wall provides dramatic backdrop to the dining area.  
 Photos by Tom Dyer

**Continued on page 6**



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HOME DÉCOR

# BEYOND APPLIANCES

Kuttler Kitchens keeps costs low and customer satisfaction high through technology

By Steve Blanchard

*ST. PETERSBURG* - As more and more homeowners rediscover the joys of entertaining at home — or simply relishing the luxuries of a well-appointed kitchen — the family table becomes increasingly important.

Carl M. Kuttler, the owner of St. Petersburg's Kuttler Kitchens, has designed and installed many such facilities throughout Tampa Bay, enhancing the homes of more than a few gay customers.

The key to the company's success,

**"Our technology keeps our error ratio at nearly zero."**

Kuttler said, is technology.

He actually produces a digital mockup of the remodeled room or new space and provides cost estimates to customers on the spot. Kuttler said that many companies can offer to order cabinets or counter tops, but very few can give you an idea of what the finished product will look like months before a decision is even made.

"I do all the design work and order it in a CAD system," Kuttler explained. "It means lower costs to customers (that we have) that technology and knowing how to use it."

Kuttler leaves customers with a digital representation of their new kitchen and if interested, he schedules a meeting between himself, the customer and a contractor.

"Essentially, the customer is hiring two entities, myself and the general contractor," Kuttler said. "It's kind of like they're buying two jobs."

Kuttler keeps the cost down for Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg customers simply by relying on technology. Not only does Kuttler Kitchens use technology in the planning of new, fabulous kitchens, but it also uses it in the ordering process for materials.

"Our technology keeps our error ratio at nearly zero," Kuttler said. "We can avoid mistakes and save customers money by not showcasing our products in expensive retail locations."

In today's do-it-yourself world, many



The long, modern cabinet hardware adds to the streamlined effect of this modern kitchen designed by Kuttler Kitchens.



Dark-toned cabinets and modern appliances are enhanced by the choice of stunning blue walls.

Continued on page 14

# WHERE THE ART IS

Joy Bochner and Rebecca Myers sought the untraditional in their Winter Park 'chicken house'

By Victor Leiner

**WINTER PARK** - An eclectic mix of homes stands hidden along the winding cobblestone roads of suburban Winter Park. Varying in architectural styles, sizes and personalities, each structure individually emanates of its owners, and the home of Joy Bochner, Rebecca Myers and their daughter Zoe, certainly fits the neighborhood's refreshingly non-cookie-cutter mold.

The two-story red brick home, complete with white columns and soon-to-be-jazzed-up landscaping might confuse passers-by about its residents. To the casual observer, the house's exterior reads more like a regal New York mansion – traditional, tasteful and forthright – than a home warmed with inspiration, family and love.

When the couple moved to their Winter Park digs from Brooklyn, N.Y., in 2001, they had quite a remodeling project on their hands. They both agree the home

**Continued on page 5**



**Whimsical artwork accents the formal colors and antiques in the Bochner-Myers dining room. Photos by Tom Eckert**

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## HOME DÉCOR



JOY BOCHNER (left) and REBECCA MYERS enjoy a moment in their new Winter Park home with daughter ZOE.

### BOCHNER-MYERS from page 4

was "as traditional as it could have been," complete with oversized furniture, closed-in spaces, built-in units and some unusual yard decor.

Yes, chickens once free ranged on the now-urbanized property. Although the chickens have flown the coop, the family still lovingly refers to their home as "the chicken house."

With the expertise of designers Dan Bray and Cathy Sands, the couple overhauled the home's original concept. Collaborating with the designers, Joy and Rebecca are taking their time and working together to decide on decorative ideas, making each aspect of the home personalized with their signature style – a mix of

sophistication and family.

When the door opens to the Bochner-Myers residence, it is like slowly thumbing through a 3-D scrapbook of their family life. Stunning black and white photographs of Joy and Rebecca at their Pennsylvania wedding are as much part of the décor as the bright, fresh colors proudly saturating the walls. A school portrait of Zoe, screaming every ounce of her lively personality, also adds to the home's family ambience.

Aside from the dramatic hardwood floors, tastefully kitschy furniture, which includes many ornate, one-of-a-kind treasures from Rebecca's family, an amazing collection of folk art can be found in every room and around every corner. Family

**Continued on page 8**



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## HOME DÉCOR

**BRINI** from page 1

more sedentary, stable home environment. Maxwell currently shares her wealth of knowledge and love of the late 1950s, 1960's and early 1970s on *The Brini Maxwell Show* on the Style Network, Thursdays at 9:30 p.m.

Her unparalleled personal flair for home design, entertaining and savvy household tips - all focused on mid-century design - have led to notoriety and fame. She was honored recently with an invitation to moder-

ate the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum's panel on Authenticity in Design.

The domestic scientologist spoke with *Watermark* from her quaint Chelsea apartment, which once served as the studio for the famed cable access show.

**WATERMARK:** Brini, this is our annual *Spring Home Décor* issue - we've gone into some local homes to get some great decorating ideas, but we wanted to talk with you as a home décor expert to get some tips as well.

