

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts

OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e



Issue #077, April 2009

April 3 & 10
ALL REQUEST FRIDAYS
If we have it, we'll play it!
No Show — No Cover
75¢ Domestic Draft
\$2 Mojitos
\$4 Long Islands



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APRIL 24
Roz Russell
& Special Guest

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\$4 Long Islands



APRIL 17

AND THE AFTER MIDNIGHTS

SPIKEY DYKEY

\$8 COVER
75¢ DOMESTIC DRAFT
\$2 MOJITOS
\$4 LONG ISLANDS

VITA DE VOID
TEDDY D & IVY

RESURRECTION
THE WHITE PARTY
APRIL 12

BODY PAINTING BY JEFFREY
\$2 BARCARDI
\$1 SHOT SPECIALS 10PM-MIDNIGHT



Host:
KELLI RANDELL

DANCERS:
ANGEL & VITA

SATURDAY GROOVE:
Showtime Midnight
with male & female dancers

April 4th:
Aysia Black
April 11th:
Kelli Randell
April 18th:
Faith Taylor
April 25th:
Roseanne DeShanaro

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Models: Proud folks from Port St Lucie
 Location: Port St. Lucie Civic Center
 Photo: LANE

Issue #077
March 26, 2009
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REBAR

photos: Lee



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SATURDAY NIGHTS

ONLY AT

REBAR

SHOWTIME 11:30PM

April 4th: Tori Holden,
Deja Devonier & Tasha Long

April 11th: Nikki Adams,
Indra Martinez & Shelita Cox

PRIDE WEEKEND April 18th: Singer - Dancer - Model

QUENTIN ELIAS LIVE

April 25th: Velvet LeNore,
Dominique Taylor & Christiana Sinclair

VJ JOSHUA ATOM

HOT MALE & FEMALE DANCERS WEEKLY!

GRAPHICS CREATED BY WWW.VELOCITYXTREME.COM

HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

With Pluto going retrograde in Capricorn on the 4th, we start to set the up and down trend of this month. Pluto is rechecking the direction of the changes you've made recently. The full moon in Libra is bringing those decisions to a balance and showing you both sides. Mercury at the same time as the full moon on the 8th, is going into Taurus to ensure you take your personal values into consideration. Venus will go direct on the 17th, taking the pressure off of our love and the new moon on the 24th will bring the sensuality back into your love life. The trick to this month is don't cross your own personal beliefs and explore new understandings of others.

Aries March 23 - April 22 Happy Solar return! Venus is still retrograde in your sign until the 17th, but your ability to attract others is still strong. Use this time to promote yourself in business and personal relationships. Although the answers you seek will present them selves with the advent of the new moon on the 24th. Be resilient and go with the flow but take charge when the opportunity presents itself.

Taurus April 23 - May 22 When Mercury goes into your sign on the 9th, you'll find an awareness of the true you. Take this opportunity to find happiness within yourself and your personal accomplishments instead of looking for acceptance from others; for they will not understand. Be not like the nature of your sign have patience, you'll be able to express yourself easily in the days to come.


Gemini May 23 - June 22 Now is not the time to make snap decisions. Tough choices are in store for you this month. Set your emotions aside and make your decisions based on the facts. You might

find some interesting opportunities to reshape your life. Wait to make changes in your life until after the new moon on the 24th to avoid any misunderstandings.

Cancer June 23 - July 22 Your restlessness is most apparent this month as spring fever has arrived for you. The feeling of escape continues to grow stronger. Try changing your daily patterns and habits and seek relaxation in something you most enjoy. You won't find the change you're looking for until after the new moon on the 24th. This is when you'll have the power to makes the changes you need to make your life less complicated.

Leo July 23 - August 22 Take this time to survey your surroundings and plan for the direction you want to go until Venus

continued on page 8



Jacqueline
772.286.2720
Astrologer/Tarologist

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SHOWBUSINESS FRIDAY'S

ONLY AT

REBAR

SHOWTIME 11PM

HOSTESS
SHELITA COX

HOSTESS
KELLI RANDELL



April 3rd: Kelli Randell,
Tasha Long & Mizz Micki



April 10th: Kelli Randell,
Danielle Starr & VelocityXtreme



Jerry's Birthday Bash!
April 17th: Shelita Cox,
Dominique & Rianna LeNore



April 24th: Shelita Cox,
Rianna & Christiana Sinclair



ALSO DON'T MISS
KARAOKE THURSDAYS
WITH JERRY



HOT MALE & FEMALE DANCERS WEEKLY!

