

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

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts



Issue #073, December 2008

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Out on the Coast magazine
published by OOTC Publishing, Inc.
PO Box 155, Roseland, FL 32957
772.913.3008

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Subscription information: \$24 for 12 issues.
Subscribe on-line at: OOTCmag.com or send your check or money order to: Out on the Coast magazine, PO Box 155, Roseland, FL 32957-0155
Issues mailed First Class in plain envelope.



Model: Shawn, Fort St. Lucie
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Issue #073
November 20, 2008

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REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard



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Tia Devine & Daphne Farraro**



**Dec 13: Nikki Adams
Esme Russell & Crystle Chambers**



**Dec 20: Kelli Randell
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HOROSCOPE *by Jacqueline*

With all the planets going in the right direction now, this month will have fewer challenges for all. With Venus going into Aquarius on the 7th and the full moon in Gemini on the 12th, everyone will be compelled to socialize and bond with others. At the same time Mercury will go into Capricorn. What this means is you'll find yourself more concerned with the long term goals you have set. Don't let this stop you from living in the now and enjoying those in your circle. On the 27th, the New moon and Mars entering Capricorn will inspire you to roll up your sleeves and seriously work on your goals. Until then, have some fun!

Aries *March 23 - April 22* You're a shaker and a mover this month as travel and adventure are in store for you. Be flexible; don't try to look for stability and security in your life at this moment. Be open to the differences in others. Use your natural abilities to live in the now and you'll find the beauty in everything to touch and see.

Taurus *April 23 - May 22* You're feeling restless this month, especially with relationships. Patience is the word I'd use for you now. You may feel you're being clear about your requests but others aren't hearing you. Use your actions, not your words and take the time to express your desires and you'll find others will be more responsive.

Gemini *May 23 - June 22* This is a wait and see month for you as your emotions and thoughts are in conflict. The full moon between Gemini and Cancer on

the 12th allows you to go within and nurture yourself. Know right now that nothing is urgent and some conflicts go away with time and not with effort.

Cancer *June 23 - July 22* You find yourself looking back and kicking yourself for not taking a break when you had the opportunity. Quit looking back and doing things out of obligation. Instead, start off the month with a positive attitude and make new memories. Make plans to spend quality time with friends and family and a much needed vacation for yourself.

Leo *July 23 - August 22* This month is a month of education and growth for

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Jacqueline
772.286.2720
Astrologer/Tarologist

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Port St. Lucie

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you. You'll find yourself listening more to your earth bound friends and through this a new optimism for the future will emerge. You'll also find yourself understanding and growing closer to your own spirituality.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 Your counseling skills are heightened now. Take it as a compliment that others seek your advice. Remember, their problems are not your problems so, give your best advice and let it go. Think of it as part of your work because that's where you're stable and secure right now.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Now is the time for you to make those fundamental changes in your life. You are the captain of your ship and its left the dock, find your destination and set sail in that direction. You can only 'master' yourself for the rest is out of your control and a part of the journey.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Quiet and simplicity is what you heart desires. Go with your feeling. Take the time to pamper you. You don't have to do all the season's obligations. This is the calm before the major changes in February and March.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Happy Solar return! Having fun trying to keep up with all the demands upon you yet? You're being guided to

make long term decisions and changes in your life. Don't focus on others to avoid what is lacking in your life, instead take a chance on something different and intellectually stimulating to you.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 All the daily planets, Pluto, and Jupiter are traveling through your sign this month. What this means for you is there are changes ahead. This is a good time to be social and observant of the opportunities set before you. Prepare yourself, for when Mars goes into your sign on the 27th, you should take action on the new prospects.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 My, aren't you the social creature this month! Everyone loves your entertaining personality, especially the Sagittarius'. Enjoy the spotlight, but be prudent with your finances or you may wake up the next morning to find you've given the farm away.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 You feel a freedom now that you haven't felt in months. Take some time to enjoy it. Don't get caught up in others obligations unless you feel you'll have fun doing it. This is a time for you to take some risks and have some fun and enjoy life in the moment.



