

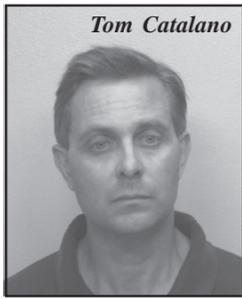
# Gay Landscaper Pleads Guilty In Theft Ring

## Young Accomplice Sentenced to 8 Years for Residential Burglaries

By Michael James

The case of the gay landscaper who used young men to burglarize homes is coming to an end in the Broward Circuit Court. After entering an open plea to the Court, one of those young accomplices, Joshua Linehan of Massachusetts, was sentenced to eight years in prison for three separate residential burglaries, and a concurrent six-year sentence for possession of oxycontin.

Originally written about in issue 46 of *the Express*, last Spring, Linehan was charged along with Tom Catalano, the gay businessman, who also has now pled guilty.



Tom Catalano

Catalano owned a local landscaping service that employed Linehan, Craig Carter, and others. Each of the younger men was breaking into homes whose lawns they were cutting when the owners were out.

All the victims were gay homeowners who trusted their service, which advertised in local gay publications. While Catalano has not yet been sentenced, Detective Cheryl Donisi of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, commented that Linehan was a crack cocaine addict who turned Catalano on to the drug.

Meanwhile, Linehan still is not out of the woods. "There are another 22 charges in

Massachusetts that he will still have to deal with," Donisi said.

The modus operandi of the pair permitted Linehan to unlawfully enter unoccupied dwellings, steal checks, credit cards, and other easily disposable items, which Catalano would then pawn or negotiate at local check cashing stores, returning the money to Linehan in order to purchase crack cocaine.

Catalano, 44, who lived in Fort Lauderdale, had previously confessed to the illegal activity, explaining his love for Linehan caused him to succumb to the plan. He has now pled guilty, and will be sentenced next



Joshua Linehan

month.

Police had originally become suspicious of Catalano when he refused to co-operate with detectives in their apprehension of Linehan, who had been identified by one of the victims as the individual who burglarized his home. According to Detective Jack Gee, Catalano's tune changed when Linehan began burglarizing him, and he became a victim.

"It's a sad story. It was Catalano's love for Linehan that allowed himself to become a user and a thief and an accomplice," Donisi stated of Catalano, "Until then, he had been a decent citizen."

# Broward School Board Rejects GLSEN Partnership

(continued from frontpage)

sought to overturn the Broward County human rights amendment.

The caller, Margaret Hofstader, contacted Steve Kane, who broadcasts a vehemently anti-gay show on 1470 AM in the mornings.

Kane then initiated a vicious on-air tirade against the proposed formal partnership with GLSEN. He urged his listeners to 'flood' the School Board with a barrage e-mails and calls in opposition to the proposal.

Kane was aided by his producer, Brian Craig, who stated that "GLSEN does not in any way represent the gay community. They are just a small activist organization."

Apparently taking cues therefrom, anonymous callers responded with 'credible

threats of violence and even death to School Board members' who supported the agreement, according to Israel Canales, the Schools' District Manager of Administrative Sites. As a result of the concern, a thorough bomb search was conducted in the facilities before the proceedings began, and security was ordered enhanced.

Those arriving for the 1:00 p.m. meeting were in for a long wait. It was not until after 7 p.m. that the exhausted School Board turned to the GLSEN debate, and the heated discussion went on for nearly two hours.

While the majority of those speaking favored a continuation of the ongoing partnership, the Board rejected the alliance after a 5-3 vote at 8:50 p.m. The rejection came after an initial motion to defer the decision was voted down 6-2.



GLSEN co-chair Mike Record

GLSEN supporters were dismayed that the union was defeated, but Board members, including customarily supportive Stephanie Kraft and Darla Carter stated that the basis for their decision was due to text within the GLSEN manual. Carter expressed a concern

that "students would be exposed to language of a sexual nature." Opponents of the proposal, including Kane, had voiced criticism regarding 'offending words' within the GLSEN manual.

"I don't think there is any question that we have to teach tolerance," Kraft said. "But we need more information on what kind of training it is and who is exactly involved."

GLSEN representatives pointed out that Kane was purposely distorting their position, that students themselves were not exposed to offending language, but rather that it was directed to guidance counselors as 'things to watch out for.'

Carter's concern seemed to be a recent



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