Covaring the Space and Treasure Coasts OUTPHE COAST THE COAST ITHE COAST I

Issue #079, June 2009

TRASH NIGHT THURSDAYS

June 4th:Velvet LeNoreJune 11th:Amber DouglasJune 18th:Kelli RandellJune 25th:Page King

June 5 & 12 ALL REQUEST FRIDAYS If we have it, we'll play it!

No Cover 75¢ Domestic Draft \$2 Mojitos ~ \$4 Long Islands

June 26: Roz Russell & Paige King



TEXAS HOLD 'EM TUES & WEDS AT 7PM AND SAT AT 4PM Play for gift cards & bar tabs



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SATURDAY GROOVE: Showtime Midnight

June 6th: Alexi Leigh with Valo & Jezebel June 13th: Faith Taylor with Lollipop & Vita June 20th: Velvet LeNore with Billy & Franki June 27th: Lady Pearl with Eli & Stephanie

MONDAYS

KARAOKE WITH NIKKI 7 PM to midnight \$1 Kamikazees \$5 domestic pitchers \$1.75 domestic bottles

SUNDAYS: PIZZA AT 6 BINGO AT 7 WITH MISS CHRISTINE Out on the Coast magazine published by OOTC Publishing, Inc. PO Box 155, Roseland, FL 32957 772.913.3008 Sales@OOTCmag.com

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8283 S. Hwy US1 - Port St. Lucie (772) 340-7777 MySpace.com/RebarPSL

COME SEE WHATS BLOOMING THIS MONTH

SHOWTIME 11:30PM

June 6th: Tori Holden Tiffany McCray & Dominique Taylor

June 13th Nikki Adams, Christiana Sinclair & Deja Devonier

June 20th: Melissa St.John, Temptation & Rianna LeNore

June 27th: Velvet LeNore, Shelita Cox & Sharde Ross

HOT MALE & FEMALE DANCERS WEEKLY



With Venus going into Taurus on the 6th, we are given the opportunity to reflect and find the true value in what we love. The full moon goes into Sagittarius on the 7th and Mercury going into Gemini on the 13th, allowing all to feel the urge and the desire to travel. Take the time to get away even if it's only a couple days. If you do travel, the new moon in Cancer on the 22nd will bring a new appreciation for your home. The lines of communication and travel are favored this month. Use this time to express yourself to others as well as explore new frontier.

Aries March 23 - April 22 This is the time for you to relax and take a deep breath after the chaos of last month. Time is not an issue here indulge yourself and instead of pushing, wait for others to catch up. Also, use this time wisely and look into your long term goals and financial matters and make solid plans for improvement in the future.

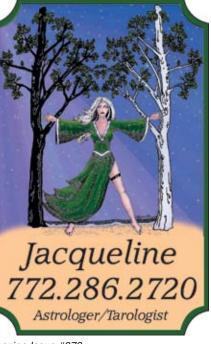
Taurus April 23 – May 22 Your intuition is keen this month, believe and trust in yourself. Others will gravitate to you with love and affection. Use this to your advantage to get what you want. Take chances and make decisions for your long term happiness now, others will support you and luck is on your side.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 Happy solar return! This is a month of preparation for the shifts coming in July. Use this month to stock up, cut your expenses

and save wherever you can for you will need the monies later. Communication opens up for you again after the 15th. Listen to what others are telling you and use what you can to your advantage.

Cancer June 23 - July 22 Finally, you get a rest. This month brings a break in the action and a chance to go easy on you. Be conservative with your financial situation and look for long term investments to put your money into. You'll find great new avenues to get the greatest return right now.

Leo July 23 – August 22 Last month brought great prospects in both continued on page 8



8283 S. Hwy US1 - Port St. Lucie (772) 340-7777 MySpace.com/RebarPSL SHOWTIME 11PM

DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

June 5th: Dominique Taylor. Tiffany McCray & Danielle Starr

HOSTESS SHELITA COX

June 12th Shelifa Cox, Christiana Sinclair & Mizz Micki

June 19th: Dominique Taylor, VelocityXtreme & Temptation

NEW FRIDAY MIG

\$2 Washington Apples 52 Lemon Drops **\$2 Alabama Slammer** \$2 Sex on the Beach Also a Different Weekly Drink Special

HOT MALE & FEMALE DANCERS WEEKLY! GRAPHICS CREATED BY WWW.VELOCITYXTREME COM

June 26th: Shellta Cox, Velvet Levlore & Dominique

ONLY AT

Out on the Coast Magazine Issue #079

your personal and professional life, now is the time to look towards the possibilities and set them in motion in a practical way. New horizons are calling you.

Take this time to travel, especially out of country and visit places you haven't seen and revile in its natural beauty.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 Now that mercury has gone direct, your plans are smooth sailing. Use this month to hone your organizational skills to get what you want out of both your personal and professional lives. Be careful not to make promises you can't keep.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Your natural conservative approach will serve you well this month as your propensity to discover the truth is heightened. Trust and follow your instincts and remain steadfast especially when you're called to be the mediator. Remember it is not your duty to solve their problems. You are there to listen. The rest is up to them. Remain neutral in the affairs of other's and this month will remain pleasurable.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Don't look at the negatives this month or you'll find a ton of them. Be true to yourself and follow what works for you and set aside the rest. Be spontaneous and detour from your normal routine and see the beauty that surrounds you. This is where you'll find your peace and harmony.