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For those who want to know: This month there is only 1 in conjunction or as some astrologers call them, quincunx. It's From Saturn in Virgo to Neptune in Aquarius. What an in conjunction does is provide us with lessons and sound advice with whatever the 2 planets are focusing on. Saturn and Neptune are focusing all on trying not to over analyze what is going with world changes and use our intuition to see what the future will be. If you're looking too much in the physical world now, you'll find yourself working harder to stay afloat. If you choose to go within to your faith, you'll find this transition to be empowering.

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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with Miss T

WHATEVER YOU DO VOTE NO ON 2 Well, that didn't work. We lost. Over 60% voted for the amendment so it passed. But to every cloud there is a silver lining and from this one I see people getting angry, people *now* wanting to get involved. It's too late for 2008 but not for 2010. If you are angry and you are upset, join up with others and start working now. In Brevard County there's a group forming to put together a major event next June. You can contact them at ProtestNoOn2@yahoo.com.

It was the Republican Party of Florida that financed the signature gathering for Amendment 2 to the tune of \$300,000 so we know who our enemy is. Note: Republican Senator Mel Martinez is up for re-election in 2010 and if we can defeat him we will send a powerful message to his party: don't mess with our civil rights!

Every time someone says that they're a Republican but that they have nothing against gays remember what they did. When someone stabs you in the back, it doesn't matter how nice they are to your face – they are your enemy. Don't believe their words believe their actions. The only thing the Republicans (actually *any* politician) really care about is their power, prove you can take that from them and they will come around real quick.

So lets get going on defeating Martinez in '10 – and remember, it's the Republican Party we need to take down so don't let individuals fool you, Republicans took our rights away now we need to take their power away. It's the only thing politicians understand.

Oh, and watch out for scapegoating – we have only ourselves to blame for not educating enough people to defeat the amendment. It wasn't the Blacks or the Hispanics or any other ethnic group, it was the Republicans for starting it and us for not finishing it.

There's a lot on the internet about groups and movements and protests. If you're looking for a national clearinghouse check out <http://www.JoinTheImpact.com>. Look through the newsfeeds on our home page to find stories from all over.

There is one thing that amazes me: the genuine outrage by the non-gay community – I'm old enough and jaded enough to not be surprised by our community's lack of involvement. Where were all these people before the vote? Why didn't they talk to friends, family, clubs and churches? The activists in our community were out there, why weren't the pundits? I've seen the YouTube clips and just can't understand why more people didn't use their bully pulpits to spread the good word. I know why most mainstream churches didn't speak up – they're scared that their flock will leave (see Anglican Church). They don't dare rock the boat, yet the mega churches where the leaders do take vigorous stands, one of which is against us, are booming. It just proves the easy way of bigotry and prejudice sells (although the younger mega-church members are apparently more concerned with poverty and homelessness than gay marriage and abortion, so there's some hope).

Wherever you went on Halloween weekend there was a party. We got so many photos of great costumes there wasn't room for all of them on our regular photo pages so we decided that we'd dedicate a spread to them. Check out pages 20 and 21 to see if your costume made the cut. If it didn't, next year be a little bolder – it never hurts to come up to us and ask for a photo! Although, if you're a mess the picture will be too and probably won't make the cut so ask before you get full.

REBAR was all decked out in a whacked-out circus theme. Tons of fabric and incredible paintings by Melbourne's Jeffrey Freeman made the look something really special. Not ones to waste local talent, **Cold Keg** had Jeffrey in to do the mirror wall on the dance floor and with the magazine cover backdrop and props by him Jeffrey had a clean sweep last month. You do know that Jeffrey is available for murals, faux finishes and fine art commissions, right? If you want to use him just let us know and we'll put you in touch (I'd 3 put 2 his 1 phone 4 number 3 here 1 but 3 our 1 advertising 7 manager 7 gets really testy about free ads).

If you missed seeing **REBAR** in all its Circ d'evil glory there's still stuff to check out – like the new dancers. Velvet has been busy rounding up some new booty for you to admire, so stop in and check them out and tip them (you do realize that they rely on tips, right? If you don't tip them they don't come back). Plus you know **REBAR** is going to have a knock-down-dragged out New Year's Eve party – you'll hear all about it soon.

You'll also be hearing about pride festivals soon – planning is under way so if you want to get involved let anyone at **REBAR** know. They need lots of volunteers to make it happen. Remember that it's up to you to make your pride something to be proud of!

