

# OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts

Issue #012, October 2003



**Vero Beach PFLAG  
President Kevin Casey  
rides for the Treasure  
Coast in *Bike It &  
B.E.A.R. It* — see box  
on page 5.**

**Will there be a GSA  
in Brevard County?  
See page 8**





**Lee A. Newell II**  
**772.663.3450**

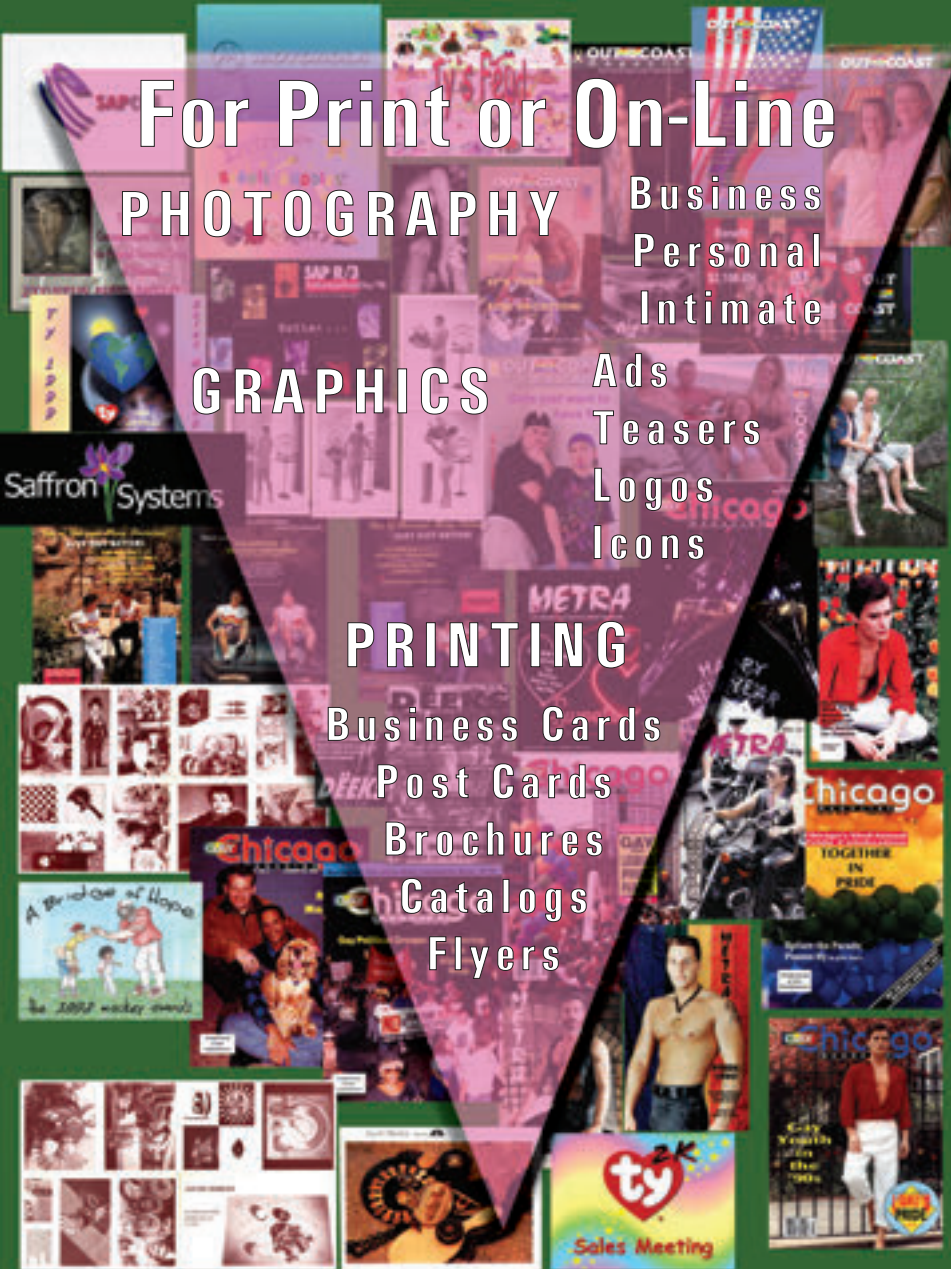
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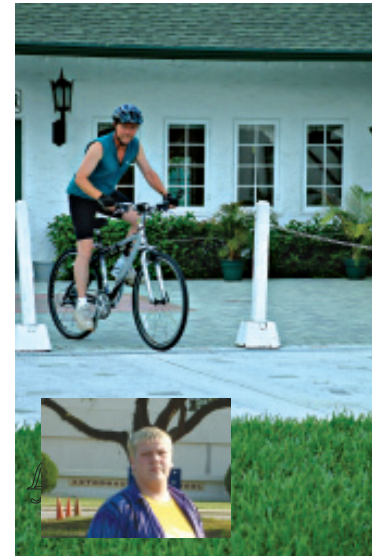


