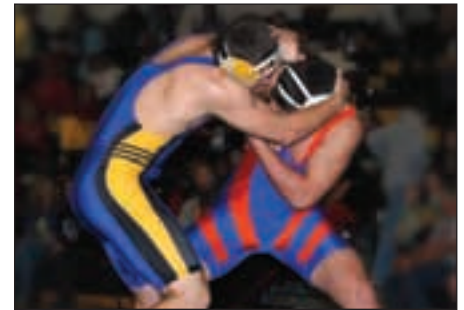




University forces soccer coach to resign because she's a lesbian. **PAGE 5**

Courtesy, Bruininsider.blogspot.com

FLORIDA AGENDA



Butt drag leads to expulsion of high school wrestler. **PAGE 5**

Courtesy, www.ottagegrove.net

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Gifts To Give And Get!

Florida Agenda's hottest gift ideas for the holiday season.

PAGES 19 & 20



Community comes to the rescue for Father Bill Collins

Fundraiser results in new car for community icon

By **BOB KECSKEMETY**

The community is coming together for a fundraiser to purchase a new car for Father Bill Collins, founder of the Poverello Center and Food Bank. The "Need Wheels" fundraiser will be held on Monday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. inside the Rainbow Lounge at Johnny's Bar, 1116 West Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

Collins, who was hospitalized last month following a car accident, has been taking taxis or catching a ride from volunteers to the Poverello from his home in Lauderdale By The Sea. His vehicle was totaled in the accident, and the money from his insurance company was used to pay off his car loan and some of the medical expenses. A.J. Cross, general manager of Johnny's, decided to bring the community together to help out Collins after learning of the accident on Nov. 30. Within 24 hours, Cross had received more than \$8,000 in pledges, and 37 gay-owned businesses offered to help purchase the

new car. The goal is to pay for the car, taxes, tags and registration.

"Everyone I've called has offered assistance — it's been amazing," said Cross. "Father Bill is so revered in the community. For most people, I didn't even have to say why. As soon as I would say 'Father Bill' people responded with 'whatever you need.'"

In the mid '80s, Collins, then a priest at St. Coleman's Catholic Church, became chaplain in the Imperial Point Hospital chapel from St. Coleman's Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale. This is where he first learned about the victims of the early AIDS crisis and found out that many could not work to purchase money for food. Collins started using his pay from the church to purchase food and made deliveries from his car. When his pay was not enough to cover those stricken by the epidemic, he spent his entire pension fund to purchase more food. Soon, that too ran out and he got a second job teaching at Broward Community College.

Word quickly spread about his work with AIDS patients and by the late '80s, acquaintances familiar with his work opened the Poverello Food Bank in



Courtesy, Bob Kecskenety

A.J. Cross along with Michael Albetta and Tony Schoonover of Maroon Ford. They are standing with the car which will be purchased for Father Bill Collins

Pompano Beach and a thrift store to assist in purchasing food. A few years later, Poverello outgrew its Pompano Beach space and moved to its current location in Wilton Manors.

Now, 24 years later, Poverello is planning to move to its new location next year, which is currently being remodeled next to the Pride Center at Equality Park on Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Collins often credits Poverello's volunteers for the center's success in serving

See **FATHER BILL** on **Page 8**

Wrongly arrested gay man sues Miami Beach Police

By **DMITRY RASHNTISOV**

The ACLU of Florida filed a lawsuit in the Southern District of Florida federal court against the city of Miami Beach and two of its police officers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Harold Strickland, a gay former Miami Beach resident who was wrongfully arrested in March 2009 in retaliation for calling 911 to report that two Miami Beach police officers were beating and kicking a gay man who lay handcuffed on

the ground near Flamingo Park.

According to one of Strickland's attorneys, Ray Taseff, Strickland tried on two occasions to come to financial settlement terms with the City of Miami Beach for compensatory damages but the city, as well as Florida's State Attorneys office, is still investigating the complaint and will not settle on the case until they have all the facts.

The two officers accused in the com-

See **MIAMI BEACH POLICE** on **Page 8**



Courtesy, Mr. Strickland

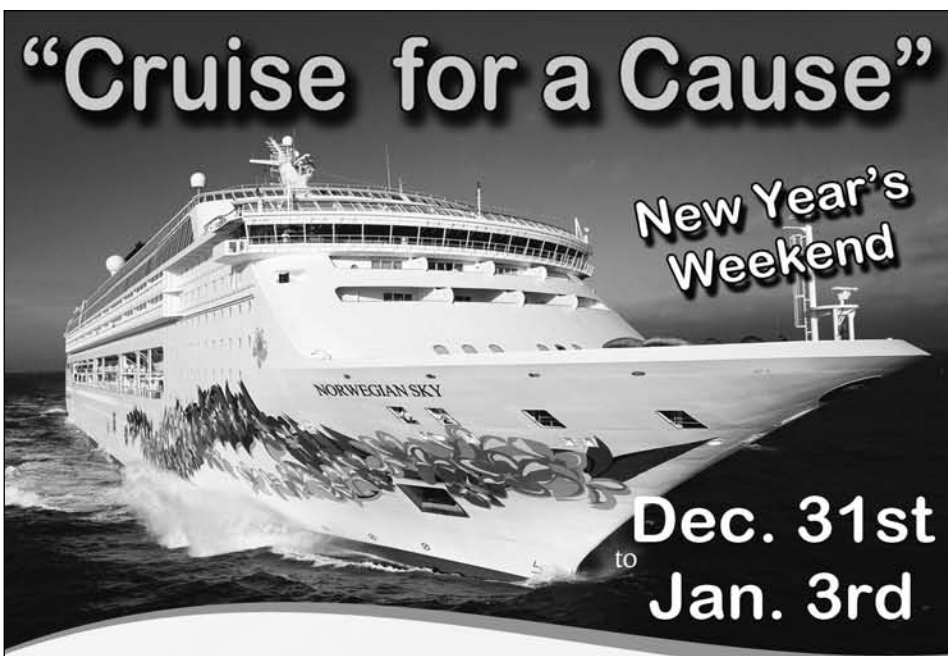
Harold Strickland, (above) sues Miami Beach Police for being wrongly arrested.

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Wilton Manors Public Safety forum

The City of Wilton Manors, in conjunction with the Florida Agenda newspaper, will host a public safety forum on Thursday, Dec. 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hagen Park Community Center (behind city hall). The forum will discuss personal safety in the city, how to protect one's self walking on the streets, how to protect your home during the holiday season and tips for keeping while shopping. The Forum is a result of several recent assaults that have taken place in or near Wilton Manors. ★

Shoppes planning New Year's Eve party

The businesses in the Shoppes of Wilton Manors are planning their first New Year's Eve Party to be held in the parking lot of the shopping center. Participating businesses include Georgie's Alibi, Boom, Java Boys and Humpy's Pizza. This will be the first year businesses are working together to hold one large outdoor event. Plans include a main stage, entertainers, a DJ and a 30-foot video screen to monitor the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square in New York City. ★

'Wilton Drive 2-Lane Initiative' moving along

According to Krishan Manner, director of marketing for Wilton Manors Main Street, the Wilton Drive Improvement Initiative Task Force is moving along and awaiting word on the \$2,000,000 planning grant which they applied for.

"We have made the first cut and are cautiously optimistic about our chance of being awarded the funds necessary to further research and plan Wilton Drive to coincide with our goal of making Wilton Drive into a destination rather than a thoroughfare," said Tom Tabor, member of the Wilton Manors Main Street Board of Directors.

