COMMUNITY CHAMPION
MARION BAKER DIES
by James A. Crescielli

For those who've been active in Orlando's gay community for some time, the name Marion Baker conjures a very specific image: a feisty, silver-haired woman with an attitude and a tongue to match. She was a woman who could handle the roughest gay hot-line caller, or run the most difficult discussion group with equal parts toughness and find understanding.

Not gay herself, Marion became involved in our community as a result of her volunteer work. Back in 1976 she was one of the standard bearers of a new organization, Gay Community Services. GCS, as it was called then, has become the thriving and multi-faceted GLCS, an organization many of us use frequently and often take for granted.

In those early days, Marion was a consistent presence at sparsely-attended meetings, and she always volunteered to take calls and run groups at whatever location was being used by the nomadic early GCS. Her strong presence and no-nonsense approach were much needed in those days.

Marion Baker died on November 2nd at her home in Orlando. She will be missed by the many who loved and respected her, and by the gay community as a whole.

I first met Marion at a GCS rap group held at Pasadena Place. As was often the case back then, Marion was the only woman in a room filled with gay men. Nobody minded.

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LIFE FOLLOWS SUIT
TOM WOODARD: FIVE YEARS LATER
by Ken Kundis and Tom Dyer

A cop is a cop of course, of course and his private life is his own resource. Unless, of course, He's on the force Of the Amazing Sheriff Walt!

Because he's the top dog On the Force you must live a lifestyle That he'll endorse Or else you'll not the law enforce For the Amazing Sheriff Walt

Work real hard and do your job And earn your weekly pay It matters not to Sheriff Walt Not if he learns you are gay!

Sung to the theme from Mister Ed.

It was 1989. This cleverly penned by then-featured columnist Bob Morris, appeared in The Orlando Sentinel. The song satirized the ludicrous situation that had turned an Orange County Sheriff's Deputy into the biggest news story of the day. Under duress from his employer, Tom Woodard admitted having sexual relations with another man. Despite a spotless work record, he was asked to resign by the Orange County Sheriff at that time, Walt Gallagher, and as headlines would soon reveal, he was fighting back.

"I just instinctively knew that it was wrong," Woodard now says, looking back. "I didn't know it would take so long."

In fact, it would be an emotional three-and-a-half-year rollercoaster ride, with the media covering every swoop and curve. For a time, stories appeared in the Orlando Sentinel almost daily. Local TV news covered rallies held on Woodard's behalf. Nationwide, both gay and straight newspapers and magazines such as The Advocate featured the story prominently.

Ultimately, Woodard prevailed, getting his job as a Sheriff's Deputy back and setting important legal precedent in the process. In finding that Gallagher had violated Woodard's right to privacy, Circuit Judge

Reflecting on the events of 1989 and beyond, Tom Woodard sees himself as a changed man. Motivated simply by the desire to work in law enforcement, as his parents had before him, Woodard sought only to retain his position as a deputy. What his case developed into, however, was something more far-reaching, sparking a national debate on the fundamental employment rights of gays and lesbians.

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SUPREME COURT CONSIDERS GAY ADOPTION BAN

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Gay couples should have the same rights anyone else does to adopt children, attorneys for a Sarasota man told the state Supreme Court. 

In a case argued on Nov. 4, attorneys who have the power to bar gay adoptions, and social services authorities are entitled to divide into the six lives even of hetero­sexuals planning adoptions.

There is simply no basis to conclude that homosexuals are in any way less capable than heterosexuals of being good parents, "an American Civil Liberties Union attorney from Miami, argued on behalf of James W. Cox.

The court is considering an appeal by Cox, who, with his companion, Jackman, was denied adoption of an child with physical, mental or emotional handicaps.

The two, who acknowledged their homosexuality, were told that Florida is a state law prohibited hom­osexuals from adopting children.

Cox, 52, a professional pianist, and Jackman, 28, a state Department of Revenue collection specialist, challenged the law in Circuit Court in Sarasota. Circuit Judge Scott Brownell declared it unconstitutional in March 1993.

But Brownwell's decision was overturned in December by the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland.

The state Supreme Court didn't rule after hearing oral arguments, and the justices have no deadline for making a ruling.

"Our Legislature has imposed a per se exclusion of only one class," Vink told the justices.

That violates Cox's state constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law, she said. "We ask that HRS make an individualized determination in his case like any other."

"In excluding members of a particular class, wouldn't one need to show that all members of the class are unfit to adopt?" Justice Gerald Kogan asked Anthony Del accia Jr., attorney for the Department of Health and Rehabilita­tive Services.

"Suppose you said anyone who is black can't adopt, or anyone who is fat can't adopt?" Kogan asked.

Delaccia responded that race and religion are constitu­tionally protected, but "the Supreme Court of the United States has said that all of those funda­mental rights that are deeply rooted in the nation's history."

Vink said the law also violates constitutional guarantees of privacy.

"By making adoption conditional on sexual orientation," she said, "This statute violates Mr. Cox's right to intimate decisionmaking."

New Hampshire is the only other state with a state law barring adoptions by homosexuals.

STATE PRISON SYSTEM TO OPEN AIDS CENTER

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The state prison system will save millions of dollars by opening a nearly $1 million, 133-bed AIDS treatment center next year, corrections officials say.

But some question how the state will use the facility, designed to deal more efficiently with the disease that has become the biggest killer of Florida prison inmates.

AIDS, that would be good," said Walker. "But it's some­thing that's going to have to be monitored."

John Burke, chief of health services administration for the Department of Corrections, said the center, scheduled to open late next year, would cost between $1 million and $1.5 million a year.

"But state attorneys argued on Nov. 4 that lawmakers have the power to bar gay adoptions, and social services authorities are entitled to divide into the six lives even of hetero­sexuals planning adoptions."

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PUBLICS DISTRIBUTES RELIGIOUS RIGHT VOTING GUIDE

For approximately two weeks directly prior to last Tuesday's mid-term election, Publix Super Markets dis­tributed voters' guides approved by a conservative religious organization. The voters' guide was published by the Florida Family Council, a Tampa-based organization whose stated goal is "to monitor the so-called religious right, accused the Christian Coalition, an offspring of religious broadcaster Pat Robertson's 1988 presidential campaign.

A sampling of guides across the country, including the one published by the Florida Family Council, indicated that the overwhelming majority of cases, the Republi­can candidate's views were most in line with those espoused by the guide's publisher.

Coalition leaders deny picking sides, which would violate their tax-exempt status. They say questions and answers were carefully worded and presented fairly in the guides, and the choice was then left to the voter.

"We know the rules and we play by them," said coalition spokesman Mike Russell.

But many Democrats complained of distortions in the voting guides. In Oklahoma, for example, Democratic House candidate Stuart Price said the coalition's guide was full of "mistruths" about his views on abortion, school prayer and homosexuality. He urged Oklahoma churches not to distribute it.

Leaders of the Interfaith Alliance, an organization founded to monitor the so-called religious right, accused the Christian Coalition of twisting candidates' records and said bias by not giving candidates time to respond.

But even the coalition's fiercest critics give it a begrudg­ing respect.

"They have a lot of very good lawyers," said Arthur Kropp, president of the Liberal People for the American Way. "It's in an ambitious national fundraising effort. It is very clear, at least from the perspective of the Christian Coalition, who you should vote for."
WATERMARK / November 9, 1994 4

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Coretta Scott King and the Rev. Jesse Jackson are urging voters in Oregon, Idaho and Florida to defeat anti-gay initiatives on the ballot there next week.

The civil rights leaders said last week that the ballot measures would restrict the rights of gay and lesbian people.

"Campaigns are under way to undermine civil rights and institutionalize discrimination through referenda that will appear on ballots this Election Day in Oregon, Idaho and Alachua County," said Mrs. King, wife of the late Martin Luther King Jr.

"It is truly ironic and tragic that the rights for which Americans have fought so hard can be taken away at the ballot box," she said.

"If the basic rights of one group can be taken away at the ballot box, all groups are vulnerable," she said in a letter distributed by the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Jackson, the head of the National Rainbow Coalition who sought the Democratic nomination for president in 1988, said radical right groups pushing the measures have tried to divide people of color over the issue of equal rights for gay people.

"Let us not fall into the 'divide and conquer' trap of the enemies of social justice," Jackson said.