GRAPHICS CREATED BY WWW.VELOCITYXTREME.COM

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goes direct on the 17th. After, start on your path alone. This is not a time to share with others as your good intentions may be misunderstood. May, will give you back your lioness abilities and suave way of communication back.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 With Saturn still retrograde in your sign this month, you'll find the projects that you started last November will take a turn for the better. Patience and timing is you lessons at this time. Try a distraction, like a vacation this month. It'll reduce your frustration level.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Be patient and keep things in balance as your wants tend to outweigh your means this month. Don't try accomplishing everything or all you'll be doing is chasing your tail. Pick a few things that you truly want to accomplish and let the rest wait. As long as you focus on one thing at a time you'll accomplish your goals.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 As your emotions run high and your instincts heightened, try not to take everything as personal. Keep you ears open and listen to what others have to say. Ask question, don't be suspicious, you'll find that for most things there is a pretty innocent answer. Life should move easily for you now. Leave your emotions out and you'll find your success.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 With the Venus retrograde still aspecting your sign, Love is still on the rocks. Now is the time for you to take that mini vacation and let your troubles fade away. Forget about the day to day doldrums and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. You'll find after Mars goes into Aries on the 22nd, the change you've been looking for will come and you'll know what to do with your love. So, rest while you can.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 Now is the time to make that change, go out on some new adventure; something that has interested you for a while. Old

friendships won't be of comfort to you and new friends are waiting. Go, enjoy and let the past become the past and enjoy the banquet set before you.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 With Jupiter and Neptune still in your sign, others are still attracted to you're dynamic personality. Be forthright and honest with your facts and opinions. Others will listen. You have great instincts on the future and where it's going. Make plans in that direction.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 You're intuitive abilities are extremely strong now. Use this to float through this month. Don't get caught up in the details. Keep your eye on the end result and you'll naturally get there. With Venus going back into your sign, don't be surprised if old loves from the past return. It's nice to see them, but you can never go back.

For those who want to know: *Our understanding in astrology is not only on the planets and which sign and house they are in but also in relevance to how they affect each other. I've written about the aspects so now I'll tell you about the patterns. Patterns take to whole picture into consideration, instead of each planet or aspect. In looking at the planetary placement in this month we find it to be considered in astrological terms as the splash. This means that the planets are scattered in as many house as they can. The energy this pattern resonates is scattered. What it does give us is a universal interest and a strong urge for knowledge. So, all of us may feel scattered now, the best way to use this energy is to truly find what direction you want to go in life and keep researching how to get there. The rest will fall into place when there is a better pattern placement in the sky.*

▼
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

PRIDE OF THE TREASURE COAST PRESENTS PRIDE FEST

2009 SUNDAY APRIL 19TH AT NOON AT THE PORT ST. LUCIE CITY CIVIC CENTER FREE ADMISSION

HEADLINING OUR EVENT: Singer - Dancer - Model
QUENTIN ELIAS LIVE

ENTERTAINERS
Kelli Randell
Velvet LeNore
Dominique Taylor
Shelita Cox

PERFORMING
Lizzy Pitch
Nita V. Extreme

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ROB LOPICOLA

DJ.
Joshua ATOM

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Tea Time

with Miss T

First we want to mention the promotion **The King Center** has going on. It's a **Dame Edna look alike** contest. What a hoot! To enter, just dress up in your best purple dress, lavender bouffant, and throw on all of grandmothers jewels! Then just send the snapshots to jjcollier@kingcenter.com. ALL PHOTOS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON MARCH 31ST to be eligible to win 2 pair of tickets to the show and a pair of fabulous Dame Edna glasses in pink or white! The winner also receives a bouquet of gorgeous gladiolas and a personal note from Dame Edna, the night of the show! Deadline's next week so get it together, honey and get your entry in over the weekend!

Well! We were shocked, shocked we say, to hear our esteemed publication called raunchy. Raunchy? Um, I know this area isn't very cosmopolitan and this old rag isn't on the same level as, say *The New Yorker* or even *Mad Magazine* but really! It was the best laugh we've had in a long time. A certain coffee shoppe in downtown Melbourne has asked that their name not be used in a magazine that accepts ads from **Hot Flixx**. Can you imagine? We've always considered **Hot Flixx** a clean, bright, well-run, tasteful adult store – and a business that supports our community. We foresee less sunny times for a business that not only declines to show support for its customers but adds insult as well. We know that there will be a number of members of our community that will proudly continue to patronize said establishment on the grounds that they do what they want, just the same way they continue to support politicians who persecute us. It is one of the reasons this area is so repressed. We do it to ourselves. One can hope that, as our community builds pride in itself, we will gain the confidence to show our strength through unity.

Melbourne Coffee had moved, as of April 2, to Thursdays at Island Pasta in old downtown Melbourne! With a welcoming staff and a full bar and menu we anticipate that this event will grow more popular than ever. It's down near where Austin's used to be and **The Living Room** is excited about the move. There will be representatives at the old location to direct you to the new one if you forget. So now you can do dinner and coffee all at one location.

Due to family obligations we were unable to attend **The Living Room's Gay Bowling** so the reports on that event will have to wait till next month, but preliminary sales indicated over 40 attendees. We've never been into bowling but it sure seems popular and everyone does seem to have fun, although everyone seems to have more fun after a few pitchers of beer.

