

OUT ON THE COAST m a g a z i n e

Covering Florida's East Coast
from Cape Canaveral to West Palm Beach

Issue #031, June 2005

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West Palm Beach!**



BUD LIGHT

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at the
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CLUB BARD CAFE

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Issue #031
May 26, 2005

www.ootcmag.com

Kashmir

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2005

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In My Life

by
Drake Austin

Gay's on the brain of heterosexual Television?? Well thanks to a few determined executives it's happening and it's being led by the already gay friendly Viacom, which brought us "Queer As Folk" (which sadly will be having it's last season soon) and "The L Word," currently in its second season. Viacom is set to launch LoGo, where their slogan is "Different. Together." With LoGo launching on June 30th and here! already on the air it seems like a popular move.

LoGo will be launching their own TV dramas and original shows, "Noah's Ark" will be a Comedy / Drama of a gay African American film write, while other shows like "My Fabulous Gay Wedding" will be a big smash. Along with that Viacom, with Paramount Pictures, has raided their movie vaults and will be showing them on the network

Now the little-known network here!, launched less than a year ago (and now available in some 30 million homes via video on demand, subscription video on demand, pay per view and as a subscription channel on DIRECTV), also has huge shows, including "Third Man Out," about a gay police detective, and "Adored: Diary of a Male Porn Star."

In an interview Paul Colichman, the founder and CEO of here! and partner in Regent Entertainment, said, "Straight people have a stereotypical view of gays: we are either out at bars having anonymous sex or working as a hairstylists or decorators. They don't want to do anything that disrupts the stereotypes. Showing gays in normal relationships or jobs, or as a family with a child, disrupts that." And that's exactly what Mr. Colichman needs to show: that gay life is something that happens just like our heterosexual counter parts.

Both channels will be having mainstream shows like "Queer Eye For The Straight Guy" and "Will and Grace." So buckle up for a wild ride on TV! And call your cable or Satellite provider and be proud to ask for these channels or subscribe to them.

June 25, 2005

6:00 pm to midnight

Cash Bar, Dinner
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Tickets \$30.00
NO sales at door!
Call 772-778-3168
by June 12



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of Vero Beach
PRIDE
Celebration VI
2005

A Tropical
Evening
with an
Italian flair!

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And speaking of pride here's what Colichman had to say on their fundraising: [to promote the network] "we are sponsoring over 50 gay and lesbian film festivals, gay bowling leagues, softball and scuba diving clubs, as well as dozens of gay and lesbian pride parades. We must be the proudest people on earth."

Drake Austin is a senior at Astronaut High School in Titusville. He founded a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) there in 2003. Drake shares his thoughts and life experience each month as a proud gay youth.

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Monday: MADNESS DARTS & DRINK Specials
Tuesday: 50c Miller Lite DRAFT-8 TO CLOSE

Wednesday: \$5 DRAFT BEER BUST 8 TO CLOSE
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Saturday: THE BEST IN FEMALE IMPERSONATION SHOWTIME 11:30

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Mickey, Jeff, Donna & Tab**



**JUNE 4
ARIANNA DUPREE**

**JUNE 11
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The First Lady Show**



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**JUNE 18
DRAG KINGS**



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& CAGE CATLYN

**WHITE PARTY
WEEKEND
Friday, JUNE 24:
TOGA PARTY**



MELISSA LOVE

HOROSCOPE

Last month we went from looking into our personal values and beliefs to communicating them, this month beginning with Venus going into cancer on the 3rd, means we will looking at what nurtures us and withdraw from what doesn't. The new Moon in Gemini on the 6th will either make you retreat, or over-think your emotions. With Mars going into Aries on the 11th, you will begin to take action in achieving your own personal happiness. Uranus shifts the craziness by going retrograde on the 14th; it's time to finish those tasks that started at the beginning of the year. Finally we top off the month with a full moon in Capricorn on the 22nd; this is when you will know the truth and able to act correctly on your assessments from this month. So sit back and enjoy the ride.

Aries - March 22- April 21 The birth of ideas is your focus this month. You will attract kindred spirits from your past. Know that some are there to help and others you'll need to let go of. With Mars going into your sign on the 11th, learn patience. Look at the long-range goals and then act. You'll find it will make your life a calmer environment.

Taurus - April 22- May 21 You are focusing intently on your work and others are noticing your mastery of these tasks. You will be rewarded for your efforts. Don't be impulsive; wait and it will come. You're going to be anxious, so take some time away from all others to pamper yourself. You'll find your peace there.

Gemini - May 22- June 21 Happy Solar Return! This is a busy month for you. You have many hats to wear. Relax! You are used to multitasking. All will get done in its right time, even though it may not be on your right time. You may feel an explosive energy and want to vent your frustration. Don't! Find a good avenue of physical activity for release. If not, you will do more harm than good.