It's not that those who are now leading the charge on these initiatives are the very same forces that oppose the advancement of the civil rights agenda -- affirmative action, majority-minority districts and economic setasides," he said.

Oregon's Measure 13 would overturn existing local gay-rights laws and bar state and local governments from enacting specific protections for gays and lesbians in the future.

It also places restrictions on how public schools teach about homosexuality and bars governments from establishing affirmative action or hiring quotas based on homosexuality.

Jackson said equal protection under the law is a "God-given right, not a 'special right.'"

"We must recognize the diversity of our human family and affirm our humanity by safeguarding the legal and civil rights of all human beings," he said.

Douglas Hattaway, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Americans Against Discrimination, said the support from Jackson and Mrs. King is a big boost for gay rights.

"These right-wing groups have tried to divide the African American community over gay rights issues, even though these groups have a long history of hostility toward African American groups," Hattaway said.

This underscathat hostility that has leading civil rights advocates coming out against these measures," he said.

MAN SHOT FOR HOLDING BOYFRIEND'S HAND

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Just blocks from the heart of San Francisco's Castro district, an almost mystical safe haven for gays, Victor Rohana was pinned to a wall and shot in the chest.

His crime? Apparently, he was targeted because he was holding hands with his boyfriend.

Civil rights advocates say the shooting is an example of the growing ferocity of attacks on gays and lesbians.

"Whereas in 1992, somebody may have just yelled faggot and clubbing you or raping you," said Leslie Addison of Community United Against Violence, "we're now seeing faggot and macho shooting people," she added.

On October 28th, 24-year-old Victor Rohana and boyfriend Steven Damron were walking to their car after dining in a neighborhood restaurant. Just after 10 p.m., two men in a white Suzuki Samurai drove by and yelled at them.

"We were gay and they didn't like that we were holding hands," said Damron.

Rohana underwent surgery on both Saturday and Sunday.

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The group believes that only about ten percent of harassment is actually reported to the police. Advocates say attacks on gays are very deliberate and premeditated.

"People come in from outside the city to attack people. A group of kids get in a car in Walnut Creek and decide to drive into the Castro to get some fags. It's not like someone's walking down the street and sees a gay person and gets upset," Addison said.

"They made a judgement that being gay was bad and their way of expressing that was to shoot Victor."

Jackson, the head of the National Rainbow Coalition who sought the Democratic nomination for president in 1988, said radical right groups pushing the measures have tried to divide people of color over the issue of equal rights for gay people.

"It is disingenuous to think that in a city that is known for acceptance of individual freedom that this senseless act of violence still occurs," Jordan said Monday.

"At first I thought he was okay, because he was still standing up. But then he started screaming that he'd been hit and I realized that they'd shot him," Damron said.

"We were gay and they didn't like that we were holding hands," said Damron.

Rohana said something to the men before turning to catch up with his friend. The driver backed up about 100 feet to block their path, jumped the curb onto the sidewalk and pinned Rohana against a wall.

The jeep's passenger stuck a pistol out of window and shot Rohana.

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NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS OPPOSE OREGON, IDAHO, FLORIDA MEASURES

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**TOP COURT HEARS GAY COUPLE'S BID FOR SPOUSAL BENEFITS**

OTTAWA (AP) – The Supreme Court of Canada recently heard arguments on whether an elderly gay couple — together for 46 years — should be eligible for federal spousal pension benefits.


Spouses of pensioners can get an allowance — now a maximum of $687.88 (about $516 U.S.) a month — if they are aged 60 to 64 and the couple’s yearly income is less than $20,688 ($15,516 U.S.).

Otawa refused Egan’s request, saying the Old Age Security Act defines spouse as someone of the opposite sex. The couple lost their case in a split decision last year at the Federal Court of Appeal, but have appealed to the top court.

The court, following its usual practice, was not expected to rule for several months.

**KIMURA NAMED CHAIRMAN OF GAY MARRIAGE STUDY COMMISSION**

HONOLULU (AP) — Retired Circuit Judge Shunichi Kimura has been named chairman of the 11-member commission, set up by the Legislature to study proposals for legal and economic benefits for same-sex couples.

The delay in naming the chairman has stalled the work of the commission, drawing some fire from at least one member.

The commission was established earlier this year as a compromise in the highly-controversial issue of same sex marriages. The Legislature notified the state Supreme Court that Hawaii’s current laws on marriage apply only to opposite-sex couples.

The delay in naming the chairman has stalled the work of the commission, drawing some fire from at least one member.

The commission is to recommend to next year’s Legislature changes in the law that might give same-sex couples some of the same legal benefits enjoyed by married couples.

Senate President Norman Mizuguchi and House Speaker Joseph Souki on Tuesday jointly named Kimura, who is a former Hawaii County mayor and who served as a Circuit Judge on the Big Island for nearly two decades.

The law said the head of the family law section of the Hawaii State Bar Association was to serve in chairman, but that person reportedly rejected the appointment.

The 10 members already appointed include theologians and doctrine teachers from the American Friends Service Committee, the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, representatives of civil rights groups and legal experts.

Member Reemette Cooper earlier this month complained that the delay in getting started would affect the commission’s product which is supposed to be ready for the Legislature’s consideration in January.

**LESBIAN COUPLE DENIED FAMILY HOUSING**

SALI LAKI CITY (AP) — A University of Utah student with a lesbian partner and a 4-year-old daughter has been denied family housing at the school.

The school bars discrimination based on sexual orientation, but also has a policy of renting only to married couples or to single students either living alone or having roommates who are university students.

Kathy Kees, the student, says she and her partner were married in a ceremony in July 1993 but the state does not recognize homosexual marriages.

"It can’t be legally married and that is totally based on sexual orientation. I don’t have a choice. Heterosexual couples do," she said Tuesday.

Norman Chambers, director of the university’s Auxiliary Services, said the housing policy is in line with those of most schools around the country.

The policy states that legally married couples residing together with or without dependent children, or single parents residing with dependent children, are eligible for University Village.

Kees might have been eligible for an apartment in the Medical Plaza because that is open to married couples or roommates with or without children. But in the plaza, each adult resident must be a student, and Kees’ partner does not attend the university.

University counsel Karen McCready said the non-discrimination policy does not conflict with the housing rules. No courts have ruled that marriage requirements are unconstitutional.

The couple plans to appeal to the university’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, said Kees.

Kees now lives in West Valley City. Her daughter is in daycare at the University Village. Housing costs at University Village are comparatively low. The three bedroom apartment Kees wants is $450 a month, utilities included.

"It would be very convenient," she said. "They offer this housing to the students to save them money and time, I feel that I have the same rights as other students on campus."

Chris Ryan, president of the Utah Log Cabin Club, said many colleges and universities allow homosexual couples among their heterosexual counterparts, and, “The University of Utah has no business defining what constitutes a family.”

**LAWYER ASKS HIGH COURT TO HEAR APPEAL**

RICHMOND (AP) — A Virginia Supreme Court ruling on whether a lesbian deserves custody of her son would clear up confusion about the state’s child custody laws, a lawyer has told the justices.

“We need to know. The judges in this state need to know,” Richard Ryder, who represents the 3-year-old boy’s grandmother in her effort to keep custody, said Friday.

Ryder asked the court to review a state Court of Appeals ruling that granted custody to the boy’s mother, Sharon Bottoms.

The justices will issue a written ruling later. If they take the appeal, arguments would not be held for months.

In a case closely watched by gay rights groups, Ms. Bottoms has been fighting with her mother, Kay Bottoms, over custody of Tyler Doustou, 2. The boy’s father is not involved in the case.

The child remains with his grandmother while the appeal is pending. A court order allows Sharon Bottoms to visit her son two days a week.

At the heart of the case is a 1985 Supreme Court ruling that a homosexual was an unfit parent because he broke the state’s law against sodomy. Henrico County Circuit Judge Buford M. Parsons Jr. relied on that case when he ruled in September 1993 that Kay Bottoms, the boy’s grandmother, should have custody.

But the Court of Appeals ruled in 1995 that Sharon Bottoms’ private sex life is irrelevant, even though illegal, did not make her an unfit parent.

The Court of Appeals has by its decision changed, without benefit of the legislature, the laws of this state,” Ryder told a four-justice Supreme Court panel.

Justice Barbara Keenan noted there was no evidence the boy has been harmed by seeing his mother with her live-in lover. Sharon Bottoms had testified that she and her female lover hugged and kissed in front of the boy but did not engage in sexual activity in his presence.