**BRINI MAXWELL:** Bless you.

**What do you consider to be some of your best tips?**

Well, I'll tell you, I have some basic interior design tenets that I think are important. One is the use of color. I think that people are so frequently afraid of color, but you really don't need to be. Color can be used in so many different ways. One way I like to use color is on an accent wall. For me, an accent wall is the wall you want to draw attention to in your room. So in a bedroom, it might be the wall that the bed is on. In a living room it could be the wall that the entertainment center is on or the wall that the divan is on.

Another way to use color is accent pops. Say you have a blue room, you can use yellow pillows on the sofa when everything else is blue or green.

**Are there any other places to incor-**

**porate color?**

Many people forget that the ceiling is ... uh... is there! (laughs) It's a perfect place to use color. I love to paint a ceiling a dark color. The ceiling in my entrance hall is black. What's wonderful about that is that it makes it seem like the ceiling is infinity away, that it goes on forever. People think that painting a ceiling a dark color is going to lower a room. And that may or may not be true. It makes for a wonderful feeling of intimacy.

You can also paint a ceiling a bright color - that can really perk a room up, especially if you paint the walls and the ceiling in color, which can be like living inside of a little wrapped gift package. And that can be fun. (giggles) But I think that's one thing every room needs is dramatic use of color.

**What do you think are some of the biggest mistakes people make when they're doing their own home décor projects?**

People tend to be too timid - that's my thought. I think people will create a room that is bland because they think the walls have to be painted white or beige. I think you need to experiment and the easiest way to experiment is paint. It's inexpensive

and can be painted over very easily.

**In Florida, we have a lot of people living in apartments that might not be allowed to be painted. What are some ways to get around that?**

Well, you can use fabric on the walls. That's a wonderful way to create interest. And there are so many great fabrics out there that you can buy for next to nothing. The simple way to do that is to curtain off an entire wall.

It's nice to have a wall with windows on it that is curtained from floor to ceiling because it gives a very dramatic look to the wall and is very mid-century looking, which I love of course.

**You certainly have a love of mid-century, but it seems like there's such a fine line between what can be seen as tasteful and stylish and what can be seen as gaudy and tacky. How do you know when you've crossed that line?**

That's a good question. I think it's the age-old question that applies to any era of whether it is classic design or kitsch. Kitsch has its place. I like to temper classic design with a touch of kitsch. I think classic design all by itself can look very sterile.

**Continued on page 7**

Style maven **BRINI MAXWELL** says that all you need is color - and taste, of course.



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## HOME DÉCOR

**BRINI** from page 6

Personally, I think that a room that is entirely based on kitsch can be a little tiring. It's like the 1950s diner look that people occasionally do in their rumpus room – personally, I think that's a little too cute. So if you find yourself getting a little too cute, you need to step back, take a look at it and perhaps add in some classic design.

**It's funny you bring that up – one of the theme parks here has a restaurant where all the tables are like television sets, and your waiter is your "brother," "Mom" is in the kitchen cooking dinner ...**

Sounds clever!

**All I can think of is that if your home starts to look like a restaurant in a theme park, than maybe you've gone too far.**  
Exactly.

**One of the projects on one of your episodes was doing art with pills. How *Valley of the Dolls*!**

Yes, exactly! We did a little riff. Actually, we didn't even do a riff, we just kind of stole it completely from Damien Hirst. He's a British artist who likes to tweak people with his art. He's done some controversial work here in New York. He went and got pills of every combination of size and color and created a muralled wall, a huge installation.

We thought that was an interesting way to look at art – something that you interact with every day, when massed together, can be an artistic statement. On our show we made a small replica of his creation. I think it was a lot of fun – a cute little idea, perfect for a bathroom!

**It reminds me of an artist we had on display here at the Orlando Museum of Art recently - Barton Benes. He's done some of the same thing with pills and medications, but he used his own HIV meds, so it was more of a political statement thing. Yours was a little more entertaining and fun.**

Mine was fun and entertaining but, of course, Damien Hirst's was a commentary on the "take one and call me in morning" society we live in. There are such a variety of things that are supposed to affect your daily life in a positive way. It's such a strange thought that these things that we take *change* us somehow. So anyway, I think that's what that's all about.

**Yeah, I definitely don't want to get too far into the whole political thing because home décor should be fun!**

That's right!

**Down here, before you know it, people will want to be doing projects with feeding tubes and what have you. One of the slightly political aspects I did want to ask you about was concerning one of your contemporaries,**

**Martha Stewart. Justice? Injustice?**

Well, I'd rather not get into the whole political aspect of it. All I know is, she got herself into a pickle, but she certainly made some relish out of that pickle.

**You've been asked this before, haven't you?**

Once or twice. (laughs)

**So I don't imagine you've given thought to following in those footsteps to get more press or notoriety.**

Uhhh – no. I don't have *quite* enough money to invest in the stock market at this moment. I don't think *that's* going to be a problem. ▼

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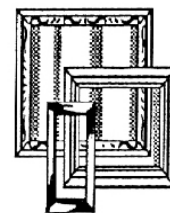
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Folk art accents the Bochner-Myers kitchen, which also boasts granite counters and a center island. Photo by Tom Eckert

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### BOCHNER-MYERS from page 5

friend Janeane Taylor, then owner of a local folk art gallery, got the couple started on their impressive collection. Taylor is reopening her gallery in Sanford in May. The masterpieces found throughout the home include such artists as Lyla Graves, Terry Cannon and Tres Taylor.

