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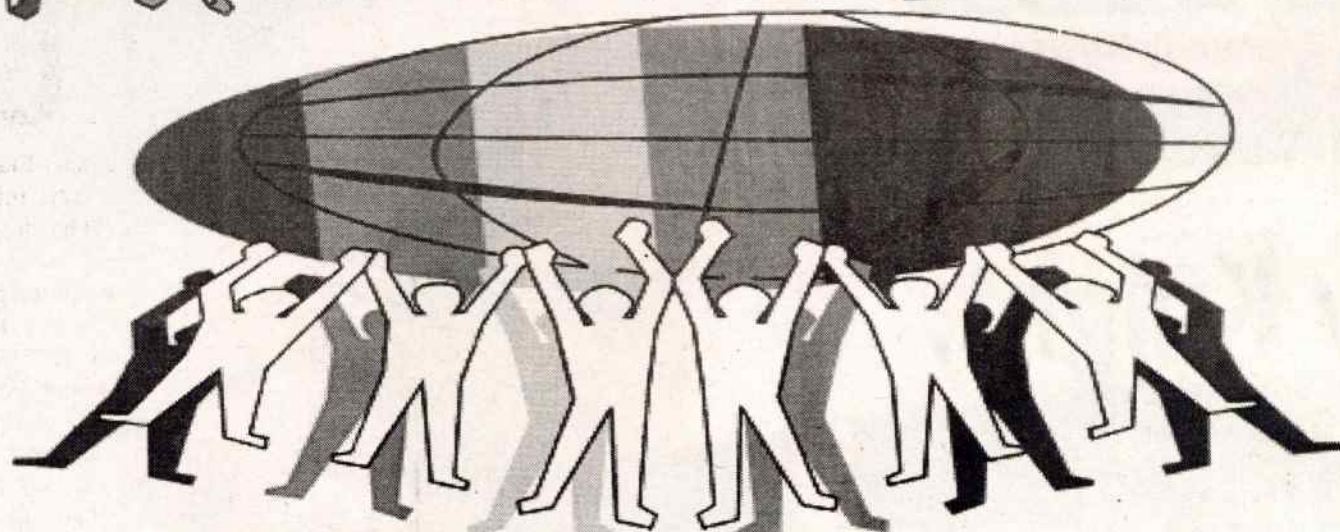
Your Gay Community Newspaper  
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## Gary Knight: Building a better police department on the Beach



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# CONTENTS

## ON THE COVER:

A year or so ago the tension between the Miami Beach Police Department and the South Beach gay community was palpable. In the wake of highly publicized bar raids and lots of on-the-street gossip regarding the actions of individual cops, it seemed like our little corner of paradise was about to be spoiled for everyone. Gary Knight, now president of the Miami Beach Community Relations Board, has worked on the "Cops Vs gays" issue for a couple of years and with the help of community members, city commissioners and others, the atmosphere has improved markedly. Read about the success stories on the cover starting on Page 10.

### Page 4

**NATIONAL NEWS:** It's not like you wanted to go to the Cayman Islands anyway. What's there to do there but take on the beach or hold yourself out as bait or shark bait while diving in their crystal clear waters. And there's the hidden clue. Could the waters around the Cayman Islands really be so clear if activities on the island were, ahem, using air toilet facilities on a regular basis. How better to explain the "uptight," "frenzied," and "twisted" move to bar a boat full of sissies from disembarking on their soil. This story is unfolding and traveling as we speak. We're sure to bring you more next week!

### Page 5

**LOCAL NEWS:** Hubba, hubba! All we can say is I'm completely horned-out looking at the photos of escaped murderer Jesse Hamilton Adams - especially the ones of his tattooed mammaries! Seriously though, it's looking like Jesse may have skeedaddled at high speed right out of South Florida after his escape. But just in case he gets home-ck, stick these photos on your home bulletin board and "Be On the lookout!"

### Page 14

**LOCAL NEWS:** Our Lame-Duck Governor just went and did something lame - again. He's replaced a perfectly good acting sheriff with a political



With a little work and skills honed in Shop 101 back during your high school years, it looks like there's still room beneath the "Track / P.A.L. Gym" slat for another that could read "Anonymous Gay Sex." How about it? Who's gonna step up to the bat on this one. Well you're too late! Cooperation between police and gays has led to a decrease in sex activities after dark in Flamingo Park. Who would of dreamed! See story on Page 10.

opportunist who has little experience in the police community. Sounds like the He-Coon is at it again. But the move by state Sen. Ken Jenne into the sheriff's seat opens up Jenne's former district and now, gay and gay-friendly candidates are shuffling about in a frantic game of

musical chairs to fill the cascading vacancies. The bad move by Chiles could turn out to be a disguised blessing for the rest of us.

### Page 10

**NEWS ANALYSIS!:** Has SoBe's

infamous Flamingo Park gone and gotten itself into rehab? Will Flamingo Park be dropped from the list of "hot spots" at the "cruisingforsex" web site? Have all the party boys moved across the bay to Greynolds Park in North Dade? I'm sure we'll hear from some of you about the dreadful idea of the gay community working WITH police to stop sex in parks. That's why we've had the phrase "Sex Panic! Apologist" added to the name plates on our desks.

### Page 13

**LOCAL NEWS:** So we just heard that if you're arrested for lewd and lascivious activity in Dade County (like in Flamingo Park for instance) and you end up convicted of the "crime," part of your penance could be a "lewd and lascivious school" that operates like the traffic school you had to go to when you were caught running a red light. This sounds waaaaay progressive for Dade County. But after 20 years, maybe we're onto something. I wonder if it's anything like that "sex addicts anonymous" scene from "Jeffrey?"

### Page 23

**GOTCHA!:** Billy has lots of fun with Sonny Bono's accident this week. And he has a startling report on Liza (but I thought Seigfried and Roy broke up?). And what's the story with Maureen McCormick? Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!

### Page 26

**COVER STORY:** Former Sons & Lovers vocalist Deian McBryde is fast becoming one of the hottest rising stars on the New York cabaret scene. The pop singer, who has been playing to sold-out crowds at various New York clubs, is out with this debut solo recording, "Mollyboy," a limited release on his own independent Mollyboy label. Jeffrey Newman has the story.

### Page 31

Ed Karvoski is back to challenge your knowledge of all things gay with his Hollywood Trivia column.

# YOUR GAY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# twn

YOUR GAY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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# NATIONAL

## Cayman Islands ban gay travellers

By **LOANN HALDEN**  
Staff Writer

The government of the Cayman Islands sent shock waves through the travel industry recently when it denied Feb. 1 landing rights to Norwegian Cruise Lines gay-chartered M/S Leeward. The action set off calls for a boycott of the islands among many gay travel industry professionals.

Atlantis Events, a West Hollywood, Calif., company specializing in cruise and resort charters for gay men, was forced to scrap a seven-hour stop in Grand Cayman after receiving a hostile letter from the country's Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Transport. The cruise, which also includes visits to Cancun and Cozumel, is scheduled to depart from Miami on Jan. 30.

"Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality," said Minister of Tourism Thomas C. Jefferson in a letter dated Dec. 8, 1997.

Rich Campbell, president of Atlantic Events, said the seven-day cruise will now stop in Belize and the company is notifying the 4,500 travel agents in its database of the Cayman's decision.

"We are imploring our travel agencies and other travel industry professionals to think twice about what constitutes appropriate behavior," Campbell said. "I don't feel the Cayman Islands' behavior is appropriate. We should think twice about whether or not people should send their gay travelers or straight travelers to a place that is that openly hostile and discriminatory."

How the Cayman Islands government knew that the M/S Leeward carried gay passengers remains a mystery to Atlantis and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

"It's just standard to say we're bringing a full-ship charter from the 'xyz' company and that's all the information they get," said NCL public relations director Fran Sevcik. "We don't divulge information about our clients."

Initially, Campbell said that Atlantis Events was led to believe that there would be no problem with visiting Grand Cayman. But in August the

request was denied because the government claimed there were too many ships in the port that day - although only two were scheduled.

While NCL has no plans to sever ties to the Cayman Islands, Campbell has nothing but praise for the cruise line's work on their behalf. He said that Atlantis Events was unaware of the problems until the Dec. 8 decision, because NCL continued to negotiate for their right to dock in Grand Cayman.

"What I find wonderful about NCL is that they didn't have to do that," Campbell said. "They could have simply turned to us [in August] and said, 'Hey, there's no space ... Consider going some place else. And we probably wouldn't have thought twice about it.'"

This is not the first time the Cayman Islands have demonstrated homophobia. RSVP, which also handles cruise and resort charters for gay men, was allowed to land in the islands in 1987. But the reception was so chilly - some local shopkeepers closed their doors rather than deal with the gay passengers - that the company has not attempted a repeat visit.

"We had such a cold reception from the authorities there that we decided at that time that we would not go back until they had changed their tune and wanted gay and lesbian travelers there," said Paul Figlmiller, RSVP director of marketing.

After years of hearing about homophobia in the Caymans, Olivia president Judy Dlugacz decided it was time to stop allowing ignorance to keep her lesbian-oriented cruises from a destination. A representative from what was then the Dolphin cruise line agreed with her and spoke to the government on her behalf, she said. In April 1997, Olivia took

800 women to the Cayman Islands without incident.

"I have a philosophy on this. I believe that you deal with the ignorance as it comes up. So that's what we did, and we went to Grand Cayman," Dlugacz said.

But don't expect to see Olivia chartering another trip until the Atlantis ban has been lifted.

"I don't intend to go back until it's handled," she said.

The actions of the Cayman Islands also prompted retaliation from Out and About, travel newsletter targeting gay men and lesbians. After a request to the Cayman government for reconsideration was met with silence, Out and About announced that it would call for a boycott in its next issue, which reaches more than 10,000 subscribers.

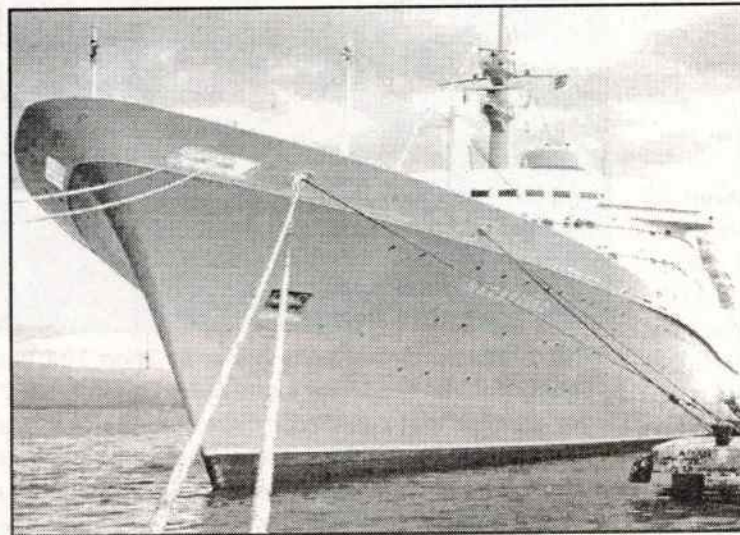
"[This is] the most blatantly homophobic thing we've seen in the travel industry in a long time," Out and About publisher David Alport said. "In the more than five years we've been publishing the newsletter, many destinations or people have said or done homophobic things, but this is the first time that we've really seen fit to actually encourage a boycott. It was such a totally backward homophobic act."

As the denouncements of the Cayman Islands pour in, Belize's Ministry of Tourism and the Environment issued a statement welcoming the 900-passenger gay cruise.

"The Ministry has no intention of deterring cruise lines from visiting Belizean shores based solely on the sexual preference or orientation of the cruise ship's passengers," said Belize's Minister of Tourism Henry Young. "We are a democratic and free society and as long as the M/S Leeward has fulfilled all the requirements as stipulated by law, we will allow them to visit our beloved country."

**The Human Rights Campaign is asking concerned citizens to contact the government of the Cayman Islands at the following address (or phone number to urge that the decision be reconsidered):**

**Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson, OBE, JP; Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Transport; Government Administration Building; George Town; Grand Cayman; Cayman Islands (345) 949-7900, ext. 2419.**



TWN is always looking for talented contributing writers who are motivated to bring news of our community to our readers. If you're involved in the community (in the performing arts, social or sports groups, things like that) and know what's going on and would like to get the word out, contact us for all the details of what it means to write for TWN. We're very interested in finding a "nightlife" contributor. Contact us at (305) 757-6333, ext. 8600, or e-mail us at: bwatson@twnmag.com. You can fax us at (305) 756-6488, or send us mail at TWN, 901 NE 79 Street, Miami, FL 33138.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Violent prisoner who stalks gay men escapes from prison

DON JOHNSTON  
Staff Editor

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is asking the gay community to be on the lookout for escaped murderer Jesse Hamilton Adams, 33. Adams is considered extremely dangerous and has a history of seducing and then robbing and sometimes

knocking the gay men he picks up in bars and public parks. Adams crawled over two fences with razor-wire at the Dade Correctional Institution in Miami-Dade County Jan. 5. While bleeding from the cuts he received from the fencing, Adams carjacked a four-door silver over black 1991 Cadillac Sedan DeVille with Florida license plate number WCC 25G and was last seen heading north.

At press time, there had been unsubstantiated reports of Adams in both Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. Officials believe he could be anywhere.

