

Covering Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts

Issue #061, December 2007











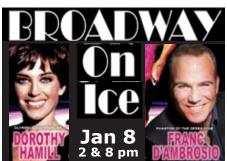














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HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

The key words for this month are growth and intensification. Not only is the Sun in Sagittarius but also the New Moon on the 9th. This makes us want to push the extremes. Our lessons are observation and patience, waiting for the right time. Mars is retrograde in Cancer for the whole month. All will be acting upon what nurtures us, especially after the Full Moon in Cancer on the 23th. With this mixture of Cancer and Sagittarius we should learn to laugh, nurture ourselves and the ones we love. This is where you'll find happiness.

Aries March 23 - April 22 With the Mars retrograde squaring your sign this month; it's time to change directions. Go with the flow, allow the cosmos to guide you and you'll find the transition will bring you closer to your heart's desire. You've been working hard, and your body feels it. Nurture yourself, especially your health.

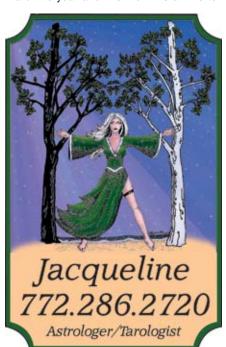
Taurus *April* 23 – *May* 22 This year has broadened your knowledge and opened your eyes to new horizons. Now you're ready to get your head out of the books, apply what you've learned, and play in your social circle. Focus on the friends who listen to what you say and have patience with others who appear to be self absorbed. Eventually they'll come around.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 You'll find yourself attempting to go 3 directions at once right now. Don't worry; all will be accomplished in its right time and in the end all will be well. Learn to make lists and stick to the order. It'll help to keep you on track. Plan for a vacation, you'll need the relaxation after this month.

Cancer June 23 – July 22 Patience is the key word for you this month. You have so many decisions to make now, take them one at a time and don't let them become overwhelming. You're resourceful and because of that all will turn out well. Take the time to spend with friends and family instead of trying to make everything perfect.

Leo July 23 – August 22 The trick for you this month is to find a balance between responsibility and play time. Both need your attention. You have the Arabic part of fortune with you so luck is in your favor, however recognition is not. Enjoy the spoils and have patience with others. They'll come back around after Mars goes direct.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 Those nasty year end details are upon you. Don't focus so much energy on them. They will be done in the right time. You've worked hard this year and this month is a time to





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celebrate. Play, have fun, relax, live in the now and you'll find yourself less frustrated.

Libra September 23 – October 22 This month makes you feel others are being overly sensitive or that you must be mistaken. It's a little of both. Your intuition is strong but your head is slightly in the clouds. With Mars in retrograde, you'll find others to be overly sensitive. Use your intuition; Ask more questions. Put everything in black and white and there you will strike a balance.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 This month brings an intensity to your love life and those you love. The transitions in your life that this year has brought are still not finished yet, but all has been set in motion. Now is the time to enjoy the moment and the love that is around you. Next year you can go back to a normal routine.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Happy solar return! Enjoy the comedy and humor of this month. Don't get caught up in the day to day grind. This last year was here for you to learn your own limitations and to work within them. Don't let others throw you off course. You'll find that everyone will be happier with the end result.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 This month brings second thoughts to the plans you've set in motion. Look outside the box to find the answers you're looking for and keep an open mind. You'll find the answers you seek in an unexpected way. The direction you're going is correct. It just needs a little refining.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 This month you find restlessness within yourself. That's because you're waiting for the world to change. Impatience will get you nowhere. Learn to live in the now and enjoy what is here today. Know that it's all in the experience and that the end result will be the same no matter how long it takes to get there.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 Your social life expands and you find yourself in many different social situations. All will enjoy the beauty of you. This makes it a good time to make new friends. However, remember all are not your friends. Take the time to allow others to show you their true colors before you consider them as a friend. ▼

For those who want to know: Right now the Sun is in Sagittarius and Sagittarius rules the energy of Jupiter. The Key words for Jupiter are expansion and growth. It brings us our benefits and is known as our guardian angel. It has a duality to it. So, be careful! Right now Jupiter is enlightening and awakening all to what is our true path, but it's also giving us the urge to escape. The best way to live during this month is to balance both work and play time. There is where you'll be the happiest.