The initiative includes taking back control of the Wilton Drive (State Road 811) from Florida's Department of Transportation, changing the road from four lanes to two, using the extra driving lanes as paid parking and completely landscaping the area. ★

Church distributes Thanksgiving meals

The Church of the Holy SpiritSong distributed 400 meals throughout Broward County on Thanksgiving Day for those who could not afford their own or could not get out. Another 200 meals were served in the main hall at the Pride Center. The Church of the Holy SpiritSong is located in Equality Park along with the Pride Center. ★

A Toy's Story – A Night for Giving

On Thursday, Dec. 9, starting at 7:30 p.m. there will be a benefit for Broward House and Kids in Distress. The Manor Entertainment Complex is hosting "A Toy Story – A Night for Giving." Door charge is \$10 (which will be donated to Broward House) and an unwrapped toy (which will be donated to Kids in Distress). Entrance fee includes one free drink. Entertainment includes an indoor circus and the Gay Men's Chorus. Daisy Deadpetals is scheduled to emcee. ★

Pride Center to host LGBT adoption seminar

Citing the recent Florida court decisions permitting homosexuals to adopt children, the Pride Center/GLCC, in conjunction with SunServe, will present a seminar on adopting children. The seminar, "Adoption for the LGBT Community: What to Expect and How to Do It," will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors.



Courtesy, Facebook

The seminar will be conducted by attorney Elizabeth Schwartz and is open to all people interested in learning about the process to adopt children legally.

For more information, call (954) 549-0263 or e-mail kdrumm@SunServe.org. ★

WIN plans first event of 2011

Women in Network (WIN) will be holding a special brunch at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Torch Club. The brunch will include entertainment and their will be a t-dance following the brunch with music provided by Bonnie. Tickets are \$25, which includes brunch, two drinks, entertainment, the t-dance and tax and gratuity. Admission to just attend the t-dance is \$10 and starts at 3 p.m. For more information, call Geri/Joyce at (954) 354-0548 or Toni at (954) 565-0094. ★

Depot Snowball 2

Join 100 of your friends from Key West on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at The Depot Cabana Bar & Grill for Snow Ball II. Be part of the Fort Lauderdale team to take on the Key West bars in a snow ball fight at poolside. The Key West bars will be sending up a bus load of drag queens, bartenders and bar staff for a Key West invasion and you can be part of the fun. ★



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LPGA allows transgender golfers on tour



Courtesy, Christian Science Monitor

ORLANDO, Fla. - The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) has changed their constitution to remove the requirement that players must be "female at birth" in order to join the tour, paving the way for transgender male-to-female golf players to join the tour.

LPGA Tour Championship Commissioner Michael Whan said the organization will take steps in the next few weeks to implement the change.

The change came in part after a lawsuit was filed by 57-year-old Lana Lawless, who won the annual women's long-drive golf championship in California in 2008 but was not allowed to compete in 2009 after organizers of the event adopted the LPGA's former policy.

"It's an issue of access and opportunity," Lawless said. "I'd been shut out because of prejudice."

Before the courts ruled on a decision, the LPGA decided to change the rule.

"I think it is a major civil rights victory," said Christopher Dolan, an attorney for Lawless. "We are pleased that the LPGA has voted to end this archaic and outdated policy."

LPGA players competing in the tour championship in Orlando were mostly supportive of the new policy.

"We don't need to comment on this because it's a dead issue," Cristie Kerr said. "She can compete if she can qualify. We certainly don't want to discriminate against anybody, that's not what the LPGA is about. And if she can qualify, she'll be able to play. We're like the last sports organization to do it, it's just that we've never really had to look at it before."★

Illinois passes civil union bill

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - The Illinois legislature passed a bill granting gay and lesbian couples the opportunity to participate in civil unions in the state, essentially giving those couples the same rights as heterosexual couples who get married.

"The passage this week of the civil unions legislation was historic," said Illinois Gov. Patrick Quinn, who has already agreed to sign the bill in 2011. "It's a landmark law, it's headed my way and I think it will be the law of the land of Lincoln in the coming year."

Illinois will be the sixth state in addition to the District of Columbia that allows civil unions or their equivalent in the United States.

The Illinois State Senate passed the bill with a 32-24-1 vote and the Illinois State House passed it with a 61-52 vote.

"Here you have a Midwestern legislature acknowledging that gay and lesbian couples should be recognized and protected right here in the heart of the heartland," said Equality Illinois Public Policy Director Rick Garcia. "This was a very sober-minded, somewhat middle-of-the-road legislature that wanted to make sure their gay and lesbian neighbors were treated fairly and equitably."



Gov. Patrick Quinn

Courtesy, Illinois.gov

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Gov. Quinn had pledged their unwavering support for the bill in opposition of many advocates of traditional marriage, including the Catholic Church.

"Finally, they [state lawmakers] realized they should have the same rights under state law," Daley said. "But eventually, [gay] marriage will take place. It has to ... we have to move faster."

Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, said "With this step in the right direction, Illinois rejected arguments against fair treatment for gay people and their loved ones and acknowledged that gay couples and families exist and have the same hopes and needs as other families."★

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University forces soccer coach to resign because she's a lesbian



Courtesy: Bruininsider.blogspot.com

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Former Belmont University Soccer Coach Lisa Howe wanted to share some great news with her team. Her partner had become pregnant with a baby, and for the first time in her life, Howe discussed her being a lesbian with the team. Now she is out of a job.

After her sexuality disclosure, Howe was asked to resign, according to some of the Belmont's soccer players.

Senior Erica Carter said Howe told her, and that officials had given her the choice to resign or be terminated

"She said, 'I just want you to know that I lost my job today,'" said Carter. "And I could hear in her voice that she was choked up and there were tears in her voice. Basically ... I felt shocked."

Carter said Howe told her that Belmont officials asked her to resign because of her family situation.

"She basically explained that ... because of her morals and values and her decision, it conflicted with Belmont's morals and values and she could no longer be an employee at Belmont University," said Carter.

The University and Howe, "both agree that Coach Howe did not 'resign' from her employment. Neither was she dismissed. Rather, there was a mutual agreement that it would be in the best interests of both Coach Howe and the university for her to conclude her employment as coach," said a statement from the Belmont Athletics Department.

Howe also issued a statement through the university.

"I was hired to do a job and am extremely proud of what we have accomplished, for it reflects the dedication and hard work of terrific players and the parents who support them in their sports endeavors," Howe said. "I do want to express my deep gratitude to the players, their families, the alumnae and faculty members who have come forward to express their concern over my leaving."

In Tennessee it is legal to fire an employee for being gay, because the state does not have an employment non-discrimination act that includes LGBT citizens. ★

Kenya PM: Homosexuals should be arrested

NAIROBI, Kenya - Homosexuals should be taken to the police and arrested, according to Kenya Prime Minister Raila Odinga. The disturbing comments were reported by the BBC and Africa Review following a rally on Sunday in which Odinga spoke.

"We will not tolerate such behaviors in the country," the BBC quoted Raila Odinga as saying. "The constitution is very clear on this issue and men or women found engaging in homosexuality will not be spared."