Adams, a native of Mobile, Ala., and a long-time resident of Fort Lauderdale, was serving life sentences for murder and armed robbery in Broward County. In 1992, Adams killed another man fatally stabbed Steven Marcus, a Raton diamond dealer and former lawyer, leaving his body in an Oakland Park alley. When found, Marcus' body had been repeatedly stabbed, his throat cut and his body had been run over by a car.

Recent reports in local television and print media have noted Adams works as a prostitute and may do so again to support himself while on probation. FDLE Special Agent Richard Dees told TWN that is not entirely correct. While Adams has been known to work as a male prostitute serving both older female and male clients, he has shown a preference for picking up gay men in bars by luring them with the prospect of free sex then robs them when he gets them alone. FDLE intelligence reports indicate Adams frequented Broward's Holiday Park as well as picking up men for the purpose of strong-arm robbery.

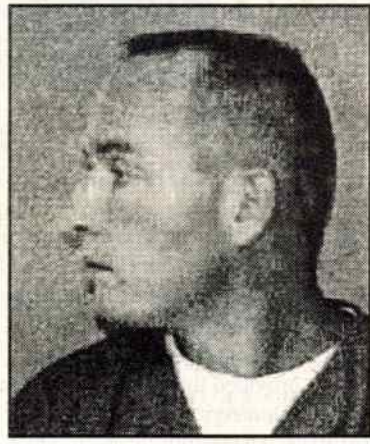
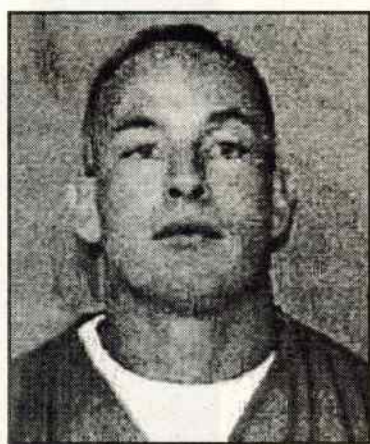
He's very charming and very intelligent, and he has the capability of looking very sharp when he dresses up," Dees said. "He knows how to mingle."

Adams is a white man with a large build. He is six feet tall and weighs roughly 200 pounds. He has a light complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He also has a number of tattoos, none of which are visible when he wears long pants and a short-sleeved shirt. Dees advised people not to be on the lookout for the tattoos necessarily because they are easily covered.

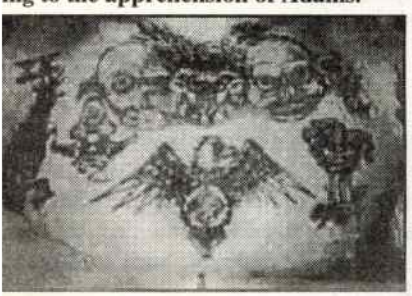
On his upper right arm there is a tattoo that reads "Jesse;" a Yosemite Sam cartoon character on his chest; a rose; a devil character with a hatchet, a butterfly; a gremlin behind bars; nude women chained together; "White Pride" and a swastika; and two skulls.

At the time he escaped, Adams was wearing a white T-shirt and blue prison pants with a yellow stripe down the side.

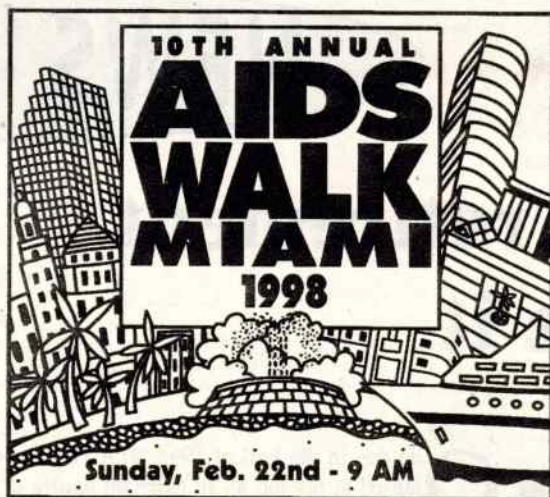
Adams has been known to use the aliases Michael Thomas Adams and Jesse Flint. To report a sighting of Adams, call Crime Stoppers of Miami-Dade County at (305) 847-8477 or (305) 470-5500. Officials are offering a reward up to \$6,000 for information leading to the apprehension of Adams.



Jesse Hamilton Adams



Jesse Adams' body is covered in tattoos, but police warn he can hide them easily and often comes across as a clean-cut, charming man.



### DON'T GET LOST IN THE CROWD!

If you or your friends are planning on walking in AIDS Walk Miami, don't get lost in the masses – join the TWN team and walk with our staff. Just make sure to print the phrase "Team 1134" when you fill out your advance registration card (available at our office in Miami or at any G/L/B business where you find the AIDS Walk Miami Card Stand) or say "I want to join Team 1134" when you pre-register over the phone at (305) 751-9255. If you're already registered, you can call the same number and change your status to a TWN Team Member. TWN Team Members will receive special TWN goodies when they arrive to register (by 9 AM)!

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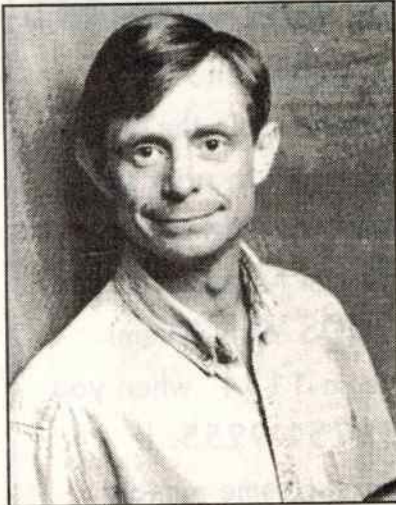
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# NEWS FEATURE

## Take this retirement and shove it

By PAUL HARRIS  
Special to TWN



One day in the Fall of 1994, Tim Thorne collapsed at his job as an assistant *maitre d'* at Fort Lauderdale's prestigious Tower Club. He was taken to Broward General Hospital where he was diagnosed as having PCP (Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia) giving him an AIDS diagnosis. Since then while on disability he has had bouts of Karposi's Sarcoma and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC).

However, as a result of the recent advances in medications he is ready to go back to work. Here in South Florida, with the third highest number of cases of HIV/AIDS in the whole country, Tim is just one of a growing band of people who have been living on disability for several years who now feel able to return to the workplace.

Many people never anticipated being able to return to work. Nor, come to that, did Social Security or the private insurers. As recently as two years ago most

people thought once someone became disabled their working careers were over – permanently. Indeed many people started to prepare to die. But now things have changed. At the recent U.S. Conference on AIDS on Miami Beach the workshop on returning to work was one of the best attended. This of course has happened as a result of the enormous advances made by AIDS medicine.

Thorne has fears though. His first is the obvious one. "I am scared of putting so much into working that I neglect my health again." It is a fear shared by many people who have HIV. Getting well and staying well has taken an enormous commitment for many people. For some it has almost been a full-time job. How will they cope with the stress that almost any job brings?

Recently a half-day workshop was held looking into some of these issues at Florida Atlantic University in Fort Lauderdale. Presented by "The Return To Work Project," it was attended by professionals from numerous disciplines who serve the HIV population as well as by those considering returning to work.

A major fear that came up is of the attitudes the people returning to work will encounter from their co-workers. Clearly education is going to be needed. Discrimination against PWAs returning to work is going to need to be addressed on both a state and federal level. Employers will be fearful that their latest hire may need to take significant amounts of time off work either coping with illness or attending doctor's appointments. One of the obvious results of PWAs returning to the workplace is that doctor's offices are going to have to be open at hours to accommodate their patients, including weekends.

Another major problem is that some people have been on disability for so long that the skills they once had have become obsolete. The field of computers comes readily to mind. In an attempt to stay "current" Thorne has taught himself Windows 95, DOS and has learned how to create web pages.

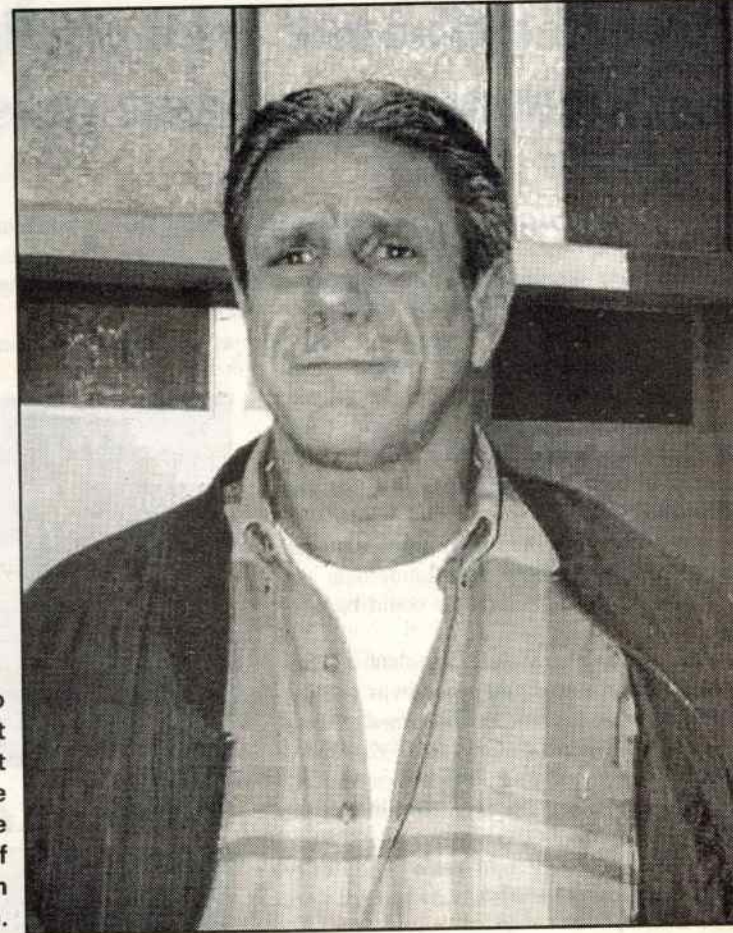
John Hanley, a former X-ray technician, is contemplating returning to school to study to become a lawyer. Having encountered discrimination in his former employment and having sat on two juries, he feels drawn to work in the civil rights field. Many people, like Hanley, contemplating returning to work do not want to go back to the jobs they once had. They want to find employment that is more satisfying and useful. The experience of being ill has changed the perspectives of many people. One former stockbroker, Tom, could never go back to his old life where money was king.

"When I was a stockbroker I felt like a drug dealer connected to the telephone. I decided I didn't want to chase the BMW and the big house. I knew that I needed to make a mark, to leave something. I needed to make a difference, to make a contribution. Today I am not looking to make a quick buck overnight." Today Tom works as an AIDS educator.

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*"One of the major problems facing people on disability is the system itself. On occasions it seems honesty is discriminated against."*

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The Return to Work Project of Fort Lauderdale is the brainchild of Jon Von Eron.

Eric, a former waiter, has been on disability for four years after suffering Cryptococcal Meningitis and Lymphoma in the brain stem. Recently he has gone back to school to study massage therapy and has already started to work part-time for 15 hours a week in a retail clothing store. However, he is realistic in his approach to his "new" life. "I have limits right now don't take on too much. I know that I don't want to have to deal with the stress of waiting tables – and putting up with cigarette smoke."

One of the major problems facing people on disability is the system itself. On occasion seems honesty is discriminated against. A friend of mine on disability volunteers a few hours a week at CenterOne in Fort Lauderdale. He mentioned this in a return that he made to Social Security. It provided them with the excuse they needed to challenge his benefits. They seem to forget that volunteering half a day a week does not mean you can necessarily work full-time for five days. Thankfully, he won. Other horror stories have involved people going off their medications to bring down their T-cell counts just to satisfy Social Security. Yet others fearful of losing their Medicare are forced to work "under the table" so they can hold on to health coverage.

Applying for employment for the first time in some years can pose a problem. Eric candidly admitted that he lied to get his job in retail with the help of a business-owning friend who had worked for him. Explaining the gap of several years in a resume can be difficult. Some people claim to have had parents living with Alzheimer's who needed looking after. Another "story" commonly used is coming into an inheritance and traveling around the world for a couple of years.

Eric described his experience of returning to school and the work force very positively. "I feel very good about myself. It has helped my self-esteem. I resented being at home not working while my partner was able to work and became the bread-winner."

Some, like Nick, are considering only returning to work part-time. Formerly employed as a phlebotomist with Smith Kline Beecham he is back in school studying case management. The goal of working in the HIV/AIDS field. A major consideration for him is his financial situation. Losing health benefits one has while on disability can mean returning to work makes the situation worse. It is a Catch-22 situation that is going to have to be dealt with particularly when the fact some people's drug bill comes to \$1,800 a month.

The "Return To Work Project" is in large part the brainchild of Joseph Van Eron – himself a PWA. He had worked for 20 years in New York City with considerable distinction in the special events field, ultimately becoming President of the International Special Events Society. When illness struck two years ago he was forced to retire with his partner "to Fort Lauderdale to die." A year ago, toward the end of 1996, having not died and after responding well to new medications available he started to confront the issues of returning to work. He realized that it was an issue that many others were going to have to examine. Using the skills from his former career he started work on the project recruiting a steering committee that included physicians such as Peter Engelhard and Ralph Liporace, psychologists such as Richard Prete as well as others with experience in the field.

