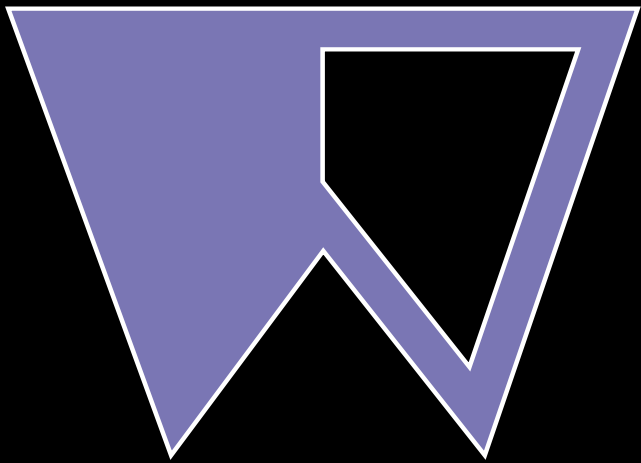


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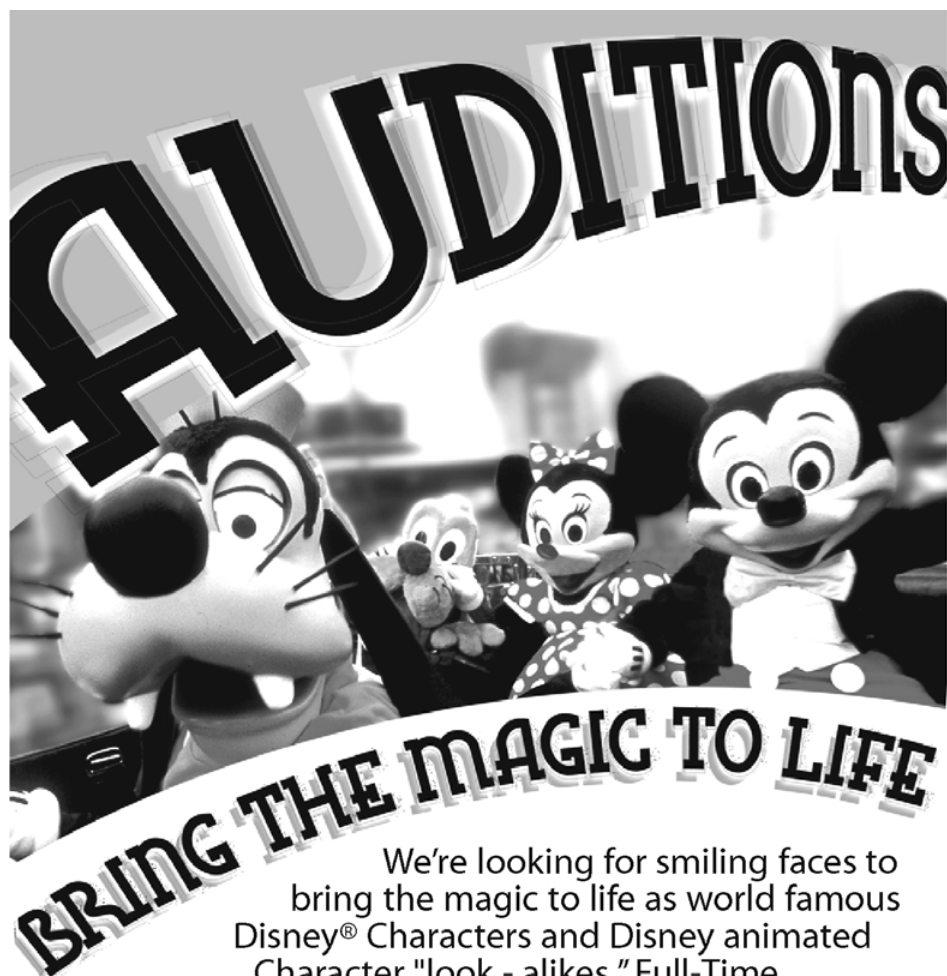
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WATER COLORS PULLOUT

The Green Lantern Battles Homophobia; Dame Edna's Return; Comedienne Judy Gold On Being A Lesbian, Jewish Mom

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On the cover: The Green Lantern.



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PUBLISHER

Tom Dyer Ext. 40

EDITOR

Scott J. Smith Ext. 13

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

David Stowe Ext. 15

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mike Ames Ext. 11

DIRECTOR OF SALES & PROMOTIONS

Jeff Jones Ext. 14

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rick Claggett Ext. 10

STAFF REPORTER

John Sullivan Ext. 20

ADVERTISING SALES

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Roxanne Morrison
(Tampa Bay/Gulf Coast) (813) 655-9890, Ext. 24

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Scottie Campbell, John Sullivan, Diane Wilde,
Jim Crescitelli, Rick Walen, Ken Kundis,
Greg Triggs, Arturo Rojas, Billy Masters,
Jayelle Wiggins, Paul Varnell, Kirk Hartlage,
Shelley Craige, Enid Jackowitz, Syd Jackowitz,
Sarah Viren, Paula Martinac, Logan Donahoo,
Drew Westveer, Rena Guay, Michael Blake,
Erin J. Chisman, David R. Guarino.

PHOTOGRAPHERS & ILLUSTRATORS

Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner,
Jill Porter, Algieri Pabon,
Rex Maniscalco, Christine E. Reynolds,
Dennis Butler, Francesca, Wheat Wurtzburger.

PROOFREADING Drew Westveer

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EDITOR'S DESK

By Scott Jackson Smith

It's the morning of Tues., Sept. 10. *Watermark* is going to press today, unfortunately prior to election results being announced. Did you vote?

I did — although I'm not sure why. I have never encountered a political candidate whose views accurately reflect my own. But then again, I suppose it would defeat the point if someone ran on an Anarchy ticket.

My politics run to the left — way to the left. Even though I'm a registered Democrat, my belief system definitely leans toward Socialism. Could I ever bring myself to vote Republican? I think not.

I know that many of you will disagree with me. And that's fine. I certainly don't view the GLBT community as a monolithic entity with the same set of morals and values. I can't expect us to agree on a political agenda. And given this, I don't think that it's appropriate for me to offer candidate endorsements to *Watermark's* readership. I'll leave that up to our publisher Tom Dyer (see *Headline News* on p. 10).

I can however remind our readers to do your research — because it doesn't seem like the candidates are doing theirs.

As I've stated before, it pains me when those running for office in Florida assume that lifting the ban on gay adoptions is the most important issue to GLBT voters. It's important because it is a question of legalized discrimination, but it's not the most important issue for most of us. In national polls, the most urgent concerns of the gay and lesbian community are workplace equality and governmental recognition of domestic partnerships.

And speaking of politics and domestic partnership benefits, did anyone else catch the error in State House hopeful Patrick Howell's fundraising letter? In his campaign propaganda he states, "Orlando has extended partner benefits [to] city employees, and we stand on the brink of expanding the city's anti-discrimination ordinance to prohibit discrimination of gay and lesbian citizens in the areas of housing, accommodations, and employment."

Can you spot the mistake? I'm truly alarmed that most can't. Orlando does not recognize domestic partnerships on any level — no cities in our readership area do. The only local governments in Florida that do are Broward County, Gainesville, Key West, Miami, Monroe

County, and West Palm Beach.

I don't mean to Howell-bash. I just use this as an example of why it's so important for individual voters to do their research. I'm sure that Howell didn't intentionally make this mistake. I believe that he — like most people I've spoken with since — simply recall that Orlando extended some kind of rights to gay and lesbian city employees. But it wasn't domestic partnership benefits; the city added "sexual orientation" to its anti-discrimination policy. How quickly we forget.

And we must not forget where we stand in the eyes of the government.

I apologize for talking about Orlando so much in my column, but the rest of the content in this issue of *Watermark* balances it out. There's a lot going on in Tampa, St. Pete, and Sarasota. In our "Lifestyles" section there are two stories about St. Pete: learn about True Expressions, the city's safe haven for queer youth, and about Race for the Cure, a charity marathon that benefits breast cancer research.

Then in our "Water Colors" pullout read about Dame Edna's triumphant return to Tampa Bay. Scottie Campbell's interview with the self-proclaimed megastar is hilarious — I laughed out loud. And in our cover story, John Sullivan talks to former *Real Worlder* Judd Winick, the author of *Green Lantern* comics. Winick is taking the superhero in new directions, most recently having him battle homophobia.

Also in this issue: an update on Orlando's anti-discrimination ordinance, a case of discrimination in Sarasota, a look at Miami's endangered equal rights protections, and Tom Dyer's in depth comparison of the candidates running for U.S. House — District 24. And on page 18, we have a first: two guest viewpoint columns: one by Orange Co. Democratic Chair Doug Head (on the left-hand side of the page), the other by Orange Co. Republican Chair Lew Oliver (on the right).

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

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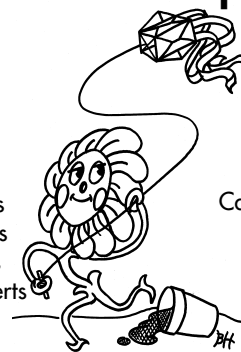
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PREVIEW

Water Cooler

PEOPLE ARE TALKING



OADO STRIKES BACK

The radical religious right is at our doorstep and they are attempting to defeat the language change to Orlando's Chapter 57 that would include "sexual orientation" as a protected class. The Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance (OADO) is receiving continuous opposition from right wing groups both nationwide and locally. Your help is urgently needed now. OADO has written a letter in support of the amendment, and GayOrlando.com has supplied an e-mail form to allow concerned citizens to quickly e-mail Mayor Glenda Hood and all City Council members. What will only take a moment of your time could make a difference in the future quality of life for Orlando's gay and lesbian population — and you don't even have to be a resident of Orlando to have your voice

heard on this important issue. For more information visit www.gayorlando.com/golocal.

RUFUS RESCUES JAMES DEAN'S ALMA MATER

An avid fan of the 1950's actor James Dean, gay singer Rufus Wainwright organized a charity concert to raise funds for the late star's former high school, which is scheduled for demolition. The benefit concert was held on Aug. 31 at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Joining Wainwright in his charitable effort was the folk group The McGarrigles, which includes his mother, his aunt, and his sister Martha, making the event a family affair. The Fairmount High School auditorium has been vacant since 1986 and is in dire need of immediate stabilization. It was placed on the Historic Landmarks Foundation of

Indiana's "10 most endangered list" in 2001.

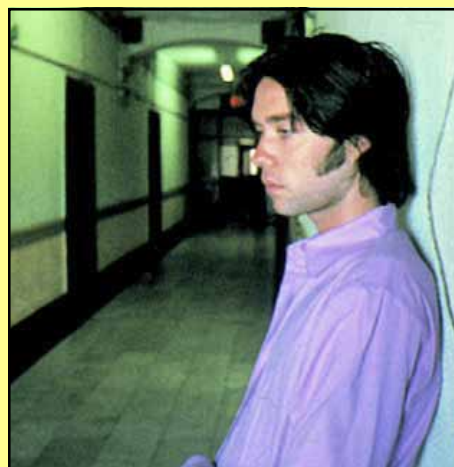
NY TIMES PUBLISHES FIRST UNION ANNOUNCEMENT

Two weeks to the day after announcing it would offer gay and lesbian couples equal access to its Weddings/Announcements pages, the *New York Times* announced the civil union of Daniel Gross and Steven Goldstein, making it the paper's first-ever same-sex union notice. Gross, 32, and Goldstein, 40, celebrated their civil union ceremony

on Sept. 1. So far the list of other papers that have decided to follow suit has reached over one hundred and continues to grow. Florida papers that have agreed to run the civil union announcements include *Orlando Sentinel*, *The Palm Beach Post*, and *Miami Herald*.

SEPT. 11 REACTION BLAMED FOR HATE CRIMES

In a report issued at the end of August, Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth's office stated that hate crimes motivated by religion and national origin almost doubled after the Sept. 11 attacks a year ago. Since 1989 Florida has recognized "hate crimes" toward a victim based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability. Last year, a total of 335 hate crimes were reported, an increase of almost 25 percent from the previous year. In the last ten years less than one out of every four hate crimes was motivated by religion or ethnicity. In 2001 those two factors accounted for nearly half of the hate crimes reported statewide. Several cities around the state reported that all hate crimes for the year happened after Sept. 11.



Gay crooner RUFUS WAINWRIGHT held a charity concert last month to save James Dean's former high school.

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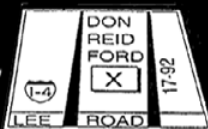
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SARASOTA NEWS

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LANDLORD WON'T RENT TO GAY CLUB

BRANDENTON - A man who hoped to open a gay nightclub in a strip shopping center on U.S. 41 has been rebuffed by the building's owners.

Jim Reese, who owns Manhattan Hair Co. in Sarasota, planned to take over the lease of Sugarlid, a failing swingers club where he promotes a weekly "Gay Night." The current owners, Dawn and Jim Avalle, hoped to bail out of mounting financial problems by selling to Davis.

"Business is bad," Dawn Avalle reported to the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. "We've fallen behind on the rent, and the best thing for us to do is to sell the place."

But the owner of the shopping center, Fred Davis, won't rent to Reese because he's a born again Christian who doesn't like gays and lesbians... or swingers for that matter.

"[The Avalles] never said anything about swingers," Davis' wife, Joan, told the *Herald Tribune*. "If you're interested, I don't like either one. We're not for any of this stuff."

Reese says he's not giving up.

"There's already a swinger's club and a whorehouse down the walkway," Reese said, referring to a massage parlor a few doors down from Sugarlid. "It's discrimination."

Reese told the *Herald Tribune* that he has already spoken with an attorney about suing Davis. But with no city or countywide protections for residential or commercial tenants based on sexual orientation, it is unclear whether Davis is doing anything illegal.

"You can't discriminate on race or sex," Bradenton civil rights attorney Andre Perron informed the *Herald Tribune*, "but gays haven't clearly been defined as a protected class."

Existing businesses in the shopping center reportedly have no problem with a gay club replacing Sugarlid — even the nearby Manasota Elks Lodge.

"It doesn't bother us," said the organization's treasurer, Don Bissonnette. "We haven't had any problems at all."

Tom Dyer. ▾

SARASOTA BRIEFS



SARASOTA COUNTY RANKS 16TH IN NEW HIV CASES

Based on just-released reporting from the last six months of 2001, Sarasota County now ranks 16th among 67 counties in Florida in new HIV infection rates. The statistics, compiled by the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of HIV/AIDS, disclosed that 1878 persons were tested for HIV from July-December, 2001. There were 10 positive results among 1151 Caucasians tested, and 9 positive results from just 337 African Americans. "These statistics support the CDC's assessment that 50% of all new HIV infections are appearing in populations of color," said AIDS-Manasota Executive Director Debbie Roginski. The organization has a program — Project Unity HIV Prevention — to address the growing problem.

HERALD TRIBUNE COLUMNIST ENTERS NON-DISCRIMINATION FRAY

Controversial *Sarasota Herald Tribune* columnist Rod Thomson fueled the debate over the city's non-discrimination amendment by arguing that existing protections are enough, and that a new ordinance would cost the city money. "I wonder if Mr. Thompson understands just how it feels to be singled out in society simply because of bigotry or bias," shot back Sarasota resident Marion Vaughan in a letter to the editor. "I have been denied housing simply for being gay. I have been with friends in Sarasota and St. Petersburg who have been denied service simply because of their race. This sort of deep-rooted segregation is still rampant in Florida." Rev. Jim Merritt, a local activist who has spearheaded the non-discrimination initiative, urges *Herald Tribune* readers to contact editor Deb Winsor at deb.winsor@heraldtribune.com to complain about her columnist's bias. Sarasota voters will vote on the amendment Nov. 5.

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TAMPA BAY NEWS

UPSTART CHORUS BREAKS
WITH TAMPA BAY ARTS

TAMPA - It's been called the battle of the "good time girls" and the "serious music queens," and it came to a head at a tense Aug. 27 meeting of the Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus administrative council. By the end of the evening, six of nine council members had resigned their



TBA president RICHARD WAUGH: "We've heard from our audience in very strong language."

positions, throwing their support to a new choral group forming around former TBGMC artistic director John Phillip Mullinax. Meanwhile, TBGMC is regrouping and will continue as a member of Tampa Bay Arts.

Both sides agree that the conflict centers on differing visions for the

chorus. Mullinax — whose talent and musicianship are acknowledged by all — favors a more studied and ambitiously choral approach, along the lines of Dallas' much-praised Turtle Creek Chorale. Tampa Bay Arts, concerned about flagging chorus membership and concert attendance, wants

a showier and more accessible chorus.

"We've heard from our donor base and our audience in very strong language," said TBA president Richard Waugh. "They missed the fun, the laughter."

But the resigning chorus council members say the roots of the conflict go deeper.

"Tampa Bay Arts is a non-artistic administrative support organization," said D.J. Holt. "And yet they were demanding full artistic control. No chorus could function that way."

TBGMC will continue under the direction of interim musical director Steven Allen, choreographer Jeff Rousch, and accompanist Logan Brown. They will perform at the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, and at Christmas concerts.

Waugh noted that about 20 attended the group's most recent rehearsal.

The new chorus has aligned with Crescendo — The Tampa Bay Women's Chorus, and for the time being they're calling themselves "The Men of Crescendo." Mullinax is artistic director for both Crescendo choruses, which will also perform at the Film Fest and at Christmas concerts. *Tom Dyer* ▼

TAMPA BAY BRIEFS



THIRD LOCAL BOOKSTORE FACING HARD TIMES

First Affinity Books in St. Pete closed two years ago. Then owner Bill Kanouff announced that Tomes & Treasures, a Tampa institution, may close in early 2003. And now a third Bay Area bookstore is facing hard times. To keep Brigit Books afloat, owner Helen Roman is seeking 10 people who will each invest \$1,000 with a repayment plan earning "competitive interest." Roman has identified Sept. 15 as a deadline for investors to come forward. "We're doing everything we can to stay here," Roman said. Call (727) 502-5642 for more info.

TROPICS HOSTS OLYMPICS-BOUND TEAM TAMPA BAY

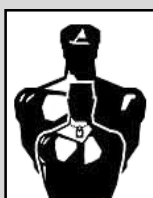
A pep rally for Gay Games-bound Team Tampa Bay will take place on Monday, Sep. 16 from 6-8 PM at Tropics Restaurant. More than a dozen athletes from Tampa Bay and Central Florida will attend the games, being held in Sydney in early November. The rally will whip up support for the athletes, and will also raise funds to help defer costs of the expensive trip. Jazz saxophonist Alan Darcy will perform, and there will be a buffet, raffle and door prizes. Call (813) 837-1836.

SUNCOAST OPENING THEATER, RUNNING ADS

The Suncoast Resort Hotel in St. Petersburg is busily readying a 96-seat theater that will specialize in gay and lesbian productions. First up in October will be an extended run of *Party*, the David Dillon play that wraps a successful run at nearby Central Stage Theatre Company on Sept. 15. Suncoast's theater — located in the former broadcast studios of Rainbow Vision television — is currently seeking rights to several plays. The resort is also breaking ground by running network television ads on CBS affiliate Channel 10 through the end of the year.

MOTION PICTURE ACADEMY SUES OVER LEATHER LOGO

The Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences recently sent a "cease and desist" letter to organizers of the annual International Leather Sir and Leather Boy competition — formerly International Mr. Drummer — demanding that they stop using a likeness they believe is too similar to their famous gold statuette. Leather Sir/Boy president Mike Zuhl said his organization has no intention of cooperating. "Our logo is wearing a cap and is much more buff - it looks nothing like Oscar," Zuhl said. The Leather Sir and Leather Boy competition takes place at the sold out Suncoast Resort on Oct. 10-14. Decide for yourself about the logo at www.leathersir.com.



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ORLANDO NEWS

GLBCC LETS MARKETING DIRECTOR GO

ORLANDO - The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community Center of Orlando (GLBCC) dismissed their marketing director from further involvement with the Center last month.

Bates Reed, who had been in the unpaid position since February, was let go after the board voted 4 to 2 in favor of dismissing him.

According to GLBCC board president Bart Zarcone, Reed found it "difficult to impossible" to get along with the majority of the board and Center staff members. Zarcone also said Reed was not supportive of the Center's current operations manager Lani Brito.

Zarcone says Reed remains a member of GLBCC but no longer represents it in any way.

"People sometimes come in with good intentions but also their own agenda," said Zarcone. "Bates had a lot of good ideas but he wanted to do things his way. We have to

protect our position as a non-profit at all costs."

Reed insists that all he wanted to do was bring guidance to the community through the Center.

"The Center has gotten a very poor name throughout the community over the last couple of years," said Reed. "I offered myself as a leader who is here to build better leaders."

One of the projects that Reed focused on was the Center's annual Pridefest. This year the event is being held at Universal Studios' Soundstage 33 and includes a daytime expo and several nighttime dance events.

"Pridefest is about the community, not about the Center," Reed said. "We wanted to raise the bar on Pridefest and make it about building unity within the community. It's about giving people hope and something to believe in."

Although the Center will remain involved with the annual event, they are only planning to participate in the daytime expo, which will include keynote speakers, live performances, and street entertainment.

