



Issue #067, June 2008

M A S A N I N E
OUT ON THE COAST

Covering the scene and the people

Sunday,
June 1
at



**Have a
Heart for
Camp
Heartland**

8 pm to
midnight
\$5.00
Cover
Light
Buffet

Sunday,
June 22 at **REBAR** (Turnabout Show)

**A Fundraiser to Send Children Impacted by
HIV/AIDS to Summer Camp**

**Join Kelli Randell and friends as they raise
money for Project Response to send 27 local
children to camp.**



Camp Heartland Photos by Katja Heinemann



Located in Willow River, MN, Camp Heartland Programs improve the lives of children who experience HIV/AIDS, poverty, grief and other life challenges.

Cold Keg Nightclub
4060 W. New Haven, Melbourne
(321) 724-1510

REBAR Nightclub
8283 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie
(772) 340-7777

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Model: Dominique Golden, REBAR
Location: Michael, Dan and Mario's residence, Port St Lucie
Photo: LANZ

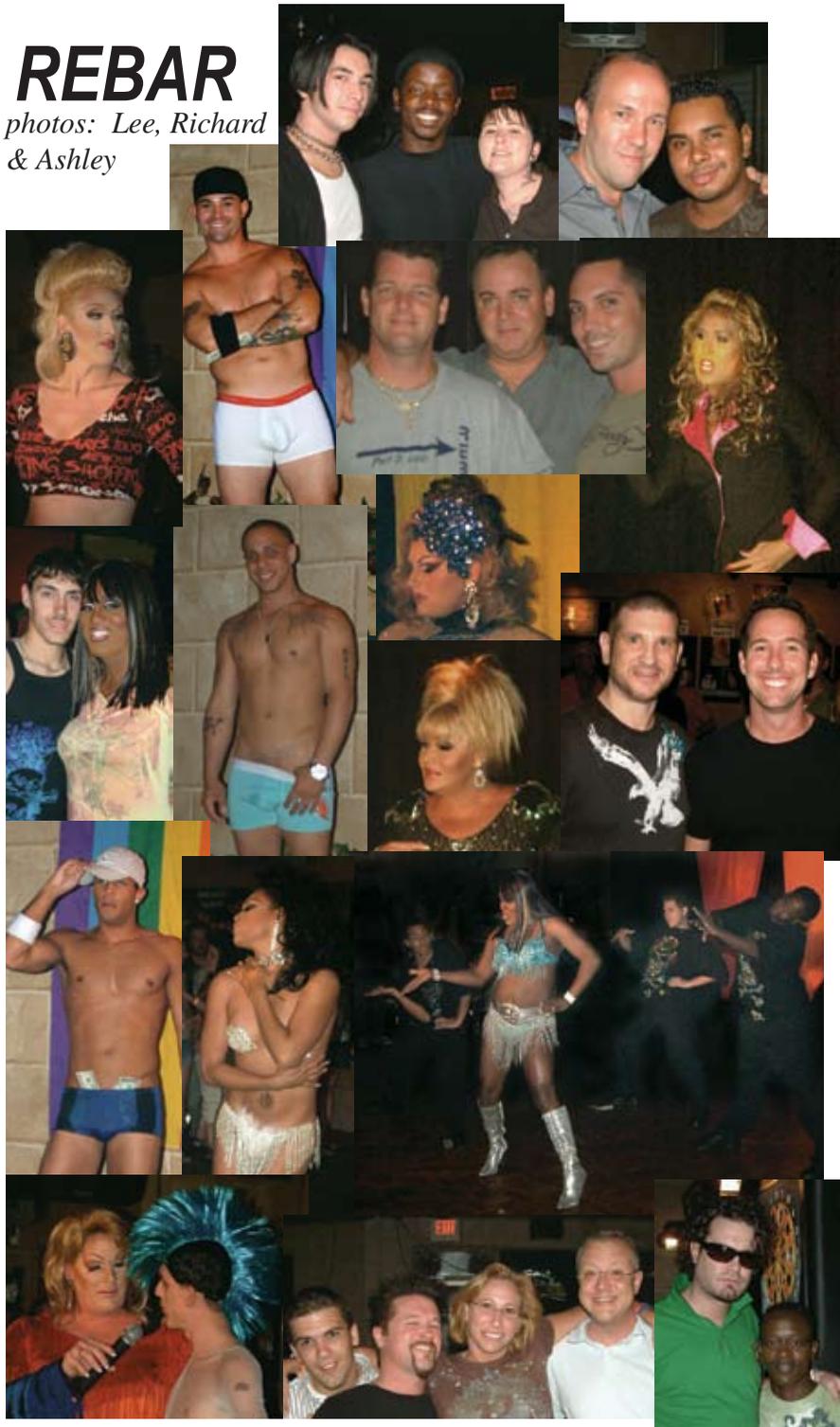
Issue #067
May 22, 2008

Got Broadband? News, links, forums & more

at:
www.ootcmag.com

REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard & Ashley



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REBAR

The Treasure Coast's Music Video Bar

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www.MySpace.com/REBARPSL

Every Friday and Saturday, Hot Male Dancers hosted by Jean Claude

**June 7: Tori Holden
Rianna Lenore & Temptation**

**June 21: Kelli Randell
Tasha Scott & Spikey Dykey**



**June 14: Nikki Adams
Sharde Ross & Alexis de la Mer**

**June 28: Velvet LeNore
Crystle Chambers & Faith Taylor**



**Thursday Karaoke and Trivia
Contest with Prize Giveaways!!**

GIRLAPALOZA

WEDNESDAYS SHOWTIME 11 PM

HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

Hold onto your seats because this month is going to be a bumpy ride! With the sun, Mercury retrograde and the new Moon on the 2nd, all in Gemini, this month truly has a duality to it. If you don't like what's going on this minute, wait, it will change! However, the full Moon on the 18th gives us the ability to find the humor in the situation. Finally when Mercury goes direct on the 19th, we can see the truth and act upon it to correct what has gone wrong.