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# DOC TALK

**Raquel Rodriguez, M.D.**

## Low Back Pain

Most back pain occurs in the lower back area called the lumbosacral region of the spine. Low back pain is very common among adults and is often caused by overuse and muscle strain or injury. Other less common causes of low back pain include illness and spinal deformity.

Back pain is often referred to as acute or chronic; however, there are different opinions about how these terms are defined. In general, acute low back pain lasts a short time (less than 3 months), and chronic low back pain lasts a long time (more than 3 months) and often returns. Fortunately, most cases of low back pain are considered acute, and the pain goes away within 4 to 6 weeks.

Treatment for low back pain is usually effective. It includes staying active and continuing normal activities; avoiding activities that may increase or cause back pain;

taking nonprescription pain relievers, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs); and doing stretching and strengthening exercises for the back, abdomen and legs

Treatment is less effective for chronic low back pain. Chronic low back pain is harder to treat because it may involve limitation of normal activities, decreased quality of life, the potential for increasingly strong pain medications and alcohol abuse, and symptoms of depression.

Surgery is not indicated for most causes of low back pain. Certain conditions that cause low back pain, such as a herniated disc, may benefit from surgery. However, even in these cases, most people will improve without surgery.

The most common causes of low back pain are:

Injury caused by strain to muscles, ligaments, facet joints, or the sacroiliac joint. This can be the result of an injury or overuse.

Pressure on nerve roots in the spinal canal. Nerve root compression may be caused by:

- A herniated disc.
- Osteoarthritis, (facet joint degeneration, spondylolysis).
- Spinal stenosis.
- Spinal deformities, including curvature problems such as scoliosis and kyphosis (unless severe, these rarely cause symptoms).
- Deformities or defects in parts of the vertebrae that cause one vertebra to slip forward on top of the one below it, resulting in misalignment of the bones of the spine (spondylolisthesis).
- Compression fracture.

Fractures of the vertebrae caused by injuries (from auto accidents, falls from significant heights, direct blows to the spine, or blows that transmit significant force to the spine such as being struck on top of the head or falling onto the buttocks). In a person who has osteoporosis, even a small amount of force put on the spine, such as from a sneeze, may cause a compression fracture.

Other medical conditions may cause low back pain, such as:

- Pelvic Inflammatory disease

- Aortic aneurism.
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Gallbladder disease.
- Pancreatitis.

Most low back pain is the result of some combination of overuse and muscle strain or injury to the muscles and ligaments that support the spine. Some experts believe that over time, chronic strain can lead to an overall "imbalance" in the structure of the spine. The result is a constant tension on the muscles, ligaments, bones, and discs that may make the back more susceptible to injury.

The causes of low back pain may be interrelated. For example, when muscles or ligaments are strained, the likelihood of injury to the discs is increased.

*Dr. Rodriguez attended medical school in the Dominican Republic and her Internal Medicine training was in New York at St. Barnabas Hospital, affiliated with Cornell University. Dr. Rodriguez is board certified in internal medicine. Walk in patients are welcome at her general practice, located in the Bay Street Plaza, Suite 11, on US 1 in Roseland, just north of Sebastian. Phone 772-589-0300 for an appointment.*



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# HOROSCOPE

by Jacqueline

**October 10th brings in the full Moon in Aries. This means its time to act on what was revealed last month, especially as it pertains to one to one relationships with the sun being in Libra. Be careful not to act naively or with your sexual desires especially around the 25th when the New moon in Scorpio arrives. This moon will bring your strong desires into play. It is a time to transform and change how you feel about your hopes, desires, and dreams.**

**Aries** With Mars going direct again you don't have to worry about accidents as much as last month. It is now time to take action on your emotions. There is no need to think logically. Start on those long-range desires and don't worry how long it will take to achieve them. If you do, you'll achieve it before you know it!