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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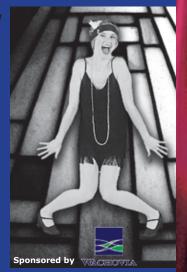
The Boy Friend

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îme

with Miss T

The top of the area news is that **The Living Room** LGBT Community Center in Melbourne has run out of funds. The individuals who promised support have disappeared and the rest of the community has responded with a yawn. Excuses seem to revolve around variations of "I told you it would never work, now give me money for my favorite non-gay charity – and in some cases not even a charity but private events - and forget about the center." I just can't believe it. What a Christmas present! I know people who go out to eat or out for martinis every week but won't give \$20 a month to keep a GLBT community center open. The Living Room has been advised to approach the non-gay community for support, as those people understand the need for a center and their services! There are rumors of imminent help but rumors don't pay bills and the board will have to decide at their December 17 meeting if there is sufficient community support to keep the facility open.



Some of the raffle items from the **Cold Keg** Tea Dance benefit for The Living Room

people! The money will help **The Living Room** pay its bills through the end of the year. The big announcement, though, was the first annual SPACE COAST PRIDE FEST will be held on May 25, 2008 at Wickham Pavilion on Wickham Road just south of the King Center. The rent on the space has been paid, thanks to **Rich Thurston**, the first sponsor of the event to sign on (how interesting that the initial sponsor of the Space Coast Pride Fest is from the Treasure Coast – see the Thanksgiving dinner above paragraph).

If you live in Brevard County and have any opinions, ideas and (especially) commitment, turn up at the center on December 17 at 7:30 pm to help the board decide on the fate of the community center.

One thing the community will turn out for is a party and the **Cold Keg**'s Tea Dance benefit for The Living Room was a huge success: \$900 in three and a half hours from less than 100



PFLAG Vero Beach members enjoy a

The giving season down Vero way is an active time for PFLAG Vero Beach with their Thanksgiving food drive for the Homeless Center and adoption of Safe



Safe Safe and the Homeless Center pose with the food donations for the Homeless Center

Space families for Christmas. It's wonderful to see an out and proud group of LGBTs showing that our community gives back to the larger community through work with other charities. Even though the Press Journal won't write about them. by having the directors come to their The officers of PFLAG Vero Beach with the directors of dinner, PFLAG Vero Beach shows face-to-face that we are people, too. This year there was even a family

from Safe Space who came for Thanksgiving dinner: a woman and her three children got to see the LGBT people care about them (though it was difficult to keep the kids from sneaking a peak at the gift list for themselves). People complain about the lack of LGBT nightlife in Indian River County but truly caring LGBT people who do good things in the name of our community are there in a way that isn't replicated anywhere else in the area.

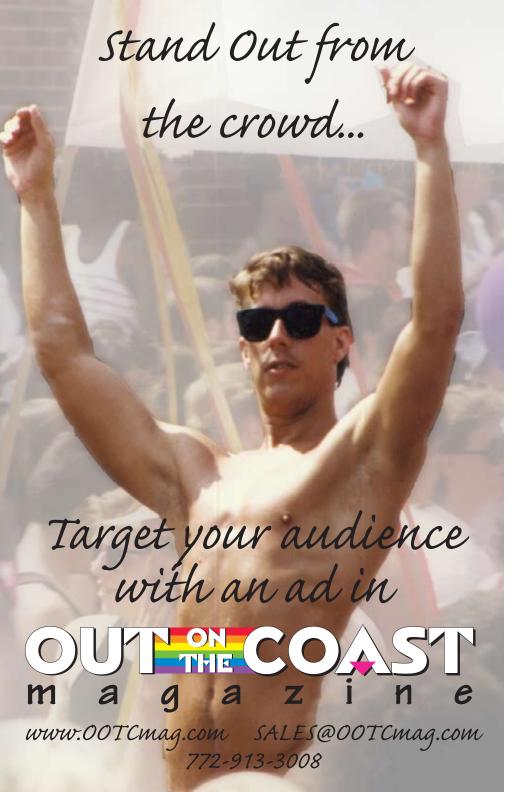
And then there's Indian River's **People Care Center** (founded by PFLAG folks). December 1st is World AIDS Day and People Care Center will be displaying a portion of The Quilt in Vero Beach in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 9am to 4pm. Call 772-321-9394 to volunteer or for more information. To help **People Care Center** raise money for their support services to people affected by HIV/AIDS they are throwing a fund raiser dinner-dance in February called A Night of Love. For only \$35, or \$60 for a couple, you get a buffet and dancing - but bring your cash for the silent auction. What a great Valentine's gift! Show your love how much you care by taking them to A Night of Love. Call 772-321-9394 for tickets.