Africa Review reported Odinga as saying that "if found, the homosexuals should be arrested and taken to relevant authorities," and that men falling in love with the same sex is "madness" since a recent census indicated that the country has "plenty of women."★

'Butt drag' leads to expulsion of high school wrestler



Courtesy: Cottagegrove.net

FRESNO, Calif. - A wrestling move commonly referred to as a "butt drag," in which one wrestler grabs the butt of his opponent and sticks his finger in his anus, has led to one high school student being expelled and facing sexual assault charges. Preston Hill, who performed the move in question, did so during a match at a high school in the Fresno, Calif., suburb of Clovis. Hill's coaches had taught him the move, which is legal in wrestling and has been used for decades. Hill has been charged with sexual assault on a teammate by District Attorney Elizabeth Egan. Former Fresno State coach Dennis DeLiddo said the butt drag is a common move used by wrestlers all the time. "I've never heard this move used as being ugly or dirty." District Attorney Egan declined to comment. But Michael Idiart, a former assistant Fresno County district attorney, said he would not have filed criminal charges because wrestlers know that once they get on the mat, they are consenting to pain — and sometimes embarrassment. "If this is a legitimate and recognized wrestling move, the DA has no case," he said.★

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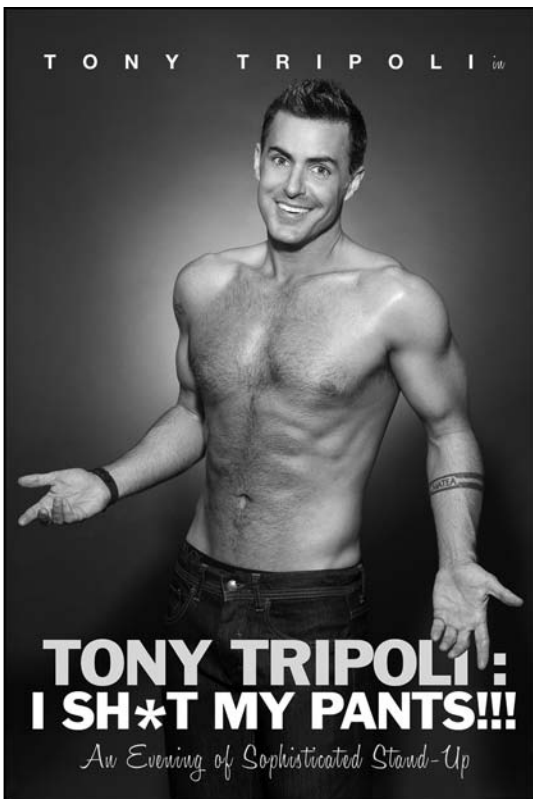


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FATHER BILL continued from Page 1

more than 12,000 clients through the years. Poverello currently has 135 volunteers on its roster and serves 4,000 clients.

To this day, Collins has refused to take any money for his work with the Poverello Center and lives off his salary from the church.

Cross also reached out to Michael Albetta of Maroone Ford and the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus to see if he could get a new car for Collins at dealer cost. Albetta offered to purchase the car for Collins from Ford Motor Company at dealer cost, minus any rebates and using his Ford employee discount. Together they chose a 2010 Ford Focus, fully-equipped, for \$18,500 and valued at \$23,000. Albetta explained that he is permitted to use his discount twice a year but is forbidden to give the car away; however, he will sell the car to Collins for \$1.

"It's like the movie, 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" said Albetta, "and we're right in the middle of the holiday season. It overwhelmingly shows how much the community loves Father Bill."

Some of the businesses involved in the benefit for Collins include: Bottoms & Tops;

Boom; Island City Health & Fitness; Living Room; Sidelines; Java Boys; Georgie's Alibi; Mark Magazine; Florida Agenda; Island City Eyecare; Chic Optique; Gaymart; Humpy's Pizza; Ramrod; Copy This; Best Buy; City/County Credit Union; and the Wine Cellar Restaurant.

So far, scheduled entertainment for the benefit include Misty Eyez, Richard Cortez, Mia Sangria, Gemini Stone and an appearance by the Sisters of the Rising Sun. The fundraiser will also include a silent auction with sponsorship baskets, prizes and a 50/50 raffle. The performers will be donating all their tips received that evening to the benefit.

Johnny's will be donating 100 percent of the door proceeds and 50 percent of all bar sales to Collins, and the valet company at Johnny's will be turning over 50 percent of the money collected from valet to the new car fund.

"My goal is to make this a huge event," explained Cross. "I want people to walk into Johnny's and see everybody who's anybody there for Father Bill. If Father Bill would permit it, Poverello would buy him a car, but he [Collins] won't do that. He has never taken a penny from Poverello and never will." ★

ACLU leading charge against cops

MIAMI BEACH POLICE continued from Page 1

plaint, Frankly Forte and Elliot Hazzi, have been suspended from the police force, pending the outcome of the internal investigation. The Miami Beach Police Department will not comment further on the complaint.

While the lawsuit focuses specifically on Strickland's arrest and violations of his civil rights, it also highlights two systemic issues that reach far beyond this case: the practices of unlawfully targeting gay men for arrest without probable cause and harassing and arresting people who observe, document, and/or report police misconduct.

"For years the ACLU has received reports that Miami Beach police have targeted gay men near Flamingo Park for nothing more than being gay," said Shelbi Day, an attorney with the ACLU of Florida's LGBT Advocacy Project. "When the police become the problem rather than part of the solution, the entire community suffers. It is time for the city to end the discriminatory policies and practices of its police force."

The complaint alleges that the city and arresting officers violated Strickland's rights under federal and state law. The complaint seeks damages for violation of Strickland's First and Fourth Amendment rights and false arrest. The evidence, including the officers' sworn deposition testimony, the tape recording of Strickland's 911 call, Strickland's cell phone record and the officers' own arrest affidavits, indicates that the officers lied in their report to cover-up their misconduct. Strickland was charged with loitering and prowling, but the charges were dropped shortly after the arrest.

According to Taseff, Strickland wants

the following to happen: Forte and Hazzi to lose their job; sensitivity training for all officers when dealing with LGBT suspects or witnesses; and a hotline set up so people can report police officer harassment.

"The issue here goes far beyond the violation of Mr. Strickland's rights as a gay man. In addition to targeting gay men, the Miami Beach police have an alarming history of arresting individuals who attempt to document police misconduct," said Taseff.

The City of Miami Beach and the police department will not provide comment on this case because they view it as a continuing investigation. The ACLU said that changes are already taking place inside the police force.

"While the Strickland incident has already sparked some reforms by Police Chief Noriega, including improved communication between the gay community and the police department by the appointment of Sgt. Juan Sanchez as a liaison to the gay community, retaliation for reporting police misconduct prevents civilian oversight of the police and cannot be tolerated" said Howard Simon, executive director of the ACLU of Florida.

Strickland chose not to be interviewed for this story. In a previous interview with the Florida Agenda, Strickland had indicated that he was scared to return to Miami Beach because the officers had threatened his life, but Taseff said that his client would make the trek back to South Florida as needed to testify in court or in any mediation proceedings.

"Mr. Strickland deserves a lot of courage for coming forward in this type of case," Taseff said. "Publicly taking a stand against the police is a difficult thing." ★

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The Rose Phenomena:

The seductive allure reels you in; the insidious thorns tear you apart

By ARLEN KEITH LEIGHT, PH.D.

It's a whirlwind romance. You meet the man of your dreams and he sweeps you off your feet with his charm, charisma and allure. He shows you effusive affection and makes you feel as though you are the most wonderful man he has ever met. He lets you in on all his secrets. You hear about his past loves (and there are many), but somehow this one with you is different. He appears to open his heart and soul to you, and you begin to do the same. The connection is so strong you are convinced quickly and completely that this is your soul mate. You can hardly believe this can be real and, unfortunately, you learn in time it truly is not.

Then it happens. You are in love and he knows it. He starts to withdraw. He becomes distant and you wonder what you did wrong. You may find yourself withdrawing a bit yourself only to see that he comes around a bit. As soon as you begin to make yourself available again, he seems distant again. You approach him about this change in the "connection" and he seems to blame it on you.

But he's not ready to let go of you quite yet. He sets up new boundaries to suit his needs and keep you at a distance. You get clues that he is dating someone else – he leaves a guy's phone number somewhere

so you're bound to see it. He subtly puts you down and goes away for several days without calling you. He may tell you he wants to continue to see you while he dates others. You may even find him in bed with another man the day after you had the most romantic evening in your life with him.