**Taurus** This month Venus is in Libra and Love will be in the air. Be careful not to get caught up in the ethers. It will be difficult to balance reality and fantasy, especially after the 9th when your ruling planet goes into Scorpio. Its a good time to take the a moment to investigate how you can obtain your desires.

**Gemini** "Finally" full steam ahead. Unlike last month, this is a busy month for you. With Mercury direct and going through Virgo, Libra, and by the end of the month ending up in Scorpio, you are the social butterfly again. Remember not to burn yourself out. Take some time, especially around the end of the month to do something indulgent to relax.

**Cancer** The beginning of the month is a time to relax and nurture you. Believe me, by the end of the month you will thank me. Things will be popping up without notice and you will feel obligated to handle them. With Saturn in your sign going retrograde on the 25th with the new moon, your emotions will be challenged. Keep your eye on where the situation is going and the end result. The day to day details will challenge your sanity.

**Leo** Now is the time to find out whether that last month's romance is love or lust. Your equilibrium may be off so wait until after the 20th to make that decision. This month is a good time to socialize on a one to one basis. You'll feel more comfortable with your close friends.

**Virgo** Work is still the most important thing for you this month, however your workload will be lighter. Instead of using your free time to analyze your work or clean your house, go out and enjoy social life a little bit more. You'll find that the conversations you have will be helpful in the decisions you will make.

**Libra** Happy Birthday!!! This is the time for you to shine. Your creative ideas are well received this month. Be careful to not get caught up in constantly solving other people's problems. Nothing is urgent. Strive for that balance in your life and take the time to enjoy the beauty around you.

**Scorpio** Starting with Venus going into your sign, the beginning of the month, you



will find yourself drawing inward and examining where you are going in life and what you truly love. You will come out of that shell by the weekend of the 23rd, when the sun, mercury and full moon enter Scorpio. Take that time to socialize and enjoy the notoriety.

**Sagittarius** Your ruling planet this month is free to socialize. However, your influence is still on work. Try to balance your socialization by making new contacts for your career. Take the time to listen to the opinions of others, as they will guide you closer to obtaining your goals.

**Capricorn** Don't let your financial obligations get you down this month. Your worries are unfounded. The more you work the better you will feel. You will be striving this month to balance your relationship and your obligations. Feel secure in the fact that your financial situation is sound and enjoy some Leisure time with your mate.


**Aquarius** Now that you have found your routine, you find yourself with a desire to spend more time alone. Before the 20th of the month, socialize more on a one-to-one basis and you'll be fulfilled by meaningful conversation regarding basic philosophies and your long-range goals. time to use the information you have gathered to start that new path.

**Pisces** On the 22nd your ruling planet finally goes direct. This is when you will kick into high gear. However, because Neptune is still retrograde, you will feel anxious at the beginning of the month. You need the support of others during this time to relieve a little bit of that anxiety. Otherwise, just go with the flow.

For those who want to know:

When a planet stops to recharge, it appears in our sky that the planet is going backwards. This is what we call a retrograde. When a planet is retrograde, it is a good time to clean things up. All planets with the exception of the sun and moon go retrograde.

Monthly Horoscope by Jacqueline with offices in Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, and West Palm Beach. For more information on Tarot, Astrology, or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720



**Jacqueline**  
**772.286.2720**  
 Astrologer/Tarologist

# Tea Time

with Miss T

Quick, what's a GSA? Ok, stop guessing, it's a Gay Straight Alliance, you know, a high school club, like the chess club, or bible club, or cheerleaders club. Except it isn't. Seems there's quite a problem finding faculty sponsors and keeping the club going after its started – if it gets started. Currently Brevard high schools try to include a GSA as part of a Diversity Club so they can avoid that nasty G word. And we know how open the racial minorities are to our discrimination issues – Coretta Scott King, notably, aside. It just isn't going to work.

In theory it sounds good. But when you think about putting GLBT white kids who want to talk about being called a fag and lez and being spit upon in a mostly minority group more interested in dealing with how the white majority has oppressed them... Well, it's going to be as effective as expecting the GLBT minority students to out themselves in a group of Blacks and Hispanics that are even less accepting than the white community. What a mess! And as everyone keeps telling me: "This area is just so conservative this won't work."