To take part in the project exploring the possibilities of returning to work, call (768-0434 ext. 6000. All inquiries are confidential.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Governor appoints Jenne to Broward Sheriff's post

by LOANN HALDEN  
Staff Writer

Despite protests from gay and lesbian activists, Gov. Lawton Chiles offered the Broward County sheriff's position to state Sen. Ken Jenne on Jan. 7. The appointment triggered a flurry of activity among gay and gay-friendly candidates hoping to put a positive spin on the situation.

Chiles' selection of Jenne came four months after Broward County Sheriff Ron Cochran, a long-time supporter of the gay community, died of cancer. As Chiles contemplated Cochran's replacement, the gay community rallied against Jenne's nomination.

In a letter penned to the governor shortly before his death, Fort Lauderdale activist Allan Perl called Jenne "a political opportunist of the highest magnitude." While working on the Human Rights Ordinance to add sexual orientation protection in Broward County, Jenne solicited his support, but later abandoned the gay community when it came time to state an on-the-record opinion, Perl asserted.

"I think the gay and lesbian community of Broward County deserves better than a liar as the chief law enforcement officer for Broward County," he wrote in the Nov. 13, 1997 letter.

Dolphin Democratic Club president Shane Gunderson found himself in a difficult position with the appointment of a Democrat the organization had previously denounced.

"The Dolphin Democratic Club was willing to fall on the dagger over this and now we'll have to reconcile with the sheriff," Gunderson said. "He still has the potential to do good things."

Gunderson said he believes that the appointment will inspire a higher voter turnout among the gay community in Broward County when Jenne stands for election as sheriff in the fall.

"The gay community is going to pay attention to what Jenne says to us between now and November," he explained.

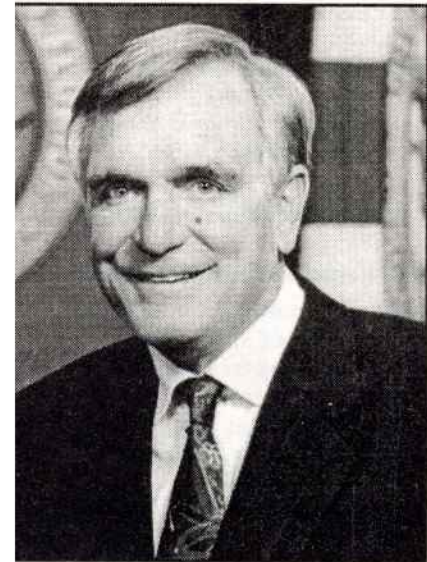
Jenne's appointment as Broward County sheriff could have positive political implications for the gay community in the long run. Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Jack Latona, a vocal supporter of the gay community, is considered a leading candidate for Jenne's Senate seat along with Rep. Steve Geller (D-Pembroke Pines).

Latona's exit from the city commission would free a slot for gay candidate Bill Salicco, who has announced his intention to run for Latona's office should he choose to leave. Salicco, a businessman in Fort Lauderdale since 1980, serves on the boards of the Dolphin Democratic Club and Pride South Florida as well as sitting on the Human Rights Board of Broward County and Fort Lauderdale's budget advisory board.

While Salicco never intended to run against Latona, he said he knew that Latona would eventually move up the political ladder and he anticipated making a bid for the commission in 2000. Jenne's appointment just sped up the process, Salicco said.

"Actually the timing is good for it, because we have movement in the [gay] community. Things are really getting to be positive and our numbers are growing," he said. "I think it's a seat that can be easily won. I know the district and the district knows me, so I think it's a good thing."

**Governor Lawton Chiles (l) appointed Ken Jenne Broward County Sheriff despite appeals from gays.**



**Ft. Lauderdale City Commissioner Jack Latona (r) may run for Jenne's vacated state Senate seat.**

## ST. TROPEZ ON THE OCEAN: "The Other Ocean Drive"

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# LOCAL BRIEFS



Rich Tafel

## Rich Tafel guest at Cosmopolitan Community Center brunch

On Sunday, January 18th, the Miami Cosmopolitan Community Center will feature guest speaker Richard Tafel, National Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans, at their Sunday Brunch. This will be a historic first for Tafel, the American Legion Post 29 where the Center is housed and the local community itself.

Andy Eddy, Director of Community Relations and Outreach for South Florida's LCR noted "this address is historic because it not only points to the growing cooperation between LesBiGay organizations but highlights the dialogue that now exists between progressive American Legion Post leaders and our diverse community."

Tafel, who is in South Florida for a Political Education Seminar, will address guests on issues dealing with the importance of grass-roots involvement as well as touching upon Log Cabin's AIDS activism on Capitol Hill.

For further information contact the Cosmopolitan Community Center at (305) 759-5210 or Broward Log Cabin at (954) LCR-1995.

## Get ready for Winter Pride

The first Winter PrideFest is less than a month away and time is running out to get a booth in the middle of the action. Vendors who have not yet received a booth application may pick one up at the following Fort Lauderdale locations: Better Bodies, Catalog X, The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Greater Fort Lauderdale, Georgie's Alibi, Powell Ford Fleet Department, and Pride Factory.

PrideFest '98 T-shirts and tank tops have already hit the market and can be purchased at Catalog X and Pride Factory.

For more information, call the PrideLine at (954) 561-2020.

## Miss America comes to Design World Cares/Art Auction

By LOANN HALDEN  
Staff Writer

The most elaborate Design World Cares/Art Auction for AIDS to date unfolds in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 17. Join Miss America 1998 Kate Shindle, fashion designers Mary McFadden and Todd Oldham, and masters of ceremony Star Jones and Debbie Matenopoulos from the ABC daytime talk show "The View" for an auction extravaganza at the Design Center of the Americas, 1855 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale.

Proceeds from the silent auction and live auction - which will feature paintings, sculptures, antiques and travel packages - benefit CenterOne and the Ryan White Foundation for Medical Treatment.

Designers McFadden and Oldham each created a one-of-a-kind item to be auctioned at the third annual event. NEC Technologies, one of the event sponsors, commissioned artist Romero Britto to create a painting for the auction. The money raised will go toward direct care services for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.



Romero Britto's "Globe Kid"

The evening begins with a benefactors' cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. where guests will have the opportunity to meet the evening's celebrities and preview the merchandise. The silent auction runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by the live auction at 9:15 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$25. Benefactor tickets are \$75. The auction will also be presented live online at [www.justsurfit.com](http://www.justsurfit.com), which will offer a merchandise preview and live computer bidding.

For more information, call 1-888-HIV-MEDS or (954) 568-6002.

## PWAC-Dade needs your help

Miami-Dade County ranks second among counties in the United States for HIV infection rate, and People With AIDS Coalition-Dade needs help to keep up with its growing client load. The organization receives no federal or state funding and relies solely on the generosity of the community to support its work. PWAC-Dade welcomes donations to its thrift store and food pantry as well as monetary contributions.

In 1997, PWAC-Dade provided \$9,300 in clothing to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, along with more than \$20,000 in food packages, more than \$15,000 worth of furniture and household goods, \$5,000 in hygiene products and \$25,000 in Publix gift certificates.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to PWAC-Dade, call (305) 573-9536.

## Have you suffered anti-gay discrimination?

Miami's Center for Human Identity is seeking participants for a research project gleaning information about discrimination. If you feel discriminated against for being gay or if you have experienced discrimination because of your religious denomination, please contact the Center for Human Identity. There is no charge to participate in the study should you be selected.

The mailing address is: Center for Human Identity, c/o CHI Director, Temple Israel Greater Miami, 137 N.E. 19th St., Miami, 33137.

For more information, call (305) 460-2272



The Victory Fund's Brian Bond

## Victory Fund looking for party hosts

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is looking for as many hosts and sponsors as possible from the South Florida area for its Jan. 31 reception at the Albion Hotel, 1650 James Ave., at Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Chad Allen, the openly gay actor of "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman," will serve as the special guest.

Tickets are \$100 each. Potential hosts are people who can sell five tickets and potential sponsors are those who can sell ten tickets.

Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond said proceeds from the event go directly to openly gay candidates for local, state and national office across the country.

Fax contacts with addresses and phone numbers to Daren Phillips or Brian Bond (202) 289-3863.



"Family Album/Album de familia," a series of four bus shelter panels and one billboard designed by Eduardo Aparicio was launched January 10 as part of the Miami Arts Project's media intervention project designed to address community issues. The above panel, located in South Beach on Ocean Drive, reads, "Check your vision. Is your sister an invisible lesbian?" Funding for the project was provided by the Dade Human Rights Foundation, Dade County Community Foundation, Bacardi-Martini/USA, and SunTrust Banks.

# CALENDAR

## Thursday, Jan. 15

"Kenny Scharf Bronzes," an exhibition of sculptures by the Miami Beach resident runs through March 8, admission \$5 adults, \$3 seniors/students with ID, Bass Museum of Art, 2121 Park Ave., Miami Beach, (305) 375-7530

Triumph of the Spirit: Carlos Alfonzo, A survey 1975-1991, the first retrospective of the late Cuban-American painter runs through March 8, adults \$5, students with ID/seniors \$2.50, children under 12 free, Miami Art Museum, 101 W. Flagler St., Miami, call (305) 375-3000

7 p.m. "American Dream/American Tragedy," a free program to plan for retirement conducted by Cynthia Day, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 489-9161

7 p.m. Long Term Survivors Gay Men's Group, (weekly), CenterOne, 2817 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 537-4111

7 p.m. Gay Men in Recovery Group, weekly at Health Crisis Network, 5050 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, (305) 751-7775

7 p.m. Game Night, weekly in the lounge at the Cosmopolitan Community Center, American Legion Building, 6445 N.E. Seventh Ave., Miami, (305) 759-5210

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Coming Out and Beyond," weekly meditation and therapy group for lesbian and bisexual women, \$5 donation, Twelve Steps Counseling Center, 25th Street and Biscayne Blvd., call for address and to register, (305) 891-6537

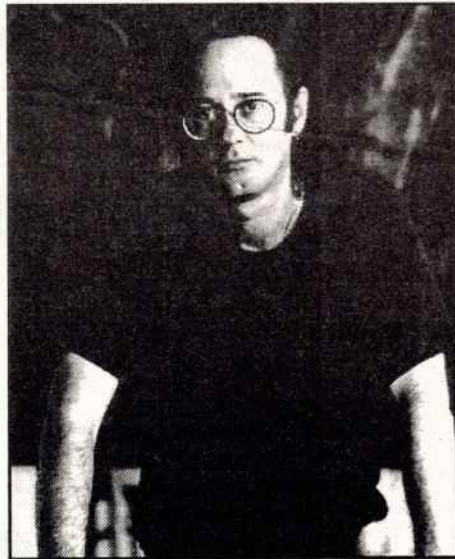
## Friday, Jan. 16

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. SunTrust Artwalk, an evening with jazz and blues featuring vocalist Illan Harris, the Jeff Prine Group and more, Harrison Street and Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, (954) 921-3404

8 p.m. "Women in Miami," a lesbian social gathering, call Gail at (305) 663-9807

## Jan. 16-17

5 p.m. Pre-performance panel discussion: "Is There an Indigenous Gay Culture?" at the Colony Theater, \$5 admission 8 p.m. "Road to Iovie," written by Godfrey Hamilton and performed by Mark Pinkosh, presented by



Carlos Alfonzo

Miami Light Project, tickets \$20, Colony Theater, 1040 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, (305) 531-3747

## Jan. 16-18

10 a.m. "Romance of Orchids," an international show presented by the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, \$5 admission, (runs until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. on Sunday), War Memorial Auditorium, 800 N.E. Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale

AIDS Mastery Workshop: A Weekend Experience for anyone infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, a minimum donation of \$100 is requested, sessions run from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, a light meal is included on Jan. 16, breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served on Jan. 17-18, Mercy Hospital, 3663 S. Miami Ave., Miami, call Thom Smith at (305) 285-2994

## Saturday, Jan. 17

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Switchboard training, food and drinks served, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 563-9500

noon Lecture: "Going, Going, Gown: Art Deco Fashions at Auction," (part of Art Deco Weekend Festival), with costume designer Linda Donahue from New York, free admis-

sion, Oceanfront Auditorium, 1001 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, (305) 672-2014

7 p.m. Southern Leather Lesbians At Play (SLLAP) general meeting, topic: talking dirty/begging, \$3 members, \$5 non-members, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 463-6251

7 p.m. In honor of the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Miami Clinic Access Project, North Miami NOW and Refuse and Resist South Florida are sponsoring a screening of "Citizen Ruth," a satiric look at abortion rights starring Laura Dern, Swoozie Kurtz and Burt Reynolds, at the Cosmopolitan Community Center, American Legion Post 29, 6445 N.E. Seventh Ave., Miami, (305) 460-3243 or (305) 895-2849

7:30 p.m. Community Center Cinema presents "Love! Valour! Compassion!," \$3 donation requested, popcorn and drinks provided, GLCC, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 563-9500

## Sunday, Jan. 18

12:30 p.m. brunch 1:15 p.m. discussion with Richard Tafel, National Director of Log Cabin at the Cosmopolitan Community Center, American Legion Post 29, 6445 N.E. Seventh Ave., Miami, call Andy Eddy at (954) LCR-1995

1 p.m. Lecture: "History of Fashion Photography," (Art Deco Weekend Festival), an overview illustrated with examples from the private collections of Etheleen Staley and Taki Wise, free admission, Oceanfront Auditorium, 1001 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, (305) 672-2014

3 p.m. Gay-themed movies and refreshments, weekly at Body Positive Resource Center, 175 N.E. 36th St., Miami, (305) 576-1111

## Jan. 18-20

Cape Sable Kayak/Canoe Camping with the Southeastern Great Outdoors Group: primitive camping in Florida Bay, Everglades National Park, call Katie at (954) 568-4826

## Monday, Jan. 19

7 p.m. Gay Men's HIV Spectrum Group (HCN), weekly at All Souls Episcopal Church, 4025 Pinetree Drive, Miami Beach,

(305) 751-7775

## Tuesday, Jan. 20

7:30 to 9 p.m. Boca Lesbian Rap Group, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2601 St. Andrews Blvd., Boca Raton, (561) 368-6051

7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Men Talk (weekly), Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 563-9500

8 p.m. Healing Circle, meditation and relaxation therapy, weekly at Body Positive Resource Center, 175 N.E. 36th St., Miami, (305) 576-1111

## Wednesday, Jan. 21

Monthly meeting of the Log Cabin Progressive Republican Club, call (954) LCR-1995

6:30 p.m. Volunteer Orientation at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, call Michael Heath at (954) 563-9500

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Interactive safer sex workshop on applications and techniques: "Plastic Wrap - Not Just for Left Overs," \$3 donation requested, Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, call Richard Byrd to RSVP at (954) 563-8001

7 p.m. "Filing for Disability: Your Rights and Responsibilities," Ira Lieberman, a former social security judge will speak on behalf of The Hepatitis and Liver Awareness Group of South Florida, Florida Medical Center auditorium, 5000 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, (954) 587-3777

8:30 p.m. Rainbow Narcotics Anonymous 12-step program (weekly), Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1164 E. Oakland Park Blvd., third floor, Fort Lauderdale, (954) 563-9500

If your organization has an event you would like listed in TWN's Calendar, please send a notice of the event along with the time and location, admission cost (if any) and a contact number to TWN; 901 N.E. 79th St.; Miami, FL 33138, or call (305) 757-6333, ext. 8910. Submissions must be received at least two weeks before the desired date of publication.