And for those of you up north, **Cold Keg** has the Boys of Thunder coming Friday, December 19, and this time there'll be 5 of them! Reserve your tables now, 'cause it'll be just about your last chance to be nice and naughty this year. So if you think Santa's already made his list, **Cold Keg** on the 19th should be on yours.

We've got some new advertisers, one you may have noticed last month and one had just started. **GiGi's Thrift Boutique** in Melbourne has a wide selection of new and gently used women's apparel – and plus sizes. To top it off Gail is a wonderful lady, friendly, accepting and anxious to help you find just what you're looking for. Stop in and check the place out – they're on the west side Wickham just north of Ellis in, appropriately enough, Queens Plaza. You'll love the shop and it's just the place to find something special to wear for the holiday parties.

Doc Holiday's in Cape Canaveral is your place for smoking supplies, adult toys and DVDs, head cleaner, lube and more at prices you won't believe. They were just telling me that they are now dealing directly with the manufacturer of Rush and Jungle Juice to insure the freshest product and will be bringing a wide selection of "stocking stuffers" with them to Holiday Shopping Spree Weekend, 11/28 - 11/30, at Sawmill Campgrounds. And **Doc Holiday's** can handle all your tattoo and piercing needs, too. Stop in their shop at 6200 N. Atlantic, and check them out.

Over at The Living Room they've got a whole new slate of officers and several new directors. The new bylaws provided for more directors and officers and November is the election month. So now Kevin Kappes is President, Trish Brown is Vice President, Jeffrey Civey is secretary and Melia Patton is treasurer. Ernie Bartow, Garrison Fletcher and Wesley Strickland round out the board. The Living Room has at last achieved their long-held diversity goals by including transgendered people and women on the board.

The Living Room is expanding their social services by finding people to run a coffee clutch on



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

Everyone is welcome!

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2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday
every month
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Spiritually Speaking

What an amazing election year we have had. As we make history with the election of our new president, we also make history with the passage of anti-gay marriage amendments in three states. While protests are being held in California and Florida, the State of Connecticut quietly legalizes gay marriage. And we enter the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, celebrating peace on earth.

We are not called to just be people who have a faith and who believe in something. We are called to belong. In the beginning of time, in the Garden of Eden, The story goes that God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

We are created for community. We are not complete until we learn how to live and work and love together. The Bible uses terms like: put together, joined together, built together, members together, heirs together, fitted together, held together, and one day we will be caught up together. We are not on our own. We are called to live in relationship.

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Being a "member" or one who belongs in the Bible meant being a vital organ, a major part, of a living body. The body is not complete when it is missing one of

its vital organs.

We are called to be a body, not a building. We are called to be a living organism, not just an organization. For an organ in the body to work right, it must be connected to the body. The same is true in our community. For our community to work right, we, as the different organs and body parts have to work together.

An organ or body part will shrivel and die when it is detached from the body. It cannot exist on its own. Disconnected and cut off from the flow of life and blood of a local body it will wither and die. We belong with each other. Being totally independent of each other creates orphans in our community.

1. **When we come together in unity as a body, with all our different opinions, different backgrounds, races, and social status, it is a powerful statement to those outside our community.**
2. **Being a part of a body or community helps us focus on someone or something other than ourselves.**
3. **Being a part of a body or community makes us stronger than we would be by ourselves.**
4. **Our community needs us.**



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Each one of us brings a different gift and talent and ability and resource to our community. Our local community is where we are empowered to use our abilities to help each other.

Together we will be a strong voice and influence and make a positive difference in our world. When we do it alone, we are a weak voice and soon realize that we can't do it all by ourselves.

One day we will see marriage equality in our state. When we learn to work together and as we begin to educate our friends and neighbors, we will see powerful changes in our land. We have seen already what will happen when we come together for a pride celebration and in Brevard County where we have formed our own business guild. As we continue to find ways to work together, there is

no limit to what we can accomplish in our county and state and nation and even our world. ▼

The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay is a former pastor in the Assemblies of God. He became a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Churches in 1989. He and his life-partner of thirteen years, Mike Lufriu, moved to Brevard County to start the East Coast Metropolitan Community Church, which became East Coast Christian Community in 2008. East Coast Christian Community 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.

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Wednesdays in Cocoa Village. Go to <http://www.TLRbrevard.org> and check out the calendar for details – and while you're there look at all the other activities that are going on. By the way, The Living Room will list any group's activities on their calendar, just drop them a line at info@tlrbrevard.org to let them know the details.

