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Issue #087 June 24, 2010

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

Sudden shifts are abundant this month as Uranus: the ruler of the unexpected changes goes retrograde on the 5th in Aries; these shifts from the past that require one's immediate attention. However, when Venus goes into Virgo on the 10th, we are afforded the ability to see the beauty in everything that surrounds us. Take them as they are, no analogy needed, only an open mind. The New Moon and Solar Eclipse in Cancer on the 11th, will bring us back to what truly nurtures us and gives us the desire to strive. This will be an emotionally sensitive time for all but we must not act; there is no cause for alarm because Saturn will go into Libra on the 21st and bring our emotions and actions back into balance. However. when Jupiter turns retrograde on the 23rd; make sure you have a strong grip on your financial situation before then. The full Moon in Aquarius 25th shifts our emotions towards the future and Mercury in Virgo on the 27th us the details of how to achieve it. Finally Mars goes into Libra on the 29th, focusing our actions on balancing the sudden changes that have occurred.

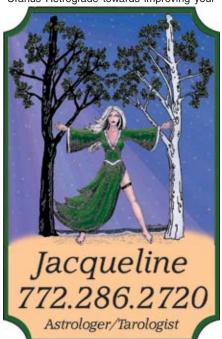
Aries March 23 - April 22 Now is the time for your wit and humor to guide and bring relief to some challenging events. Don't be drawn in to the drama of the day, as you are not a problem solver. Be a friend and shoulder to cry on as your compassion is needed and not your advice. Heed the signs the universe is showing especially around the new moon and solar eclipse on the 11th. Be aware but be safe and show them the bright side of the situation and all will be easier.

Taurus April 23 - May 22 With The chaos that is around you, you stand stoic with an air of confidence and ease of mind. The energy emitted as the Sun. Venus. Mars and Mercury compliment your sign, augmented by the New Moon and Solar Eclipse on the 11th enhance your personal and professional relationships with others and the nurturing side of you. Express yourself more during

this month and you'll find the solutions to the problems vou've had.

Gemini May 23 - June 22 The Uranus retrograde has your twins battling one another to see which is supreme. Take heed but don't despair, let things fall where they may so that you may have a better understanding where you stand in the universe. The projects you set in motion in the past do not need your attention, let them run unabated vou've done what you can, just monitor the progress and give guidance when needed. Nothing is urgent, nothing is in dire need, set aside time for yourself and indulge in a hobby that stimulates you and fulfill your needs.

Cancer June 23 – July 22 Happy solar return! Prepare vourself for endless possibilities as the Solar Eclipse and New Moon in your sign opens new doors and opportunities in your personal and professional life. Use this Uranus Retrograde towards improving your



health and work environment. Be diligent in all your efforts and show the world that you are willing to take that extra step: the benefits will pay off double in the end.

Leo July 23 - August 22 The planets are still aligned in your favor. The new dilemma is what do you want? This is a time of new beginnings and celebration for you. Set aside some personal time and visual your desires and formulate a plan to get there. Afterwards seek advice from trusted friends: you may be pleasantly surprised at the results and backing from unknown sources.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 The drama from yesterday continues today as the Uranus retrograde takes control of your life. Mars is pushing you to make some big decisions and friends are providing ill advice. Look in yourself for the answer to your problems, rely on your intuitiveness to make the right decisions and don't analyze if it is right or wrong. After the 27th, when Mercury goes into your sign you'll know if you've made the right decision. Venus is in your sign this month use its good fortune to start or renew a relationship gone wrong.

Libra September 23 - October 22 This Uranus retrograde has got you in a tizzy as friends and coworkers flock to you for advice and help. Your nurturing and "can do" attitude steers you into believing that you can fix everything for everybody. Don't. Know your boundaries and do not cross them. Pick and choose the ones you are best at and let the rest go. Live in the moment this month and let your fire friends lighten you up.

Scorpio October 23 - November 22 This is an excellent month to cross your "T's" and dot your "I's" and to clear up any misunderstandings. Set aside the time to go over the minor details, especially in health and money matters. Learn to ask more questions, be precise and clear and don't just blurt things out. The situation may not appear as it seams and you'll find yourself feeling foolish and have to rectify your assumptions.

Sagittarius November 23 - December 22 Now is the time for you to set sail and "... move on down the road..." That feeling of restlessness is beckoning to get away from it all and let your hair hang low. Be like Nike and "...just do it!" However, be careful you can be accident prone. Nothing is urgent now. Your procrastination impulse is correct.



This year Project Response is sending 28 children affected by HIV/AIDS to Camp Heartland, The week long trip includes air and coach travel, food, lodging and chaperons and costs \$450 per child.

If you or your group can help, send your tax deductable donation, payable to Project Response, to:

Project Response Sponsor a Child 745 S. Apollo Blvd. Melbourne FL 32901

Or donate online at www.ProjectResponse.org.



So take a vacation and let the world pass by. There will be time to fix everything later.