Next up for **The Living Room** is another benefit for **Space Coast Pride**, this time it's a comedy show at **Ultra Lounge** in Cocoa Village on April 18. Check out the ad on page 15 carefully and note that you have to be there before 8 PM for the show.

continued on page 18

BUD LIGHT
...be yourself...
at
PRIDE OF THE TREASURE COAST 2009
Noon TO 6 PM
Sunday, April 19
St. Lucie Civic Center
Walton Rd & US 1
Port St. Lucie

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Spiritually Speaking

Here we are again, in the season of Pride Festivals. Recently someone asked me why we, as a spiritual community, support the pride festivals. In life, we are not called to just be people who have a faith and who believe in something. We are called to belong.

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, and held together. We don't always agree with each other or even have the same set of beliefs. But we are not on our own. We are called to live in relationship.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the believers in Rome, "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 another 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.

Again, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. Each of us finds our meaning and purpose as a part of the body. As a chopped off finger or cut off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?"

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.**

The Bible uses the term "one another" and "each other" more than fifty times. In the Bible we find the words to love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, teach each other, greet each other, serve each other, help each other, accept each other, honor each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, and be devoted to each other. In other words, we are to be together.

4. **Our community needs us.**

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.

5. **Our community helps keep us going.**

There are times when we aren't sure we can keep on going. We want to give up. We need our community to give us

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the new strength and encouragement we need.

It's up to us – we can either go it alone or we can learn to work together. 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.

In Acts 2:42, we find these words: "The believers committed themselves to the teachings of the apostles, **to the life together**, to the common meal, and to the prayers." Romans 12:5 tells us that "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

So, why do we stand with each other and support each other and work with each other? Because we need each other to survive and to be a strong voice in our world. It doesn't matter if we are all different doing different things with different

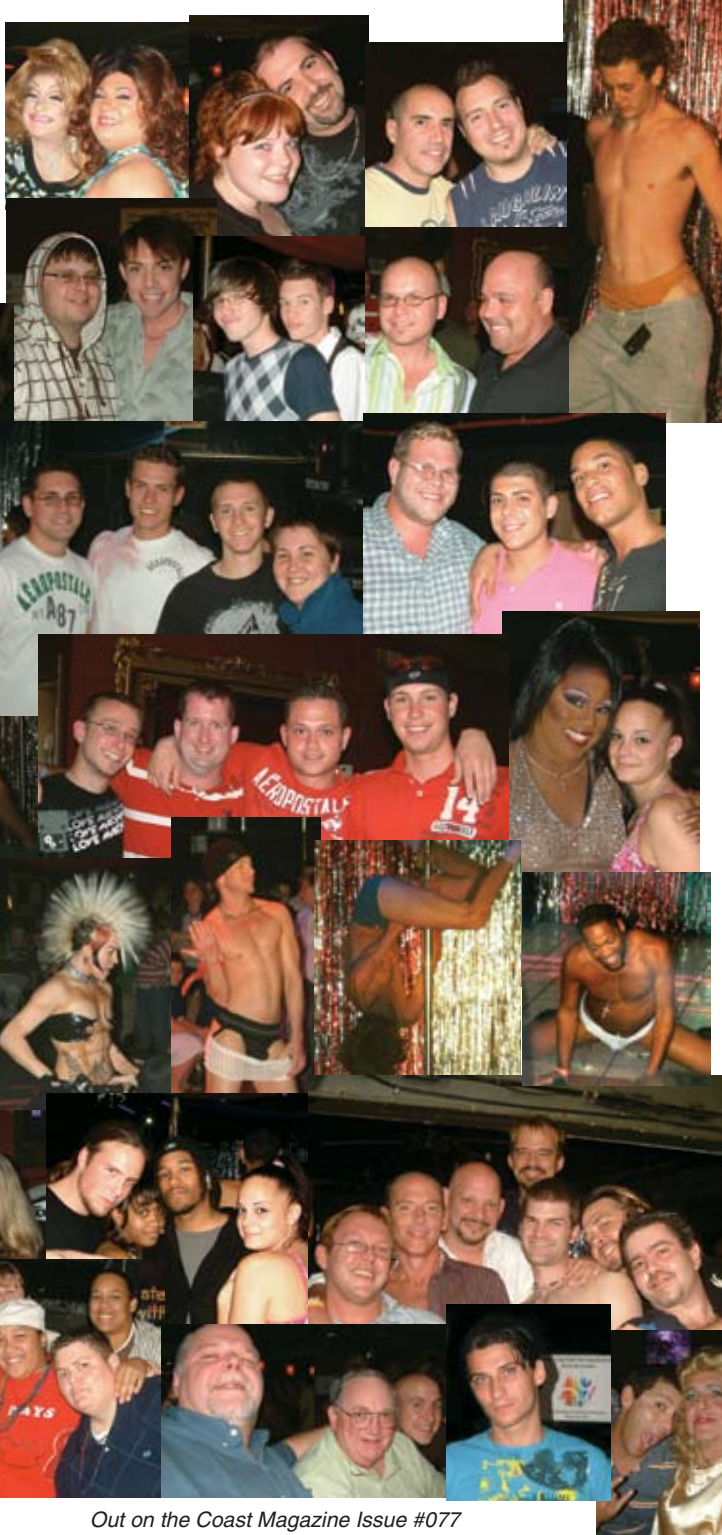
goals and emphasis in our organizations. United we stand, divided we fall. With pride, we stand together to be a force for positive change on the Space Coast and Treasure Coast of Florida.