Ryder said returning the boy to his mother would be bound to have a bad effect. “What will happen to this child when he’s 9 or 10 years old?” he asked.

Lawyers for Sharon Bottoms did not present arguments because the court only hears from the attorney seeking the appeal.
GROWTH HORMONE HELPS AIDS PATIENTS GAIN WEIGHT

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Injecting AIDS patients with a growth hormone can reverse the "wasting" effect caused by tissue loss, a nationwide experiment found. The therapy may also help people with cancer and other diseases gain weight.

AIDS patients averaged a gain of 3.6 pounds during the first three months of the two-year study, and some eventually put on 30 pounds, Dr. Morris Schambelan of the University of California at San Francisco said Thursday.

"We had people who were severely wasted and in wheelchairs," he said. "But one guy, by the summer, went up to Yellowstone and climbed a small mountain."

Unlike other weight gain therapies, use of the bioengineered growth hormone increased lean tissues such as muscles, organs and bone mass, rather than fatty tissues, Schambelan said. The average increase in lean tissue was 6.6 pounds during the first three months because many patients continued to lose some fatty tissue. Treadmill tests confirmed improved muscle performance among the subjects, said Schambelan, who coordinated the study from San Francisco General Hospital.

"Having their legs being able to take them further on a treadmill suggests growth hormone might help them get around day-to-day," said Kathleen Mulligan, a UCSF endocrinologist at San Francisco General Hospital.

The improvement was so dramatic the experiment was interrupted and placebo patients were given the growth hormone, which was manufactured by Sereno Laboratories, Inc. of Norwell, Mass. The results follow previous successes in treating burn and cancer patients with growth hormones, said Jeffrey Laurence of Cornell Medical Center. He also is a consultant with the American Foundation for AIDS Research in New York.

Problems with side effects have been minimal, although diabetics and people with high blood pressure may not be able to take hormones. Still unresolved is the question of whether the therapy will prolong the life of AIDS or cancer patients.

"The data are very promising, and the FDA is reviewing the data with exactly that question in mind," Schambelan said.

The double blind experiment included 178 patients in hospitals and community treatment centers in several states. Results were released last week at the Third International Symposium on Nutrition and HIV-AIDS in Philadelphia.

AIDS FEAR BRINGS FLORIDA SYPHILIS DECLINE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) – Rising awareness of AIDS has led to a sharp drop in syphilis in Florida, which led the nation in syphilis cases until 1990.

We can never say 'Let's pack up and go home," said Dan George, a senior public health adviser with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Florida is now 16th in the nation in its rate of syphilis with 1,187 cases reported last year. "We can never say 'Let's pack up and go home," said Dan George, a senior public health adviser with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) – Rising awareness of AIDS has led to a sharp drop in syphilis in Florida, which led the nation in syphilis cases until 1990.

"I've been in the field 17 years, and I never thought we'd get a handle on it," said Bill Drahos of the Volusia County Public Health Unit. "People weren't listening and the rates were going up, up, up."

Unlike other weight gain therapies, use of the bioengineered growth hormone increased lean tissues such as muscles, organs and bone mass, rather than fatty tissues, Schambelan said. The average increase in lean tissue was 6.6 pounds during the first three months because many patients continued to lose some fatty tissue. Treadmill tests confirmed improved muscle performance among the subjects, said Schambelan, who coordinated the study from San Francisco General Hospital.

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YOUNG AIDS EDUCATOR PEDRO ZAMORA DYING OF AIDS IN MIAMI HOSPITAL

MIAMI (AP) – Pedro Zamora, a young Cuban-American man who has left national audiences in tears as he pleaded for more humane responses to people afflicted with AIDS, is dying of the disease in a Miami hospital. A doctor said he has a severe neurological disorder, cannot walk, speak or eat and often cannot recognize family and friends.

The 22-year-old got the HIV virus that causes AIDS in 1989 when he was 17 and trying to deal emotionally with the death of his mother from cancer three years earlier.

He has testified in Congress, made a TV spot for the Centers for Disease Control and appeared earlier this year on episodes of the MTV series "Real World."

Steinhart said it is impossible to say how much time Zamora has left, but he made it clear it won't be long: "The deterioration is continuing and unrelenting."

Zamora was preparing for an interview on CBS' morning news show on Aug. 17 when he was found wandering the streets of New York, dazed and confused. He was taken to a hospital. It was discovered that he had a neurological condition marked by an increasing inability to walk, talk or eat. Where many AIDS patients survive 10 years, the neurological condition leads to rapid deterioration, Steinhart said.

After finding out five years ago that he had the HIV virus that causes AIDS, Zamora began a national lecture tour, telling school audiences how he practiced unprotected sex in high school.

After being found to have full-blown AIDS when he fell ill in New York, he returned to Miami and was hospitalized. He left the Miami hospital last month, but entered again last week.

The doctor said the neurological disorder is Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy, which causes dementia. Only about 5 percent of AIDS patients have PML, but it is showing up increasingly, Steinhart said.

Once Zamora declared: "I'd like to say I am not afraid, but that's not so. I don't fear death itself, because death is something very natural. What I fear is the process of illness, the preamble for which we're not prepared."

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"Our dignity is not only in what we do, but in what we understand."
GOVERNMENT OPENS TOLL FREE LINE FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) - The federal government is opening a toll-free telephone number Monday to provide treatment information by telephone or computer to people with AIDS, their families and health care providers.

The HIV-AIDS Treatment Information Service was scheduled to begin taking calls at 9 a.m. EST. The number is 1-800-HIV-0440 and the hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

The service will be staffed by health information specialists who are fluent in English and Spanish. Deaf access is included, and all calls are confidential.

The service's staff will not provide treatment advice. Staffers will, however, provide information the latest research and treatment options to physicians and patients who call.

"In addition to assisting health care providers, the AIDS Treatment Information Service will help people living with HIV-AIDS extend and improve the quality of their lives by helping them make informed decisions about their health care with their providers," said Philip L. Lee, the director of the U.S. Public Health Service.

The service’s data base, which is housed at the National Library of Medicine, will be updated to include all federally approved HIV and AIDS treatment information.

The data base can be accessed tree via computer. Users can call 1-800-272-4787 for directions on how to access the system with their computer.

NEW LAW WOULD REQUIRE HIV TEST FOR FOREIGNERS GETTING VISAS

MOSCOW (AP) - The Russian parliament's lower chamber has approved a measure that would make foreigners seeking Russian visas present proof they do not have the AIDS virus. Foreigners found to be infected with the virus while already in Russia would be deported.

"Not everybody is courageous in the face of AIDS. Some go kicking and screaming and are horrible to everyone around them," said the former heroin addict-turned-counselor Richard, an AIDS counselor who declined to use his last name, was diagnosed HIV positive in 1985.

"So I'm panicking." He isn't the only one.

The San Francisco health department recently announced that for the first time in any U.S. city, AIDS was the leading cause of death among men in 1992 - the first time any illness passed heart disease as the No. 1 killer.

In a tragic coincidence, 1992 was the same year health officials celebrated hitting a plateau in the number of new cases.

What's even more unfortunate is that many here weren't surprised by the numbers.

"We've lost so many friends," said Richard Chavez, former program coordinator for activities at the Shanti Project who is HIV positive.

"It's frightening to think that nobody is surprised by it," Chavez said. "Maybe some people who have been hiding in the sand might say, 'Oh, my god.'"

Over the past few years, AIDS has been the leading cause of death among men age 25-44, but 1992 was the first time it crossed all age lines. The largest increase in deaths came in men age 35-44.

In 1992, the latest year data is available, of the 8,143 total deaths in San Francisco, 1,195 men died of AIDS, while 1,094 men died of heart-related disease.

In 1991, of the total 8,345 deaths, heart-related disease killed 1,189 men and AIDS killed 1,152 men.

"In traditional medicine, you go to the doctor and get better. In AIDS, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor - and die," Richard said.

"AIDS had been inching up as the leading cause of death... it didn't go from being No. 13 to one overnight," said Mitch Katz, director of the city's AIDs office.

"Between 1981 and 1984, there were 8,000 new infections each year. Those were entirely among gay men. And now we're seeing, 10 to 12 years later, the consequences - the high rate of death," Katz said.