You don't need a ticket to attend East Coast MCC Annual Christmas Eve services on Monday, December 24, at 6 p.m. in Port St Lucie (at the St. Lucie Shrine Club, 4600 Oleander, Ft Pierce, just north of Midway Road) and at 10:30 p.m. in Melbourne at The Living Room.

Up in Cocoa the activities and services at Family of God are open to everyone. Feel free to call the office 632-3767 Thursdays or Fridays for further information on what they're doing. You can check their new web site at www.familyofgodbrevard.org, too. Appropriately, on World AIDS Day, Saturday, December 1 they are teaming up with Project Response to provide free onsite rapid HIV Testing with 20 minute results. Please call their office for appoinment times. Family of God's Christmas Party- Outreach Project will be on Saturday, December 8th at 8:00 p.m. at Val's European Dining in Titusville. \$15.00 per person choice plate of Polish Sampler or Chicken Dinner non-alcholic beverage included. Cash Bar available. Funds raised will be used for their Christmas outreach project this year. If you wish to sponsor or donate to this project, you help is needed and appreciated. And their Christmas Service is on Monday, December 24th at 9:00 p.m.

Down in Port St. Lucie the Josh Zuckerman benefit concert for Treasure Coast

continued on page 13





continued from page 11

Pride at **REBAR** didn't happen – Josh got snowed in in New Jersey and couldn't get here (snowed in – that's a quaint memory for me now, happily). Unhappily the event didn't go on in any form as there were going to be raffles and auction items, as I understood it. I really don't know why Treasure Coast Pride didn't at least take up a collection, after all people had come Kelli Randell and Dominique Golden filled in at expecting to donate. I do know that every- REBAR when Josh Zuckerman got snowed in. one was disappointed that Josh couldn't



make it but had a fun time at REBAR anyway with Kelli Randell and Dominique Golden entertaining the crowd.

The Ladies Room at REBAR – Wednesdays starting December 19 – sounds like a lot of fun with Velvet, Vonda and VJ Joshua Atom, not to mention some sexy dancers just for women. REBAR is even bringing in draft Budweiser just for the Beer Pong at the event. What a great Christmas present from REBAR for their faithful women patrons: a night just for them!

We have received some disappointing news from our history columnist, Celeste DeRoche. She has had a medical problem arise which will have to be tended to and then she and Gail will be launching into a great new adventure: their grant applications have been approved so they will go out and obtain oral histories from elderly LGBT people to document our history! How appropriate for someone so talented with such an interest in our history to be given the opportunity to assemble our history for everyone. We will miss her sorely. We hope Celeste will keep in touch and occasionally give us a peak at her work. We wish her and Gail all the best.

If you're looking for the best deal in travel give our newest advertiser, Atlas Travel, a call. I know, I know you're saying all you have to do is check out two or three travel web sites, compare the deals them and book the best fare. The result is that you feel like you, personally, have gotten the best of the carriers. But the fact is that when I called Pat for a trip to Cincinnati last September she

Spiritually Speaking

Recently a good friend died. He was an odd character. Every time I thought I had him figured out, another side of his personality would appear that would completely catch me off guard. When I was asked to speak at his memorial service, I struggled for the right words to share. He was anything except conventional. It was difficult to think about enough positive things to say. While visiting at his house, my inspiration finally came to me from the shrubs he had planted in his yard. His yard was full of bougainvillea.

Haveyoueverlookedatabougainvillea plant? The plant produces the most beautiful deep purple color flowers. Some bougainvillea comes in a rich pink color. Much of the beauty of bougainvillea is on the outside. Bougainvillea adds such a tremendous beauty to the landscape it is growing in. It is great to look at, but dangerous to get close to.

But if you work closely with the plant, you will discover one very painful fact – bougainvillea is full of thorns, just like a rose. The most beautiful flowering shrub is full of very sharp thorns. But unlike a rose, you don't see the thorns until it is almost too late. The thorns on a rose are short and visible. The thorns on a bougainvillea are well hidden beneath the blooms and leaves.

Every person I know has some positive and some negative aspects to their personality. Roses are not

as difficult to get to know because you can see their thorns and avoid them. I know many people who can be described as bougainvillea. They are beautiful to look at, but don't try to get too close to them. The pain isn't worth it. You will find their long sharp thorns when you least expect it.