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# NEWS ANALYSIS

## 'Cleaning up' Flamingo Park

By DON JOHNSTON  
News Editor

Miami Beach's gay community teamed up with City Commissioner Nancy Liebman and Assistant Police Chief Jim Scarberry to clean up cruising Flamingo Park more than a year ago. Although men are still wandering the park, everyone seems happy.

After the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County closed two of its most popular parks for cruising to car traffic by fencing off access to the area after dark, much of the nocturnal traffic moved to Flamingo Park during the summer of 1996. Angry residents living around the park deluged the police department and Liebman's office complaining of too many cars circling the block in the middle of the night and men engaging in sexual acts in their yards.

Gary Knight, who spear-headed the effort to curtail park sex, summed up the situation saying, "There was more traffic on Michigan than there was on Alton at 2 a.m."

A national cruising directory at the world wide web site [www.cruisingforsex.com](http://www.cruisingforsex.com) even advertised Flamingo Park as a "hot" destination for anonymous sex as late as April 1997. The notice read:

"The handball courts are not the only thing active in Flamingo Park. The playing fields are also hot. Go by the trees by the baseball field and the bleachers and you are sure to find someone there at night. During the day time there is a shower room by the basketball courts which are open to the public. Also drive-by cruising is very popular. You will see a lot of cars driving by at night."

*"It took us a year,  
but the neighbors are happy,  
the police are happy,  
the gay community is happy  
and the commission's happy ..."*

Miami Beach City Councilmember  
Nancy Liebman

expert on park sex as a result of outreach efforts to teach safer sex practices to men who congregate in public restrooms and parks. Rodriguez said there are three key aspects that make a park desirable for cruising.

First, it must have car access. Men must be able to drive there and park their cars easily or have an area where they can circle around in their cars easily, looking for potential partners. Then there must also be an area where men can congregate on foot to seek out partners with low visibility from passersby. Finally, there must be a "play space" where men who want to engage in sex while still in the park can do so without harassment or a high-risk of arrest.

With those elements in mind, Knight and the others recommended the city commission prune the excess trees and shrubs that concealed the play spaces and secure the fencing around the racketball courts where some of the men would congregate. They also lobbied for more signs in the park noting it was closed from midnight to 5 a.m., as well as increased lighting at night so people would not be able to hide from squad cars as they drove past the park.

Originally residents in the surrounding blocks were unwilling to put up parking restriction signs along the park that would have allowed officers to write parking tickets to men who left their cars there to patronize the park at night, but Liebman said once the plans to build a large movie theater a few blocks away were announced, the residents acquiesced.

Knight, along with a host of lesbian and gay activists then began a whisper campaign that police would arrest anyone in the park after hours. Then they handed out fliers to people in the park late at night. Eventually, the police began making arrests for loitering after the park was closed.

The operation netted 46 arrests in Flamingo Park during the period of Dec. 1, 1996 and Nov. 30, 1997, but not all of them were for

Liebman called the police chief and members of the gay community's newly formed police task force together for a meeting to figure out how best to address the problem.

The meeting resulted in the program "What you do is your business: Where you do it is ours," which included a public awareness campaign of impending police arrests of the area as well as a host of recommendations on how best to discourage sexual solicitation in a public park setting.

The group sought help from Health Crisis Network's gay outreach coordinator Freddy Rodriguez, who has described himself as an unofficial

**Flamingo Park became a "hotbed" of activity after Miami and the county fenced off Alice Wainwright and Tropical parks.**



cruising. Police caught two men loitering who had bench warrants for their arrest: one for prostitution and another for burglary. Other non-sex arrests included violations of Florida's open container law and possession of drugs.

Only one of the arrests was for exposure of sexual organs. Shortly after midnight on Sept. 2, 1997, a man was arrested for masturbating.

Officer Shimko's police report read, "As I sat on the baseball bleachers near Meridian Avenue, [name deleted] sat next to me, unzipped his shorts, and began masturbating his exposed penis in a vulgar, indecent manner. This act occurred in public in full view of pedestrian passers-by. No statement to any other officer."

Although the effort did not lodge excessive arrests, many of those involved agreed the operation was a success.

"I think that the program was phenomenal because it put together the police and the gay community," Liebman said. "They walked through the park and gave warnings and they did it with the help of the police - the two forces working together."

"It took us a year, but the neighbors are happy, the police are happy, the gay community is happy and the commission's happy I think," Liebman added.

Assistant Chief Scarberry said, "The only way that I can judge [the success of the effort] is if the neighborhood is somewhat satisfied with the situation that is going on now."

"We must have had some success in our effort because we're not getting the daily calls from everybody out there. So, I guess what we did was good."

Knight painted a less-rosy picture. "It's a C-plus or a B-minus on deterrence," he said, adding, "I'm reasonably happy with what we did."

But now Knight, who eventually became president of the Miami Beach Police Department's community relations board, plans to move to other police projects.

"The focuses are now on a positive relationship [with the police]. It's the key to a civil city."

## Park-goers racked-up complaints

The following are brief descriptions given by Miami Beach Police dispatchers to units on patrol to investigate reports made by citizens calling and complaining of sexual activity going on in Flamingo Park.

**April 16, 1997 - 12:05 p.m.**

By the basketball courts: two white males and one black male in the restroom. Lewd conduct.

**May 2, 1997 - 7:34 p.m.**

Subject a black male wearing long sleeve green shirt and beige pants riding a bike. Subject last seen heading west in the park, now by the basketball courts. Masturbating in public.

**June 4, 1997 - 11:41 a.m.**

Black male/Haitian, bald and in his late 40s. Wearing light colored shirt. Masturbating in public.

**July 13, 1997 - 12:47 a.m.**

In parking lot next to baseball stadium at Flamingo Park, advising males are performing lewd acts visible to residents.

**August 7, 1997 - 2:37 p.m.**

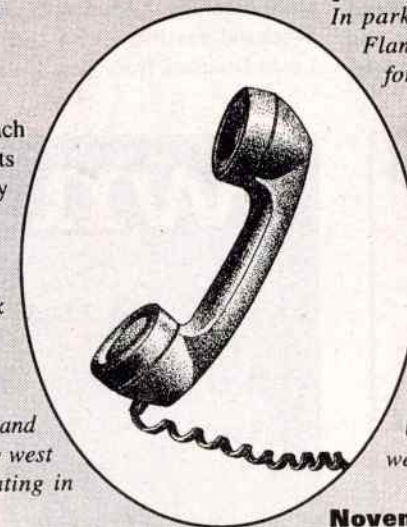
Black male with dreadlocks doing oral sex in men's bathroom at the park. Unknown if suspect is carrying weapons.

**October 18, 1997 - 10:53 a.m.**

Four white males in their 30s masturbating in the men's bathroom. Unknown if suspects are carrying weapons.

**November 14, 1997 - 12:15 p.m.**

Female restrooms by basketball courts: two men having sex. Subjects still in bathroom - have not left. Complainant's girlfriend ran out after witnessing the act.



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## Forging a partnership

### Gay bar raids led to greater cooperation between gays and police

By DON JOHNSTON  
News Editor

An effort that started after police raided gay bars on South Beach for drug use in December 1995 and January 1996 has managed to bring the Miami Beach Police Department and leaders in the city's gay community closer together, allowing them to synergize their efforts when looking for thieves and murderers who prey on gays.

Gary Knight, one of the early organizers of the gay community's response to the Miami Beach police raids on Glam Slam and Twist for drugs two years ago, said the journey has taught both gays and the police department many lessons and mended fences that has allowed the city to thrive.

When the local television news crews secretly filmed drug use in gay bars with police help, Knight said the damage was considerable. "That had an inordinately negative impact on the perception of Miami Beach in the national gay community," he explained.

Many South Beach business leaders in the gay community were in agreement that something had to be done, but exactly what was still uncertain. "It became clear we needed a multi-faceted program with the police," Knight said. So the group set up diversity training seminars that became required courses for all police officers. The police department paid two prominent psychologists to conduct four-hour training sessions on the uniqueness of the gay community.

The group then suggested cleaning up Washington Avenue where the rowdy and sometimes violent atmosphere was threatening for gays. "If you don't feel safe walking down Washington Avenue," Knight explained, "then it isn't safe for tourists."

Knight and the others planned to create community relation teams that walked along Washington Avenue late at night. Originally they envisioned gay teams wearing T-shirts and carrying walkie talkies that let people know they were working with the police to deter and report crime.

It wasn't until the police ride-along program that Knight realized what a naive idea that was. Assistant Police Chief Jim Scarberry set up opportunities for gay men and lesbians to ride along in patrol cars so that officers could get to know individual gay people and gays could meet some of the officers paid to protect and serve them.

More than 100 gays from Miami Beach rode with patrol officers on the night shift, and they succeeded in instilling a sense of the gay community's needs in the officers. But they also realized they had a lot to learn about a day in the life of police officers, as well.

"I wouldn't go out without a bazooka to create a calming effect on the streets," Knight said of his ride along experience along Washington Avenue.

#### The real test

After several months of talks, sensitivity trainings and ride-alongs, Miami Beach City Commissioner Nancy Liebman presented the first real test of the new cooperative relationship in the summer of 1996.

Liebman's office was deluged with angry calls from neighbors whose homes bordered Flamingo Park to say cruising for sex in the area had become a real problem in the past few weeks.

"The way [the residents] described it, it looked like Times Square in the middle of the night," Liebman told TWN. Knight mirrored that assessment saying, "It was busier on Michigan than it was on Alton at 2 a.m."

Reflecting back, Knight said the cruising traffic rose sharply in the area as a result of Miami

and the county closing two of their parks at night. First, actor Sylvester Stallone donated \$100,000 to the City of Miami to pay for fencing around Alice Wainwright Park to keep men from cruising late at night near his house. Then the county fenced off Tropical Park to diminish cruising there as well.

"So that essentially had an economic impact," Knight explained. "The need stayed constant but the supply was reduced." And Flamingo Park bore the brunt of the impact.

So Liebman got the

police and their new gay partners together for a meeting to deal with the problem.

"The reason that I tried to pull together the two groups is because I was concerned that the police had a track record for running around Washington Avenue and shutting down the gay bars," Liebman said. "I wanted a resolution everyone could live with, even the gay community."

"Wouldn't it be better to put together some of the leaders of the gay community to do a real program, a real educational program?" she asked. "I think that's how policing should be done - reaching out to the community and everybody working together for a good plan."

Assistant Chief Scarberry saw it as the perfect solution as well. "We've tried to deal with issues like this in the past with just police, and we recognized early that's not the way to do it," he said. "It causes too much aggravation for the community and for the police department."

So Knight and a small group of activists began working on ideas such as putting more signs around the park warning people it was closed from midnight to 5 a.m. They then lobbied the city commission for more lighting, pruning of trees and shrubs and eventually sponsoring a public education campaign warning men that police would arrest anyone loitering in the park after hours.

The group then launched "What you do is your business: Where you do it is ours," and began handing out fliers in the park urging people not to be in Flamingo Park after closing. The police department picked up the printing bill. Eventually fliers were distributed at the 1996 White Party over Thanksgiving, the 1997 Winter Party in March and again at the 1997 White Party.

#### A first for police

Knight was also instrumental in convincing police not to arrest people (for a six-week introductory period) but to give them an opportunity to warn the men frequenting the park. "That was a first," Knight said proudly. "They had never agreed not to enforce an ordinance before."

But that wasn't the only first for the police.

"Policemen in the past have never been involved in doing problem solving and communication in the community," Scarberry said. "The goal there is to alleviate the problem and the issue for the community and not to pile up a number of arrests."