The tour begins in Joy's office. She is currently working toward a master's degree from Rollins College. Her favorite feature in the room is the "windows all around that look out on the trees." The master bedroom is a work in progress but features one of the most exquisite elements in the home. A sheer white curtain flows over the windows, which make up the master's main wall, giving the open space a sense of serenity and relaxation.

The master bath is luxurious without being stuffy or sterile. Clean marble floors lead to a tub that begs you to soak. At one end of the room stands a sophisticated sculpture, while the other is a resting place for Zoe's toys; this display truly exemplifies what this home is all about — magnificence and menage. The unbarred kitchen boasts tons of granite-paved countertops. An island in the middle offers extra space for cooking and entertaining.

The main upstairs portion of the home has a media room complete with a flat screen television and a chic, vintage red couch, which sits atop a shag rug. Another personalized gem found throughout the home is a quilt made by Rebecca's grandmother. Joy swears that cuddling up under

one of the homemade quilts can cure any sleepless night.

Joy and Rebecca have more than succeeded in making the house into a home for Zoe. The bright-eyed 5-year-old was instrumental in choosing the color of her bedroom and playroom both, not unlike her personality, painted a happy shade of tree-frog green. The avid animal lover has her own passion for art as well, which can be viewed in her ever-changing art gallery displayed proudly in the kitchen windows.

Perhaps a unanimous favorite among the family is the laundry room. The star of the show is a classic-style washer and dryer set, which best expresses the family's fun-loving personality. Rebecca said she and Zoe have spent many nights talking and just watching the laundry go 'round. "It just makes me happy to look at," Rebecca said.

Just past the laundry room is a second set of stairs that lead to the guest room. Any guest would be tickled pink to stay here. Eloquent vaulted ceilings soar above the room's justifiable main focus: a bedroom set given to the couple by Rebecca's mother.

The home has become a chest filled with treasures — even the ceiling fans offer a glimpse into the family's personality. Rebecca said they imagined what they wanted the home to become around how they would have designed a New York brownstone. What resulted is described best by Joy as "a mix between traditional and outside of the box." ▼

# FROM MOD TO MODERN

David Weaver wanted to live in an art gallery and his chic condo allows him to do just that

By Kirk Hartlage

**ORLANDO** - Completely trashing what some would see as a revisionist, hip and mod throwback to 1970s design, Orlando native David Weaver rethought his entire Park Lake Towers condominium to more accurately reflect his current tastes.

When Weaver initially purchased the downtown condo four years ago, the apartment was the quintessential Swingin' Seventies pad – complete with avocado carpet, refrigerator and dishwasher.

"I suffered through that, but I wanted to live in an art gallery," Weaver says. His home now, with its spectacular view of Park Lake, is indeed a live-in museum displaying works of art he's painted himself. The beauty of the design is that Weaver can feasibly change the entire look of his home simply by rotating the on-going exhibition of his works. The renovations took a year-and-a-half to complete.

Selecting a color palette that would be very adaptable to his changing artwork, Weaver focused on white walls and maple accents. Due to the building's design restrictions, he has mostly implemented uplighting throughout the interior. The kitchen and bath areas incorporate limestone-like tile with brushed nickel hardware and fixtures.

Weaver works for Starwood Vacation Ownership as a director of Six Sigma; in that role he oversees large-scale company-



White walls, maple accents and hardwood floors offer a museum-like feel to David Weaver's condo. Photos by Tom Eckert

wide innovation projects. But he channels his creative energy into painting, an activity he discovered a fondness for only within the past few years.

With no formal training whatsoever, Weaver initially started sketching graphic designs on his computer and elected to buy some brushes and paint to explore the cre-

**Continued on page 10**



Orlando resident DAVID WEAVER says he was a late bloomer, creatively, yet he has painted all of the works on display in his condo.

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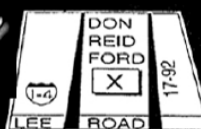


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## HOME DÉCOR

**WEAVER** from page 9

ative outlet on a much larger scale. He still uses his computer when mapping out his works, but he's since rented out a studio spot in an industrial warehouse area off South Orange Blossom Trail. His primary medium involves acrylics on canvas.

When Weaver begins a painting project, his friends know that he is indeed in his own "space." Weaver says he becomes very focused, taking on a near "do not disturb" frame of mind. He's currently working on a piece using metallic paints that he's titled *Ring and Halo*, which will take the place of the works currently hanging in his bedroom.

One of Weaver's larger works – which currently hangs in his living room – is *Ten Trees*. It's an early experiment that others consider to be more successful than he does. Thick white lines divide 10 green ones that start in a lighter shade near the top of the painting, gradually getting darker towards the bottom.

"It is what it is," Weaver says, "But I am confident enough to say it works great in this room."

"Great" may be more than the operative word. The entire condo, from its hardwood floors to treated ceiling, from linear furniture to modern accent pieces, perfectly fits the geometric designs in Weaver's art. Though decisively modern, much of it reflects the clean, classic lines of mid-century modern furniture.

"David's fashionable sense of style, interest in current events albeit politically or pop culturally, is refreshingly genuine,

without pretenses," says Dan Bray, an interior designer – and Weaver's close friend – who assisted in the selections for this home. "What impressed me was that David took the initiative to do the research for a decorative concept that would compliment his artwork."