Fortunately at least one youth in the area believes in his ability to change things. Drake Austin, pictured on the cover, is going to start a GSA at Astronaut High School in Titusville. A junior, he has a group of approximately 15 that wants to have their own club to deal with their own issues, just like other groups have their own club to deal with their issues.

He doesn't want a closeted group trying to deal with coming out issues, a hidden group trying to deal with public oppression, he wants an out group dealing with being out issues. Luckily, he has remarkable parents who support him 100%. It was heart-warming to see parents concerned, understanding and determined to help their gay child. Not something I remember.

Unfortunately Astronaut HS has not proved very supportive. The first-year teacher that was going to sponsor the GSA withdrew after the issue was discussed at a staff meeting. I was unable to reach Astronaut HS principal, Dr. Krupp, for comment by deadline.

I did speak to the principal at Cocoa Beach HS, and learned that their GSA was melded into their Diversity club this year. According to Austin, the Diversity club at Satellite HS is no longer active. Austin said the Satellite Beach HS group was supposed to be a GSA, but the founder acceded to the school's wishes, and made it a Diversity club. That explains the Satellite HS listing on the GLSEN web site (which lists GSAs).

Austin's own experience at Astronaut is something which far too many of us can relate: high school memories of the hurt of the epithet "faggot!" uttered at them or others. More than a few of us have experienced the personal violation of vandalism. Austin's experience was not a defaced locker or personal property, it was his school band instrument. Austin is the only string bass player at Astronaut HS. Recently it was discovered that someone urinated in it.

Now we're talking major trouble, as the expense the school will have to incur to restore the instrument means the police are involved. Remembering high school, I predict that the culprit will be found. How the adults handle the situation is the real question. We all know whom the perpetrator's friends and high school clique will blame for their friends' problem. What do you bet the kid who did it was egged on by others, a test of "manhood," a dare? What will be their reaction?

Will this homophobia be addressed to the student body as a whole to head off retribution? I doubt it. Will this stop Austin? No. Will this help educate people about what it's like to be GLBT? Yes.

Whatever the outcome, Austin has succeeded because more people have had to deal with a GLBT issue. Some will change their opinion; others will learn to deal with true diversity; some will never change. But there will be a net gain in understanding, an opening for the future. Some change has been accomplished already.

Drake Austin's parents have filed an appeal to Dr. Krupp's rejection of the formation of a GSA at Astronaut HS. They have also filed with the ACLU so the school knows they are serious. Hopefully this thing can be worked out without much expense to our already decimated school budgets. A determined individual can effect great change if he stays the course and a bunch of addle headed adults can make a few law firms very rich.

In my humble opinion, the perpetrator's parents should pay for the damages; the perpetrator and his buddies should have to do, say 100 hours at Project Response or an AIDS hospice. The GSA should be formed forthwith and the fact announced to the whole school to prove that the school isn't going to put up with such antics. I anticipate over-reaction

by everyone and the potential for very large legal fees and much media posturing by Christian Fundamentalists.

And on a lighter note: a little tea. Since I used most of my column preaching, I'll have to be brief.

Speaking of preachers, congratulations to Mark Osdras, who was ordained, Sunday, September 21. The Family of God in Christ Church in Cocoa now has an ordained leader. We all rejoice at the investiture of one who believes in the man of love from Nazareth rather than the vengeful God of the Sinai.

**The Drama Club** is going through some changes, including being over 21 only now, but the place is still delivering big time parties and shows. If you think Alicia and Sassy make credible girls, wait until you see them on Turnabout night on Halloween. There will be some pretty incredible performances as staff does their turn on the stage. **The Drama Club** is doing their Halloween party on Friday, November 1, but there will be a costume contest each night with cash prizes. So it's that time of year boys and girls, get ready for your chance to win \$\$ up and down the coast. See their ad on page 11 for details.

It's incredible, the work I do to get all these details for you. For instance, do you know how long it took for me to find out all this about **The Cold Keg**? Just wanted to let you know about upcoming events. On Saturday, September 27th we will be having our next big theme party by celebrating carnival (like in Rio). With Carnival dancers, guest DJ's, drink specials and TONS of beads. Fridays in October will be filled with 3 CD release parties starting out on the 3rd with the new CD by Paul Oakenfold: Great Wall. Then starting in November on Fridays get ready for American Newcomer 2003. The ultimate talent search. A six week talent competition worth lots of cash and prizes. Any talent welcome. Then Halloween weekend once again will be the most outrageous theme weekend ever. Two costume contests, cash prizes, drink specials every hour and surprises. Also check out Survivor and Will & Grace Thursday's followed by the traditional Trash Night. These are just a few of the things going on at **The Cold Keg**. Use whatever you can in your article. As always thanks for everything. I tell you girls, I just have to work my fingers to the bone!