Capricorn December 23 - January 22 Your ability to be a communicator is at an impasse this month until after the new moon and solar eclipse on the 11th. Instead of getting frustrated, give yourself space and patience to formulate and communicate your strong emotions clearly, even if it means writing it out and editing it. When Venus and Mars come into orb of each other, you may feel a little possessive. Don't feed into it and the feeling will subside.

Aquarius January 23 - February 22 The overwhelming urge to discover the truth may put you over the edge. But be sensible and unbiased in your investigation. Don't assume anything, look at the facts that are presented to you and ask questions before coming to a conclusion. Find humor in every situation, it'll make things pass easier.

Pisces February 23 - March 22 The planetary alignment now has some adverse effects as projects started come to a crawl. However use this set back to your advantage as it affords you the possibility to research





in Uime with Miss T

Hey, were you at Space Coast Pride? If not, were you afraid of the rain? Guess what. It didn't. Didn't rain, was a fabulous day for the largest gay party in Brevard and if you weren't there, vou missed out on some 1200 folks partying, entertainment for everyone, all kinds of vendors, great food and cheap beer. Who could have asked for more? See the pictures on page 27. We haven't gotten the financials yet as they will be reported at The Living Room board meeting after we've gone to press. But we do know that the committee continued the excellent practice of having the entire event paid for before the festival started, so all the income was profit! We can be sure that as in past years there'll be another big jump in building fund balance and some dollars flowing to various good organizations around



Brian, in red, seemed surprised at all the attention he was getting on his birthday at a recent boys night at the Keg. Well, at least Randy wasn't spanking him!

our community.

This information came in right at press time, so here it is. If you want to get involved please show up.

The financial results from Pride of the Treasure Coast were announced at the Vero Beach PFLAG Annual Pride Dinner Dance. It was a fitting end to a truly lovely evening at the historic Vero Beach Heritage Center (pictures on page 19). Mark Fernicola and the Last Flight Out Big Band provided the bulk of the entertainment in a style that made the evening oh-so memorable. Shamara Knowles and Danielle Ferreti set the tone during cocktails with the Dragonfly Singers adding a special kick with the after dinner entertainment. The room was set in black and white with just a touch of color. Culinary Capers catered the event, including the cash bar, so you know the food was yummy! Highlighting the evening were the awards: two \$500 scholarships were given to two deserving young women and several certificates of appreciation were handed out including one to our very own Lee Newell - funny but somehow he didn't manage to get a photo of that! The awards culminated in the presentation of a plaque to Randy Kelly acknowledging all the fantastic work Kelli Randell has done over the years for our community. Well deserved. Hear, hear, Randy! Um Kelli! Um - you know who I mean.

Then it was time for presentations to Vero Beach PFLAG so Dan Mundis. President of Pride of the





Treasure Coast, thanked them for all their work at the March festival in Port St. Lucie to the tune of \$1,600! That will replenish the scholarship fund and then some. The big surprise was when Cory Pfister, Pride of the Treasure Coast board member, announced that he was also representing the Pederson Family Foundation, which was matching the contribution to PFLAG! Everyone was stunned. What a generous gesture! The two donations will allow Vero beach PFLAG to do even more of all those good things they do - like providing cash for AIDS/HIV impacted individuals and families in need, adopting families and Safe Space Children for Christmas and buy toys for the Youth Guidance Toy Drive, to name just a few. Our community is blessed to have this group of caring and thoughtful people to inspire us all to do good things for others.

The Living Room does good things, too. Aside from Space Coast Pride they do bowling

and self-defense classes and Gay Skate! Yes, Gay Skate is coming back Saturday afternoon, July 24. The details are in the ad on page 11, so if you've never been to one, here's your chance. You don't even have to skate, you can just hang out and enjoy the company - it really is fun for everyone no matter your age or skill level. And if you ever wonder what The Living Room is up to or want to voice your opinion on something, iust drop in for their board meetings on the third Monday of every month at 7 PM at the Project Response office at 745 S. Apollo in Melbourne - those meetings are open to everyone.

One skill our community seems over endowed with is rumor and misunderstandings. Emerald City was going to do a summer Sunday thing, then changed their mind. Suddenly all kinds of



Jon, left, and Kevin, right, were there to help celebrate Jason's birthday at Emerald City.

nonsense is flying around the community. Silly girls: Emerald City IS OPEN. Wednesday

Spiritually Speaking

Reflection or Deflection?

I was recently reading an article from the Huffington Press (great source of insight at times) and I was reminded that sin is sin is sin. What defines sin is that it is an act that harms others and ultimately us. If a person steals, lies, commits adultery, kills, or any number of other acts, they have harmed someone else. I also believe they have harmed themselves because each time we willfully choose to do the wrong thing; we build a layer over our God-given conscience. This conscience is what is supposed to separate us from the animals in this world. When a lion kills an antelope, the lion has no remorse. Yet, when a man kills another man, he is supposed to feel that "tug" to his heart telling him that what he is doing is wrong. This has been depicted in cartoons as having the devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other. These two figures debate the issue with the human in the middle but ultimately, the human is the one who chooses. The days of, "the devil made me do it" are long passed. That was a cute slogan but held very little truth as each of us has free will to choose our behavior.