Aries March 23 - April 22 Although Mercury is retrograde through the 19th, you'll still be able to move forward on the projects you've already started. Use caution in your dealings with Scorpios and Taurus after the full moon on the 18th. Try not to win them over, allow them to figure out things on their own.

Taurus April 23 – May 22 This is the time for you to show how flexible and socially oriented you can be. Your natural tendencies to stand your ground will not work for you. Ask questions; remain open to new ideas and suggestions. This month is a time for you to

observe yet not act, to listen yet not respond, because what you act upon, you'll have to change later.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 Happy Solar Return! This is the perfect time for traveling, especially with family or friends. The spotlight is on you as you are the entertainment at all social gatherings. This is a good time to express your feelings both written and verbally as your communication skills are excellent now.

Jacqueline
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Cancer June 23 – July 22 The beginning of the month you'll find yourself cleaning up old messes from the past. However, when Venus goes into your sign on the 18th, you'll find all your efforts will pay off and others will give you the recognition you deserve.

Leo July 23 – August 22 With Mars conjunct the south node in your sign, you still have to be outspoken and decisive. Your confidence is high and your decision making sharp. Stay with your truth when in conflict and others will see your point of view, as well as appreciate you for your candidness.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 Your creativeness will afford you the opportunity to finish old business. Be flexible as your normal way of doing things won't work. Sometimes it may be better to take a step back and look at the situation from another perspective. There is where you'll find your answers.

Libra September 23 – October 22 You've been working hard the last couple of months. Now is a good time for relaxation especially with this mercury retrograde. Since your communication skills will be off until the 18th. Use this time to access and prioritize what you want in your life and the direction to succeed in accomplishing it.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Sifting through the muck to get to the heart of the matter is paramount this month. Although you'll have the urge to make a decision now, it's a wait and see. Don't be rushed into any decision, especially in your dealings with Sagittarians and Gemini's or you'll regret it. Wait until after Mercury goes direct on the 19th and make your decisions then.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Your communication skills are off and others won't take your side in the situation. Don't defend or debate your actions. Stand firm and walk away. However

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your financial instincts are right on the mark. Take some time to play with your finances and you'll find it profitable and satisfying.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 This is the time to stand on your own. Others will not understand nor appreciate your efforts. Take this alone time to examine what you truly want in your life because no matter how you look at it your life is at the beginning of a major shift.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 The confusion and interruptions of your natural flow from last month is clearing now. However, the project or relationship that you've been working on may not appear as you thought. Use this month to make the changes you need for your own happiness and don't look back.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 You won't have to look hard to find the flaws in your relationships right now and comedy or humor will not ease the situation. Ask questions and don't make any decisions until Mercury goes direct on the 19th. Then, speak your truth without sarcasm. If you do, you'll find your requests will be granted. ▼

For those who want to know: Earlier in Leo I spoke about Mars being conjunct the south node. A conjunction is when 2 or more planets are in close or the same

degree in the sky as each other. What a conjunction does is charge each planet to make it stronger than it is on its own. So, with Mars being our actions and the south node being our past and both in Leo right now, we are being called to let go of old creations in our lives to move forward to make new ones.

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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REBAR

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Kelli Randell hosts



June 6 & Her
Birthday Party on
June 27

Mona Martin hosts



June 13 & June 20

FRIDAYS

Hot Male Dancers Every Week!

Showtime 11 PM

Shelilta Cox



June 6, 13, 20 & 27

Dominique Golden



June 6 & 20

Rianna LeNore



June 13 & 27

Mizz Micki



June 20

Myesha



June 27

Valerie Dior



June 13

Dancer Jean Claude Plus Guest Male Dancers!

Tea Time

with Miss T

The big news in Vero this month was the sudden closing of The Patio Restaurant and Tonic Nightclub. Seems Mr. Beavers, who had run The Patio for 24 years and Tonic in various incarnations for a decade or so, just ran out of money and closed up. Now that was a long-established businessman, so it's no wonder that Rainbow Tonic did not make the transition to a new venue. Despite Roz Russell brining out her crowd, the last minute change to Undertow confused half the usual crowd in spite of notices on the door at Tonic. The upshot was that it just wasn't economically feasible, so another gay night in Vero bites the dust.

On the other hand **Space Coast Pride** is looking like it will be a very nice first year effort. 30 or so vendors, beer, food, coffee and such are all set to go, entertainment is all lined up and Brevard County is excited. With some radio promotion and Florida Today article and ad, they are hoping for a nice turnout.



Mmmmmmmmmmmmm. I mean M&M! He was a big hit at the Keg the other night. Any guesses what Steve wants for Christmas?

The **Cold Keg** is hosting the after party for everyone who just has to have more, and since Monday is a holiday... One face will be missing, Ed has left the staff. Nothing dramatic, just moving on. Ed had a smile for everyone and will be missed. We wish him luck in his endeavors and we know we'll see him around. June will be busy at the **Cold Keg** even without a big party – The Boys to Thunder will be there for a preview show on Friday, June 20, with **Kelli Randell** there to give the boys a proper welcome, er, show them a good time, I mean, emcee. It will be a hot time at the **Cold Keg**, in the dressing room and on the stage, that's for sure. And for the early crowd that night there's a pot luck dinner at 5:30 so June 20 has dinner and a show!