This is the life of a narcissist, and you happened to get caught up in it. The narcissist is seemingly the most wonderful of men. No one has ever been this nice to



Courtesy, datingish.com

you, and you simply cannot imagine that the love of your life could have some sort of personality disorder, and it is this very fact that makes him so dangerous. He'd do anything for you. He's generous, caring, open, loving and full of life. Well, sorry to say, he is all of these things because more

than anything else he needs to have others love him.

There is a huge void in the personality structure of the narcissist that results from early childhood wounds. Parents who were more concerned about their own needs than their child's needs create a world in which the child has to figure out a way to get love and attention and have their needs met.

The adult narcissist has had a lifetime to consciously and unconsciously figure out how to lure others to give him the love he never received from his parents. Once he receives love in return it feels frightening, because true intimacy is unfamiliar and uncomfortable. The only love the adult narcissist understands is the one that is unavailable.

The biggest fear for the narcissist is abandonment. If the narcissist has fallen in love with the unavailable man of his dreams, and this man leaves him, the rage and/or depression will be unbearable. Even after the most devastating of rejections, he is quickly back to his charismatic self. And if your whirlwind romance ends, don't be surprised to find him with his arms around another man within days, if not hours. You may have been replaced even before you were out of the picture.

The sad truth is that men who fall in love with narcissists do so because they have some of these narcissistic tendencies themselves. And, let's face it, because the narcissist is unavailable, aren't we simply finding ourselves loving the unavailable – a person with whom we cannot share true intimacy? If this is your pattern, it may be something you want to look at with a trained professional. ★

Gay American Heroes: Simmie Williams Jr. – Feb. 22, 2008

Simmie Williams Jr., 17, a hero who was loved by many, but most of all by his mother Denise King, her tears of anguish and pain on her face is heart-breaking as she holds a picture of her son.

"I gave him \$2 for the bus and he never came back," said King, who lived with her son west of Fort Lauderdale. "He was a quiet person, kept to himself. He had a lot of friends. He wasn't a troubled child. He was a happy person."

Williams was attacked in the 1000 block of Sistrunk Boulevard by two young men who wore dark clothing and might live in the neighborhood, police said. Williams, who was wearing a dress and was known in the area by his first name or as "Chris" or "Beyonce," was shot about 12:45 a.m. on Feb. 22, 2008 and soon afterward died at Broward General Medical Center.

Could you imagine how you would feel if you said goodbye to a loved one, thinking you would see them later that

day or the next but never get to see them alive again, only to find out they were murdered for being gay? So many are stolen from us each year for living out and proud. It's time we honor all of them with the National Rainbow Memorial.

Williams, like many teens, feel safe and are strong enough to handle the price they pay like being picked on, bullied, beaten and have paid the ultimate price – their life. They are soldiers fighting on the frontlines in neighborhoods where it can be a living hell, as proven by all the recent LGBT suicides over the past few months. These are children, brothers, sisters, and every time one is murdered we should feel the pain of loss and sadness, but we should also feel empowered to do more until the senseless murders of LGBT people in America stops. We fight hate and those who teach it together or we die alone at the hands of hate.

According to his mother, Williams



Courtesy, www.stophate.us

wanted to be a chef and he really like to cook. King, who passed away at the end of 2009 from a medical condition, had been very supportive and active in our community by speaking at rallies and town hall meetings to help teach love and understanding. She was also a member of the Gay American Heroes Advisory Board. We will miss King and Williams, but never forget them. For more information, visit www.gayamericanheroes.com. ★



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Contributors: KEVIN MILLER, JAMES MICHAELS, WAYMON HUDSON, WARREN DAY, GENE INGER
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MAIN OFFICE/ SALES & CLASSIFIEDS:
2157 Wilton Drive • Wilton Manors, FL 33305
Phone 954-903-4771 • Tollfree 866-579-1511
Fax 954-566-7900 • Tollfree Fax 866-559-1590
editor@jumponmarkslist.com,
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For some, the holidays can be a real downer

Between Thanksgiving and New Years we have our calendar's most concentrated span of holidays, a time of traditions and high expectations that can present hurdles for many in the LGBT community.

Predicament One

"Don't think I'm alone, but I dread the coming of Christmas and New Years. Otherwise I can handle being single, I can deal with my family's disdain for me being gay, BUT not in December. I find myself turning into a real Scrooge, resenting how happy other people seem to be, so I withdraw, and that only makes it worst."

My View on One

You're definitely not alone. There are certain days of the year that are magnifying days. If you're happy on those, then you tend to be unusually happy, and vice-versa. If you're sad you tend to be very sad. The biggest magnifying day for most is Christmas, so you have to prepare yourself, take control of the day rather than letting the holidays control you. Don't concentrate on what you don't have, because that just leads you deeper into self-pity. Plan some things that you will make you happy. Maybe using

the extra days you have off to take that trip you've been postponing. Don't let the presents under the tree be at the whim of others, but make sure there are a couple of things you know will please you. And rather than making yourself the focus, make the season meaningful for some-

one

else, doing something nice for that lonely person in your building, volunteering for a soup kitchen on Christmas day, visiting people in the hospital who are alone. Just because you're not having the Christmas the commercials say you should have, doesn't mean you can't have one that brings you joy in other ways.

Predicament Two

"My partner of six years insists on returning to his family in another state for Christmas each year, and I feel he should stay with me. He says his parents will not live forever and he can't break the tradition of not returning home. Is he being fair? Am I being unfair in expecting him to spend Christmas with me? Going home with him is not an option. We're both in our 40's."

My View on Two

Among straights and gays, there are some people who get married/form a partnership, and yet continue in some ways to act like they're single. Sounds like that's what your

Predicament Three

"My partner is a non-practicing Jew, and I'm a southern Baptist who grew up in a home where Christmas was a 30 day affair. The rest of the year our different backgrounds don't seem to clash, but she doesn't want me to decorate the house in anyway. She's not interested in Hanukkah, and tells me if I love her I won't make her uncomfortable by putting up a tree or anything else, even though I told her I won't make it particularly religious. Have gone along with this for three years, but I really resent her asking me to ignore my traditions in favor of no traditions."

My View on Three

One of the lies we're told is that if you truly love each other, different religions won't matter, and then we can be knocked for a loop when they do. We act as if all religions/denominations are the same, without taking into account that it also means different traditions, cultures - even when the background is not particularly religious. Such differences require understanding and flexibility on both sides, without either laying down the law. Professional couples counseling may be needed.

What's on your mind?

We really do want to hear from the readers of this column. Your feedback is important to Dr. Yakerty and he promises to respond to every email. Let us know what topic you would like discussed by sending an e-mail to the next column to DrYakerty@aol.com. ★

Advice - versa

A versatile column

By DR. DALTON A. YAKERTY

partner is doing. Sit down and explain why it's important that you be together as your own family and see if you can't reach a compromise. Maybe he can go there the day after. Whenever problems seem to be an either/or proposition, that usually means we're seeing only part of the picture.



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The face of the gay male

By BRIAN MCNAUGHT

When advertisers brainstorm on how to depict gay men for corporate accounts, what image of us should they conjure? Should the "typical" gay male American be portrayed as being young, muscled, tattooed, HIV-positive, well-dressed, athletic, and handsome, or not? Are we masculine or effeminate, politically savvy or ditsy, Renaissance men or sex-obsessed clones? This question matters to the advertising agency because if it misrepresents us, and we subsequently don't buy the product, it loses money, as does the corporation that hired them to find us. It matters to us gay men too, because like every other minority, we often end up seeing ourselves as we are presented to others.