While the numbers for 1993 were still being compiled, AIDS was expected to remain the leading cause of death. The death rate wasn't likely to decrease until the late 1990s, Katz said.

The health department warned that while the number of AIDS cases among gay men has decreased, AIDS could show a resurgence because of the growing number of cases among youth and intravenous drug users.

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From Page 1

contributing, and armed with articles and
statistics, she had a knack for steering the
discussion into rational channels. She was
even one of the few sane voices when the
discussion grew heated or overly emotional.

Armistead Maupin’s Tales of the City
had just been printed, and I recall several
people saying that Marion was “our own
Anna Madrigal.” A full, commanding pres­
cence, Marion Baker turned heads when she
entered a room. I was always struck by her
no-nonsense demeanor, you could tell right
away that this was a person who would lis­
ten, but who also believed in common sense
and certain, uncompromised values.

From the beginning, I was nagged by a
question regarding Marion: Why would a
heterosexual woman who wore black boots
and awoke her seven-year-old grand­
son eventually cured her of
the swearing) want to give
so much to the gay com­

I was on the phone at
We Care starting in 1976,”
she said. “I naturally got
calls from gay people need­
ing support, or who just
wanted to talk. I got to
thinking... here is a whole
population whose needs are
not being addressed.” As I
came to learn, Marion was
driven by this sense of com­
passion and acute sense of
social justice.

“I would read in the
newspapers every week
about police entrapments
and harassment going on in
the town. I thought, my
God...gays are people too.
I was outraged. This wasn’t
fair at all, but nobody
seemed to care. Who was
worrying about you people? I wanted
to start a discussion group even then, because
I could tell there was a definite need for one.
Of course, there were some bars, but
what was lacking was a quiet place for
people to meet and talk.”

Courageously... unbeknown... Marion
started hitting the bars to drum up interest
for a group. “I put up signs and notices and
slowly got to meet people. I’d go to the Par­
liament House and Odd’s Ends, but it was
tough. Nobody responded to this old lady.”

Marion told me the story like a mystery
writer unraveling the plot from her latest
novel. “Well, one night I ran into someone
who knew about a ‘secret society’ called
GCS. It’s hard to imagine, but back then it
was very secretive, very clandestine. Meet­
ings were held in different people’s houses
each time so that a pattern wouldn’t be es­
blished. David Slattery and Charlie
Hogan were very instrumental in getting
and keeping things going back then, and it
was through them that I found out about
Charlie’s rap group, and about the Hotline
they were developing.”

“Transitions” was the
name of this weekly pub­
lished in the Orlando Sentinel.
It was the first time the
transgender community
had been included in
the paper.

We Care. She was diagnosed with
hypoglycemia in 1991, but she says, “since
I had already stopped drinking and smok­
ing, I just changed my diet and took better
care of myself. I had to. There was so much
to do; so much to be busy with.”

In 1993, it was discovered that Marion
had colon cancer. She took chemotherapy,
and after the treatments her hair grew back
in pure white. She decided to have pictures
taken, “smiling, with my mouth wide open,
and always be grateful to.

I never will forget Marion’s unwaver­
ing loyalty to the gay and lesbian
community and always toward people who choose to see us in
a negative light. Before she died, I asked her
if she had anything she wanted to say to
Orlando’s lesbians and gay men. Marion
didn’t miss a beat.

“Think the best of each other and love
each other,” she said.

Indeed. Simple, direct, honest words
spoken straight from her heart. one of the
many attributes of a woman I’ll always love
and always be grateful to.

One can only speculate that it was a se­
cret for all this to have eluded Marion
Baker’s notice for so long. Marion went on
with her story, tired from illness, but clearly
energized by the opportunity to relive these
most meaningful memories.

“Everybody who wanted to come to
meals or meetings had to be vouched for,”
she said. “Back then, most gay people were
much more paranoid about losing jobs or
having their families find out. Even when I
started sitting in on Charlie’s rap group in
1979, it was very easy to see, to feel just
how scared everyone were.”

“Listening to the problems people had... with
lovers, families, whatever... showed me
what I had instinctively known; that gay people are just like everybody else,
except with almost no support.”

Marion spent ten crucial years with the
rap group, watching it grow from a secret society to a thriving, open forum. All the
while, she continued her volunteer work at
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**MBA PLANS FOR ‘95 EXPO**

The Metropolitan Business Association (MBA) will hold their second annual Business Expo on Saturday, February 4, at the Shrine Auditorium in Oakland. Last year’s Expo (at the Oakland Civic Center) featured more than 80 exhibitors and was attended by over 1000 people.

According to Dr. Sandra Fink, this year’s Expo will be larger in every respect. “The Shrine Auditorium is a beautiful facility, and we’ve moved there to accommodate more exhibitors and guests.” Exhibit space is open to non-MBA members, and is expected to sell out.

To obtain a registration form, or for more information, contact Dr. Fink at (407) 299-3969.

**ADVERTISERS REACH OUT TO GAY CONSUMERS**

NEW YORK (AP) — Companies in the corporate mainstream are gradually coming out of the closet.

Attracted by the enticing consumer profile of gays and lesbians, a steady parade of companies such as AT&T, American Express, Ikea and Saab have started and expanded marketing campaigns aimed at the gay community.

“Our research tells us that these are affluent, well-educated, brand-loyal consumers who want high-quality products,” said Dick Martin, vice president of advertising at AT&T.

Aiming at that market, AT&T mailed brochures last spring which depicted three smiling couples in affectionate poses — two men, two women, and a man and a woman. The slogan was “Let Your True Voice Be Heard.” AT&T declined through a spokeswoman to comment on the effectiveness of its direct-mail effort, but lesbian activist Susan Horowitz says it was effective.

“These companies are ‘coming out’ because they see payoffs going to their competitors,” says Horowitz. “When people aren’t being addressed, a company will quickly tell you how much time you may remain on the line. Near the cards’ limit, it will also interrupt with a warning before a call can be made.”

So with a little added distastefulness, you can save money while waiting for your personal identification number.

“Your telephone will quickly tell you how much time you can call a toll-free service which is 9 digits in length (also printed on the card). After the computer tells you the present balance on your card, you finally get to enter the area code and number you want to reach. Once the connection has been made, the computer will quickly tell you how much time you may remain on the line. Near the cards’ limit, it will also interrupt with a warning before a call can be made.”

More than 35 companies have started running their usual advertisements in gay publications.

“Sometimes less costly than other methods of calling long distance, how­ever, they may be a bit tricky to master because of the extra dialing. For in­stance, if you were at a hotel, you would first have to get an outside line to dial a 1-800 service number which is printed on the card. A computer­generated voice will then ask you to dial your personal identification number which is 9 digits in length (also printed on the card).”

Passing friends and family could have difficulty getting the second number on the card. After the computer tells you the present balance on your card, you finally get to enter the area code and number you want to reach. Once the connection has been made, the computer will quickly tell you how much time you may remain on the line. Near the cards’ limit, it will also interrupt with a warning before a call can be made.

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Through such displays and related activities, The NAMES Project Foundation has raised more than $140,000 for AIDS service organizations throughout North America.

Prepaid phone-cards are only available by writing The NAMES Project Foundation, 310 Townsend Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, CA 94107. Enclose a personal check or money order made payable to The NAMES Project Foundation of $5 or $20 for each card you are requesting. Remember, the phone-cards are intended for use by the AIDS community. When its value is depleted you can call a toll free service number printed on the card to pay for additional calling time with the use of a credit card.

**Calling Cards**

**Your Long Distance Calls Can Benefit the AIDS Quilt**

by Joe Saranno

Phoning friends and family could not be more charitable, now that your long distance dollars can go towards increasing AIDS awareness. World Telecom Group, Inc. has generously paid production costs for two American phonecards that will benefit the AIDS Memorial Quilt through its keeper, The NAMES Project Foundation. 100% of the proceeds from the phonecards will be contributed to The Foundation as well.

Gracing the front of each phonecard will be the wonderful art work of McLimans, known for their past artistic contributions to The Names Project Foundation. McLimans’ art will be released in a limited edition issue of 3636 cards, each providing $20 of phone time — the equivalent of approximately 16 minutes of domestic long distance calling. The other phonecard, which features Engelbreit art, will be released in a limited edition issue of 1000, each with $20 of phone time — a value of about 67 minutes of calling time.