On Tuesday, June 10, Sharon's hosting a Partylite candle party so Texas Hold 'em will smell really good that night! But first of all, on June 1, **Cold Keg** is holding a benefit for **Project Response** with **Kelli Randell** and friends raising money to send AIDS/HIV impacted kids to summer camp. It's a great cause, will be a great show and the perfect way to start traditional Gay Pride month. Of course there will be raffles, auction items and food. Camp Heartland is in Minnesota and is devoted to improving the lives kids who otherwise would not have the opportunity due to health or other issues. What a wonderful way for **Kelli Randell** to continue her good work as we all remember her yearly benefit at the late Byrd Cage for Babies with ADIS. See you there!

REBAR bookends the month with their June 22 matching benefit for **Project Response**.

It will be one of their hilarious, fabulous, turnabout shows raffles, auction items and food. So you can look forward to seeing all the boy-boys as girls and the boy-girls as boys the girl-boys as boys and, well, if the box dancers are there I don't suppose there'll be any confusing their gender! Speaking of hunky young men in skimpy outfits, have you stopped in to check out the box dancers? Once again **REBAR** is offering something for everyone – whether you like men in dresses or men in speedos on any Friday or Saturday you can see both at **REBAR**. So the Girlpalooza on Wednesdays for women and now eye candy for men on the weekend things are really heating up down south. The middle of June, on the 15th, Shelita Cox kicks off **Sunday Confessions 2 REBAR**. A T-Dance for everyone who wants to get one more night out of their weekend, or wind down from a busy day at the beach and especially for those who work Saturday nights. Six to midnight with lots of drink specials and special sights and NO COVER! **REBAR's** doing it again.



The other half, more accurately two-thirds, of the show with M&M were Spikey Dykie and Vita. Each on her own is a great entertainer and when they get together — well it all just doubles!

Vero Beach PFLAG is doing it again, too — their annual Pride dinner/dance, that is. It will be on June 14 in Vero at the Italian American Club, so here's a great way to have a wonderful dinner with a silent auction to benefit a wonderful group and wonderful company to start off a wonderful weekend. Start with **Vero Beach PFLAG** dinner then go north or south to a club and end up on Sunday down at **REBAR** for the inaugural T-Dance.

On a sad note, we were very sorry to hear of the passing of a wonderful woman, Rev. Nancy Dupree, associate pastor of Family of God Community Church in Cocoa. The celebration of the life of Rev. Nancy Dupree will be offered on Sunday, May 25th at 6:00 pm with fellowship following. The Service will be at Hope United Church of Christ, 2555 Fiske Boulevard, Rockledge. There will be no service that evening at Family of God.



In case you've missed it: With its tongue planted firmly in its cheek, ABSOLUT® VODKA, the world's most iconic vodka, unveils its first-ever LGBT-specific creative stemming from its 'In An ABSOLUT World' campaign

There is a wide-spread effort in Brevard County to gather donations for those affected by the recent fires, you can donate through the Space Coast Business Guild (www.spacecoastbusinessguild.org) or Family of God or East Coast MCC churches. It's a great way for our community to reach out to those who have lost all. It's a difficult enough time for most people and anything you can do to help will be appreciated beyond your imagining.

Gay Rights Tidbits: We are all overjoyed with the California Supreme Court recognizing that we are citizens with rights equal to other citizens. Legalizing gay marriage is a huge step forward from our largest state. For those of you who don't know, lasting social trends tend to start in California and move to the rest of the country over the next few years. We can only hope that this is the beginning of a change of tide from repression and persecution to acceptance and

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equality.

Do not be mistaken, though. This decision has galvanized the far right. They now have a rallying cry for Florida in November. Although their numbers are diminished they still have lots of money and know how to spew hate and disinformation far and wide.

So this victory in California has to be a wake up call for us here in Florida to get it in gear and get involved in defeating Amendment 2. Join Fairness for All Families or NAACP or ACLU or NOW or whatever member of the coalition you feel most comfortable with and help them get the word out: Vote No on Amendment 2.

You're not the joining kind? Well just talk to your friends and make sure they know that Amendment 2 will affect gays and non-gays alike and similar legislation in Michigan is being used to go after heterosexual domestic partner benefits. Tell everyone you know to Vote No on 2. It's a bad idea, it's bad for Florida, it's bad for you!

If you just can't bring yourself to talk with your friends, relative, neighbors, total strangers, etc. Go on line and print out the facts from VoteNoOn2.com. Meet a couple of your closest friends, ones you would feel comfortable talking about this with, and meet at a coffee shop, ice cream or burger joint — anywhere there are other people and sit down and discuss the facts amongst yourselves. If you get a little loud, that's fine. Let the eavesdroppers get an earful. The only way people's minds are changed is through direct involvement (even if it's overhearing others wondering why anyone would want to persecute fellow citizens who are not in church approved relationships — especially with so many people without health insurance, homes in foreclosure, kids in poverty, etc.).

The bottom line is that everyone needs to do whatever they can, put in whatever involvement they can to see to it that Amendment 2 is defeated. If each of us can change one

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Are your customers getting ready to head north for the summer?

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

Readers live here year round.

Put your advertising dollars where they work for you all year!

We would like to thank everyone who attended Pride of the Treasure Coast Gay Pride held at REBAR. It turned out to be a HUGE success with the outpouring of generosity from so many people who worked very hard on the event. A very special thanks to Budlight, Mike Weiss, Southern Wine and Spirits, Jackie Vena, PFLAG of Vero Beach volunteers, all the vendors, and staff of REBAR. We couldn't do it without you. We are proud to be a part of the community. See you next year!