"All we want is to keep our doors open for the gay and lesbian community," said Zarcone. "We want to clean up our past and get on an even keel before we take on any new growth or plan for any expansion." *John Sullivan*

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

ORLANDO - "Today's issue is a controversial one," said Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood. "This is one that is sure to divide the community into distinct factions."

Thus began the Sept. 9 workshop where Hood and the Orlando City Council could ask the Human Relations Board's why in June they recommended adding "sexual orientation" to a the citywide list of protected classes.

Commissioner Betty Wynum wanted to know how many letters sent to the mayor and the commissioners were for the ordinance and how many were in opposition to it. The board said that 1,298 people living within the city limits wrote in support of the amendment and 705 opposed it. The totals were based on letters received up until Aug. 13.

Commissioner Vicki Vargo, who has teamed up with religious right organizations such as Exodus International, the Liberty Council and the Christian Coalition to block passage of the language change, took the meeting as an opportunity to present her views.

"I believe in equal rights for everyone," Vargo said. "But I have seen no proof of this kind of discrimination."

Vargo said that in order for the city to add protections, a group should have documentation of widespread discrimination, they should be able to prove an economic impact due to the discrimination, and they should be able to prove immutability as in national origin or disability.

"Religion and marital status do not fit into their suggested criteria," Hernan Castro, chairman of the Human Relations Board, said. "Both religion and marital status are choices people make, they are not immutable."

Vargo also cited that she could only pinpoint two cases of anti-gay discrimination that were presented to the City Council earlier this year. And she indicated that two cases weren't enough to warrant adding "sexual orientation" to Chapter 57.

When other council members inquired as to the breakdown of Orlando's reported cases of discrimination within the last year it was revealed that there had been only two reported cases of discrimination based on religion.

After the meeting, openly lesbian City Commissioner Patty Sheehan expressed that she was fairly pleased with what took place.

"Although it is distressing to hear that Commissioner Vargo sees no evidence of discrimination," said Sheehan. "I am happy that the Human Relations Board and the City Attorney made it clear that these are not special rights at all. They are human rights."

The workshop ended on a noncommittal note with the mayor saying more evidence was needed. She did not schedule a follow-up briefing.

"The gay community has had to jump through so many hoops, and now we don't even have a clear course of action," Sheehan told the *Orlando Sentinel*. *John Sullivan*

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ORLANDO BRIEFS



DIAMOND THREATENED OVER ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

City Council member Phil Diamond received a threatening letter from the Florida Family Association (FFA) on Aug. 28. The letter said that the group will accuse Diamond of breaking the law if he votes in favor of adding "sexual orientation" to the list of Orlando's protected classes. The FFA claimed that Diamond could stand to gain monetarily from the language change to Chapter 57 because the law firm where he works takes discrimination cases. Diamond had the City Attorney review the claim. No conflict of interest was found.



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STATE NEWS

BROWARD LOG CABIN CLUB HOSTS HOWELL FUNDRAISER

LAZY LAKE - On Sept. 6, the Broward Log Cabin Club of Florida hosted a "Meet and Greet the Candidate" fundraiser for their associate member Patrick Howell.

The cocktail party was held in the Lazy Lake home of Joe McCallion and Jim Rafferty. Over 70 people attended the event and the candidate walked away with a number of checks and pledged donations in support of his campaign.

If elected, Howell, who is a choice Victory Fund candidate, will become the first openly gay man to enter the Florida State House of Representatives.

While in South Florida, Howell met with several bar owners and businessmen, the Rev. Grant Ford of the MCC Sunshine

Cathedral, Miami/Dade Representative Gus Barreiro, and many other community leaders and activists.



Attendees at the Patrick Howell fundraiser included (L - R) Broward LCR vice president ANDY EDDY, businessman RICHARD FASENMYER, PATRICK HOWELL, LCR member MARK FERRARA, and DAVE DASILVA of the South Florida Victory Fund.

25 YEARS AFTER ANITA BRYANT, MIAMI TAKES UP GAY RIGHTS AGAIN

MIAMI - The county where orange juice spokeswoman Anita Bryant mounted a crusade against gay rights 25 years ago is taking up the issue again.

In 1977, Miami was the site of one of the biggest battles of the gay-rights movement when Bryant successfully led a drive to repeal a Miami-Dade County ordinance protecting gays from discrimination. A new such ordinance was passed in 1998, and now gay-rights opponents want to repeal that one, too.

The measure is on Sept. 10's ballot.

This time, though, the fight is not nearly as furious as it was a generation ago. Gay-rights supporters have higher-profile backing than they enjoyed back then. And a poll released last Wednesday by *The Miami Herald* found that the repeal effort is likely to fail. (AP)

Watermark went to press on Tues., Sept. 10. The results of the repeal measure will be featured in our next issue.

STATE BRIEFS



PANHANDLE BOYS CONVICTED OF MURDERING FATHER

A jury convicted 13- and 14-year-old brothers on Sept. 6 of murdering their sleeping father with a baseball bat in an unusual case in which a man was tried for the same crime under a completely different prosecution theory. Alex and Derek King of Pensacola had been charged with first-degree murder for last fall's slaying of Terry King, but the jury returned convictions on the less-serious charge. Both boys were also convicted of arson. Convicted child molester Ricky Chavis, 40, was tried earlier for the murder, with prosecutors arguing that he, not the boys, wielded the bat that killed King. The defense argued that Chavis wanted to keep Terry King from finding out he was having sex with Alex.

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2002 ELECTIONS TOUGHER BATTLE THAN EXPECTED

U.S. House - District 24:
Tom Feeney (Rep.) v. Harry Jacobs (Dem.)
By Tom Dyer

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

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS - As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Rep. Tom Feeney (R-Oviedo) had more than a little influence when the Republican-controlled legislature reapportioned U.S. congressional districts within the state. Florida gained some seats as a result of the 2000 Census, and one was created specifically with Feeney in mind. The new District 24 weaves through Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard counties, tracking Republican voters through parts of Winter Park, Maitland, Apopka, Altamonte Springs, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Cocoa and Titusville.

But as *Orlando Magazine* noted recently, "Feeney may be in for a tougher battle than he expected in his bid to take a congressional seat carved out just for him." His Democratic opponent is high-profile Orlando area attorney Harry Jacobs, who is well known to voters due to pre-John Morgan commercials for his personal injury law firm, Jacobs and Goodman. In recent years, the telegenic Jacobs has become one of the most energetic and appealing Florida Democrats in a state and nation that have been skewing Republican. In 2000, he led the post-election charge against presidential candidate George W. Bush by filing a lawsuit challenging the vote-count in Florida.

Both successful attorneys, Feeney and Jacobs are articulate spokespersons for their parties' differing political philosophies. And they are accustomed to winning, which makes this one of the

most interesting 2002 local elections. Heavyweights like Vice President Dick Cheney and former Vice President Al Gore have already stumped for their respective candidates, and that's likely just the beginning in this high-profile battle.

A CLASSIC GLADIATOR

Ruddy-faced, diminutive, and with a

curly mop of graying brown hair, the 43-year old Feeney is a hard-line conservative who has often been lampooned for his firebrand rhetoric.

"He's a classic gladiator," describes former state Rep. Chris Corr. "He's somebody who's not afraid of getting into the arena and mixing it up."

Many were surprised when

Jeb Bush chose Feeney as his running mate in his first gubernatorial bid in 1996, and some say it cost him in a close election. Opponent Lawton Chiles labeled him, "too dangerous to lead."

Feeney believes he was mischaracterized. "I'm not some right-wing Christian fanatic who is going to lead us into some jihad," he says.

What is true is that the Christian Coalition gave Feeney a 100 percent rating on its most recent legislative scorecard for his support of issues such as parental notification for minors seeking abortions and creation of the "Choose Life" license tag. He has also gained notoriety for his strong support of school vouchers and health care reform that excludes patients' rights to sue their HMOs.

His philosophy is classic Reagan Republican — less government regulation and fewer taxes. But as Speaker of the Florida House, moderates within his own party have criticized his uncompromising



State Rep. TOM FEENEY: "Every child should be brought up in the traditional family."

HEADLINE NEWS cont.

style of leadership. Recently, Feeney was questioned when phone records he first refused to produce indicated that he has used paid legislative aids to solicit campaign funds.

Square-jawed, silver-haired and bespectacled, Jacobs, 54, is running for his first political office. A former public school teacher, his campaign priorities include education reform, economic development, protection of Social Security and Medicare, and environmental concerns.

Regarding education, he advocates smaller classes, higher salaries for teachers, safer classrooms, and capital improvements including providing every classroom with high-speed access to the Internet. He says he'll fight any plan to privatize Social Security, and will stand up to drug companies. "The same prescription drugs shouldn't cost twice as much in Florida as they do in Mexico," he says.

Jacobs wants the federal government to help stop "the chokehold traffic is placing on the Central Florida economy." He believes that, "protecting workers and running a successful business are not ideas at cross-purposes." And he wants to return environmental concerns to the high-priority position they had under Clinton-Gore. "Environmental policy took an unprecedented step backwards following the 2000 election," he notes.

FULL PARTICIPATION

Jacobs also says he's passionate about discrimination issues. "I am committed to fighting discrimination wherever it exists, whether it is based on race, gender or sexual orientation," he says. "We are diminished as a nation, and our own freedom is damaged, when any group is denied full participation in the social and economic life of our nation."

One of his daughters is lesbian, and Jacobs is a proud and unconditionally supportive father. But he is quick to point out that he was committed to equal rights long before it became personal. He has

reached out to local gays and lesbians during his campaign, and has been endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign and Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan.

No surprise. Jacobs supports federal hate crimes legislation — "Every hate crime is an offense against the most basic values of our society." — and would be a strong vote for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

"Every year, qualified hard-working Americans are denied jobs or discriminated against while on the job because they are, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual," he said. "Yet, Americans have a fundamental belief that working men and women should be judged based on their job performance rather than irrational prejudice. I strongly believe we must pass federal legislation to ensure that every American is protected from employment discrimination."

And he opposes measures like the Defense of Marriage Act. "I support strong federal civil rights laws that ban unfair discrimination, address inequality and inequity, and provide equal access to all institutions," he said.

Feeney seeks what he calls a "civil society" in which "free individuals without undue coercion or burdens from government can make decisions about their own lives." But like many Republicans, he often excludes gays and lesbians from the equation.

In a much-publicized 1994 letter to Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, Feeney decried fellow state Rep. Kim Shephard's anti-crime position this way:

"Isn't it great that... she was at an 'anti-family' 'pro-gay privileges' rally with the illustrious Congressman from Massachusetts, Barney Frank, launching a full scale attack on decent values in

America. For Rep. Shephard to pretend she's against crime when she has a record as a pro-welfare, pro-government, pro-taxes, anti-business, pro-gay and lesbian 'families' and other left-wing programs really just saddens me."

He also opposes gay adoption. "If you don't know if the causes (of homosexuality) are psychological or genetic, it is very difficult to say the environment at

home isn't going to have an effect one way or the other," he told the *Orlando Sentinel* in 1993. "I do believe to the extent possible every child should be brought up in the traditional family."

Ironically, Feeney has noted that his

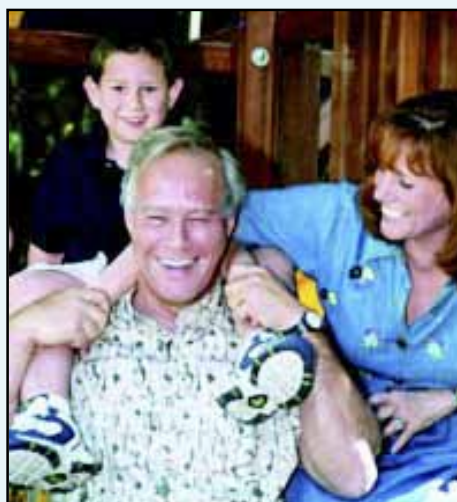
household is less than traditional in some ways. "My wife, Ellen, is for all intents and purposes primarily raising our two kids because I'm gone four months a year," he told the *St. Petersburg Times* last year.

Feeney has, however, reached out to gay and lesbian Republicans. "I feel it's to important that Republicans welcome gays to vote Republican, to participate, to write checks," Feeney told the *Tampa Tribune* in 2000. "The only thing I'm not for is special privileges and rights not afforded other groups."

ENDORSEMENT

The race for U.S. House District 24 is critical, and the choice is clear. Tom Feeney is a highly ambitious, uncompromising conservative with a 100 percent rating from the Christian Coalition. And once elected, he will be difficult to unseat. Harry Jacobs will be an articulate, results-oriented legislator who combines a successful business background with an evolved social consciousness. Vote for Jacobs. ▼

Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan and others will host a "Meet the Candidate" fundraiser for Harry Jacobs on Friday, Sept. 27. For more information call Bryn at (407) 862-8442.



Candidate HARRY JACOBS with his wife LAUREN and their grandchild: "We are diminished when any group is denied full participation in the social and economic life of our nation."



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NATION'S ONLY BLACK GAY PRIDE MARCH HELD IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA - Shouting "We're black, we're out and we're proud," about 500 people walked the streets of Atlanta on Sept. 2 in what was called the only black gay pride march in the country.

The march was sponsored by gay rights advocates from around the state. It came at the conclusion of the city's Labor Day Black Gay Pride Celebration, which drew about 15,000 people and was coordinated by In The Life Atlanta, a support group for gay blacks in metro Atlanta.

"We're trying to send a clear and concise message to mainstream black America that we are not invisible, and from this point forward we are always going to be in your face," said chief organizer Jimmie Scott. "We need to stop homophobia."

The group walked about a mile through west Atlanta with a police escort, accepting waves of support from homeowners and motorists. (AP)

LOUISIANA COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS IN SODOMY LAW CHALLENGE

NEW ORLEANS - Louisiana's nearly 200-year-old ban on oral and anal sex is as discriminatory against gays as the segregation of public facilities was against blacks, a lawyer told a trio of appeals court judges on Sept. 4.

"It's illegal in Louisiana for me to have sex. It's anatomically impossible... and the government of Louisiana says if I don't like it I can go somewhere else," John D. Rawls, an attorney for the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians Inc., said. "I'm old enough to remember segregation of blacks and whites in the South ... and back then it was the same thing: If you don't like it, go somewhere else."

Rawls urged the state 4th Circuit Court of Appeals to add Louisiana to the 37 other states which have either disposed of or never had laws banning consensual oral or anal sex among adults.

Conviction carries fines up to \$2,000 and prison time of up to five years. (AP)

PHILLY MAYOR SAYS HE'LL APPEAL COURT'S BAN ON "LIFE PARTNERS"

PHILADELPHIA - Officials will fight to keep a city ordinance recognizing same-sex "life partners" and will try to continue to grant them benefits in the meantime, Philadelphia Mayor John Street announced.

The mayor's decision follows a state appeals court decision last week that struck down the partnerships, saying the city had usurped the state's power to regulate marriage.

"I also directed City Solicitor (Nelson A.) Diaz to seek a stay of the opinion in order to allow life partners to continue to receive benefits during the course of this appeal," Street said in a one-paragraph statement on Sept. 4.

Since the ordinance, 295 couples have registered as "life partners" with the city's human relations commission, making them eligible to seek benefits from the city and some private employers, executive director Lazar Kleit said.

In 79 of those cases, at least one of the partners works for the city. (AP)

WORLD BRIEFS



BOSTON UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR ORDERS END TO GAY ALLIANCE

The chancellor of Boston University ordered a support group for gay students at a college-run preparatory school to disband, saying he believes it encouraged premarital sex. Chancellor John Silber gave the orders to the BU Academy headmaster James Tracy, who complied. The outspoken Silber said he wants the elite school for students grades 8 to 12 to focus on education.

COURT REJECTS OHIO LESBIAN COUPLE'S PARENTING CLAIMS

A ruling by the Ohio Supreme Court is being praised by the lesbian couple who asked for equal custody of each other's children and a coalition of conservative groups opposed to the women's request. The court on Aug. 29 rejected Shelly Zachritz and Teri Bonfield's claim that they are parents of each other's children, but said a juvenile court may decide whether to grant the women's request for equal custody. The couple, who have six children, say they need joint custody in case something happens to one of them.

JUDGE RULES GAY CLUB SHOULD BE ALLOWED AT HIGH SCHOOL

A federal judge has ruled that Ohio high school administrators acted improperly in blocking students from forming a gay/straight alliance as an official club. School officials have also vowed to appeal the decision. In 2001, the school stated that the group was denied permission to meet because organizers did not follow proper procedure. But federal Judge Larry McKinney determined that there was no such policy.

HEALTH

SARASOTA AIDS THEATER PROJECT TO PERFORM AT ANNUAL BENEFIT

SARASOTA - The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project, a group of people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, will present a segment from their latest project, *And the Band Played On*, at 7:30 PM at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre on Sept. 30. As part of the company's Second Annual Night of Alternative Theatre, artists from the Sarasota/Manatee area will participate in musical selections from *When Pigs Fly* and an edited, staged reading from *The Laramie Project*. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 and are available at the Golden Apple or at Bethesda House. For more information, call Garry Allan Breul at (941) 365-6348.



(Clockwise from top left) DANIEL LUPO, JOHN RUSSO, KATE CLARK, BRAD WAGES, and GEORGE BOX will perform a segment of *And the Band Played On* in Sarasota.

CASE DOCUMENTED OF SECOND HIV INFECTION WITH DIFFERENT STRAIN

Swiss researchers have documented a rare case of a patient contracting a second HIV infection years later with a different strain of the virus.

Doctors once assumed that patients' natural immunity would keep them from getting the virus more than once. However, in the Sept. 4 *New England Journal of Medicine*, researchers describe the case of a 38-year-old man who acquired a second strain through unprotected sex more than two years after he was first infected in 1998.

"It just shows how little we understand what's happening with HIV-related immunity," said one of the researchers, Dr. Bernard Hirschel of the University of Geneva.

The researchers said the case could have implications for the development of an AIDS vaccine and supports the practice of safe sex even among HIV-infected partners.

Hirschel said researchers were able to document the case because the patient was enrolled in an AIDS drug study to test early treatment of the virus. The man was successfully treated for more than two years and was taken off the drugs after getting an experimental vaccine intended to boost his immune system. A few months later in April 2001, and weeks after he had unprotected sex with men, his virus level jumped. He was found to be infected with a different strain. (AP)

HEALTH BRIEFS



ORLANDO'S HIV PLANNING COUNCIL TO HOLD MEETING ON SEPT. 25

The HIV Health Services Planning Council of Orlando will hold its monthly meeting on Sept. 25 at the Four Points Sheraton at 6 PM. Individuals who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS as well as the general public are encouraged to attend. Public input and feedback are necessary for the enhancement of the HIV/AIDS service delivery system for the Orlando Eligible Metropolitan Area. There are no costs associated with attendance. For additional information, call (407) 893-8119.

HIV MEDICATION ADHERENCE WORSENS FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

Gay and bisexual men with HIV on HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy) were more likely to have missed more doses or taken them later after 9/11 than they were before, according to a recent study. The mean number of missed doses of protease inhibitors increased from 2.67 two weeks prior to 9/11 to 5.07 in the two weeks following the attacks. Investigators also found that participants who did not miss their medications were more likely to take their medication not within the prescribed window period after 9/11 than they were before. The data was published on GayHealth.com on Sept. 4.

BICYCLISTS TREKKING TO FURTHER AIDS VACCINE RESEARCH

When news broke that Pallotta TeamWorks cancelled the annual Canada to U.S. AIDS Vaccine Ride because they were "1600 riders short of our goal of 2800," a small group of former riders, friends, and volunteers quickly formed to ensure an alternate trek continued for the cause. The new event, dubbed the "Montreal to Maine AIDS Vaccine Bike Trek," departed from Montreal on Aug. 28, and finished in Portland, Maine on Sept. 1. The trek benefits an AIDS vaccine research program at a major university.

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MY DOCUMENTS DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?

Queer computing by Erin J. Chisman

Labor Day weekend is usually a time of incredible sloth for me. However, this year I actually went and did something over the weekend. A new lesbian band in the area, The Rub, held a concert to raise money for their demo. Since I know one of the roommates of the bassist I got off my lazy ass and traveled to the UCF area to see the show.

It was about my third trip to the keg when I realized that some of these people looked familiar and not in the "weren't-you-at-Faces-Friday-night" familiar way. It was more of the "gee-I-have-seen-your-picture-somewhere-and-how-the-hell-do-I-know-you?"

Then I heard the lead for the Sarah & Carly Band — the opening act for The Rub — introduce herself as a "Live Journal" user. Several other girls piped up with their user names. I soon realized that nearly everyone at the party was either on my friends' lists or my girlfriend Kristin's list. You think six degrees of separation is the norm? How about two degrees — all because of this new phenomenon known as "Live Journal."

"Live Journal" is a simple enough concept. It's fashioned much after the Web log sensation but with many more perks. If you visit Blog Spot <www.blogspot.com> you can randomly search through posted diaries. Users sign up for an account and choose a unique name all for the purpose of posting inner thoughts online. Other surfers search through and read users' daily musings, deep introspection, or flowery prose has been posted. But the Blog sites are fairly flat and allow no interaction with those who might be eavesdropping on your life.