**PFLAG Vero Beach** scholarship fund is starting to take off. They raised \$1,169 at **Club B!aird Cage** and the next fundraiser promises to be wonderful. Lips sealed. Won't say a word Lee. PFLAG Vero Beach president and coverboy, Kevin goes to Key West November 7, on a bicycle for charity. See box page 5.

**Club B!aird Cage** is dressing up for Halloween? I mean isn't Kelli already dressed? Anyway big cash prizes and a special last minute addition for November 1: stripper M and M. Everyone seems to know him, but being new it will be a virgin (!) experience for me. I'll just have to go see what all the excitement is about. Costume contests and cash prize see page 17.



Lauren Soto accept check for PFLAG Scholarship fund from Kelly Randell



St. Lucie Jaycees at benefit at VIP's

Strippers means Halloween at **VIP's**, along with a fabulous show and a contest and cash prizes and everything! You should have been there for everything at the **JFAN** benefit last Sunday. Over \$2,500 collected for families. There was a ton of food, a show of not only endless talent, but it ended as announced at 11! Lewis and Dan outdid themselves and they couldn't have done it without Andrew's support. I know the St. Lucie Jaycees were pleased and what a great time was had by all. October 25th will be a great time at **VIP's**, but a sad one too. Tori Holden is joining her partner in Australia. Our loss, their gain, an excellent

reason to party – we need to send Tori off in style. Be there. ▼

A moment of remembrance: Chanail Solitare. Karl Manchon. A passing and a birthday. They are missed by many. I'm always looking for dish, so send your hints, rumors and info to MissT@ootmag.com and I promise to tell all.

# Spiritually Speaking

Rev. Mark Osdras

Family of God in Christ Community Church continues to serve our Christian Community at their new location 950 North Cocoa Boulevard [US 1] #104. They are located in the Crestview Plaza across from Byrd Plaza in Cocoa. They celebrate two worship services on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. They can be reached by calling 632-2767 or visit their website at familyofgodbrevard.org that lists their activities and schedules.

Now that the cooler weather is almost here, we enter another season in life's journey. We continually live an annual season of change year in and year out. As we watch the abundant botanical life we have here in Florida, we notice abundant growth of our vegetation in this climate. The plants continue to grow and prosper and go through all the seasons of the year, growing ever more beautiful in God's wonderful creation.

As we continually go through the seasons of our lives how much are we growing? I'm not talking in waist size or the amounts in our bank accounts but how much are we truly growing in our lives as God has created us to grow. We sometimes fall into the rut of "I guess this is the best I can be and I have to accept where I am at" My friends I beg to differ as this gift of life challenges us to be the best that God has called us to be. Are we up to the challenge? Well we have the tools to do just that...GROW!

I am sometimes amazed at how many treasurers we have around us. A very active PFLAG in Indian River, Brevard Together who offers us many avenues of social interaction, Brevard Lesbians and outlet for activity for the women of Brevard, Project Response who has served us for many years, and the different faith communities of worship and affirmation. These and other such organizations are here for us to continue to grow in who we are as individuals, as community, and as a people proud of who we are called to be.

Growing in the spirit takes a conscience effort on our

part to reach out to one another and take the risk to get to know others who have our same struggles and joys in life. Together we can accomplish much that we cannot attain alone. It is in these affirmations from the dedicated men and women who coordinate these organizations we can gain positive growth experiences. We just need to reach out and gain the good that these organizations can offer to each of us.

Yes human interactions are far from perfect, but we can gain much positive from our experiences of each other. If your heart is open, and your spirit is willing, you can enjoy a positive experience of fellowship with one another.

Think about this challenge. If each and every one of you reading this would spend just one hour a month helping the many organizations we have serving us, what a profound affect this could have on our lives.

As one, we can be a challenged people, but as many we can celebrate our diversity as a people, called to a better way of life, to a more active presence to those who need us.

