

OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e

Covering Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts



Miss Brevard County 2008

Issue #064, March 2008



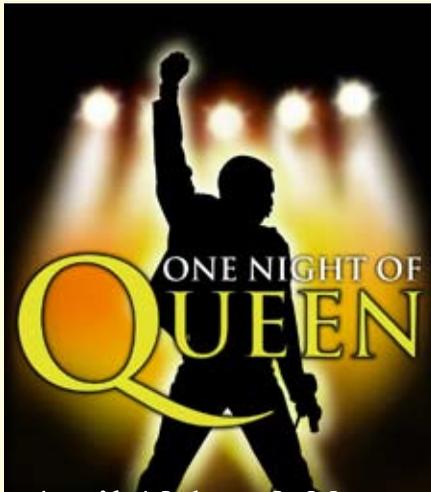
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INSIDE

Horoscope.....6
 Jacqueline
 Tea Time.....10
 Miss T
 Spiritually Speaking.....14
 Rev. Dr. Jerry Seay
 In the News.....22
 Directory.....26 - 27
 Maps.....28 - 29

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Models: (from top left) Dan, Jerry,
 Randy, Jim, Port St. Lucie
 Photo: LANZ

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Got Broadband? News, links, forums & more

at:
www.ootcmag.com

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Pride of the Treasure Coast Sunday, April 20, noon till 6 PM Then party inside till midnight!



DJs Joshua Atom & Nikolai
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 Shelita Cox

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A fundraiser for PFLAG of Vero Beach

HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

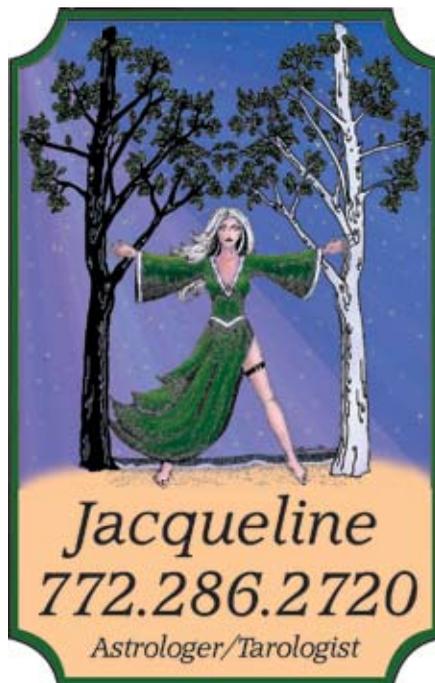
Be prepared to listen to your inner child! The new moon in Aries on the 4th enables us to see life anew and bring about a child like playfulness with our emotions and the ability to live in the moment. Remember this with the ones you love because with the Mars square Venus, you may become impatient. The full moon on the 20th, will allow you to get back your patience and express your frustrations. The key to this month is to live in the moment and let the rest take care of itself.

Aries March 23 - April 22 Happy Solar Return! All will love your natural, direct, and spontaneous self as Venus goes into your sign on the 6th. Life looks like it's moving forward again as Mercury goes into your sign but be careful, the Mars/Pluto opposition will make you a little moody.

Taurus April 23 - May 22 This is the time for some early spring cleaning, your natural ability to organize blossoms the beginning of the month but remember to save some time for yourself. Your social calendar will be full as Mercury, the Sun, and Venus go into your sign starting the 17th

Gemini May 23 - June 22 This is the time for you to listen and learn, what you hear will inspire you like never before. The artist within is seeking new means of creativity and inspiration as well as understanding those around you. The full moon on the 20th will change relationships in your life, especially with Libras, Capricorns, and Cancers.

Cancer June 23 - July 22 With the Pluto / Mars opposition this month, you'll feel a little tense. Relax the universe is making corrections in



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your life and is in control. Go with the flow, let your inner child grow nothing is urgent, don't fight it unless your looking for some tough love.

Leo July 23 - August 22 The changes you seek are now at hand. Take advantage of this time to express yourself and win over those who've doubted your abilities. However, on the 17th, when the planets start going into Taurus, you'll feel like you're stuck in the mud, remain focused and don't break your stride.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 Take this time to fine tune your objectives. You know which path you wish to follow however, the path is not as clear. You still need to fill in the details before you're able to proceed. So, like last month, keep asking questions. The path will become clear.

Libra September 23 - October 22 This is the month for taking care of those fine points. Don't let the details of everyday life get you down. Everything has its place and

time; be patient. After the full Moon on the 20th, you'll be able to navigate through things easier.

Scorpio October 23 - November 22 Although your intentions are good, don't push so hard as you'll be misunderstood. The Aries energy is making you impatient. Relax; wait for things to come to you. Once it releases into Taurus next month all will start to fall back into place.

Sagittarius November 23 - December 22 Your natural wit and humor will be tested in the beginning of the month as social challenges become prevalent. Seek out the humor in every situation. After Venus enters Aries on the 6th, you'll find your social grace will have returned and others be naturally attracted to you.