Journal sites however are the high-octane version of Blogs. There are paid and unpaid versions of these sites, but in order to get a pass code for free account

you have to be invited by a user that already has an account. Don't be too disappointed if an invitation isn't extended to you — it's actually fairly rare. If you want to pay the nominal fee — about two bucks a month — you do get several bonuses: a LiveJournal.com e-mail address, Fast

Server Access, a customizable journal, text messaging, multiple user pictures, and automatic polling and survey booths.

However, what sets these sites apart from Blog sites is the ability to interact. I can go to my friend's page, read an entry about what she did over the weekend, and then post my comment regarding her exploits. Others stopping in to catch up can either comment to the original poster or add on to mine. This starts an open dialog across the Web. It also makes you aware of who else is reading your entries.

"Live Journal" also lets you search by common interest — so the fact that all the 20-something lesbians in Central Florida look familiar to me is really no mystery at all. I mean come on, one can't throw a rock in Southern Nights on a Saturday night without hitting an Ani diFranco fan who's a feminist, likes beer, and enjoys Miracle games. No wonder we all showed up to see The Rub on the same evening.

It did not take Kristin long to figure out that Sarah was really one of the girls she added when she began her Live Journal account. Or that Sarah's ex, who was sulking in a chair in the corner, was a user I had gotten into a pissing match with online. By the end of the night I was introducing myself to everyone.

"Hey," I would gleefully declare, "I'm EJ, vwbugs on LJ." And I got several knowing glances from the other voyeurs that watch my cyber life. ▼

IT WAS ABOUT MY THIRD TRIP TO THE KEG WHEN I REALIZED THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE LOOKED FAMILIAR

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EBAY THREATENS GLBT AUCTION SITE

eBay, the on-line auction giant, has threatened legal action to try to shut down AlternaBay.com, a small online auction site catering to the GLBT community. eBay's legal counsel claims that AlternaBay's domain name and logo infringes on eBay's trademark and will cause consumers to "mistakenly believe that AlternaBay is sponsored by or affiliated with ebay."

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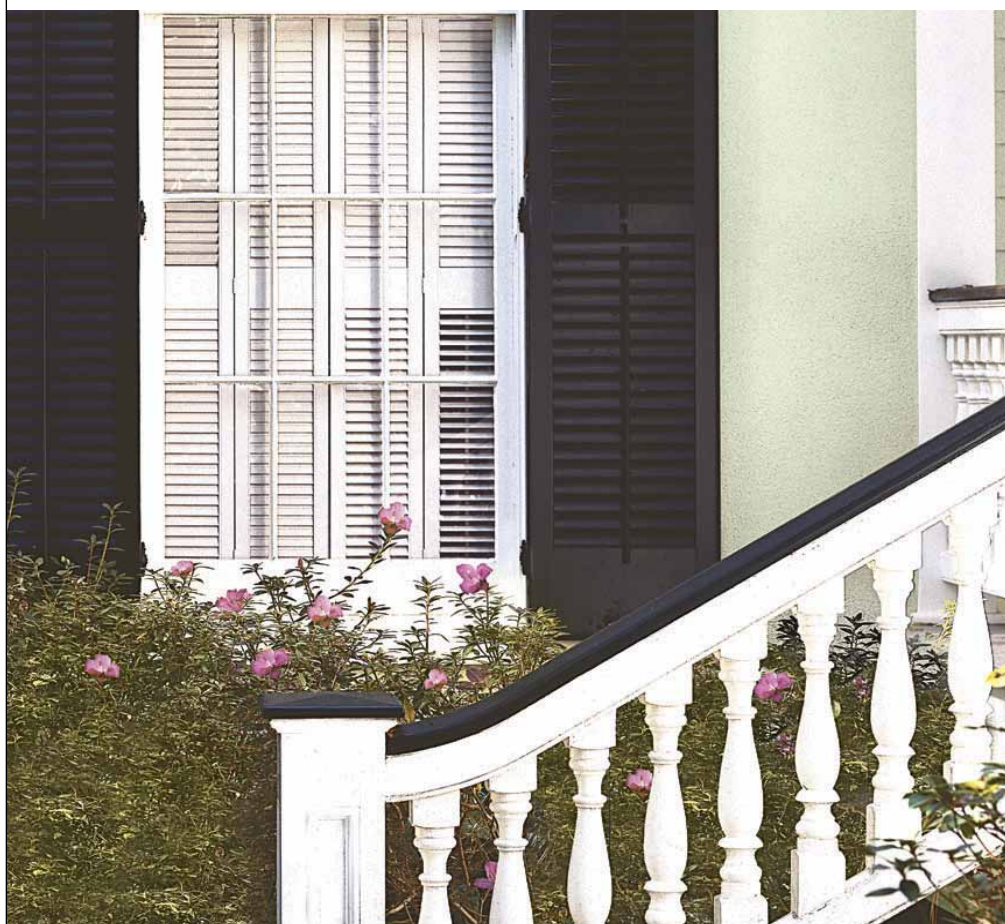
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NATIONAL OUT & EQUAL WORKPLACE
SUMMIT IN ORLANDO

ORLANDO - The national Out & Equal Workplace Summit will take place from Sept. 13 - 15 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando.

The Out & Equal Summit is recognized as the premier conference on GLBT issues in the workplace, drawing nearly 1,000 participants. Attendees choose from seminars, plenary and guest speakers to learn more about building a safe and equitable workplace for GLBT people and their families.

Although Orlando offers employment non-discrimination protection to city workers, the proposed ordinance to give the same protections to all of Orlando's citizens has yet to be passed.

"We wanted to show that the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community can bring business money here, too," Stan Madray, the conference's

co-chairman, told the *Orlando Sentinel*. "When we made the decision it felt like Central Florida was the perfect place to hold a conference on GLBT workplace issues," said Selisse Berry, Out & Equal's executive director. "We want to let the community know that GLBT issues are important to the major employers even if they are not important to local, state or federal government."

This year's summit will feature keynote addresses by Patricia Ireland, former president of the National Organization of Women, and Governor Howard Dean of Vermont, known nationally for his support and signing of

the ground-breaking Civil Unions bill into law.

For more information on Out & Equal, visit <www.outandequal.org>.

▼ Scott J. Smith



Out & Equal Conference Co-chair STAN MADRAY: "We wanted to show that the GLBT community can bring business money here."

MORE NEWSPAPERS OPENING
WEDDING PAGES TO GAY COUPLES

NEW YORK - Gay engagement and wedding announcements are still rare in most U.S. newspapers, but that is slowly changing. Earlier this month, *The New York Times* said it would begin publishing same-sex commitment and union announcements next month.

The move by a newspaper as prominent and tradition-steeped as the *Times* may motivate many newspapers to do the same. But some smaller newspapers had already made similar calls.

"Basically it came down to, why wouldn't we run it?" said Randy Miller, city editor at *The Hawk Eye* in Burlington, Iowa, which published its first same-sex ceremony announcement, along with an article explaining the newspaper's decision. "We ran no letters on it and we lost one subscriber. Clearly, this was a non-event for our readership."

Al Tompkins of the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, a journalism training institute, noted this isn't the first time that newspapers have adopted new standards for the wedding page.

"I can imagine there was a time when it was quite controversial for any newspaper to carry a photo of a cross-racial marriage," he said. "But times change."

Most American newspapers do not — or have not decided whether to — run such announcements.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD) estimates more than 100 papers, including the *Orlando Sentinel*, out of 1,500 nationwide publish same-sex union announcements in some form. It is launching a national campaign to sway more publishers, including face-to-face meetings with newspapers in the nation's 100 biggest media markets. (AP)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

KEY WEST GUESTHOUSES RECOGNIZED BY OUT & ABOUT MAGAZINE

The relatively tiny town of Key West is well represented on this year's list of recipients of the *Out & About* Editor's Choice Awards. Seven of the 29 recognized accommodations in Florida — one quarter — are located in this southernmost town. Big Ruby's, Fleur de Key and Marquesa were further honored with the Five Palms distinction, joining winners Alexander's Guest House, Coral Tree Inn, Equator and Island House.

GAY COUPLES ELIGIBLE FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS AT LOUISVILLE YMCA

Same-sex couples will be allowed to obtain family membership rates next year at the YMCA of Greater Louisville following a policy change. Although the new policy does not mention sexual orientation, it makes family rates available for two adults with or without dependent children who live at the same address. Directors approved the change by a unanimous vote.

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VIEWPOINTS



ELECTION 2002 WHY THE GLBT COMMUNITY SHOULD STICK WITH THE DEMOCRATS

Viewpoint by Orange Co. Democratic Chair Doug Head

I am happy, though surprised, to learn that the Republicans support the election of any gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or women or minority candidates. This is a major shift for the Republican Party of Orange, now represented by 11 white heterosexual male legislators and zero women or blacks or Hispanics or gays.

But if the Republican Party supports gay candidates because the candidates

“support the President, the Governor, the House leadership and the Republican agenda,” there is a big problem. The Republican agenda

is silent, or in outright opposition to the issues of the GLBT community. When gay high school student Chris Vasquez was attacked by Representative Trovillion in 2000 simply for being gay, what happened? The entire Republican Party, including the Governor, Speaker Feeney and Orange Co. Republican Chair Lew Oliver leapt to the defense of the attacker. None of them supported Vasquez or let a word of criticism escape their lips, but there was much rhetoric about the “right to individual opinions” and “freedom of speech” and “values.”

Now we have the case of Patrick Howell, a Republican candidate who happens to be gay. Does he criticize his party or Feeney for their positions? No. He is a good Republican and he is proud to wear that label. In fact Howell appears on his Web site proudly shaking hands with Feeney’s famously right-wing Chief of Staff. Homophobes are Howell’s pals.

Howell calls himself a “Reagan Republican.” Well we all remember the long silence of Republican President Ronald Reagan while the AIDS epidemic gained strength and viciousness. Here are some other important subjects on which the Democrats have and will support the community while the Republicans oppose the community or remain silent:

1. Renewing America’s commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS.
2. Ending workplace discrimination through federal legislation and workplace advocacy.
3. Protecting gay, lesbian and transgender families.
4. Focusing attention on lesbian health issues.
5. Stopping discrimination in insurance coverage.
6. Stopping discrimination in adoption rights.

7. Stopping hate crimes.
8. Pushing for equality of immigration rights.
9. Supporting judges who will protect minority rights.

Does the local Republican Party support action on these issues? No. In fact, they oppose basic equality issues. Locally led by Republican Vicki Vargo, they have geared up their Republican

troops to oppose the anti-discrimination ordinance right here in Orlando. That ordinance would protect gays and lesbians

from workplace, housing and public accommodation discrimination in Orlando. And those issues will move gay and non-gay voters to the Democratic column this year.

This is the real central Republican agenda: tax cuts while the needs of society are unmet and deficits bloom. Will a Republican who happens to be gay support or object to this agenda? We know the answer. Is it good for the gay community? No. And it’s not good for anybody else. And those issues will move gay and non-gay voters to the Democratic column this year.

But if Howell really supports his community, then he should be a Democrat. But if he is silent and “supports the agenda of the Republican Party,” he doesn’t deserve any votes from the gay community. Both Democratic candidates, Ali Kirk and Sheri McInvale, will represent the community. Howell will not.

Howell likes to say that he is running in the seat Trovillion is leaving. That not true. A new, heavily Democratic district happens to have the same district number as the seat Trovillion is leaving, but the heart of the old conservative Winter Park Trovillion seat is now in the area of a Republican incumbent.

The Republican Party would never consider supporting Howell or any other gay for that conservative seat. There they have a developer with ties to the Christian Coalition. But as long as Republicans can assert that a candidate is gay and that candidate should win in a new heavily Democratic seat, they are happy to make the issues fuzzy for the voters. Do not be confused. Democrats have been good and will be good for the GLBT community. Democrats are the party of inclusion. Republicans are not. ▼



ELECTION 2002 WHY HOWELL’S CANDIDACY OUGHT TO BE IMPORTANT TO GAY VOTERS

Viewpoint by Orange Co. Republican Chair Lew Oliver

The recent *Watermark* cover story on Patrick Howell’s race was informative, but included comments only from Democratic Party officers and elected officials. As Orange County Republican Party chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide some partisan balance.

First, the Republican Party is no anti-gay monolith. Many Republicans all over the nation — Pataki, D’Amato, Whittman, Weld, Giuliani, Goldwater, etc. — have supported gay issues, and many in Florida do, too. Indeed, Howell’s candidacy has broad Republican support

in Florida from top party leaders and top elected officials, notwithstanding a few controversial agenda disagreements, notably on gay issues. Don’t be fooled by partisan critics: this is a true political breakthrough.

But the worst parts of the article are those where gay observers subjected Howell — ironically — to an impossible “gay” double standard on at least three different levels:

1. “Patrick Howell is trying to ‘conceal’ his sexual orientation from Republican voters while trying to simultaneously conceal his Republican registration from gay voters.” This is just plain nuts. No one, not even Republicans, are *that* stupid. Who could possibly imagine that the first openly gay Republican party State House nominee in the South would somehow be “overlooked” by the media and the voters of District 36? We knew from day one that this race would be a top news story.

The reason Howell doesn’t highlight either his sexual orientation or his party registration on his materials is because — and this is key most of his constituents are *neither gay nor Republican*. To win, he must present a campaign aimed primarily at the majority of his constituents, just as every Democrat does. Which heterosexual candidates state “heterosexual” on their materials?

2. “Patrick Howell isn’t clear on his support for gay issues” — In fact, Howell has told *everyone* who has asked him — including me and other Republicans — that he supports causes like gay adoption. Yet he was criticized for not making it a “centerpiece” of his campaign in interviews and materials. But virtually no candidate in the country can win with gay issues as the centerpiece of the campaign

(gay activists know this very well). The objective is to win, not make statements.

3. “It’s ‘cynical’ to run a gay man in a gay District.” Oh, yeah? Is it “cynical” for the Democrats to run African Americans in an African American district or Hispanics in a Hispanic district? In any other context, most people would call it “sensitive,” not “cynical.” Also, it’s just silly to think that Republicans would “cynically” recruit a

candidate who is a genuine anathema simply to annoy Democrats or increase our House margin from 32 to 34 votes.

If gay

Democrats really believe in most of the Democratic Party platform, and gay issues or gay representation aren’t of the highest importance, then by all means they should vote for the Democrat. But if they are holding back on voting for Howell simply because they have unwittingly — and unfairly — held him to these double standards, then they ought to seriously reconsider. Doesn’t true equality mean treating him just like any other candidate?

Finally, readers should mind the old bromide “Only Nixon could go to China”. Experts agree: the Florida House will remain Republican for at least another two to four years, probably longer. So if you want change, you either work with Republicans or you wait. Moreover, no major breakthrough in civil rights in this country has ever occurred with the support of just one party (majority or otherwise), without at least a few votes from the other side.

Wouldn’t it be ironic if it turns out the Republican Party was more willing to support a gay candidate than gay voters are willing to support a Republican candidate? ▼

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VIEWPOINT / MAIL



NOT A "FRIEND OF PATRICK"

I take exception to the letter responses critical of your excellent cover story on State House candidate Patrick Howell ["Sellout or Safe Bet," Issue 9.17].

Sheri McInvale, Howell's opponent, is incorrectly portrayed as anti-gay because Allen Trovillion endorsed her. But McInvale does not share Trovillion's political beliefs, he's simply a family friend. Do you think someone is spreading false assumptions — or should we trust Howell supporters to tell us the truth?

"Friends of Patrick" know damn well that McInvale isn't anti-gay. Let's look at the facts: McInvale told the *Orlando Sentinel* she opposes the ban on gay adoption, a question Howell refused to answer in the *Sentinel*. And who do you think will be the stronger advocate for gay rights? Which candidate will really fight against Gov. Jeb Bush? (Hint: guess who has a picture of Jeb on his Web site?)

Also worth mentioning: after Commissioner Patty Sheehan criticized Howell in *Watermark*, her supporters were shocked to receive a fundraising letter from him that implied she supports him. How can he possibly justify soliciting from Sheehan donors? Howell used Sheehan's good name and donor list without her permission or knowledge. I find these campaign tactics repugnant.

Howell has said not to vote for him

just because he's gay. Finally, something we agree on.

Carol J. Bartsch
Orlando

ACROSS PARTY LINES

Watermark's recent article concerning State House candidate Patrick Howell was quite intriguing and raised some interesting dilemmas. According to the article, Howell may have trouble securing some Republican votes because he is gay, and may have trouble securing some gay Democrat votes because he is Republican.

In the "Sellout or Safe Bet" article, Howell spelled out where he stands on the issues that are important to the GLBT community. However, it is evident that some folks in the community are still troubled with the idea of supporting him solely based on his party affiliation.

In the past, the Republicans who could not vote for someone like Howell would be called intolerant and closed-minded. In fact, most of this labeling would come from the GLBT community since they constantly promote the need for tolerance and open-mindedness. Now that a few gay Democrats are sporting an equally intolerant view, how should they be labeled?

Marty Premo
Orlando



THE BOTTOM LINE WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN A YEAR?

Viewpoint by Rick Walen

The one-year anniversary of the events of Sept. 11 has given most of us much to reflect on. I spent two days last year trying to track down a friend who worked directly across the street from the World Trade Center. He is still suffering from a variety of ailments related to the ingestion of toxins that were released when the towers collapsed, has since moved to Miami and will probably never work in New York City again.

One of my closest friends is a flight attendant and he started sending me contact lists for his next of kin. Another friend was called for active duty and has spent the last year in the Middle East as a combat tactician with a strategic operations unit.

So where are we one year later?

I consider myself to be one of the fortunate ones as I am twice blessed. I am lucky to have been born both Jewish and gay. This makes for a very interesting combination because if you ask me my opinion, you'll usually get two answers. I'm passionate about a lot of things, particularly politics and religion. If you don't believe me, invite me to dinner, I dare you. There has been a lot of press lately on the anniversary of Sept. 11. Most of it is focused on how we've come together as a nation. Patriotism and nationalism are both high, but have we achieved anything in the aftermath?

One small victory that warrants recognition was when domestic partners of the victims of the World Trade Center attack were included in the benefits being offered to surviving spouses. I have to give the President credit. He finally conceded to the fact that we do exist and our relationships are valid, so why can't we marry?

Additionally, why were references to the sexual orientation of gay and lesbian victims and heroes omitted from the press? According to Robert Dodge, president of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA), decision-makers at many news organizations felt compelled to

trim references to the sexual orientation of victims and heroes including United Airlines passenger Mark Bingham, the gay in-flight hero of United Flight 93. The NLGJA issued an open letter to the news industry and made sure it was distributed to most major news organizations.

"Withholding relevant details about these lives, their partners and families," the letter said, "is unfair and hurtful to the people they loved."

We are still fighting the war on terrorism at home and abroad. People seem to have forgotten that we are *still* waging war in Afghanistan. Over 25,000 American service personnel remain on active duty and are stationed all over the Middle East. There are still many unresolved domestic policy issues here at home and Israeli-Palestinian tensions are at an all-time high, yet we stand poised, ready to attack Iraq. To what end?

The Advocate recently reported on gay soldiers in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) refusing to serve in the occupied territories. According to Lior Kay, a 27-year-old refuser, he feels a special responsibility to oppose Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are not only individuals," he says. "We are the gay community. As a community [we have] a power. We must have opinions about many issues, not about only gay issues. If we want rights, we must take part in the political process, not only the gay political process."

Many soldiers have been jailed for taking a stand on oppression. The notion that they would refuse to serve is foreign to me and I disagree with their position. The IDF is very progressive in that all citizens who turn eighteen years of age serve, gay or straight. Men serve for three years of active duty, women for two. Americans serving in our armed forces are still subjected to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, yet we send our enlisted gay men and women to fight the good fight in the guise of eradicating terrorism abroad and they don't protest. Maybe I'd see things differently if I were Israeli.

While people like Sami Al-Arian are free to preach their message of hate and use their position to hide behind academic freedom to fund Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, my conclusion is that we have plenty of things to focus on that are a higher priority than making war on Iraq. The bottom line is that as we reflect on the events of a year ago, let us stay focused on the proper priorities. ▼



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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Issue 9.19 September 12 - 25, 2002

Safe Space IN ST. PETE

True Expressions opens one of the first drop-in centers for GLBT youth in the nation. By Michael Blake

PINELLAS PARK - The group is as diverse as its theme preaches. Boys, girls. Gay, bisexual, even straight. Some younger teenagers, some younger men and women in their 20s.

They get together once a week at the Good Samaritan Church on Park Boulevard to meet as one of the oldest continuing gay youth groups in Florida, True Expressions.

The group started meeting as an outreach of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. - backed Good Samaritan Church in 1987. Its purpose was to provide a place where young people exploring sexual identity issues could find acceptance, support, understanding and

safety. Although it's been nearly 20 years, and the group is now an independent non-profit, they still meet within the confines of the church. And according to Kathy Richter, president of True Expressions' board of directors, the group has been growing quite steadily since it received some recent publicity and membership pushes.

"We had a booth at (Tampa Bay) PrideFest, and we had news coverage from Channel 10 (WTSP)," she said. "Because of that we started to get dramatically better attendance. Before we were getting anywhere between 12 and 20 people. Now it's been more like 28 and 34."