Cancer - June 22- July 21 Love is in bloom for you this month. An excellent time, both per-

sonally and professionally. New friends arrive and new plans go smoothly. Your hard work is paying off. Don't look back at the past or think it will occur again. You are approaching a new cycle. Go with an open mind and heart.

Leo - July 22- August 21 This is a month of reflection. Those around you might find you unusually quiet. This is good. It is better to retreat at this time than go to battle. Take the time to look into your personal values and beliefs in solitude and you will find the answers you are looking for. Remember to let your loved ones know you need the time. Don't leave them hanging.

Virgo - August 22- September 21 It's good to know whom you can and cannot trust. Let those close to you know your true intentions and where you are going with them. They will be of great support. This is a working month for you, so you have the edge. Don't compromise by opening up to those who you are unsure of. This is not the time to test their loyalty

Libra - September 22- October 21 Although you excel at the art of creating harmonious relationships, it may be hard to make your feelings clear this month. The best approach is honest and open communication; saying exactly what you mean to say. The words will appear without you having to think about or justify them. Stay in your truth.

Scorpio - October 22- November 21 The keyword for you this month is moderation. You will find strong, instant reactions to people in your life. Remember not to act impulsively or you'll lose. Remove yourself from any uncomfortable situation and don't think you have found love at first sight. The rose-colored glasses will come off next month and you don't want to be caught with your pants down.

Sagittarius - November 22- December 21 Like a cat this month; be patient. Know when to take advantage of an opportunity and when to wait. You'll have a bit of a lucky streak as long as you don't panic. Feel the situation and

act when it feels right. Live in the now with your relationships; don't try to push them or mold them. The future will take care of itself.

Capricorn - December 22- January 21 Time has become important to you this month. However, it really isn't. This is a time for prioritizing your life. Get rid of what is not serving you, no matter how obligated you feel. Don't try mixing business with pleasure. That is your sign to let go of one side or the other. You must make the sacrifice or face the consequences.

Aquarius - January 22-February 21 You are feeling sharp and creative this month. Use this to your advantage. Especially when it comes to your work. Others may be unappreciative. Peacefully smile and go about your business. You will find karma in action. This is where you will find your satisfaction. This is also a good time to start a creative project that you have kept in the back of your mind.

Pisces - February 22- March 21 Your love will be at home or basking on the beach. You are wearing those rose-colored glasses again and need to take them off. Look at one project at a time. Do not try to multitask. It's time to finish those loose ends you have hanging or they will finish themselves for you and not in a way you will like. Your dreamtime will be your escape. ▼

For those who want to know: Our moon changes signs every 2-1/2 days and goes through all twelve signs in twenty-eight days. I speak about the full and new Moon, but have never defined them. Finally, here I go: A new Moon is the Moon we do not see and is the start of new emotional beginnings. The sign the Moon is 'in' dictates what you should focus on. The full Moon is always the brightest and represents endings. This is why some people seem to have such difficulty with them. Like the Moon, all has it's cycles and changes. It is up to us to know how to handle them with a degree of success.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. Listen to Jacqueline on WPSL 1590 AM every Thursday from 6-7 PM. Offices in Vero Beach, Port Saint Lucie, Stuart, and West Palm Beach. For more information on Tarot, Astrology, or a private reading call: 772.286.2720

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Pride Party Saturday, June 11



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by



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FREE entry to those in Pride colors

Pride Giveaways All Nite Long

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY's Trash Night | FRIDAY's Illusions In Revue |
| 6/2: Leigh Shannon | 6/3: Leigh Shannon & Games A Go-Go |
| 6/9: Amber Douglas | 6/10: Carmella Marcella Garcia |
| 6/16: Kelli Randell | 6/17: Amber Douglas |
| 6/23: Melissa Mason | 6/24: Nazhoni |

SATURDAY June 4: TBA; June 11: Pride Party with Nazhoni; June 18: Leigh Shannon; June 25: BJ Stevens

Don't forget: Karaoke Every Wednesday

4060 W. New Haven Melbourne, FL

(321) 724-1510

www.ColdKegNiteClub.com

Tea Time

with Miss T

Welcome Palm Beach County! We're so glad to be going all the way down, um, coming, um, becoming part of your community. This issue marks a big growth for **Out on the Coast magazine** and we look forward to participating in and promoting the events in your wonderful and vital community.

Now here's the way it works: you send me info and I talk about it. If you don't then I can't – so I start making things up. And, believe me, when this old girl gets started she can come up with a whopper! So come on groups, individuals, businesses send your tea to MissT@OOTCmag.com and if you're an advertiser you'll get your name in bold.