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.

Cold Keg

photos: Lee & Phillip



Space Coast Pride 09 Logo by Brian McGowan



www.SpaceCoastPride.org

Presented by:
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www.TLRbrevard.org

Live Comedy Show Benefit Saturday, April 18

Buffet at 7pm, Doors close at 8pm
Doors reopen at 10pm

At: **THE ULTRA LOUNGE**
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Fri, Apr 3 & Sat, Apr 4 at 8pm



Dame Edna Look-a-Like Contest

You and your stylist could win 2 pair of tickets to my show and a pair of my fabulous DAME EDNA glasses in pink or white!

Go ahead, get all dolled up and take a photo or two!
All photos must be received by noon on March 31st to be eligible to win.
(email photos to jcollier@kingcenter.com)

The winner also receives a bouquet of gorgeous gladiolas and a personal note from Dame Edna, night of show!

Get your possums together now!

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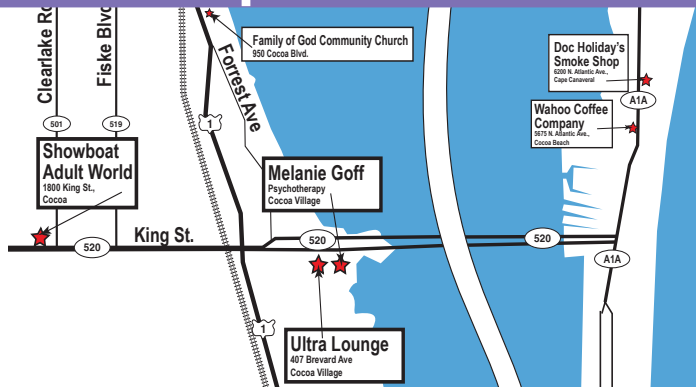
TLR & Space Coast Business Guild
At 7:30 PM on Thursdays
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Space Coast

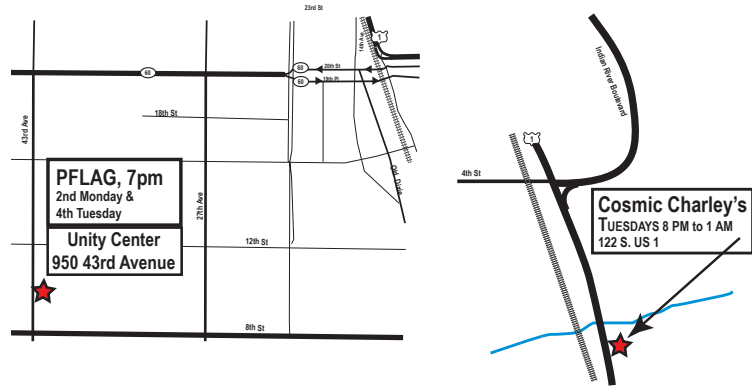
Cocoa



Cape Canaveral

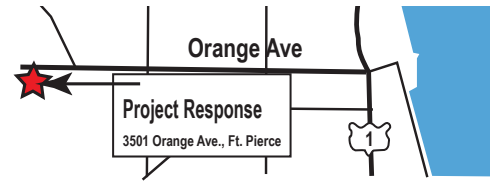
Treasure Coast

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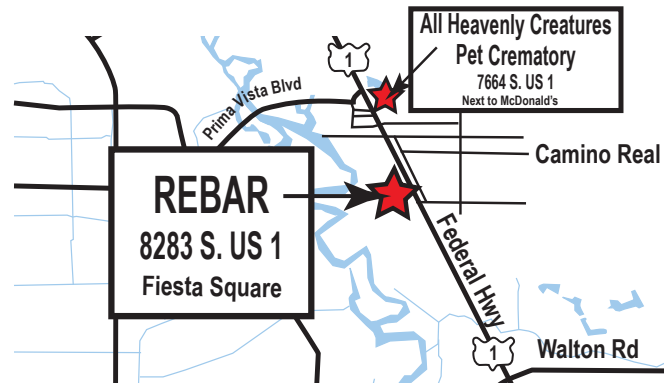
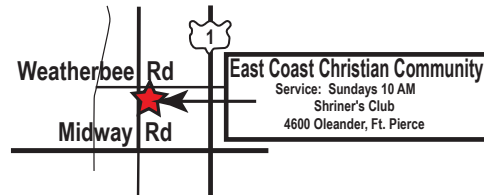


Vero Beach

Palm Bay
Melbourne



Ft. Pierce



Port St. Lucie

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Come early because seating is limited and this promises to be a great event. See any **Living Room** board member, the **Ultra Lounge** or email info@TLRbrevard.org for tickets. This is a new type of event for our community and we look forward to it!