So many of us have our special moments where we blossom and bloom and add richness to our world. We make life more pleasant for those around us. Then, while those around us try to enjoy the richness and beauty we have added to our world, something happens and we react badly. In the times when we are at our best, we allow our thorns to pop out and destroy the good we are doing. I don't understand why we constantly allow self-destructive actions to ruin our good acts.

Bougainvillea plants can be trimmed and shaped into nice and neat plants, or one can let them grow without trying to force them into any particular shape. When the bougainvillea is allowed to grow without shaping, it will grow as tall as a house, with branches and blooms cascading like a waterfall. There are many people who constantly try to form us into what they think we should be. As different parts of our personalities are shaped and formed, we become a beautiful flowering plant in our world.

Yet there are some individuals

who cannot be shaped or trimmed into the opinions of others. When they are allowed to develop and grow naturally, they also become a beautiful flowering plant cascading through life. Some individuals develop naturally, while others need the assistance of others in order to develop into their fullness. We need both the bougainvillea that has been shaped and the bougainvillea that has grown naturally.

The world 2000 years ago was watching and waiting for a promised messiah who would enter the world and bring needed changes. This messiah, they hoped, would overthrow the evil government and bring a new day of peace. On that first Christmas, the angels sang and shepherds came to visit the newborn child. Newborn babies are gentle, pure, and full of promise. Some will be shaped by other people over the years. Others will be allowed to grow and develop into their own personalities. Each one will add a richness and a beauty to the world. All who saw this child wondered if he would be the one to fulfill all their desires for the future.

As Jesus developed and grew, he added a new view to life. He brought a beauty into his world that was missing. But he also had, beneath that beauty, some thorns that irritated the leaders of his day. He made life more enjoyable for many and he was a real pain to others.

Everyone has much to add to life. And everyone has those parts of their lives that will irritate and even cause pain to others. As we look at the world around us, enjoy the beauty that others add to our lives. But be



careful, because everyone around us also has some painful tendencies. Learn to enjoy the richness others can add to our lives. But be careful of the thorns.

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 The Living Room, 165 N. Babcock, Unit B, every Sunday at 6 p.m. Services in Port St. Lucie/Ft. Pierce are at the Shriner's Club,4600 Oleander Ave, every Sunday at 9 a m

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In Our Past

by Celeste DeRoche, Ph.D.

One of the strengths of the LGBT community is the organizations and institutions we create. Over the pas few months, *In Our Past*, examined the history of several types of the organizations that have been central and critical to LGBT communities around the country and the world. Wherever we are, LGBT folks find ways to let others know there are friends and allies around. [This is Celeste's final column – see *Tea Time* for details. *Ed*.]

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Can you guess the year? Police harassment of bars frequented by LGBT people was common; positive public portrayals of LGBT people were difficult to find; nondiscrimination laws protecting LGBT people were nonexistent, and the American Psychiatric Association classified homosexuality as a mental disorder.

While some of this still exists, all of it was common in 1971. A revolutionary thought in 1971 was that LGBT people deserved to have a safe space of their own. The idea that LGBT people should have a place to congregate was not unheard of prior to 1971 but the idea that there could be a place dignified and "out" was a new thought.

A place to find friends and lovers, a place to organize, educate, advocate, associate, and cogitate—all of these and more are the many roles that the LGBT community center has served in the lives of LGBT folks for more than thirty years. For all the LGBT people who were disowned by family or could not be out for fear of loosing jobs, home or more, LGBT centers provided a space for freedom.

The first lesbian and gay community centers both opened in 1971; one on each coast, Los Angeles, California and Albany, New York. Each of these centers was based on the newfound pride heralded by the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 and built on that legacy.

The Los Angeles center, in 1974, would become the nation's first organization with the word "gay" incorporated in its name to be awarded federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Most LGBT centers are more than just places to gather, although that role continues to be viewed as important and critical. Most centers also provide services. During the early years, when centers were still new phenomena, they began to address the issues then causing most concern in the LGBT community. Substance abuse education and prevention among LGBT people and services focused on alcohol and drug prevention and intervention were common in many LGBT centers.

As centers have matured and as the LGBT communities around the country have grown in their self-awareness and understanding, services have likewise proliferated. The array of services offered at LGBT centers now commonly include programs for youth and seniors, public policy forums, cultural programming, cyber centers and computer training courses, HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs, coming-out support groups and all sorts of recreational activities from dances to sports teams. The diverse range of services offered matches the diversity of LGBT communities.