Let's get back to the idea of sin as promised the beginning of this article. Is homosexuality a sin? Well, if you look at the definition I gave at the beginning, an act that harms others, being gay does not fit at all. When two people love each other, where's the harm if they happen to be of the same sex? They have not harmed anyone else or themselves by their relationship. The Bible talks a lot more about love than it does anything

else, even sin. There are several types of love spoken of in scripture that relate to our love for each other: the first type is erotic love - sexual attraction; the 2nd is friendship - mutual affection; and the 3rd type is love in action - charity. All of these are between consenting humans and none of these are sin as long as another isn't harmed in the process (look out for the first one!). These are the same whether the people are gay or straight, there is no sexual orientation mentioned.

So why do those in the "straight Christian" world spend so much time and effort condemning our life-style? Look back at the title of this article and you may see where I am heading with this - Reflection or Deflection? Reflection is defined by the Encarta Dictionary as 1) the image that appears in a mirror; 2) careful thought, reconsidering previous actions, events, or decisions; 3) the result of something; 4) a cause of blame or credit to somebody or something. Deflection is defined by this same dictionary as 1) a change of course that results from hitting someone or something; 2) the act of directing people's attention or criticism away from something or someone; 3) a definite movement of the indicator on a measuring instrument. Well, well, well! Let's look at this a little more carefully. Reflection - a cause of blame or credit to somebody; deflection - the act of directions people's attention or criticism away from somebody. I wonder if by making such a big thing out of the homosexual issue and Christianity, "they" are trying to get the attention off of their own sin and shortcomings and place the blame for the ills of the world

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on us! This seems rather simple in light of the fact that our relationships do no harm to others and thus do not meet the criteria as sin. I wonder what sins these folks are trying to deflect. Are they afraid to see themselves reflected in the mirror of homosexuality? Are they closet gays without the courage of their basic instincts? How would those that make such a big deal about Gav Christians fare if the microscope were trained on their lives as it is so often on ours? Would they still look as holy as they think they do now? How about the Churches? Would those ministries stand the scrutiny we face daily?

As a female, lesbian clergyperson, I face criticism of my lifestyle in "mainstream" religious circles for several reasons but if Jesus were to speak to the Church today, His parable might be about love and everyone's right to experience it, regardless of sexual orientation.

So, the next time you feel you are

being judged because of your sexual orientation, take a moment to pray for the person(s) doing the judging because this is what Jesus would have done.



Rev. JaneE Lee is originally from Brevard County, FL having been raised on an orange grove in Mims. She is a Special Education Teacher at a local Middle School and her partner of 15 years, Debbie, is a nurse. Together and separately they have raised 6 boys and 2 girls and recently have taken custody of their 8 year old granddaughter. Currently Rev. Lee is Pastor of East Coast Christian Community (ECCC), Formerly East Coast MCC, meeting at 6109 Cassia Dr., Ft. Pierce. Previously she was a copastor of the church with Jerry Seay and Mike Lufru. Rev. Lee has been ordained for several years and praises God for the opportunities ECCC has given her for ministry and personal growth.

In My Words a personal viewpoint

Scape-goating the Immigrant

Very recently I was reading the local newspaper and saw the Florida County in which I live was being referred to as "the reddest county in the United States." This, of course, was a reference to the very Conservative politics of those living here. Many of those living here are so Republican they make Dick Cheney seem like a pinko Commie tool. This area is also known for the deeply Fundamentalist bent their version of Christianity has taken. The area is densely populated with Fundamentalist and Evangelical Christian Churches.

Still, last week, after the Post Office drive for non-perishable food items, several people were front and center on the local news red-faced and livid, declaiming the food drive and swearing that they will never give to that drive again after what was done with a portion of the food. And what, you might ask, was the sin committed by those who administered the Drive? It's guite simple really. It seems a portion of the foodstuffs went to a local social service group that administers to the poor without checking for citizenship. It seems that this group has given food to people who had none, even if these people did not hold a green card. I am sorry to say that they might have given some food to hungry people who are, in the vernacular of the day, "illegals.."

I guess when Christ admonished his followers to feed the hungry he had a hidden meaning, or there were words that didn't get transcribed. I think what Christ meant to say was "Feed the

hungry as long as they have their papers making them legal residents, and should they not have those papers... let them and their children starve." Yes, I am sure that is what he meant to say.

This is the second time in recent weeks that I have become angry and dismayed at what I hear. I had this same feeling when some of the same people fought the recent Health Care Legislation, and the reason I heard was that health care would then be available to these "illegals." Oh my... can you believe for a moment that MY MONEY WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE FOR THESE AWFUL PEOPLE WHO HAVE INVADED OUR COUNTRY?" Well, I have news for those who have that fear. The provision of emergency health care paid for by the state has long been in place for those who seek care in our hospital emergency rooms. The alternative would be to let them die in the gutter outside of the hospitals. I would ask everyone in favor of that alternative to raise their hands. and to show up with their shovels so we can bury them and their children. What is wrong with this society? When have we become so selfish that we cannot see the contradiction between what we profess to believe, and how we behave?