After performing at Riverside Theatre, the cast of La Cage aux Folles was hanging out at REBAR on a Friday. You never know who's going to show up to enjoy DJ Joshua Atom's tunes!

Pride of the Treasure Coast is ready to happen. And what a spectacular venue. We couldn't get the very best angle for our cover shot due to a birthday party in the splash fountain so we had to shoot without the main building in the background. But just wait, everything is brand new, there's plenty of parking right at the edges of the event a stage that's tall enough to provide excellent sight lines and the aforementioned splash fountain will be lots of fun should it turn out hot and sunny. It's going to be incredible. The line up will be great with something for everyone with an emphasis on musical performers, as usual. This year also marks the return of Rob Lopicola to MC duties for the April 19 event.

Pride of the Treasure Coast is excited to present Quentin Elias, a French masculine model and dance music artist of Algerian origins who was born in Mende, France, in 1980. After growing up in Marseille, Elias moved to Paris to pursue a modeling career. In 2001, Elias relocated to New York City. La Video Hot! But we think we like him better without the mask – and 21:02 just to ruin the couch? Warning, Googling him can be NSFW (no suitable for womyn), as Queerty often cautions.

April also brings the return of the Miss Gay Treasure Coast Pageant at **REBAR**. Monday, April 6 will see the queens of area vying for the crown and sash. If you want to enter and haven't, contact **REBAR** ASAP. Like everything they do this pageant will be a spectacular.

We were alarmed find out that Kenny, **REBAR** manager is in hospital – it's serious but not life-threatening. He's at St. Lucie Medical at press time but may move to Martin Memorial should he need an invasive procedure. He was there Saturday afternoon for the cover shoot but in the hospital by evening. We know everyone is

continued on page 30

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IN THE NEWS

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

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously Friday, March 20, to recommend that Vermont legalize same-sex marriage, the initial step for the contentious bill to become law.

The committee rejected a proposal to wait a year and hold a non-binding referendum on the issue. Passage was never in doubt, but the unanimity of the vote was a surprise.

"I felt joy and pride," said Bari Shamas of Westminster, who came to Montpelier to watch the committee's proceedings three times this week. "It means a lot that it was unanimous," added her civil union spouse, Diane Shamas.

Beth Robinson, co-founder and chair of Vermont Freedom to Marry, called the vote encouraging, but stressed it was only the first step in a long process. "I don't want to take anything for granted."

The bill comes up for debate and the first of two votes by the full Senate on Monday. It still must be reviewed and voted on in the House. The final stop would Gov. Jim Douglas' desk, where its fate is uncertain at best. He has already said he disagrees with changing the definition of marriage.

Only a few opponents were on hand Friday morning for the committee's vote. Steve Cable of Vermont Renewal Action attended and later complained the committee had spent too little time on such as momentous change.

"This is a bill that fundamentally changes marriage," Cable said. He called it "unbelievable and outrageous" that the panel had taken just 15 hours of testimony.

Cable, of Rutland, promised political consequences for at least one of the five supporters on the Judiciary Committee — Sen. Kevin Mullin, R-Rutland.

Later Friday, in the quiet of a committee room where he was checking e-mails, Mullin

said he understood there could be political consequences. "You can't vote based on whether it is going to help you get elected."

Senate Judiciary Chairman Richard Sears, D-Bennington, opposed Mullin's referendum plan, citing his worries that such a vote would invite huge expenditures from out-of-state sources by both sides as happened in California.

"One of the things this committee has tried to do is keep it a Vermont discussion," Sears said.

Sen. John Campbell, D-Windsor said lawmakers had all heard the complaint that they were ramming the bill through without discussion. "For me, this discussion started back in 1999 and it never stopped."

He noted, too, that the Legislature named a special panel in 2007 to study how civil unions were working and what might be gained from same-sex marriage. The Vermont Commission on Family Recognition and Protection held eight hearings and a legal symposium before concluding that civil unions had failed to provide the equality and fairness promised in 2000.

Campbell served on the commission. "We went around the state and heard from hundreds and hundreds of people," he said. "We learned what they thought about moving forward with equality in marriage."

Campbell, one of the bill's sponsors, called the 5-0 vote significant, "this being such an emotional issue." He praised Mullin for political courage. "I think Rutland County should be extremely proud."

Within an hour of the vote, committee members began receiving feedback — pats on the back in the halls of the Statehouse, phone messages delivered by pages and blasts of e-mail.

"That comes with the territory of being in the

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Legislature," Sears said. While he said he was comfortable with his decision, he said there is a downside to the political attention brought on by hot issues.

Bari Shamas said she has worked with Freedom to Marry since 1997 when passage of a federal Defense of Marriage Act "brought into focus the injustice of not recognizing our family."

Bari and Diane Shamas have been a couple since 1985 and have two children, ages 13 and 15.

Even with a civil union, Diane Shamas said there remains a host of differences between what her family can access and a married man and wife. She and Bari can't pay federal income taxes as a married couple, so they pay more. They aren't eligible for Social Security survivor benefits should one of them die.