Capricorn December 23 - January 22 Now is the time to take that mini vacation as other's will have trouble understanding you. Venus is not aspecting you well. Have patience; take the time to explain all of the circumstances and you'll find others will be more receptive.

continued on page 12

BABYBLUESTAR PRODUCTIONS & INVISIBLE ARTS PRESENT

Variety TEASE

NIGHTCLUBBING

SUNDAY
APRIL 20TH
7PM



"Dashes of Nina Simone, Grace Jones, The Triplets of Belleville and "Too Drunk to F*ck" add up to a fair approximation of rehab at the apocalypse disco." - ORLANDO WEEKLY

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April 5: Tori Holden
Latrice Royale & India Brooks

April 12: Nikki Adams
Roseanne DeShannaro & Crystle Chambers



April 19: PRIDE WEEKEND Kelli Randell
Shelita Cox, Daphne Farraro, Dominique Golden



April 26: Velvet LeNore
Faith Taylor & Velocity Xtreme



WEDNESDAYS SHOWTIME 11 PM GIRLAPALOOZA

Thursday Karaoke with Cash and Prize Giveaways!!

FRIDAY SHOWTIME 11:30

PLUS CONTESTS WITH CASH & PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!!!

Tea Time

with Miss T

We are saddened to learn that long-time manager of Roosters in West Palm Beach, Michael “LaLa” Brown has been murdered. It is not at all comforting to know that his murder committed suicide after killing Lala. He was the first bar staff we met in West Palm Beach shortly after this magazine started when he allowed us to initiate distribution at Roosters which continues to this day. Our sincerest condolences to his family and many, many friends.

Our deepest thanks go to all those who supported The Living Room of Brevard, Melbourne’s late community center. Your commitment to our community means more than you can know, but unfortunately the time was not right. Despite the board’s complying with every demand of a landlord who refused to meet with them to try and work out a compromise, seven days after the March rent was due they were evicted by a three-day notice. The Living Room had intended to vacate by the end of March so that **East Coast MCC** could hold Easter Services at the center but that was not to be – **East Coast MCC** was even forced to cancel their Good Friday service. The Living Room is back to holding its board meetings in the Community Room at the Melbourne Square Mall at 7 PM on the third Monday of every month. For information on where groups are now meeting see the calendar at www.TLRbrevard.org.

East Coast MCC does have a new location: 1603 S Wickham Road in Melbourne, in the West End Shoppes (directly across the street from Harbor City Diner and Sweet Tomatoes Pizza), just one block north of US 192. They will be there effective April 1.

For Easter, the Melbourne service was held at Rodes Park Community Center and the Sunday, March 30, services will be at Rodes Park in Pavilion 1, with a covered dish picnic at 4 and a brief, informal service at 6. The Port St Lucie service will be on its normal schedule at 10 a.m. for both Sundays. And on top of it all, Dr. Seay managed to write the *Spiritually Speaking* column for this issue! His guidance and leadership show through in the growth and strength of **East Coast MCC**.

Pride of the Treasure Coast is growing together nicely as a benefit for PFLAG of Vero Beach. Anyone wanting to be a vendor needs to contact **REBAR** immediately to reserve a space. It will necessarily be a smaller event than the last couple of years Pride events, but the fun-quotient should be equal. It might not be as big as the hearts of Jim, Jerry, Randy and Danny who put their heads together to come up with this event, but you can be sure it will be over the top with Pride and for the party-hearty folk you won’t even have to move your car to keep on partying till midnight! The 7 PM show starring Blue, called *Nighclubbing*, was – if I’m not mistaken – highly regarded at the Orlando Fringe Festival so there’s a reward for those who stick around to kick off the nighttime portion of the event. One word to the wise: arrive early for parking will be at a premium, especially now that **REBAR** has a church as a new neighbor. Boy are they in for an eye-opening Sunday on April 20!

I sure hope they’re the accepting flavor of Christian ‘cause otherwise they’re in for a reality check like nothing they’ve ever imagined.

Space Coast Pride is generating a lot of buzz up in Brevard. Vendors and sponsors are beginning to commit and the serious planning is about to start. Visit www.SpaceCoastPride.org for information and forms. Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear-down, ticket taking, beer sales and pouring and food vendors are needed. Late word is that an XM radio personality is joining the line up along with hostess WA1A’s Lisa Muldovan, local queens and DJs to provide the entertainment. This first event is bound to be a little rough around the edges but shows the growing GLBT community out here on the east coast.

Speaking of growing, **Rainbow Tonic** Sunday nights at Tonic nightclub, 2019 14th Ave, in downtown Vero is really taking off. There was a very nice crowd the other week with lots of new faces there to see the show, enjoy the music and the venue. If you’ve not been, it’s worth the trip out and the show’s early enough so you can get home in time to get a full night’s rest before work on Monday. The show line up continues with name entertainers from all over and Wade’s hard work is paying off. Stop in for an early evening to top off your weekend, stay to party if it’s the middle or beginning of it for you! You’ll have a great time and meet some new people at **Rainbow Tonic**.