Immigrants. Illegals. We, a nation of immigrants have vilified both of these words and made them these people objects of fear and for some of loathing. Whenever a group is held up to ridicule and made scapegoat for situations in society over which they have no control it can lead to violence being

perpetrated against its members, and witch hunts perpetrated against those who might have a kind word for them.

During the Second World War, we saw what happened top Japanese Americans, then, after the war the demagague who was Senator Joseph McCarthy painted anyone whom he disliked, and anyone who disagreed with him as a "Red" and in so doing he ruined careers, families, caused suicides and left untold damage in his wake. When he was finally subdued, the Communist Menace was still the monster and it was to fight this monster that the Ultra Right Wing and the Fundamentalist Religions raised their monies. "Fight the Menace." The problem is, when Communism fell, a new monster was needed to keep the cash flowing in.

That new monster came to The Jerry Falwells, the Pat Robertson's, The Family Research Council and the conservative branch of the Republican Party in the guise of the gay and lesbian population that seemed to be alive and well in most regions of the country. The plea from the money grabbers still resounds with "Send us your money so we can stop these gueers from coming in and stealing your children and seducing them into their lives of depravity. We all know they cannot reproduce their kind, so how else will they grow?" People fell for that one hook, line and sinker, and so screaming about the gays among us became the cash cow for these groups.

Now gay people have been joined by immigrants and "illegals." The thing is, all the arguments used to justify the enmity against this new group are just as full of holes as those used against any group that came before them: They are causing the crime rate to increase. Studies have proven otherwise; they are taking jobs away from good Americans. How many "good" Americans are in line

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for the lowest paying food industry jobs or for the lowest paying menial labor out there? How many "good" Americans are looking for less than minimum wages to work in the home of a wealthy person and live with the fear of discovery, or of being reported if they step out of line. How many? This scapegoated group also has to worry about losing their children, as there is a drive among "good" Americans to separate children who are citizens from their parents who are not. There is also a drive from another group to revoke the citizenship of children who legally hold it so that they can be sent to where? Anywhere but here. Where is compassion, and where is the justice.

Whenever I see a new group being scapegoated, I look to see what is behind it. Groups are blamed for economic woes when they have no power at all to alter such circumstances either way. They are blamed for catastrophic political

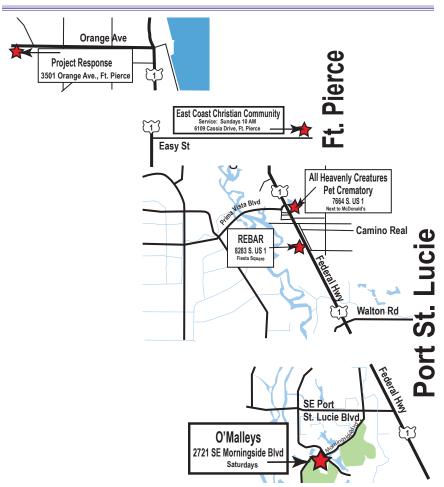




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BODY TALK

Ronald Blake

Sun Tzu was a management conflict philosopher and author who lived in a time and land far, far away. He had many grand things he laid out in his writings but we shall focus on only one of his wise sayings: "All battles are won before they are fought." My task today is to make this relevant to your health and fitness mode in your life.

You are on lunch hour and are driving down the boulevard of broken diets and you are hungry. Three of your best work buddies are in the car with you. "We don't have much time and we need to just grab something now," is the consensus from the backseat and shotgun positions. You've already lost this battle and you'll end up eating out of that fat trough with Ronald, Hamburglar, and Grimace. This could have been avoided with a little prelunch menu planning or the sack lunch from home.

You haven't run in over five years but you used to be the All-Conference runner back in your university days. You grab those dusty Asics shoes and decide to give that five mile race the old college try at the old college pace. You've already lost this battle and will end up limping and muttering obscenities for the next four score and seven hours while you nurse that sore Achilles. This could have been avoided with a gradual training regimen and the purchase of some new shoes before entering that charity 5K race.

After one round of Jose Cuervo you announce your retirement from cigarettes beginning tomorrow. After three rounds of Jose Cuervo you announce with mucho gusto your intention to banish Joe Camel from your life beginning tomorrow. After five rounds of Jose

Cuervo you boisterously and vehemently declare your partnership with nicotine to be dissolved beginning tomorrow. You've already lost this battle even before the seventh round of Senor Tequila. This could have been avoided by making a signed declaration to stop smoking while you weren't half in the bag with agave juice. The sober power of pen to paper has a great effect on action.