In 1930, for instance, the artist Grant Wood painted "American Gothic," the portrait of a serious looking farmer, holding a pitchfork, standing erect next to his spinster daughter. Initially thought by critics to be a comical presentation, the painting became an icon during the Great Depression, offering Americans an identity of endurance to guide them through their suffering. The painting is now commonly parodied, but if Grant Wood could paint an iconic representation of gay men today, how would he have us standing, with whom, and what might we be holding? Barbells? A baby? What he painted might become us.

Recently, Ray and I recoiled in horror at the immature antics of the affected, young gay men on Logo's reality television program "The A-List." "Should we keep watching or turn it off," my spouse asked me after 10 minutes of squirming. "These are the people you've spent your whole life working so hard for?" he added. We watched until the end of the program to see if there were any gay men with whom we could identify. There weren't. Nevertheless, while I wish the guys in the TV show had been more emotionally healthy, I was still grateful that they didn't need to be as frightened by their sexuality as we had been at their age. We fought hard so that these 20-something gay men had the freedom to be ditsy. But, I prefer that they don't end up in the imaginary Grant Wood's painting, or in the advertisers' portrayal of me.

A few nights before we watched this television program, as we sat waiting for the opera, "Turandot," to begin, Ray and I paged through the booklet for the Florida Grand Opera, and were delighted to see how many pictures of gay male couples were in the list of major financial donors. I smiled with contentment that an image with which I could identify was being acknowledged with gratitude by wealthy art patrons. Yet, I wonder now how "The A-List" boys would respond to the wealthy, white, older men being portrayed as "American Gay Gothic."

After participating in the Washington, D.C., conference of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce a couple of

weeks ago, I went to the National Portrait Gallery with my very good friends Bob Witeck and his husband Bob Connelly, Vic Basile, and Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns and his spouse J.D. Angle. (Joel, as many people might recall, recently spoke tearfully with his colleagues about the impact of anti-gay bullying on his life. Three million people have seen Joel's city council speech on YouTube.)

The exhibition we were all eager to see was "Hide/Seek - Difference and Desire in American Portraiture," the first such presentation in a national museum on the importance of sexual difference and desire in portraiture. The art was not something you couldn't see in other exhibitions, but the sexuality of the artists, and/or the intent of their creation would probably not be as honestly discussed elsewhere. The exhibition had a powerful impact on me, not unlike that of being at the vibrant Chamber of Commerce gathering where 700 gay and lesbian entrepreneurs sought guidance on securing corporate accounts or otherwise succeeding. In both the "Hide/Seek" exhibition and the conference, I saw gay men and women being affirmed or affirming themselves in unprecedented ways.

When Vic Basile, the first executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, and Bob Witeck, the pioneering gay public relations professional, and I stood together looking at the painting "American Gothic," which was included in the exhibition because Grant Wood was gay, I felt personally vindicated that what we had fought so very hard for in our lives was finally being valued by our country. I then spotted Joel and JD exploring a photograph by Robert Mapplethorpe, and I felt both very old and very hopeful. These two wonderful young men represented to me the future of the gay civil rights movement.

The "Hide/Seek" exhibition was poorly attended, I felt, not like the exhibit of Norman Rockwell's paintings on the next floor up in the museum. Sexuality was the theme of the collection one flight down.

Some of us respond positively to cartoons of ourselves, such as "The A-List" and "American Gothic," and let them become iconic images we accept as our identity. Others of us respond positively to images of ourselves that honestly reveal our passions and pleasures, but we aren't eager to have others think that these images represent us, such as the photography of Robert Mapplethorpe. There are also those of us who are afraid of what we might become if our representation is anything but the romantic ideal. How we see ourselves, and how we want ourselves presented depends a great deal on our age, our privilege, our oppression, and the numbers of times we get to see ourselves portrayed. If there were more images of gay men presented more often, I'd be less concerned about what advertisers come up with to represent me today.★




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— **jean's kitchen** —

Salmon Terrine

By **JEAN DOHERTY/LE PATIO**

This recipe is pretty easy to do and is inexpensive as well. It can be served warm or cold. It looks spectacular, especially when you announce you are the chef! This recipe will accommodate six people.

Ingredients:

- 1.5 lbs of salmon filet, skin off
 - 3 egg whites
 - A handful of pitted black olives, coarsely chopped
 - 3 hearts of palms
 - 1 lb Tub of sour cream
 - 2 slices of smoked salmon
 - 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- For the cream of parsley:**
- 1 finely chopped shallot
 - The leaves of a small bundle of parsley
 - 3.5 oz of sour cream
 - Salt and pepper

Directions:

Place your diced up salmon, the egg whites, salt and cayenne pepper in a food processor and reduce these ingredients into a fine puree. Put the minced salmon into a bowl and fold in the sour

cream (save some for the sauce). Then, add the black olives. Refrigerate for one hour. Wrap up the hearts of palm with the smoked salmon (just like you were rolling a cigarette). Set them aside in the refrigerator. Heat your oven to 400 degrees.

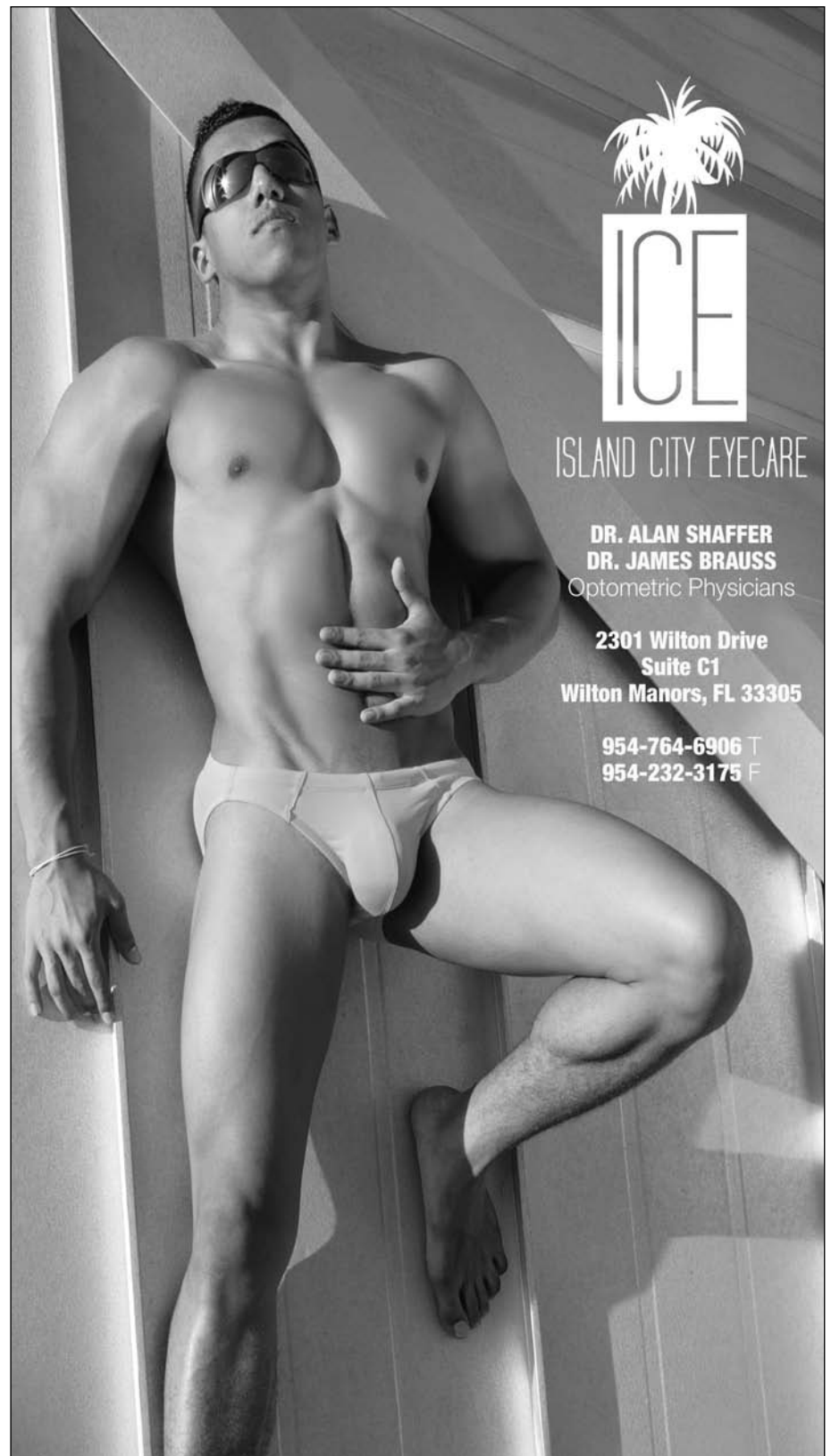
Pour half the salmon mixture into a greased terrine mold (a cake tin will do if it's Teflon). Then place the heart of palm rolls lengthways, in the center of the mold and pour the rest of the mixture on the top of them. Level down the mixture with a pallet knife. Remember, you are the chef, so you can replace the hearts of palms with crab meat or scallops, for example.