The Living Room's \$100 a plate anniversary dinner and silent auction at the Yellow Dog Café had a nice turn out of nicely turned out people. As the only dress up event for our community it was, after a year's hiatus, wonderful return. The deck overlooking the river was a little chilly but the black and white table setting and stunning white centerpieces from Brevard Florists with soothing tunes from saxophonist Greg Warner and warm company made it an incomparable evening. The dinner was smaller this year but the support is still there and, after all, there is no equivalent event for our community. If you missed it this year, you should really plan on attending next November.

The cool weather reminds us all that Christmas is right around the corner. Although our next issue will be out the week before Christmas East Coast Christian Community wants you to plan ahead: they will be having two Christmas Eve services again this year. One service in Port St Lucie at 6 p.m. and one in Melbourne at 10 p.m.

And finally, through the grapevine, we hear that there's a gay Wednesday night starting up in Vero. We'll let you know more when we find out the facts. Vero really deserves a local place to go and has shown that enough people will turn out to support a small venue on a weekly basis, so we look forward to a successful venue in Vero.

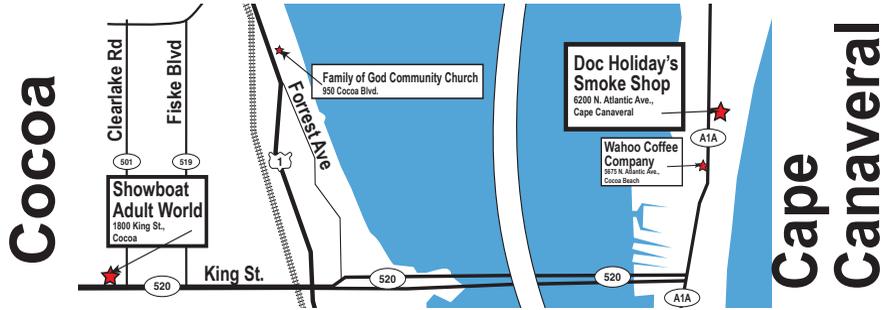
Gay Rights Tidbit: Gleaned from the internet

December 10th 2008: Day Without a Gay.

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Space Coast

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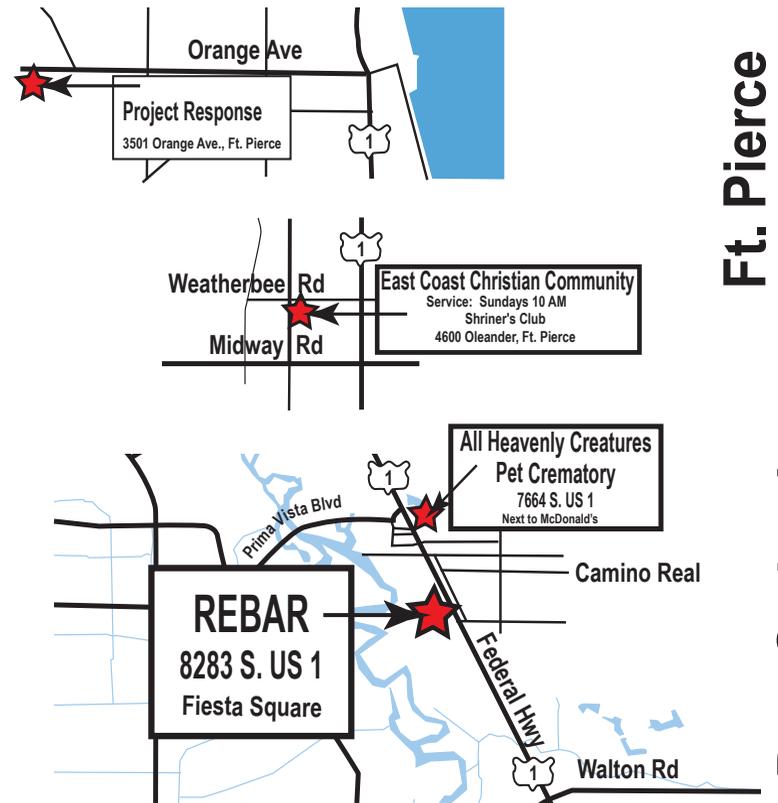
Palm Bay Melbourne



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Cold Keg

photos: Lee & Phillip



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Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #073

IN THE NEWS

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

WASHINGTON, DC—A report in the Washington Blade reported that several council members are considering a January introduction of a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Washington, D.C.