"When you go to art galleries, this is what you see," Weaver says, gesturing to his entire living quarters.

One of the difficult challenges in decorating was continually having to pull back, Weaver says. Initially he wanted to have a bigger sofa, for example, but realized it would not work aesthetically in the space.

Bray agrees that Weaver's sense of proportion is spot-on, selecting just the perfect sized furniture for his 1,250-square-foot condo. Weaver selected a variety of furniture by mid-Century modernist designers including Marcel Breuer, Le Corbusier, Mies Van der Rohe and Nagucci.

The manufacturer of Weaver's window treatments is one close to his heart: his mother. Though he designed the beautiful white sheer panels that work perfectly with the stark white walls, she assembled the curtains. She sews frequently and is part of a quilting society in Mount Dora.

Weaver says he comes from a very creative family, and that he was actually a late bloomer in discovering and exploring his own creative outlets. Despite the delay, Weaver has not only incorporated his passion into his life but has successfully and beautifully designed his home around it. ▼



David Weaver's acrylic piece, *Ten Trees*, "works great" in his condo's living room. Photo by Tom Eckert

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## HOME DÉCOR

### RETREAT from page 1

garden with kitchen facilities offers breathtaking vistas.

Hanna and Brown bought two units – 1,105 square feet with two bedrooms for \$200,000, and a one-bedroom with 925 square feet for \$150,000. The purchases have been an unmitigated success.

Prices at The Beacon have appreciated by at least 25% in just over a year. Both units produce rental income. And the furnished one-bedroom offers Hanna and Brown a weekend getaway just an hour away, with different clubs, restaurants, shops, museums, theaters and concerts to sample.

“We love what’s happening in St. Petersburg,” said Hanna, who was born in Egypt, obtained a master’s degree in marine biology and became interested in design when he refurbished several restaurants and a dinner theater in Atlanta. He ultimately obtained a degree at prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York.

Hanna’s talent for color and space is on display in the condo, which features a living/dining area with balcony, galley kitchen, bedroom, bath, and several walk-in closets. Reds and apple greens are featured throughout the condo, playing off a multitude of bright colors.

“I wanted it to be as fun as the building and downtown St. Pete,” Hanna says.

Continued on page 12



The red and apple green living area is retro modern. Photos by Tom Dyer



Two barstools provide extra seating at the passthrough to the kitchen.



The Beacon recently underwent a \$6 million renovation.



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### **RETREAT** from page 11

A red wall with bamboo wall sculpture dominates the dining area. "I didn't want to use paintings everywhere," says Hanna. Like many of the accents throughout the condo, the three-dimensional feature was purchased on nearby Central Avenue, and adds texture without great expense. Bamboo accents help further delineate the dining table from the multifunctional living room.

A retro-modern couch flanked by sloped bookcases, all from Home Resource, dominate the living area. A striped area rug provides definition and introduces new colors. Against the front wall, a small desk table doubles as computer station and television stand.

"Decorating small spaces is always a battle between aesthetics and functionality," says Hanna.

Both are on display in the sleek white kitchen galley, visible through a shuttered pass-through. Modern barstools provide additional seating. A built-in wine rack gives the kitchen a lived-in sense of weight and importance.

The bedroom features lush bedding in calming neutral earth tones, and provides an additional space for late-night television. All in all, the condo is com-



**Above left:** The galley kitchen is clean and functional. **Above:** This gargoyle reminds visitors of the Beacon's once — and rejuvenated — elegance. Photos by Tom Dyer

fortable, inviting, visually exciting, and surprisingly spacious. Outside, a balcony beckons with stunning views and the promise of adventure in Downtown St. Pete.

"We love coming up here," Brown says. "We couldn't be more thrilled with this place." ▼

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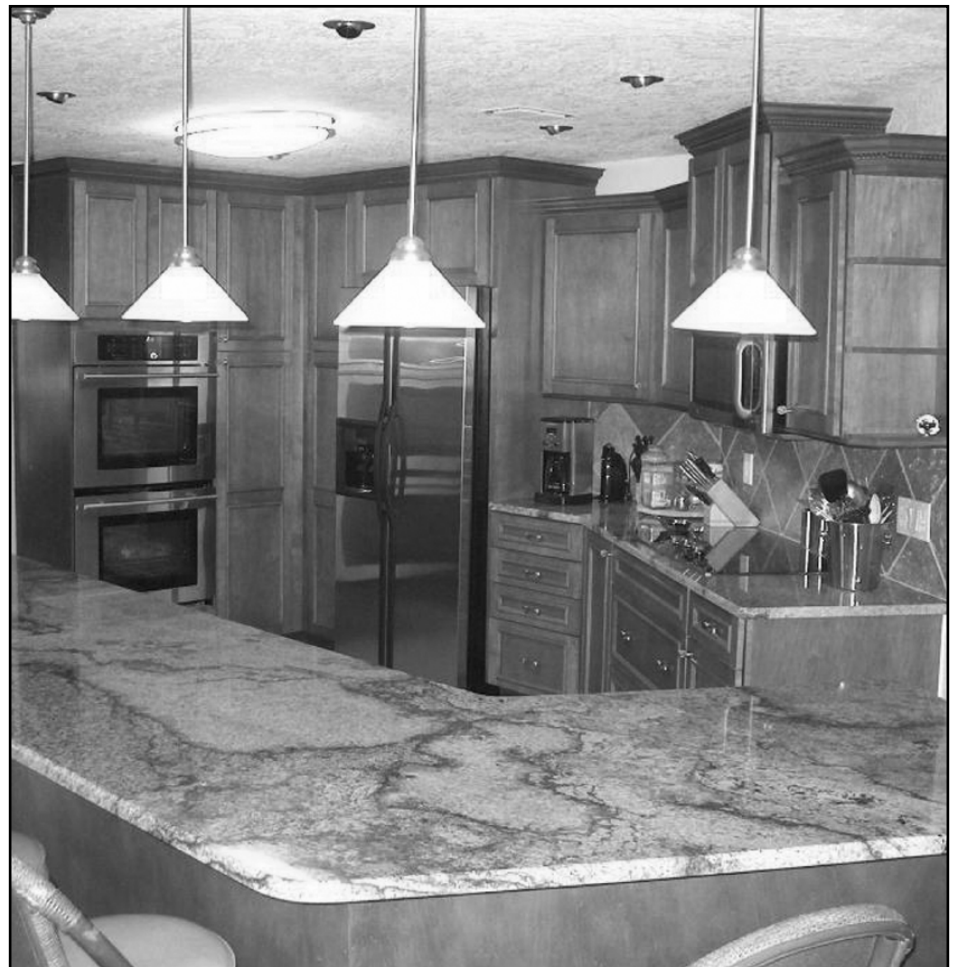
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(SPOT)