Place your terrine (covered with some tin foil) in a 'bain-marie' and into the hot oven for 45 minutes. Meanwhile, "blanch" the parsley. Chop it small and blend it with the sour cream and the shallot. Set aside in the refrigerator.

When your terrine is cooked, take it out of the oven and let it stand for 10 minutes before taking it out of its mold.

Then you will have two options:

You serve your terrine warm, so carve six nice slices and simply serve them with a drizzle of parsley cream around them. Or you serve the terrine cold. Put it the refrigerator for three hours. Carve six slices and serve with a small drizzle of parsley cream around them.



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The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

I am a go-getter. I am romantic. I am a world traveler. I am HIV positive.

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

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- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
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- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

Not sure where to start? Visit isentress.com/questions

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.

Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232

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Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS¹ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your "viral load".
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS **exactly** as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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Perfect presents to give and get

Wrap It Up!

Maybe it's the plethora of shiny, glittery balls – both big and small – hanging from every limb imaginable that puts a smile on our face. Or perhaps it's the countless images of a big, burly man with a full beard dressed in a red velvet suit with a thick leather belt strapped around his waist that puts us in the mood. Whatever it is, one thing is clear: it's time for you to jingle your ass – and your wallet – to the shopping malls and online, because Christmas time is here.

Yes, Christmas trees have been going up since Halloween was barely over; metal candle holders that systematically clasp eight waxy objects are already being lit; and poinsettias are being stolen from public venues while radio stations begin their "all Christmas, all the time" format. Besides the deliciously fattening food, delectably decadent booze and unavoidably atrocious family time, the best part of December is, of course, the gifts.

We know you hate malls, Internet shopping and feel you may not be creative enough to give your friends or family anything besides drinking chips, popper bottles or KY jelly, so we have taken the hassle out of giving presents by sharing our hottest gift ideas of the holiday season. Hold the applause, no need to thank us, but if you must, we do accept bottles in the ice, cupcakes out of the oven or money from the wallet. Anyways, buy these for your friends and family and be the shining star of December:

SodaStream's Genesis Make-Your-Own-Soda-Kit

\$109.95 ▶

We all know that the alcoholic drink with the least amount of calories is the vodka-soda, a delicious mainstay that has increased in popularity with the recent explosion in flavored vodkas. But what happens when it's 1 a.m. and you run out of club soda? No need to run to the store if you own SodaStream's Genesis, a home soda maker. That's right, plug this baby in, use water from your sink, add the special carbonation and voila, home made soda. Check out some of the special flavor additives and you may never have to spend money on soda water again, let alone a bar tab.



www.sodastreamusa.com
(Photo courtesy SodasStream)

Got Pride Round Gold Metal Watch

◀ \$19.97



The one thing that some of us have in common is that we never seem to know what time it is, because if we did we wouldn't show up late all the time. Not only can you make sure your friends are never late for another "business meeting" (a.k.a. hookup), but you can make sure they always have Gay Pride on their mind. The watch casing measures approx. 1 and-a-half inches in diameter and the watch band fits most wrists from 6 and-a-half to 8 inches. The watch band is made of genuine leather and the watch movement is made by Citizen. What time is it? It's time for EQUALITY!

carsoncollectiblex.amazonwebstore.com / (Photo courtesy Amazon)

Damron's Men's Travel Guide

\$15.61 ▼



www.amazon.com

The most up-to-date and complete travel guides made by and for gays and lesbians. In the Men's Travel Guide check out more than 13,000 listings of gay-friendly hotels, B&Bs, bars, nightclubs, bookstores, cafes, restaurants, gyms, men's clubs, saunas & much more. The

International Calendar of Events features circuit parties, gay pride celebrations, gay film festivals, leather, fetish & bear events.



www.Shop.kodak.com
(Photo courtesy Kodak)

Kodak Playsport Video Camera

▼ \$149.99

Plan ahead for all the Winter Party pool extravaganzas by purchasing the Kodak Playsport waterproof video camera. This slick, new device can go into depths of 10 feet underwater without breaking and still take crystal clear videos of all the hanky panky that goes on below the surface. In addition to the full 1080p HD video recording, this Kodak also features a 5 MP, 16:9 widescreen HD still-picture camera. Whether it's the ocean or a shower, a swimming pool or the sauna, this Kodak will capture all the wet and wild memories that you will have mostly likely forgotten.



Same Sex Marriage Tee

◀ \$25

Sometimes fashion can help the greater good. Take for instance the Human Rights Campaign's "I

Support Same Sex Marriage" T-shirts. Not only does 100 percent of the profits from the shirts go toward HRC's fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, but by proudly wearing these shirts around, you are telling other hot LGBT's, 'hey, I don't just want to go make out in the back of the bar, I'm marriage material.' Oh, and some of the right-wing, ignorant grinchies might wake up and realize that our community still lacks basic human rights and help join the fight.

www.shop.hrc.com / (Photo courtesy HRC)

GIFT GUIDE continued from Page 19



www.bestbuy.com
(Photo courtesy Best Buy)

Samsung - 50" 3D Plasma HDTV

▲ \$989.99

2D is so 2010. Ring in the New Year with a whole new dimension. After the popularity of Avatar and the Michael Jackson tribute, 3D home entertainment systems are now the wave of the soon-to-be-present. In addition to the space age technology, this television also features: 720p display, 600Hz Subfield Motion, 0.001 ms response and an ultraslim design (2-3/4" deep). Best part of 3D TV's? You get to wear cool 3D sunglasses indoors without people thinking you are a douche. Now, where is that 3D porn?

eCreamery Create Your Own Ice Cream Flavor

▼ \$49.99
for 4 pints

\$89.99
for 8 pints



Impress your friends and relatives by sharing your love of ice cream making with the whole clan. Instead of having to buy the cream, sugar, nuts and weird machine yourself, let the people at eCreamery do the work for you. You can name and create your own ice cream brand by choosing from several bases, flavors and mix-ins. Florida Agenda and Mark Magazine's creation: The Rebel Rainbow (Sorbetto with blueberry and passion fruit ice cream, cherry swirls and Hershey kisses).

www.ecreamery.com
(Photo courtesy eCreamery)



www.voicequilt.com / (Photo courtesy voicequilt)

VoiceQuilt 4-by-6 inches Photo - Ivory Keepsake

◀ \$59.99

Don't feel like talking to your family the rest of the year? Simple solution—record 20 or so of your most popular sayings or answers in this voice quilt and gift it to those annoying blood relatives that want to talk to you all year. Direct them to certain numbered messages in the voice quilt and spend the next 365 days sipping margaritas and saving your vocal cords for the Backstreet Boys/ News Kids on the Block Concert Tour. P.S. Put a slimming photo of yourself on the cover of this thing so those wretched relatives are jealous of your high metabolism.