In the 1980s it was LGBT centers

that often took the lead in providing HIV/AIDS services. LGBT turned to LGBT centers for information about the disease that was beginning its raging sweep through the LGBT world. One of the most well known activist groups of the AIDS epidemic, ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) was founded at the then Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center (now called the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center) in New York City in 1987.

The other phenomenon of the 1980s in LGBT communities was the number of lesbian women and gay men deciding to have children. Centers would often offer classes in parenting and child rearing. Other centers would focus on outreach to LGBT youth. In July 2000, the San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center (established in 1973) opened the Hillcrest Youth Center for LGBT youth.

As many as 140 LGBT community centers now exist. From major metropolises to small cities and towns, from one-room drop in centers to multimillion-dollar social service agencies, LGBT community centers ensure that if an LGBT person needs a safe space and a welcoming smile such a place exists. V

If you would like more information, see the entry on Community Centers by Richard D. Burns in LGBT: Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America. The research for this column drew from Mr. Burns's work.

Celeste DeRoche received her doctoral degree in United States History from the University of Maine. She currently resides in Vero Beach with her life partner. She loves to read.







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ALL COMMUNITY MEETING Monday, Dec. 17, 7:30 PM

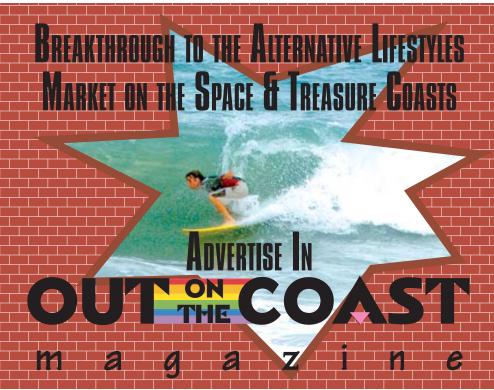
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In The News

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TALLAHASSEE-Janet Reno. our nation's only female US Attorney General, has tepped up to a leadership position with the Fairness for All Families Campaign. Reno will serve as an Honorary Board Member for the campaign to defeat a constitutional amendment, slated for the 2008 ballot, that could strip away employee benefits while barring the passage of future measures to help Florida families.

Existing members of the campaign's Honorary Board of Directors include: U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz; former Department of Elder Affairs Secretary and past AARP President Bentley Lipscomb: Florida NAACP President Adora Obi Nweze: Howard Simon, Executive Director, Florida ACLU; Rev. Nancy Wilson, Worldwide Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches; Mitch Cesar, Chairman, Broward Democratic Party: Joe Garcia. Chairman. Miami-Dade Democratic Party; Karl Dickey, Florida Libertarian Party Chair.

"We are extremely excited not only to have Attorney General Reno join the Fairness for All Families Campaign, but to also have her take on a leadership position as a member of our Honorary Board of Directors," said Barbara A. DeVane of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans and a member of the campaign's Oversight Committee. "This amendment will hurt all unmarried couples and every Floridian who cares about their future, and that of their loved ones, must stand up and oppose this discrimination."

The Fairness for All Families Campaign has amassed a coalition of 140 organizations and community leaders representing seniors, business leaders, consumer groups and social justice organizations working together to oppose the effort to take away benefits and enshrine discrimination in Florida's constitution.

More than 8,000 public and private employers nationwide - including almost half of the Fortune 500 companies - offer health care benefits to employee's domestic partners or

The addition of Janet Reno to the Fairness for All Families Campaign comes at a time when editorial boards across the state are taking a strong stand against the amendment as "unnecessary" and "harmful" to all unmarried Floridians including seniors. public employees and others who rely on domestic partnership benefits to protect their loved ones.

Fairness for All Families is a growing coalition that includes seniors, business leaders, consumer groups and social justice organizations who are joining together to oppose stripping away existing employee benefits while barring the passage of future measures to help Florida families.

MELBOURNE—The ACLU of FL Brevard Chapter and Brevard NOW will hold an advance private screening of the Freedom File episode Freedom to Know- Sex Education on December 14.

The 30-minute documentary from acclaimed filmmaker Robert Greenwald features work by parents, students, and grassroots organizers in Brevard County and Pittsburgh addressing sex education in the public schools.

Meet and Greet the parents and organizers who made the changes to the Brevard County sex education curriculum possible and who feature in the documentary.