The **Cold Keg** is putting a new twist on their Fridays: Flashback Fridays will feature dance music: old-school, freestyle, classic, the whole spectrum will be served up by DJ Spin with Leigh Shannon and guest going on at 11. With 75¢ domestic drafts and \$4 Long Islands all night long and a \$5 cover for everyone it should be a great night to step back into time and dance the night away to your favorite jams from back in the day! Ahhhh, back in the day... Roy Orbison, The Shirelles, Aretha Franklin, Chubby Checker, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, The Beach Boys, The Monkees, The Supremes, Leslie Gore, Frankie Valli, The Drifters...OH, sorry, got carried away there hobbling down memory lane and few of you will remember most of those names, well you can Google them. I doubt DJ Spin will throw in anything pre-disco at **Cold Keg**’s Flashback Fridays (and a little birdie told me on one night there will be a surprise appearance by M&M) so come out and enjoy.

Well, dears, the response on calls for submission for the *In My Words* column has been...nothing. I thought my readers would welcome the opportunity but I was obviously wrong. The next couple of months will provide topics for photo essays like the **Miss Brevard** one in this issue then we’ll have to decide what to do with that space. If you have any ideas drop a line to editor@ootcmag.com.

Gay Rights Tidbit: from Topix on the Internet: “Gay Marriage” question is simple to answer posted by DNF

“Mind if I try to get people to calm down?”

Marriage: A very special act that entails love and commitment; usually done in a church.

Sex: A physical act. Can be done alone, with a partner, with lots of partners or any number of other things (those I find repulsive)

Religion: Between you and whatever you feel, worship and consider a higher ideal.

Heterosexuality and Homosexuality: part of a vast spectrum of human sexuality.

continued on page 21



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continued from page 7

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 This is a good month to take chances and start something new. You stand alone this month and you'll feel like others aren't there for you. Don't worry they'll be back. They're just not hearing you. You'll find satisfaction is being able to accomplish it on your own.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 You'll find yourself playing the observer and adviser this month. Others will be seeking your insights and valuing them. Stay with your truth even though you may not want to give them your answer. You'll also find yourself changing your home for your own comfort.

For those who want to know: The only planet I haven't told you about is Uranus. It is the enlightener and awakener and is ruled by Aquarius. Most people think that it is a water sign because it is represented by the water bearer, but it's an air sign. Because it's the humanitarian planet most feel that it's emotional. What it does do is express emotion. Aquarians are our actors in life

and they do feel the part they play. Uranus also rules atomic explosions and changes things for the good of the whole. Right now Uranus is transiting through Pisces, which is giving us all an enlightening as to our intuitive abilities.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. She is at B&A Flea Market in Stuart every weekend from 10 to 2. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720



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Jules, and Dominique Golden

APRIL 13TH
Jules, Dominique Golden,
and Angelica Kincade

APRIL 20TH
Jules, and
Samantha Stone

APRIL 27TH
Kelli Randell, Jules,
and Dominique Golden

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8 PM
TO
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18 to Party
21 to Drink
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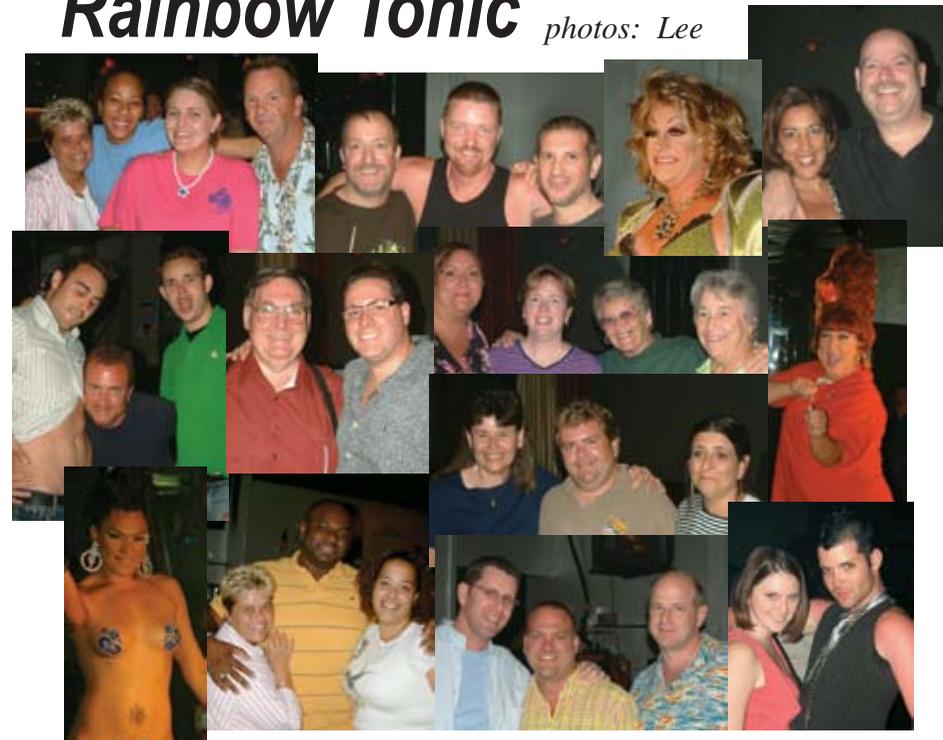
Jules Kelli Randell Dominique Golden