"The officers, really for the first time, recognized that these issues are not just enforcement action issues. There are underlying causes, and there are ways and solutions that should be sought to fix the problems - not just always arrest."

And it was their hard work during the spring that set the stage for success.

"Anytime you launch any sort of effort like what we did in Flamingo park, there has to be acceptance both by the community and by our police officers that this is a better method of doing something," Scarberry said. "So I think our [sexual orientation] sensitivity training allowed that acceptance and that transition to happen."

#### Leaving a legacy

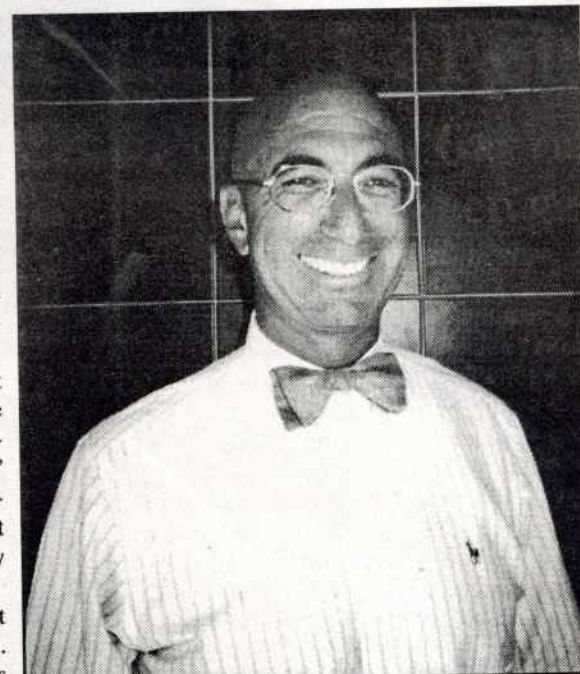
As a result of the clash over the drug busts in gay bars, the police now have an ongoing dialogue with members of the gay community that has helped in a number of cases.

"They have come to us every time there is a problem with a gay murder," Knight said, referring to when San Diegan Andrew Cunanan shot designer Gianni Versace as well as recent reports of a second suspected killer on his way to Miami Beach from San Diego and the most recent escape of a convicted murder from a South Miami-Dade prison who has targeted gay men for robbery and murder.

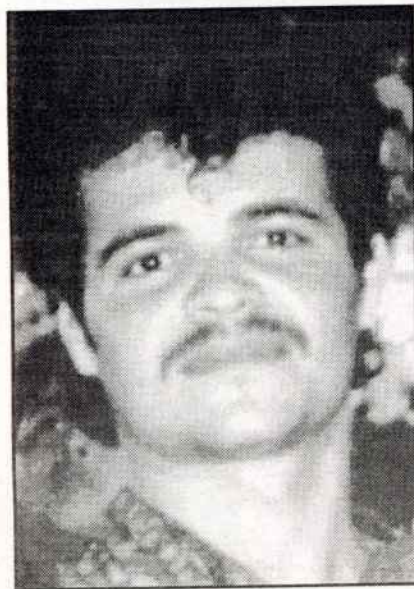
According to Scarberry, "The joint operation helped when it came to working on cases such as Cunanan. They helped us to find those kind of places where he may be hiding. And if people weren't willing to talk to the police, they called Gary Knight to give us tips."

Although many in the gay community, including Knight, were critical of the FBI and police department's handling of the Cunanan case, the ongoing dialogue has made those problems easier to address because the police knew and trusted the gay leaders who chastised them.

As for Flamingo Park, Knight said it's up to police to keep up their efforts. Although he now is the president of the Miami Beach Community Relations Board, representing all ethnicities and interest groups in the city, Knight said, "As far as I'm concerned, I've done my part. The city has to show it can institutionalize this."



Gary Knight



Manuel Luis Garces (II) is one of the suspected killers Miami Beach police have told the gay community about since the start of their new partnership.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Miami-Dade sends public sex offenders to 'traffic school'

By DON JOHNSTON  
News Editor

Once someone is charged with having sex in a public park, prosecutors and judges take a variety of different approaches to sentencing. Some pay a fine, others are put on probation for a few months, but in Miami-Dade County, gay men have been given the option to go to "lewd and lascivious" classes, much like traffic school, for nearly 20 years.

Ariana Fajardo, assistant chief for misdemeanor crimes in Miami-Dade County's state attorney's office said she most often sends people to a pre-trial diversion program conducted by The Advocate Program where defendants can purge the offense from their record after being versed in the dangers of public sex.

Fajardo also requires them to take an HIV test, but she said the results never appear in court records which are in the public domain and her office never knows the outcome. "It's confidential," she explained. "It's for their own use." The results are reported, however, to the Florida's HIV-positive registry as required by law.

As for the "lewd and lascivious" classes, Advocate Program Director Don Purce said they cover a variety of issues surrounding public sex. The classes are not instructional in nature, rather they are interactive discussions between a moderator and the participants. Participants pay a flat fee of \$175 and meet an hour a week for a period of 12 weeks.

"They are going to cover community norms and standards, social behavior and attitudes regarding conformity or deviance, self-awareness types of issues, sexuality, intimacy, sexual addiction, HIV and AIDS, and high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse in conjunction with sex," Purce said.

The program does not cover, however, coming out issues for those who might have been arrested while exploring their sexual orientation through public sex in parks.

Noting the school is not exclusively for gays, Purce said "We have certainly got homosexual as well as heterosexual situations occurring in automobiles parked along the side of the street," adding, "We would put them in the same group. But the majority probably is [men caught having sex with men in] a public restroom or public park."

Which is how the program got started.

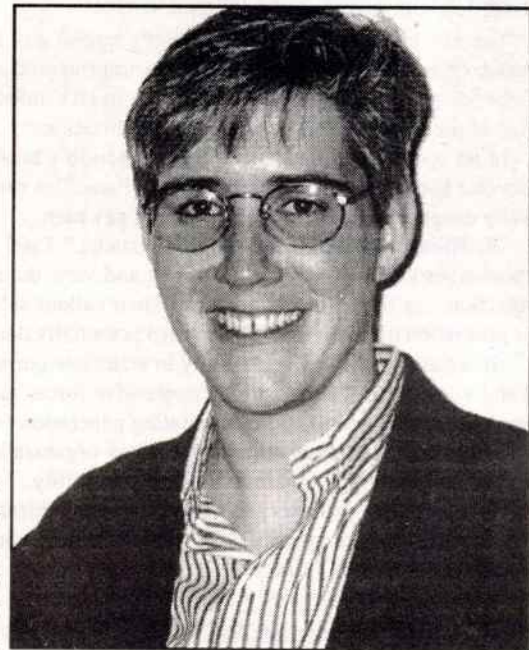
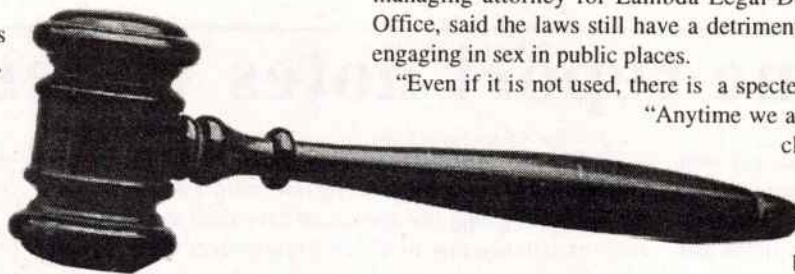
"From a historical standpoint, we've been running this class since about 1979," Purce said. "It came out of sexual behaviors that were occurring between men in the old Coral Gables bus station. ... It was originally brought by the Coral Gables Police or State Attorney's office back then."

### What Broward County does

"We're very different than Dade as to what is allowed into pre-trial and what is not," Assistant State Attorney Lee Cohen explained. "If it's an indecent exposure with some type of sexual content, then we will not allow it into the pre-trial intervention. If it's simply loitering and prowling ... then we will allow it into the pre-trial intervention."

However, Broward's pre-trial intervention program does not include any kind of classes like that of Miami-Dade. Instead, defendants are sent to programs that focus on loitering, rather than dealing with the issues of sexual addiction or public lewdness.

Cohen said for those cases where someone was not loitering, but actually exposing his sexual organs, he would impose a fine of up to \$500 and consider possible jail time



Although some prosecutors do not charge lesbians and gay men with sodomy any longer, LLDEF Managing Attorney Jane Morrison says the law still plagues gays.

of up to 60 days.

"If they had no prior record, then we wouldn't be seeking extensive jail time. Maybe some jail time. But if they have no prior record ... a second degree misdemeanor is not something we seek jail time on."

"It's based on the matter of room we have in the jail or lack thereof. We're not going to fill it up with loiterers."

### What about sodomy charges?

Despite police catching some men having oral or anal sex in the park itself, Miami-Dade's Fajardo said her office does not prosecute under the sodomy statute, which is a felony, choosing instead to charge gay men with unnatural and lascivious conduct, a second degree misdemeanor and sending them to their pre-trial diversion program.

"It's one of the offenses that's still on the books, but it's not really used," Fajardo said of the sodomy statute, adding, "It's not like a clear-cut decision that we're no longer prosecuting sodomy. It just doesn't happen anymore. ... I don't think the police are arresting for it. They may be engaged in sodomy, but they're just describing it as lewd and lascivious."

Broward's Cohen said he has not seen a case where someone was actually engaging in sodomy, but said his office would send the charge to the felony division where they would consider the case's merits for prosecution.

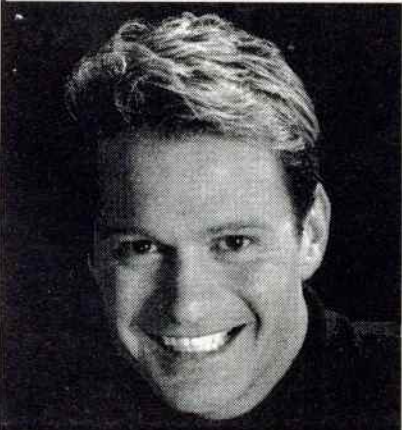
Despite the relatively good news that Miami-Dade prosecutors generally use their discretionary powers not to prosecute laws even when they might have been broken, Jane Morrison, managing attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Southern Regional Office, said the laws still have a detrimental effect to lesbians and gay men who aren't even engaging in sex in public places.

"Even if it is not used, there is a specter, a sword hanging over our heads," she explained.

"Anytime we are in court on perhaps a custody issue or a security clearance or we're just filling out a job application, there is the potential that we will be seen as felons.

"It comes up all the time, and that's how we become victims of these sodomy statutes."

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# NATIONAL BRIEFS

## Log Cabin condemns "Sex Panic!"

The executive director of the nation's largest gay and lesbian organization condemned the group "Sex Panic!," which advocates unprotected sexual acts among gay men, including behavior which it says knowingly results in HIV-infection. It marked the first such condemnation of the group by any national gay organization.

In an op-ed published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Log Cabin Republicans executive director Richard Tafel warned that "Sex Panic!" is romanticizing deadly behavior, with potentially dangerous consequences for young gay men.

"Fulfilling their own need for victim status," Tafel wrote, "members of Sex Panic! imagine themselves under assault for being gay and view thoughtless unsafe sex - complete with HIV infection - as the ultimate liberation. Their callous selfishness has the potential to guide another generation of young gay men toward potentially deadly choices."

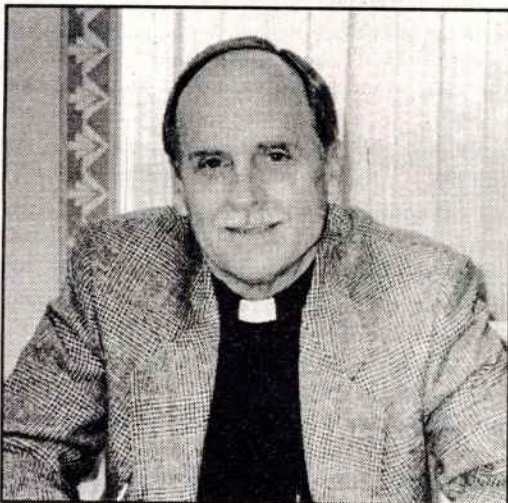
"It is time for the gay community to enunciate our values, such as individual responsibility," Tafel wrote. "Let's stop blaming oppressive forces and take control of our lives to ensure we don't witness a second, more devastating generation of this plague."

Tafel also called upon other national gay organizations to come forward and denounce "Sex Panic" and to stand up for individual responsibility.

"It is high time that every gay and lesbian organization in the country denounce the antics of those within our community, such as Sex Panic!, who romanticize sexual behavior that could lead to death."

## Mel White presented ACLU national civil liberties award

On Dec. 6, 1997, Rev. Mel White, Minister of Justice and Reconciliation for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, was presented the American Civil Liberties Union's National Civil Liberties Award for his efforts to apply the "soul force" principles of Gandhi and King to the struggle for justice for sexual minorities.



Rev. Mel White

White, an openly gay clergyperson, is the former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. Since his coming out, White has renounced his former Religious Right ties and become active in international human rights and gay rights causes.

At the ACLU presentation, Dr. White handed his award to a very surprised Lynn Cothren, the local gay activist who founded Atlanta's Queer Nation chapter and headed the successful campaign to reform the Cracker Barrel Restaurant chain. In handing on the award to Cothren, who is also Coretta Scott King's executive assistant, Dr. White asked his friend, Lynn, to keep it temporarily, "At

least until I've earned it."