Jim, Jerry, Randy, and Danny



Sunday Confessions @ **REBAR**
The Treasure Coast's only T-DANCE!

STARTING JUNE 15 AT 6 PM AND EVERY SUNDAY THEREAFTER!

Showtime at 9pm

Hosted by Shelita Cox with HOT male and female dancers

Giveaways!

SINFUL drink specials all day long! and FREE Food!

DID WE MENTION NO COVER!

Come confess your sins or enjoy them one night longer!

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Spiritually Speaking

What in the world is going on? As I write this, wildfires are spreading throughout Brevard and Volusia Counties. Tornados have swept across Georgia. The state of Arkansas has experienced a multitude of natural disasters this year. A major earthquake has killed thousands of people in China. And in Myanmar, after a major cyclone that has taken the lives of tens of thousands of people, the leaders of the country are doing their best to prevent assistance and food from getting to those who need it.

A few minutes ago I opened my e-mail and read where the Rev. John Hagee, of San Antonio, Texas, has apologized and changed his mind about Catholics. It seems they are no longer the “whore of Babylon” and an apostate church. This is a man who always condemned Catholics and gays and said he could never back down from his opinions. Now, he is welcoming Catholics. He still isn’t ready to admit that members of the lgbtq community might be able to be loved and accepted by God.

Then I look through my latest copy of Advocate and read how the ex-gay movement finally

conducted a survey that shows that maybe 5% of the people they have treated have become straight. They are admitting that their claims of being able to cure us haven’t come true.

Everywhere we turn, something seems to be happening that makes us stop and realize that almost everything in life has a way of turning around and catching us off-guard. While we are being encouraged to prepare our evacuation kits in case of a hurricane, many are realizing a need to have the ready as fires race toward their homes.

We have a tendency to become comfortable where we are in life. We don’t care for changes and challenges. We get happy when the price of gas drops 10 cents a gallon, only to have it go up 15 cents the next week. There are so few things in life that are constant and that we can depend on.

One of the things we can depend on is that we are loved and accepted by God. I’m not talking about the God of condemnation and rejection that some believers follow. I believe the real God is a God who loves and accepts us without regard to any labels

people put on each other. It is great to hear stories of how some of the largest churches in our nation, who once preached condemnation against our community, are now sitting down and meeting with gays, lesbians, and bisexuals (and their families) to try to understand a different point of view.

We were formed to be God’s family. God wants a family, and we were created to be a part of it. The entire Bible is the story of God building a family who will love, honor, and live with God forever. Your spiritual family is more important than your physical family because it will last forever. Our families on earth can sometimes be a wonderful gift, but they are temporary and fragile. Our spiritual family – our relationship with each other – will continue. It is a much stronger union, a more permanent bond, than blood relations.

As we go through the season of Pride Festivals around our state and even around the world, we have a lot to be proud of. Healthy families have family pride. The members are not ashamed to be recognized as part of the family. We are part of the greatest family there has ever been. Being a part of God’s family is the highest honor and the greatest privilege you will ever receive. Whenever you feel unimportant, unloved, or

insecure, remember to whom you belong. ▼

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 5 p.m. for a traditional service and at 6:30 p.m. for a contemporary service. Services in Port St. Lucie/ Ft. Pierce are at the Shriner’s Club, 4600 Oleander Ave, every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Promoting understanding, equal rights and diversity through support groups, community activities and scholarships.

Everyone is welcome!

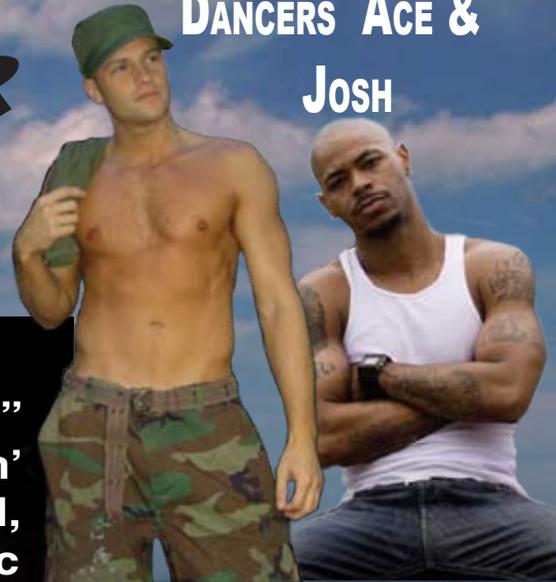
Meetings 7pm:
2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday
every month

UU Fellowship, 1590 27th Ave
www.VeroBeachPFLAG.org

PO Box 650533
Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533
772-778-9835

FRIDAY, JUNE 20: BOYS OF THUNDER "SNEAK PEEK"

BOYS OF THUNDER
DANCERS ACE &
JOSH



FLASHBACK FRIDAYS:

Leigh & Friends
Show Time 11:00

DJ SPIN "In The Mix"
spinnin'
Old School,
Freestyle & Classic
Dance Music

75¢ Domestic Drafts &

\$4 Long Islands All Night Long!

\$5 Cover All Night For Everone. 18 to Party & 21 to Drink!