"With a Vermont civil union, we can't even make the argument we should have access to those benefits," Diane Shamas said. "We have to take Vermont to that next step."

NEW ORLEANS—According to a report on 365.com, on March 19 a federal judge gave the state of Louisiana 15 days to put both names of a gay couple on the birth certificate of their adopted son.

Oren Adar and Mickey Smith adopted their Louisiana-born son in 2006 in a New York court, where a judge issued an adoption decree. When Smith attempted to get a new birth certificate for their child, in part so he could add his son to his health insurance, the office of Louisiana State Registrar Darlene Smith told him that Louisiana does not recognize adoption by unmarried parents and so could not issue it.

Lambda Legal filed suit on behalf of Adar and Smith in October 2007, saying that the registrar was violating the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution by refusing to recognize the New York adoption. The Constitution holds that judgments and orders issued by a court in one state are legally binding in other states as well.

In December, U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey in New Orleans ordered the state Office of Vital Records to put the names of both fathers on the amended birth certificate.

In his ruling Zainey said failing to amend the birth certificate violated the U.S. Constitution. Zainey issued the ruling without holding a trial.

The Louisiana attorney general's office asked Zainey to reconsider the ruling or order a full trial but Zainey rejected the motion by Attorney General Buddy Caldwell and ordered the state to comply with his original order within 15 days.

Caldwell said he will appeal the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He wants the court to issue an immediate stay on Zainey's order until the appeal is heard.

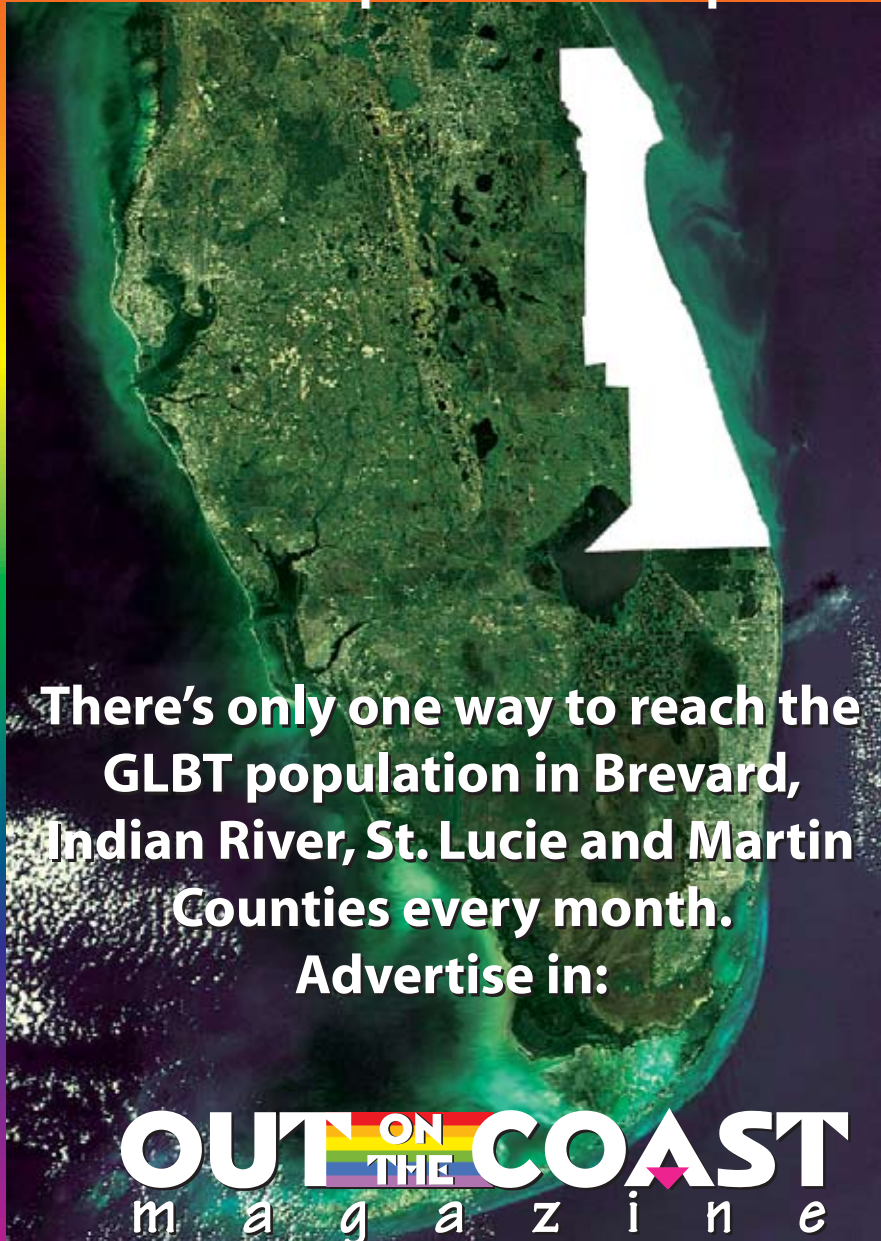
Meanwhile, a bill has been hastily filed in the state legislature that would make it illegal to revise birth certificates for people who would not qualify as adoptive parents in Louisiana. That would include gay couples.