Angelica Kincade Samantha Stone Vita DeVoid

www.myspace.com/rainbow_tonic

Rainbow Tonic photos: Lee



Spiritually Speaking

It's time to say goodbye. Does that surprise you? No, I'm not planning on leaving anytime soon, but then, who knows what tomorrow will bring? In each of our lives there are a lot of times when we say goodbye. It may be to someone we love, a job, a car, a house, or almost anything.

We experience a "spring cleaning" in our lives from time to time. We clean out the old and prepare for the new. We have yard sales to try to help eliminate some of the old. We give our old clothes away and then go shopping for new. We weed our gardens, cleaning out the old growth so that we can have new plants that will look great for the new growing season.

Recently, our community has said goodbye a couple of times. The Living Room has said goodbye to its building. For East Coast MCC, saying goodbye occurred the week before Easter, a busy week for many of us. Fortunately, we were able to secure a temporary meeting place while we are waiting to move into our new building. We also said goodbye to the annual Treasure Coast Pridefest in Port St. Lucie.

But in each case, there is also a "hello." We hear that there will be a pride festival in Port St. Lucie. The Living Room will continue to

operate and sponsor the Space Coast Pride. MCC will be moving into our new building in a couple of weeks (at 1603 S Wickham Road in Melbourne).

Right now, I am in the process of possibly saying goodbye to an aunt who offers my life partner and I love and acceptance. Yesterday she was rushed to the hospital in Lakeland. We spent years out of touch, and it is only in the last year that we have re-established contact. She is in her late 80's and now it appears her time is short.

Goodbyes are not always easy and don't always come at a convenient time in our lives. They often come when we still have unfinished business in our lives. A lesson I learned a long time ago was to never end a conversation or time with someone on a negative note because we never know when it may be a "goodbye" instead of "see you later."

Anthony Perkins of *Psycho* fame, towards the end of his life, said: "I can't say too much. Don't be judgmental to anybody. Just remember that one needs all the love one can find, that's the most important thing – not the finger that's pointed, but the love that somebody can give you."

Two thousand years ago, a group of men who had lived together and traveled together for three years gathered one day to say goodbye to one of them. He was their charismatic leader, the one they depended on the most. They had placed all their hopes and dreams in this one person. Without him, they did not think they had any reason to go on.

Now he was dead. He was buried. They were hurting. They were saying goodbye. They thought it was over. To their surprise, they were about to experience the first Easter, the rebirth of dreams and hopes.

In our lives, when we say goodbye, we often hurt. We didn't expect things to end this way. But if we look beyond the hurt and the loss, we will discover that life continues. Everything has not come to an end. There is a new life dawning, a new experience for us.

So, the Living Room's building is gone. This means that there is the possibility of new life. MCC will experience its new building the first of April. Other organizations have already found new meeting places, and for those who haven't, MCC will be opening our new building to them.

Just because something ended doesn't mean that our lives are over. Every ending is an opportunity for a new beginning. So, as Anthony Perkins said, "Just remember that one needs all the love one can find, that's the most important thing."

As we say our goodbyes in life, remember the love and the good times. Learn from the times that were not so loving. And then look for the new possibilities that are coming your way. ▼

The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay is a former pastor in the Assemblies of God. He has been a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Churches since 1989. He and his life-partner of thirteen years, Mike Lufriu, moved to Brevard County to start the East Coast Metropolitan Community Church. East Coast MCC meets in Melbourne at 1603 S Wickham Rd, every Sunday at 6 p.m. Services in Port St. Lucie/Ft. Pierce are at the Shriner's Club, 4600 Oleander Ave, every Sunday at 10 a.m.