It was Lynn Cothren who encouraged Dr. White to base his UFMCC justice ministry on the *Satyagraha* or "soul force" principles of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. During the past five years, White and his partner, Gary Nixon, have traveled across the country, speaking on university campuses, teaching principles of militant non-violence to injustice of any kind, organizing people of faith to do justice locally, and confronting religious leaders whose anti-gay rhetoric White believes, "leads to the suffering and death of God's lesbian and gay children."

## 1,300 Methodist clergy members give hierarchy 'hell'

In a strong demonstration of dissent, more than 1300 United Methodist clergy have publicly declared their commitment to support greater inclusiveness in the Church for gay and lesbian people. By signing the "Statement of Conscience" entitled "In All Things Charity ...," these clergypeople are challenging the church's official position that holds gay people who are not celibate "incompatible with Christian teaching."

"The overwhelming response to the call for a witness of graciousness and justice makes it clear that the United Methodist Church must and will open its doors to all persons of faith," said Rev. Gregory Dell of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago, and one of the first to sign the pledge. "We believe that this is only the beginning of the movement within our denomination and others to re-claim the gospel of grace and inclusiveness from forces of mean-spirited legalism and distorted literalism."

## Group tries to repeal ban on discrimination against gays

YPSILANTI, Mich. (AP) - A citizen's group has collected about 100 signatures in its effort to repeal a ban on discrimination against gays from Ypsilanti's human rights ordinance.

The petition drive organized by Citizens Opposed to Special Treatment, or COST, calls for either amending the city charter to scrap the ordinance or submitting it to a vote by residents, The Detroit News reported Dec. 29.

A total of 552 valid signatures from locally registered voters are needed to gain a referendum and 706 signatures are needed to amend the charter, said Judy Bloss, a member of the group.

The 25-member COST group has 90 days to get the names.

City Council members unanimously adopted the rights ordinance Dec. 16 to assure that no one in Ypsilanti is denied equal protection because of varied factors, including sexual orientation.

The ordinance was drafted after a February incident in which Standard Printing Co. in Ypsilanti refused to print raffle tickets for a fund-raiser sponsored by Tri-Pride, a group of gay and lesbian social work students at Eastern Michigan University.

## SUNY sex conference controversy has not gone away

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - If it is true that protecting free speech made it unthinkable to alter the contents of a sex conference at the State University of New York, why is a SUNY trustee being excoriated for criticizing the event?

The attacks against trustee Candace de Russy are just one of the hard questions about free

# FBI hate crime report notes violence escalating

WASHINGTON - Reported hate crimes against gay men and lesbians declined slightly in 1996 but were more violent and more public than in 1995, with significantly more such crimes committed in commercial buildings or in fields and woods, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"These statistics are further evidence of the need for a federal law enabling the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute such crimes on the same basis as crimes targeting people because of race, religion, color or national origin," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director.

"The federal government's hands are tied when it comes to investigating and prosecuting crimes aimed at people because of their sexual orientation. It's not enough to collect statistics. People who commit these crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered people should face the same penalties as all other hate criminals."

The FBI released a report Jan. 8 that found 1,016 crimes were committed in 1996 targeting people because of their sexual orientation. This amounted to 11.5 percent of the total 8,759 bias-motivated incidents reported to the FBI for that period.

In 1995, the FBI reported 1,019 hate crimes based on sexual orientation. This was 12.8 percent of the total.

HRC warns, however, that hate crimes targeting gays are virtually always underreported by law enforcement agencies.

"Even though the rate appears to have declined, we know from experience that local law enforcement agencies are often reluctant to report bias crimes based on sexual orientation," said Stachelberg. "One state, Alabama, reported no hate crimes whatsoever in 1996, which seems highly unlikely. In addition, crime victims are often afraid to tell police that they were singled out because of their real or perceived sexual orientation."

A comparison of the 1996 and 1995 reports found:

- reported arsons targeting gays increased from 3 incidents to 8;
- anti-gay crimes committed in gas stations rose from 2 to 8;
- in commercial buildings, from 18 to 28;
- and in woods or fields, from 6 to 13.

At the same time, the number of bias crimes against gays in private residences rose 16 percent, from 267 to 318.

As a result HRC called on Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998, which was introduced in November by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.). President Clinton has endorsed this

bill as part of his initiative, begun last year, to combat hate crimes in America.

"We applaud the Clinton administration for taking on the problem of hate crimes in America and are optimistic about the package of initiatives that came out of last year's first White House Conference on Hate Crimes," Stachelberg said.

Those initiatives included assigning 50 more FBI agents and prosecutors to work on hate crimes enforcement; establishing hate crimes working groups in the offices of all 93 U.S. attorneys; and distributing to the nation's school districts a manual encouraging schools to confront hate-motivated behavior among students.

Currently, only 19 states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their state hate crimes statutes. Nineteen states have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation, and nine states have no hate crimes statutes whatsoever. Three states have laws that are unclear.

Two federal hate crimes laws include "sexual orientation" as a protected group. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, under which these data released Jan. 8 were collected, and the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides for tougher sentencing when it is proven that the crime committed was motivated by bias.

# NATIONAL BRIEFS

expression, academic freedom and public service that continue to swirl around SUNY two months after November's conference at the system's New Paltz campus titled "Revolting Behavior."

The event, sponsored by the campus' women's studies department, featured workshops on safe sadomasochism and sex toys in addition to serious academic presentations on gender and sexual issues. De Russey attended the event and her explicit account of the proceedings caused consternation among conservative politicians and others.

SUNY formally released an internal report on the event last week which was prepared at the behest of a disapproving Gov. George Pataki. The study exonerated New Paltz President Roger Bowen of wrongdoing for allowing the conference to go forward, arguing that once he discovered specifics about the event and voiced his objections, participants' freedom of expression rights prevented him from censoring the racier presentations.

But release of the study has hardly put the matter to rest.

The conservative government watchdog group Change-New York - for which de Russey used to be Westchester County coordinator - called the report a "whitewash."

De Russey said it was an instance of SUNY insiders protecting one of their own.

"The intent appears to be to quell or to quash or to suppress criticism - and I am claiming it is justified criticism - of the conference," she said late last week. "And I am claiming that this review does not properly look at the evidence."

SUNY's board is expected to formally consider the findings of the report at its next meeting in late January. De Russey, who has called for Bowen's dismissal, said she will not allow the report to be adopted without forcing a public discussion of the conference among the trustees.

She argues that the sex conference, for which about \$800 in public funds was made available, has given SUNY a black eye around the nation.

It has been mentioned disparagingly on the popular syndicated radio shows of Rush Limbaugh and Laura Schlessinger, for example, as well as in opinion pieces in several national publications.

## California Supreme Court hears Scout discrimination arguments

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Allowing gays and atheists into the Boy Scouts would be like asking the NAACP to provide services for the Ku Klux Klan, a lawyer for the Boy Scouts argued in two discrimination lawsuits against the group.

Scout lawyer George Davidson claimed the group was merely upholding its belief in conservative sexual morality and duty to God when it expelled a man because he is gay and twin boys because they do not believe in God.

During arguments before the California Supreme Court on Dec. 29, he held up a Boy Scout book before the seven justices, saying: "There's God on the front cover, there's God on the back cover."

Attorneys for the twin boys and the man sought to portray the Boy Scouts as a business rather than a private club.

Jon Davidson, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney, said Boy Scouts sells camping supplies through its trading posts, engages in public relations, pay a full-time staff and charges fees to its 5 million members across the country.

"Those factors point to it not being a private club," he said.

If the justices buy that argument, the Boy Scouts would be subject to California laws that prohibit businesses from discriminating because of sexual orientation, religion and other factors.

A decision is expected within 90 days.



The ruling could also affect a third California case, recently accepted for review by the court but not scheduled for argument, on whether the Boy Scouts must admit girls.

One of the cases involves Timothy Curran, a former Eagle Scout, who was barred from being an assistant scoutmaster after a newspaper story on gay teen-agers revealed he was gay. The other involves twin brothers Michael and William Randall, now 16, who were expelled because they refused to acknowledge a duty to God as contained in the Boy Scout oath.

## Appeals court okays condom demonstrations in parks

NEW YORK (AP) - A state appeals court in Manhattan has ruled that it is illegal for the city to bar AIDS prevention groups from using city parks as sites to show how condoms are used.

The Supreme Court's Appellate Division ruled that demonstrations of condom use, in the context of HIV and AIDS awareness education, are protected by the free speech guarantees of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

The lawsuit was filed by officials of All Saints Lutheran Parish who were prevented from putting on demonstrations in St. Mary's Park on how to use condoms. The South Bronx church and its pastor, the Rev. David Kalke, said the city ban on demonstrations hampered efforts to promote AIDS awareness.

The appeals court's 4-0 decision modified a 1996 ruling by Justice Alice Schlesinger, affirming her decision to allow the church to proceed. Yueh-ru Chu, the New York Civil Liberties Union lawyer who argued the church's case, said the city's Parks Department went to great lengths to stymie efforts that had been encouraged by the city's Health Department.

Ellen Fishman, lawyer who argued the city's appeal, said the appellate decision lets the city set up rules restricting distribution of condoms in the park to fixed sites; hawkers may not move around waving them.

The appeals court decision, filed last week, said the city rule that bars non-commercial distribution of products and materials - except printed material - without a permit, serves a legitimate governmental purpose.

That purpose, the appeals court said, is to preserve the quality and character of the parks. The court also said the rule does not give the city so much power that it is, in effect, a prior restraint on expression.

But the court said that by disallowing any demonstration of products in the park parks whatsoever, the city law is broader than necessary and is "in effect cutting off an entire medium of expression."

## Ordinance against discrimination is scheduled for repeal

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The new City Council has voted to consider repealing the ordinance passed a month ago to prohibit discrimination against gay and lesbian city employees.

Council members Carlton Christensen, Keith Christensen, Bryce Jolley and Roger Thompson voted Dec. 30 to put the ordinance up for repeal at the next meeting.

Council members Deeda Seed, Joanne Milner and Tom Rogan wanted to wait and study the issue.

The ordinance approved by a 5-2 vote on Dec. 9 prohibits discrimination "against an otherwise qualified employee or applicant based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability."

Three of the council members who supported it are gone.

Jolley, who is the new chairman of the council, opposed the ordinance when it was adopted last month.

"My passion for repealing this ordinance came from the lack of process, consideration and discussion before it was passed," Jolley said Dec. 30 night. "I made the same plea for time two months ago, but I was ignored. I was hurt and offended by that lack of respect."

"We need to take a look at the ordinance and start the process properly," Jolley said. "It's imperative that this law be repealed."

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# INTERNATIONAL

By REX WOCKNER

Special to TWN

## Iranian gay hanged

The Iranian government has hanged a man found guilty of having gay sex, the Washington Blade reported, quoting Reuters.

Ali Sharifi was hanged in the western city of Hamadan, according to the report. He also had been convicted of adultery, drinking alcohol and drug dealing.

## 45 percent of dutch gays will marry

A poll of 1,385 Dutch gay men and lesbians by the University of Utrecht found that 45 percent want to get married when it becomes legal, probably later this year. Forty-three percent said they would not get married.

Eighty-five percent of those polled believe same-sex marriage should be legal while seven percent do not want it legalized. A quarter of those questioned also said the institution of marriage should be abolished.

The desire to marry is highest among young lesbians, lesbians with right-leaning politics, men with religious beliefs, men in monogamous relationships, and persons without a university education.



Seal of The Netherlands

## Canadian editor 'appears' to come out

The editor-in-chief of Canada's most prestigious daily newspaper "appeared to come out" of the closet during a recent speech to the gay business group The Fraternity, reported Xtra!

William Thorsell, chief of Toronto's The Globe And Mail, also said gays are at risk of becoming "boring and mediocre" as they become an ordinary part of society.

Thorsell did not respond to inquiries from this news column.

## Anti-gay videos banned in New Zealand

The New Zealand Film & Literature Board of Review has banned the anti-gay U.S. videos "Gay Rights, Special Rights: Inside the Homosexual Agenda" and "AIDS: What you haven't been told."

The board said the videos contain misinformation that would be injurious to the public good and depicts gays and lesbians as "inherently inferior."

The films were brought to New Zealand by the Potters' House Christian Fellowship, the Strategic Leadership Network and Challenge Christian Video.

## Gay purge in Qatar

Qatar is in the process of deporting all foreign gays, says the Philippine Embassy.

The embassy recommended that no more gay workers be sent to the Persian Gulf nation, where 80,000 Filipinos work in the oil refining, production and service sectors.

One overseas worker, who asked not to be identified, told a Filipino newspaper that foreigners patronizing barber shops are being hauled off by police for rectal exams to determine if they've had anal sex.



Seal of Qatar

## Austrian gays sue newspaper

Five Austrian gay groups have filed suit against a right-wing Catholic newspaper that said, "Homosexuals, like rats, are crawling out of their holes, only to be fed lovingly by church people and politicians."

The newspaper, "The 13th," also called for "the formation of militias to fight state-supported ... lechery" and said homosexuals should be punished "with whips and bull pizzles."

## Dying man, partner become first Dutch gay couple to marry

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands - Dying of pneumonia, his last wish was to marry his gay partner of 40 years. He hoped the marriage would give his partner the same rights as married heterosexuals after his death.

His wish was finally granted under a new Dutch law that allows gay and lesbian couples to marry.