Oh, and if you want your pic in the mag, just ask Lee when you see him out and about – don't be shy he doesn't bite (at least when taking pictures, that is; now when your legs are, um nevermind). If you don't know who Lee is, just go out every day to the bars and businesses and ask everyone with a digital camera (not a cell phone or little snap shooter) and you'll meet him eventually on one of his monthly trips!

For everyone who thinks having a magazine featuring goings on in Palm Beach County is a good idea, make sure you stop in at **Kashmir** and thank Gary for getting this started. Gary contacted us and persuaded us that you need a local magazine and that we are the right ones to provide it.

There isn't much in this issue, aside from the **Kashmir** ad, but by next month we're confident that there will be *much* more.

Now a little farther up the coast, the **Treasure Coast Pride Festival** 1 pm to 6 pm on **June 12** at Sand Hill Crane Park (next to the Savannas Preserve off Walton Road) in Port St. Lucie is developing into quite an event. Since it is the first time they have done an event of this size, expect some rough edges, but with everything Jim and Jerry at **REBAR** and **Kelli Randell** and Janet at **Club Bλrd Cage** combined with their staffs are doing you can be sure it will be a great event! Their latest accomplishment is to get Rob Lopicola to emcee the entertainment, which now includes queens, live singers, a karaoke contest and some surprises, too! If you don't know how to get there, go to www.ootcmag.com and click on the Pride Fest logo for maps and directions. And check out the **Club Bλrd Cage** and **REBAR** ads for the after party details.

Up in Melbourne The Living Room, their new community center in formation, has scheduled its first fundraiser, The Leather and Lace Party, for Sunday, August 21 at **The Cold Keg** featuring Roz Russell, Kelli Randell and Mr. Ed. For a \$5 donation at the door you'll see an incredible show plus door prizes, raffles and food usual and unusual. Put it on your calendar now so you can be sure to make it to the kickoff event for Melbourne's own GLBT Center. For information or to volunteer email TheLivingRoom@OOTCmag.com to get in touch with Ed Sparan, the force

continued on page 26

CLUB BλRD CAGE



7133 S. U.S. 1
PROUD

and *Kelli
Randell*



Welcome you to
Treasure Coast Pride Fest
Opening at 3 pm so you can
join us after Pride Fest
Get a Bλrd Cage T-shirt at Pride Fest,
wear it to the bar and drink
free beer all night!



Entertainment to include:

- Beverly McClellan singing live
6 to 9 at the Tiki Bar
- Karaoke inside at 6 pm with
male and female strippers!
male and female impersonators!



REBAR



Day & Date

Program: Hot Music Videos PLUS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Friday, May 27



10:30 pm Toga Party! Best Toga Contest with Cash & Prizes! Hot Strippers!
Hosted by Mercedes

Saturday, May 28



10:30 pm A USO Show! Velvet and Mercedes host a show dedicated to our folks in uniform. Uniform Contest with Cash & Prizes \$1 Well Drinks 11 pm-1 am

Sunday, May 29

A Good 'Ole Fashioned Cookout! FREE Food! Drink Specials! The Men of REBAR Strip The Night Away!

Monday thru Saturday
4 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - midnight

REBAR

REBAR Idol Talent Contest Coming in July – \$1,000 in Cash & Prizes – REGISTER NOW!

The Treasure Coast's Music Video Bar

Day & Date

Program: Hot Music Videos PLUS PRIDE WEEKEND

Thursday, June 9

9 pm - 11 pm X-rated Thursday. Promoting the new "X-rated" liqueur. Giveaways, Drink/Shot Specials.
HOT Male Dancers from Miami

Friday, June 10

11 pm HOT shows featuring Mercedes with special guest Tasha Scott



Saturday, June 11

10 pm - 1 am FOAM PARTY! Hosted by Velvet! \$1 Well Drinks 11 pm - 1 am

Sunday, June 12

Opening at 3: 00 pm for the Pride Festival After-Party featuring DJ Woofy, Mercedes and The Drama Kings.

8283 S US1, Fiesta Square, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 772.340.7777

the
RAINBOW ROOM

SUNDAYS: Bingo Night!

Win Free Drinks - Prizes!

Gay Themed Movie to Follow at 10PM

MONDAYS: Underwear Night!

Drink Discounts If You Are In Your Underwear

Free Pool All Night!

Wet Underwear Contest-11:30

Win Cash or other Prizes

TUESDAYS: College Night!

No Cover - \$1.00 Drafts with Student ID

WEDNESDAYS: Amat. Drag Night !

See Brevards Up & Comming Talent !

New Every Week. 11:00PM

THURSDAYS: DANCERS!

Yes, the Rainbow Room Dancers are Back!