Your class reunion is three months away and you want to shed that freshman fifty that you've put on since being named most likely to blah, blah, blah in the Quill and Scroll Yearbook. You've joined the health club and you want Donna Dixbottom to rue the day she turned you down to prom. You'll show her the error of her ways with that great body and that rented Sebring convertible. You've already lost this battle and Ms. Dixbottom will only treat you to a haughty cursory glance at the festive soiree. You need more than just a health club membership and a desire. You need a daily workout routine and a trusty companion to guide you to your fitness goals.

Think about what you want to accomplish in life. You don't need to be Chinese, have a two-syllable name, or be a philosopher to achieve successes in your time. You only need a well-prepared plan and action.

This health and fitness entrée is brought to you by that guy who likes to read his fortune cookies between the sheets or in his bed. That guy is Ron Blake and he can be unwrapped at www.myblakefitness. com.



events. Gay men and Lesbians as well as Feminists were blamed for the awful events of 9/11 by "religious leaders," and gay men and lesbians have been blamed for tornados and hurricanes. Now, I know this isn't true, because I am a gay man, and please excuse me but I know I do not have such power. This does show, however, how very ridiculous the thinking becomes when we use any group for our own political, financial or religious purposes.

I am in favor of Immigration Laws that are fair and equitable for all peoples. I am in favor of Immigration Laws that do not unfairly penalize the brown and black peoples who knock on the doors of this land. I am in favor of Immigration Laws that do not penalize the poor, since most of our ancestors came to the United States seeking a better life, and few were wealthy when they arrived. I am in favor of Immigration Reform that is fair. Whenever I hear someone say, as they squeeze their tea bags, that they want to take "their" country back. I wonder what they are talking about. Even if their ancestors came over on the Mayflower, they are still the children of immigrants. The only people who can truly take this country back would be the Native Americans. and I suspect they might refuse the offer

David has a blog at http://thedavidvbf. multiply.com/journal and has generously allowed us to reprint it here. Please note that the opinions expressed in this column are those of the author.



HOROSCOPES continued from page 7

and review steps most likely overlooked in the beginning. Remember all will be accomplished in its right time. You have many things to do now, don't be focused on one item, multitask and move around and before you know it, all will be accomplished with the desired results that you can be proud of.

For those who want to know: Since Saturn is going into Libra on the 21st, I thought it would be appropriate to talk about how Saturn influences our lives. Saturn is the time keeper and the teacher. Saturn goes through one sign in about 2 1/2 years. As it travels through Virgo, it causes us to sometimes over analyze certain aspects of our health, wellbeing, personal and professional lives. Saturn comes in like a steamroller, causing many of us feel like we have been run over. However, when Saturn goes into Libra, it brings balance back to our day-to-day activities. Capricorn rules Saturn. Capricorn is foundation. So, it is all teaching us about new foundations with our 1 to 1 relationships.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. For more information on Astrology or for a



Joseph Sonday, a self-taught contemporary artist, expressed an interest in art and exhibited exceptional talent from a very early age. During his teen years he accepted many private and corporate commissions. At the age of 17 Joseph moved to Miami where he worked as an illustrator in a local publishing house. Joseph has designed greating cards as well as a line of handcrafted home décor (Bohemian Chic). He is currently exhibiting in Art Fusion Gallery in Miami. Joseph lives in Sebastian and can be contacted at Joseph3760@msn.com.



In The News For current headlines see our website: www.ootcmag.com

TAMPA—Equality Florida applauds the Hillsborough County School Board for their unanimous June 15th vote to add gender identity to the Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Policy for Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Sexual orientation protections were already included in the Hillsborough policy. With this vote, Hillsborough schools now offer fully inclusive protection to the 207,549 students who make up the 3rd largest school district in Florida.

Currently, 64% of Florida students attend schools that ban anti-gay bullying, while 44% attend schools that prohibit harassment based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Equality Florida has worked with school districts across the state to enact strong, fully inclusive non-discrimination and antibullying policies," said Nadine Smith, Equality Florida's executive director. "Over the past five months, Equality Florida leaders and community allies have met with Hillsborough school board members to educate them on the importance of a fully inclusive policy, " said Smith "The addition of these critical protections, which passed without opposition, are a huge step forward for both students and district employees alike."

Special thanks to Hillsborough County School Board member April Griffin, who led the effort on the board.

"With this vote, Hillsborough County Public Schools institutes a common sense nondiscrimination policy that sets a standard of safety and respect for all students, staff and faculty. I am proud to have sponsored this positive change in our district culture. I look forward to continue championing tolerance and civility in our community." - April Griffin, Hillsborough County School **Board Member**

It is interesting to note that Hillsborough's County Commission, just a few years ago, was openly hostile to GLBT people. Maybe soon they will rescind their ban on gay pride. "small g, small p," celebrations and displays.

FT. MEYERS-As reported in the News-Press, twelve Lee County jurors rejected the testimony of Anibal Mayor, who told them he felt like he was going to be sexually assaulted as his justification for choking and stabbing Dean Blietz to death in July 2008.