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No Cover With College ID For Those 21 & Up

4/3: Velvet LeNore

4/17: Kelli Randell

4/10: Amber Douglas

4/24: Page King

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April 18: Roxxy

April 11: Roseanne DeShanaro

April 25: Roz Russell

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SATURDAYS: "GROOVE"

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**April 5th: BJ Stevens with
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**April 12th: Roz Russell with
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April 19th: Glow Party (see above)

**April 26th: Alexi Leigh with
Dancers Kian & Ivy**



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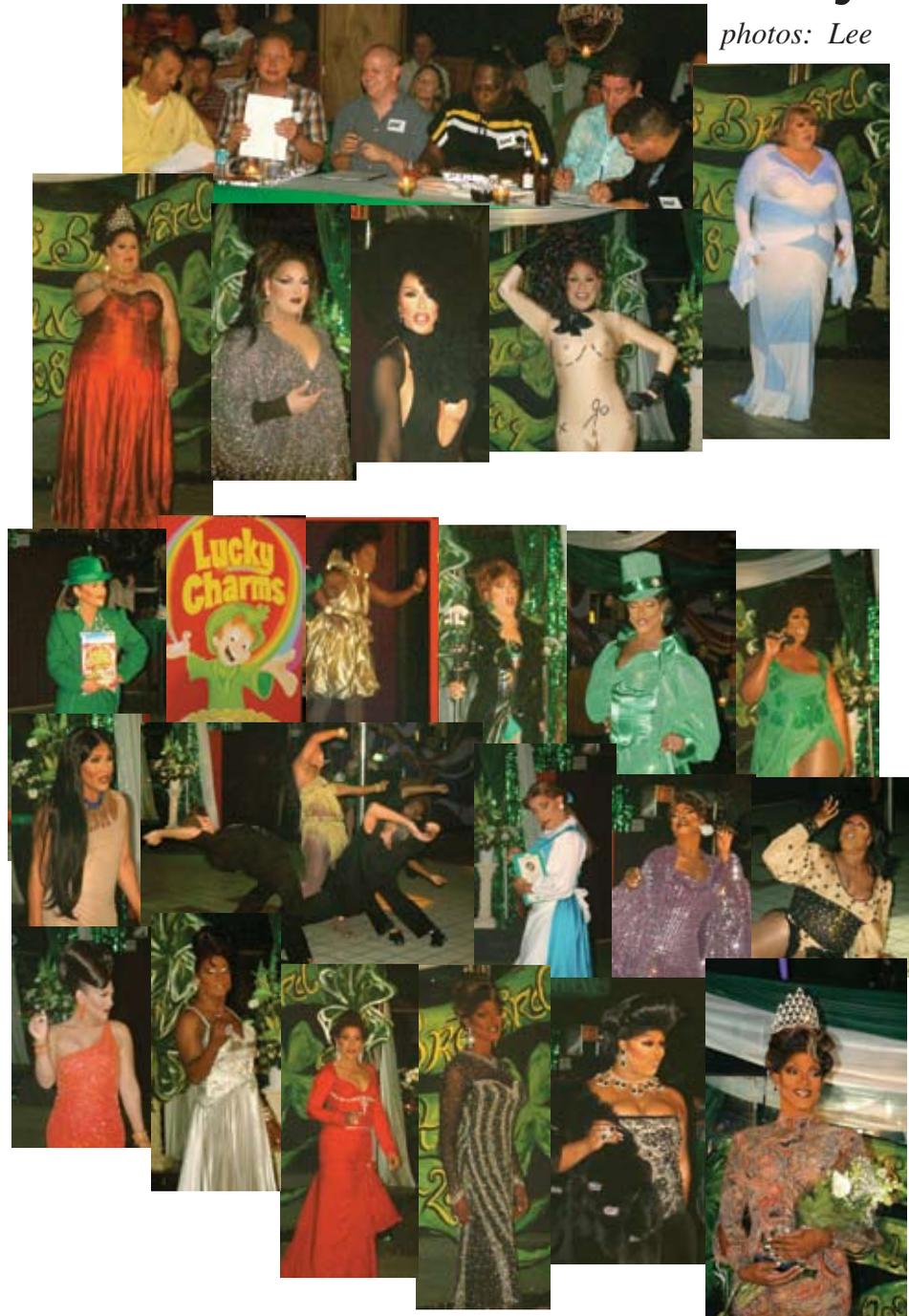
Cold Keg

photos: Lee



Miss Brevard County

photos: Lee



REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard & Ashley



continued from page 11

Respect: Needed by more people than they care to admit.

Law: In this country, the U.S. Constitution, acts of Congress or legislatures, etc, and legal precedent as established in court.

That leaves me three choices as a gay man. The same choices that are facing people opposed to "gay marriage"

- 1- Work to make sure the laws are equally enforced in some way.
- 2- Get a ship and make like the pilgrims
- 3- Insist everyone else believe what I believe and waste a lot of time, energy and money on something that is impossible"



Don't see your event mentioned? Did you tell me about it? Was I invited? I'm a fairy, not a seer, silly! Send your news, gossip and tidbits to MissT@ootcmag.com



Vero's own cowboy pirate Liam was the star, of course, at his birthday party last month

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IN THE NEWS

For current headlines see our website: www.ootcmag.com

WEST PALM BEACH—Friday, March 21, the body of Michael “La La” Brown, 50, long-time manager and owner of HG Roosters bar in West Palm Beach was discovered in his apartment along with the body of his apparent murder.