Sagittarius November 23 - December 22 With the full moon in your sign on the 7th, life starts to speed up. Don't try to accomplish too many things at once. Keep your normal pace and all will be done in the right time and everyone

will be happy.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 Your progress is just the way you like it this month, slow and steady. Know you're going in the right direction. Don't look to others for approval nor feel pressured to speed up the pace. Stay the course and steadfast in your convections and all will present itself before you.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 Life is making great changes. Just because you can see where they're going, doesn't mean you need to get there now. Life is a journey and the adventures along the path are just as important as the destination. So, set your direction and enjoy the ride there.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 Stay in your truth this month. Don't tell others what they want to hear, tell them your truth and walk away. It will be a challenge, but if you don't, your words will come back to haunt you. If you do it in your peace loving way and they'll appreciate and respect you.

For those who want to know: This month the planets are in small groupings around the chart, which gives us a pattern similar to the splay. The splays characters are one of an individualist who cannot be tied down to a routine. The desires for new experiences are strong. Be cause of this energy, others will be scattered and unable to maintain their day to day habits. So, go out now and be spontaneous and you'll find this month to be full of surprises.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. For more information on Astrology or for a private reading call: 772.286.2720

3 Sundays June 7, June 14, June 28 Join **3 Shows** 8 pm to Midnight Host Kelli Randell, **3 Venues** \$5.00 Cover **MC Alexi Leigh 3 Chances** to and friends as they raise money for Project **Help Send Children Response to send local** Impacted by HIV/AIDS children to summer camp. to Camp Heartland June 7

UBHOU Get your name on Light Buffet







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

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

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

This ad space donated by Out on the Coast magazine



It was amazing: the clouds parted, the sun came out and as the day wore on the thundershowers stayed over by I-95 making it at fabulous Sunday for **Space Coast**



Wanting to share their commitment with everyone at Space Cost Pride, Dan and Garrison, center, had their marriage (known in Florida as a commitment) ceremony on stage in front of the crowd with Kevin Burns, right, Mayor of North Miami and candidate for US Senate.



This couple chose a less public area, opting for an open air ceremony with their friends as witnesses.

economy and threat of rain, well over a thousand proud folks showed up to enjoy the festivities. There were more than twice the number of vendor than last year with plenty of variety in wares and food, plus bargain priced beer. The entertainment was more varied as well, culminating in the drag show extraordinaire with Velvet and company (and she was gracious enough to introduce them at the end) topped the

Pride! Despite the

The Living Room board members have reported income of over \$11,000! You would expect net income to be less, of course, but considering the fund had money in reserve the final numbers may well be more. Considering that last year's inaugural event netted less than \$5,000, you have to take your hat off to the entire **Space Coast Pride** committee for an outstanding effort throwing us such a great party. Net, net will be a sizeable increase in the building fund.

There was a big announcement at Space

show with an exciting production number.

Coast Pride: **Ultra Lounge** is now gay, every day! They've decided that the LGBT community doesn't need to have special days, so drop in anytime, not just Tuesdays and Sundays. Anyone who's been to **Ultra Lounge** knows that there will be a mixed crowd because it's a great place to hang out, So anytime you find yourself in Cocoa Village, stop in and have a coffee – or something stronger.



Cold Keg is about to undergo some changes, but never fear it's not going to be all at once. You'll notice some changes, hopefully you'll like them, as the year progresses but you can be sure that the bar will still be there for you. New management means new ways of doing things and we hope you'll give the new people the benefit of the doubt to see how everything works out. **Cold Keg** has been a part of the Brevard GLBT community for over 25 years (albeit as Saturdays for part of that time) and the new management really wants to build on that to become even more involved and supportive. We hear there's going to be a special goodbye party for Sharon and I'm sure it will be another packed night at **Cold Keg** to wish her well. Check www. ColdKegNightclub.com for details (which were not complete at press time).

Cosmic Charley's Pride Tuesdays in Vero Beach are just too much fun. **Kelli Randell** is now there weekly as are a bunch (herd?) of cowboys that like to get wild and are really nice and friendly, too. It's a down home kind of place where everybody is not only welcome but will have fun, too. It's difficult to figure out why it works but owner Randy and Chris Blatus behind the bar have managed to put something together that is drawing a crowd who just want to hang out and have fun.