Reflecting on artistry and industry, Anthony Turner, executive director of The NAMES Project Foundation explained, “Our goal has always been to educate the public about AIDS and HIV prevention while providing a creative form of expression dedicated to educating the public about AIDS awareness.”

These objectives.”

worldwide as a testimony to those who have died of AIDS and those who will die because of the extra dialing. For instance, if you were at a hotel, you would first have to get an outside line to dial a 1-800 service number which is printed on the card. A computer-generated voice will then ask you to dial your personal identification number which is 9 digits in length (also printed on the card). After the computer tells you the present balance on your card, you finally get to enter the area code and number you want to reach. Once the connection has been made, the computer will quickly tell you how much time you may remain on the line. Near the cards’ limit, it will also interrupt with a warning before a call can be made.

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WOODARD
From Page 1

deserved to have it and if that helped the gay community...great. But I wasn’t really in it for political reasons,” Woodard said.

However, as the lawsuit came into focus, Woodard began to see the impact his fight could have for others in his situation. He also began to feel more comfortable as a member of the gay community. Five years ago, Woodard made a point of clarifying that he was “bisexual.” No more.

“When this first began, I had no ties with the gay community. I didn’t even go to a gay bar until a year after I was fired. But now I’ve joined GLCS...I’m a changed person. I’m gay and I’m part of the gay community now.”

Woodard’s saga began more than five years ago when, during an investigation into allegations that he had sexual relations with another man, Woodard admitted to Deputy Sheriff John Butler Book, Jr. that he had had a gay affair about a year and a half before. Book’s report concluded that Woodard’s bisexuality could possibly compromise his position as a deputy sheriff and could bring “dishonor or disgrace to the sheriff, who holds that homosexuality is unnatural, immoral and inexcusable.”

Major Bill Buchanan then gave Woodard the option of resigning or being fired. Buchanan also asked Woodard to identify other gays and lesbians in the department. While Woodard refused to name anyone else, he did submit his resignation on April 27.

However, after resigning, Woodard couldn’t shake the feeling that he had been gravely, fundamentally wronged. His friends and former co-workers agreed.

“I just instinctively knew that it was wrong,” Woodard said. Apparently, so did prominent Orlando attorney Bill Sheaffer, who took up Woodard’s case along with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF). With Sheaffer’s assistance, Woodard withdrew his resignation and began the legal battle to be reinstated. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Legally, Woodard’s case sets a precedent against the termination of government employees solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. “This Court finds the action of the Sheriff, in constructively firing [Woodard], unconstitutional,” stated Judge Gridley. “While [Woodard] was a Deputy Sheriff, none of his actions could be construed so as to bring disrepute or dishonor on the Sheriff’s office.”

While Gridley left the issue of whether gays deserve special protection from discrimination, he clearly indicated that he feels such discrimination exists: “It is the conclusion of this Court that known homosexual persons are included in a class of persons who are inherently threatened with prejudice by a large number of people in our society.”

Woodard has been back to work for just over two years now. In the beginning, he was concerned about the kind of reception he would get. Gallagher was still Sheriff, and Woodard thought he might have to “watch my back at every turn.” But that was not the case. “I was received very well. No one has said a single negative thing to me.”

Today, Woodard is happier than he has ever been. He feels a sense of security in his position, and justified pride in his courage to battle what he felt was an injustice. He realizes that he has cleared the way for others in the same situation to feel less intimidated.

“While I don’t know of anyone else in the department who has come out, I’m sure my case has had an impact. There are a number of deputies who are fairly open with their peers about it. They’re not trying to hide it.”

Since the ouster of Walt Gallagher as Sheriff, Woodard feels the environment for gays and lesbians has improved even more at the Sheriff’s department.

“(Current Orange County Sheriff) Kevin Beatty is great. He’s been real supportive through the whole thing. He has made it a point to check with me,” Woodard said.

Woodard indicated that the Sheriff’s office has also appointed a liaison to the gay community. He feels that if other people in the community don’t know this, it’s because there is less controversy attached to it in recent days.

“I won’t take credit for it. I think people in general are just becoming more tolerant and understanding,” Woodard said.

As evidence, Woodard describes a recent on-duty situation involving a married police officer reporting his son missing. The couple recognized him, but couldn’t place him. “When I gave the husband my card, he looked up at me and then yelled at his wife, ‘Honey...we have a celebrity in the house. This is the detective who got fired for being gay.’ Both of them told me they’d followed the case and were glad to see me back on the job.”

While there are not currently plans to actively recruit gays and lesbians into police service, as is done in many large cities, Woodard is still hopeful.

“I think we’ll get to that point. We’re not really ready for that right now.” Changes are also evident in Woodard as well.

“When all this started I had never been to a gay bar. Now that I’ve come out, I’ve become a lot healthier and happier.” Apparently, Woodard has lost nearly 70 pounds. He admits to a much less stressful life now.

The comfort Woodard now feels came at some cost, however. He views the three-and-a-half years of limbo as a very painful time in his life, both professionally and personally. He becomes emotional when discussing the effect the lawsuit had on his family.

“It’s the conclusion of this Court that known homosexual persons are included in a class of persons who are inherently threatened with prejudice by a large number of people in our society.”
WOODARD
From Page 10

"My bills were really backing up. I had to depend on my mom to help me get through the whole thing," Woodard said.

He also explained that coming out as publicly was a shock to his family. Woodard's mother was the first female detective in the Polk County Sheriff's department. His dad also worked in law enforcement.

"It was all new to them. No one in my family knew that I was gay until two days before it hit the newspapers. I had to tell my mom I had been fired and then why I had. It was rough on her. There were times when she'd just sit in her office and cry," Woodard said. "Now she's very proud of me. My parents were great. They stood behind me the whole time, but it has taken time for them to accept fully."

He has not spoken to Walt Gallagher since his reinstatement and Gallagher's subsequent defeat in a re-election bid. While the lawsuit may have uncovered a number of Gallagher's weaknesses, Woodard doesn't think that he was the sheriff's undoing.

"People have said that he made a mistake with the way he handled my situation but it was just one of many mistakes."

Woodard himself has no regrets about what he did.

He offers this advice for those considering coming out at work. "Be prepared to accept yourself first." Woodard also recommends books on coming out, including Gay Cops. "Every cop who's gay should read it to prepare themselves for what might or might not happen."

Finally, Woodard reflects, "It was a bad time for me but it also let me learn from life. I think I'm a better person for that, and now I can accept myself. I know I did the right thing. Without a doubt."
I of replacing ads that have such errors.

"Thou shalt not leave the house in bad

There's no absolute requirement that one be,

had been building for some time. I'd done it

captured the crown, vowed to essay her for

violate one of Gaydom's commandments:

in the eyes of my fellow revelers? Did I dare
during a recent Miss America party. Miss

simply as a "woman."

but rather seeing my dripping, smudged

drag."? Then again, it

found the store filled with guys. Guys buy­
ing items once worn by strangers. Strangers

and tortured into

sleeves, bobby socks and sneakers. And the

sweat and dust here and there, the yapping

of a sartorial monster. The worst sin of all

might have sported on stage

something the Ronettes might have sported

and the second week in July. Subscription

is published every second

But I can control those thoughts and con­
quem them. And I was encouraged by the

company...the camaraderie really. Incred­
ibly, this pre-Halloween Saturday night

straight skirt, pink sweater rolled to the

heels had determined my look. Annette

At the Apollo.

Annette Funicello looked more like Connie

and was much prettier in my mind). Actually,

experience had been liberating as well. I felt

were at this end.

attracting the attention of the Male

Marilyn, the second in line.

I was one of the haunted figures in the
decorated room. I acted differently, flirted with

were in the audience that night. I hotfooted it

probably mistakenly. I didn't seem to notice the

and the masculine...All the "masculinization"
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I am openly gay, yet I don’t shoo my homosexuality in others’ faces. Fortunately, I have had the freedom to be “out” wherever I’ve ever been employed. Over the years, I have noticed that women react differently to my coming out at work. I spent six months mostly in the company of straight men. I was the executive vice-president of the largest family-owned chain of car stereo businesses in New Jersey.

It was as if I’d caused an earthquake. They listened politely enough, but the aftershocks were explosive.

was also the only woman...and the only gay employee. During the first three months, I was propositioned every day, all day. I had no choice but to reveal that I was a homosexual.