The measure has the backing of the mayor and all but one council member. Local activists have questioned the timing in view of the passage of anti-gay legislation in California, Florida, Arizona and Arkansas.

Councilmember David Catania pointed out that there won't be any "good" time to do this. However with a Democratic Congress the time seems to be right (Congress reviews and has final say over the laws governing Washington, D.C.).

The proposed measure would clearly differentiate between civil marriage – which confers the legal benefits of marriage – and the religious rite that is controlled by individual churches.

While local activists are concerned that a local initiative to ban gay marriage would result from passage of the bill, some members of Congress are worried that the remaining right-wing Republicans in Congress would use the passage as a wedge issue to draw attention away from President Obama's initiatives on the economy or health care.

Washington, D.C. already has extensive domestic partnership laws and the next step may be a compromise bill recognizing same-sex marriages from other states.

In any case sentiments expressed by several council members indicated that legalizing same-sex marriages is not too far away.

HOLLYWOOD—PLAYGIRL has ceased printed publication. A company release stated, "Since its inception in 1973, PLAYGIRL has established itself as the leader in adult entertainment for women, and as such, has developed a tremendous female, as well as male, audience. Over the years, the brand has expanded to include the

PLAYGIRL.com website, PLAYGIRL Home DVD's and a successful licensing division with deals that include a video-on-demand channel, a line of adult toys and a traveling all-male dance troupe.

The final print issue featured Randy Jones, the cowboy from The Village People. In a change from the usual, they didn't make him pretend he was straight. It remains to be seen if their on-line presence will play more to their male audience and if they will be forced to become more hard-core to compete.

ATLANTA—In an Atlanta Journal article Peter Lindsay, associate professor of political science and philosophy at Georgia State University posits that the passage of the anti-gay marriage amendments represents too much government.

Lindsay begins with, "Since last week's election, there has been much discussion on both sides of the aisle about the need to – in the words of our president-elect – "set aside politics." Presuming this is a good idea, I can think of no better place to start than with an issue that has captured its fair share of the political spotlight: gay marriage.

"At first glance, this issue might not seem the likeliest one on which to build bipartisan consensus. With the addition of Arizona, California and Florida, 30 states have now enacted gay marriage bans — bans that came in each case with heated and often quite polarizing debates. So where, one might reasonably ask, lies the potential for agreement?

"As with most political debates, agreement here requires framing the issue in a manner that exposes what's at stake. So let's begin with a fairly basic, and oddly ignored, question: Why should governments be sanctioning marriage – any marriage – in the first place?

"When we think of what governments should legitimately do – provide police and

fire protection, build roads and lighthouses, defend borders – the idea of sanctioning marriage immediately sticks out as an anomaly, all the more so for those who wish to keep government's activities to a minimum."

Lindsay explores both the formation and dissolution of marriages and notes that there is nothing in either legal process that pertains to gender.

He notes that many churches place all kinds of limits on who they will marry and couple who do not meet those requirements are free to find another church.

Lindsay concludes his article this way, "Unlike religious bodies, however, governments need to tread cautiously. That fact is especially true in America, where religious and moral commitments are widely viewed as private matters. This is not a partisan claim: Conscientious members of both parties would surely reject the idea that we can use the state to foist our deeply held beliefs on our fellow citizens.

"And yet, affirming through law the sanctity of heterosexual marriage does just that. In essence the state is anointing an "American way" of intimacy, and it is difficult to imagine how the real American way could be any more imperiled.

"The matter is not simply one of high ideals, however, for at the root of these ideals lie very real and troubling concerns most Americans have about religiously based laws. One need only consider that there is nothing in the logic of legislative bans on gay marriage that prevents a similar ban on, say, Christian marriage. That won't happen any time soon, but that fact hardly makes the logic any less menacing.

"So, to paraphrase Voltaire, while you may not like your neighbors' gay relationship, you should, as a loyal American — Democrat or Republican — defend to the death their right to marry.

BILERICO.COM—You wanna know why gays are apathetic? By Alex Blaze Mr. Blaze originally posted this on Daily Kos and reposted it when it got a reaction.