Tickets in advance are \$15:00 or \$20:00 on the day. Hors D'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

For More Information Contact: (321) 768-

PALM BEACH GARDENS—MCC of the Palm Beaches celebrated its 26th Anniversary the weekend of November 17-18! YES, Metropolitan Community Church of the Palm Beaches is older than COMPASS, CAP, and even ROOSTERS! Internationally known

speaker, Rev. Elder Don Eastman addressed the congregation at their Sunday services.

ST PETERSBURG- In a major upset. Equality Florida Action PAC's endorsed candidate for the St. Petersburg City Council, Wengay Newton, beat Gersham Faulkner, the presumed frontrunner, by 600 votes in a race closely followed by the LGBT community. Newton scored 100% on Equality Florida's candidate questionnaire and will be a strong ally for LGBT equality.

Faulkner entered the race with the strong endorsements of a number of key Democrats and the St. Petersburg Times. He then saw his fortunes reverse after making public pronouncements on extremely anti-gay attitudes, including his support for the socalled "Marriage Protection Amendment" and his defense of Florida's infamous ban on adoption by gay or lesbian potential parents.

The revelations not only shocked some of Faulkner's strongest supporters but also resulted in two prominent lawmakers pulling their endorsements. Rep. Richard Krisemen and Bill Heller withdrew their endorsements and publicly chastised Faulkner for taking positions that refused to respect LGBT residents.

OKEECHOBEE-The ACLU has asked a judge to push back the start of a trial involving the Gay Straight Alliance of Okeechobee High School after learning attorneys for the Okeechobee County school board plan to rely heavily on expert testimony, including those testifying on the "harms of being gay."

The American Civil Liberties Union represents the alliance and former student Yasmin Gonzalez, who sued the school board a year ago, saying it had violated federal law by allowing other clubs to meet on campus but banning the Gay Straight Alliance.

A judge has ruled the club can meet on school grounds while the case makes its way through court.

The trial initially had been scheduled to start in March 2008: the ACLU is asking it be pushed back to September.

ACLU attorney Robert Rosenwald said he learned only late last month that the defendants plan to rely on the testimony

of four expert witnesses offering opinions on "a wide range of issues," including "the importance of abstinence and of avoiding teen pregnancy" and "the harms of being gay or even being gay."

Under the current schedule. Rosenwald said the two sides wouldn't have time to prepare to take depositions of expert witnesses and "this Court will not have the benefit of a welldeveloped factual record at trial," Rosenwald said in a motion filed Tuesday.

HOLLYWOOD—According to a Reuters wire story, Gay-lesbian network Logo is moving into the network news business, planning to televise a half-hour weekly newscast produced by CBS News.

According to the story "CBS News on Logo" will stems from a two-year partnership between the MTV Networks channel and CBS News. A dedicated CBS News crew working out of its West 57th Street broadcast center had been producing three-minute interstitials that have been airing daily on Logo which are being replaced by the halfhour newscast.

Brian Graden, Logo president and president of MTV Networks Music Group Entertainment. said that Logo had gotten to the point where it had the distribution and roster of advertisers to take things to another level. "It seemed like there was enough news to sustain that (half-hour) format and then some, and that the audience had a concentrated interest" a year out from the 2008 general elections, Graden said. He didn't rule out further news programming based on how things go.

The new show will focus on gav. lesbian. bisexual and transgender issues including the 2008 election, HIV/AIDs and entertainment, sports and science news. The newscast will be available on Logo as well as streamed at 365gav.com (http://365gav.com), a Logoowned Website.

DAVIS, CA-According to an article in The Sacramento Bee, the Davis Senior High student body has elected a gay couple into homecoming royalty. With each boasting a white sash declaring his title as "Prince," the two 16-year-olds rode through the city of Davis on a recent Friday afternoon in the

continued on page 24

school's annual homecoming parade.

They stood in the back of a pickup truck, arm-in-arm, smiling warmly despite the rain. "People were so excited for us," Gatewood said of the couple's victory, announced a few weeks ago. "We were a little surprised, but Davis ..."

"Is a liberal town," interrupts his boyfriend of four months, Raphael. "Go 10 miles in any other direction and you'll get some other feeling."

Indeed, the news might surprise few in Davis, a city embraced and, at times, mocked for its liberal leanings. But students and adults cheering on the boys recognized their election as a meaningful milestone. Lai-San Seto, advocacy coordinator for the San Francisco-based Gay-Straight Alliance Network, said the Davis Senior High homecoming election is not the first case of gay students bucking tradition. But it remains far from the norm, Seto said. And usually by the time she hears about such things, they've become a controversy within their community.