NEW YORK—The Obama administration has signed onto a United Nations official statement of support for "Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity."

In signing the document, the United States joins 66 other nations in declaring support

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for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people to be afforded basic human rights. The other nations signed on last December.

The 13-point statement says the signatory nations reaffirm, among other things, "the principle of non-discrimination which requires that human rights apply equally to every human being regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

"We are also disturbed that violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, stigmatization and prejudice are directed against persons in all countries in the world because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and that these practices undermine the integrity and dignity of those subjected to these abuses," says the statement.

The countries condemn the use of such practices as execution and torture against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as "other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest or detention and deprivation of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to health." The statement makes no mention of the right to equal treatment under marriage laws.

The Human Rights Campaign applauded the Obama administration's move, noting that it is a reversal of a position taken by the Bush administration. HRC said that, prior to signing onto the statement, the United States was the only western nation that did not support the document. HRC President Joe Solmonese said the statement "officially recognizes that basic human rights include the equality of LGBT people."

The 66 other nations signed the document in December 2008, marking the first time a statement condemning human rights abuses against LGBT had been presented to the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. State Department issued a three-sentence statement today to note the event, saying the U.S. "is an outspoken defender of human rights and critic of human rights abuses around the world."

NEW YORK—According to a notice on their

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web site: "Genre magazine will temporarily suspend publication, due to the ongoing recession, company officials announced today.

"We thank all of our readers, advertisers and editorial staff for their support throughout our 16-year history and hope that we can re-establish our relationship when times are better," company CEO David Unger said in a statement.

He noted that the decision to suspend Genre does not have any impact on other publications produced by Window Media or Unite Media, which include the Washington Blade, Southern Voice, South Florida Blade [also referred to as Express Gay News on some pages of their web site-ed.], New York Blade and HX magazine.

"Those publications will continue to publish and support their local communities," Unger said.

There is no mention of the fate of 411 magazine.

There has been much speculation about the fate of all the publications ever since the investment fund behind them went in to federal receivership.

Queerty.com has been reporting that subscribers have not been receiving copies of Genre and that writers had not been paid in several months.

While researching this article it was noted that on GenreMagazine.com the notice Genre was suspending publication is small and easily overlooked but the subscription link still works.

While the economy is definitely impacting print advertising, it is the opinion of this publication that the problems being experienced in much of the media stem more from them being conglomerates with overpaid executives.

WEST POINT—A report on Gay Newsnet blog reported on March 17 that a group of U.S. Military Academy graduates came out of the closet Monday in a bid to overturn the ban on gays in the military and help West Point create an environment of tolerance and acceptance as they educate

future officers, reports the Military Times.

The 38-member "Knights Out" contacted the military academy's administration seeking to provide an "open forum" for gay troops and Army leaders, the paper reports.

The Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was instituted after President Bill Clinton tried to lift the ban on gay service members in 1993. It refers to the military practice of not asking recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members are banned from saying they are gay or bisexual, engaging in homosexual activity or trying to marry a member of the same sex.

Groups such as the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network actively lobby for its repeal, saying the policy is discriminatory and robs the military of critical skills. The Center for Military Readiness just as actively lobbies to keep the policy intact, arguing that a reversal "would impose new, unneeded burdens of sexual tension" on the military.


SLDN says that more than 12,500 men and women have been discharged under the policy since its implementation in 1994. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., recently introduced legislation in Congress that would repeal the law. The next day, White House Spokesman Tommy Vietor said the president has begun consulting with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen "so that this change is done in a sensible way that strengthens our armed forces and national security."

CINCINNATI—According to an article in the Chicago Sun-Times, Susan Arnold, a business trailblazer who is leaving a top job at Procter & Gamble Co., is expected to draw interest from consumer-oriented companies seeking a CEO, including Sears Holdings Corp. and Playboy.

Arnold will step down from her position as Procter & Gamble's top female officer, and serve in a special assignment until September, the company announced today. She has served as president of P&G's global business units.

Arnold is restricted by a noncompete agreement that requires her to get written consent from Procter & Gamble before she competes with the company within three

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years of her departure, a P&G spokesman told the Wall Street Journal.

The Journal reports that Walgreen Co., the Deerfield-based drugstore giant, considered Arnold as a candidate for the first outside CEO in Walgreen's history, but she took herself out of the running, according to unnamed sources.

If Arnold took a CEO job at a Fortune 500 company, she would be among just 16 women at the top of such a company and the only openly gay CEO of a major U.S. public company, the Journal said.

Arnold, who has spent her career at P&G, declined to comment for the report.

She will continue to serve on the boards of the Walt Disney Co., McDonald's, Catalyst and Save the Children.