June is traditional Pride month (you do know that the start of the Gay Rights movement is generally marked as the "riots" at the Stonewall bar in New York City in June 28, 1969 – if you don't know why we put "riots" in quotations Google Stonewall and find out and if you don't know why we used the phrase "generally marked" then you need to research Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilits) and the one area event that happens in June is the **Vero Beach PFLAG Pride Dinner/Dance.** This marks the tenth year of the organization, easily the oldest continually active organization in the region. It is amazing that there are founding members still active in the organization. In most groups people burn out for one reason or another and

Spiritually Speaking

June is traditional Gay Pride month. The anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, no doubt, has contributed to this. Gay people have come along way in discovering the uniqueness and diversity of our sexual identity. But, it is more than sex, per se, but sexual identity identifies who we are. It places us in categories of Heterosexual or Homosexual. Psychology and Psychoanalysis love such categories as to diagnose the human condition. Of course the debate continues on sexual behavior as opposed to sexual identity. But I digress. Society throughout history has ping-ponged back and forth in its acceptance or rejection of Gays and Lesbians. The politics of the time or the sensitivity of the masses (no doubt influenced by religious pronouncements) have had resounding effects on how we have been perceived and treated. In some parts of our world today, there still exists the ancient hatred of all things homo. Arrest, torture, imprisonment, and even execution are practiced upon homosexuals even in our advanced technological and learned society.

Religion has been NO help, that's for sure. Organized religion has not assisted the Gay community in its guest of selfunderstanding and self-appreciation. Christianity's traditional view of sexuality has done more harm than good. God made us with bodies and spirits. We understand the natural world through our bodies. We commune and connect with God through our spirits. Yet, the old school taught that the body endures sexual pleasures only for pro-creative purposes. It was believed (and still is by many) that sex passes along original sin and it pollutes the soul. Oy vey! One of the early Church Fathers, Augustine,

taught that sex was essentially sinful and debasing, but could be tolerated because within the confines of marriage it produced a good end—children. Of course, the children had to be baptized (cleansed) or they would be dammed to hell since they were the result of "sinful sex." Please, Mary Louise! In our modern thinking this is archaic and ridiculous thinking—but it formed the basis for Christian thought for hundreds of years. No wonder poets like William Blake penned "The Garden of Love", in expressing this opposition between flesh and spirit. He wrote:

I went to the Garden of Love, And saw what I never had seen; A chapel was built in the midst, Where I used to play on the green.

And the gates of this Chapel were shut, And 'Thou shalt not' writ over the door; So I turned to the Garden of Love, That so many sweet flowers bore;

And I saw it was filled with graves, And tomb stones where flowers should be; And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds.

And binding with briars my joys and desires.

Boy! Religion can be a sour puss! But, thank God, many of us discovered God, sexual-acceptance, self-image, and community NOT through organized religion, but through a personal encounter called spirituality. Since, God, the Source of Life is a spirit, it makes sense that we can connect with this Source, apart from rules and rites of organized religion, which is humanity's attempt to make sense of it all. This is how I came to terms with my sexuality. It was through seeing from the perspective of God's unconditional love, not through the narrow-minded

Cosmic Charley's



perspective of flawed religion, that harmony and peace replaced guilt, remorse, and self-hatred. Religion in itself is not bad, but it can push bad things on people they think will help. Instead of coming to terms with sexuality, many religions simply judge queers to eternal damnation. The Roman Catholic position is that homosexuality is intrinsically evil. but if one remains celibate, one can remain in the Church. WOW! Talk about denial of *identity* as long as *behavior* is suppressed! Sounds very hypocritical to me. Throughout the sad history of our evolution, Gays have had to discover their sexual being and identity apart from organized religion. True spirituality is connecting with the One who created us in the first place. And that Creator does not make mistakes, and does not make trash. Once we connect, there is no going back. God, in our highest conception, is not hypocritical as religious bigots.

Cosmic Charley's Charley's Pride Tuesdays I22 South US I Vero Beach 772-562-7017 \$5 cover (free Drink) 8 PM to I AM Drag Dancers Drink Shows Specials Amateur Performers Welcome

Gay pride is a healthy approach to appreciating who we really are, and what we can contribute to the universe; not only in art, music, literature, and the sciences, etc.—but simply by being ourselves, we lift awareness of unity within diversity. We are all one human family and we express our sexuality in various modalities. So go ahead—celebrate Pride! Celebrate the image of the Divine within!

▼

The Reverend Gregory L. Denton is Pastor of New Hope First Community Church, "A church built on love where everyone is welcome," an independent growing congregation that believes in God's all-inclusive love. New Hope, celebrating its 13th year in the Palm Beaches, is located at 2929A South Seacrest Blvd. in Boynton Beach, FL. Sunday services are 10:30 am. On the web at: www.newhopefla.org



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continued from page 11

move on but **Vero Beach PFLAG** has managed to keep themselves relevant to their members' lives. With their many activities and good works, it's really an organization all Indian River County people should check out.