Even before the jump in attendance, True Expressions was planning for future growth. That includes the group's continuing search for

a full-time executive director, as well as the opening of a new drop-in center earlier this month on First Avenue North in St. Petersburg. It's one of only a handful of such facilities nationwide.

The drop-in center was built in a shopping strip on the street that used to be business offices. The goal is to provide a visible place that could be manned by volunteers throughout the week where young people can stop in and find support, talk with adult volunteers, or just hang out with other people like them.

"Basically, it's a space for the youth to come and have an environment that's safe," said Mike Rogers, an administrative coordinator with the group. "There isn't anything specifically for GLBT youth in Pinellas County. Now we have something that will be the hub of operations for TE, for support groups to meet there, for education, and a lot of other services."

The center is being funded through

Continued Page 27



True Expressions President KATHY RICHTER stands in the now-finished building that is the group's new drop-in center.



NANCY BRINKER (L) with her sister SUSAN G. KOMEN who lost her battle against breast cancer in 1980.

A LEGACY OF LOVE

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is a personal crusade for founder Nancy Goodman Brinker.

By D.J. Holt

TAMPA BAY - Growing up in the small town of Peoria, Nancy and Suzy Goodman were typical sisters. Suzy, the older child, was the homecoming queen, whereas Nancy was the tomboy and troublemaker. But no matter their differences, they were as close as two sisters could be. Though they became separated after college, they still kept in close contact and spoke on the telephone every day.

One afternoon in 1977, Suzy, who had

married her college sweetheart Stan Komen, told Nancy that her doctor had found a lump in her breast and was recommending a biopsy. Nancy, who also married and now went by the surname Brinker, immediately flew home. When she arrived, she knew from her father's face that Suzy had breast cancer. Suzy was thirty-three.

Continued Page 36



WATERCRESS FRIENDS OF MARTHA

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

CONCELEBRATION. Jim and Matt recently starred at a co-birthday fete in their honor at the lovely lakeside home of Bruce and Greg. And — get this — not only do the hosts live on a lake, but their condominium is so close to the community pool that they've managed to convince the senior contingent at the complex that it's their own personal bathing space.

"Sorry, Mrs. Mandelbaum, this is *our* pool. You and your green Spring-O-Lators can just trotz on back home." "Excuse us, Mrs. Teitelbaum, but I don't recall asking you over for a swim, but thanks for the pound cake."

Inside, balloons floated sedately atop string which perfectly mimicked the vertical strips evident in a mirrored wall so that every time I went into that room I experienced vertigo, dismay, and a sense that my past was leaping before my bloodshot eyes. But no matter — the open bar made up for this decorating whimsy, though there was no sweet vermouth for

Manhattans and I was forced in the hot sun to drink rum and Coke.

That's okay — the afternoon wasn't about me, anyway, as shocking as it was when I realized that. Greg concocted something in a blender that looked like Comet mixed with creme de menthe and

Windex. But it went over well and soon *bon mots* were flung across the glassy surface of the pool like corsages at a

drunken homecoming dance. He's always so amusing.

Inside the house, where food and gifts were arrayed as if for an offering to the goddesses, a dog named Diva happily displayed the contents of her owner's "sock" drawer when he wasn't looking. But the Fembot known as Jeff smoothly covered what could have easily become an overly-enlightening situation.

And the guest named Jonathan? You don't see that name much anymore, and he hardly fulfilled the name's meaning: "Yahweh gave." Gave what? A Tupperware

party? Me a migraine? Me a hard time? Only Jonathan knows for sure ...

CONNECTICUT is a haven for gay people of a certain stripe; a stripe usually overlaid by a Polo player applied over the left nipple. Toss a cashmere sweater casually over the (nicely-developed) shoulders, and you have a classic. (You can't really say "gay" classic, though, because everyone in Connecticut looks and dresses alike.)

And actually, there aren't too many gay women in Connecticut anymore, because they've mostly crossed the border into Northampton, Mass. where it's cool to wear Keds and walk hand-in-hand down Main Street while wheeling little Kimberly along in her designer carriage. It's the men I'm mostly familiar with, and they're all friends of Martha Stewart. It's true! They are featured in many of her magazine articles: "Channing and Dover worked hard to renovate their seven-hundred-year-old farmhouse in Stepford; bought for thirty-five dollars in 1992 when it was considered nothing but potential firewood, the boys have turned their find into a Fairfield County gem!" Or there's, "Wilcox and Botetourt, wearing cardigans made for them by the latter's great-grandmother, join Martha at the Danbury Flea Market, where all three are on a specific hunt for antique milk ladles."

After enough of this, you begin to believe that these man dolls live perfect lives and you start perusing Connecticut

real estate sites. Soon, you're helping direct a moving crew to unload all your household belongings into a sturdy Colonial built in 1437, and wondering anxiously whether or not you're going to find the perfect pair of pewter pie plates to grace the mantel. It happens to the best of us!

IT'S ODD writing this column for Sept 12 when in actuality it's only Sept 2. I have no way of predicting the future, but in a way I wish I could know how we'll feel on the day after the first anniversary. I'm told that there's a palpable air of dread in the City these days, and that's been brought home to me here in Florida by a mailing I received from my high school. They're building a memorial in front of my alma mater to commemorate 24 alumnae that were killed that day. Can you believe it? Two dozen young guys from one high school. You try and try to keep from profiling, and you try to be fair and democratic toward all people, but something like that just makes me angry. Hmm... maybe I should channel all this anger into a new pair of shoes. ▼

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LIFESTYLES



THE LIBERAL ARTS LESBIAN A 1-2-3 GUIDE FOR THE SINGLE LESBIAN

Speaking Out by Sarah Viren

My mother once told me that dating in your 20s is the hardest thing in the world. I realize now just how right she was. And then I watch this movie while sitting alone in my new apartment, and again I'm struck with how right she was.

The movie was called *The Sidewalks of New York*. It was a wonderful "romantic comedy" with a

documentary-style, independent film twist. In it several New Yorkers tell their stories of "love and sex." The only

lesbians included, though, are two "chic" dykes dispassionately kissing in an elevator to the disgust of a sick, two-faced man.

And in the movie, the beautiful characters are men — or at least one man. The lead in the film is a strong but sensitive male character that is sweet and honest. He's the one you're rooting for. He's the one you want when you watch that film. He and the women he is with are the sweet ones. It makes you feel sad for not having your own love. And then you feel frustrated because even without a love of your own, the only love you can see in a movie is heterosexual.

I recently had a friend ask me whether I thought heterosexual sex was really more "natural" than gay sex.

"It's just that men and women fit together so well," she said in justification.

"Well yes they do," I said. Men's penises can go in women's vaginas. Men and women are also portrayed together all the time in magazines, in movies, books, and TV shows. Their love affairs are often always sweet. They do seem normal. Yes they do.

But for me, lesbian love and lesbian sex is "natural." It's normal and wonderful. I can't justify this with a reference to the Bible or even a diagram of the human body. I just know. I know that women with women are beautiful to me and it's what I want.

But women with women is not what I see everyday, especially not in a small town in Florida. So that just makes my mom's words of wisdom all the more true.

It's hard to date when you're in your 20s. It's also hard to "date" when you are a lesbian. That makes my 20s lesbian dating life a double threat. And I guess if it ever works out, a double *treat*.

I have this way about me that is not always completely healthy. I tend to switch around horrible situations to make them seem funny. I think what I've done and what I try to do is laugh about life as a lesbian. I sometimes wonder about what the nice old man at the grocery store would

think if he knew I slept with women. Or other times I joke to myself that I will never, ever find a woman to love and stay with if you consider the fact that only five percent of the population is lesbian — and of that five percent, about 90 percent are totally wrong for me. This leaves me with a measly 0.45 percent of the world's

**THIS LEAVES ME WITH A MEASLY 0.45
PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION TO FALL IN LOVE WITH.**

population to fall in love with. (But at least any woman into statistics might be impressed with my quick handling of percentages.)

So in spite of my fate, I've come up with three clever coping tools for the lesbian in her 20s who doesn't see any women around she'd really like to date but wants to believe that someday, somewhere the perfect woman is waiting for her on bended knee:

1. **CHEETOS**. These are a wonderfully delicious treat that can go hand-in-hand with a depressing romantic movie, a cold beer, or a warm blanket and a good book. The only problem is the orange fingers they leave behind but, hey, if you want to slurp and suck that fake cheese color right of your hands, go for it. No one will be around to get annoyed with you for it.

2. **A GOOD BOOK** about totally surreal things. I am presently reading *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie, and I love the fact that everything that happens in the novel makes my own conception of reality look bland rather than depressing. Sure there's love. But then the guy in love sees God and goes off and tries to save England from corruption. That makes my life look simple.

3. **GOOD FRIENDS**. I have met quite a few since my move and I just want to stand up and clap for this simple pleasure in life. Friends are wonderful, caring and they don't steal the bed sheets. ▼

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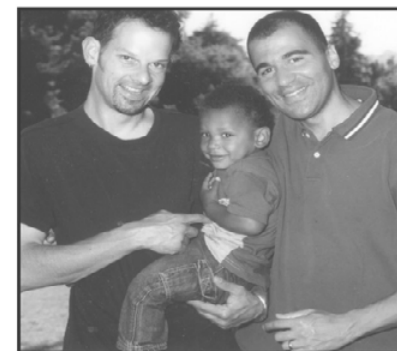


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LIFESTYLES



PAST OUT WHO WAS MARY RENAUT?

Gay and Lesbian History by Paula Martinac

Reflecting on the choice of male subjects for most of her novels, Mary Renault once said simply, "Men have more fun." Interestingly, the author remembered today for creating some of the earliest, most positive depictions of gay male love in fiction was a lesbian who started her career writing novels with lesbian undertones.

Born Eileen Mary Challans in 1905, Renault was the daughter of a London physician. However, it wasn't her father's career, she later said, that influenced her to train as a nurse after her graduation from Oxford University in 1928, but the search for colorful characters and experiences to enrich her creative writing, which was her real passion.

In nursing school, Renault found not only ample subjects for fiction but also her life partner — Julie Mullard. When Renault took on the task of writing a play for the school's 1934 Christmas program and created a role especially for Mullard, whom she admired, the two became friends and then lovers. They secretly consummated their relationship in Mullard's room after a party that holiday season, beginning a 48-year union.

After completing her nursing studies, Renault began working as a school nurse but continued to write. Her first published novel, *Purposes of Love* (1939), featured a contemporary hospital setting, with the main characters, a brother and sister, enamored of the same man, and the sister intrigued by the advances of a lesbian co-worker. Because of the subject matter, the author adopted the pen name "Mary Renault" to spare her family embarrassment (Renault is the name of a character in a 17th-century play, *Venice Preserv'd*, by Thomas Otway).

Kind Are Her Answers (1940) and *The*



Author MARY RENAUT respectfully wrote about gay males in her most famous novels, although she was a lesbian herself.

Friendly Young Ladies (1944) also took place in the medical world and hinted broadly at lesbianism. Her fourth novel, *Return to Night* (1947), about the forbidden love affair between a female doctor and a younger male patient, marked a turning point in Renault's career. It won a \$150,000 award from MGM Studios, and, although it was never filmed, afforded Renault financial independence. She and Mullard emigrated to South Africa in 1948, where

Renault became active in anti-apartheid work.

With money worries behind her, Renault was free to tackle historical novels, which she had wanted to write since she was at Oxford. A trip to Greece in 1954 helped solidify the research for *The Last of the Wine* (1956), the story of the Athenian Alexis and his male lover, Lysis. She went on to write seven more best selling novels

set in ancient Greece, including two that retold the legend of Theseus, one about Apollo, and a trilogy about Alexander the Great. Among these novels, *The Persian*

Boy (1972), the story of the young eunuch who becomes Alexander's lover, is often considered her career triumph.

Renault showed a talent for using passing references to people and events in historical records to create complex characters and plots, and for presenting homosexuality in a positive, unthreatening light, as part of the continuum of human sexuality. Her strong grasp of ancient history helped her to depict in vivid detail an era that many readers found fascinating but knew little about.

Renault continued writing fiction until shortly before her death from cancer in 1982. The last novel she worked on had a medieval theme, but she did not finish the manuscript. Honoring Renault's wishes, Mullard destroyed it. ▽

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

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SPIRITUALITY

ORLANDO AREA CHURCH LEADERS ASKED TO SUPPORT PROJECT YES

ORLANDO - Organizers in Central Florida are developing an outreach program modeled after one in Miami called Project YES. Project YES is a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of GLBT youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.

To launch the outreach in Central Florida, organizers have invited Project YES to Orlando to present their communication course to youth workers, teachers, and clergy.

Rev. Bill Barnes and St. Luke's United Methodist Church are sponsoring the

presentation of the course, which will be held at St. Luke's on the weekend of Sept. 28-29. Believing that participation is critical to such a coalition, organizers have asked anyone interested to come and share their experience as they begin creating a circle of partnership with youth advocates.



St. Luke's REV. BILL BARNES will sponsor a course introducing Project YES.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS BACK MIAMI GAY RIGHTS

MIAMI - On Aug. 11, more than 175 local people of faith went door to door in precincts throughout Miami-Dade County, talking to people from a religious perspective about why discrimination is wrong and urging them to oppose discrimination by voting no on Question 14 on the Sept. 10 ballot.

On Sept. 10, voters in Miami went to the polls to decide on whether or not protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation should be removed from the county's human rights ordinance.

"In 1977 it was Anita Bryant. Today, it is the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council leading the homophobic charge," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The current pastor of the church that Anita Bryant once belonged participated in the canvass.

"Religious leaders and people of faith can no longer stand idly by and let the religious extremists speak for all of us, especially when most of us oppose discrimination," said the Rev. Dr. Annette Jones, now pastor of St. John's First United Methodist Church in Miami Beach.

"We feel it is imperative to bring to the table people representing every segment of our community," says local organizer Lissa Curtis-Weakley. "We are driven to develop solutions in our community that include all youth and families."

For information on Project YES, visit <www.projectyes.org>. To register for the communication course call (386) 717-1991 or e-mail centralfloridaYES@prodigy.net.

SPIRITUALITY LISTINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACECOAST

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

HOPE MCC

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

SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS

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

ORLANDO

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO

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

GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORT GROUP

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

INTEGRITY

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

JOY MCC

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

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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

MEN'S INNER JOURNEY

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

ORLANDO CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

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

PATHWAYS MINISTRIES & CHURCH

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

SOUL-UTIONS

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

SPIRITUALITY BRIEFS



ST. PETE ETHICS TEACHER FOCUSES ON GAY CHRISTIANS

Kelly McBride, the newest ethics faculty member of the Poynter Institute, a St. Petersburg-based school for journalists, is no stranger to reporting on Christianity and the gay community. For the past eight years McBride covered religion and ethics for *The Spokesman-Review* of Spokane, Wash. While tracking mostly local Christian congregations McBride frequently ran into gay-related themes. All of the religious congregations that McBride covered addressed homosexuality in some way, and the experience left her knowing that there is a "personal element" to being a gay Christian.

SARASOTA MCC REVEREND APPOINTED TO STEERING COMMITTEE

Sarasota Equality Project announced on Aug. 23 that Rev. Nancy Wilson, pastor of Church of the Trinity, MCC in Sarasota was appointed to its Steering Committee Chair. Wilson, who is also the vice moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches worldwide, has been a community activist for more than 30 years. She is an internationally known preacher, teacher, and author.

with worship at 7 PM. 408 E. Cayuga St. (813) 239-1951 or UFMCC Tampa@aol.com. Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd, Pastor.

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SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

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

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BROOKSVILLE

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ST. PETERSBURG

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

UU RAINBOW OUTREACH OF TAMPA BAY

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

UNITY CHURCH OF TODAY

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

SARASOTA

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

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

DIGNITY OF SARASOTA

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

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

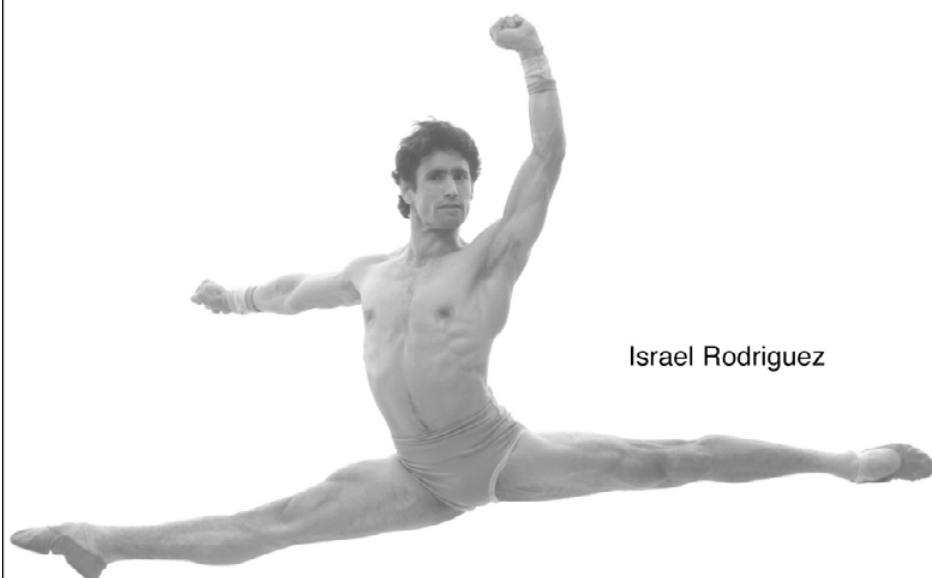
SUNCOAST CATHEDRAL MCC

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

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LIFESTYLES



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LIFESTYLES

SAFE SPACE IN ST. PETE

From Page 21

The center is being funded through different grants, including a three-year grant from the Sanderson Foundation that totals \$30,000. And the Scott Opler Foundation recently committed \$40,000 that will be used toward hiring an executive director.

"Like all non-profits, (grants) are a big thing," Richter said. "We have to make sure that we can continue to secure funds."

A recent True Expressions meeting brought in nearly 40 people who were crammed into a small meeting room. The group welcomes all youth from 13-24, and from all walks of life. There were gay teens, lesbian teens, and even a gay-supporting straight woman who brought her newborn to share with everyone.

Rogers kicked off the meeting, asking everyone to introduce themselves and share their highs and lows of the week. Some of the stories ran from the uneventful to the dramatic — like starting school, falling in love with a straight guy, and one member who talked about a car accident in the parking lot of a local supermarket.

Despite the laughter and fun, serious issues come to the surface. One girl talked about being rejected by a friend who believes being gay is immoral. Rogers was quick to offer counseling in the situation.

"In every animal species, there have been reports of homosexual behavior," Rogers said. "Whether it's a natural or unnatural thing, it's been proven to exist in nature."

Tyrese Howard has been attending meetings since December, and said that even though he is older than many of the other members at 23, he feels that some of his past experience dealing with society as a gay man can be a help.

"I think True Expressions is a real good group, a very good social outlet," he said. "I like giving input here on a lot of stuff. I think it's a way for me to give something back."

Taylor Hoffmann, 14, said he heard about the group from a teacher and later through a friend.

"My family is cool about me attending meetings here," he said. "They're glad that I found a place like this, and they've been real accepting. I hope we're able to get some more kids here."

Besides bringing in more youth members, the group is always looking



True Expressions Administrative Coordinator MIKE ROGERS: "It's a space for the youth to come and have an environment that's safe."

for volunteers. True Expressions' Web site — <www.true-expressions.org> — notes that the group is looking for everything from spots on various committees to grant writers and a public relations specialist to "put a face with the name out in public." And the group is still looking for just the right executive director. It will be the organization's first full-time position.

Volunteers can be gay, bisexual, straight, transgendered and from any walk of life. People are needed to help out with the various committees of the group, becoming a youth meeting facilitator, or even becoming a board member.