The jury guaranteed that 28-year-old Mayor will go back to prison, this time for the rest of his life when he is sentenced this fall. Jurors found him guilty of first-degree murder and armed robberv.

Blietz was found stabbed to death in his Fairview Avenue home July 2, 2008. Mayor told police he killed Blietz, who took in ex-convicts such as Mayor to help them readjust to society, over \$130 to buy cocaine.

On the stand, Mayor told jurors Blietz once exposed himself, and on a different occasion, touched his thigh, telling him he had to "take it one day at a time." He also told of being raped by four men in prison.

Mayor's attorney, in closing arguments, told jurors that the sexual advances re-sparked a fear Mayor had after the prison rape.

But when Mayor gave a voluntary statement to police, he didn't tell them about the alleged sexual advances and he wasn't under arrest when he confessed, describing the murder in graphic detail.

Assistant state attorney Bob Lee told jurors before they began deliberations that Mayor's story was bogus, concocted after years in custody. Lee cited 10 examples why the testimony didn't make sense.

"Does this sound like the description of someone who's afraid of Mr. Dean because he was coming on to him sexually?" Lee asked, rhetorically. "Of course not. I encourage you to use your good common sense."

And the jury did. - ed.

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DETROIT—Queerty.com reported this quote: "I think if two people love each other, then what the hell? I think that everyone should have the chance to be equally miserable, if they want. ... It's the new tolerant me! -Eminem, the 37-year-old rapper, has a new record out and a new way of thinking about same-sex marriage.

And it officially makes his views on the subject more forward-thinking than his one-time stage partner Elton John, who insisted, "If gay people want to get married, or get together, they should have a civil partnership.."

WASHINGTON, DC—Citing a posting on the DOJ web site, the New York Times reported that the Justice Department has decided that federal prosecutors should enforce criminal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act in cases involving gay and lesbian relationships

In a seven-page legal analysis, David J. Barron, the acting assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, concluded that federal prosecutors may use the law in cases of interstate stalking and domestic violence regardless of whether the victim or the defendant is a man or a woman.

"The text, relevant case law and legislative history all support the conclusion" that the law's criminal provisions "apply when the offender and the victim are the same sex." Mr. Barron wrote.

A Justice Department spokeswoman, said that the office's conclusion had been sent as guidance to federal prosecutors around the country.

Congress first passed the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. Among other things, its provisions made it a federal crime to cross state lines with the intent of committing domestic violence, stalking, or violating a protection order. Lawmakers have since expanded the act several times.

The federal government's treatment of gay and lesbian relationships has been a matter of sharp dispute in view of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act which requires the federal government to define legal terms like "marriage" and "spouse" as categories that can exist only with a union between one man and one woman.

Mr. Barron points out that although the Violence Against Women Act defines possible victims as including the "spouse" of the abuser, the act also includes terms not covered by the Defense of Marriage Act, like "dating partner" and "intimate partner."

Moreover, he noted, the text of the act uses gender-neutral language, like saving "another person" instead of "a woman." He cited such language as proof that Congress intended the protections to cover same-sex couples as well as heterosexual ones.

"It is true that the statute is entitled the Violence Against Women Act, but other provisions of the Act make clear it applies to conduct perpetrated against male, as well as female, victims," Mr. Barron wrote.

WASHINGTON, DC-The Washington Post reported that President Obama, on June 3, extended a wider range of benefits to the same-sex partners of eligible federal workers, including access to medical treatment, relocation assistance, credit unions and fitness centers.

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The move goes beyond a memo Obama signed last June, which permitted same-sex partners to use the government's long-term-care insurance and other fringe benefits. Same-sex partners become eligible for such insurance in July.

Last year Obama ordered federal agencies to identify benefits that could be offered to same-sex partners and it was determined that at least some agencies could also permit credit union and gym memberships, access to counseling services, adoption counseling, and agency events or outings.

A limited number of intelligence and financial regulatory agencies, Obama's memo said, will be able to provide reimbursements for health-insurance premiums, dental and vision insurance, business travel accident insurance and tax reimbursements for gym memberships, physical exams and homeowners' insurance.

These benefits do not cover uniformed members of the military.

Though Obama has extended a greater number of benefits to gay federal workers than any of his predecessors, he is prevented by federal law from providing full benefits to same-sex partners. To that end, he reiterated support for House and Senate legislation that would grant all federal benefits to same-sex partners.

DES MOINES—The edgeNewEngland reported that a GOP leader issued a threat to gay prospective 2012 candidate.

Fred Karger is a Republican who has worked with the GOP for four decades as a political consultant; he's now mulling a run for the White House in 2012. The sticking point for some of Karger's fellow Republicans is that Karger is an openly gay political activist.

Though Karger says he has been "graciously" received by GOP leading lights such as Michael Steele, his potential candidacy drew the ire of at least one fellow Republican. Iowa Republican National Committeeman Steve Scheffler fired off an email to Karger in which he threatened to do everything he can in order to "abort" Karger's political prospects in 2012, reported local newspaper the Des Moines Register on May 27.