Schwinn Loop 7-Speed Folding Bike

\$189 ▶

Do you know someone who lives in a tiny studio apartment in a hip urban area? Are they tired of giving up half of their dwelling to bike storage? Do they enjoy riding around on a weird looking object and getting stares from fellow cyclists? Do they like to wear thongs on their head? If they would answer yes to three out of

www.UrbanScooters.com
(Photo courtesy Schwinn)



the four previous questions than the Schwinn Loop 7-Speed Folding bike is perfect for them. With seven speeds and a 3-piece single-speed crankset, the bike shifts speeds reliably and with ease. The 20-inch alloy rims and city tires are great for road riding, and the front and rear fenders protect your clothing and belongings from road spray and debris. While not in use, this baby is as tiny as a toaster.



Whole Foods Market Grand Tasting Village tickets at the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival

Everyone's favorite lesbian from the kitchen, Anne Burrell, will be making her annual trek to Miami Beach for the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival, Feb. 24-27, 2011. Burrell will be on stage doing a cooking demo that weekend along with Rachael Ray, Guy Fieri, Anthony Bourdain, Paula Deen and many more. The pre-eminent culinary event in the nation is celebrating its 10th year and promises to deliver unexpected surprises, gluttony at its finest and all-you-can-drink afternoons. Plus it happens right on 12th Street beach in SoBe, the mecca of beautiful boys in tiny speedos. Besides, after too many drinks we all look beautiful.

▲ \$225

www.sobefest.com / (Photo courtesy Red Eye Productions)



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Robert Boo leaving Pride Center

By BOB KECSKEMETY

Robert Boo, director of development for the Pride Center in Wilton Manors, will be leaving his position at the Center effective Friday, Dec. 10. Boo has been with the Pride Center for five years.

Boo accepted the position of senior general manager with Sodexo Inc., an international managed services provider handling the Jackson Health System Nutrition Services Department in Miami-Dade County. In this capacity, Boo will be responsible for the six hospitals and one skilled care facility which comprise the internationally recognized health system.

During the past five years, Boo's record of success as the center's director of development included overseeing a dramatic and sustained expansion of Founders Circle membership, innovating the center's branding and marketing, and laying the groundwork for a successful capital campaign. Boo is remaining committed to the future and success of the Center and has been approved to join the center's Board of Directors in order to continue to cultivate donors, members and sponsors.

"I would like to thank the community

for their kindness and generosity over the past five years," said Boo. "It has been extremely rewarding for me to work with the staff and volunteers who have helped make a dream of the Pride Center at Equality Park become a reality. The Pride Center came together because so many dedicated people worked as a healthy, functioning community. I look forward to my new role as a board member at the center and being a part of its continued growth."

With Boo's departure, Paul Hyman, executive director of the Pride Center, is restructuring executive positions. The new deputy director position will be filled by Kristofer Fegenbush, who is in his fifth year and will oversee programs, operations, facilities and various administrative functions. Frank Gurucharri, PALS Project behavior health specialist, will replace Fegenbush as manager of the PALS Project.

The center is searching for a major gifts officer, which will take over many of the other duties of the former director of development. The focus of the major gifts officer will include: Founders Circle, corporate sponsorships, the Vision 2015 Capital Campaign and Planned Giving/Estate Planning.★

Stonewall Pride ceases operations

By JAMES MICHAELS

The Board of Directors for Stonewall Pride Inc. (d.b.a. Pride of Greater Fort Lauderdale) has voted to cease operations and dissolve the organization effective Dec. 31. PGFL has been the organization which, for the past 11 years, hosted the Stonewall Street Festival and Parade and, in 2009, the Wicked Manors Halloween street party on Wilton Drive.

In late 2008, when the current board took office, they discovered that the organization owed more than \$10,000 to the I.R.S. due to the previous board's failure to file the proper paperwork with the government. They made arrangements and had been making payments to the I.R.S.


This past July, it was reported that the annual Stonewall Street Festival and Parade left the organization \$30,000 in debt. At that time, PGFL immediately cancelled plans for Wicked Manors. The organization vowed to hold fundraisers to pay off the creditors but the I.R.S. seized the organization's bank accounts, and money raised from the first fundraiser went directly to the government.

Attorney Greg Kabel assisted Stonewall Pride on a pro-bono basis to negotiate with the creditors and assisted in collecting money still owed to the organization. They were able to collect enough money to pay off the debt to the I.R.S., with an additional \$10,000 to pay the creditors from the June festival, still leaving a balance of \$20,000.

The board realized they would not be able to hold additional fundraisers to pay off the remaining debt and raise approximately another \$40,000 to hold a Stonewall Festival in 2011 and decided to dissolve the organization.

Recently, the City of Wilton Manors decided to form an events committee which will exclusively handle the organization of events on The Drive and hire a professional promotion company to handle these events for the city.

The Stonewall Pride board voted to donate its remaining physical assets, which included cases of soda, cups, water, juices, paper products, bar and electrical equipment and decorations to The Pride Center at Equality Park. PGFL also voted to give its registered trademark of Wicked Manors to the Pride Center for their use in the future.★



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South Middle River Pool Home

Gorgeous completed remodeled pool home with open floor plan. Featuring impact windows, paver patio, and lush landscaping. Great location! List Price: \$149,900



House w/ Separate Cottage

Sitting on a corner lot with a remodeled kitchen, travertine flooring, large yard, and a 1/1 cottage perfect for addition income or in-law suite. List Price: \$130,000



Rare Duplex w/ Pool

Consisting of a 1/1 and 2/2, great for owner occupant or investor. In great condition with tile flooring, and a prime location! List Price: \$129,000



PRESENT

2010 Christmas



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Fort Lauderdale

GILDA RETURNS TO THE MANOR

She's back for Christmas at **The Manor** with new holiday songs and some new dresses too. Come hear her stories about her years in Hollywood, on Broadway and on television. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you won't believe a word of it. Dec. 9 - 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 or \$35 for VIP. Call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.brownpa-pertickets.com/event/136281. ★

A NIGHT WITH ACTRESS LESLIE CARON

The **Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLiFF)** hosts two evenings with **Oscar®** nominated actress **Leslie Caron**. Fans can join Caron on Friday, Dec. 10 for a tribute film and book signing event at **Cinema Paradiso**, 503 SE Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale; and on Dec. 11 for the **Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade**.