Details about volunteering are available on the group's Web site, <www.true-expressions.org>. ▼

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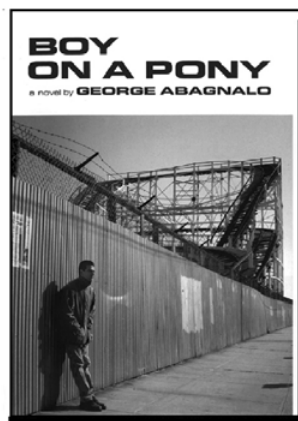
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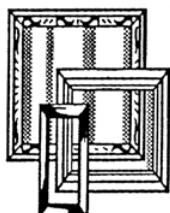
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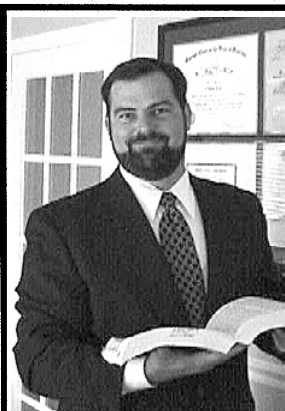
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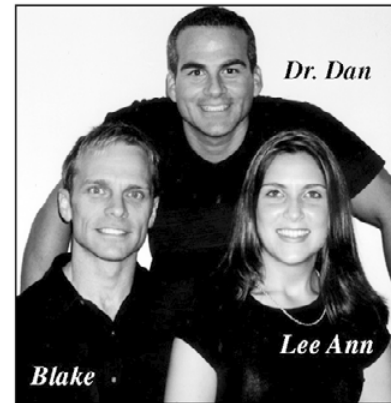
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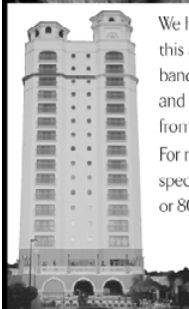
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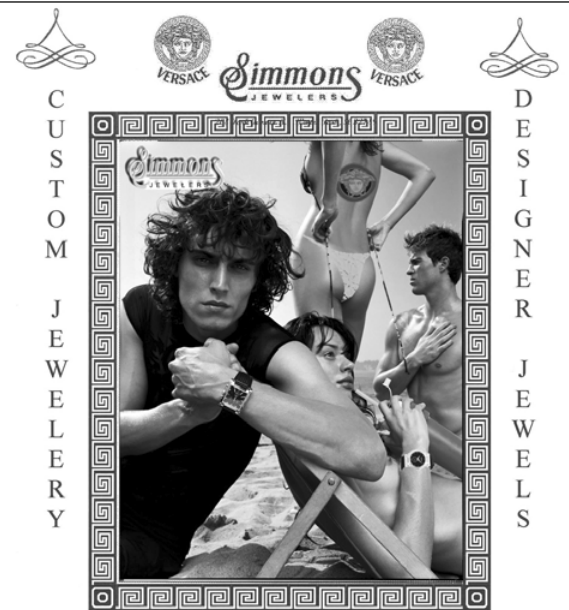
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LIFESTYLES

A LEGACY FOR LOVE

From Page 21



The local Race for the Cure to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation will be held on Sept. 21, at North Straub Park in St. Petersburg.

Even with surgery, radiation treatment and intense chemotherapy, cancer continued to rage inside her. Throughout the battle, Suzy kept up her hope and humor. She worried more about the treatment of other people, rather than the treatment of her own disease. She was horrified at the conditions of waiting rooms and the lengthy amounts of time that were consumed by doctors' appointments.

"Nan, as soon as I get better, let's do something about this," Suzy said. "You can find a way to speed up the research. I know you can. And I want to fix up this waiting room and make it pretty for the women who have to be here. This isn't right."

After three long and painful years,

Suzy lost her war against cancer.

Grieving for some time, Nancy kept thinking about their last conversations and became determined to act upon her sister's wishes. In 1982, she formed the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. The stated mission of the Foundation is to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$300 million dollars and has awarded more than 500 research grants.

In the twenty years of its existence, the Foundation has expanded exponentially to encompass over 100 local affiliate chapters and an international presence as well.

The Florida Suncoast chapter of the Foundation was incorporated in 1999 and is centered in the Tampa Bay area, though it includes the five counties of Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota. The main goals of this organization are to "substantially and permanently diminish the impact that breast cancer has upon the women and families of our community through education, outreach and support of local breast cancer screening and treatment programs."

According to the latest statistics from the American Cancer Society, there will be approximately 205,000 new cases of breast cancer this year. At 31 percent of the new diagnoses, breast cancer is by far the most prevalent cancer among women.

Dr. Barbara J. Hall, local radiologist and founding member of the Florida Suncoast chapter, notes that this year there will be 2,250 new cases of breast cancer in Central Florida, but that one-third of those cases will be diagnosed as late stage. The cause of this is simple to Hall: "failure to utilize early detection and screenings."

This failure looms exceptionally large among the lesbian community. But are lesbians at higher risk for breast cancer?

"All women are at risk for breast cancer," the Lesbian Breast Cancer Outreach Project in Jacksonville claims. "The main concern for lesbians is lack of cancer screening and treatment. Lesbians may delay care because of lack of insurance, past negative experiences in the health care setting, or failure to see themselves at risk for breast cancer."

Similar programs to the one in Jacksonville exist around the country. However, there is not a lesbian-oriented organization as such in Central Florida. Hall is quick to state that the Komen Foundation would love to support the creation of such an entity. The Foundation does not actually create programs, but responds to the needs of programs already in place.

Other groups that receive grant funding include a Pinellas County project designed to educate mono-lingual and limited-English-speaking Asian and Hispanic women; an initiative in Pasco County which targets Mexican immigrant, Mexican-descended immigrant and seasonal farmworker women; and the "Sistahs Breast Health Project" in Clearwater.

The primary fundraising effort held by the Florida Suncoast affiliate is the Komen Race for the Cure. It has garnered the majority of the \$1.3 million dollars that the chapter has raised over the past four years. The Komen Race series is the largest series of 5K runs in the world. The area Race for the Cure will be held on Sept. 21, 2002 at North Straub Park in St. Petersburg. The opening ceremonies begin at 7:20 AM with the run starting at 8 AM.

The 2002 Komen Race for the Cure hopes to involve over 10,000 participants in its 5K run, 5K walk, or 1-mile fun walk/run. Hall who is serving as this year's Race Chair feels very positive that they will achieve this goal.

All proceeds from this event go to funding cancer research and education.

As a final note, Hall stresses the importance for all women to educate themselves concerning breast cancer.

"More and more young women in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with breast cancer," Hall says. "If we find it early enough, there's a 95 percent survival rate." ▼

For more information on the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation visit <www.komen.org>. For further information on the Lesbian Breast Cancer Outreach Project visit <www.lesbianbreastcancer.org>.

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SPORTS

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL ADOPTS POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

PHILADELPHIA - The Philadelphia Liberty Belles, a member team of the National Women's Football League, has adopted a policy that prohibits sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Liberty Belles is the first and only team in the NWFL to adopt such a policy.

The team drafted the policy after Cyndi Butz, one of its players, filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission alleging incidents of sexual harassment. Butz, age 27, was a starting player in the team's 2000-2001 championship season, but Butz quit the team because of sexual harassment by male coaches and discriminatory treatment of lesbian players.

The implementation of a policy

prohibiting sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation led Butz to agree not to pursue the matter further.

"This team's policy should serve as an example to other teams. We call upon the NWFL to adopt league-wide sexual harassment and non-discrimination policies to prevent future incidents," said Tiffany Palmer, Esq., Legal Director at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and counsel for Butz.

"I did it for the future of women's football so that other players do not have to experience an environment of sexual harassment and discrimination," said Butz. "The time I spent playing with the team was amazing, but the treatment of women and lesbians was not fair and

CENTRAL FLORIDA SOFTBALL LEAGUE BEGINS FALL SEASON

ORLANDO - With the dog days of summer almost behind us, it's time once again to oil up your glove and start batting practice. The Central Florida Softball League (CFSL) kicked off their fall 2002 season on Sun., Sept. 8 and will run for 10 consecutive weeks through Nov. 10.

The CFSL is an organization that brings amateur softball competition to the Central Florida gay and lesbian community and its allies. The purpose of the league is to provide community-based athletic entertainment to its members by offering a safe environment where softball teams can get together for organized play.

This season, 19 teams will compete in five divisions: Women's Recreational, Recreational, C-Competitive-1, C-Competitive-2, and B-Division. Games are played each Sunday at Lake Fairview Park in Orlando from 1 to 5 PM. Teams will play on all four of the park's fields, located at the corner of Lee Rd. and Orange Blossom Tr.

Once again The Force stands alone in

the B division, leaving them to play each of the C-Competitive teams twice during the season, although losses in those games will not count against C-Competitive teams. Just Practicing and Myoptics, last years number one and number two respectively in the Recreational Division, are also returning to the playing field this year.

Returning women's champion The Coyotes, who had a record of eight wins and zero losses last season, are back. Other strong women's teams include Shelbie Press and The Warriors.

The league wraps up their season with a banquet on Sun., Nov. 10. Also in the works are plans for the league's Fourth Annual Orlando Meltdown Tournament, scheduled for Jan. 18 and 19, 2003. The annual tournament brings teams from all over the southeast to Orlando for a weekend of fun and fierce competition.

For more information on CFSL, call (407) 893-4966 or visit the league's Web site at <www.cfsleague.org>. ▼

SPORTS BRIEFS



RDV'S WILLIAMS CONTINUES TO OFFEND GAYS, WOMEN, MINORITIES

Pat Williams, senior vice president of RDV Sports, the organization that owns the Orlando Miracle, just published a new book, *Winning with One-liners*, a compilation of jokes that many may find offensive. Included in the book is a four-page section called "Ethnicville," which features knee-slappers like: "Why don't ethnics get 10-minute coffee breaks? It takes too long to re-train them." Last month Williams became the target of a protest when it was discovered that he sent a letter to Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood and the City Commissioners urging them to not include "sexual orientation" as part of Chapter 57 of the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

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GAY BIKE ORLANDO

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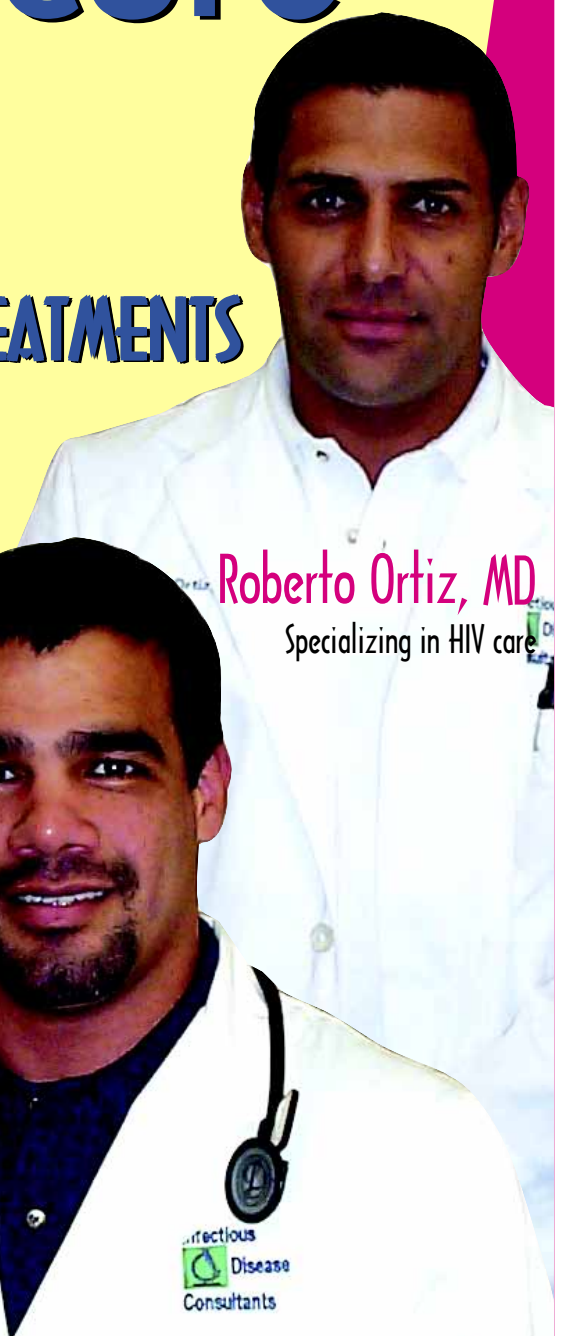


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ENTERTAINMENT & DIVERSIONS

HOLY HOMOPHOBIA!

DC Comics' Green Lantern faces a new foe — a gay basher — thanks to *Real World* alumni Judd Winick.

BY JOHN F. SULLIVAN

Green Lantern's alter ego Kyle Rayner is about to learn a hard lesson when he finds that even super powers are no match against violent homophobia. In DC Comics' *Green Lantern* Issue No. 154, which goes on sale this month, Rayner's world will be irreversibly rocked when the cartoonist-by-day's teenaged intern is the victim of a gay bashing.

Although the character of Terry Berg, Rayner's gay 17-year-old assistant, has been out in the pages of one of DC's hottest selling titles for well over a year, this is the first time *Green Lantern*'s writer, Judd Winick, has pushed the envelope this far. And Winick says he has no regrets about doing it.

Winick, who took over writing duties back in 2000, is no stranger to taking a stand on issues he feels passionately about, especially gay ones. Winick was one of the cast members on MTV's *The Real World: San Francisco* in 1994. And it was his friendship with his HIV-positive gay roommate Pedro Zamora that was the inspiration for his graphic novel *Pedro & Me*. The novel, released in 2000, tells the moving tale of their friendship and Zamora's death in 1994 at age 22.

"When I came into the show I never would have thought in a million years that I would have become an activist — but I guess I am," says 34-year-old Winick. "I



write and draw stories and a lot of those stories deal with issues that I was exposed to by living with and knowing Pedro."

Winick's professional cartooning career started at age 16 with a weekly single panel comic called *Nuts & Bolts*, published throughout the Tri-State, New York area. He took the strip with him to college at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and turned it into a four-panel strip that ran in the *Michigan Daily* until 1992. After graduating, Winick spent a year living in Boston developing his strip. He eventually moved back to his hometown on Long Island.

It was not long after that he saw an ad for *The Real World*. After a long audition process, Winick was chosen to be one of the seven roommates. In February of 1994, Winick

moved into the house on Russian Hill and his life hasn't been the same since. While he was filming the show, *Nuts & Bolts* was

given a weekly spot in the *San Francisco Examiner*. It was also during that time that he met his future wife Pam Ling.

At the same time, Judd was learning some important life lessons including what it's like to be living with HIV. Through his friendship with Zamora, he saw first hand what people who are positive have to deal with, from the illness itself to the ignorance of those who don't understand it.

"Meeting Pam and Pedro was the best thing to come out of my *Real World* experience," Winick says. "It's as simple as that."

Shortly after the show started airing, Zamora fell ill due to AIDS-related complications and had to be hospitalized. Zamora had been scheduled to start a lecture tour. When he couldn't do it, Winick stepped in and agreed to speak on his behalf. Even after his friend died a few months later, Winick continued to speak at high schools and colleges across the country about his friend and AIDS education and prevention.

"I was doing it because we had an audience and we could reach them and it is what Pedro would have done," Winick says.



Green Lantern Issue No. 154 features openly gay character Terry Berg as the victim of a gay bashing.



DAME EDNA is heading back to Florida with her new show *A Night with Dame Edna*.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DAME!

Australian housewife turned megastar, Dame Edna Everage, returns to Florida with her saucy brand of humor.

Interview by
Scottie Campbell

It is nerve racking doing interviews; to take someone's life and encapsulate it in a few words is a daunting task. The bigger the life, the more intimidating the job is. Imagine the awesome responsibility of being given the opportunity of interviewing a megastar, indeed *the* megastar.

When Dame Edna Everage was born— by all reports "a lovely child with beautifully formed purple hair" — the nurse presented her to her parents in a comfy bundle. Instead of announcing the bundle to be a boy or a girl, the nurse said, "It's a megastar!" That's the first known use of the word in our language.

Everage first gained notoriety in the '70s with stage shows in Australia that were later repeated in London. A

Continued Page 16

Continued Page 10



WATER COLORS

2 September 12 - 25, 2002

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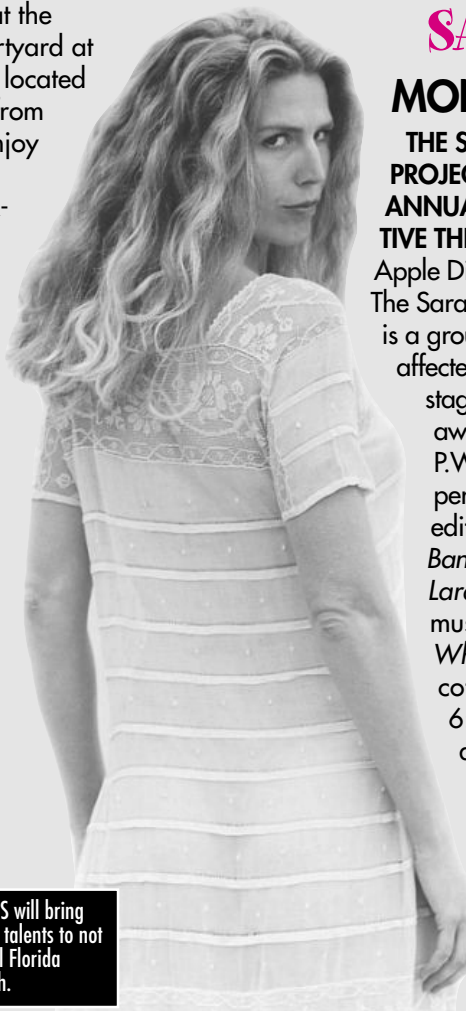
ORLANDO

SUN., SEPT. 15

With all of the seriousness surrounding election time, we sure could use a little comic relief. With that in mind, plan on heading to **ENZIAN THEATER** for a special screening of **MARGARET CHO's** concert film **NOTORIOUS C.H.O.** and be prepared to laugh your litte gay asses off. Cho is known for her queer inclusive comedy and for telling it like it is. Her latest endeavor has been making the rounds of the gay and lesbian film festival circuit and getting rave reviews. This is part of the ongoing film series brought to you by gayorlando.com and includes a reception one hour prior to the 11 AM screening. For tickets or more information call (407) 896-8431 or contact Chris@GayOrlando.com.

WED., SEPT. 25

THE CENTER is holding it's **MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON** at the beautiful Courtyard at Lake Lucerne, located a few blocks from downtown. Enjoy a deli buffet while networking with your gay peers amongst the centuries-old antiques and the Courtyard's tropical gardens. The event runs from 11 AM to 1 PM. For more information call the Center at (407) 228-8272.



SOPHIE B. HAWKINS will bring her unique musical talents to not one but two Central Florida locations this month.

ST. PETERSBURG

SAT., SEPT. 28

Singer, songwriter, musician, and provocative force of nature **SOPHIE B. HAWKINS** brings her bag of songs to **JANNUS LANDING** for a concert that is sure to have 'em dancing in the aisles. Hawkins' 1992 debut album *Tongues and Tails* went gold and featured the hit "Damn, I Wish I Was Your Lover" and earned her a Grammy nomination for best new artist. Her other hit, "As I Lay Me Down," from her follow up album *Whaler*, still holds the record as the longest lasting single in the history of any *Billboard* chart. The musically accomplished bisexual songstress hits the stage at 8 PM so get there early. For more information call the venue at (727) 896-1244. Sophie B. will also be performing the night before at **THE SOCIAL** in Orlando with local lesbian-friendly band **THE AWAKENING**.

SARASOTA

MON., SEPT. 30

THE SARASOTA AIDS THEATRE PROJECT will present it's **2ND ANNUAL NIGHT OF ALTERNATIVE THEATRE** at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre in Sarasota. The Sarasota AIDS Theatre Project is a group of people infected or affected by AIDS who present staged play readings to raise awareness and funds for P.W.A. programs. The night's performances will include edited readings of *And the Band Played On* and *The Laramie Project* as well as musical selections from *When Pigs Fly*. Desserts and coffee will be served at 6:30 PM with a cash bar available. Showtime is 7:30 PM with all proceeds going to benefit Bethesda House. For more information call (941) 365-6348.



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Gregory Ruffer, Music Director

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The Gulf Coast Men's Chorus is currently auditioning prospective members. As part of your audition process, you will be asked to perform some short vocalizing to determine vocal range and ability to match pitch. You will also be asked to sing a simple song such as My Country 'Tis of Thee.

No prior singing experience or music reading skills are required in order to join.

Rehearsals are held on Monday nights at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, located off I-75 at exit 210 (old 39).

Our performance area generally covers the west coast area of Florida, including Manatee and Sarasota counties. If you live outside the area and would still like to join us, we think you'll find we're worth the drive!
Now is the time to join in the fun!

To schedule an audition appointment,
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4 September 12 - 25, 2002



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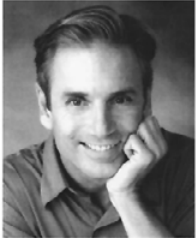

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The Art of Living

Sterling!

Listen up savvy trendsetters. The fall social season is nearly upon us. The "must haves" list is in. Trends continued strong for fall, focusing on the past. The current romantic look is gypsy as designers everywhere went heavy on embroidery. Boots are in, heels out. Pants hit the floor as nostalgia ruled the runways. Skirts are up, and hair is long. Wear something glamorous. And by all means, go heavy on the makeup.

A dozen "must haves" to look fabulous for any event on your social calendar:

1. Anything by designer Catherine Malandrino.

This designer is hot, hot, hot! Here's the scoop:

Background: Began in the mid '80s with French fashion figures Dorothy Bis, Louis Feraud and became head designer for Diane von Furstenberg in '98.

Fashion Fans: Madonna, Julia Roberts, Mary J. Blige and Cameron Diaz.

Known For: Colorful, edgy hip clothes with a sexy French twist. Was the first to do the flag print, presciently designed before Sept. 11, 2001.

In Stores: A new vision of street-wise Harlem. Sunday go-to-meeting dresses in neutrals with yellow accents. Floating skirts and light cashmere with sexy details, such as lace, skin and cutouts.