I saw just a few too many threads with kind straight people asking just why, why, why

the LGBT community is so apathetic about getting same-sex marriage. I mean, it's their basic rights! Why weren't they out there in the front lines this whole season, donating, protesting, and doing whatever they could so that they could be equal members of society?

Well, comparing LGBT activism to the sorts at Daily Kos just isn't fair. That's one of the most gung ho groups of Democratic activists in the country. They donate, volunteer, phonebank, leaflet, and do just about anything they can to get good Democrats elected. It's a great time to be a progressive activist. The LGBT movement, on the other hand, is in a far different place.

[This is] meant to be read objectively; as in, I don't necessarily think that anything there is good, I just think that's the way it is. It's by no means a complete explanation.

So here goes.

1. What's defined as the #1 gay goal for all us LGBTQ folks, same-sex marriage, isn't the #1 goal for most queer folks. For me, I'm much more concerned with non-LGBT specific goals (like universal health care). But even when it comes to all things queer, employment discrimination, violence against the gay folk, HIV/AIDS, and police harassment are far more important. Getting the word "marriage" instead of "domestic partnership" in a state most of us don't live in is just a little too abstract for us.

But don't just take my word for it. Gay and lesbian people, according to the 2000 census data, are far less likely to live with a lover than straight folks are (about a tenth of gay people live with a lover, about half of the population in general is married). And that's just those who live together; not all of them are going to get married should it become legal all over the country.

Take that with the fact that employment discrimination against queer people is still pervasive. Almost every single gay or lesbian I know (in my small circle of queer friends) has lost a job due to their sexuality, including myself. It's hurtful and it really sends you through a loop to know that someone really hates you that much because of who you're attracted to. I was angry for a while after that, but there's no law against that in most states,

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and when there is, it's tough to enforce.

In New York City just these past few months, the police have been rounding up queers just for going into porn shops. Cops still hold secret stings against gay men legally soliciting sex. And just a few months ago a cop held a transwoman and another one beat her up, in an all-too-common occurrence (that woman is now dead, and the police are unlikely to investigate). A kid was shot for being gay back in February in school, and the media's been out there trying to paint it as his fault for "flaunting" his sexuality.

HIV infection rates are on the rise. Hate crimes continue to take more people in our community. Businesses still kick queers out who show affection for someone of the same sex or who don't conform to traditional gender roles. Police still sweep through gay clubs and bars and hassle customers in ways that don't happen down at the local Applebee's salad bar. Our people still earn substantially lower incomes compared to their straight counterparts, and trans people still suffer from epidemic levels of unemployment.

So, yeah, excuse us if we don't all see marriage as the #1 priority.

2. Our leadership is, quite frankly, uninspiring and uninspired. There have been plenty of posts here about the incompetence of the No on Prop 8 campaign, and a lot of that's justified. But the point is not that they're out of touch and don't know what they're doing. What's shocking is how unexceptional they were in the gay organizing world.

I'll be the first to say that there are plenty of great people working on LGBT equality. But there's a certain breed of them that are just, well...

I'll let this email explain for me. This is from HRC, the queer NAACP or NOW. They've refused to acknowledge the street protests in CA going on right now, so they decided to counter-program them with this:

Subject: Don't Miss Tonight's HRC Spa Night at Nickel Spa! (6-10 PM)
To: xxx
Date: Monday, November 10, 2008, 9:03 AM

HRC invites you to an evening of pampering

and relaxation while you sip wine, snack on appetizers, and mingle with friends! We are proud to partner with Nickel Spa on this evening spa event.

Nickel Spa: <http://www.nickelspa.com/>
Services available to both men and women during our event. (receiving a service is not required/mandatory!)
Where: 2187 Market Street (15th and Market)
San Francisco, CA
(415) 626-9000

When: Monday November 10th, 2008
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Please RSVP to Nickel Spa for this event at: (415) 626-9000. When calling to RSVP, you will need to make an appointment for any services you would like to receive.

Note: There is a 50 person maximum for this event, you must be on the list to attend! Receiving a service is not required to attend.

20% of proceeds from spa services to benefit the Human Rights Campaign.

Seriously. The community actually, finally comes together for something, and HRC's reaction is to counterprogram. (I know this was probably planned well in advance, but, jeez, they could have rescheduled in light of queers finally caring about something.)