June 6: Tia Milan

June 13: Page King

June 20: Kelli Randell with

BOYS OF THUNDER PREVIEW

June 27: Amber Douglas

THURSDAYS: Trash Night

Midnight Strip Contest Hip-Hop by DJ SPIN

\$2 Rum & Cokes and 50¢ Drafts 9 PM - 11 PM

No Cover With College ID For Those 21 & Up

OTHER EVENTS IN JUNE

TUESDAY, JUNE 10: PARTYLITE CANDLE PARTY 6 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 20: POT LUCK DINNER AT 5:30 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 1: PROJECT RESPONSE BENEFIT 8 PM
JOIN KELLI RANDELL AND FRIENDS TO RAISE MONEY TO
SEND LOCAL HIV/AIDS IMPACTED KIDS TO SUMMER CAMP!

SATURDAYS: "GROOVE"

The Hottest Dance Party On
The Space Coast

June 7th: Tiffany McCray with Dancer Dalani

June 14th: Leigh Shannon with
Dancers Adrian & Ivy

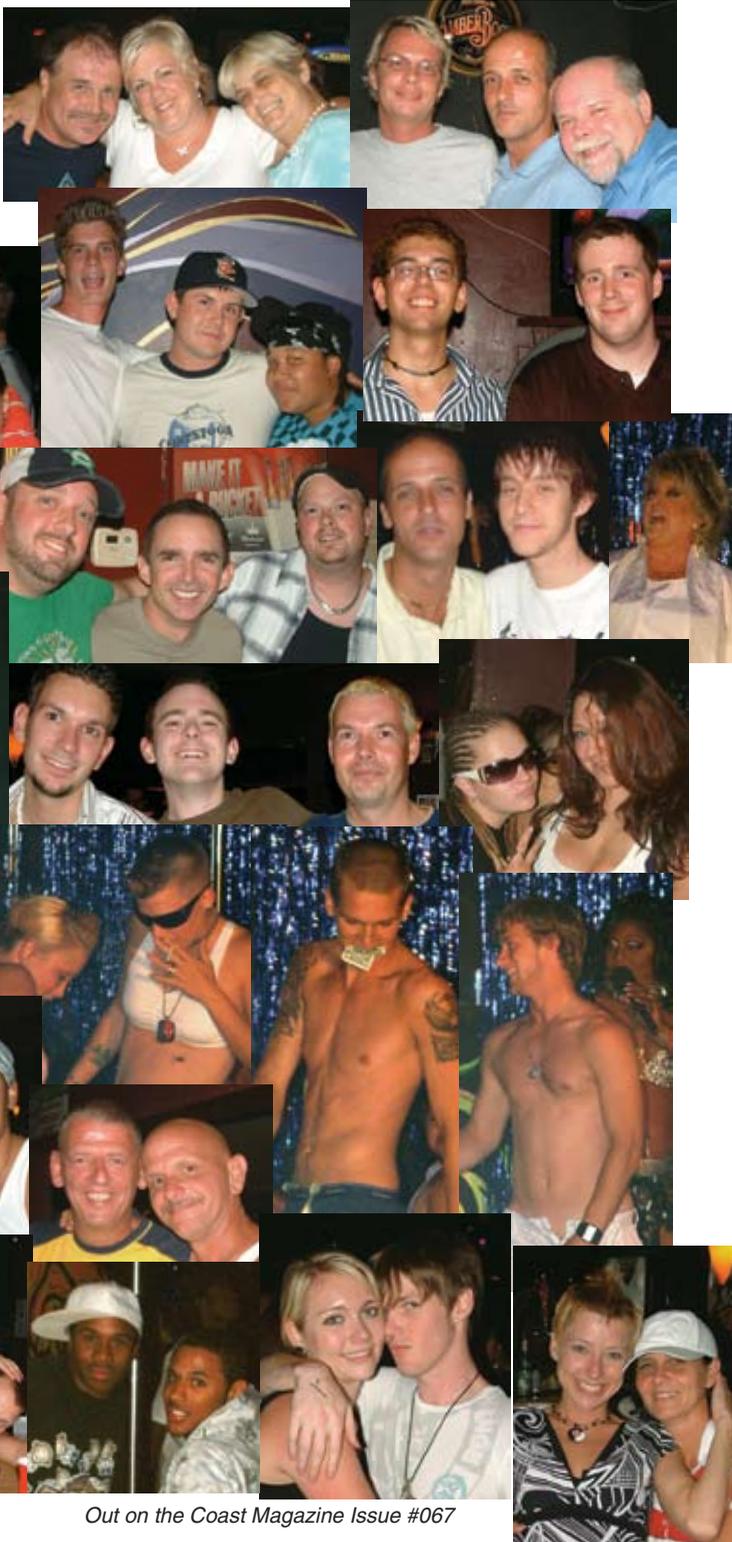
June 21st: Crystle Chambers with
Dancers Valo & Vita

June 28th: Roxxy & Foxy Rocket with
Dancers Kayden & Spikey Dykey



Cold Keg

photos: Lee



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the crowd...*

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with an ad in*

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IN THE NEWS

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

TALAHASSEE—The Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus will be holding its summer conference in Gainesville July 18-20.

With the effort to overturn Gainesville's recently enacted anti-discrimination code, we need to make our presence felt in Alachua County.

You can learn more about our conference and register on line at www.floridaglbtdemocrats.org.

WASHINGTON, DC—XM will launch "The Focus Group," the nation's first show that looks at business from the OUT side, it was announced today by the company. The groundbreaking, weekly show will be hosted by noted marketers Tim Bennett and John Nash, who will provide listeners with insights and conversation about gays and lesbians in business and the business of selling to gay and lesbian consumers based on their experience as pioneers in alternative marketing.