"You and the radical homosexual community

want to harass supporters of REAL marriage," Scheffler emailed Karger, going on to vow, "I will work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in lowa."

The email was a response to a message sent out by Karger's group detailing how anti-gay group the National Organization for Marriage had lost a case in court to keep its donor lists away from the scrutiny of state election officials in Maine, following NOM's contribution of about \$2 million to a successful voter initiative in that state to repeal a law that would have allowed gay and lesbian Maine families to wed.

A similar campaign mounted by NOM in lowa also resulted in state election officials demanding the anti-gay group's donor lists. An appeal by NOM was defeated in a District 1 federal court.

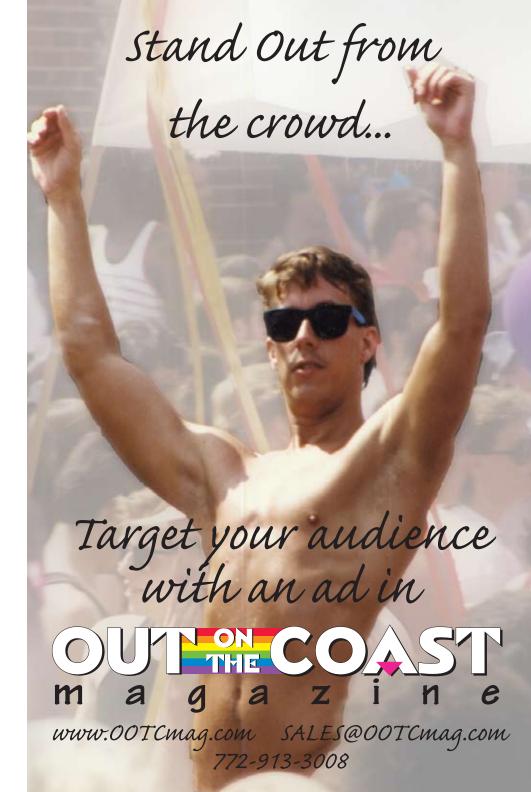
Karger had also registered a complaint against the Mormon Church for its role in the 2008 anti-gay ballot initiative Proposition 8, which Karger said the Mormons financed far in excess of the \$2,000 the church initially claimed. An investigation by the The California Fair Political Practices Commission led to a fine of more than \$5,000 against the Mormon Church.

"I'm not going to get involved in the presidential caucuses but I'm going to call a spade a spade," Scheffler, who is also president of the Iowa Christian Alliance, told the press following the email. "When you have somebody who is this far out of the mainstream of the political party, I'm just going to tell them what I think."

ELK GROVE VILLAGE—A nearly 25-year study concluded that children raised in lesbian households were psychologically well-adjusted and had fewer behavioral problems than their peers.

The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, followed 78 lesbian couples who conceived through sperm donations and assessed their children's well-being through a series of questionnaires and interviews.

Funding for the research came from several lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender advocacy groups, such as the Gill Foundation and the Lesbian Health Fund from the Gay Lesbian Medical Association.



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Dr. Nanette Gartrell, the author of the study, wrote that the "funding sources played no role in the design or conduct of the study."

"My personal investment is in doing reputable research," said Gartrell. "This is a straightforward statistical analysis. It will stand and it has withstood very rigorous peer review by the people who make the decision whether or not to publish it."

Gartrell started the study in 1986. She recruited subjects through announcements in bookstores, lesbian events and newspapers throughout metro Boston, San Francisco and Washington.

The mothers were interviewed during pregnancy or the insemination process, and additionally when the children were 2, 5, 10 and 17 years old. Those children are now 18 to 23 years old.

The children were interviewed four times as they matured and also completed an online questionnaire at age 17, focusing on their psychological adjustment, peer and family relationships and academic progress.

The Child Behavior Checklist, a commonly used standard, was used to measure children's behavioral and social problems, such as anxiety, depression, aggressive behavior and social competence.

The answers were coded into a computer and then analyzed. This data was compared with data from children of nonlesbian families.

The results surprised Gartrell.

"I would have anticipated the kids would be doing as well as the normative sample," she said. "I didn't expect better."

Children from lesbian families rated higher in social, academic and total competence. They also showed lower rates in social, rulebreaking, aggressive problem behavior.

The involvement of mothers may be a contributing factor, in addition to the fact that the pregnancies were planned, Gartrell said.

This also could have occurred because "growing up in households with less power assertion and more parental involvement has been shown to be associated with healthier psychological adjustment," Gartrell wrote in

the study.

Some of the teenagers reported being stigmatized by peers because of their parents' sexuality. Researchers compared the figures in terms of the psychological adjustment between children who had experienced stigma versus those who did not.

"We found no differences," Gartrell said. "That leads us to asking why and how are young people managing discrimination? That will be the topic of future papers. We'll look into what the ingredients are to allow them to cope despite adversity."