Kuttler Kitchens designed this elegant workspace featuring visually stimulating countertops and rich cabinetry.

#### **BEYOND APPLIANCES** from page 3

homeowners will visit large retail stores like Lowe's or Home Depot to retrieve the proper supplies for a new kitchen whether it's a remodel job or a brand new room. But those customers wanting to install the materials themselves aren't excluded from Kuttler Kitchens' clientele. In fact, almost 45% of Kuttler Kitchens' clients are "self-installers."

"A majority of our customers want us to design and install the kitchen," Kuttler said. "But we can order the materials for those who want to install it themselves – and we can get it at an affordable price."

The efforts and skills have paid off. "Forty percent of our sales in 2004 were referrals, and that speaks to the fact that

our customers recognize and appreciate the value they find here," Kuttler said from his home-based office. "The big key is a lot of larger companies never call clients back and aren't technologically advanced enough to provide superior service."

Before beginning Kuttler Kitchens, he worked as president of a general contracting firm. While there, Kuttler noticed that he had a love for design and kitchens. Eventually, he gravitated toward kitchens as a whole and decided it was time to go into business for himself. Today, Kuttler Kitchens boasts three full-time employees, three part-time employees and hundreds of hired contractors.

Kuttler's designs have been featured in *Housetrends Magazine*, when a kitchen

**Continued on page 15**

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## HOME DÉCOR

**BEYOND APPLIANCES** from page 14

he designed for a same-sex couple in Hyde Park graced the 12-page feature. The more clients Kuttler Kitchens seems to provide for, the more referrals that roll in.

"I have some referrals that are nine customers deep," Kuttler said. "Customers like their finished product and recommend our services to friends and neighbors. We get quite a few of our customers by referrals."

Kuttler, a native of St. Petersburg, is in the process of expanding Kuttler Kitchens. This summer "or early fall," Kuttler Kitchens will move into its new 8,000-square-foot facility at 8820 66th Court in Pinellas Park. The need for the distribution warehouse stems from the 224% per-year increase in sales figures the company has experienced the past three years.

Once Kuttler Kitchens moves into its new warehouse, Kuttler expects his business to stand apart from other showroom-style businesses for a number of reasons. Most noticeably is that the warehouse is wholesale to the public.

"On average, we're 40% less than other showrooms offering the same product in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties," Kuttler said. "Our order time is 21 days instead of the usual 10 to 12 weeks and our installations are of the same quality as high-end showrooms out there."

As the business expands, so does its

client base. As the client base expands, so do its profits.

"I'm already booked 21 days out," Kuttler said. "I have 20 kitchens in my inbox now. But it's worth the wait because customers get that design and the price on the spot. That's the reason we're growing, we always follow through." ▽

For more information about Kuttler Kitchens, visit [kuttlerkitchens.com](http://kuttlerkitchens.com) or call (727) 345-8342 or (813) 254-8342.



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# DROP DEAD DECO

A historic stunner near St. Pete's Crescent Lake offered plenty of challenges

By Tom Dyer

**ST. PETERSBURG** – Entering the Crescent Lake area home of Greg Tappan and Bill Young is a little like falling in love: there's an initial attraction, but full beauty reveals itself – over and over again – only with familiarity. Decorated in "Tiffany Deco" style, the 1925 home contains magnificent surprises at each angle in every room.

Tappan is a buyer for the Home Shopping Network in Clearwater. Young is a district manager for Old Navy. They met seven years ago in Phoenix, and moved to St. Pete in 1999 to be closer to Young's family.

With the assistance of Young's mother, who buys, remodels and resells homes (see profile, p. 17), the couple immediately began looking for a starter home. They purchased a dilapidated 2,000-sq. ft. bungalow in Historic Kenwood for \$38,000, and put the same amount – and about 1,000 hours of labor on nights and weekends – back into it. Kenwood was booming, and they resold it for a substantial profit three years later.