On Dec. 29, he and his partner, both in their 60s, were married in an Amsterdam hospital, becoming the first same-sex couple in the country to marry under the new law, which took effect Jan. 1.

A few hours after the ceremony, he died.

"This marriage shows what it's all about. It's not about throwing big wedding parties, it's about fighting to give to your partner the same rights as married couples," Henk Krol, chief editor of The Gay Newspaper, said Dec. 31.

The couple's identities were not disclosed, but spokesman Rene Schalk for city hall in south Amsterdam

confirmed the marriage.

The new law, officially known as "partnership registration," gives gay couples the same pension, social security and inheritance rights as a married couple, except they cannot jointly adopt children.

The law came into effect without much fanfare or protest in this country renowned for its acceptance of gays. Amsterdam has a thriving gay community and will host the 1998 Gay Games. The city hall in south Amsterdam plans to throw a big bash for the first lesbian couple to be married in their district. The couple, identified as Irma van Praag and Anna

Kreuger, will tie the knot on Jan. 15, said spokesperson Schalk.

With its new law, the Netherlands has followed in the footsteps of Scandinavia, where gays may register their partnerships with all the rights and obligations of marriage except adoption rights.

*"A few hours  
after the ceremony,  
he died."*

## Kyrgyzstan legalizes gay sex

Kyrgyzstan became the ninth former Soviet republic to legalize gay sex Jan. 1, according to Amnesty International.

Article 130 of the new Criminal Code OKs homosexual acts unless they involve "force" or "the threat of force" or "take advantage of the weakness of the victim."

The other former Soviet republics that have decriminalized homosexuality are Belarus, Estonia, Kazakstan, Moldova, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, penal-code reform is underway that may lead to legalization of gay sex. Tajikistan is still using the old Soviet criminal code. Uzbekistan instituted a new penal code and kept the Soviet ban. Observers have been unable to determine the legal status of homosexuality under Turkmenistan's new penal code.

## Anti-gay Dutch official arrested for sex crimes

The anti-gay deputy mayor of Harderwijk, The Netherlands, H. Mulder, has been arrested for allegedly having sex with a 12-year-old boy.

Police said news of the arrest caused five other boys to come forward and report sexual liaisons with Mulder. Mulder also reportedly had been photographed by a journalist receiving oral sex at a local gay cruising spot.

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# JESSE'S JOURNAL

## I was SoBe, when SoBe wasn't cool

By **JESSE MONTEAGUDO**  
Special to **TWN**



A few weeks ago I attended a meeting of the Lavender Salon, South Florida's gay and lesbian discussion group. We gathered in the community room of the Miami Beach Police Department to hear Professor Fred Fejes of Florida Atlantic University discuss Miami's anti-gay witch hunt of 1954.

Fejes' lecture, complete with slides of Miami Herald headlines, was informative and interesting, although at least one audience member noted the irony of holding the event at Miami Beach police headquarters! The MBPD, after all, was no friend of the gay community in the '50s, as any lesbian or gay man who lived through those dreadful times could tell you. Unfortunately, what the program lacked was the testimony of a lesbian or a gay man who actually lived through Miami's anti-gay witch hunt of 1954.

The lack of personal testimony at the Lavender Salon program reminds us of the endurance of the closet, which prevents queer histories and traditions from being transmitted from one generation to the next. As a result, many lesbians and gay men think that gay culture and activism began on the day they came out, thus ignoring the lessons of history and forcing them to "reinvent the wheel."

When I first began my activist career in the 1970's I did not know about Richard Inman or the Mattachine Society of Florida, although there were people like Jack Nichols around who could (and later did) tell me about them. Even today the beautiful boys and girls who flock to SoBe in search of freedom are unaware that Miami Beach's queer history began decades before they were born.

Fortunately, thanks to the work of Professor Fejes, historian James T. Sears and journalist Eugene J. Patron – not to mention the Stonewall Library and Archives – we know more about Miami Beach's lesbian and gay past than we did several years ago. In Sears's book "Lonely Hunters: An Oral History of Lesbian and Gay Southern Life, 1948-1968," Nichols, Merrill Mushroom and Jim Patterson recall the days of constant bar and beach raids, and of an "underground" lesbian and gay community that flourished in spite of such constant persecution.

For a series of articles published in **TWN** in 1994, Patron profiled Jackie Jackson, the "queen" of the Jewel Box Revue. Patron also interviewed the late Sandy Schaps, who was arrested at a '50s raid on 21st Street Beach, and Richard Burke, who visited Frenchie's Pub, the Mayflower Lounge, the Pin Up and the Basin Street Bar circa 1965. By then the Miami Beach Police had ceased to raid bars – for a price.

Since I firmly believe that the best lesbian and gay history are the experiences of the women and men who lived it, I will now tell you about my own history on Miami Beach. My connection to South Beach goes back before my birth, when I was conceived in the Tides Hotel – across Ocean Drive from the 12th Street Beach – where my parents spent their honeymoon.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Miami Beach played an important role in my life, both before and after I came out as a gay man. I worked on the Beach, played on the Beach, and did everything that was legally allowed – and a few things that weren't – on the Beach. In short, I was

SoBe when SoBe wasn't cool. Miami Beach during the '60s and '70s was in a slump. During the '40s and '50s, tourists and gangsters, socialites and conventioners alike played in the high-rise hotels and illegal casinos that lined Collins Avenue.

By 1964, when I moved to South Florida, anti-crime crusaders had rid the area of its illegal casinos, to Las Vegas' eternal benefit. Miami Beach became "God's waiting room," as its once glorious Art Deco hotels became retirement homes for the elderly poor. Even so, the Beach remained a favorite for family tourists, at least until the advent of Walt Disney World in Orlando (1971).

Like many other Cuban immigrants, my father got a job in the tourist trade, first as a bus-boy, then as a waiter, and finally as manager of the coffee shop at the Versailles Hotel. As a teenager, I would sometimes help my father at the coffee shop. I remember accompanying him to the Hotel Workers' Union office on 23rd Street – it is ironic that my conservative father belonged to labor unions for his entire working life while his liberal son never did – where he paid his dues religiously. I also remember the elderly tourists who stayed at the Versailles Hotel, in search of what the late Jackie Gleason called "the sun and fun capital of the world." Back then, there wasn't much of either.

From 1969 to 1972, I worked summer jobs as a houseman at the Versailles Hotel. I was at my job when the Republican and Democratic parties held their conventions on the Beach in 1972, a time when gay and non-gay activists alike gathered in Flamingo Park to protest government policies.

*In 1972,  
"gay activity  
in Flamingo Park"  
meant political action,  
not outlaw sex.*

In 1972, "gay activity in Flamingo Park" meant political action, not outlaw sex. Only later did I hear about the gay pride demonstration that Staci Aker, Frank Arango, and other lesbian and gay activists held on 21st Street Beach in 1972 and how that led to the end of Miami Beach's anti-gay and anti-cross dressing laws.

By 1972, I was already aware of my own homosexuality, and of the possibilities the Beach offered me as a young gay man. My father (little did he know) warned me about the *maricones* on 21st Street Beach. As it turned out, I did not have to go to 21st Street Beach to find gay activity. Another hotel houseman, like

myself a young Cubano, seduced 19-year-old me in the solarium in years. Another houseman, a bodybuilder from Uruguay no less, cruised me in the staff changing room, an offer that I regretfully had to turn down.

When I came out in 1973, I began to visit gay hangouts on the Beach. There weren't too many at that time. The anti-gay witch hunts of the last two decades have done their job, and gay Miami Beach was a shadow of its former and future self. Not having a car at the time, I depended on the kindness of friends and strangers to get around, especially after midnight when bus service stopped. I remember going to the Mayflower and Basin Street bars on Alton Road, where I saw a *transformista* perform and then got a ride home from the director of a local Cuban theater company (we ended up doing it in his car). I also visited the Pin Up and Night Owl bars on 23rd street, the latter one managed by a tough Cuban dyke and her male-to-female transsexual lover.

In spite of all this, lesbian and gay party-goers stayed away from Miami Beach during this decade. Virginia Key was more cruisy than 21st Street; and the Warehouse, 13 Buttons, Double R, Keith's Cruise Room and Mother's were more exciting than any ol' tawdry Beach tavern. I moved to Broward County in 1978. During the 20 years of my absence, Miami Beach's Art Deco district experienced an amazing transformation, which turned "God's waiting room" into the hot place to be for both gays and straights.

Gay Miami Beach has a great present. But we mustn't forget its past, for if we do, we might risk repeating it.

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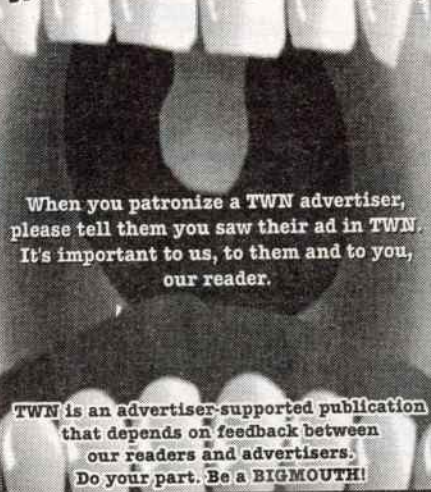
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# OUTLOOK

## The myth of the 'gay gene'

By ARLENE ZAREMBKA  
Special to TWN



**B**efore the gay community jumps on an anti-abortion bandwagon propelled by hysteria over suggestions by people like James Watson (one of the co-discoverers of DNA) and Quentin Crisp (a gay author) that women ought to consider aborting "gay" fetuses, let's be clear about genes and behavior.

In reality, genes simply do not have the mythic properties so often ascribed to them. As Ruth Hubbard, a Harvard University professor of biology, points out in "Exploding the Gene Myth" (1993), a gene is simply one segment of the DNA strand that specifies the sequence of the amino acids that comprises one protein.

For a being to have even a relatively simple trait (e.g. height) requires the interaction of a variety of proteins, as well as other factors, both inside and outside of the living being. Therefore, a gene, by itself, does not produce a trait. A gene, at most, is simply one of the many factors that interact to produce a particular trait. Genes and the environment (internal or external) interact, often in a complex fashion, to produce the final trait.

Then what about the "gay gene" we have all heard about? Contrary to the popular press' misconception, there have been no studies identifying a "gay gene." What there have been are studies by Simon LeVay on the size of a certain nucleus in the hypothalamus in the brains of deceased men (and a few deceased women), studies of twins, and studies of one part of the X chromosome by Dean Hamer and his colleagues. None of these studies identified a "gay gene" (or even several "gay genes"). LeVay's study was not about genes at all.

The twin studies and Hamer's research are more directly related to the question of whether there is a "gay gene." Neither type of study, however, has established any "gay genes."

The twin studies show that in about half the cases, the identical twin of a gay man will also be gay. Because identical twins have identical genes, it would be easy to leap to the conclusion that this means that being gay is genetic. That conclusion is not, however, warranted. First, it should be noted that about half the identical twins of gay men are not gay.

If homosexuality were solely genetic, then one would expect all identical twins to have the same sexual orientation. Second, although the rate of homosexuality in the fraternal twins of

gay men should not be any higher than the rate in non-twin brothers of gay men (because fraternal twins do not have identical genes, and have no more genetic similarity with each other than they do with any other siblings), the twin studies show a much higher percent of fraternal twins of gay men to be gay than of non-twin brothers. Moreover, the rate of homosexuality in even the adoptive brothers of gay men is higher than the rate of male homosexuality in the population as a whole. These findings with fraternal twins and between gay and adoptive brothers indicate that social and environmental factors play a significant role in the determination of homosexuality.

Dean Hamer's studies are the ones that come closest to studying genes. He studied a particular region of the X chromosome (Xq28). Since women have two X chromosomes, while men have only one, mothers pass only one of their two X chromosomes on to their male children. The random chance of two brothers having the same copy of Xq28 is 50 percent. Hamer found that two gay brothers had the same copy of their mother's Xq28 region at a statistically significant rate higher than 50 percent.

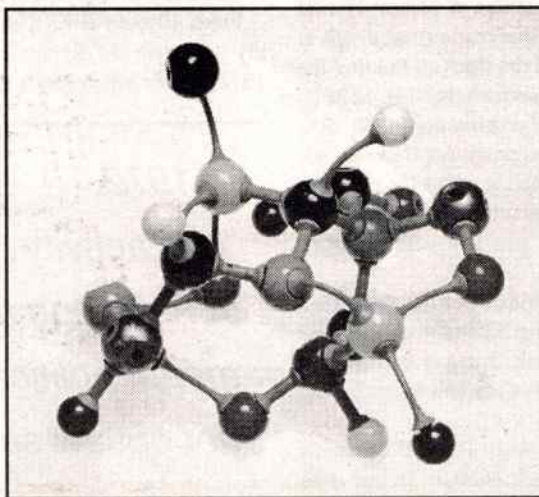
While that might seem to indicate some connection between the Xq28 region and homosexuality, Hamer also found that some of the gay brothers in his studies did not have identical copies of their mother's Xq28 region. Moreover, as William Byne explains in a Scientific American critique of the study, what Hamer showed was that, "Each member of the 33 concordant pairs (i.e. pairs of gay brothers who share the same copy of Xq28) shared his Xq28 region only with his brother - not with any of the other 32 pairs. No single, specific Xq28 sequence (a putative 'gay gene') was identified in all 66 men."