Gartrell studied only lesbian families, because circumstances surrounding gay male families are different. Gay men becoming fathers is newer in comparison with lesbians, because their options have been limited to adoption or surrogacy. Lesbians often conceive through donor insemination.

"This study shows that the 17-year-old adolescents who have been reared by lesbian families are psychologically happy and high functioning," said Gartrell, a Williams distinguished scholar at the UCLA School of Law. Restrictions of child custody and reproductive technologies based on sexual orientation are not justified, she said.

Wendy Wright, president of the Concerned Women for America, a group that supports biblical values, questioned the legitimacy of the findings from a study funded by gay advocacy groups.

"In essence, this study claims to purport that children do better when raised by lesbians," she said.

Studies have shown that children thrive having both a mother and a father, Wright said.

"You have to be a little suspicious of any study that says children being raised by same-sex couples do better or have superior outcomes to children raised with a mother and father," she said. "It just defies common sense and reality."

One continually wonders in what universe people like Wright and her ilk live, certainly one where the privately funded scientific studies only apply to commercial products such as pharmaceuticals. – ed.



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Emerald City	321-652-5960
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PFLAG Melbourne	. www.MySpace.com/PFLAGmelbourne
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451	Riviera Drive NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
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AA The Sober Rainbow Thursdays, Unity Church, 950 43rd Ave, Vero Beach PFLAG Vero Beach (2nd Mon & 4th Tue, Unity Ctr, 950 43rd Ave)	TheSoberRainbow@aol.com
PO Box 650533, Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533	
People Care Center	
3250 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963 Treasure Coast GLBT Social Group	www.TCglbtSocialGroup.com

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Social Group in Stuart	FredsPlaceStuart@yahoo.com
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Project Response	
3501 Orange Ave, Ft. Pierce, FL	
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REBAR	
8283 Hwy 1, Fiesta Square, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952	
Treasure Coast GLBT Social Group	www.TCglbtSocialGroup.com
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North Palm Beach

SOUND OFF

on the forums at www.ootcmag.com

through Saturday, just like always: same good people, same good time, so stop with the gossip and get on over there and see for yourself. You did make it to their first year anniversary party, right?

If you want rumors, I'll give you rumors: a new Gay Sunday, a new Beer and Wine place. One by someone who's known for doing gay nights and one at a well-known club. When and where? Well I'm sure a few libations and all the gossip girls will be talking trash about everyone under the sun. Us? We'll just sit back and wait. There's just too much that can go awry between commitment and opening, so when you see the ads you'll know it's happening, where it is and who's doing it.

Speaking of experienced promoters, Wade is doing a Gay with Sam Wills entertains at 7 Night at O'Malley's in Port St. Lucie and it's on Saturdays! Yes, a bar is giving its Saturday night for a Gay Night. You may remember Wade from his Sundays at the old Bombay Louie's and he actually started the Tuesdays at Cosmic Charley's before going off to the Clubhouse. This Wednesdays at 6. time he's moved down to PSL. It's a nice place, with a lot of history in our community, so stop in and see what's up.

A behind the scenes shot from Space Coast Pride:

volunteers stuff inserts into the 2,000 programs.

There's a tremendous amount of work that the

volunteers do to make the event so great. Picture



Michael "Sparky" Edelstein PM in the new piano lounge at the Cold Keg on Saturdays. Angie Parks is there on

Speaking of Cosmic Charley's, we have to note that that group is doing a Gay Sunday thing at

Long Branch Saloon in Vero. It was a smallish group their first night on Gay Days weekend.

See you there for an amazing time.

July 4th at Ultra Lounge will be amazing! Fireworks in the park a block away, then party in the village, then a holiday the next day. What a perfect combination. You'd think Steph and Tony had planned it that way - well, they did plan the party, and the rest was serendipity.

Gay Rights tidbit: We will be reminding everyone of the importance of registering and voting until, well, forever. Be Proud of who you are, be a force to be reckoned with: be registered and vote! And know who and what you're voting for. There are several Constitutional Amendments this year that are as important as the candidates. So start right now and repeat after me: 4, 5 & 6, Y-E-S; 7; NO, If you don't know what that means, look it them up. (5 & 6 were put on the ballot by voter signatures and 7 was put there by the incumbents in Tallahassee to "clarify the meaning" of 5 & 6 and developers hate 4). See http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/initiativelist.asp and look in the serial # column for (4), (5) and (6).

Don't see your event mentioned? Did you tell me about it? I'm a fairy, not a seer, silly! Let me know, drop a line to MissT@ootcmag.com



There's going to be a huge group on July 9th for the Grand Reopening of the Cold Keg. You know JoJo will do this up right! Look what he's done for the bar so you know this event will be something to remember. Everyone will be there to christen the new layout and party their asses off! The old place has a brand new look and the parties are bigger and better!

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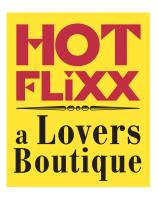


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- Pericles, Greek statesman (430 BC)

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