10 Years of Pride

> 10th Annual Pride Dinner/Dance Saturday, June 13

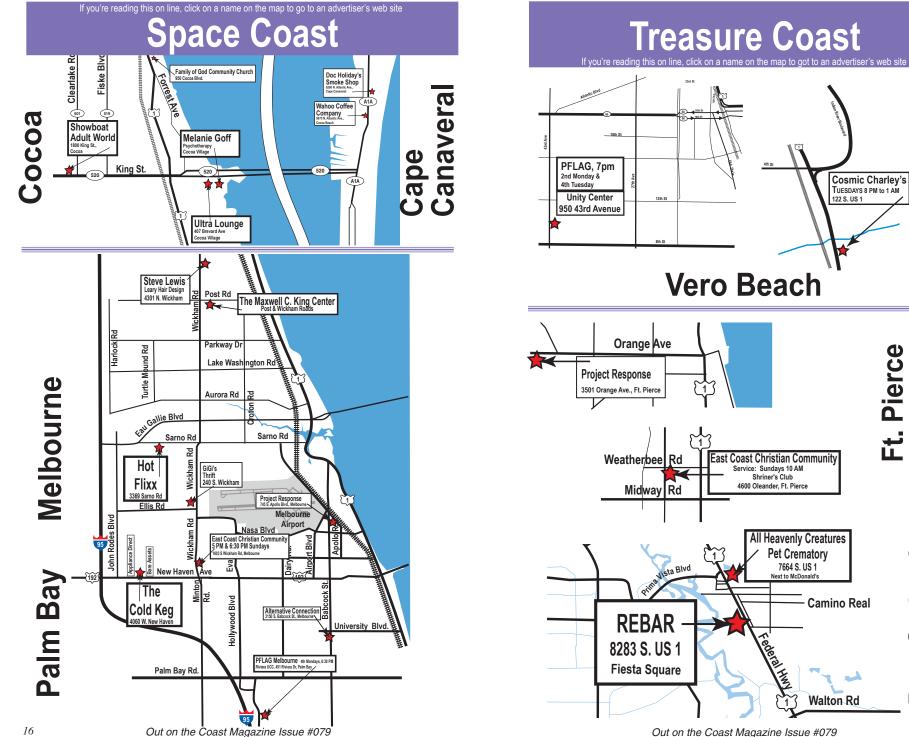
Italian American Club

1600 25th St. in Vero Buffet/Kelli Randell/

> Silent Action Tickets \$25

Call 772-321-9394

REBAR has lots of stuff going on. They're getting ready for **REBAR IDOL** so hone your talent and get ready for the premier talent contest in the area. And note that boys don't have to wear a dress and girls don't have to be butch, but whatever you do, you have to do it very well to win. The winning smile of Angel is now behind the bar and we know he'll do as well there as when he was dancing and selling shots, although we admit we'll miss his hot body moving through the crowd. It's sure to be



Port St. Lucie

a hot week starting Wednesday June 3rd when GIRLAPALOOZA kicks off a Special Beach Party Week at **REBAR** with a benefit to send Velvet LeNore to Miss Gay USA 2010! The rest of the week will be Beach Party themed with many fun events, what are they you say? Come to REBAR and you won't miss a thing! And you'll be sorry if you miss Friday, June 26th when Shelita Cox, Dominique Taylor and Velvet LeNore host Training a Tranny! You know this will be insane fun, so come out to **REBAR** to find out what these girls will do with some hot boys. And a new feature of Fridays at **REBAR** is a new drink special each week along with 4 new Shot Specials, \$2 Washington Apples, \$2 Lemon Drops, \$2 Alabama Slammers and \$2 Sex on the Beach! Hold on to your hats Port St. Lucie, it's summer and it's **REBAR** and it's going to be incredible!

Also happening down in Port St. Lucie, The Gateway Project and Treasure Coast PFLAG are having a barbeque! Will be held on Saturday, June 6th from 4-7 PM at the Turtle Run Park in Port St. Lucie! There's a \$5 donation to help fund the organizations. It is going to be lots of fun, so please stop in and show your support – even if you aren't going to hang out, slip them a fin to keep their mission going. If you want stay, know that the hot dogs and hamburgers are courtesy of Dan Tobias and Randy Kelly – actually all the food and drink is being donated, so be generous and slip an extra fin in to thank the two groups for all they are doing.

FOG?

Gay Rights Tidbits: The Harrah's chain of Las Vegas casinos and hotels has written a letter to Nevada's legislature warning about a potential loss in gay tourism if Gov. Gibbons vetoes that state's pending domestic partners bill.

In a letter to lawmakers, Harrah's Senior Vice President Jan Jones said that Nevada must compete with other destinations for the growing gay and lesbian business and that there could be a "negative economic impact" if the bill does not become law.

"Our state cannot afford to lose any more revenue to other destinations because of a reputation as a place which is not socially or politically the right place to do business or to vacation," Jones stated in the letter. Gays and lesbians have the highest disposable income of any segment of the population, according to Jones. "Our company does aggressive marketing to this community," Jones said Wednesday. "How can we say to them 'we want your business, but we don't care about your rights."

Honesty is the best policy, and diversity is the right thing to do. Harrah's has accomplished both with this letter of support for the Nevada domestic partnership bill, which the governor promises to veto.

What does this mean to you here in Florida? Think about it, if we turn out in large numbers, we get recognized by politicians as a voting bloc (nevermind that we don't all vote the same, politicians identify potential votes by groups and ignore individual variations). But more importantly businesses recognize us as an economic force and it's the businesses who finance campaigns and pay the lobbyists. So that makes it doubly important for those who can be out to be OUT and for everyone to come out for events in our own community where the crowd masks individual identity.

