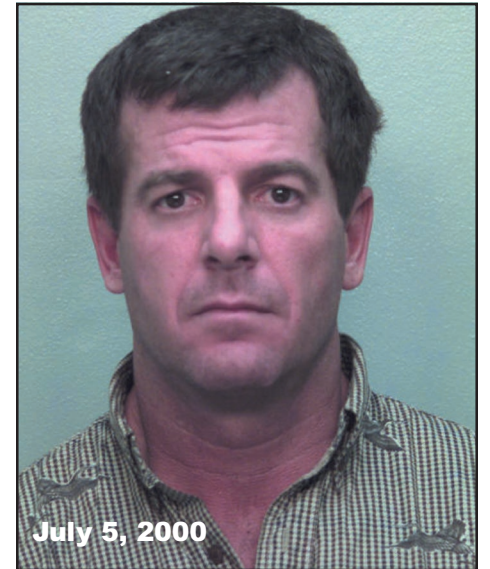
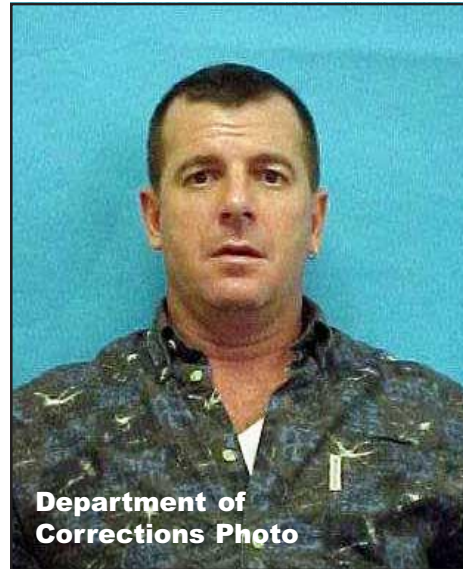


# - WANTED -

## The Many Faces of Patrick Botuchis

*Convicted Felon Who Preys on Gay Men Eludes Capture*



By Norm Kent

A convicted felon who preys on gay men is at large, likely living here in South Florida and you could be his next victim.

The story and record of Patrick Botuchis, the man with a dozen aliases and two dozen arrests is amazing, and it reveals scarring deficiencies in the criminal justice system and the agencies designated to maintain the process.

Botuchis, 40, was arrested four times by local law enforcement in the year 2000 alone, amassing 21 different charges. Using three different bonding agencies, he bailed himself out of jail under the name of Patrick Brewswick. Each time he did so, he already was under felony probation supervision from Sebring, Florida, and should have been denied a bond as an absconder.

### A HISTORY OF CRIME

The Botuchis criminal odyssey began in 1979, when he was first arrested for prostitution as an 18 year old. He quickly moved up the criminal ladder, when in 1982, Atlanta Police charged him with sodomy on a child. While the disposition of those charges is not known, Fort Lauderdale Police alone arrested Botuchis at least 17 more times between 1982 and 1989, usually involving the theft of motor vehicles from gay men who entrusted him. Included amongst those charges were stolen credit card and grand theft cases from the men he 'dated'.

The situation took a major turn for the worse in 1989. Botuchis broke in to a gay man's home, held him at gunpoint, tied him and tortured him over the period of an evening, and then beat him as well.

According to Danny James, the Wilton Manors detective who informed the *Express* of Botuchis, he was arrested when he was caught in a motel on Federal Highway with a stolen car. Charged with robbery with a firearm, false imprisonment, kidnapping, and assorted other felonies, he was sentenced, on May 10, 1990, to 12 years in jail

After having served seven of those twelve years, Botuchis was released on August 22, 1997. Within months, he was back in trouble, arrested on November 29, 1997 by the Fort Lauderdale police, for grand theft. The victim was a gay man he had met a local nightclub. Using the name of Patrick Brewswick, his case was postponed until

April 5, 1999, when he was sentenced to two more years in Florida State Prison, to be followed by two years probation. He is now wanted for violating that probation.

He was first released on to probation on May 3, 2000, to Sebring, Florida, and was promptly violated on June 19, 2000, for not reporting. It's apparent why. He came to Fort Lauderdale, adopted the name of Patrick Brewswick, and immediately began turning to more crimes.

Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood police arrested him on July 5, July 28, and August 24. He bonded out each time. Even though the Department of Corrections filed a fugitive warrant for him, the Broward Circuit Court did not sign the warrant until the end of the first week of September, only hours after he bonded out for the fourth time in less than three months.

His arrests last summer were for purchasing and selling crack cocaine. In two of the instances, consistent with his criminal history that includes a 1987 escape conviction, he attempted to flee and elude capture. In one instance, he was driving a car that had been reported stolen by a gay man.