Tappan and Young repeated the process with a second home, which led them two years ago to the 1925 Prairie/Bungalow hybrid a block from beautiful Crescent Lake. It was solid, with an unrealized dignity, but it needed work – lots of it.

The huge front porch was enclosed with broken jalousie windows, and pink shag carpeting covered exquisite tile work. Room air conditioners hung precariously from mismatched windows. Light fixtures diminished the appeal of large, high-ceilinged rooms.

"There's not a thing in this house that we haven't touched," says Young. "And there's still more to do."

That kind of perfectionism has paid off. Exterior paint accents play off the neighborhood's decorative sidewalks. Comfortable, cushioned rattan furniture invites visitors to linger on the open porch. A new pool in the landscaped backyard announces that this traditional brick house in the tropics.

Inside, a stone fireplace dominates the huge living room. Reproduction Deco chandeliers surrounded by wood ceiling medallions set the perfect tone, lighting dramatic but comfortable furniture. Accents, including a portion of Tappan's antique Deco clock collection, create the feeling that the tasteful room could have existed in the early 20th century. Many were purchased in local shops. Modern oil paintings dot the walls and add surprise.

"We're into old houses, and we like the interior to fit the house," says Tappan. "But



A dramatic archway introduces the dining room. Photos by Tom Dyer

we don't want it to feel stuffy, like a museum."

Off the living room, a large addition with windows on three sides is furnished with a beige sofa and loveseat, creating a casual space for conversation. A television is hidden by an antique armoire.

A huge curved archway leads from the living room to a dining room large enough to contain a dining table, accent tables, piano, more Deco clocks -- and space for additional inspiration. The room is painted a deep, dark red. White doors and moldings continue to the ceiling, where another medallion surrounds a stunning antique Deco chandelier.

The large kitchen plays off original black and white tile. Tappan subscribes to "every old house magazine there is," and found yellow reproduction appliances that could've been owned by your grandparents except for the state-of-the-art technology housed inside.

Upstairs, three spacious high-ceilinged bedrooms are painted in bold, historic colors, and are furnished with period antiques. Lush bedding and window treatments create a rich and inviting look that is consistent with the rest of the house.

Despite the many decisions to be made, Tappan and Young say there were surprisingly few disagreements. "Bill likes everything on display, every table and bookcase filled with stuff," says Tappan.

Young also notes that while he enjoys the result, he does not enjoy the process of remodeling as much as his partner. "Greg will be ready to this again in a few years," he says, "but as far as I'm concerned, we're never moving." ▼



BILL YOUNG, KATHY YOUNG, and GREG TAPPAN



The house is a Prairie/Bungalow hybrid.



Deco accents dominate the eclectic living room.

## HOME DÉCOR



KATHY YOUNG relaxes inside her stunning bungalow kitchen. Photo by Tom Dyer

## STYLE IN TILE

A Kenwood Bungalow finds it's heart in the kitchen floor **By Tom Dyer**

**ST. PETERSBURG** - In an era of escalating property values, and in a booming real estate market like Tampa Bay, "flipping" (purchasing houses for rehab and resale) has become a science. But for Kathy Young, it is more of an art form.

"I look at the bones of a house first," Young says. "I look for qualities that I know will make people want to buy, I look for potential, and the rest is instinct."

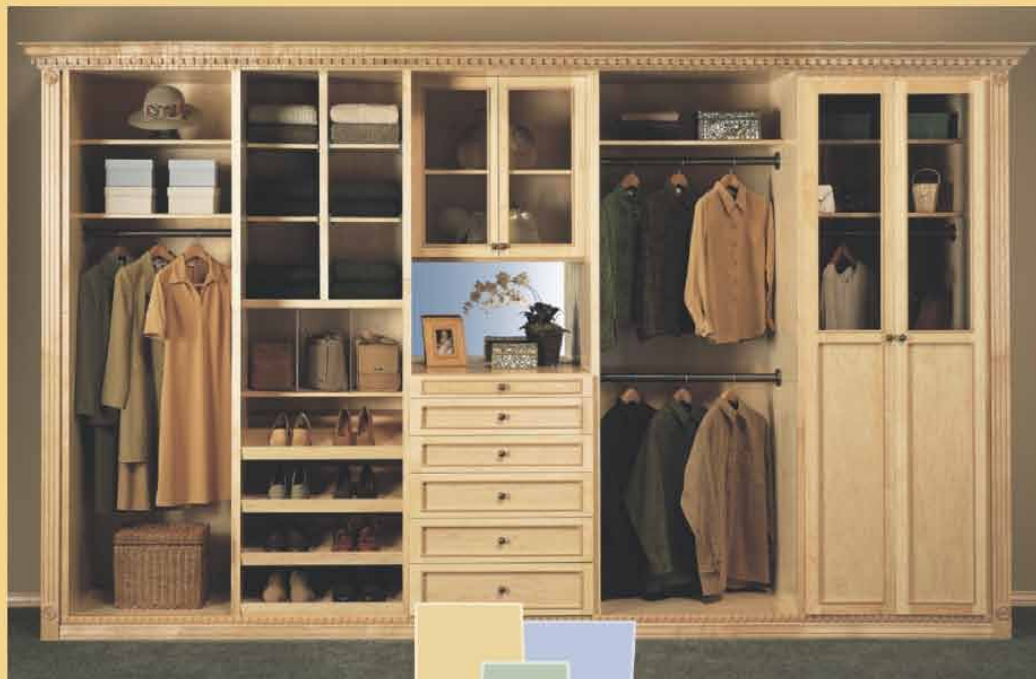
This instinct has been honed as Young has remodeled more than 20 homes in the past 10 years - mostly bungalows in the white-hot Historic Kenwood District of St. Petersburg. Her pattern is to choose a different home to live in every two years or so while work is completed. The most recent is a charming house on Second Avenue South that has as its most striking feature a multi-colored custom mosaic tile floor.