Make no mistake about it, the politicians kept count at our Pride Festivals as did businesses. They may report one-half to one-third the actual total, but they know

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IN THE NEWS

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

TALAHASSEE—On May 14 the Florida Court of Appeals unanimously reversed a lower court ruling. The result of the Appellate Court ruling means that although adoptions by gays and lesbians is prohibited in Florida (the only state that explicitly targets gays – other states ban gay adoption by limiting it to married couples) adoptions granted in other states must be recognized in Florida. The unanimity of the decision is also important, as rulings by divided courts are easier to dispute.

The NCLR explained that "The Florida Court of Appeals unanimously reversed a lower court ruling and held that Florida must give full faith and credit to adoptions granted to same-sex couples by other states, holding that Lara Embry. the plaintiff in the case, 'must be given the same rights as any other adoptive parent in Florida.' The court based its decision on the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the federal constitution and a Florida statute requiring Florida to honor adoption decrees from other states. Noting that 'there are no public policy exceptions to the full faith and credit which is due to judgments entered in another state,' the court concluded that 'regardless of whether the trial court believed that the Washington adoption violated a clearly established public policy in Florida, it was improper for the trial court to refuse to give the Washington judgment full faith and credit.' A concurring opinion further noted that Embry's 'same-sex relationship with [the other parent] is irrelevant for the purpose of enforcing her rights and obligations as an adoptive parent."

"The case arose when Lara Embry filed a petition seeking shared custody of a child she had raised with her former partner, Kimberly Ryan. The couple had two children together. Each gave birth to one child, and each adopted her non-biological child through a second-parent adoption in the state of Washington, where the family lived. The couple moved to Florida, and their relationship ended several years later. They agreed to share custody of both children and did so successfully until Ryan unilaterally decided to separate the children, who are deeply bonded as siblings, and cut off all contact between Embry and one of the children."

There is also a case making its way through the courts challenging the gay adoption ban and

many expect that case to make it to the Florida Supreme Court for resolution of the matter long before the law can be repealed legislatively.

ALBANY—A report on newsday.com on May 12, stated that the New York State Assembly passed a same-sex marriage bill by a larger margin than the last time they considered the bill two years ago.

The bill's fate in the State Senate remained uncertain, Majority Leader Malcolm Smith acknowledged. Efforts to persuade wavering senators will be aided by the lower chamber's action, he said. Despite having a majority at least six of 32 Democratic Senators have said they oppose the bill. He has said he will not bring the measure to a vote without first knowing it will pass.

In the 150-member Assembly Tuesday, 89 voted in favor of legalizing civil marriages between two men or two women, up from 85 in 2007. Advocates of same-sex marriage hope the larger victory margin will increase pressure on the Senate, which didn't take up the bill under Republican leadership two years ago.

NEW ORLEANS—A Queerty column on May 13 gleefully reported that Republican Louisiana Sen. David Vitter, who is about as homophobic as they come, a staunch supporter of abstinenceonly sex education, one who tried amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, the guy who said, "I don't believe there's any issue that's more important than this one." The report was unclear on whether that before or after Vitter compared the effects of gays getting married to Hurricane Katrina. The report pointed out that you may recall Vitter's name was on the D.C. Madame's list, because he likes his hookers! Or did as a mere Representative.

Now it seems Senator Vitter has an imposing opponent for his seat. Perhaps buxom is a more accurate description of Stormy Daniels, the porn star who plans on giving Vitter a fight for his Senate seat — and someone who has the opposite stance on all of Vitter's "family values."

An an interview this week, the star of such films Tit Happens and Super Size Meat comes out swinging on equality. Says Daniels: "One of the joys of being an American is equal treatment....



The big debate against gay marriage is that it's a sin, but ... that's between the couple in question and their higher power. It's not the government's decision. Do we really want to spend all this money fighting couples from getting a piece of paper? ... And by the way, telling them they can't get married isn't going to magically make them un-gay."

How serious a threat is Daniels to Vitter's Senate seat? It's an uphill battle. Nevermind her adult career, or that she's running in a conservative state like Louisiana. It's all about the money, and Vitter has the GOP machine in place to raise cash. Daniels, alas, does not, and it's unlikely the DNC will start rallying behind a porn star. Ultimately, without the money to back a media campaign, her fight is dead in the water. Although one can always hope, we'll leave the obvious observations about differences between politicians and porn stars to you.

HOLLYWOOD—following her controversial (according to right wingers, hysterically funny according to liberals) appearance at White house correspondent's dinner Wanda Sykes has is it the mom of twins!

ProudParenting.com reported, "Very happy news for funny lady Wanda Sykes! The 45year-old came out publicly as a lesbian last November. And, now Wanda and her wife, Alex, are proud parents!

"Sykes' wife gave birth to healthy twins, a boy and a girl, on April 27th. Their little boy Lucas Claude and daughter Olivia Lou are said to be doing well. The twins are the first children for the happy couple."

The actress, who stars on New Adventures of Old Christine, and her wife were married on Oct. 25, 2008. The twins are the first children for the couple.

NEW YORK—The gay-religion blog on blogspot. com reported that the former Catholic Bishop Of Milwaukee has admitted he is gay. The Roman Catholic archbishop who resigned in 2002 over a sex and financial scandal involving a man describes his struggles with being gay in an upcoming memoir about his decades serving the church.