Tickets for the FLiFF tribute evening are \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door. FLiFF Member price is \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Tickets for the Winterfest Boat Parade are \$150 for general admission/\$125 for FLiFF members, and must be purchased in advance. ★

WIN BRUNCH 2011

Women in Network (WIN) will be holding a special brunch at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9, at the **Torch Club**. The brunch will include entertainment and there will be a t-dance following the brunch with music provided by **Bonnie**. Tickets are \$25, which includes brunch, two drinks, entertainment, the t-dance and tax and gratuity. Admission to just attend the t-dance is \$10 and starts at 3 p.m. For more information, call **Geri/Joyce** at (954) 354-0548 or **Toni** at (954) 565-0094. ★

"HOLIDAY TREASURES" CONCERT

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 15 for a very special holiday concert as the **Fort Lauderdale Women's Chorus** and the **South Florida Pride Jazz Ensemble** present "Holiday Treasures," a fun-filled romp through your holiday favorites. The **Jazz Ensemble** will perform familiar tunes with a jazzy twist while the **Women's Chorus** will put you in the holiday spirit as they perform everything from traditional hymns to the hysterical "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." The concert begins at 8 p.m. and will take place at **Broward Center for the Performing Arts, New River Room**, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets can be purchased at www.browardcenter.org/fortlauderdalewomenschorus. ★




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Miami

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR

It's time for the **Miami International Art Fair (MIA)** in Miami Beach, Jan. 13-17, 2011 at the **Miami Beach Convention Center, Hall D**, 1901 Convention Center Drive. Come experience America's most exciting mid-winter contemporary art fair. MIA will be an inaugurating, intriguing and unique new model this year, combining a highly selective art fair with a strong, central curatorial vision, in addition to independently curated projects. Highlighting MIA in 2011 is the special installation **Museum of Modern Ice**, bringing Canadian artist Gordon Halloran's dazzling paintings in ice to sunny South Florida for the first time. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$75 at the door. For more information, call (239) 949 5411. ★

MIAMI GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT - DEC. 10-11

On Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday Dec. 11, the **Miami Gay Men's Chorus** will present their annual holiday concert at 8 p.m. with special guest **Sharon Gless**. This year's performance, "Destination Holiday," will be at the **Lincoln Theater**, 541 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Come fly with them as they take you through a musical journey of song and dance around the world. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35. For tickets or more information, visit www.miamigaychorus.org. ★

MDGLCC TOY DRIVE & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Please join the **Miami Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** for a toy drive and holiday celebration on Thursday, Dec. 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the **LGBT Visitor's Center**, 1130 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. Please bring an unwrapped toy to benefit the **Miami Beach Police Toy Drive**. There will be an open bar, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a DJ, a visit from **Santa Claus** and other special surprises. Please RSVP to Stephanie@tma-pr.com or call (305) 673-4440. ★

SANDPIPERS NETWORKING EVENT

Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce presents its monthly **Sandpipers networking event** on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. The event will take place at **Angler's Resort Hotel**, 660 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. There will be a cash bar and free hors d'oeuvres. The event is limited to 50 people. Call (305) 673-4440 or e-mail mdglcc@bellsouth.net. ★

Bay Area

CHRISTMAS PARTY FATING DJ ALYSON CALAGNA

... will be held at **G-Bar**, 1401 E. Seventh Ave., in Ybor City on Saturday Dec. 11 from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. No cover until 10 p.m. and a \$5 cover after. \$1 drinks from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Doors open at 9 p.m.. The entire club will be decked out for the holidays by **Mathieu**.★

LEATHER BENEFIT

The **Tampa Leather Club** will hold a **Leather Benefit for Francis House** at the **Ybor Eagle**, 1909 N. 15th St., in Ybor City. **Francis House** has been providing spiritual, emotional, educational help to individuals and families infected, affected and at-risk for HIV/AIDS.★

FUNDRAISER FOR THE ST. PETERSBURG MEN'S CHORUS

The **Gay St. Pete House** will be holding a fundraiser for the **St. Petersburg Men's Chorus** on Thursday, Dec. 23 at the **Gay St. Pete House**, 4505 Fifth Ave., N., Saint Petersburg. Enjoy a relaxing evening poolside with incredible eats, full open bar, live entertainment and plenty of holiday cheer. No gifts, but please make a donation to the chorus. All proceeds from your donation goes to the chorus. For more information, visit www.stpetemenschorus.com.★

STEAM FRIDAYS CHRISTMAS PARTY

DJ Manny Lehman will headline at **Steam Fridays' Christmas Party**, to be held at **The Honey Pot**, 1507 E. Seventh Ave., Ybor City. The party will be held on Friday, Dec. 17 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. D.J. The club will be transformed into the "**Nutcracker Suite**" and will come to life with aerialists performing and so much more. Doors open at 10 p.m. with no cover until 10:30 p.m. and \$10 after. \$1 drinks for everyone from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.★

FLAMINGO TURNABOUT

The first-ever turnabout at the **Flamingo Resort**. All the money raised will go to benefit A.S.A.P. Don't miss this event as everyone will be in rare form and it will be the only time you will see most of the staff dressed up and performing. Make your plans now to attend on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the **Flamingo Resort**, 4601 34th St. S., St. Petersburg.★

HOLIDAY HOOPLA!

The **Gulfport Merchants Association** presents **Holiday Hoopla** on Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit **Operation Santa**, **The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation**, and **Get Rescued**. Admission is free. Brighten your holidays with a visit to **Beach Boulevard** in Gulfport at the **Holiday Hoopla**. For more information, call (727) 322-5217 or visit www.gulfportma.com.★

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"A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS"

... is being performed now through Dec. 19 at the **Garden Theatre**, 160 West Plant St., Winter Garden. **Dickens'** classic family tale ushers in the holiday season and the wonderful spirit (or spirits) of Christmas. Film and television star **Dennis Neal** portrays the miser **Ebenezer Scrooge**. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$24 (\$20 seniors/students) \$10 for children under 12 on Thursdays and Sundays. For more information, visit www.gardentheatre.org.★

FA-LA-LA-LA FABULOUS

This **Orlando Gay Chorus** concert will feature many of your favorite songs and some new tunes, too. Once again, OGC will be serving as a collection site for the **U.S. Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots"** program and will mark its 20th year of collecting for "Toys for Tots." Your generous donations of toys have brought joy to thousands of deserving children in Central Florida. Just bring any unwrapped toy to either show for collection. Two performances: Dec. 11 and 12 at **The Plaza Theatre**, 425 North Bumby Ave., Orlando. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at www.orlandogaychorus.org.★

"GOD HELP US, EVERYONE"

Ashton Kutcher, Lucille Ball, Joan Crawford, Miss Piggy and Cher (or at least their impersonators) present "**A Glittering Star-Studded Christmas Carol**" on Saturdays, Dec. 11 and 18 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the **Footlight Theater at the Parliament House**, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando.★

CLAUS FOR PAWS - THE ROAD RALLY ADVENTURE

A four-person auto adventure with stops and fun along the way throughout downtown Orlando on Dec. 11. Entry fee \$100 per team. Presented by and a fundraiser for the **Sunshine Invitational Tournament**, and a portion of the proceeds benefit **Paws Care**, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping to care for the pets of those affected by HIV/AIDS, cancer and other terminal and devastating illnesses. For more details, visit www.sitorlando.org/fundraising.★

"THE NEARLYWED GAME"

... at **Hamburger Mary's** in Orlando, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18. This is a fun and new twist of the classic TV game show, "**The Newlywed Game.**" Each month, six couples (same-sex and opposite sex couples) will compete to see who knows, or thinks they know, each other the best. For more information, visit www.hamburgermarysorlando.com.★

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CO-INFECTION FORUM, FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED AND INFECTED WITH HIV AND HEP C Meets weekly on Tuesdays @ The Wellness Center of SF @ 2921 NE 6th Ave. Wilton Manors, FL 33334. Phone # (954) 568-0152. Facilitated by 'pup' and Phil. Conversation and information updates. Free and confidential.

POSITIVE ISSUES GROUP MEETS THURSDAYS FROM 7-8:30 FOR "HIV+GAY MEN & THE MEN THAT LOVE THEM" Support group. Facilitated by Jerry Hornacki. RSVP: wcsfjerry@cs.com Phone: 954-568-0152

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