Featuring a wide range of guests, "The Focus Group" will air Mondays at 8 - 9 pm ET on XM's Take Five channel (XM 155), where it follows the Human Rights Campaign's live GLBT talk show "The Agenda with Joe Solmonese," which offers an eclectic mix of politics, entertainment and culture. Both shows will be replayed on Take Five on Saturdays starting at 1pm ET.

Bennett and Nash are well-respected niche marketers, both having played formative roles in defining and building the field of gay and lesbian marketing. Regularly cited in stories by both the gay and mainstream press, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Advertising Age and Brandweek, among others, Bennett and Nash also appear as featured speakers and panelists for numerous niche marketing events and conferences.

Tim Bennett served as director of Advertising

and Marketing Programs for Subaru of America, the first mainstream corporation to openly market to gay audiences, where he oversaw, guided and inspired the company's outreach to gay and lesbian consumers. John Nash and his agency, Moon City Productions, served as the creative lead for the Subaru campaign, and Nash has been involved in the development of campaigns targeting gay and lesbian consumers for insurance, retail, financial and pharmaceutical companies.

Subaru of America and Orbitz are the first sponsors to sign on with "The Focus Group."

MICHIGAN—A story in the Miami Herald reported that a Michigan Supreme Court ruling - that the state's law banning gay marriage also prohibits same-sex benefits offered to government employees - is energizing opponents of a similar amendment on Florida's November ballot.

Though the wording of Michigan's same-sex marriage ban is not identical to the proposed Amendment 2 facing Florida voters in November, opponents say it will pave the way for the same ban on domestic-partnership benefits.

"We have been clear and consistent that a court could rule this amendment could take away existing rights and benefits," said Derek Newton, campaign manager for Florida Red and Blue, the organization running the SayNo2 Campaign. "The other side has denied that, and today the Michigan Supreme Court said a similar amendment in Michigan does in fact take away existing benefits and protections from people."

The Michigan Supreme Court, upholding a ruling from a lower court, said in a 5-2 decision that the state's 2004 ban on gay marriage also bars local and state governments and public universities from offering health-insurance benefits to same-sex domestic partners.

That state's amendment, passed in 2004,



The poster features a vibrant rainbow background with a central illustration of a jukebox. Above the jukebox, the text reads "PRIDE CELEBRATION 9" and "DIVERSITY ROCKS" in large, stylized letters. Below this, it says "June 14, 2008" and "6:00 pm to midnight". In the top left corner, there is a logo for "PFLAG Vero Beach" featuring a heart with a sunburst. The bottom of the poster contains the text "Italian American Club, 1600 25th St., Vero Beach".

PFLAG Vero Beach

PRIDE CELEBRATION 9

DIVERSITY ROCKS

June 14, 2008

6:00 pm to midnight

Tickets \$30.00

NO sales at door!

For Tickets, call 772-564-7515 by June 6

Dinner Dancing Silent Auction Raffles Show

Italian American Club, 1600 25th St., Vero Beach

states that "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."

The language of Florida's Amendment 2 defines marriage as "the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

Local ordinances, in places like Broward County, Miami Beach, Key West and West Palm Beach, allow both homosexual and heterosexual couples to receive certain advantages typically given to spouses, including health insurance and hospital-visit rights.

But backers of the Florida amendment argue that it won't have any effect on domestic-partner benefits.

"There's no question in my mind that Michigan has very broad language that would preclude domestic partnerships; you can see how overreaching and board the

language is," said John Stemberger, the state chairman of Yes2Marriage.org. "We crafted the language here specifically to protect, not exclude, domestic partnerships."

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA—Virginia history was made in the Falls Church city election May 6. By being elected to the City Council, Lawrence Webb has become the first openly gay Afro-American elected official in the history of the commonwealth.

Webb, 33, an assistant dean of admissions at Mary Washington University, ran on a slate endorsed by the City's venerable civic organization, the Citizens for a Better City (CBC) along with Incumbent Mayor Robin Gardner, Incumbent Vice Mayor Lindy Hockenberry and three School Board candidates.

He wound up with 1,215 votes, 39 ahead of Hockenberry, to win one of the three seats up for grabs in the election, along with Gardner and independent.

Since moving to the City of Falls Church

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four years ago, Webb has been involved in volunteer service as a City Council appointee to the City's Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, and with the CBC and Village Preservation Society.

Webb said he informed the CBC leadership that he is gay prior to the convention and that they were supportive. But he chose not to make an issue about it as a member of the six-candidate CBC slate until just two weeks before the election.

Webb sought and received the financial backing and support of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington, D.C., an advocacy group that works for the election of openly-gay candidates at all levels of government.

Webb later said he'd also approached the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Club, based in Arlington.

The Victory Fund reported, "Lawrence ran a fantastic campaign, our donors stepped up,

and the Victory Fund staff was on the ground before the sun rose Tuesday morning to help turn out our voters. In the end, Lawrence won by just 39 votes."

Other openly-gay elected officials in Virginia include Arlington County Board member Jay Fiset and State Delegate Adam Ebbin. But Webb is the first who is also Afro-American.

In his victory statement, Webb said, "Growing up in Southern Virginia, I have always had an interest in public service. I became the first African American Student Government Association president at Shenandoah University, which helped me to feel confident in my role in politics. I wanted to seek public office but was unsure of how my sexuality would impact my electability. As I grew socially in Falls Church and met residents, I figured I would run, because my sexuality is one aspect of my life and it has not or does not hinder me from completing my job. I hope my election opens the door for others to get involved in public service. It doesn't matter if you're gay or black or both. What matters is your dedication to building

a better community, and your willingness to work hard at it."