"This floor sold this house for me," she says.

It was the result of serendipity. Young ran into a neighbor at a Home Depot who offered to install the floor as a loss leader to promote his tile business. It took four days and less than \$300 in materials. But the striking colors and patterns give life and definition to the smallish bungalow.

Finished with stainless steel appliances, custom cooking table and stained glass windows, the kitchen is a vibrant stunner.

Young enjoys the process. She and son, Bill, who is also remodeling (see profile, p. 16), are in a continual dialogue about paint colors and accents. "My style is eclectic, mostly traditional, but I'm also willing to think outside the box," she says. "Perfect for St. Petersburg." ▼



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## HOME DÉCOR



## FILTH OH, MUSTACHE MAN, TALK DIRTY TO ME ALL DAY LONG

By Billy Masters

"I am so f'ing into you. But Betsy is so jealous. But let's f'ing have sex. And I want to lick you and suck your tits. But you have to be into Betsy — I told Betsy that you were into her. And if you get this message, just look at me and say yes. But I want to get crazy. I don't know why I'm like this, but I want you badly — and I know you want me. But you have to be into Betsy too. So when you get this message, if you agree with me, say yes. Get another woman up. Hire a hooker. Let's get crazy and get some coke." — **PAT O'BRIEN's** message to an unknown "friend."

Boy, he really knows how to sweet talk a gal. And what a vocabulary! At least now I understand why he was in **PARIS HILTON'S** Sidekick!

I would never have thought Pat O'Brien was capable of giving me so much pleasure. Seriously. And yet, I could sit and listen to him talk dirty for hours! For the handful of you who don't know, O'Brien (host of *The Insider*) has entered rehab — days after voice mails that he left an unidentified woman were leaked on the Internet. (You can now hear the messages on Filth2Go.com.)

Pat sounds high as a kite, so the references to doing coke and hiring a hooker didn't surprise me. But his enthusiasm for servicing this woman orally is quite shocking — especially since ladies always complain that men don't like to do that. It appears to be Pat's favorite thing — it's the first thing he mentions, and he repeats it ad nauseam.

Of course, once a story like this breaks, everyone comes out of the woodwork with a Pat O'Brien story. I particularly enjoyed the revelation of a gay male producer at *Access Hollywood* (Pat's previous gig) who says that Pat once allegedly came up behind him and said, "I've got a gift for you ... bend over." Oh, there's that O'Brien humor! The producer also tells tale of Pat sprawling out on a sofa in the producer's office and asking, "What would you do if I masturbated in front of you?" The producer doesn't reveal his response, but I know what I'd

**"Actually we're going to see the movie where Brad Pitt's naked most of the time."**

do — laugh! I'd say, "Whip it out, mustache man. I'll videotape it; we'll send the tape to Tom Bergeron and make a fortune!"

But my favorite story is that when **MARIAH CAREY** showed up at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame dinner, she was seated at the same table as ex-husband **TOMMY MOTTOLA** and his wife, **THALIA**! You know some bitchy queen did the seating arrangement and thought, "Won't this be fun?"

I not only want to meet that queen —

I wanna marry him! Thank God the paparazzi just "happened" to be there when Mariah arrived (and we've got the photos). First, she shakes Tommy's hand. He points to Thalia as if to say, "Mariah — or is it Mimi now? Have you met my latest whore ... er, wife ... Thalia?" In the next photo, Thalia

gets up as Mariah gives her one of those limp-wristed handshakes that you'd normally hate — but with the condescending smile plastered on Mariah's face, it's priceless. The third photo has Tommy with his arm proprietarily around Thalia, while Mariah (still smiling in that mindless, **TERRI SCHIAVO** kinda way) tries to figure out how to ask "Who did your breast implants?" in Spanish! Oh, I love my life.

Massive Studio has come out with *C.S.I.: Cock Scene Investigators*, a gay porn flick based on ... well, you know what it's based on. Something tells me this is one movie that won't feature **MARG HELGENBERGER**, although I bet it'll be popular with some of her colleagues — wink, wink. By the way, *CSI* (the show, not the flesh flick) plans to pull out some big guns for May sweeps. A little birdie told me that the legendary **ANN-MARGRET** will appear in at least two episodes as Marg's mother. Who knows — maybe she's in the porn version, too!

After we posted our exclusive clip of **SANDRA BERNHARD'S** kick-ass version of **CHRISTINA AGUILERA'S** *Beautiful* (it's still on Filth2Go.com), we got a question from Paul in St. Louis: "I know you sometimes put audio and

video clips on your Web site. Could you please show us the **ASHTON KUTCHER** underwear commercial from *Saturday Night Live*? I didn't see the show, but he looks so hot in the photos!"