The Spirit must be fed. My friends we are far from "stuck" but we are called to celebrate and live who we are as a community. The joy of our fellowship can be a growth experience for many, if only we are up to the challenge.

I personally thank the many who have inspired me throughout my years here in Brevard to celebrate my Ordination September 21<sup>st</sup> with the Family of God in Christ Community. The Church stands for not one but for all of us, and what an honor to serve our Christian Brothers and Sisters here in Central Brevard.

In His Name, Rev. Mark Osdras, Pastor  
Family of God in Christ Community Church

**Turnabout Thursday, October 30**

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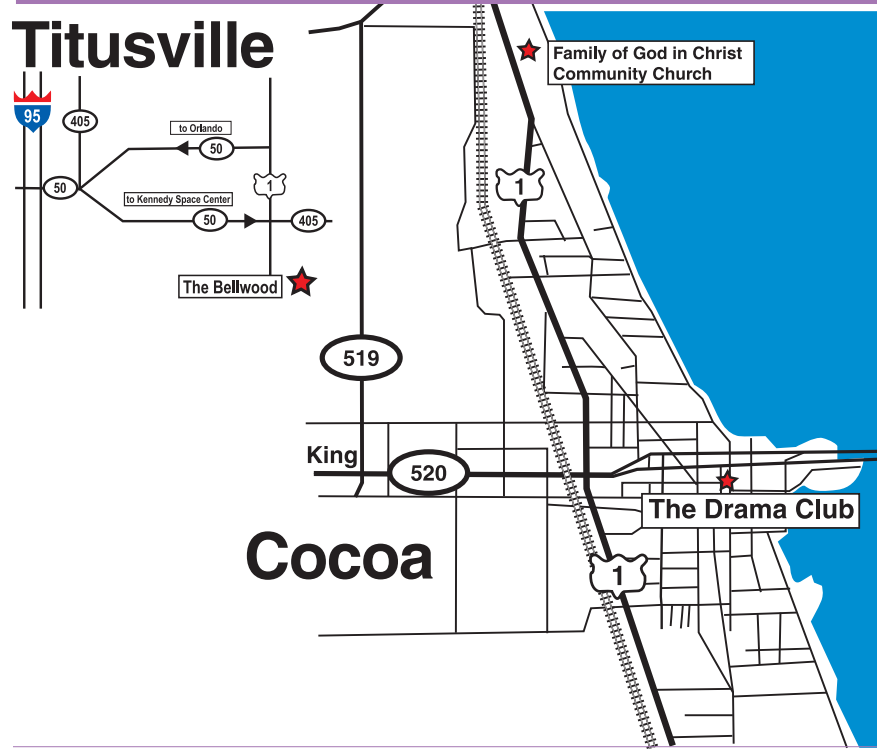
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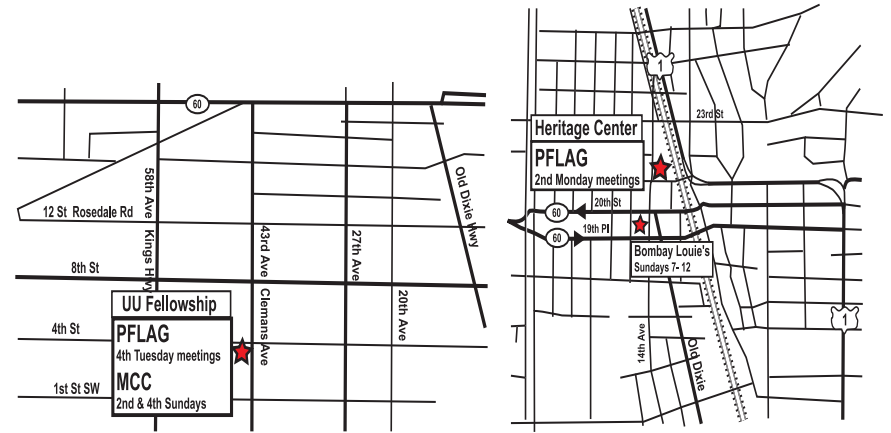