In the weeks since officials announced the homecoming court, there's been no public outcry -- not by campus leaders, not by students and not by the community. Students said they were encouraged that the election was not an issue for campus administrators. They said they were less surprised that a gay couple would win than they were that officials allowed it to happen. "I thought the administration would have more to say about it," Raphael said.

Principal Michael Cawley declined to comment on the boys' election, saying only that he hoped to keep the issue "low-key." Students, however, were eager to talk. They piled atop floats and lined the parade route to show their school spirit, armed with air horns and fistfuls of candy. Some have been celebrating their friends' landmark victory for days. "I think it's just such a good thing for our school. Just knowing that the other kids recognize them as a couple and would vote for a gay couple to be prince and prince of homecoming. ... I don't know, I just think it's awesome," said senior Chandler Fox, co-president of the campus Gay-Straight

Alliance. "I want people to know about it so maybe it can happen at another school."

Decked out in Davis Senior High's colors of blue and black, sophomore Charlotte Haar and two friends agreed that the election was significant because it came straight from the students -- Raphael and Gatewood won in a write-in ballot election. Couples could campaign for their class titles -- king and queen for seniors, prince and princess for juniors, etc. -- but no names appeared on the ballot. Students wrote in their own candidates. "The students voted for who they wanted to win," Haar said.

BALTIMORE—A jury has ordered anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church, based in Topeka, Kansas, and three of its principals to pay \$10.9 million, \$2.9 million in compensatory damages and \$8 million in punitive damages (\$6 million for invasion of privacy and \$2 million for causing emotional distress in damages), to relatives of a US Marine who died in Iraq after church members cheered his death at his funeral. Church members said Marine Lance Cpl Matthew Snyder's death was God's punishment of America for tolerating homosexuality, and they attended his 2006 funeral in Maryland with signs saying "You're going to hell" and "God hates you." The federal jury determined the invaded the privacy of the dead man's family and inflicted emotional distress. The jury awarded.

Albert Snyder, the Marine's father, testified that his son was not gay, but the church targeted the military as a symbol of America's tolerance of gays. Matthew Snyder died in combat in Iraq in March 2006. It was the first civil suit against the church, which has demonstrated at some 300 military funerals the past two years. The lawsuit said church websites viilified US soldiers, accusing them of being indoctrinated by "fag propaganda." "I hope it's enough to deter them from doing his to other families. It was not about the money. It was about getting them to stop," said Snyder, of York, Pennsylvania.

The church, which is unaffiliated with any major denomination, is headed by Reverend Fred Phelps, who has led a campaign against homosexuality for years. Most of the estimated 70 members of the church belong to his extended family. "It will take the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals a few minutes to



reverse this silly thing," Phelps said.

Defense attorney Jonathan Katz urged jurors not to award punitive damages because the \$2.9 million in compensatory damages was already three times the defendants' net worth. "It's enough already to bankrupt them and financially destroy them," Katz said.

Craig Trebilcock, an attorney for Snyder, said jurors should award sufficient punitive damages to deter Westboro from repeating its actions.

Defense attorney Katz told jurors during closing arguments on punitive damages that much of the defendants' wealth was in homes, retirement income and cars that couldn't be touched under Kansas law. Attorney Sean Summers, representing Snyder, said after the financial records were unsealed that he believed the defendants could be forced to sell church property to satisfy the judgment.

WASHINGTON, DC—Five additional Members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246), a Congressional bill to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual military personnel. Representatives Al Green (D-TX), Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL), Ron Klein (D-FL), Patrick J. Murphy (D-PA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) bring the total number of co-sponsors to 136.

"We are enormously proud to welcome these five lawmakers to the growing coalition of Congressional Members working to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "This unfair and un-American law has cost our nation the skills of more than 11,000 patriotic service

members, and Congress is increasingly recognizing that our nation can ill afford to lose such talent. SLDN will continue to build support for repeal and work, every day, for the freedom to serve."

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), the lead sponsor of H.R. 1246, added that, ""With every new lawmaker who signs on we are one step closer to repealing this discriminatory policy that has been preventing otherwise qualified men and women from serving our country and contributing to the finest fighting force in the world. I thank all these new cosponsors for standing up for what's right, and I look forward to working with them to enlist more and more of our colleagues."