Ask and you shall receive, Paul. On *SNL*, Ashton did an underwear commercial parody playing **BRITNEY SPEARS'** hubby, **KEVIN FEDERLINE**. The black and white sketch features Kutcher wearing only hip briefs and rolling around on the bed. But the gem from that show was the opening with **DEMI MOORE** — who was a hoot and a half. I'll post both clips. Enjoy!

In lieu of a blind item, I'd like to follow up the Ashton question with another story about Kutch. Apparently, Ash went with Demi and a friend to see *Troy*, and he was not all that comfortable.

"I think we're going to see an action movie, when actually we're going to see the movie where **BRAD PITT'S** naked most of the time. And Demi and her friend are making audible noises every time like, 'Ooh! Ahh!' And I'm like, 'Baby, I'm right here!' So I went out and hired Brad Pitt's trainer."

When Ashton is frolicking in his underwear and wants to look like Brad Pitt, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible. ▽

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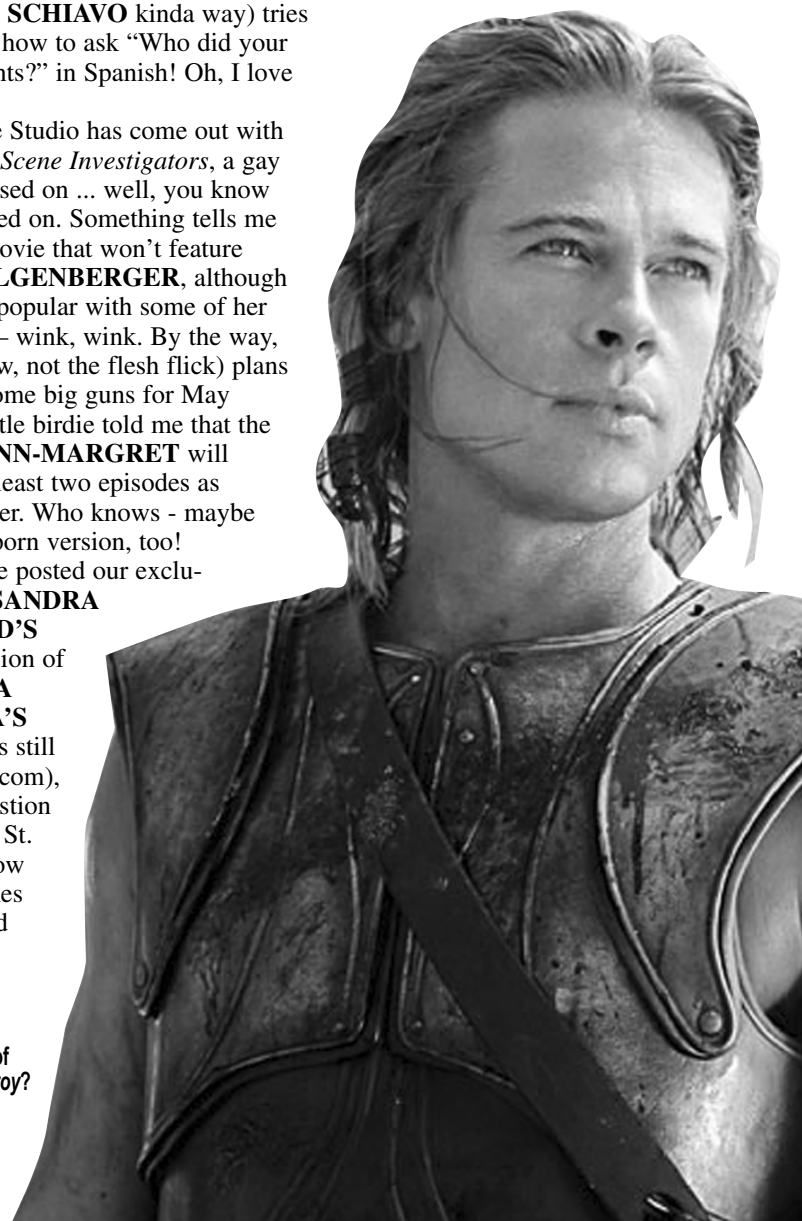
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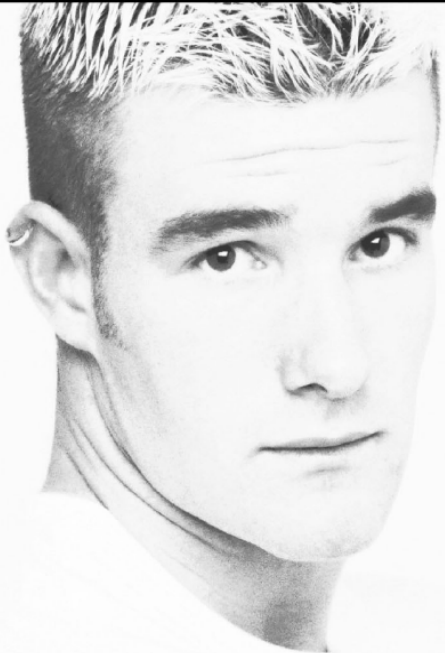
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