Performing Arts Show Every Other Week!

FRIDAYS: "Life's A Drag... Show"

Our House Diva, Shelita Cox, and a

New Guest Each Week! First Show 11:00 PM

SATURDAYS: It's Party Night!

Guest Drag Queen & Prof. Stripper! Show 11:30PM

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Merritt Island, FL 3295
321452-0815

www.rainbowroomclub.com

Beach Party

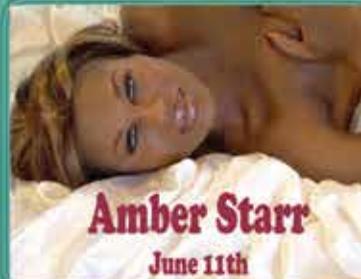
June 18th

Free Food Buffet - Volly Ball
Best Beachwear Contest !



Ms. Felisha
Blackheart

Friday 10th



Amber Starr

June 11th

Miss. Britany
Michaels
& Guests
A Full Drag
Production



Friday June 17th



PRIDE JEWELRY
BY
BECKY



Ms.
Shelita
Cox



A Weekend
with
Ms. Tasha Long
with
Shelita Cox
Friday 24th
with
Guest Stripper
Saturday 24th



DJ Woolly
Saturdays

G
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JUNE 11TH

S
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JUNE 18TH

J
A
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M
E



JUNE 25TH



DJ GIO
WED & FRI

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Spiritually Speaking

We begin to celebrate another Pride Month this year, as this issue indicates there are all kinds of activities both in our own backyards and throughout the country to celebrate our diversity, our friendships and our bonds as gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

Many efforts have been made to make known the discriminations we face as a community and to bring some kind of justice to our relationships and our lives. Do we wish special rights as a community? I don't think so, We just desire to be acknowledged as a community of equal responsibility, a community of equal purpose, and a community of equal loving people longing to be recognized as viable contributing members of our societies; which gives us equal recognition to who we truly are without judgment, condemnation and bias. This has a place in our history with the recognition of minorities and the journey that was led to a place of equal justice and peace.

I think true pride needs to be realized and lived first in our own local communities. Pride is much more than a month long celebration. Pride is a way of life 24/7, 365 days a year. We ARE viable contributors to our society; then why aren't we realized with a sense of justice and a sense of peace? I think the answers lie right within our grasp, but are we ready to face the challenge?

Pride month is much more than an individual's pride in who they are as an individual person. It is a community wide event where many from all walks of life, gather to celebrate our diversity, our accomplishments and our unity as a community.

Just as the ole' saying goes "Charity begins at home" so does our unity as a local community. We need to unify ourselves in a common purpose before our local communities can truly celebrate the pride we have to offer to others. It's that sometime lack of unity, which is dis-heartening in the lives of those who try so hard to serve and unify us for any purpose.

What destroys unity and nullifies pride??

We need to take pride and ownership to others in our local community. Go outside of our comfortable space and reach out to one another in peace, respect and the acknowledgements of the whole person; not just our "at the moment whims and needs."

There is much more that defines who we are as individuals and as a community than our sexual orientations. However, it is through our common visions that we can make a difference. We just need to act upon them.

Instead of being a NO person, lets make a difference out there with a YES. An affirmation to support the good we are as a people, and a willingness to give some extra time and effort to make that difference. Yes, YOU can make a difference we just need to really have faith in one another, support one another, and love one another. We know there are many out there who live lives of the negative one, but YOU be the positive force, the life giving light and presence to others.

Hide it under a bushel? NO needs to be YOUR response. Get out and be a positive light and presence in YOUR local communities. Support the vital services



Family of God Community Church

Jesus **NEVER** Preached Bigotry and neither do we!

www.FamilyOfGodBrevard.org

Come to Witness and Celebrate the Loving Acceptance of God and YOUR Community

New Worship Schedule:

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, June 26

2:30 p.m. See Our Facilities

3:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal

4:00 p.m. Special Presentation

6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship

321-632-3767 for Details

Thrift Shop/Our Outreach Ministry: Open Wed. thru Fri. 10-4pm, Sat. 10-2pm
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 Crestview Plaza, 950 Cocoa Blvd (US 1), Cocoa, FL
 105 Chapel/Sanctuary ~ 108 Thrift Shop ~ 104 NEW Family Room

out there that support and nourish our Community. Have faith in your community and in one another. Yes there are reasons to doubt and we all have had our discouragements, but pick yourself up, brush off the dust of discouragement and fear and move forward. There's much to be done, its time to roll up our sleeves and get busy with the work and the needs of OUR local communities.