2. The romantic blouse - Sheer or embroidered...with big sleeves.

3. Floor length pants - Take it to the max; wear it long with pointed toe boots.

4. Rough denim jeans - The look is worn and tight...boot cut or floor length.

5. Something in corduroy - Guys, get in on this one...the look is very fashionable.

6. Retro clothing - Blasts from the past...wear something vintage - hit the thrift stores.

7. Elegant dresses - Very glamorous...in flowing satin or silk.

8. Leather jacket - The look is tough...go for something edgy.

9. The big bag - Live large...haul it high style.

10. Pointed toe boot - If you buy anything this season...a must have.

11. Sporty parka - Long or short... go for downtown chic.

12. A smart coat - Choice item to top it all off...for fall.

Let me know what's going on — art openings, parties, any upcoming event you think will be fun, hip, the place to be. You can contact me by e-mailing Sterling@SterlingPowell.com.



Corduroy is in, guys. This is one of Tommy Hilfiger's fashionable creations.

Remember fun begins with your willingness to seek it out. Until next time please take some time to seize the moment and enjoy the scene. ▼



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6 September 12 - 25, 2002

CALENDAR *of Events*

Theatre & Film

ORLANDO

AH WILDERNESS!

Sept. 12 - 21. Presented by Theatre UCF in the University Theatre Building on the UCF Campus. A nostalgic comedy by Eugene O'Neill of ancient days when youth was young, right was right and life was a wicked opportunity. For more information call (407) 823-1500.

NOTORIOUS C.H.O.

Sept. 15 at the Enzian Theater. 10 AM reception and 11 AM screening. Presented by gayorlando.com. The film version of comedian Margaret Cho's most recent live tour. Tickets only available by calling (407) 896-8431 or by e-mailing chris@GayOrlando.com.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

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

THE LEXICON OF LOVE: A MUSICAL CABARET

Sept. 20, 21 and Oct. 4 at the Winter Park Playhouse. A contemporary cabaret featuring music from Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Get your tickets early as the last four shows sold out! For reservations call (407) 645-0145.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

A NIGHT WITH DAME EDNA

Sept. 17 - 22 in the Carol Morsani Hall at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Dame Edna returns to the stage in her legendary, multi-award-winning comic spectacular. Universally hailed as "the funniest and most gifted woman in the world," Dame Edna dazzles audiences with song, dance, and non-stop laughs. (813) 229-STAR or <www.tbpac.org>.

SHEAR MADNESS

Extended through Sept. 22 in the Jaeb Theater at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. For more information call (813) 229-STAR or visit <www.tbpac.org>.

BACH AMONG THE FLOWERS

Through Sept. 22 at the Gorilla Theatre. Dr. Edward Bach was a doctor who lived in England during the first half of the 20th century. This pioneer of the back to nature movement turned away from the medical profession and turned to the healing power of plants. (813) 879-2914 or <www.gorilla-theatre.com>.

SIEGFRIED & ROY: THE MAGIC BOX

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

THE ZOO STORY

Through Sept. 22 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Edward Albee's harrowing portrait of a man alienated from the human race is presented by Dog & Pony Productions. (813) 222-7827 or <www.tbpac.org>.

PARTY

Through Sept. 15. Central Stage Theater's inaugural performance will be the presentation of this David Dillon play, featuring the playwright himself in the role of Ray the priest. This edgy new theater is located at

2235 Central Ave in St. Pete. Call (727) 327-PLAY for more information.

Music & Dance

ORLANDO

SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

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

HALCYON

Sept. 22 at Faces in Orlando. Florida's own lesbian rockers come to Orlando for a night of music and fun. For more information call (407) 291-7571.

AYAKO YONETANI

Sept. 15 at the Music Department at UCF. Violinist Ayako Yonetani will perform in a recital with pianist John Nauman. For more information call (407) 823-2869.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

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

Art & Exhibits

DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Through Oct. 19 at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Exhibition featuring the works of photographers Andrew Cross, UK; Torben Eskerod, Denmark; Stephen Lawson, Scotland; Elaine Ling, Canada; and Yuri Nagawara, Japan. For more information visit <www.atlanticcenterforthearts.org>.

COLLECTION OF MASTER ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK MITCHELL

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

SOUTH PACIFIC SELECTIONS: WORKS BY PAUL JACOULET

Through Nov. 3 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona. Selections to complement the Micronesian folk art exhibit. (386) 255-0285 or <www.moas.org>.

ORLANDO

THE BUTLER DID IT!

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

ABSTRACT WORKS BY BRENDA HEIM

Through Sept. 30. The Lake Eustis Museum of Art will exhibit a collection of recent paintings by Central Florida artist Brenda Heim. For more information call the museum at (352) 357-4952 or visit the artist's Web site at <www.heimart.com>.

CREALDE SCHOOL OF ART'S SIXTH ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Sept. 21 at the Farmer's Market in downtown Winter Park. Live and silent auction featuring unique gifts,

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Denyce Graves in a Gala Recital
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You have seen her on *60 Minutes*, *Oprah*, countless magazines and at our National Prayer Service in Washington following the tragedy of September 11th. Now, it's your chance to see the world renowned opera sensation, *Denyce Graves*, live at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre.

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HOLOCAUST PROJECT: FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

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

TIMELESS BEAUTY

Through Sept. 22 at The Cornell Fine Arts Museum on the campus of Rollins College. Watch keys and other decorative arts from the museum's collection. Call (407) 646-2526 for more information.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

ART AFTER DARK

Sept. 19 at the Tampa Museum of Art. Join the after-hours crowd for art, music, gallery tours and libations. For more information call (813) 274-8698.

OUTDOOR SHOW

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

PENCIL, PAPER, PASTELS AND MORE

Through Sept. 29 at the Adrian Howard Galleries. Included in this exhibit are the imaginative graphite interpretations of Jay Herres, Vince Pizak, Michael Chestnut, John Mowder and the figurative and animal drawings of Jennifer Hough. Also included are pastels by one of our featured artists, Gary Gessford. Located at the Suncoast Resort in St Petersburg. Call (727) 865-6906 for gallery hours.

AT RISK II: THE BIRTH OF NOW-A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ART TRENDS

Through Sept. 29 at the Catherine Hickman Theater in the Gulfport Public Library. Featuring local artists Sarah Thee Capagna, Nancy Gable, Frank Hibrandt, Hugo S. Porcaro Jr., Steven Reigns, and Vespa. Meet the artists at the opening reception. For further information call (727) 384-9064.

WOMEN OF VISION: AN EXPERIENCE IN SEEING BY THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Through Sept. 15 at the Tampa Museum of Art. This exhibit is a dream come true for twelve women who felt that being blind should not impair their artistic expression. Works in the exhibit range from a collaborative clay installation, paintings inspired by the landscape, still-life paintings, charcoal drawings, baskets, and relief prints. (813) 274-8130.

UNDERCURRENT/OVERVIEW 6

Through Sept. 22 at the Tampa Museum of Art. An annual exhibition which highlights work created by both prominent and emerging artists from the Tampa Bay area. (813) 274-8130.

ANSEL ADAMS

Through Sept. 15 at the Museum of Fine Arts. Photographs by one of America's great photographers. (727) 896-2667.

SARASOTA

OUR MEMBERS REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11

Through Oct. 5 at the Art Center of Sarasota. The exhibit features a collection of compelling work

created by the Center's member artists. The theme of the show is works created by or as a result of the tragic events of last Sept. 11. For more information call (941) 365-2032 or visit <www.artsarasota.org>.

Auditions

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

SARASOTA OPERA

Sept. 19. The Sarasota Opera will hold auditions for the 2003 Apprentice Artists Program. Twelve men and 12 women accepted into the program will make up the chorus for the Sarasota Opera's 44th season. Complete audition information and application forms are available by contacting Christy Talbott at (941) 366-8450 ext. 422 or by visiting <www.sarasotaopera.org/apprentice>

TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Sept. 14. Open auditions for anyone interested in joining the chorus for its upcoming season. Auditions will begin at 7:30 PM. To schedule an audition appointment call (727) 865-9004.

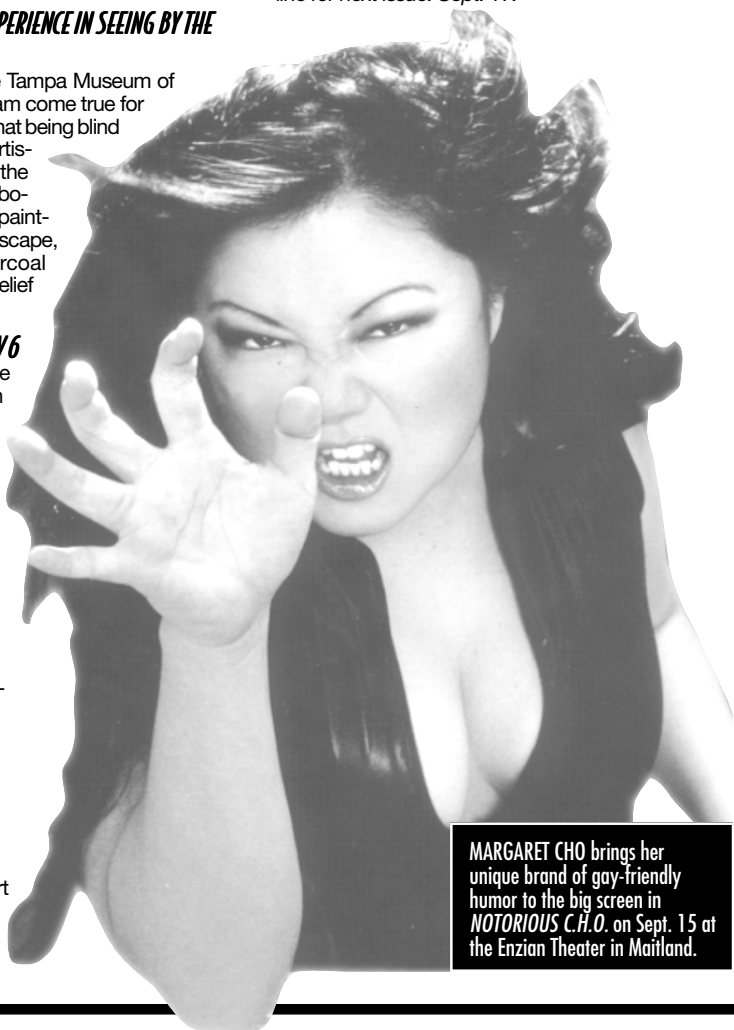
JEFFREY

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

YO SOY IRINI PRODUCTIONS, INC.

All talents, types, ages and interest needed. Casting everything from promo work to musicians and singers. Also needed are comedians, poets, bands and mimes. Fax resume to Peter at (813) 719-2617 or call (813) 719-2019.

"Calendar of Events" is provided on a space available basis and events are listed at Watermark's discretion. Press releases may be mailed to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL 32853-3655; faxed to (407) 481-2246; e-mailed to john@watermarkonline.com. Deadline for next issue: Sept. 17.



MARGARET CHO brings her unique brand of gay-friendly humor to the big screen in *NOTORIOUS C.H.O.* on Sept. 15 at the Enzian Theater in Maitland.

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8 September 12 - 25, 2002

GOOD AS GOLD

Comedienne Judy Gold brings her parental, lesbian, Jewish perspective to the Sarasota stage this month. Interview by Kirk Hartlage

SARASOTA - So, what do you get when you cross a gay Catholic journalist with a Jewish lesbian comedienne? In this case, some laughs, some kibbitzing, and a whole lot of education.

When I spoke with the laugh-inducing Judy Gold by phone from her home in New York, she was in the midst of honing the stand-up act she's bringing to the Sunshine State later this month. Gold — who has appeared on *Sex In The City*, fronted stand-up specials on HBO, received Emmy's for her behind-the-scenes work on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, and been nominated for several American Comedy Awards — will visit McCurdy's Comedy Theatre and Humor Institute in Sarasota from Sept. 27-29.

WATERMARK: So Judy, you just got in from getting your hair done. Do you have something big planned for this weekend?

JUDY GOLD: Well, it's Rosh Hashanah!

Oh — I'm sorry. I'm a Catholic boy. I

don't know the Jewish experience at all.
Oh, it's quite an experience.

It's a big holiday that you would get your hair done for?

Well, I didn't get my hair done for the holiday. I got it done because my roots — well — not that I dye my hair, but my roots were horrible.

It'll be hurricane season when you're in Florida. You

Comedienne JUDY GOLD says that her stand-up show features a lot of audience interaction and off-the-cuff material.



may not have to worry about your hair.
Is that true?

Is this part of an ongoing tour?

I don't do as much stand-up on the road anymore since I have two kids. I kind of pick and choose where I want to go.

And why Sarasota?

A nice little package was offered. Plus my people are down there, aren't they? From both sides...

Oh you mean the Jewish side? I was thinking more the gay/lesbian side.

The Jew *and* gay and lesbian.

I'm sure. Explain to me what the Jewish lesbian experience is like.

The Jewish lesbian experience? Oh my god, no one has ever asked me that question before. What is the Jewish lesbian experience? Well... it's quite interesting. I have a

partner. We have two kids. We're Jew-y. Oh, Friday nights I usually don't work. We're at home and we have a big Shabbat dinner.

What's that?

It's Shabbat! It's the Sabbath.

Ahhh...OK.

Now it's my favorite day of the week...it's Friday. And we have these Orthodox Jewish neighbors who are the godparents of my kids and we go over there. We have a huge dinner and there's no TV. It's a family time. We sit and talk and eat a big meal and hang out and it's great. We do that every Friday night, and then on Saturday mornings I usually go to synagogue with Henry, my five-year-old, cause he loves it. He wants to be a rabbi.

I'm not sure if you happened to catch it on TV...

Gay Weddings?

Yeah!

I was in and out with the tennis and then I forgot one night and I'm so pissed off. How was it?

It was... well... I want a boyfriend so bad.

You don't have one? How old are you?

Continued Page 14

Orlando's City Museums

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Admission: Adults \$4 • Seniors (60+) \$3
Students w/ ID \$1 • Under 12 and members FREE

August 16 - November 3, 2002

RALPH FASANELLA'S AMERICA

View mid-class life through the eyes of a true American folk artist.

November 22, 2002 - January 26, 2003

ABCD: A Collection of Art Brut

"Art brut" describes the works by those who are "outside" of "normal" society.

February 14 - March 31, 2003

BILL TRAYLOR: Works on Paper

JESSE AARON: Sculpture

SAM DOYLE: Works on Tin

Three American folk artists capture hopes, visions, and dreams in various materials.

April 4 - June 29 2003

LIVING THE TRADITION

View original works by self-taught artists.

July 11 - October 19, 2003

SELECTIONS FROM THE HEMPHILL COLLECTION

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July 11 - September 7, 2003

HANNALORE BARON

Discover a world through the eyes of one woman's creations.

October 31 - February 29 7, 2004

TESTIMONY: Vernacular Art of the African American South

Extraordinary works by African American artists.

Terrace Gallery

The Terrace Gallery is located on the first floor of City Hall

400 S. Orange Ave. • Orlando, FL 32801
407.246.4279

Hours: Mon.-Fri.. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. • Sun. noon-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays & major holidays

Admission: FREE

September - December 2002

VIDA Y COSTUMBRES DEL PERU

Life, culture and religion are sources of inspiration for six Peruvian painters.

January - April 2003

ALBERT PALEY:

Sculpture, Drawings, Graphics and Decorative Arts Retrospective

Albert Paley's steel creations are functional works of art. View magnificent floor lamps, regal gates and sculptural jewelry.

May - July 2003

FLORIDA VISUAL ARTS FELLOWSHIP: 25th Anniversary Exhibition

View works of art from Florida's finest contemporary artists.

October - January 2004

FLORIDA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

See how this unique medium is transformed into wondrous works of art.

3rd Floor Mayor's Gallery

The 3rd Floor Mayor's Gallery is located on the third floor of City Hall

400 S. Orange Ave. • Orlando, FL 32801
407.246.4279

Hours: Mon.-Fri.. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Closed Weekends & major holidays

Admission: FREE

September - December 2002

MARIA EMILIA CASTIGLIOLA:

In Praise of Federico Garcia Lorca

Organized by the Gulf Coast Museum of Art.

January - March 2003

PAINTINGS BY

JUDITH ABERNETHY BALDWIN

June - September 2003

JEFF WHIPPLE: A Twenty Year Survey

Organized by the Gulf Coast Museum of Art.

September - December 2004

Group exhibit of works by local artists of Hispanic descent

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1921 N. Forest Ave. • Orlando, FL 32803
407.246.2620

Hours: Call for dates & times

Admission: FREE to the gallery only.
Charge for garden entry

August - September 2002

BIRDS IN FLIGHT

October - December 2002

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF FLORIDA

January - March 2003

KAREN MARSHALL:

Flower Paintings

April - June 2003

DAVID REESE:

A Retrospective



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- Jan. 30-Feb. 1 RENT
- Feb. 4-9 Riverdance
- Feb. 14-15 Rodgers & Hammersteins Cinderella
- Apr. 1 Mandy Patinkin In Concert
- Apr. 19 Saturday Night Fever

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- Jan. 21 Jose Carreras
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16 WWSF-TV
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- Mar. 27 Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg & Anne-Marie McDermott
- Apr. 8 Richard Stoltzman & Emanuel Ax

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- Nov. 14 Cirque Eloize presents its Newest Creation: Nomade
- Nov. 30 The Georgian State Dance Company
16 WWSF-TV
- Jan. 29 Tango Buenos Aires
16 WWSF-TV
- Mar. 2 Marcel Marceau Farewell Tour
NURSES CHOICE St. Petersburg Times
- Mar. 15 Band of the Grenadier Guards with The Scots Highlanders
- Mar. 22 Aeros - All New Show
Northern Trust Bank The Private Bank
- Mar. 26 The Trinity Irish Dance Company

DANCE

- Jan. 25 The Moscow Classical Ballet in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake
16 WWSF-TV
- Feb. 13 Les Ballets Jazz de Montral
- Feb. 28 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
St. Petersburg Times
- Apr. 15 Limn Dance Company
NEA SAF

POP, JAZZ & COUNTRY

- Oct. 4 Sparkle Paper Towels presents Lee Ann Womack
St. Petersburg Times
- Oct. 12 The Temptations & The Four Tops
Maddux Report
- Oct. 18 The Moody Blues - Sold Out
- Oct. 19 Michael Bolton
- Nov. 3 Elvis Costello - Sold Out
- Nov. 7 Boney James & Fourplay
Part of the Verizon Music Festival
- Nov. 8 Clint Black Part of the Verizon Music Festival
- Nov. 9 Peter, Paul & Mary
- Nov. 12 Hall & Oates
- Nov. 22 Kenny Rogers
- Nov. 25 Kenny Loggins
- Dec. 1 Wynonna
NURSES CHOICE
- Jan. 10 New York-New Jersey Reunion
featuring Ronnie Spector, Joey Dee, The Duprees & more
Delta
- Jan. 14 Harry Belafonte
Florida Power
- Jan. 19 The Righteous Brothers
- Jan. 23-24 Johnny Mathis
RAYMOND JAMES St. Petersburg Times



COMEDY

- Nov. 16 Blue Collar Comedy Tour II
with Jeff Foxworthy & Bill Engvall
- Nov. 20 An Evening with Burt Reynolds
- Dec. 14 George Carlin

HOLIDAY

- Nov. 23 The Irish Tenors Christmas Spectacular
- Nov. 29 The Colors of Christmas
Jon Secada, Jody Watley, Peabo Bryson & Oleta Adams
Delta
- Dec. 6-8 Miami City Ballet & The Florida Orchestra
in George Balanchines The Nutcracker
Florida Power
- Dec. 9 Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol The Musical
16 WWSF-TV
- Dec. 13 The Chocolate Nutcracker
16 WWSF-TV
- Dec. 17 Linda Eder's Holiday Concert
St. Petersburg Times
- Dec. 29 Salute to Vienna
16 WWSF-TV 89.7 WWSF-TV



St. Petersburg Times FAMILY SERIES

- Sept. 29 ETC's Woodland Tales
- Oct. 27 One Monster After Another
- Nov. 17 ETC's The Snow Queen
- Dec. 14-15 The Chocolate Nutcracker
16 WWSF-TV
- Jan. 12 Leland Faulkner's World of Wonder
- Feb. 9 The Little Engine That Could
- Feb. 16 The Peking Acrobats
- Mar. 16 Go, Dog. Go!
- Apr. 12 The Florida Orchestras Symphony Safari
- Apr. 27 Franklin the Turtle



ADULTS AT LEISURE

- Nov. 26 The Spencers Theatre of Illusion
- Dec. 9 Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol The Musical
16 WWSF-TV
- Dec. 16 The Irish Rovers Christmas
- Dec. 19 A Scottish Christmas
- Jan. 7 The Pied Pipers
- Jan. 21 Glenn Miller Orchestra
- Jan. 28 The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra



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10 September 12 - 25, 2002

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DAME From Page 1

multitude of television specials and film roles followed as did countless awards including a Tony, an Outer Critics Circle Award, first prize in the San Francisco International Film Festival, and a Gold Award at the New York Film and TV Festival. Most recently she won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for her work on *Ally McBeal*.

Dame Edna brought the touring version of her acclaimed Broadway show *Dame Edna: The Royal Tour* to Ruth Eckerd Hall in February of last year to enthusiastic standing ovations. This year she will return to our area with *An Evening with Dame Edna: The Show That Cares* which will be presented at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center as part of a mini-tour of Florida which kicked off in Melbourne on Sept. 7.