Archbishop Rembert Weakland, former head of the Milwaukee archdiocese, said in an interview Monday that he wrote about his sexual orientation because he wanted to be candid about "how this came to life in my own self, how I suppressed it, how it resurrected again."

Called "A Pilgrim in a Pilgrim Church: Memoirs of a Catholic Archbishop," the book is set to be released in June.

"I was very careful and concerned that the book not become a Jerry Springer, to satisfy people's prurient curiosity or anything of this sort," Weakland told The Associated Press. "At the same time, I tried to be as honest as I can."

AUGUSTA, ME—Lesgetreal.com reported on May 23 that Maine's Catholic Church may loose its tax exempt status due to its actions in its opposition to Maine's same-sec marriage law.

It has been alleged that the Roman Catholic Diocese in Maine is violating the IRS tax exempt status by gathering signatures for an attempt to repeal Maine's same-sex marriage law. The Empowering Spirits Foundation has filed for an investigation into the Catholic Church's gathering of signatures in the current ballot petition. The Catholic Church is adamant about putting an end to the bill, and is supporting the attempt to put this to a voter veto in the upcoming election.

Maine became the fifth state to legalize marriage equality in the country, and the second to do so via the legislative process after Vermont. New Hampshire's bill is currently hung up over wording.

The Diocese believes that it is not breaking their IRS tax status by gathering signature for

the ballot measure; however, because they are doing this in the name of the Catholic Church, they may, indeed, be violating their status. One lawyer stated that the Church may be violating their status as a non-profit because, in gathering these signature under their name, they could be attempting to influence the future vote on this issue.

Meanwhile, marriage equality advocates celebrated their victory today by thanking the legislature for their efforts to make marriage between all individuals a reality.

The fate of the ballot measure is relatively murky. Maine is already teetering on the edge of having a majority favor same-sex marriage, and the state already has civil unions. The attempt to get a similar measure on the ballot to repeal civil unions failed to reach the threshold of signatures necessary to get it before the voters.

The outcome of this issue may have major repercussions in Florida and other states where signatures for citizen initiatives were orchestrated through churches. In Florida the web site for the backers of Amendment 2 had extensive instructions for churches on what to do and say and even had downloads for inserts for church bulletins and petitions to be signed at church services.

MADISON—As reported in LezGetReal, The Wisconsin State Supreme Court formally issued notice it intends to review the case of McConkey v. J.B. Van Hollen, et.al...

This is a case where a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh professor William McConkey and father of a gay child, is challenging the legality of the 2006 referendum amendment to Wisconsin's constitution banning same-sex marriage and civil unions. McConkey argues that amendment should be nullified because the two questions in the referendum should have been voted on separately.

McConkey's case was dismissed last year by Dane County Judge Richard Niess, who said in his ruling those the issue is "two sides of the same coin."

But McConkey appealed to the Wisconsin District 4 Court of Appeal, who in turn asked the Wisconsin Supreme Court to review the case, saying, "The validity of the marriage amendment is a matter of significant public interest with statewide implications."

A win in the Wisconsin Supreme Court would not legalize gay marriage in Wisconsin, as the state would still define marriage as a heterosexual union, but it would allow gay and lesbian couples who have been denied a marriage license the right to file lawsuits in Wisconsin to change that.

A win in the Wisconsin Supreme Court will give marriage equality supporters elsewhere a model to begin taking on similarly written Defense of Marriage amendments in other states, making this a very important court case indeed.

The decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court is expected sometime in fall or winter of 2009.

WASHINGTON, DC—a UN Dispatch stated that Congress has inserted a provision into the State Department authorization budget that would require the State Department to confer the same benefits to same-sex partners as it does to married couples.

Congressman Howard Berman. Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. included the provision in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 (H.R. 2410) to "end the long-standing practice of excluding the committed partners of Foreign Service officers from the benefits routinely provided to the spouses and children of officers serving abroad." The provision now must make its way through the budget process, including the conference committee where many-a-well intentioned proposal hits the chopping block. But in this case, it would be hard to imagine that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is lead by Chairman John Kerry and the moderate republic ranking member Richard Lugar, would do anything to strip out this provision.

This would be progress. For too long, gay and lesbian diplomats have had to chose between their families and their service. "I'm happy that efforts to redress these discriminatory policies are being undertaken," emails Michael Guest a former Foreign Service officer currently affiliated with the Center for Global Equality. "This is all about ensuring the safety, effectiveness and equal workplace conditions for those who serve our country abroad, and for the families who accompany them on those assignments." Amen!

SAN ANGELO, TX—From SanAngelo.com, the web site for the local newspaper.

J.W. Lown has left his position as mayor of San Angelo to pursue a personal relationship.

Lown said in a telephone call late Wednesday afternoon from Mexico that he has started a relationship with someone who does not have legal status in the United States. Lown said he did not want to take the oath of office knowing he was "aiding and assisting" someone who was not a citizen.

"I made the final decision when I knew it was the right decision to make for me and my partner and our future — and for the community," he said.

Lown was scheduled to take the oath of office Tuesday for his fourth term as mayor but did not appear at the event.

Lown said the man came to the United States five years ago. He attended Angelo State University. Lown said the relationship started after March.