Faith in one another goes along way in getting things done. In our combined accomplishments, we can truly have a reason to celebrate our pride as a people with a common goal, and common accomplishments. Go the extra mile and reap the benefits of our unity. Then we will truly have a reason to celebrate here on a local level, what Pride month truly can be for all of us. ▼

God's Blessings!

Rev. Mark Osdras

Pastor, Family of God Community Church



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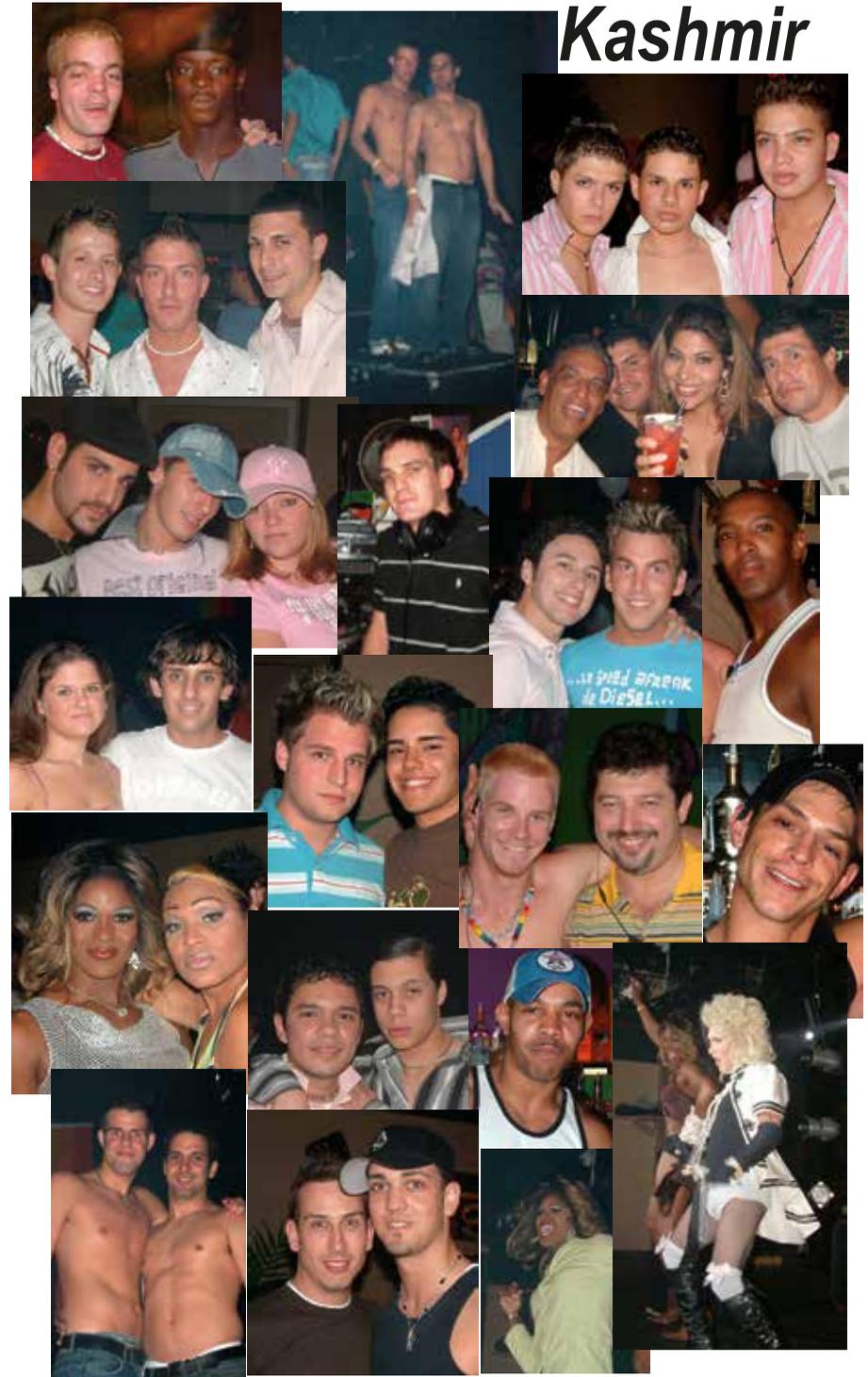
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St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties
every month. Advertise in:

OUT ON THE COAST
m a g a z i n e

Kashmir



In My Words

a personal viewpoint

The Perfect Accessory

by: Joshua Marland

As one might assume, the gay explosion in the media has started to affect everyone's lives, and it's high time some etiquette is established in regards to your gay friend, so as to avoid any taboo mistakes that could ultimately end the ephemeral friendship. Thanks to shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Will and Grace," gays somehow have become viewed as the accessory that every fashionable girl or guy needs. Girls love gay men because they are known to be blatantly honest, fun and fashionable. Hetero men are honing in on the trend because gay men have hot girlfriends and will also help them with their fashion woes. As I see this trend come to a head, I feel as though something needs to be said to the uninformed masses that would like to have their very own gay best friend. Following is a list of guidelines to follow if one is to be successful in finding and keeping a gay friend:

1. In finding out that the fashionable guy you befriended in English class is gay, do not reply immediately with "You're gay? I've always wanted a gay best friend!!" This is an immediate turn off for any self-respecting gay man. While you may think that you have just struck gold by meeting a cute gay man and have heard from all of your friends they make great pets, get to know him first. You would not walk up to a hetero and exclaim, "You're straight? I've always wanted a boyfriend!!" Be respectful and do not assume that it's a compliment that my sexuality has qualified me to be your best friend. If that's all it takes, the friendship is destined for failure.
2. Just because your friend is gay, do not assume that you need to tell him about everything gay that you encountered. He does not need to know that you saw a gay man while buying groceries or at the mall. If there is an interesting story that proceeds from your encounter, please tell us about it. Otherwise, keep the boring encounter to yourself. Also, we do not have answers to all gay matters in the world and cannot answer every question but in our infinite wisdom, we will offer an opinion.
3. If you have one gay friend and meet another gay person, they are NOT a perfect match. Be-

ing a homosexual does not mean that you are attracted to all homosexuals. While you have standards for men/women that you would like to date, so do gay men. I would like to take this time to extend this point to your African American friends and any other friends that belong to a particular minority. Do not assume that race or sexual orientation are a tie that binds.

4. Yes, some gay men are extremely fashionable, just as some straight men, straight women and gay women are. Unless you have actually transcended to the point of extending an invite to your newfound gay friend, do not ask him to go shopping with you solely because he is gay and probably fashionable. While some of us do LOVE to shop, I personally reserve that right for people that I enjoy to shop with. It also makes for an awkward time when you have entirely different styles and shopping habits.
5. This one is going to all of my straight guy friends. We are NOT hitting on you at every turn. Yes, I do enjoy the thought of straight men in all of their glory, but I know better than to hit on a straight man. One: I rather enjoy the look of my face and prefer not to get gay bashed and Two: You're probably not as hot as you think. So, if you think a gay man is hitting on you, be considerate and think about it for another second before you throw punches or become completely flattered.
6. Number Six is more of a response to comments that are often made by heteros that have not walked in the shoes of a queer. Gay men are inevitably going to be friends primarily with other gay men and straight women because hetero men ostracize us our entire childhood. I, for one, know that my high school years were absolutely dreadful, thanks to a handful of straight teenage boys who had nothing better to do with their time than to think of hurtful names to call me and made my life a living hell. On that note, I would like to say that I will perpetuate the stereotype that men that mock homosexuals are actually homosexuals themselves and are having trouble dealing with it, thus projecting their frustration on gay men, regardless of whether or not it's a fact.
7. In keeping with the response theory, I did not choose to be gay. My mom knew I was gay at

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four years old and I really knew a few years later. So, I realize that the coming out stories make for great coffee conversation, but please do not ask when your friend decided to be gay or became gay. The only choice a gay person has is whether or not he/she acts on those impulses. In my opinion, if a person is gay for a short time in their lives, he or she will act on those impulses again later in life.

8. There are straight-acting gay men and VERY flamboyant gay men. However, I do not know why people act either way. Why are some people funny and others dry? Why are some people obsessive compulsive and others care-less. Why are some people interesting and others lifeless. I think you see where I am going with this.
9. The most offensive question to most gay men is "Who is the guy in your relationships?" Your friend very well may be the guy or the girl in EVERY relationship, but it's offensive and unnecessary regardless. Also, the payment of dinner is typically split unless one is an escort or it's obvious one of the two has a lot of money and enjoys paying for dinner, in which case, you keep him around forever.

10. Lastly, some homos have not had the pleasure of engaging in sexual relations with women. While I am sure it is a life-changing experience for most, (what a shock that would be for dear old mom) do not ask your gay friend or acquaintance why he or she has not participated in heterosexual intercourse. My response to my girlfriends is "Have you had sex with a girl? No? Then, how do you know you don't like it?" Exactly, you don't know. Be accepting of the fact that we know just as well as you what we enjoy in the bedroom. To the open-minded people that are reading this that have experimented, you may ask that question and I will give you my honest answer. I just don't want to!

Yes, this list of guidelines may seem offensive and condescending but it is all true and I have experienced every one of these points in my life at one time or another. We all suffer from injustices in life but at least we can try to minimize them. I would also like to say that my opinions do not represent the gay community as a whole and this is all in fun. Just remember, we are gay but we are also students, lawyers, blond, left-handed, sports fanatics, music lovers, educated, writers and much more. Try to find out what else is going on in our lives and maybe that gay person will make a good friend....or not. ▼

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behind this effort.