According to a report in the Palm Beach Post, Michael Brown, was beaten and stabbed to death by a former boyfriend who was found dead in his apartment with him Friday evening.

Police were dispatched to Brown’s condominium because he had not shown up to work for two days. They found a blood-spattered apartment in disarray and Brown’s body in the bedroom.

The body of Brant Hines, 27, hung from a strap hung over the closed bedroom door.

Police believe Hines killed Brown late Wednesday or early Thursday, when a neighbor heard shouting and crashing.

Police believe Brant hanged himself Thursday night or Friday morning.

According to the story, Brown and Hines apparently had an on-and-off relationship for several years that was sometimes volatile

Brown’s death was an unfitting end to a life characterized by friendship, leadership, a contagious sense of fun and great generosity.

Friends believed that Brown had tried to help Hines, and said that was typical of the big man with a shaved head and ever-present smile who never said no to people or causes in need.

A onetime PrideFest parade grand marshal, Brown made the bar, where he started pouring drinks in the late 1980s, a place customers could feel at home and a place where charities looking for support could count on rousing fund-raising events.

Brown raised hundreds of thousands of

dollars over the years for causes such as Toys for Tots and Compass.

“He was an icon in this community,” Compass Executive Director Scott Fox said.

In October, he was honored with the Comprehensive AIDS Program’s Fundraiser Extraordinaire Award.

Brown also traveled the country in his volunteer work supporting the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, for which he was a board member of the South Florida chapter.

On Saturday night scores of men and women packed H.G. Roosters, where candles flickered in front of a flower-decked shrine to the man they called “La La.” The bar fell silent in his honor, as one after another spoke of the difference Brown had made in their lives.

OKLAHOMA—Republican State Legislator Sally Kern was recorded making anti-gay slurs during a fundraising speech. Her talk used the tried-and-true fear mongering of gays infiltrating the schools to indoctrinate youth as well as new charges of infiltration of city councils and equating us to terrorists.

It did not take long for Internet stories to surface concerning her son Jesse – as one poster put it “Jesse was the biggest queen on the campus of OBU [Oklahoma Baptist University] in the mid-90’s. Twice he almost was expelled for making inappropriate advances in the library toilets. When he wasn’t cruising the toilets he was in the glee club and a piano major.

Jesse Kern spoke with *Tulsa World* to address all those pesky gay rumors.

Kern insists that he’s not gay, but simply a celibate metaphysicist.

[Kern] said that he chooses to be celibate, but he is not homosexual.

“First of all, no one’s sexuality is anyone’s

business. It is not even my mother’s business,” he said. “I practice celibacy to give to my God,” he said.

Kern said metaphysics helps teach him such things such as concentration, which has helped him keep focused with all the adverse publicity surrounding his mother’s comments.

Kern makes sure to note that he doesn’t condone his mother’s comments, but applauds her for speaking her mind, although he hasn’t listened to the audio. He also offered tacit gay approval: “[There] needs to be honor in any relationship whether it is a straight or gay relationship.”

TALLAHASSEE—March 17, Students, parents and safe schools advocates from across the state gathered in Tallahassee today calling on legislators to help end the epidemic of bullying in Florida schools by strengthening proposed safe schools legislation.

The Safe Schools Coalition, consisting of nearly 100 local and statewide organizations, has worked for eight years advocating the need for a clear statewide standard to address the serious problem of bullying in Florida schools.

Coalition members applauded the addition of sexual, racial and religious harassment as examples of prohibited behavior to this year’s bill. But to truly protect all students, the proposed legislation must also name the most common basis for bullying: physical appearance, sexual orientation and gender identity.

“We commend Florida lawmakers for recognizing the need for an anti-bullying policy and for also recognizing the importance of listing specific types of behavior that this law is intended to prohibit,” said Brian Winfield, spokesperson for Equality Florida, the state’s gay and transgender advocacy organization. “Students, parents, and child advocates are here in Tallahassee this week to ask our state leaders to find the courage to also include the most common forms of bullying: physical appearance, sexual orientation and gender identity. If the law remains silent, it will allow these forms of harassment to flourish.”

At least 10 other states have passed a fully inclusive anti-bullying law that includes

categories experts say are essential to ensure schools don’t shy away from intervening.

“I was forced to make the difficult decision to home-school my son because he simply was not safe in Florida’s public schools,” said Lisa Rivero, a mother whose son was enrolled in the Brevard County school system until last year. “No mother should have to make the daily choice, as I did, between her child’s safety and their education.”

Last year, the Florida House of Representatives recognized the need for a uniform statewide anti-bullying policy and passed the Jeffery Johnston Stand Up for All Students Bill by a vote of 119 to 1. The Senate passed a nearly identical bill through two committees, only to have Senator Wise (R-Duval), Chair of the Education Appropriations Committee, refuse to hear the bill in his committee.