Congressman Patrick J. Murphy, one of the new co-sponsors, is an Iraq war veteran and former West Point professor elected to the House in 2006.

"Congressman Murphy, a respected voice on military matters and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, will be an irreplaceable ally in our work to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Sarvis. "His support sends a strong message that those who know our armed forces best also understand that ending this law is the right thing to do for our military and our country."

Since 1993, the federal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law has cost American taxpayers more than \$364 million. An average of two service members are dismissed under the law every day. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), nearly 800 people with skills deemed 'mission-critical' by the Pentagon have been dismissed under the law, including more than 322 language experts, at least 58 of whom specialized in Arabic.

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165 N. Babcock, Unit B, every Sunday at 6 p.m	321-739-3300
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Eclectus	772-567-4062
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3865 N Wickham Rd. Melbourne. FL 32935	321-242-2213
	004 050 0050
Steve Lewis/Leary Hair Design	321-258-8258
4301 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne	
The Living Room of Brevard GLBT CC	321-505-0077
165 N. Babcock, Melbourne	
PO Box 60910, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0910	
PFLAG Melbournewww.PF	
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Drive NE, F	'alm Bay, FL 32905
PFLAG Vero Beach	772-778-9835
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Party Town U.S.A	772-465-5255
6829 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie FL	
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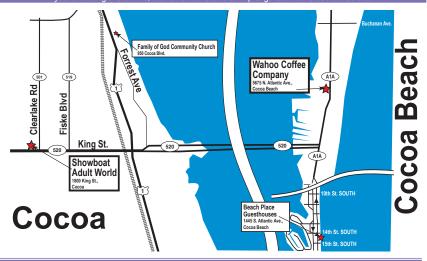
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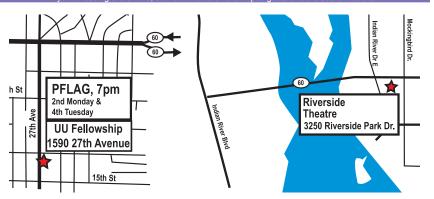
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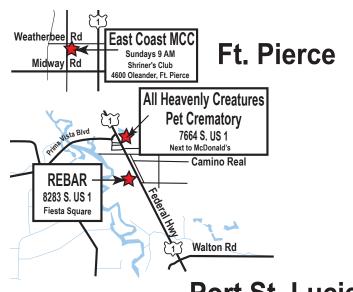
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Gay Rights Tidbit: From an editorial written by GLBT rights activist Jorge Mursuli, a vice president at People For The American Way, originally published on MiamiHerald.com.

Making Progress, Making History by Jorge Mursuli

In Washington, D.C. this week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Employment Non Discrimination Act, a historic milestone in the long march toward full equality in this country.

In Florida, gay people and our equality-supporting allies have had our own long history leading toward this day. Over the past few decades we've made advances and seen some of them stripped away under the heat of dishonest and inflammatory attacks. It wasn't long ago that we in Miami-Dade worked for inclusion of anti-discrimination protections in the county human rights ordinance - and then had to fight a bitter battle to preserve them.

I want everyone who took part in these campaigns on the side of equality to stop for a moment and recognize the role you played in this ...advance. I believe that every time we campaigned publicly on behalf of the values of freedom and fairness, every time we stood up for the basic right to live our lives without discrimination or unequal protection of the laws, we added a stone to the path toward full equality, paving the way to ENDA's passage.

Of course the path to equality is not yet completed. The sense of pride and accomplishment that came with news of ENDA's passage in the House of Representatives was bittersweet. ...But the version of ENDA that passed the House did not include the protections based on gender identity that PFAW and so many of our allies fought hard to have included in the bill. That's a very painful reality grounded in political calculation and strategy.

But here's a more hopeful reality. The nation has witnessed a historic advance. We must stand ready to use whatever influence, whatever political momentum has been gained by ENDA's passage in the House, to continue working toward the standard of equality of opportunity and protection from discrimination for everybody. There's work to be done.

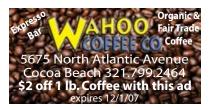
But let's not fail to recognize that we have accomplished much over the past 30 years. LGBT people are ever-more visible as participants in, and contributors to, our democracy. And that is cause for celebration - a toast to the American ideal and all who are working to make it real.

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 Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #061

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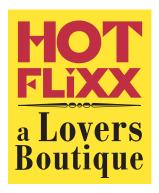
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