At first, the guys thought it a ploy to prevent them from harassing me. They disregarded my declaration and demanded that I prove it. How was I to do that? I sought that bringing my lover to the office would suffice but they wanted action, “real” thing. Then hit me — these macho men would rather die than have sex with a man.

I was during this heady time, as the sol year began, that John met Mark. As usual, they didn’t break any longevity vows — six weeks at the most. But Mark, when I did see him, we had less and less to say. The things we had in common — John, New Orleans — faded further back into memory as our time went on. I could tell something was clearly out of place with Mark. Always trim and boyishly attractive, he suddenly seemed to be packing on weight and aging prematurely. The next time, he would be pale and drawn. Sometimes, he seemed happy to see me; other times, distracted and disinterested.

One evening, I saw Mark at Southern Boulevard, hunched over. He had put on the weight he had gained plus another twenty pounds. He seemed melancholy and removed. I went home, distraught. I had jokingly mentioned to John on the phone that I had seen Mark and that he didn’t “look well,” with all the proper nuance to let my friend know exactly what I meant.

As a gay man, I was becoming desensitized to seeing a familiar face waste away into a gaunt, barely recognizable palor. What I had not seen, what I had not expected was that one can be a friend to me to see me, other time, distracted and disinterested.

TIME and responsibilities intervened, of course; but perhaps the emotional one was too much for me. Now I can think of nothing else...I think of Mark, for the past three years as this fragile bellwether; my first example in flesh and bone for the past three years as this fragile bellwether; my first example in flesh and bone for the past three years as this fragile bellwether; my first example in flesh and bone...something she couldn’t do a year ago. A year ago, she couldn’t watch.

To Mark:

BY KEN KUNDIS

My old college roommate, John, and I still talk on the phone on the average of once a week. Recently, during the booties and booties about men or bars, movies or old cars. — Six years ago, during our senior year in college, Mark had been John’s first boyfriend. And now, at 26 years old, Mark was dead.

John had spent his junior year in Paris, while I, for reasons that seem distant now, had been living in my fraternity house (Hoo Rah Rega for Alpha Tau Omega). John’s year in Paris was freeing — he came home centered,secured,evolved. In short, a fully-developed homosexual, I began a long way in that year. I had finally grown tired of the complicated facade I had been putting together. I had finally grown tired of the complicated facade I had been putting together.

I went home that night and casually asked John if he remembered the roof of my parents’ house wouldn’t prevent them from harassment. They listened politely enough, but the aftershocks were explosive.

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Starting at $30,950, the new C-Class keeps the Mercedes promise: to build the best cars in the world.
JONI MITCHELL, CHAPTER 17: Joni Mitchell's 17th release in her 26 year recording career is "Turbulent Indigo," another treasure from rock's premier female singer-songwriter. Through her catalog of work, Joni has defined the most complete, fleshed out female character to appear in our contemporary culture. While it has long been assumed that much of her work is semi-autobiographical, Mitchell has taken us on a magical journey through her music and introspective lyrics. Long time fans have followed her through each gorgeous phase of her career: the nostalgic reminiscences of late '70s rural Canada, the idealistic and naive streams of a '60s flower child, the willful self-indulgence of the me-generation '70s; her growing maturity amid the rage and turbulence of the '80s; and now, not so comfortably settled into middle-age. The specifics of this fascinating musical self-portrait may seem insignificant to some, but her legion of loyal fans feel connected to her in an almost mystical way. For us fans, "Turbulent Indigo" touches the spirit.

"Indigo" is less a departure in style for Mitchell than a balance of all that has worked in her past. A definite highpoint is "How do you Stop?" featuring backup vocals by Seal. The CD jacket features several Mitchell paintings, including a Van Gogh-inspired self-portrait on the cover. This long-awaited release is yet another delicious chapter in Joni's musical saga. For those less familiar with her work, it is accessible, enjoyable music.

A MONSTER FOR R.E.M.: Long before there was grunge, there was R.E.M. Back in the early '80s when this band was unknown beyond college radio, R.E.M. produced at least one release per year, and backed each release with endless touring. In the late '80s and early '90s, R.E.M. released "Out of Time" and "Automatic for the People," achieving multi-platinum sales and numerous Grammy nominations. However, the band was criticized for "selling out" as their popular and more polished sound seemed to stray further and further from their Athens, Georgia roots. As if this wasn't enough to alienate die-hard fans, the band ceased touring.

With the release of "Monster," R.E.M. boldly returns to their pure sound Michael Stipe's vocals are again pushed back into the music, and the band's "edge" is back. Even better news: a tour is eminent.

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BUC, Halloween is my absolute least favorite holiday. Nevertheless, I broke down and attended Universal Studio's Halloween Horror Nights the weekend before Halloween. I'll be the first to admit it, we all had a blast. The haunted houses, "Hell's Kitchen," "Dungeon of Terror," "Psycho Path Maze," and "The Honeymoon" all brought lots of screams. The live action show "Bill & Ted Meet TimeCrap" was also great fun. The fact that it was drizzling and damp the night we went only added to the spirit of the night. Universal had loads of street activities and should be applauded for keeping the park dark enough to maintain the "spookiness" of the event. If you haven't been yet, make sure you don't miss it next year!

HOLLYWOOD INSIDER: From reliable industry sources comes the word that Neil Jordan's interview With the Vampire, although visually beautiful, is excessively violent and somewhat disappointing. The vampires appear bored and spend far too much time drizzling and damp the night we went only added to the spirit of the night. Universal had loads of street activities and should be applauded for keeping the park dark enough to maintain the "spookiness" of the event. If you haven't been yet, make sure you don't miss it next year!

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TASTE THE FUTURE OF DRAFT BEER

...
With its outdoor courtyard just blocks from Lake Eola, the “new” Thornton Park Cafe has great food, great ambience, and a decidedly gay-friendly atmosphere. I first visited the Cafe under its former owners and it was wonderful. However, I remembered the delightful outdoor courtyard more than the food. That won’t likely be the fare with the new Cafe.

Which is not to say that Thornton Park Cafe hasn’t retained its unique charm. New owners Tony and Teddy Costa have brought the fountain to life and spruced up the outside with beautiful plants. The Cafe remains one of the few Orlando restaurants where one can dine comfortably, even elegantly, outside. Inside, photos from Italy have replaced more daring modern art, but this is for a reason. In its new incarnation, the Cafe is the quintessential Italian restaurant, complete with attentive owner chef “Papa” Tony visiting your table to personally ensure that your food is to your liking.

Although Tony is from Naples in Southern Italy, the Cafe has a decidedly Northern Italian flavor. Floridians may find the lighter, whiter creams more pleasing than the traditional Marinara sauces. Add to the mix a Latin texture (contributed by Pablo Felix, another chef and part-owner), and the result is a cultural delight to the palate.

Fresh bread teased our tastebuds, but what really grabbed us was the day’s special appetizer: hearts of palm sauteed in a raspberry balsamic vinegar dressing. Donna and I usually share an appetizer, but to my surprise she also ordered something...mozzarella and tomatoes with olive oil, garlic and fresh basil. I’d like to know where Papa Tony gets his tomatoes, because we hadn’t had such a succulent tomato since our last trip north.

The menu didn’t make choosing dinner easy. Thornton Park Cafe offers six pastas, four seafood, and four poultry and meat entrees. Our knowledgeable and charming server, Len, sealed our choice by describing the specials for the day. I had Triangoli Al Fangi, a triangled ravioli stuffed with mushrooms and sauteed in a mushroom and garlic cream sauce.

A descendent of Naples myself, I enjoy comparing sauces. Mine was delicious; even better reheated the next day for lunch. Donna was torn between the Brook Trout and New York Strip, but Len talked her into fish. Although usually served whole, Papa Tony filleted the trout for Donna so that she wouldn’t have fish eyes staring back at her. The trout was marinated in garlic, olive oil and wild mint, then basted with Balsamic vinegar. Donna found it light and tasty, but not remarkable. She’s anxious to return and see what Papa Tony does with steak.

The Cafe’s grand finale is its homemade desserts, prepared daily by “Mama” Teddy Costa. We chose Bread Pudding and Chocolate Mousse (my first time). The mousse had a hint of orange, and was smooth. Donna was talked into the pudding by Papa Tony. It was served warm, with a touch of honey and raisins, covered with a vanilla custard sauce. Donna loved it.

The Thornton Park Cafe is very gay-friendly...a place you’re likely to encounter friends...and the waiters are gay and cute.