The Florida Safe Schools Coalition includes students, parents, educators and safe school advocates from nearly 100 local and statewide organizations working to make every school in Florida a safe learning environment free of harassment, bullying and discrimination.

MARYLAND— With gay marriage a no-go this year, Maryland senators voted Tuesday, March 18, to allow unmarried couples more rights to make medical decisions for each other.

The Senate voted 30-17 to allow domestic partners, who could be gay or straight, to make medical or funeral decisions for each other if they meet certain criteria to show they are a committed couple.

Unwed couples would have to show “mutual interdependence” such as joint checking accounts or common property ownership before qualifying as domestic partners eligible for the decision-making powers.

The bill comes amid complaints from unwed couples that they are sometimes denied life-or-death decision rights or medical privileges such as riding in an ambulance or visiting a partner on life support.

The measure now heads to the House. It could become the most substantive gay-

continued on page 24

continued from page 23

rights matter lawmakers take up this year. This is the first general session of the legislature since Maryland's highest court said last year that the legislature is free to remove gender definitions in state marriage law, but top lawmakers have said gay unions won't be considered this term.

ARIZONA—According to a March 10, 2008 story in *The Arizona Republic* a lot of gay and lesbian retirees are looking for a safe, fun place to live out their autumn years and , any retirement offerings might not cut it because of a lack of like-minded residents or a fear of coming out to the neighbors.

Out Properties LLC, a St. Louis development firm, hopes to change that by marketing a unique lifestyle to this niche group it calls "gayby boomers," or gay baby boomers. It plans to build a resort community, Marigold Creek, in Surprise, AZ catering to gay retirees.

"For some people, this might be the very first time in their entire life they've been able to live somewhere where they can be themselves," said Debi Purvis, principal with Out Properties.

The group is a division of Aventurs Development, and Marigold Creek is its first gay and lesbian retirement development.

Such communities exist or are in the works in Florida, California and New Mexico. But Marigold Creek is considered the first community of its kind in Arizona.

Mayor Lyn Truitt is a fan of the concept. "We're not a community that puts up barriers, rather, we take them down. We knew it was an emerging, vibrant community and got such great feedback from people that said the community was growing and interested in the arts, and lots of different types of people living in the community."

Though anyone will be able to buy at Marigold Creek, it is being designed with gay retirees in mind.

Tucson resident Frances Coleman, 53, understands the need.

"The really big advantage is, you don't have to go back into the closet and squish yourself," she said. "You can live with your partner and not have to pretend you're roommates. As a

gay person, you're constantly coming out to people in every single venue - or constantly hiding, if that's how you live," she said.

Marigold Creek's sales pitch hits on that very point. "Imagine a place where your neighbors are just like you. They share your interests and have similar lifestyles," an online statement reads. "Everyone is welcome, accepted and safe."

Purvis said the company is ahead of projections, securing commitments on 40 units.

Out Properties is only in the early planning stages with the city, Surprise senior planner Janice See said. The City Council eventually must sign off on zoning and land use changes to allow a higher density, she said. But based on preliminary talks, the project sounds favorable, See said.

Veronica St. Claire, chief executive of the Gay & Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons Inc., is pushing for a similar development in Palm Springs, Calif.

RainbowVision Properties Inc. is nearing the second anniversary of its community in Santa Fe, N.M. Similar to Marigold Creek, it features mixed housing options and assisted living. Roughly 70 percent of residents are from the gay and lesbian community, the rest "allies," said Jane Steinberg, its national director of marketing and sales.

RainbowVision is nearing construction on a condo project in Palm Springs, and is working on developments in San Francisco and Vancouver.

WASHINGTON, DC—It was reported in a story on February 25, that the Moonie-owned Washington Times has revised its style changing its references to gays from the rigorous right-wing terminology to current popular usages.

Style refers to a newspaper's accepted word usage. Most newspapers use the same Associated Press style, but each paper embellishes AP style with its own little quirks.

The Washington Times' quirks have involved slanting words with a right-wing flavor by referring, for instance, to gays as homosexuals. Now, however, the Times has

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decided that it is OK to use the word "gay" to refer to gay people.

Gay is approved for copy and preferred over homosexual, except in clinical references or references to sexual activity.

And the paper will no longer make mocking reference to gay marriage by putting the word marriage in quotation marks.

Semantics are important. Words have power and meaning and shape debate. From such trivial-seeming skirmishes are wars won.

HOLLYWOOD— Scott Rudin is one of Hollywood's most prolific producers, having been responsible for bringing scores of hit movies to the screen.

Scott Rubin thanked several people when he collected an Oscar for Best Picture for *No Country For Old Men,* which he produced.

The 49-year-old, after name-checking the film's directors Joel and Ethan Coen and producer Sydney Pollack, paid tribute to "my partner, John Barlow. Without you, honey, this is just hardware."

Theatre publicist Barlow was at the ceremony, but was not honoured with a close-up when his name was mentioned, as is common practice when heterosexual spouses are similarly praised.