Arnold's Wikipedia bio states: "Since 2002, she has been listed on Fortune Magazine's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business, in 2004 and 2005, she was listed on the Wall Street Journal's 50 Women to Watch, and in 2005 she was #57 on Forbes' The World's 100 Most Powerful Women list. She is on the executive committee of Catalyst, a nonprofit organization working toward the advancement of women in business.

She is openly lesbian."

WEST PALM BEACH—Soon to be seen on a billboard is a message for Rush Limbaugh in his West Palm Beach hometown. The Democratic National Committee ran an email campaign to select the slogan that best expresses their sentiment following Limbaugh's wish for President Obama's economic stimulus program's failure.

The winning slogan is "Americans didn't vote for a Rush to failure." There is no stated timeline for construction of the sign.

TALLAHASSEE—A press release from Equality Florida noted that there are five pro-GLBT bills:

- a domestic partnership bill (SB 1642/HB 1067);
- bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (SB 2012/HB 397);
- a bill that would completely overturn Florida's shameful adoption ban (SB 500/HB 413);
- and two bills that would require Florida schools to provide life saving, medically accurate sex education that includes LGBT youth (SB 268/HB 19 and SB 220/HB 265)

Go to EqFl.org for more information and to send emails to state legislators to urge them to support these bills and to thank those that are already supporting them.

TALLAHASSEE—Equality Florida coordinated a "Rally in Tally" on March 16. It was held on a day when the legislature was in session so that attendees could go and personally talk to their representatives and senators about:

Ending legalized discrimination by adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Florida's Civil Rights Law,

Ending the anti-gay adoption ban that denies children the legal protections and security that come from being adopted.

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Domestic Partners, and

Expanding Florida's Hate Crimes Law.

Over 700 people attended.

WASHINGTON, DC—On March 11, President Obama signed an Executive Order creating the White House Council on Women and Girls. The mission of the Council will be to provide a coordinated federal response to the challenges confronted by women and girls and to ensure that all Cabinet and Cabinet-level agencies consider how their policies and programs impact women and families. The Council will be chaired by Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor, and will include as members cabinet-level federal agencies. The Executive Director of the Council will be Tina Tchen, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison at the White House.

"The purpose of this Council is to ensure that all American women and girls are treated fairly in all matters of public policy," said President Obama. "My Administration has already made important progress toward that goal. I am proud that the first bill I signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act. But I want to be clear that issues like equal pay, family leave, child care and others are not just women's issues, they are family issues and economic issues. Our progress in these areas is an important measure of whether we are truly fulfilling the promise of our democracy for all our people. I am confident that Valerie Jarrett and Tina Tchen will guide the Council wisely as its members address these important issues."

The White House Council on Women and Girls will ensure that agencies across the federal government, not just a few offices, take into account the particular needs and concerns of women and girls. The Council will begin its work by asking each agency to analyze their current status and ensure that they are focused internally and externally on women.

In particular, the Council will work to enhance, support and coordinate the efforts of existing programs for women and girls. The Council will also work as a resource for each agency and the White House so that

there is a comprehensive approach to the federal government's policy on women and girls. The priorities will be carried out by working closely with the President's Cabinet Secretaries and relevant agency offices that focus on women and families.

During its first year, the Council will also focus on the following areas:

Improving women's economic security by ensuring that each of the agencies is working to directly improve the economic status of women.

Working with each agency to ensure that the administration evaluates and develops policies that establish a balance between work and family.

Working hand-in-hand with the Vice President, the Justice Department's Office of Violence Against Women and other government officials to find new ways to prevent violence against women, at home and abroad.

Finally, the critical work of the Council will be to help build healthy families and improve women's health care.

The White House Council on Women and Girls will meet regularly, and will serve as a forum for all involved agencies to focus on women.

Initial members of the Council include The Attorney General, The Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Education, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, The United States Trade Representative, The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, The Administrator of the Small Business Administration, The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, The Director of the National Economic Council and The Director of the Domestic Policy Council.

In addition to the initial list of members, the President may designate additional heads of other Executive Branch departments, agencies, and offices. ▼

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1800 King St, Cocoa	
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concerned and wishes him well. Everything should be fine so we plan on seeing him at **Pride of the Treasure Coast**.

Oh, and before we forget, did you know about **REBAR**'s boys night out? It's their new Tuesday promotion featuring Dart leagues and Pool tournaments, \$1 drafts and music videos with no cover. Check it out for a low key night out with the guys.



Linda Bartz Port St. Lucie city councilwoman, Daniel McKeegan and Sheri Wetzel enjoying themselves at REBAR. You never know who will show up for a good time!

Gov. Charlie Crist, U.S. Rep. Connie Mack, U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan and former House Speaker Marco Rubio. Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Klein and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio have also been considering running for the office. Internet discussion lists Iorio of Tampa as the Democratic frontrunner, should she enter the race.

Burns is a North Miami native. He lives with his partner of 24 years and their five-year-old daughter. Before entering politics, he was a real estate broker.



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