At one point in the evening, Papa Tony stopped to serenade us all with “O Solo Mio.” With gentle breezes blowing, I felt as if we were on the Island of Capri. We were charmed, and happy to become acquainted with the “new” Thornton Park Cafe.

Rating: ****/GGG/2

Tony and Teddy Costa and Pablo Felix at the Thornton Park Cafe. The Cafe accepts Visa/Mastercard/American Express and is open for lunch and dinner every day (Thur-Thur ‘til 10PM; Fri Sat ‘til 11 PM; Sun ‘til 9 PM), and for breakfast on weekends.
Dear Readers,

I'm still reeling over the Halloween Boo-Boo in O'Town last week. Your Idol managed to hit all the hot spots in town (even a few outside my domain), and I must say, the creative juices were flowing all over the place. I suspect some girls were creatively "juiced" as well; the only reasonable explanation I can think of for some of the outfits I was forced to critique. For those fans who all hell had broken loose. Uncle Walt's frozen remains were even encased in a fridge along with some Hungry Man Dinners. H.R.S. is still investigating the Small World Shooting Gallery.

The ambience was very Wally World. Long lines, sweaty multi-nationals, and a screaming audience from wild-eyed throughs. Darlings, I know it all too well; that treacherous carwalk to starnd-in costume contest resembled a Mr. Universe pose-off, an array of beauties dressed for attention. Oh, yes, the battle sweatsy. Let me climb down off my hot rollers and get back on track. Where was I? Oh, yes, the battle of the sexy boobs!

The Mouse House was dementedly well-represented at The Club, with a paunchy Peter Pan, a Tink who needed a rack, a Cinderella direct from the Home for Betttered Bridesmaids, a carload of sporty dogs needed a rock, a Cinderella direct from the Home for Betttered Bridesmaids, a carload of sporty dogs...it was the Voyage of the Damned! Debriefed and de-dragged, your Lola watched an endless parade of thrift-store Thelmas get down. We hate it when we're enjoying a movie and some self-identified Leonard Maltin self-professed Leonard Maltin creatures who dropped their drawers and donned a dress.

It was Fright Night II at Southern Nights, where Hollow-weenies ran amok in "Transy-Vania." Truck drivers in drag, freaks in frocks, beauties as beasts...it was the Voyage of the Damned! Debriefed and de-dragged, your Lola watched an endless parade of thrift-store Thelmas get down, as I look back on this past All Hallow's Eve, the images (and the stains) linger: the smell of butter. When someone screamed for "Please Mr., Please, Don't Play B-17," it was time to dash and hurl. And as I look back on this past All Hallow's Eve, the images (and the stains) linger: the smell of butter. When someone screamed for "Please Mr., Please, Don't Play B-17," it was time to dash and hurl.

Confidential to N.J.: "Pink Rabbit!!"

Dearest Readers,

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Confidential to N.J.: "Pink Rabbit!!"
Dear Advice-O-Rama,

My companion of 15 years and I have a good, solid relationship. We’ve gotten over the major rough spots, purchased a house in the suburbs, and we share a nice, comfortable life together. I guess it goes without saying that our sex life is not as exciting as it once was. This doesn’t bother me a whole lot, but my partner has a need for “sex as adventure,” so we’ve begun doing three-ways. To my surprise we’ve had no difficulty finding guys to join us. Here’s the problem...I’m very much, will do it without me. Should we’ve begun doing three-ways. To my surprise we’ve had no difficulty finding guys to join us. Here’s the problem...I’m very much, will do it without me. Should

Dear Insecure,

Whether to have a monogamous or an open relationship is a critical issue for many gay couples. When partners are not in agreement, a major issue must be confronted. To begin, it is best to remember that neither monogamy nor open relationships are for everyone. Also, the desire to go outside the relationship for sex is not always the result of an unsatisfactory sex life. Sometimes it is a manifestation of other couple issues. The fact that you describe your relationship as “good” and “solid” tells me that you and your partner have likely built a good foundation; one that should allow for open, honest communication. Since you are made uncomfortable and insecure by three-way sexual experiences, it is your obligation to yourself and to the relationship to tell your partner exactly how you feel. A sexual experience should be enjoyable and positive, and not a breeding ground for hostility and insecurity. If your partner sincerely cares, he will not force you to experience something that is unhealthy for you. And if you choose to participate only to mollify your partner and protect the relationship, the reverse will happen; he will lose respect for you, and the relationship will be compromised.

Keith Baber, M.Ed., Keith has a degree in Counseling-Psychology, and is in private practice in Altamonte Springs. He can be reached at (407) 834-3279.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): The next six months will test you...a drag or a challenge, depending on your point of view. You’ll see unfinished business wrapped up, but use care with assets recently acquired. Watch for job opportunities, but they won’t fall into your lap. Good news...you and your partner will stop bitching at each other.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): The Lunar eclipse on Nov. 18 will impact you, and Venus is still retrograde. With little effort, you can make things happen in the area of romance. Play it easy until Nov. 24, then feel free to let that love object know exactly how you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Fate appears to be working against you. Try to figure out whether the source of your difficulties is internal or elsewhere...you won’t be helped. But your emotions are peeking whether you realize it or not. Let go of what you can to avoid health-related consequences.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): You are ruled by the Moon, Cancerians, so the eclipse on the 18th will getcha. But put on your rose-colored glasses, cause aspects are favorable. Dates will lead to romance; romance will lead to pairing. Monitor investments carefully, however.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): Work-related matters have become clearer for you. Now trust your instincts and act to improve your situation...even if it means relocating. Family irritations may continue, but don’t make the situation worse by losing your temper.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Your obsessive-compulsive nature has returned from a brief vacation. You are likely making meticulous future plans. If these plans involve relationship changes, let’s hope your partner shares your logical outlook. Take a trip near the water to work things out.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): The eclipse on Nov. 18 may bring money your way, possibly from family, but don’t be surprised if it comes with some major strings attached. You’re a sensitive soul and the next six months may be stressful for you. If it’s affecting you physically, pull back and make necessary attitude and lifestyle adjustments.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): You Scorpios aren’t much for self-revelation, but communications between you and your partner have reached a new low. Open up. Share your secrets. Talk about how you really feel. You have far more to gain than to lose. As painful as it may be, honest self-evaluation and communication will be important in coming months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): If work seems good these days, don’t get too comfortable, particularly if you’re in a service-related job. Take nothing for granted. You might consider visiting home sometime soon; you and your parents should get along well. In fact, luck is on your side these days, but as hard as it may be for you Sag’s, try to stay grounded.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Lunar eclipse + Jupiter/Pluto conjunction...what does it mean for you? Fun and romance. Unlike your Sag sisters, you need to fight off those tendencies to be cautious, rational, selfless. Things are aligned nicely for you, so let go and have a ball.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): The eclipse provides you with opportunities to resolve nagging problems. Be honest and true to your values, and hope that your communications are perceived positively. Be prepared for a surprise, as dreaded outcomes may never materialize. If you’re planning to move, you may want to time it for early Spring.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Accelerate your social calendar, because you’re likely to derive a great deal of pleasure from friends and groups in coming months. Just remember, it’s flu season. Get a vaccine and try to avoid those who are contagious. Also avoid written commitments unless you’re absolutely sure what they mean.

Mark Lawhon is certified by the American Federation of Astrologers, and is available for consultations by calling 407-894-1506.

With Love,
Mark

P.S. It is certain that you can find romance and sexual pleasure that has been lost. However, both partners must be committed to this process. Tell your partner exactly how you feel. Be honest, and encourage him to do the same. I suspect this is more painful for you than you’re revealing. Please write back and let me know what happens.

ARTFUL LIVING

Dear Advice-O-Rama,

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Whether to have a monogamous or an open relationship is a critical issue for many gay couples. When partners are not in agreement, a major issue must be confronted. To begin, it is best to remember that neither monogamy nor open relationships are for everyone. Also, the desire to go outside the relationship for sex is not always the result of an unsatisfactory sex life. Sometimes it is a manifestation of other couple issues. The fact that you describe your relationship as “good” and “solid” tells me that you and your partner have likely built a good foundation; one that should allow for open, honest communication. Since you are made uncomfortable and insecure by three-way sexual experiences, it is your obligation to yourself and to the relationship to tell your partner exactly how you feel. A sexual experience should be enjoyable and positive, and not a breeding ground for hostility and insecurity. If your partner sincerely cares, he will not force you to experience something that is unhealthy for you. And if you choose to participate only to mollify your partner and protect the relationship, the reverse will happen; he will lose respect for you, and the relationship will be compromised.