Hamer himself was quoted by The Washington Blade as stating emphatically that there is no test to identify a "gay gene" in a fetus and never will be, and that sexual orientation is "much more complicated than that."

Yet, based on popular press hype (and the wishful thinking of many in the gay community), the culture is already beginning to assume that there is a "gay gene" that is responsible for an individual's homosexual orientation. (Witness the recent play and cable TV movie, "The Twilight of the Gods," which centers on the question of whether a pregnant woman whose fetus has "the gay gene" will abort her fetus for that reason.)

The factors influencing the expression of our sexuality are far too multi-faceted ever to be reduced to a purely genetic explanation. I suspect that some who, in the future, abort their "gay fetuses" because some supposed "genetic" test indicates that their fetus has the "gay gene" will be in for a big surprise. They may well find themselves having to come to terms with a homosexual child (whom they didn't abort because they were told the fetus didn't have the "gay gene").

I expect that gay men and lesbians will have the last laugh. We haven't been stamped out yet, and I don't think we ever will be.



## TWN FLASHBACK

Jan. 14, 1981

The first organizational meeting took place recently in New York City for what is to become the Gay Press Association. Mayor Edward Koch declared the week of Jan. 8-15 Gay Press Week in the city and through his representative Herbert Rickman, encouraged the group to be persistent in their efforts to portray the gay community intelligently and with a sense of educational perspective. Panel discussions focused on the business aspect of the gay press, techniques and advertising experiences, and circulation and distribution.

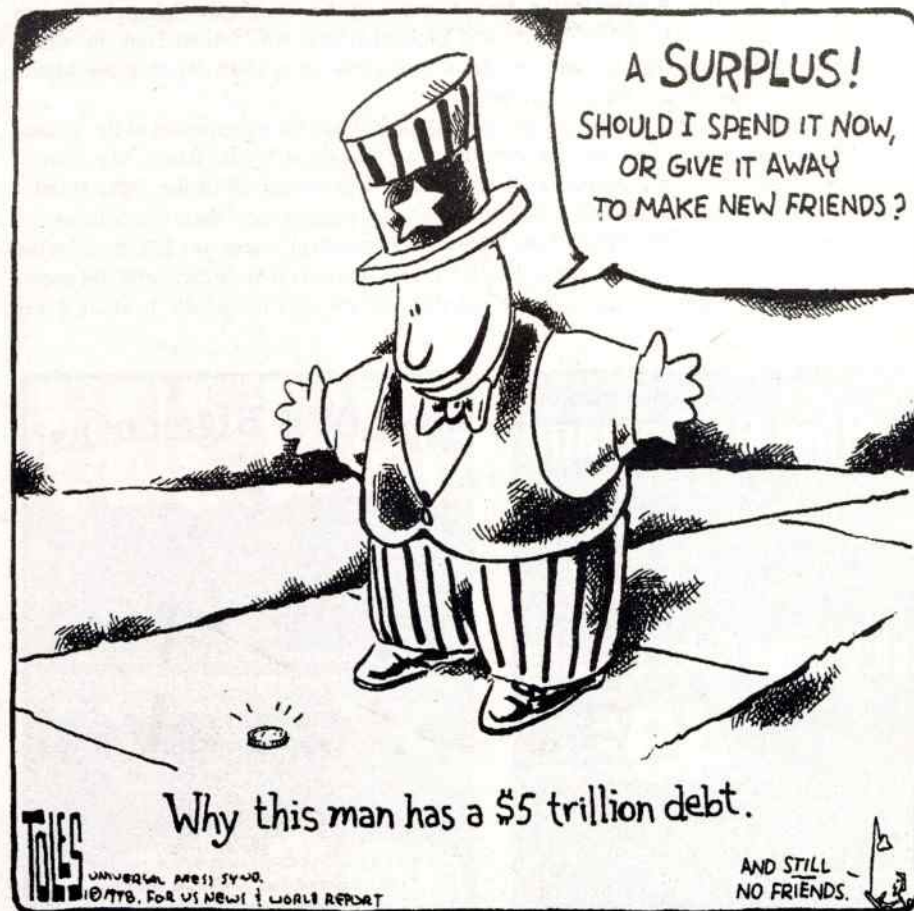
Jan. 15, 1986

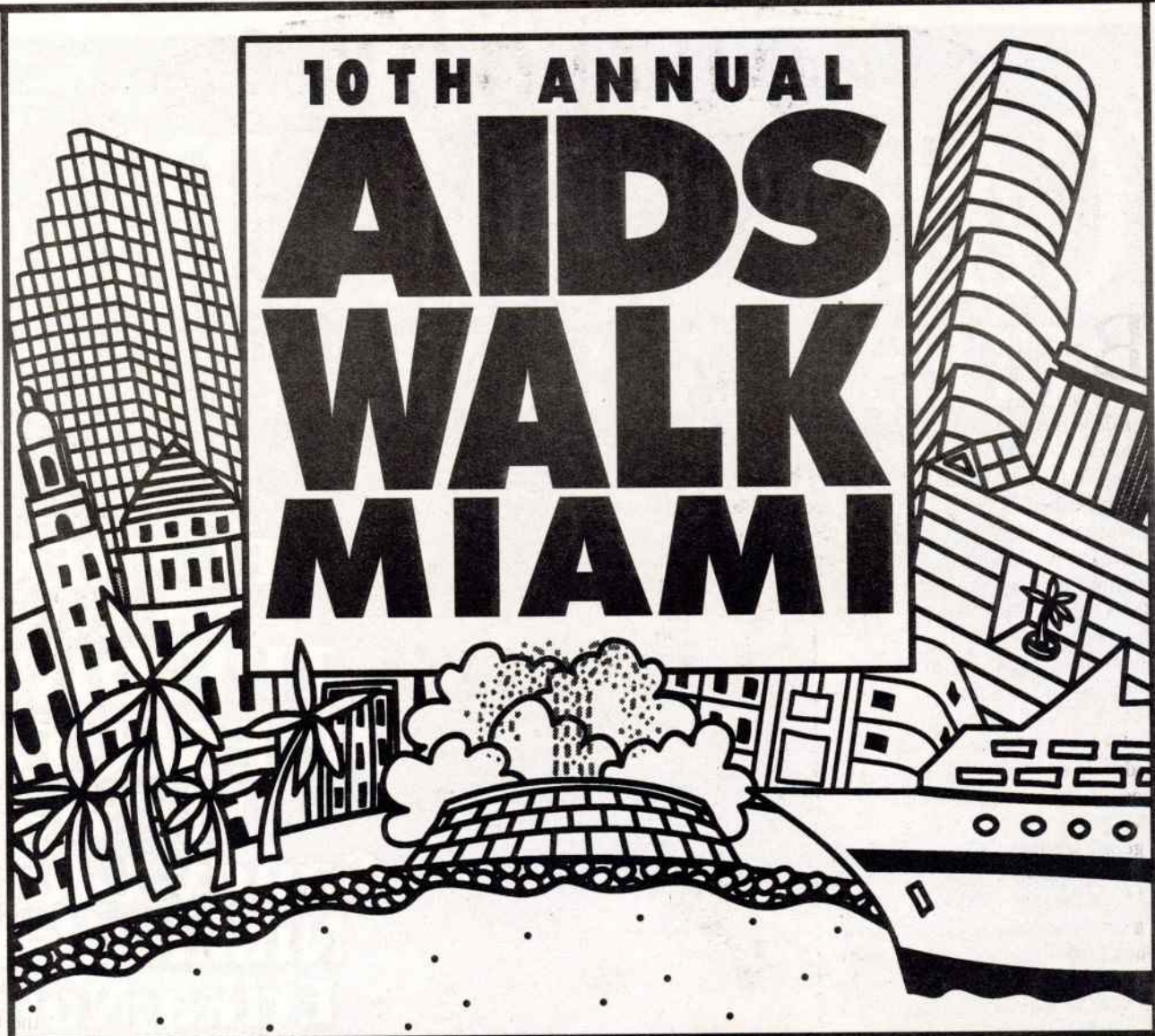
Jack Campbell announced last week his intention to run for the U.S. Senate seat occupied by Republican Paula Hawkins, challenging Gov. Bob Graham for the Democratic nomination. Both Graham and Hawkins are "too far to the right. We need a progressive voice in the Senate," Campbell said. "I'm very unhappy with

[Graham's] lack of leadership in Florida as far as getting funding for AIDS research." The gay business leader said he plans to raise about \$1 million for the primary bid and will spend another million of his own money, "if by the Fourth of July, it looked like a wise investment."

Jan. 16, 1991

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan on Jan. 3 issued a new list of diseases for which one can be barred from entering the United States, striking a much-criticized ban on immigration by foreign nationals with AIDS and HIV infection. The change came two months after Congress passed a broad-based immigration reform bill that ordered the removal of a list of "dangerous contagious diseases" and mandated its replacement by the secretary of a new list of diseases of "public health significance." HIV/AIDS were added to the old list in 1987 under an amendment sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)





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Call 305-751-9255. Your Walker Information Kit and sponsor form will be sent to you immediately.

**STEP TWO -- GET SPONSORS**

Ask your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to sponsor you for each of the 10 kilometers you will be walking. (For example, sponsors pledging \$1 per kilometer would contribute \$10. Sponsors pledging \$5 per kilometer would contribute \$50, etc.). Raise as much money as you can.

**STEP THREE -- WALK ON FEB. 22**

Join the excitement as the crowd of enthusiastic and caring men, women and children walk together for 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) to fund the fight against AIDS. The AIDS WALK starts and ends at Miami's Bayfront Park. Plan to arrive at 9 a.m.

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT**

**TODAY THERE IS HOPE, BUT NO CURE**

Recent advances in combination drug therapies (drug "cocktails") are providing the new hope of a longer life for some people with AIDS. However, without diminishing this hope, it is important to know the facts.

- These drugs do not work for roughly one-third of the people who do gain access to them.
- Nearly one-half of the people who are on combination drug therapies are now showing an actual regression in the state of their health.
- The combination drug treatments are expensive. The cost of medication alone is \$11,000 to \$20,000 per person, per year.

People with AIDS need your support now more than ever. Please join your concerned neighbors from throughout South Florida on Sunday, February 22, 1998, to raise desperately needed funds in the fight against AIDS. Help send a message to our community that the AIDS crisis is not over.

**FUNDRAISING AWARDS**

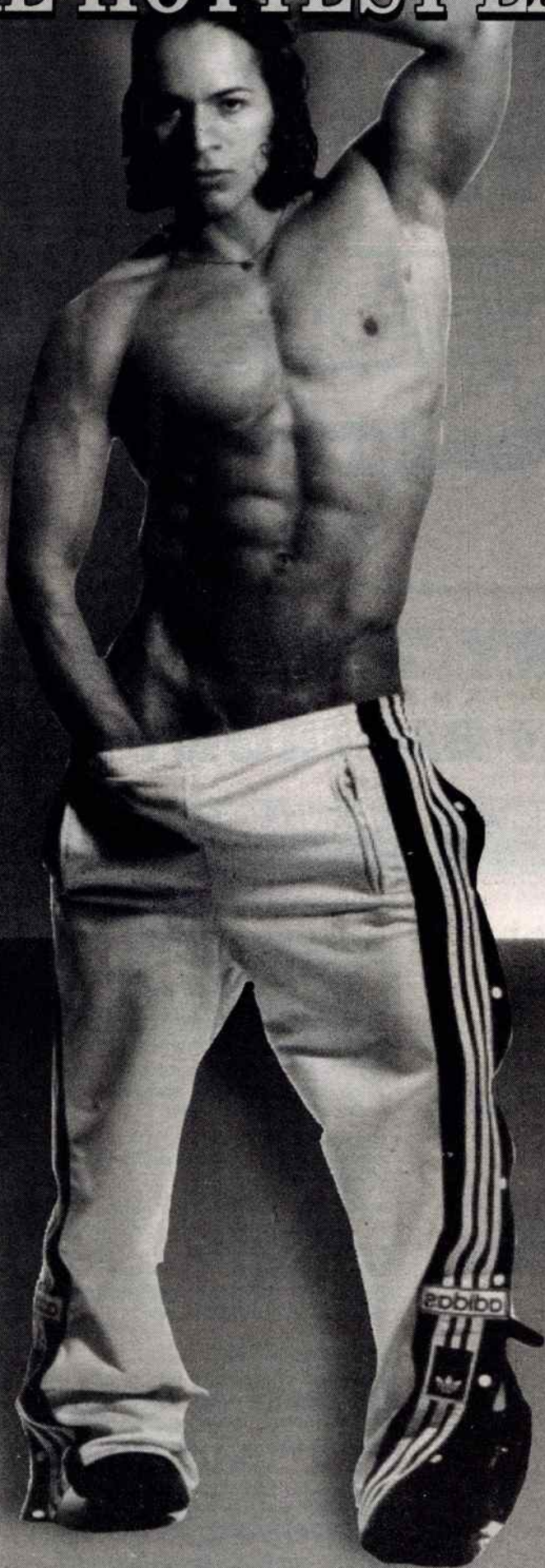
All walkers who turn in \$125 or more will be awarded a 1998 AIDS WALK MIAMI T-shirt featuring the official AIDS WALK logo. Walkers who turn in \$400 or more will be awarded the T-shirt AND a very cool AIDS WALK wrist watch. T-shirts will be available at the Walk for those who qualify at that time, or by mail for those who qualify by March 16, 1998. Watches will be available only by mail.\*

\*Please note -- T-shirts and watches are for awards only and will not be available for sale.

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