On slate.com Dana Stevens drew a comparison with a same-sex kiss at the 2007 Oscars ceremony: "When Melissa Etheridge won for Best Song last year, she gave her wife, Tammy Lynn Michaels, an on-camera kiss, but they're women, and attractive blondes to boot. "I guess being publicly gay at the Oscars is still no country for old men. But maybe next year."

Others questioned why the official press transcript from the Oscars website initially excluded the reference to Mr Barlow from Mr Rudin's speech.

The transcript was later altered to include his same-sex sentiments.

Scott Rudin is one of Hollywood's most prolific producers, having been responsible for bringing scores of hit movies to the screen.

He is also one of the few successful out producers in the industry.

NEW YORK—After years of speculation and innuendo, the sexually ambiguous lead singer for the rock band R.E.M., Michael Stipe, has decided to come out more publicly as a gay artist. Although technically Stipe revealed his sexuality in a 2001 *Time* magazine interview, he recently made the decision to talk publicly about being gay in order to help younger kids who are trying to come to terms with their own sexuality.

One of the most prolific indie rock bands of the generation, R.E.M. became mainstream with their successful albums "Out of Time" and "Automatic for the People", and with Michael as their front man, had a string of hits throughout the last few decades.

Although he relayed in the 2001 interview that he was a "queer artist", he said that he did not want to be identified as gay, straight or bisexual.

This week he told *Spin* magazine, "I recognize that to have public figures be very open about their sexuality helps some kid somewhere out there."

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AA Lambda AA	
Wednesdays 7:30pm, Unity Church, 1745 Trimble Rd, Melbourne, FL	
AA The Sober Rainbow	772-538-8068
Thursdays, Unity Church, 950 43rd Ave, Vero Beach TheSoberRainbow@aol.com	
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Haber & Associates Insurance	772-528-4384
In Da Dog House	772-464-7800
936 S. US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950	
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Party Town U.S.A.	772-465-5255
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PFLAG Martin County	561-758-4094
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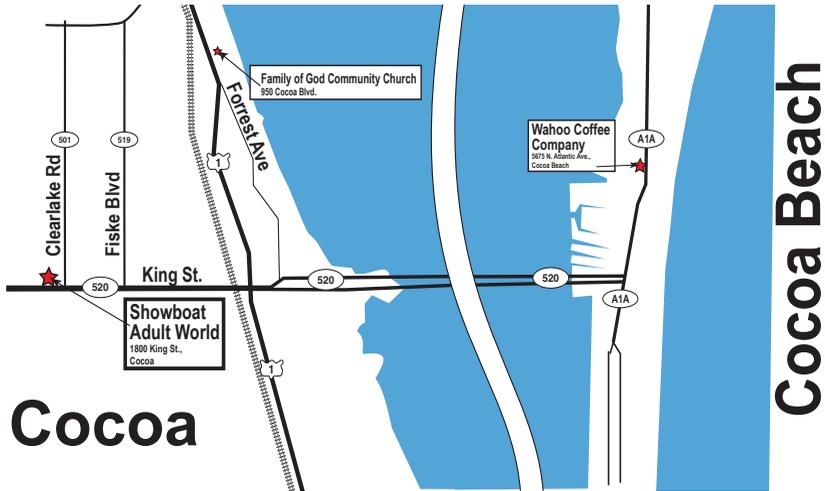
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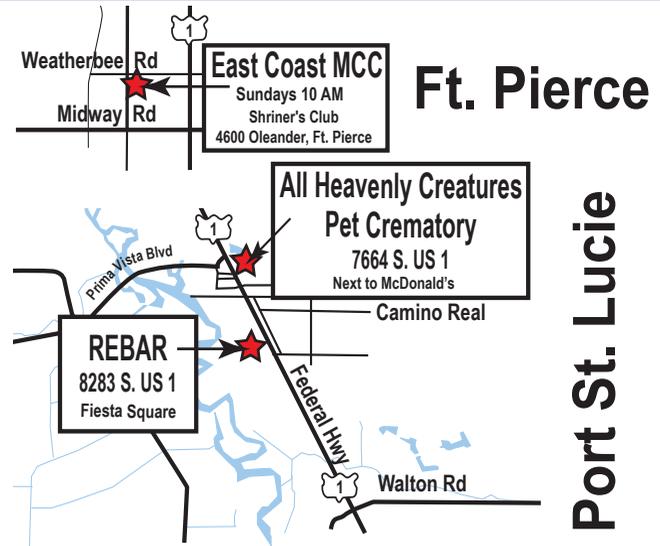


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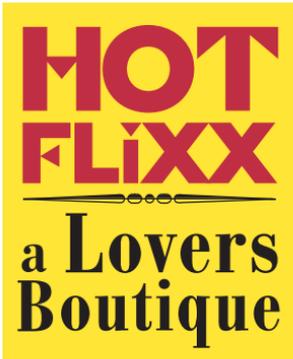
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