Keith Baber, M.Ed., Keith has a degree in Counseling-Psychology, and is in private practice in Altamonte Springs. He can be reached at (407) 834-3279.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): The next six months will test you...a drag or a challenge, depending on your point of view. You’ll see unfinished business wrapped up, but use care with assets recently acquired. Watch for job opportunities, but they won’t fall into your lap. Good news...you and your partner will stop bitching at each other.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): The Lunar eclipse on Nov. 18 will impact you, and Venus is still retrograde. With little effort, you can make things happen in the area of romance. Play it easy until Nov. 24, then feel free to let that love object know exactly how you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Fate appears to be working against you. Try to figure out whether the source of your difficulties is internal or elsewhere...you won’t be helped. But your emotions are peeking whether you realize it or not. Let go of what you can to avoid health-related consequences.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): You are ruled by the Moon, Cancerians, so the eclipse on the 18th will getcha. But put on your rose-colored glasses, cause aspects are favorable. Dates will lead to romance; romance will lead to pairing. Monitor investments carefully, however.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): Work-related matters have become clearer for you. Now trust your instincts and act to improve your situation...even if it means relocating. Family irritations may continue, but don’t make the situation worse by losing your temper.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Your obsessive-compulsive nature has returned from a brief vacation. You are likely making meticulous future plans. If these plans involve relationship changes, let’s hope your partner shares your logical outlook. Take a trip near the water to work things out.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): The eclipse on Nov. 18 may bring money your way, possibly from family, but don’t be surprised if it comes with some major strings attached. You’re a sensitive soul and the next six months may be stressful for you. If it’s affecting you physically, pull back and make necessary attitude and lifestyle adjustments.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): You Scorpios aren’t much for self-revelation, but communications between you and your partner have reached a new low. Open up. Share your secrets. Talk about how you really feel. You have far more to gain than to lose. As painful as it may be, honest self-evaluation and communication will be important in coming months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): If work seems good these days, don’t get too comfortable, particularly if you’re in a service-related job. Take nothing for granted. You might consider visiting home sometime soon; you and your parents should get along well. In fact, luck is on your side these days, but as hard as it may be for you Sag’s, try to stay grounded.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Lunar eclipse + Jupiter/Pluto conjunction...what does it mean for you? Fun and romance. Unlike your Sag sisters, you need to fight off those tendencies to be cautious, rational, selfless. Things are aligned nicely for you, so let go and have a ball.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): The eclipse provides you with opportunities to resolve nagging problems. Be honest and true to your values, and hope that your communications are perceived positively. Be prepared for a surprise, as dreaded outcomes may never materialize. If you’re planning to move, you may want to time it for early Spring.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): Accelerate your social calendar, because you’re likely to derive a great deal of pleasure from friends and groups in coming months. Just remember, it’s flu season. Get a vaccine and try to avoid those who are contagious. Also avoid written commitments unless you’re absolutely sure what they mean.

Mark Lawhon is certified by the American Federation of Astrologers, and is available for consultations by calling 407-894-1506.

With Love,
Mark

P.S. It is certain that you can find romance and sexual pleasure that has been lost. However, both partners must be committed to this process. Tell your partner exactly how you feel. Be honest, and encourage him to do the same. I suspect this is more painful for you than you’re revealing. Please write back and let me know what happens.
Auction - 7:30 p.m.
Key West Getaways, Entertainment, Dinners, Antiques, Services, Art, Printing, Household Goods. A Festival of gifts and goods for the discriminating bidder. Come on by for fun and bargains at a truly unprofessional Auction. No admittance, just bring your friends and enjoy.

Festival of Desserts - 6:30 p.m.
Taste a gourmet's delight of desserts and Holiday nibbles handcrafted specially for you by Joy MCC's finest chef's. Sample the array of delicacies before, during or at the Auction intermission. Just $5.00.

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**Everything But The Girl**

The English duo of Tracey Thorn and Ben Watt, known as "Everything But The Girl," will perform at The Club at Firestone on Friday, Nov. 18. EBTG is returning to the U.S. after a string of sold-out shows earlier this fall. This time around, EBTG will perform as an acoustic duo.

After 12 years and 8 albums, EBTG's latest release, *Amplified Heart*, has garnered them the best reviews of their distinguished career. Newsweek stated that "Thorn's voice has an instant sadness, a classicism that relates more to old-school divas like Dusty Springfield and Dionne Warwick than peers like Liz Phair." They went on to call *Amplified Heart*, "the most beautifully mature album of their career, and one of the sleeper gems of 1994."

*The New York Times* said the duo recalls "the best of Fleetwood Mac." Tickets are available at Waft Theot or The Club.

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**The Miracle Worker**

"Magnificent Theater."

-Nov York Daily Mirror

**Civic Theatre**

**Second Stage**

"A Gaudly Glittering Jewel, Instantly Original!" -Newsweek

November 3-20, 1994

Thursdays thru Saturdays at 8pm. Sundays and Saturdays at 2:30pm

**Civic Theatre**

**Main Stage**

**The Miracle Worker**

"Magnificent Theater."

-New York Daily Mirror

Nov. 10 - Dec. 4, 1994

Thursdays thru Saturdays at 8pm. Sundays and Saturdays at 2:30pm

**THE MIRACLE WORKER**

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**Theatre UCF presents The Wake of James Foster** Nov. 17, 18, 19, 20, and Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4. Written by Beth Henley, James Foster is a richly comic study of a small-town Mississippi family drawn together by supposed grief. Call (407) 823-1500 for tickets or more information.

**Joy MCC will hold a Gayla Auction** at 7:30 PM on Saturday, Nov. 19. This entertaining annual event features an amazingly wide variety of desirable items, from the practical to the exotic. Artwork, musical instruments, antique furniture, vacation packages, and more will all be featured at incredible value. Joy MCC is located at 2355 1st Ferncreek Ave. Call (407) 894-1081 for more information.

**-Puttin' On The Ritz,** is the theme for Willov's annual Black & White Ball, to be held on Saturday, November 19 at the Pine Meadows Country Club in Eustis. Tickets are $35. For reservations call Terry (407) 865-5972, or Pappy (904) 383-0928.

**There will be a fundraiser to benefit the Kathy Stilwell Foundation at 2 PM on Sunday, Nov. 20. The benefit will be held at Faces lounge on Edgewater Dr. An extraordinary athlete, Kathy Stilwell coached and played professional softball until stricken with Multiple Sclerosis. Monies raised will help Kathy and others with MS live better lives. To donate raffle items or for more info, call (407) 291-3791.

Dec. 1 marks the 7th year of the observance of World Aids Day. Centaur is the local coordinator. World Aids Day will begin with the Ringing of the Bells by area churches at 1:40 PM. At 6 PM the names of local citizens lost to HIV disease will be read, followed by a program of music, dance and song. For more information regarding World Aids Day, call (407) 896-7365.

**The 3rd Annual Red Ribbon Ball** benefiting Centaur, will be held Saturday, Dec. 3 at Orlando Fashion Square from 10:30 PM to 3 AM. This gala event will be hosted by WFTV's Barbara West, and will feature entertainment by Miss Jacqueline Jones. Tickets are $35 in advance, $40 at the door. Call (407) 841-2437 for tickets or more information.

**The Metropolitan Business Association (MBA) will hold their 3rd Annual Holiday Gayla Social** on Sunday, Dec. 4 at Moorefield's Restaurant in downtown Orlando. Central Florida jazz great Miss Jacqueline Jones will entertain. Tickets are $25 and may be purchased from MBA board members, at Out About Books, or at GLCS. Non-MBA members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Festivities run from 6 PM to 11 PM. Call (407) 420-2182 for tickets or more information.

**The 6th Annual Christmas of Sharing** will take place on Friday, Dec. 9 from 6 PM to midnight at the 1st Unitarian Church on Robinson St. in Orlando. Throughout the event, organizers Jeff Gaul and Michael Pelkowski raise funds, canned goods and toiletries for the Hope & Help Center and other local AIDS organizations. Last year 350 people contributed 7 truckloads of goods. For more information call (407) 578-1157.
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