NEW YORK CITY—A report in the *Washington Blade*, few gay Americans understand their basic rights.

Based on the responses of 768 gays, lesbians and bisexuals to a national poll given in November, analysis found that most respondents could not correctly answer four questions regarding their state and federal rights.

"I think 'ignorant' is the right word, unfortunately," said Pat Egan, an assistant professor of politics at New York University who is gay and helped write the analysis.

The poll by City University of New York's Hunter College asked whether same-sex marriages were legal in the respondent's state, if the U.S. Constitution bans same-sex marriage, whether gays can serve openly in the U.S. military and if there's a federal law barring the firing of workers based on their sexual orientation.

Egan said only 38 percent of poll respondents answered all four questions correctly.

"On one hand, that doesn't surprise us," he said. "On the other, we would have liked to see these numbers a little higher."

According to the analysis, 94 percent of respondents knew whether same-sex marriage was legal in their state, 78 percent knew the U.S. Constitution does not ban same-sex marriage, 82 percent knew they could not serve openly in the military and 59 percent knew there's no federal law that bars workers from being fired based on their sexual orientation.

"So only six in 10 lesbians, gays and bisexuals know there is no national law protecting them from employment discrimination," he said. "Considering this has been the top priority for advocates in Washington for the past 20 years, that is pretty astounding and disappointing."

Marty Rouse, national field director for Human Rights Campaign, said he was "discouraged" by the finding and that it demonstrated the need for further education.

The findings come despite information that

shows gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans are more politically active than the general population.

Egan said 33 percent of the poll's gay, lesbian and bisexual respondents indicated they were "very interested" in politics, compared to 22 percent in the general population.

The poll's respondents were likelier than people in the general population to have engaged in some kind of political activity during the preceding year.

According to the analysis, gays, lesbians and bisexuals were 7.6 percent likelier to have contacted a government official, 6.9 percent likelier to have attended a protest or rally and 3.6 percent likelier to give money to a campaign.

Egan said the increased political participation could be attributed at least partly to the coming out process, which the poll showed greatly changed many gays, lesbians and bisexuals who responded.

"There's something politically transformative about this period that people have long suspected," he said. "Now we're nailing down the changes that are happening during this period."

That period was defined in the poll as the time between a respondent's earliest coming-out experience, often when the individual first thought he or she might be gay, and the latest such experience, usually when the person first told someone he or she is gay.

According to the analysis, respondents tended to become less religious, more liberal and more interested in politics during this time, although many reported no change.

The analysis, released Wednesday, came about through ongoing review of the Hunter College poll conducted in November. It was authored by Egan; Ken Sherrill, a Hunter College political science professor; and Murray Edelman, a Rutgers College scholar and former editorial director of Voter News Service.

Other new findings from the poll, which was funded by HRC and controlled by Hunter College, showed the respondents' priorities

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continued from page 23
for gay civil rights issues.

According to the analysis, gay, lesbian and bisexual respondents generally placed laws regarding workplace discrimination hate crimes as their top issues. Efforts toward ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and securing rights for transgender people scored the lowest.

Respondents 18-25 years old indicated that marriage and adoption rights were the top issues, while respondents 65 years and older noted laws regarding hate crimes and workplace discrimination were most important.

WASHINGTON, DC—Do you want to work for the next President of the United States?

The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute is leading a community-wide effort to identify strong candidates to serve the next president of the United States. GLLI's Presidential Appointments Project serves as the talent bank for openly LGBT professionals seeking appointed positions in the next presidential administration. If you've ever considered working for the federal government, now is the time to start thinking about whether you have what it takes to work for the president and help to bring about positive change in our country. GLLI's partners in the project include the Human Rights Campaign, The Task Force, National Black Justice Coalition and the National Stonewall Democrats. For more information and to submit your resume, go to www.glli.org/presidential.

SAN FRANCISCO—An article in the *Bay Area Reporter* last month about the committee overseeing the placement of a memorial to the late Supervisor Harvey Milk in City Hall netted the group \$15,000. Organizers said last week the donations are more than enough to cover the cost of the unveiling event on May 22 and are now raising funds to create a school curriculum about Milk's legacy.

In 1977, Milk became the first out person elected to office in a major U.S. city. A year later he was gunned down in his City Hall office by former Supervisor Dan White, who also assassinated then Mayor George Moscone. While a bust of Moscone was

quickly placed in San Francisco's seat of government, efforts to honor Milk in the same way have languished for decades.

It wasn't until former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez revived the effort in 2003 that plans got under way. Several years later the bust for Milk came to fruition when the Bob Ross Foundation stepped forward and offered to pay for its costs. Ross, who died in 2003, helped found the B.A.R. in 1971 and hired Milk to pen political columns. In his political will Milk named Ross as one of a handful of people he wanted to succeed him should he be killed in office.

The Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial Committee announced last month it needed to raise at least \$10,000 to cover the costs of the ceremony scheduled to take place on Milk's birthday. He would have turned 78 this year.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, after reading the story in the April 17 issue, sent \$5,000 to offset the costs for the event.

Cain said last week that the committee is now setting its sights on raising \$10,000 to develop the curriculum on Milk. He added that the www.milkmemorial.org Web site will be redesigned into a scholarly and historic informational resource on Milk.

"We really want to do this educational component and bring in a company to create a curriculum to teach middle schoolers about Harvey Milk as well as high schoolers," said Cain. "We want to have something we can make available nationally to teach about Harvey and the gay movement."

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 22 inside City Hall's rotunda, where Milk's bust will be placed at the top of the grand staircase steps away from the entrance to the Board of Supervisors chambers.