In between PSL and Melbourne there are changes in Vero Beach, too. With the Second Unitarian Fellowship moving to a new sanctuary both **PFLAG Vero Beach** and **East Coast MCC** will be moving as well – starting in June. The new location is at 27th Avenue and 16th Street – check the maps on page 30 if you're unsure where that is. The schedules stay the same, except that **East Coast MCC** will NOT be holding services on June 12 in Vero due to the Pride Fest (of which they are a sponsor).

PFLAG Vero Beach wants to thank everyone who turned out for the Miss \$1.69 Benefit Pageant at **Club Bλrd Cage** which raised \$915.69 for the group's good works. **PFLAG Vero Beach** is also happy that they've received several applications for scholarships this year and looks forward to announcing the winners soon.



Miss \$1.69 Contest at the Bλrd Cage Raises \$915.69 for PFLAG Vero Beach

The last weekend in June brings us to **Kelli Randell's** birthday celebration during the White Party Weekend at **Club Bλrd Cage**. Their toga party on the 24th and underwear party on the 25th mark the yearly highlight of **Club Bλrd Cage's** parties.

And after the underwear party you still have time to make it down to **Kashmir** for one of their famous foam parties – just the way to cap off a Saturday night!

Speaking of foam parties, **REBAR** is kicking off Pride Weekend with St. Lucie's first foam party on June 11. We'll be waterproofing the camera for that one!

Jumping back up to Brevard County again, **The Cold Keg's** own Leigh Shannon showed up as a boy in a *New York Times* travel article on Orlando becoming a major gay tourist destination. Never fear the fame has not carried her away, you can always catch Leigh's Illusions in Revue at **The Cold Keg** on Fridays.

Up in Cocoa **Family of God Community Church** has expanded again! They've added more space to include a "Family Room," for meetings and outreach programs. So if you're looking for a place to meet, give them a call. For a complete listing of their services and hours check out their ad on page 21.

Over on Merritt Island the **Rainbow Room** is partying full blast all summer. Brian and Jimmy are looking forward to moving to their new location as soon as they finalize things. In the mean time they've opened the blinds on the windows behind the pool table to reveal the view across the Banana River – a gorgeous night time

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Rainbow Room

photos: Lee & Show
Your Pride Photography

In Our Past

by Celeste DeRoche, Ph.D.

An “Annual Reminder” of Pride

As we approach the annual celebration of Gay Pride Days across the country, it seems an appropriate time to take a look back at how, where, and why these celebrations emerged.

The gay liberation movement started in the mid-1960s and learned much from the Civil Rights Movement. Four organizations – the New York Daughters of Bilitis, and Mattachine chapters from New York City, Washington D.C. and Philadelphia met in Philadelphia in January of 1963 and formed the East Coast Homophile Organizations (ECHO). Following the example of African American college students and Freedom Riders who used direct-action tactics in their struggle against segregated facilities, ECHO decided to take a comparable stand against the institutional structures that encouraged and perpetuated gay and lesbian oppression.

ECHO decided to protest the exclusion of homosexuals from federal employment and the armed services. To do this, the organization decided to picket in front of the Pentagon, The Civil Service Commission, the State Department, and would culminate the series of actions with a picket in front of the White House.

The tenor of the times demanded a strict dress code for all participants. Men had to wear a suit jacket and tie and women had to wear dresses. And American flags had to be carried, by law, at all demonstrations. One of the goals of this early action was to get bystanders to hear the message rather than be prematurely turned off by appearances.

Marching in decorous single file, carrying signs that read **SEXUAL PREFERENCE IS IRRELEVANT TO FEDERAL EMPLOY-**

MENT; CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS UN-AMERICAN and wearing their “Equality for Homosexuals” buttons, this intrepid group of demonstrators were the first gay protest to ever be seen in the nation’s capital.

The final demonstration in April of 1965 in front of the White House saw more than seventy marchers participating. After this success, Craig Rodwell, an organizer and participant of the series of pickets, was determined that this success would not be the end but rather the beginning. His idea was to demonstrate every Fourth of July in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. He wanted to create a gay holiday. He decided to call it the “Annual Reminder”. The reminder that a group of United States citizens still didn’t have their basic rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Many of the participants in the pickets of April 1965 were so enthused by Craig’s idea, that the first Annual Reminder sponsored by the New York, Washington, and Philadelphia Mattachine societies took place that very July, only three months after Craig first offered the idea.