# Bars & Meeting Places

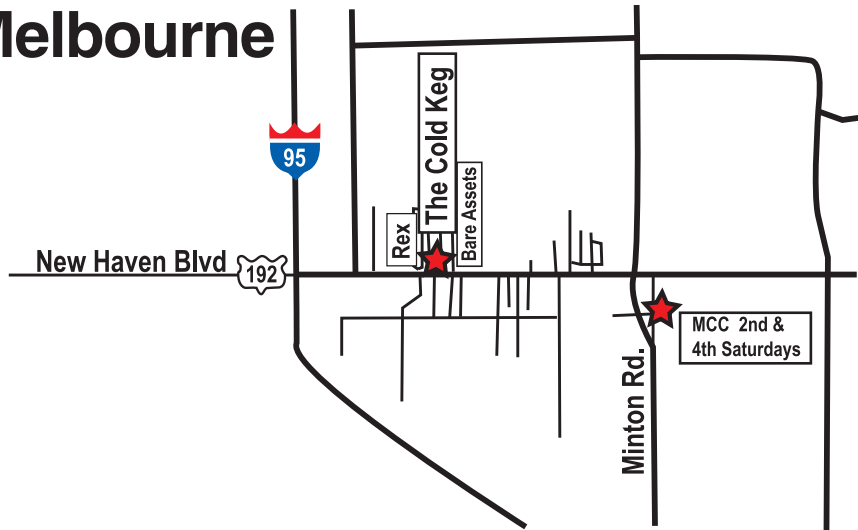


# Bars & Meeting Places

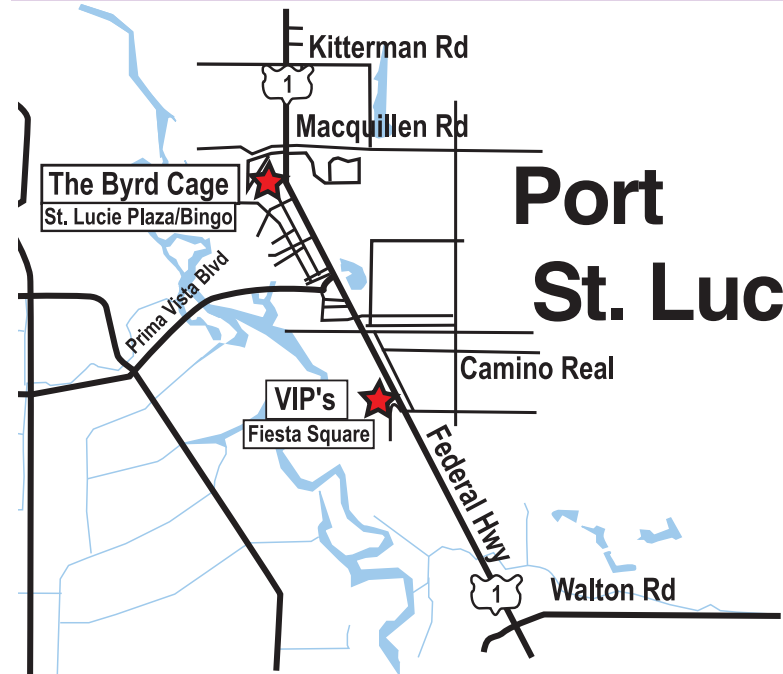
## Vero Beach



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# Cold Keg

Photots by Sharon



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Coming In November

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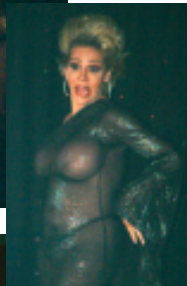
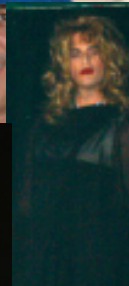
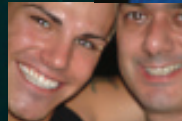
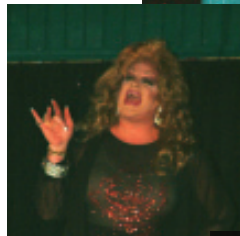
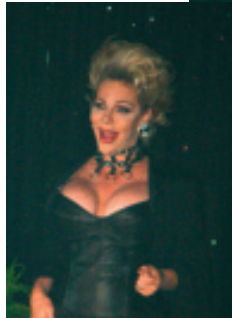
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**COMING  
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PAGEANT



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**October 11<sup>th</sup>:** The Incomparable  
 Tori Holden

**October 18<sup>th</sup>:** Bartender Todd  
Reappears as Tasha Absolute

**October 25<sup>th</sup>:** Danielle hosts Tori Holden's  
Going Away Bash with Mercedes  
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