### FOUR ARRESTS IN 2000

Spotted in a high crime area purchasing crack cocaine on **July 5, 2000**, he was arrested by the Fort Lauderdale Police, but it was not easy. He was only captured after a high speed vehicle pursuit followed by a foot chase. Police charged him with 15 different offenses, including possession of cocaine, aggravated fleeing, expired tags, no valid driver's license, failing to stop at stop signs, red lights, leaving the roadway, and stolen decals. The victimized owner of the stolen decals and vehicle was, of course, a gay man.

On the police report, Officer R. Dabe wrote: "The Defendant is an early releasee from the FLORIDA PRISON SYSTEM, under the name of Patrick John Botuchis. He initially gave the name of John Yocky. Fingerprint verification thru FLPD reveals he is also known as Patrick J. Brewswick."

Amazingly though, he proceeded to bond out for about \$6500, and had his case set before the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Stanton Kaplan. The Department of Corrections, looking for him on a fugitive warrant, was never notified, even though he was booked on the address they had for him in Sebring, Florida.

He was arrested again three weeks later, and bonded out again on **July 28, 2000**, this time charged again with purchasing crack cocaine. Officer Steven Bolger was working a street detail in Hollywood and captured the Defendant without resistance. Botuchis utilized the name Brewswick and a Fort Lauderdale address. It is apparent that Botuchis had now developed a frightening fondness for crack cocaine.

On **August 24, 2000**, Botuchis was arrested again, using an alias, and the charges appear to be related to bond jumping, because he had to post new bonds on his earlier charges from July. The clerk of the court can find no record of his arrest, though the Broward Sheriff's Office show him being booked in to the jail on that date. In any case, he was again released, on new bonds, on September 2, 2000, only to commit another crime against another gay victim- *less than seven days later*.

### ANOTHER GAY VICTIM

On **September 8, 2000**, Botuchis befriended a gay man in a meeting on Northeast 15th Avenue and Northeast 11th Street, in Wilton Manors. Botuchis immediately stole the gentlemen's car.

Using the victim's checks and credit cards, he actually took the stolen car in for repairs, installed a new alarm system, a better sound system, and had the windows tinted. He paid for some of the repairs with his own checks, from a closed account out of Sebring, Florida.

Telling the car dealership that he owned Dancing Dragon Productions, a strip-o-gram service, he proceeded to use his upgraded stolen vehicle around town, and was seen at such upscale gay bars as Georgie's and the Cathode Ray.

Detective Danny James of the Wilton Manors Police Department reports that he has now sworn out a warrant seeking his arrest on grand theft and writing worthless checks.

James was the officer who discovered that Botuchis had been booked three times under the name of Brewswick. He had been searching the pictures on the booking system when he accidentally stumbled upon the pictures of Botuchis a/k/a Brewswick, and noticed the guy he was looking for had been in and out of the system a half dozen times this year.

The Broward Sheriff's Office Jail system somehow never picked up any

warrants under his name, so he was repeatedly released.

Had he appeared in court last November on any of his prior charges, the Department of Corrections warrant, finally cross-filed in September, would have been served, and he would have been held without bond. But he was a no-show for court, and now Judge Kaplan has also issued a no bond warrant for his arrest. Still, he has not been captured.

Detective James surmises that in all likelihood Botuchis is living locally, in greater Fort Lauderdale, or Hollywood, and engaging in the same course of criminal conduct, under one of his many assumed names. He is asking that anyone with any information about Botuchis contact him immediately, and warns:

"He has a past for kidnap and robbery of gay victims. He can be violent and has been. Additionally, his use of crack cocaine makes his behavior threatening and unpredictable. Do not attempt to take action against him. Call Crimestoppers, TIPS, 911, or the department at 954-390-2161."

Botuchis has also used the aliases of Pat Boteches, Pat Callison, Callison Patrick, Callison Jenkins, Patrick Karon, Patrick Jerkins, Pat Collison, Patrice Callison, and Patrick John Brewswick.

Because Botuchis bonded out of jail under the name of Brewswick, and his fingerprints were not cross identified, his warrants from the Department of Corrections as an absconder were not picked up.

The fact that he told the Department of Corrections he was living in Sebring, but got arrested in Fort Lauderdale one singular time, let alone four, would have been a violation of the terms of his probation.

Stated one of his victims: "Someone in Probation or the Court was clearly negligent in failing to secure a valid warrant for his arrest. The cops warned them about him on July 5, for goodness sakes!" Because the warrants were not actually signed by a Judge until late September, the court system did not know he was a fugitive. So he repeatedly escaped detection.

The State of Florida has initiated an automated fingerprint identification system, but it is not fully linked with all state agencies. Stated Jim Lejedal, a Broward Sheriff's Office spokesperson: "Hopefully when the AFIS system is fully operational, we will catch the people who fall through the cracks."