Lown and the man are in Mexico awaiting a visa to come back legally.

"I did the best I could," Lown said. "I had to get down here and get everything in order to make a life for myself."

"I didn't make this decision lightly," he said. "I have to give this a chance."

He said he and his partner will come back to San Angelo if "the people of San Angelo will welcome me back."

Lown abruptly resigned his post only 10 days after achieving a landslide victory for his fourth term.

Lown won re-election with 89.34 percent of the vote. The mayor in San Angelo is elected atlarge, serves a two-year term and has a seat on the City Council. The mayor has no additional power beyond that of his fellow council members, who are elected from single-member districts.

In his resignation letter, Lown said, "While I know that the timing of this announcement is less than ideal, I have my own compelling reasons for making this decision. I have made thousands of decisions on behalf of our community, and I weighed this decision in the same manner that I approached other decisions."

Dominguez said he was surprised by the letter. "I think the best indication we have is it was a personal decision he felt was in his best interest and in the community's best interest," Dominguez said. "He reiterated how important the community is to him."

Several council members were at the news conference, and while they were surprised with Lown's decision to step down, they said people should respect Lown's wishes for privacy.

Jon Mark Hogg, council member and mayor pro tem, said "I think it goes without saying we lost a

great public servant with Mayor Lown. He cared about and advocated for the city of San Angelo. Mayor Lown has made positive improvements with the city."

San Angelo, pop. 88,439, is the county seat of Tom Green County, in West-Central Texas. As of the 2000 census, the city had a total).

The city began as a frontier town near Fort Concho, which was established in 1867. Goodfellow Air Force Base is located at the city's outskirts

A poll conducted by the site showed that on May 20, 2009, this is how the population answered this question: "How would you rate J.W. Lown's performance as mayor of San Angelo for the past 6 years?"

Excellent	69%	823 votes
Good	13%	156 votes
Fair	6%	71 votes
Poor	7%	93 votes
Other	2%	34 votes

SPRINGFIELD, IL—A column in the Washington Blade reported that the Illinois General Assembly is expected to legalize civil unions.

Citing Rick Garcia, political director for Equality Illinois, who said he's "absolutely" expecting the full state House and the Senate to pass a civil union measure either and the bill has support from Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (D).

The House Youth and Family Committee, chaired by Rep. Greg Harris, who's gay, and represents the area of Chicago that includes the gay business district, intends to attach an amendment legalizing civil unions to a "shell bill" that's already been approved by the Senate, according to Garcia. Upon passage in the House, the bill would be sent to the Senate within hours for a vote of concurrence.

Garcia said Illinois lawmakers often use "shell bills" to pass legislation expediently. He said it's necessary to legalize civil unions through this method because the legislative session ends May 30 and the approach limits the time that opponents of civil unions can lobby lawmakers.

"We get it out of the House and then senators only have a few hours of being beat up by our opponents rather than three days or a long weekend," he said. "Since there is a perfectly legitimate way of doing it in one day, that's what we're going to do."

The official purpose of the "shell bill" that lawmakers are planning to amend relates to death and estate issues. *continued on page 25*

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On March 5, the House Youth and Family Committee reported out legislation that would have legalized civil unions with a vote of 5-4. The amendment that lawmakers intend to attach to the "shell bill" has identical language to the legislation, Garcia said.

Garcia said Equality Illinois has nine lobbyists working as either full-time staffers or contractors to encourage lawmakers to vote in favor of civil unions. Other groups assisting in passing the measure include the American Civil Liberties Union, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Service Employees International Union, Garcia said.

Should the measure become law, both gay and straight couples could enter into civil unions. As there's no explicit language regarding an effective date, couples could start entering into civil unions 30 days after the bill is signed into law, Garcia said.

The measure contains language noting that the establishment of civil unions would not interfere with the practices of any religious group and that any religious institution could decide for itself whether or not to solemnize or officiate a civil union.

DENVER—The Advocate.com reported on May 21 that Colorado governor Bill Ritter discreetly signed a bill that would give same-sex domestic partners of state employees the same benefits as spouses of heterosexual employees.

"It's an important piece of legislation that will help make sure the state can attract and retain good employees and compete with the private sector," said Rep. Mark Ferrandino, one of the bill's sponsors.

There has been little public protest, but the governor's decision still met with criticism from social conservative groups. "If the signing of Senate Bill 88 did not disregard the desires of the people, why was it signed in the dark of the

night?" Jessica Langfeldt, legislative director of Colorado Family Action, said in a statement.

Mindy Barton of Equal Rights Colorado said the publicity isn't as important as the act of signing the bill. "When you're looking at the short time frame after the close of the session, there's just a landslide of bills the governor is looking at," Barton said. "I'm very happy that he did sign this important piece of legislation."

NEW MEXICO—Statement by Friends & Family of Rodger McFarlane on his Death

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our friend, colleague, and hero, Rodger McFarlane. A pioneer and legend in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and HIV/AIDS movements, Rodger took his own life in Truth or Consequences. New Mexico. In a letter found with his remains, Rodger explained that he was unwilling to allow compounding heart and back problems to become even worse and result in total debilitation. We know that Rodger was in a great deal of pain. Already disabled in his own mind, he could no longer work out or do all the outdoor activities he so loved. He was also now faced with the realization that he could literally not travel, making employment increasingly difficult. As his friends and family, we thought it was important that we communicate to the world that it has lost an amazingly wonderful individual who contributed so mightily to our humanity.