Prior to beginning the tour, Everage agreed to an interview with *Watermark*. I rang her at her London home — one of five, the others are in Malibu, Melbourne (Australia), Switzerland and Martha's Vineyard — and I was stunned when she answered the phone herself. Though she is a woman that gives new meaning to the word friendly, I was still nervous. I couldn't believe this was happening to me, the last time I had only gotten an interview with her close friend, Barry Humphries.

DAME EDNA: How are you, Scott?

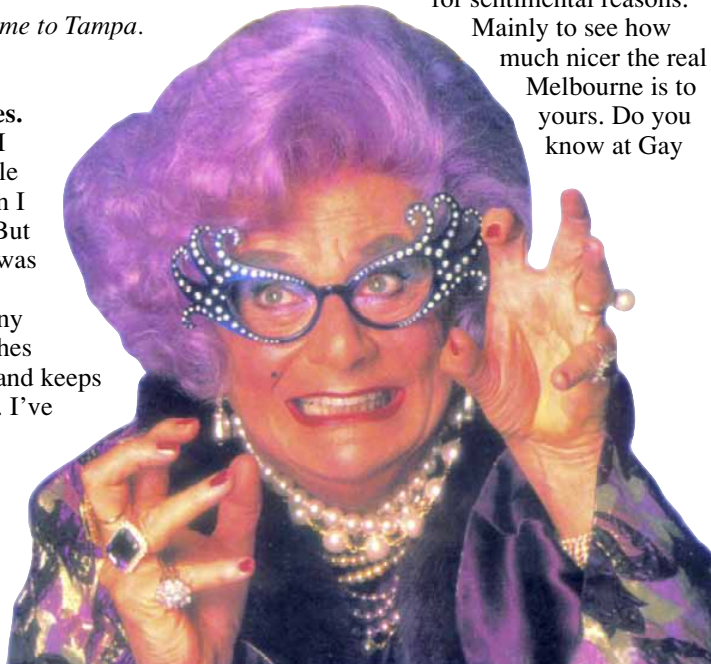
WATERMARK: I'm wonderful. How are you?
I'm very well. Who do you work for?

I work for *Watermark*, a gay and lesbian newspaper here in Central Florida.
Sounds lovely.

It is. We actually did an article to cover the last time you came around our area to Tampa.
Oh, Scott. *I didn't come to Tampa.* Are you Tampa?

We cover Tampa, yes.
I was in Florida and I went to Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach, then I went to Clearwater. But what I wanted to do was to go on to Miami because my son Kenny who designs my clothes adores South Beach and keeps telling me I'd love it. I've never been to Miami and I'm longing to go. Did you manage to see me?

I did manage to see you.
Do you think they'll like that show in Miami?



DAME EDNA: "I'm suing [John Waters] through my friend Ally McBeal, my personal lawyer."

I certainly do. Now this time around you're taking the show to Melbourne as well?

Do you know what I'm doing? I come originally from Melbourne, Australia — and I want you to remind your readers that I'm not British, I'm Australian...

I certainly will.

...And I'm very, very proud of it. I'm doing my very first show in Melbourne for sentimental reasons.

Mainly to see how much nicer the real Melbourne is to yours. Do you know at Gay

Mardi Gras — whatever that may be — in Sydney there are usually about ten floats of Edna? It seems to me to be the preferred role that people of all countries would wish to play! I'm such a popular woman!

Well, that's understandable I would think.

You've heard of John Waters and *Hairspray*? He copied my name for that character.

How do you feel about that?

I'm suing him. I'm suing him through my friend Ally McBeal, my personal lawyer.

Are you hopeful that the outcome of the lawsuit will be good?

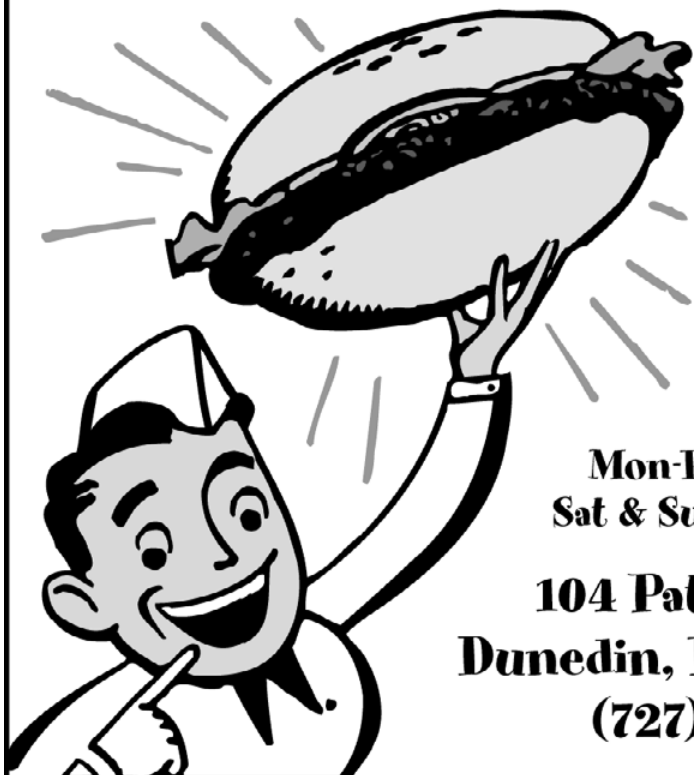
You'll hear about it, darling. I'll get your paper to cover me. But look, I'm longing to come to Miami, which is *really* the capital of Florida, isn't it?

Well, a lot of people think so.

I want Miami to become "my ami," you know? Of course it's much the same show that I did elsewhere, except that I've added wonderful new things. And I'll be touring essentially to people who've never experienced me before. I'll be moving around town a bit in the Edna Mobile, which I bought from the Pope. Do you remember you saw the Pope in Poland recently in that car? I bought it from him!

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It's a glass-enclosed car, right?

Yes, I've had it painted a nicer color and you'll see cruising South Beach. I feel Florida is my spiritual home.

Why do you feel that?

When I am there I just feel I was there in a former life. My astrologer told me I had to go to Miami this September. You know, it's a spooky month in American history now, September. If ever a nation needed the blessing of laughter, you need it, don't you? The healing qualities of laughter. It's laughter, really, that holds the community your newspaper addresses together. Your readership has kept the flame of humor burning in America. That's a compliment from me. In spite of their unsavory habits...

I believe you're coming to visit Tampa as well?

It's a funny name, Tampa. You think tampons were invented there?

I don't know.

Well, someone must have invented them. I think they were actually. Tampa will be fun.

Yes, I think you'll see a lot of the same people that you saw in Clearwater because they're right next to each other.

Oh are they? Well, anyway, I'm only doing one evening there, aren't I?

I'm not sure of the dates.

Neither am I frankly, but the big thrill is going to be Miami. I don't think I'll be able to do anything in Spanish unfortunately.

You're not very good with Spanish?

No. I do hope little Elian will come over. Remember him?

I do. Do you think he is a fan of yours?

He is a fan. He writes to me, Elian. He wants to come, but I told him they would never let him go back next time. But he misses the publicity.

Now you said that Kenny likes South Beach, is that where he lives?

No, but he is thinking of opening a boutique there. So I'll be looking at real estate in the South Beach area where my son can open one of his couturier shops. I frankly, between you and me, have been bankrolling my son. I wear his dresses on the stage, you know.

It sounds like Kenny could possibly be one of our readers?

Well, it is spooky that you should mention

that, because he has mentioned your periodical quite a few times. I haven't had the occasion of seeing it. Do you have nice recipes in it?

No, unfortunately no recipes.

Knitting patterns?

No, but I'll pass that idea along to the editor.

Please do. Is it in Spanish as well?

No, just English, I'm afraid.

Oh yes, like me. Well we all have to discriminate in some areas, don't we?

You've toured with this show for quite a few months now, haven't you?

No. I finished a year ago in America, then I did *Ally McBeal* and I'm just resuming...this is a small tour. You know what I call it? A tourette. It's my Tourette syndrome. I was going to call it that, Edna's Tourette Syndrome except that the people said, "Oh, they won't get it." You know how people are so snobbish about America, they'll think you're slow-witted.

Right, I don't know where they get that.

It was my fear that people would think that I would be using foul language — as people with Tourette's Syndrome do, don't

they. But, as you know, I'm squeaky clean, though I might be a bit naughty sometimes.

I wanted to ask you about something that is going on in Florida politics. Someone you might know is running for governor here, Janet Reno.

Oh little Janet. She needs a makeover, doesn't she?

Perhaps she could use one of Kenny's dresses.

Kenny would love to dress Janet.

Well, is there anything else we need to let people know?

I think you just need to say that I am longing to be there. According to my gynecologist I am at the height of my powers.

Well you can't ask for anything more than that.

A Night with Dame Edna will play at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center from Sept. 17 - 22. For tickets, call (813) 222-1078 or visit <www.tbpac.org>.



Megastar DAME EDNA EVERAGE will perform in Tampa, which she believes is the birthplace of the tampon, from Sept. 17 - 22.

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September 27 -29
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End of Summer Pool Party • Special Entertainment
Mr. Sawmill Leather Contest



12 September 12 - 25, 2002

ORGANIZATIONS & MEETINGS

DAYTONA BEACH/SPACE COAST

BREAKTHROUGH

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

BREVARD LESBIANS

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

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

DAYTONA BEACH REGIONAL BEARS ASSOCIATION

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

FUN COAST BEARS

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

GALBA

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

GAY/BI MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

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

GREATER DAYTONA BUSINESS GUILD

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

OUTREACH, INC.

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

OVER THE RIVER

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

PFLAG DAYTONA

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

SPECTRUM

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

ORLANDO

AA WAKE UP CALL

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

BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER

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

BMCO

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

BOOKLOVERS

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

CENTAUR

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

CODA

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

COLAGE

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

CONQUISTADORS M.C., INC.

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

EVOLVE

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

FREEDOM OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

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

GALA

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

GALIXY

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

GAP

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

GAY SKATE

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

GIRTH AND MIRTH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

GLBCC-THE CENTER

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

GLBT PARENTS GROUP

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

GREATER ORLANDO COUPLES

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

HARBOR HOUSE

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

JOYRIDERS

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

LAMBDA CAMPING

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

LOG CABIN CLUB OF ORLANDO

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

LONG YANG CLUB

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

MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

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

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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

MISHPUCHA

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

OPEX

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

ORLANDO GAY CHORUS

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

ORLANDO MEN'S DISCUSSION

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

ORLANDO QUEER ACADEMICS

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

ORLANDO SOCIAL CLUB

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

OWLS

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

PFLAG

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

POLY-CENTRAL

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

POSITIVE SUPPORT

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

PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

PRINCIPLE BEFORE PERSONALITIES

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

PRISM-EA

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

RAIN

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

RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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

RAINBOW NA

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

RAINBOW SPIRIT

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

REFLECTIONS

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

S.H.A.R.E.

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

SISTAH CIRCLE

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

SUNSHINE RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

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

TEEN ACT (AIDS COMMUNITY THEATER)

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

TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

UCF GLBSU

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

WILLOW

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

THE WOMYN'S EXCHANGE

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

WE 2 HAVE PARENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

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

TAMPA BAY AREA

BAMACT

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



WWW.DYKESTOWATCHOUTFOR.NET

**BROT HassPEAK**

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

CRESCENDO: THE TAMPA BAY WOMEN'S CHORUS

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

THE CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

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

EQUALITY FLORIDA-HILLSBOROUGH

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

EQUALITY FLORIDA-PINELLAS

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

EZRA GROUP

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

F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP

Writers workshop for PLWAs. Meets Thurs.; 6 PM. (727)327-2969

FACT HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

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

FACT SPANISH-SPEAKING HIV/AIDS GROUP

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

FACE TO FACE YOUTH GROUP

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

FACT TRANSGENDER HIV/ AIDS GROUP

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

FAMILY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing card variety. (813)832-2999.

FLAMINGO AUTO GROUP

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

FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES

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

FREEDOM RINGS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

FRIENDS CLUB

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

FRONT RUNNERS OF TAMPA BAY

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

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Wed.; 7 PM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY & BISEXUAL SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets Fri.; 10 AM; The Center of Tampa Bay. (813)875-8116.

GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

GAY FUN CLUB

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

GAY SINGLES

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

GAY SKATE

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

GLBT PARENTS

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

GLSEN TAMPA BAY

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

GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE

Meets third Wed.. (813)960-3022.

HIV/AIDS SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

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

INTERWEAVE/ST. PETERSBURG

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

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

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

THE LINE

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

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TAMPA BAY

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

L.O.L.A.

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

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

OUT OF THE CLOSET THRIFT STORES

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

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB

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

PFLAG

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

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

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

PFLAG PINELLAS

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

POSITIVE COFFEE

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

POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

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

PRIDE AL ANON FAMILY GROUP

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

PRIDE ALLIANCE

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

PRIDE TAMPA BAY

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

PRIME TIMERS OF TAMPA BAY

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

PWA COALITION OF TAMPA BAY

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

RAINBOW CHIPS INVESTMENT CLUB

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

RAINBOW FILM SERIES

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

RAINBOW READERS

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

RAINBOW SURF 'N' SAFARI CLUB

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

RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

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

SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS (SLAA)

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

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

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

STARBURST OF PINELLAS PARK

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

SUN COAST LEATHER CLUB

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

SUNCOAST PRIDE

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

TAMPA BAY BEARS

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

TAMPA BAY BUSINESS GUILD

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

TAMPA BAY GAY COOKING CLUB

Meets monthly in the Tampa Bay Area. For more information visit <www.alexfrades.com/tampagaycookingclub>.

TAMPA BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; 7 PM; Old Springs Theatre. (727)865-9004.

TAMPA BAY NATURISTS

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

TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.

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

TROPICAL RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF

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

TRUE EXPRESSIONS

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

WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

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

WOMYN'S EXCHANGE TAMPABAY

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

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

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

ALEX'S RESTAURANT

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

FLAMING-O RESTAURANT & CAFE

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

GEORGIE'S ALIBI

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

HOT OLIVES

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

HOUSE OF BLUES

Mississippi-Delta inspired cuisine is featured in the restaurant next door to the world-famous concert hall in Downtown Disney. 1490 Lake Buena Vista Dr. (407)934-2583

LOGAN'S BISTRO

Quaint bistro dining just outside the Virginia/Mills district. Happy hour 5:30 to 7:30. 802 Virginia Dr., Orlando. (407)898-5688

MELTING POT

The perfect date restaurant where you cook you own four-course fondue meal.

Clearwater -

25822 US Highway 19 North
(727)797-4426

Longwood -

145 Wekiva Springs Rd. #161
(407)862-8773

Maitland -

500 E. Horatio Ave. (407)628-1134

Orlando -

7549 W. Sand Lake Rd. (407)903-1100

Sarasota -

1055 S. Tamiami Tr. #112 (941)265-2658

St Petersburg -

2221 4th Street North (727)895-6358

SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

AIDS MANASOTA

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

ALSO

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

GAY & LESBIAN INFOLINE

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

GULF COAST LOG CABIN CLUB

"Inclusive, diverse Republicans." GulfCoastLogCabin@iname.com or jimbofla@yahoo.com.

GULF COAST MEN'S CHORUS

Meets Mon.; Universalist Unitarian Church, Sarasota. (941)377-9043; <www.gulfcoastmenschorus.org>.

PFLAG SARASOTA

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

PRIMETIMERS SARASOTA

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

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS GUILD

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

MELTING POT *cont.*

Tampa -

13164 N. Dale Mabry (813)962-6936

MISE EN PLACE

Neo American food and wine. Open for lunch and dinner. 442 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. (813)254-5373

PARLIAMENT HOUSE RAINBOW CAFE

Breakfast, lunch and dinner served in the comfortable cafe of this Orlando landmark. 410 N. Orange Blossom Tr. (407)425-7571

RESTAURANT K

Formerly Cafe Allegre, located in the heart of College Park, this restaurant is truly a food, wine and art experience. 2401 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)872-2332

THE COFFEE HOUSE OF THORNTON PARK

A great spot for lunch or for a cup of their specialty coffee and a pastry. 712 E. Washington St., Orlando. (407) 426-8989

TOOJAY'S

Popular deli style restaurant. Try the potato pancakes.

Orlando locations -

Marketplace at Dr. Phillips (407)355-0340

Colonial Plaza (407)894-1718

Waterford Lakes Town Centre

(407)249-9475

Altamonte Springs -

Palm Springs Shopping Center

(407)830-1770

Lake Mary -

Lake Mary Centre (407)833-0848

TROPICS

Popular and upscale gay restaurant and lounge in Palma Ceia neighborhood of South Tampa. The food is great, and expect to see friends. Open 4 PM - midnight. 2801 S. MacDill Ave., Tampa (813) 837-1836

WHITE WOLF CAFE

Experience the atmosphere, antiques and food that have made this cafe a dining institution for over 12 years. 1829 N. Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)895-9911



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

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Sopranos"



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

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



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OUR TICKET OUTLETS:

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813.274.8286

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U.S. AIRWAYS

SUN
Gazette

St. Petersburg Times



GOOD AS GOLD

From Page 8

I'm ready. I am 36.

Oh yeah, you're ready. OK, go ahead. So now my only real connection to the lesbian Jewish experience is from the two women [on *Gay Weddings*]: the entertainment lawyer and whatever it was her partner did.

I didn't see that one.

No? They were really down to Earth, but the woman who did their ceremony, she was kinda out there. She was blowing through a seashell, and she was becoming very anal and take-charge for someone who was supposedly a free spirit.

Did you have a commitment ceremony with your partner?

We didn't. Sharon had Henry and I adopted him. And I had Ben and she's in the process of adopting him. The thing is we are committed to each other. I want to have a wedding when I have the same rights as everyone else who has a wedding. We've been together over 17 years. I'll have a union or a marriage as long as I get the same rights as everyone else. It's not fair. I pay the same amount of taxes, probably more. I'm a good citizen. I have two very happy kids. We're in the PTA — we're good people. We don't want special treatment, we just want the same as everyone else. It's annoying. and it pisses me off!

What can we expect when we see you down here in Florida? Please don't tell me that we're gonna hear a lot of hanging Chad and Elian jokes.

No. You won't hear any of that. Eccch! I love to talk to the audience, I love to involve them in the show. I'm kind of off-the-cuff but I do have an act. I talk a lot about my family, and having kids and my life. My experiences and my opinions — and it's very entertaining.

It's weird being gay, being a mother and being a Jew. But it's funny because my life is just like every other married couple's life with kids.

It's the same, but different.

It's funny because people say the most idiotic things. Like, we were at a friend's birthday party and a [heterosexual] mother [asked another lesbian mom], "Do you plan on raising your daughter as a lesbian?" I wanted to kill her! She should have said, "No, I'm gonna raise my kids to be black." What's wrong with these people?

Now, you have two boys. Obviously, you couldn't raise them to be lesbians. I mean, you could try.

Yeah, I have two boys with two moms. But I can see the older one, well, when he's older, being with girls and saying, "You know, I really understand women because I have two mothers..." and getting them into bed and everything. "I'm really sensitive and I really understand what women go through." ▼

Judy Gold is appearing at McCurdy's Comedy Theater in Sarasota from Sept. 27 - 29. Call (941) 925-3869 or visit www.mccurdyscomedy.com for more information.

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Emmy Award-winner JUDY GOLD: "It's weird being gay, being a mother and being a Jew. But my life is just like every other married couple's life with kids."



DAYTONA/SPACE COAST

DRAMA CLUB:

Bar and entertainment center located in historical Cocoa Village. 9 Stone St., Cocoa. (321)639-8228.

MICHAEL'S PATIO BAR & GRILL:

Located at 116 Madison Ave., Michael's is a full service restaurant, and bar. Call (386)323-0607 for more info.

THE OTHER PLACE:

Daytona/Ormond Beach's largest gay and lesbian nightclub. 642 South Atlantic Ave. Ormond Beach, FL. (904)677-1006 or <www.theotherplaceneiteclub.com>

RUMORS NIGHTCLUB:

Live shows, games, DJ, and a piano bar. 1376 N. Nova Rd. (386)252-3776.

STREAMLINE HOTEL AND LOUNGE:

Open from 11 AM to 3 AM every day. Free parking. The hotel has 50 rooms with A/C. 140 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach. (386)258-6937.

TOMBOYS BAR AND GRILL:

Pool, darts, jukebox, happy hour 4-6 PM nightly. 322 Seabreeze Blvd., Daytona Beach. (386)257-6464.

WANNABES:

Drink specials, shows, and dancing. 231 Minuteman Cswy., Cocoa Beach. (407)868-1898.

ORLANDO

CACTUS CLUB:

Mixed clientele. Pool, darts, and a back patio. 1300 N. Mills Ave., Orlando. (407)894-3041.

CLUB ORLANDO:

State of the art exercise place... and much, much more. Swimming, sauna, hot tub and private rooms. 450 E. Compton St. Orlando (407)425-5005. <www.the-clubs.com/orlando>.

THE CLUB AT FIRESTONE:

Gay night on Saturday. Popular local dance club. 578 N. Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)948-5598 or <www.theclub-online.com>.

CLUB QUEST:

R&B, hip-hop, house and reggae. Everyone welcome, 18+. 745 Bennett Rd., Orlando. (407)228-8226.