Thirty-nine people picketed in front of Independence Hall from three-thirty to five p.m.. The demonstration was mentioned on the local Philadelphia TV news and on the front page of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

For the next five years, a stalwart and tenacious group of from thirty to a hundred people, always including the originator of the idea, Craig Rodwell, would appear with their placards and buttons (**BILL OF RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS; 15,000,000 HOMOSEXUAL AMERICANS ASK FOR EQUALITY, OPPORTUNITY, DIGNITY**) in front of independence Hall. This small but mighty band were in the vanguard of earnestly asserting what seemed then like a utopian demand for “gay rights”.

Those who participated in the Annual Reminders did so with not a little trepidation. They had no way of knowing what the consequences might be. Would their names be printed in the newspapers? Would they lose their jobs? Would they get arrested?

By the time of the second Annual Reminder in 1966, the event attracted the attention of the Bureau of Special Services. Craig Rodwell received a visit one night, at his apartment in New York City, from three men in dark business suits flashing their FBI badges.

The fifth Annual Reminder picket of Independence Hall came two days after the last of the Stonewall riots. Craig Rodwell was still centrally involved in organizing the event. He placed ads in *The Village Voice* to drum up interest. He got fifty recruits, including, this time women who brought along their children. He also received a series of threatening phone calls. The nameless callers warned Craig that the bus he had rented to go to Philadelphia would be followed and capsized with all occupants to be beaten.

When the participants gathered on July 4, 1969 to board the bus a convertible with four white men brandishing baseball bats pulled up and parked across the street. The four men sat there glaring at the group boarding the bus. Craig, though was already ahead of his would-be attackers. He had called the police after the fourth threatening phone call and had police escorts arranged for the bus. But the men in the convertible never followed the bus. In Craig’s view it was not the sight of the police that frightened them off, but the presence of women and children that took them by surprise. The men in the convertible had expected to see “just fagots”.

The 1969 Annual Reminder in Philadelphia went along as the previous four: the group of some seventy-five people—men in suits and ties, women in dresses, despite the ninety-five-degree weather—walked silently in a circle. An aura of respectability was palpable. But something new was brewing. Many of the participants in the 1969 demonstration were young first-time participants who had been energized by the recent



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events of the Stonewall Revolt. On the bus trip back to New York after the event they argued with their elders for a new impetus. They wanted a new departure that would embody the defiant spirit of Stonewall.

As this conversation continued, it became clear to Craig Rodwell that they had just witnessed the final Annual Reminder. A new day was breaking, one that would require different tactics and a different format. The Annual Reminder would move from being a silent plea for rights to an overt, loud, embracing, dynamic demand for rights. The Christopher Street Liberation Day was born. ▼

Many of the details for this article were taken from the book “Stonewall” written by the historian and gay man Martin Duberman. “Stonewall” is an excellent source for more information about the founding of the modern gay rights movement.

Celeste DeRoche received her doctoral degree in United States History from the University of Maine. She currently resides in Vero Beach with her life partner. She loves to read. She would welcome any suggestions for historical topics you might like to learn more about. You can reach her at CelesteD@ootcmag.com

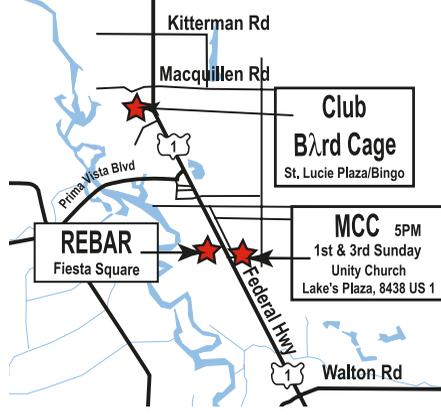
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continued from page 26

view to go with the fantastic sights and sounds inside. Check out their center spread ad for their complete line up for June!

Gay Rights tidbit: When the United Church of Christ (UCC) wanted to air their ads promoting diversity and acceptance last year, the ads were rejected by CBS and NBC as too controversial leading to many protests to the FCC. At the same time ABC did not run the ads claiming that they do not run religious ads so there was no protest against them. However, ABC has apparently changed their minds. On Monday, May 1, ABC ran an ad for Focus on the Family during "Supernanny." On Focus on the Family's web site they state their mission as "To cooperate with the Holy Spirit in disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible and, specifically to accomplish that objective by helping to preserve traditional values and the institution of the family." Now unless you've been completely unconscious for the past few years you know that "preserve traditional values" is religious right speak for anti-gay, anti-women, anti-equal rights intolerance. So now the religious right has succeeded in suppressing pro-tolerance on all the broadcast networks while using them to spew their hatred. Stand up, fight for our rights! Join a local gay rights group. If you want to take action on this particular issue go to ww.ucc.org and click on FCC Challenge site on the right side under the big apostrophe. ▼

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