Rodger approached every aspect of his life with boundless passion and vigor. While many people go their entire lives wanting to be good at just one thing, Rodger excelled at virtually everything he did. Brilliant activist and strategist, decorated veteran, accomplished athlete, bestselling author, and humanitarian are just a few of the accolades that could be used to describe our friend. To know Rodger was to love an irreverent, wise-cracking Southerner who hardly completed a sentence that didn't include some kind of four-

continued on page 27

letter expletive. He fought the right fight every day, was intolerant of silence, and organized whole communities of people to advocate for justice. These were traits that endeared him to us and are traits that make his legacy incredibly rich and powerful.

The power of Rodger's many personal and professional accomplishments cannot be denied. He was on the forefront of responding to the AIDS epidemic that ravaged our country – and specifically the gay community – in the 1980's. Before HIV even had a name, in 1981, Rodger set up the very first hotline anywhere; he just set it up on his own phone. That was the Rodger we knew. A born strategist and leader, Rodger took three organizations in their infancy and grew each into a powerhouse in its own way, empowered to tackle this national tragedy.

One of the original volunteers and the first paid executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's first and largest provider of AIDS client services and public education programs, Rodger increased the organization's fundraising from a few thousand dollars to the \$25 million agency it is today. Until his death, he was the president emeritus of Bailey House, the nation's first and largest provider of supportive housing for homeless people with HIV.

From 1989 to 1994, he was executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/ EFA), merging two small industry-based fundraising groups into one of America's most successful and influential AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. During his tenure at BC/EFA, annual revenue increased from less than \$1 million to more than \$5 million, while also leveraging an additional \$40 million annually through strategic alliances with other funders and corporate partnerships. Rodger was also a founding member of ACT UP – NY, the now legendary protest group responsible for sweeping changes to public policy as well as drug treatment and delivery processes.

Most recently, Rodger served as the executive director of the Gill Foundation, one of the nation's largest funders of programs advocating for LGBT equality. He transformed the Foundation by sharpening its strategic purpose. He focused its philanthropy in the states, aligned its investment with political imperatives and forged relationships with straight allies that helped to further both the LGBT movement. Rodger was instrumental in the creation of the Gill Foundation's sister organization, Gill Action. The brilliance of Rodger's vision is being seen today as important protections for LGBT people become a reality in more and more states.

No one will ever doubt that our friend Rodger lived a rich and complete life. A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Rodger was a licensed nuclear engineer who conducted strategic missions in the North Atlantic and far Arctic regions aboard a fast attack submarine. A gifted athlete, he was a veteran of seven over-ice expeditions to the North Pole. He also competed internationally for many years as an elite tri-athlete, and in 1998 and 2002, competed in the Eco-Challenges in Morocco and Fiji, where he captained an all-gay female-majority team.

In spite of the fact that Rodger never completed college, he was an accomplished and best-selling author and the producer of works for the stage. Rodger was the co-author of several books, including The Complete Bedside Companion: No Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously III (Simon & Schuster, 1998), and most recently, Larry Kramer's The Tragedy of Today's Gays (Penguin, 2005). In 1993, he co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-nominated production of Larry Kramer's The Destiny of Me, the sequel to The Normal Heart.

Rodger had a reputation as a hard-ass. That reputation didn't do him justice. Many of us will remember Rodger as a caregiver, a man who nursed countless friends and family members battling cancer and AIDS. He was the most compassionate and giving of friends, especially to those in physical or emotional distress.

His many achievements were recognized throughout his life. Most recently, he had received the Patient Advocacy Award from the American Psychiatric Association. Other honors included the New York City Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Voluntary Action Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, and the Emery Award from the Hetrick Martin Institute, as well as Tony and Drama Desk honors.

How do you sum up someone's life in just a few words? It's impossible and you can't. To commemorate Rodger's life, his friends will organize celebrations of his, the details of which are still in the planning stages. If Rodger was anything, he was a character through and through; there are, quite literally, thousands of "Rodger stories." That's part of what made him such a special person. During our celebrations, we'll share some of these stories and reflect on the many legacies left by our friend for life, Rodger McFarlane.

Information on donations in memorial will also be forthcoming."

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very well how many people attended. Now that the economy is weak we can have a bigger influence so pay attention and the most closeted will be able to get involved by changing spending habits to back up those who can be public and can speak out. By throwing our weight around locally, the locals will suddenly "discover" us and things will change in our favor.

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Birthdays, birthdays, birthdays. Clockwise From top left: Kayte serves up the cake to Hugabut at the Cold Keg; fellow Taurus, Alexi Leigh performing at her birthday party at the Clubhouse in Vero; Janise delivers the cake to Gemini Anthony at the Cold Keg and finally, our publisher and a founder of The Living Room and Space Coast Pride, Lee Newell with Velvet and Kelli at the Pride Fest after party.

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