FACES:

Womyn's bar. Pool, darts, pinball, dance floor, DJ. 4910 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)291-7571.

FULL MOON SALOON:

Bears, Levi's, leather. Sunday afternoon tea dance. 500 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, (407)648-8725 or <www.fullmoonsaloon.com>.

HANKS:

Juke box, darts, pool. Happy hour starts at noon every day. 5026 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)291-2399.

HEAVEN:

After-hours club. 360 State St., Orlando (407) 872-7188 or <www.heavennightclub.com>

LAVA LOUNGE:

Classy video bar in the space that used to be Art's Cigars. Features an artistic flair and a congenial staff. Patio seating available. 1235 Orange Ave., Orlando. (407)895-9790.

NEW PHOENIX:

Mixed neighborhood bar. 7124-A Aloma Ave., Winter Park (407)678-9070.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE:

Piano bar, show bar, disco, country/western bar, cocktail lounge, and hotel. 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando. (407)425-7571 or <www.parliamenthouse.com>

THE PEACOCK ROOM:

Mixed. Artsy decor and low-key atmosphere. 1321 N. Mills Ave. (407)228-0048 or <www.peacockroom.com>.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS:

Mixed. Dance floor, show bar, and patio. 375 S. Bumby, Orlando. (407)898-0424 or <www.southern-nights.com >.

STUDZ:

Leather bar. Pool table and darts. 4453 Edgewater Dr., Orlando. (407)222-7695.

WYLD'E'S:

Neighborhood bar that welcomes everyone. 3535 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando. (407)835-1889.

LAKELAND

CLUB DOCKSIDE:

Happy hour and drink specials daily. 3770 Hwy 92 East,

BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

Lakeland. (941)655-2590 or <www.dockside.cegi.net>.

GREEN PARROT:

Drink specials every night, strippers on the weekends. 1030 E. Main St., Lakeland. (863)683-6021.

TAMPA

BAXTERS:

Karaoke Tuesdays, Fantastic Fridays featuring "dancers on the rise." 1519 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa. (813)258-8830.

THE CHAMBERS:

Gay six nights a week! 1701 N. Franklin, Tampa. (813)223-1300.

CHANTILLY LACE:

A spacious club with pool tables and a sand volleyball court. 13415 N. Nebraska Ave. (813)971-8481.

THE CHEROKEE CLUB:

One of the nicest women's club in the state. Open Fri. and Sat. only. 1320 E. 9th Ave. (813) 247-9966.

CITY LIMITS:

Nightclub offers drag shows, karaoke, and darts. 902 E. Brandon Blvd. (813)571-7200.

CITY SIDE:

Attracts an upscale, mixed crowd. Pool table, patio. 3810 Neptune St., Tampa. (813)254-6466.

JOEY'S:

Neighborhood karaoke bar, drink specials. 9002 N. Florida Ave, Tampa. (813)935-9771.

THE JUNGLE:

Upscale nightclub featuring a daily happy hour. 3703 Henderson Blvd., Tampa. (813)877-3290.

KEITH'S LOUNGE:

Down-home styled bar with nightly specials. 14905 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa. (813)971-3576 or <www.keithsbar.com>.

KI KI KI LOUNGE:

Friendly, low-key cruise bar. Beer and wine. 1908 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. (813)254-8183.

KIM'S KLUB:

Women's video and sports bar. 2408 W. Kennedy, Tampa. (813)254-4188.

LA FEMME BUVETTE:

Woman's bar features a show bar and dance club. 1328 9th Ave., Ybor City. (813)247-9966.

MECCA:

Huge dance area, casual lounge bar. 16th St. at 9th Ave., Ybor. (813)248-3053.

METROPOLIS:

Pool, darts, pinball, dancers. 3447 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. (813)871-2410 or <www.metrotampa.com>.

THE NEW MATRIX:

A restaurant, lounge, and disco. 105 W. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tampa. (813)237-8883.

RAIN LOUNGE:

An upscale Polynesian influenced lounge. 302 S. Nebraska Ave. (813) 229-RAIN.

SALOON 421:

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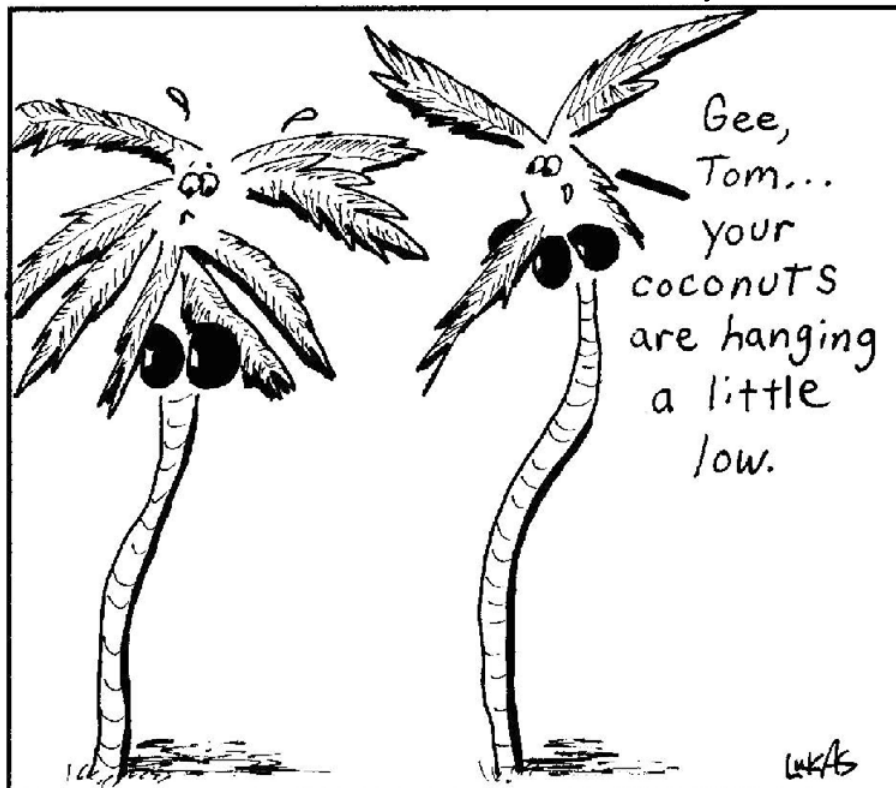
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Over The Rainbow

by Renee Lukas





16 September 12 - 25, 2002

HOLY HOMOPHOBIA From Page 1

After the experience of touring and still wanting to reach young people with the message of AIDS prevention, Winick decided to do the graphic novel *Pedro & Me*. The novel went on to win several awards and has been added to school curriculums and put into libraries.

"It was a way for us to still reach young people without having to go out there ourselves," says Winick. "It was a way to get to

thousands of people at one time and get the information out there to them and send the message home with them."

Writing the novel also helped Winick realize that he

wanted to do more with "storytelling" and less with cartooning. And after his good friend Bob Schreck took over editing duties at DC Comics, the opportunity to write the stories for comic books presented itself.

"I was probably one of the few people who didn't call Bob the moment his ass hit the door at DC to look for work," Winick says. "We had been talking about *Green Lantern* for a couple of months and Ron Marz was leaving and Bob said I obviously had a handle on the

character and what did I think of writing it. I was thrilled."

The openly bisexual Schreck had already been talking to Marz, *Green Lantern*'s writer from 1991 to 2000, about adding a gay teen character to the comic. When Winick took over writing the comic it was left to him to flesh out the details. It was his first official issue that brought the introduction of Terry Berg to the regular cast of characters.

"When we first introduced him he had a very positive experience with coming

out. His friends have been enormously supportive, his parents have been kind of running the middle line on it, but it's been good," Winick says. "He has sort of found

himself and he's comfortable about who he is. That is the most positive experience that one can have with coming out, and now I guess we are exploring the most negative."

The issue dealing with the hate crime hasn't even hit the stands yet and the reaction has already begun. After a piece in the *New York Times* ran in August the media has been all over the story. And like with anything gay positive, the religious right has also come out of the woodwork to lambaste the comic and it's creators, accusing them of spreading

misinformation about homosexuality. On a recent appearance on Phil Donahue's show, Winick was put up against Peter Spriggs of the Family Research Council, a group known for its anti-gay stance.

"That was just insane. We didn't even get the chance to talk about hate crimes because he was too busy trying to debate the existence of homosexuality," says Winick. "With lunatics out there like this how can one question the importance of discussing hate crimes while he is out there talking about that being gay is a sin, that it's a sickness, that it's a psychological disorder."

Aside from a few naysayers, the reaction so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Some people are thrilled that we get to show that comics aren't just about fisticuffs and flying into space," Winick says. "And a lot of folks are happy that we get to put this social issue out there again and to be able to discuss it in this medium."

One of Winick's other writing jobs is

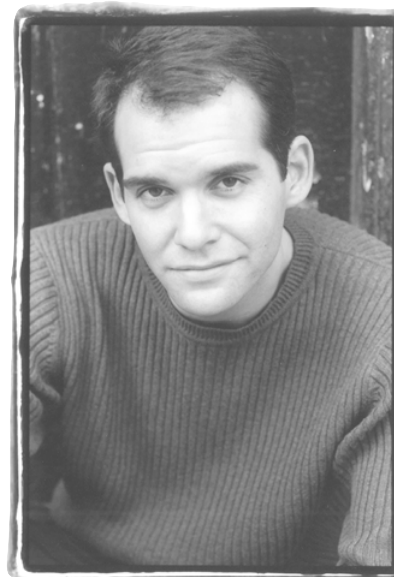
for Marvel Comics on *Exiles*, a comic that deals with dimension-hopping superhero mutants. One of the team's heroines is Sunfire, a young lesbian, but the reaction to her has hardly been noticeable.

"Our predominantly male fan base is probably more comfortable, even titillated, with lesbians around. Maybe it is because she is a superhero and it puts her at an even greater distance," says Winick. "With Terry, he is a 17-year-old gay male, which could easily be any one of them or someone they know. Maybe it hits a little too close to home."

Eight years after the world got to know him in a personal way, Judd Winick realizes that things can change

in the real world and so can people.

"I'm eight years older now...and a little balder. The woman I share my life with is now my wife. I am no longer the hard working cartoonist who is trying to find a job *and* a date," he says. "Both of those things are pretty well taken care of, thank you very much." ▼



Older, wiser, "and a little balder," JUDD WINICK has the "write" stuff to tackle gay issues.



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18 September 12 - 25, 2002



FILTH MOMMIE DEAREST LOOKING FOR ROOMATE

Celebrity Gossip by Billy Masters

With all of this talk about how the country should commemorate Sept. 11, I have made a decision: Billy Masters will spend the day in flight! Yes, I was trying to determine when I would return to Los Angeles, and it suddenly hit me — the perfect way to remember the events of a year ago was to plan a trip on that very day. Take that, Osama!

I'll bet that many of you imagine those Abercrombie & Fitch models naked, right? Well, imagine no more — one of their most delicious models has dropped his drawers for all to see. I heard a rumor that hunky **JOSEPH SAYER** would be showing all, and that "all" was quite impressive. You can check out Joey's soon-to-be-launched Web site of <www.josephsayer.com>. Clever, huh?

Months ago, I reported that **GLENN CLOSE** would appear in the West End in a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Well, Close has caused quite a fracas in London and the show hasn't even opened yet.

This production of *Streetcar* is slated for the Royal National Theatre — a theatre that gets substantial funding from

the British government. British Equity is upset that the company is importing a Hollywood star and feels that a British actress should be cast. The National Theatre believes that a star like Close has valuable marquee appeal. Other English producers argue that the National Theatre is a star in its own right and doesn't need an outsider to sell a show. Here's something even more frightening: the production will also star *Murphy Brown*'s **ROBERT PASTORELLI**. How on earth does Equity justify that?

We just learned that **MICHAEL JACKSON** has a new son. Like his other two children, this offspring was allegedly conceived "the natural way." Prince Michael II was unveiled in Las Vegas at **SIEGFRIED AND ROY**'s show. For their next trick, they'll reveal which one of them is the mother!

Yes, it's that time once again! Time for another installment of Fayewatch. When we last heard from **FAYE DUNAWAY**, she was loudly complaining about the extra charges for her Avis rent-a-car, intoning the words that have virtually become her mantra: "Don't you know who I am?" Now the

tabloids have been reporting that Faye is looking for a tenant. I couldn't believe it, so last week I drove by Casa Dunaway and saw the tell-tale sign in front of the house: "Studio For Rent."

Five years ago, Faye bought two neighboring houses in West Hollywood, had them extensively renovated, and effectively turned the two free-standing abodes into a compound by putting a wall around them. She had hoped that son Liam would take up residence in the smaller space. Like so many others, Liam has no interest in being that close to "Mommie Dearest" and the cash-poor diva thought that the extra \$3,000 a month rent would come in handy.

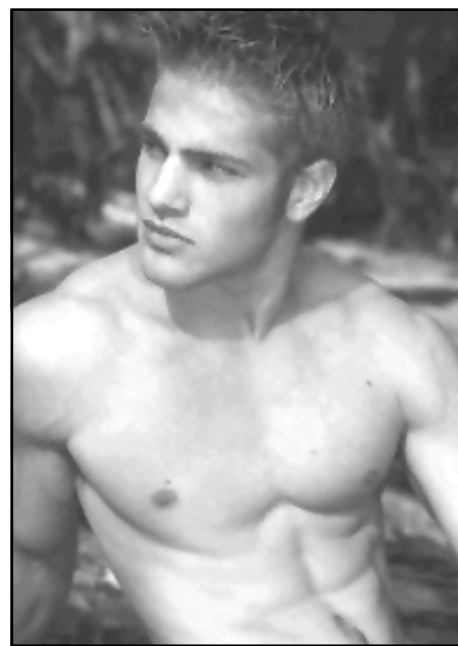
Could it be that a former *Playgirl* centerfold is back on the market? That's the word from several sources who bumped into the adventurous auteur while

he was seeking sex. Where? A place where "last call" ceases to exist — AOL! Yup, two faithful fans had the dubious distinction of hooking up with the aging circuit boy following some blazing-hot

cyber chat. One of the prospective paramours swapped pics with him and immediately recognized the still-stunning centerfold. Both boys jumped at the chance to top the tempter (separately — sorry to say). One even said that the diminutive diddler was a little "piggy." Oink!

I'm in the midst of tracking down some of your favorite celebs of yesteryear for my upcoming "What ever happened to..." feature. I want to track down people such as **PAULA**

PRENTISS, **RONA BARRETT** and the **POINTER SISTERS**. Remember you can always find me at Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Michael stops breast-feeding! ▼



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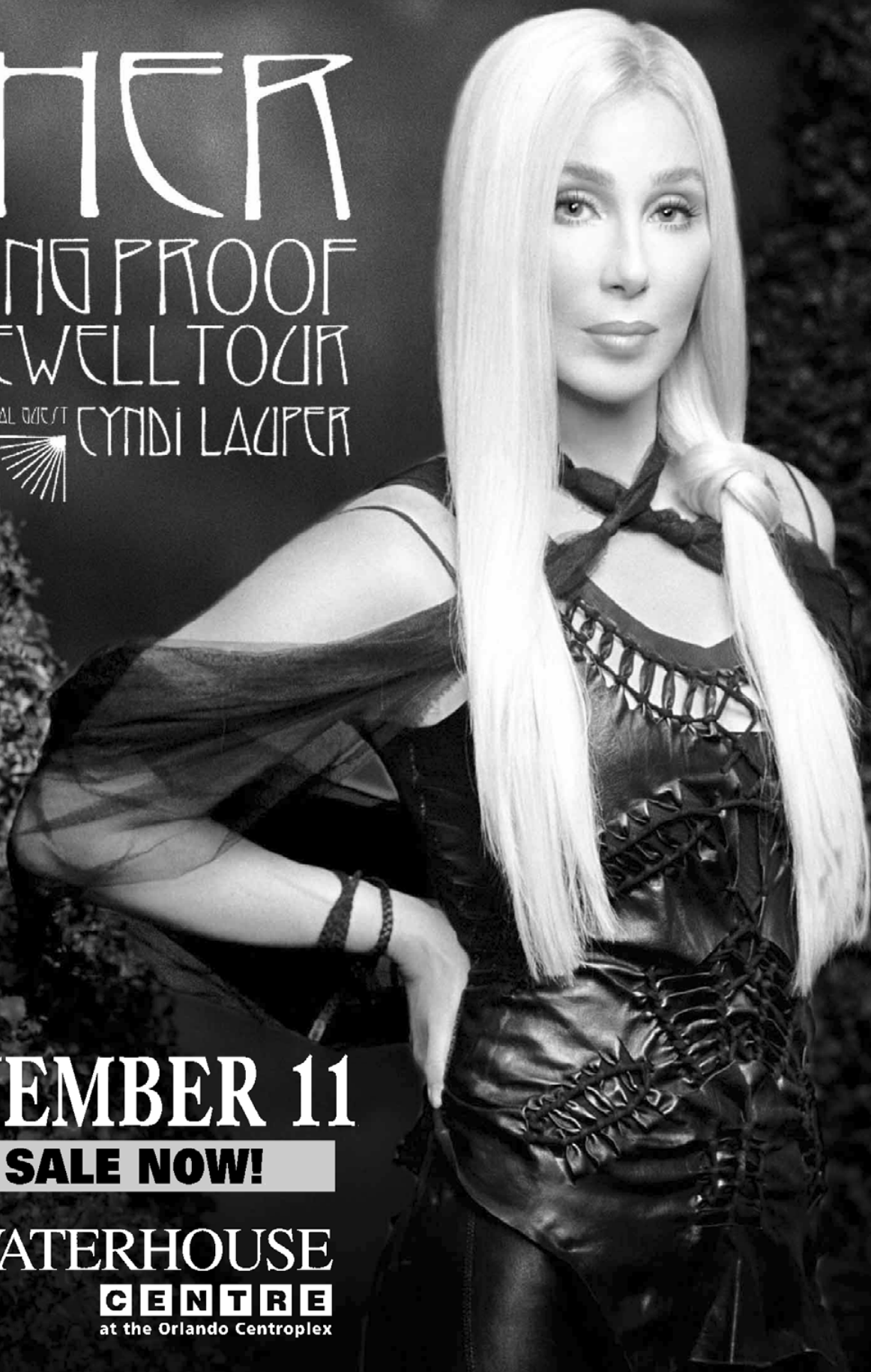
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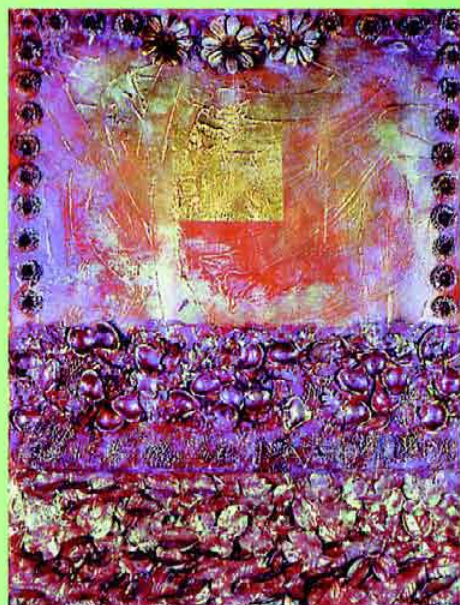
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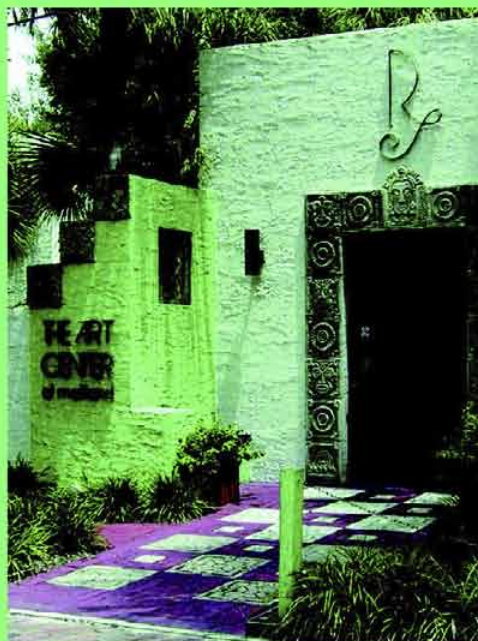
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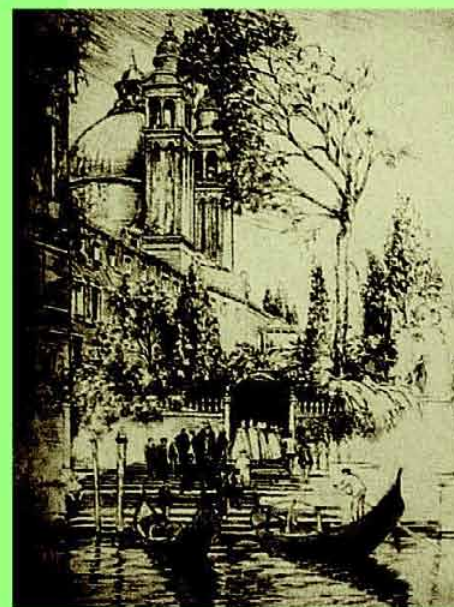
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