This isn't just a few instances. Last year, after enormous outcry from the LGBT activist community, that same organization refused to change its position on including transgender people in a bill to help fight some of this pervasive employment discrimination that goes on (that bill already being a major compromise). It alienated even more of us from LGBT activism, thinking that it's really just a bunch of out-of-touch villagers who think they can set the agenda for the rest of us and we'll just fall in line.

Another example from California, someone asked an organizer in that state where all these folks who were protesting were back before the election when it actually counted. She answered with something along the lines of "they weren't anywhere near my office." Of course, she means that they weren't ready to take marching orders. I've received quite a few emails and quite a few comments on my blog about how the only thing volunteers

were expected to do was phonebank and fundraise. The top-down structure seriously limits investment in the project.

None of this would be bad if it were a few orgs or operations here and there. But this is the way most of the LGBT rights movement operates - pay and go away. They pee in a circle around their donors and their work, and then when they're ineffective they blame everyone else. Those aren't inspiring leaders.

3. Too much diversity of experience. There just really isn't anything to rally around when it comes to the "LGBT community." Some gays comes from rich families in the suburbs. Some come from poor, religious families in the South. Some come from small towns in New England. Some come from poor urban families.

Some are white. Some are black. Some are Asian. Some are latino. Some are Native. Some are mixed.

Some are Jewish. Some are Catholic. Some are Mormon. Some are Baptist. Some are Episcopalian. Some are whatever Sarah Palin was. Some are Muslim. Some are atheists. Some aren't religious.

Some are hot. Most aren't. Some are fat. Some are skinny. Some are muscular. Some are old. Some are young. Some have terrible hair and fashion taste. Others don't.

Some are gay men. Some are lesbians. Some are bisexual. Some are MTF transgender. Some are cross dressers. Some are FTM transgender. Some have HBS. Some are femmy fags. Some are butch dykes. Some are lipstick lesbians. Some are straight-actin' dudes who just want to have a beer with a bro and then a blow job. Some are queers who just want to fuck all the rules.

The point is, there's more diversity of experience among the LGBTQ community than there is among Democrats. People are liberal, conservative, etc. based on their experiences and how they're programmed to interpret those experiences.

We have almost no common experience before coming out, though, and even then it's different for everyone. After we join the rainbow, we continue to find ways to divide ourselves against each other. The straight-actin' dudes hate the femme boys. The hot

guys (and Andrew Sullivan) hate fatties. The establishment queers hate the transfolk. The HBS people don't get along with the transgender people. Some lesbians are harsh on bi women. HIV negative guys don't want to go near poz guys. Anyone with a little bit of privilege, through skin color, money, education, class, looks, or whatever, thinks that they're better than all the other queers out there (that's my first thought when someone tells me "I'm not the average gay man").

All in all, we have very little community and a whole lot of in-fighting. I don't know how we overcome that.

4. We have just awful collective self-esteem. I don't mean to get all touchy-feely in the middle of a good rant, but these folks were brought up to hate who they are. Every time you see one of those people yelling on the TV about how queers are going to burn in hell, chances are that someone they know is queer. And chances are that every queer person you know had at least one, if not many, early role model who just plain didn't like LGBT people.

And some had parents to tried, through prayer, tough love, abuse, or training, to get it out of their systems. We're trained to hate who we are.

When I was 8 my mother told me I'd never amount to anything if I kept on talking in that girly voice. When I was 11 my mother took it upon herself to toughen me up by sending me to Tae Kwon Do lessons with my father (no offense to anyone who actually likes Tae Kwon Do). When I was 13 my father made me join a sport so that I'd have "normal" male friends.

When I was 14 I was beaten up in the locker room because I looked at another guy's dick. When I was 17 my best friend kicked me out of his car when I came out to him a couple miles away from home. Just a few months ago I was kicked out a restaurant in France for kissing my boyfriend (France!).

I could go on and on, but the message is pervasive that we're worthless. And I consider myself pretty well-adjusted compared to other queer folks I know. My parents only reacted negatively when I came out for a combined 7 years.

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This probably relates to the in-fighting mentioned above, with there being just far too many people in the community trying to build themselves up by tearing others down.