AUSTIN, TX—Randi Shade was elected Saturday, May 10, becoming Austin's first openly gay elected city council member. Shade beat incumbent Jennifer Kim with 64% of the vote to win the Place 3 seat. She was endorsed by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"I knew it would be an uphill battle to run against an incumbent," Shade said to the

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Austin American-Statesman on Sunday. "But we built a broad coalition of support, and I think people are ready for a change."

Shade accused her opponent of being ineffective and inaccessible, criticizing her for sending misleading automated calls, according to the Victory Fund. Kim countered by saying that Shade failed to list fund-raisers on her campaign finance reports.

"I'm the most independent member of the council, and I'm proud of that," Kim said in the article. "This has been the greatest honor of my life, to serve the people of Austin."

WASHINGTON, DC—According to a *Washington Blade* reports FBI agents raided the offices of Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch, who oversees protection for federal whistleblowers, according to NPR.

Agents also searched Bloch's home as part of an investigation into obstruction of justice allegations.

Bloch, who has also been under investigation for allegedly retaliating against career employees and obstructing an investigation, was being questioned at his Washington, D.C. office on Tuesday morning, according to the NPR report.

The Blade has reported for several years on Bloch's anti-gay record and his close association with anti-gay groups.

A high-level gay employee at the U.S. Office of Special Council was among seven OSC employees that received termination notices in 2005 after refusing to be transferred to distant cities in a staff shakeup that critics called a purge of employees considered

disloyal to Bloch.

A second gay employee resigned to take a job outside OSC rather than accept the transfer ordered by Bloch, according to sources familiar with OSC.

Sources familiar with the agency said Bloch targeted a total of 12 employees — including the only two known gay staffers — for involuntary transfers, in part, because they disagreed with his decision to curtail OSC's role in investigating and adjudicating complaints of employment discrimination against gay federal workers.

Almost immediately after starting work at OSC, Bloch removed all references to OSC's role in addressing sexual orientation discrimination cases from the OSC Web site and from OSC discrimination complaint forms. Bloch initially said he did not believe OSC had legal authority to adjudicate gay cases, despite assertions by legal experts that existing federal law barred sexual orientation discrimination in the federal workforce.

In response to complaints by members of Congress, the White House issued a statement saying President Bush stands behind the Clinton administration policy of prohibiting workplace discrimination against gay federal employees. Bloch responded by saying he would abide by this policy, but the gay federal workers group GLOBE has said Bloch has failed to take adequate steps to do so.

It's unclear whether the FBI investigation is related to the cases of gay federal employees.

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Thursdays, Unity Church, 950 43rd Ave, Vero Beach TheSoberRainbow@aol.com	
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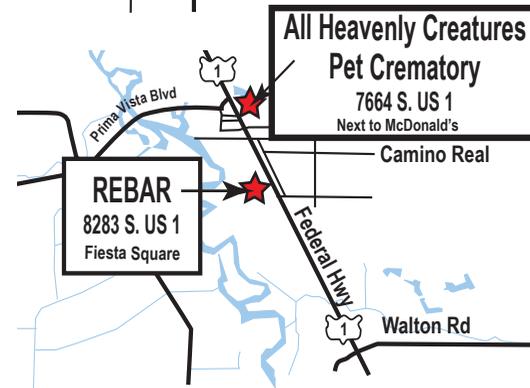


Vero Beach

Melbourne



Ft. Pierce



Port St. Lucie



Stuart

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mind, we will succeed, if each of us can change two minds we can send a message to the far right that their time is over and beating up on GLBT folk is no longer an effective get-out-the-vote issue.

In a related development we received this news release from the Human Rights Council of North Central Florida, titled: **Local PAC formed to gather petitions for ballot measure to repeal and prohibit Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Gainesville's antidiscrimination code**

Dated May 1, the release reads: A political action committee today announced it is targeting Gainesville to put a charter amendment on the March 2009 ballot to repeal and prohibit the city's antidiscrimination protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Former state legislative candidate Cain Davis, who is chair of the newly-formed political committee called Citizens for Good Public Policy, announced at a press conference in front of City Hall that the PAC is formed solely for the purpose of removing gender identity and sexual orientation from the city of Gainesville's antidiscrimination code. Cain Davis was an outspoken opponent of the city's gender identity ordinance, which was passed by the Gainesville City Commission on January 28.

Davis and a representative from the Christian Pastors Association of North Central Florida repeatedly made the claims that Gainesville's gender identity ordinance would permit men to enter women's bathrooms to harm women and children. The head of both Florida's Christian Coalition (former state Rep. Dennis Baxley of Ocala) and the Florida Family Association (David Caton) also spoke in favor of the charter amendment.

City Commissioner Craig Lowe, who was instrumental in passage of the gender identity ordinance, spoke to news media after the press conference. Commissioner Lowe said the charter amendment is designed to foment unfounded fears and divisions in our community for the purposes of political expediency. Lowe added that outside groups such as the Christian Coalition of Florida and the Florida Family Association should not be dictating to Gainesville residents what they should or should not have in their antidiscrimination laws.

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Since I have some space left, here's three pics we didn't have room for elsewhere and we wanted to share



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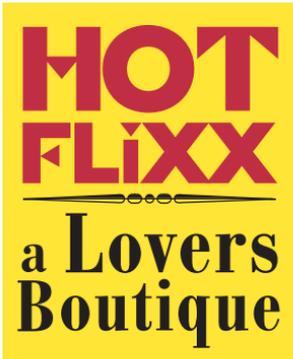
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