

SoBe AIDS Project's 'Dream' Fundraiser

By Kevin Hopper

On the evening of April 15, nearly 300 people gathered atop the Sony building on Lincoln Road in South Beach for a fundraiser to benefit the South Beach AIDS Project. The event, titled "Dream" gave people the opportunity to reminisce, dance and raise money for the fight against AIDS.

The fundraiser was presented by Chris Verdugo Productions and featured DJ Mark Vallese from Chicago. The evening also included beautiful décor by Jim Cox and Striking Visuals by TM.

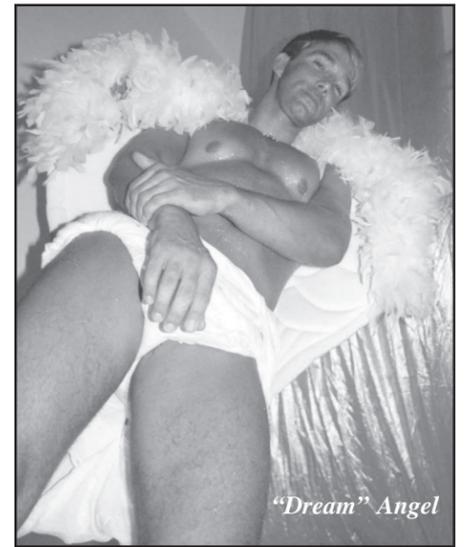
The mission of South Beach AIDS Project is to work with the community to identify and address its local needs for HIV/AIDS prevention, education and care.

Through innovation, the organization's guiding principles are community involvement and empowerment, non-bureaucratic organizational structure, cooperation with other organizations to maximize available resources and to avoid duplication of services, and encourage collaboration with our efforts.

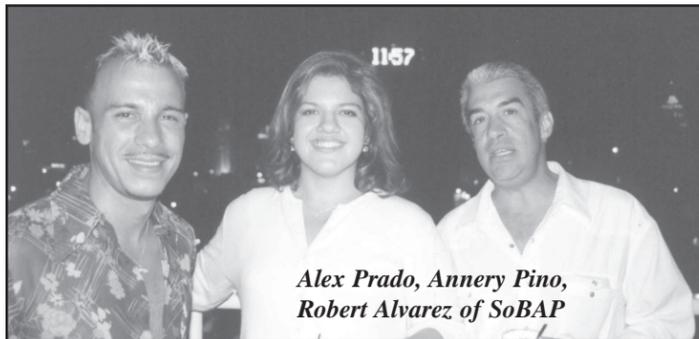
For more information how you can become part of the South Beach AIDS Project call 305.532.1033.



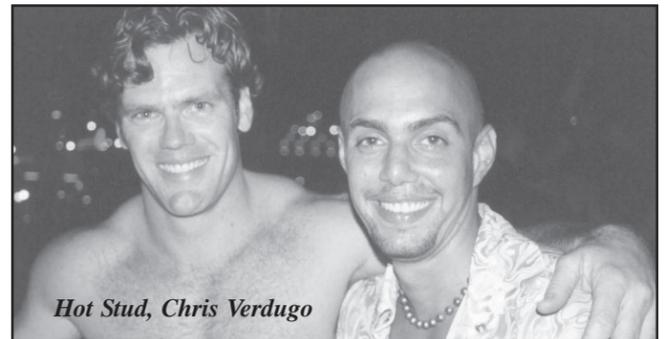
One of the many "Dream" Flaggers



"Dream" Angel



Alex Prado, Annery Pino, Robert Alvarez of SoBAP



Hot Stud, Chris Verdugo

Miami Man Gets 18 Years for Killing

A 17-year-old gay man who shot and killed his 24-year-old male companion was sentenced to 18 years in jail, as an adult, last week, on a Manslaughter conviction.

Circuit Judge Roberto Pineiro imposed the sentence on Kervaris Pollock, after a jury declined to convict the young man of first degree murder.

Pineiro said Pollock had lied on the stand when he said he had no prior record, and felt little remorse, although Pollock apologized to the victim's family at the

sentencing hearing. The Court also found that Pollock abandoned the scene of the crime callously.

Pollock killed Larry Sheppard, 24, in February 1998 while Pollock was a 17-year-old student at Carol City High School. When arrested, he had told investigators that while he was in a romantic relationship with Sheppard, he was uncomfortable with the fact that straight friends at his school had become suspicious of the relationship. He blamed Sheppard for causing the

humiliation, since Sheppard, who he had known for five months, often brought Pollock gifts to his school.

Together one evening in Sheppard's car, Pollock told the jury that Sheppard "came on to him sexually and aggressively," after locking the car doors. Pollock then reached for a gun that he knew was in the glove compartment and shot Sheppard, then pushing his body out of the car, and driving away. Sheppard's body was found later in the evening, police were called, and Pollock

was discovered driving the victim's car hours later.

Pollock's lawyer, Gary Rosenberg, had wanted the judge to sentence him as a youthful offender, which would made him eligible for release in six years. The judge declined. At the time, Pollock was living with his uncle. His lawyer said he claimed not to have a relationship with Sheppard, and was only trying to escape from the vehicle at the time of the shooting. The jury agreed that the murder was not premeditated.

"My name is Glenn. On April 19, 2001 I was convicted of the First Degree Felony of Organized Fraud because I failed to disclose my pre-existing AIDS or HIV condition on an application to obtain a life insurance policy.

If someone has encouraged you to omit any pre-existing medical condition on an application for a life insurance policy, report the matter immediatly to the Florida Division of Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-800-378-0445

Most importantly, do not engage in this practice yourself or encourage someone else to do so in order that you can earn a fee. These are serious felonies which will cost you lengthy court battles, a lot of money, and your freedom.

"I have learned my lesson the hard way. Please do not repeat my mistake."

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