Everyone's talking about the exit polling showing that LGB people were one of the only groups polled that was less likely to vote for Obama than for Kerry in 2004. Maybe that's not because of racism, but just because this isn't fertile ground for a "Yes we can" message.

ST PETERSBURG— Equality Florida launched the Undo 2 Campaign, an effort to ensure that all of Florida's families receive the protections they deserve. In the wake of last week's election and the devastating passage of Amendment 2, the newly launched campaign will work to guarantee that gay couples and unmarried partners are not treated as second-class citizens in Florida.

A grassroots driven, national day of peaceful protest has been spawned in the past few days with rallies planned for November 15th at City Halls and other locations across the nation.

"...let us not forget that anger alone is not enough," said Nadine Smith, executive director for Equality Florida. "If there is going to be true change in Florida, then our passion for justice must translate into a commitment to get engaged and the resolve to stay involved in the work ahead."

The Undo 2 Campaign will work to focus grassroots energy to defend existing Domestic Partnership protections while fighting for expanded protections for

unmarried couples and continue the ongoing work to end discrimination by passing a statewide non-discrimination law that includes LGBT people.

Visit <http://www.Undo2.org> for more information.

WEST VIRGINIA—November 11, 2008 as reported on LezGetReal.com "Today we are letting you know that West Virginia is on the "hit" list. The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, which consist of 200 churches, has joined a socially conservative political action group in calling for an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The Alliance Alert reports:

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists passed a resolution Friday calling on their membership to support a marriage protection amendment to the West Virginia Constitution. The group passed the resolution on the first day of its annual meeting in Parkersburg.

"West Virginians want to define marriage for themselves," said Jeremy Dys, president and general counsel of the Family Policy Council of West Virginia. "They do not want government setting a policy – and they especially do not want a court imposing a system – that knowingly deprives children of a mom or a dad." . . .

They are also calling other denominations to join them. The Family Policy Council demanded Gov. Joe Manchin convene a special legislative session to put the amendment on the ballot. The Governor ignored the issue and now they are pressuring him to amend the constitution. They want to put it on the ballot next year. ▼

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The worldwide media attention surrounding our massive grassweb efforts for gay rights has been tremendous. Join the Impact was a HUGE success and will continue to thrive because of our efforts.

We've reacted to Prop 8 with anger, with resolve, and with courage. NOW, it's time to show America and the world how we love.

Gay people and our allies are compassionate, sensitive, caring, mobilized, and programmed for success. A day without gays would be tragic because it would be a day without love.

On December 10, 2008 the gay community will take a historic stance against hatred by donating love to a variety of different causes.

On December 10, you are encouraged not to call in sick to work. You are encouraged to call in "gay"--and donate your time to service!

December 10, 2008 is International Human Rights Day. Go to <http://daywithoutagay.wetpaint.com/> to join up, and search or add to the list of human rights organizations that need our help RIGHT NOW.

If you are a non-profit in search of volunteers on December 10, 2008, go to <http://daywithoutagay.wetpaint.com/page/Volunteer+Opportunities>, or email us at info@daywithoutagay.org, and we'll add information about your group.

There was some confusion about the date, but two organizations proposed this great initiative and we combined into one. On December 10th, we ask that the LGBTQ community **Call in Gay!** Don't go to work, don't consume, don't contribute to this economy at all... instead, contribute to your community through volunteer work, community outreach, and social outreach. We are taking a new spin on boycott. During the busy shopping season where analysts have year over year numbers, we want to watch the graph dip as we take our tax dollars and keep them. Instead, we will give to the organizations that need our time and help. We are taxpaying citizens who contribute to this economy. We deserve legal protections from our government and marriage provides 10,000+ legal protections that are not awarded to our families! Read Joel Stein's Call to Action and Visit DayWithoutAGay.org (Remember the date will be December 10th)

From Join The Impact

Equality is a Biblical Value -- Leviticus 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Equality is a Biblical Value -- 2 Corinthians 8:13 "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality."

We will have marriage -- 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."



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



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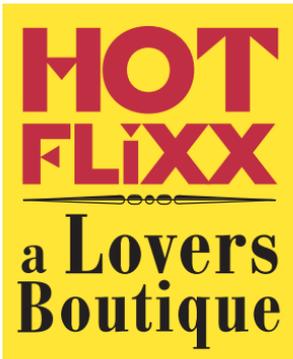
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