

and Tragedies for Gays and Lesbians

replacement of Carol Moran with Dr. Jay Heider as President.

In further GLCCSF news, the Stonewall Library and Archives officially opened its doors within the facility in May. It is the beginning of what library leaders hope will be the building of one of the nation's best resource centers for gay culture and history.

Television Promotes Stevens, Extinguishes Dr. Laura



Craig Stevens

Craig Stevens became the new co-anchor for WSVN Channel 7 News at 5, 6 and 10 pm during the weekdays in July of this year. In doing so, he became the most prominent gay television personality in South Florida. Stevens gained prior attention by covering the tumultuous 2000 presidential election and also co-anchored news coverage of such major events as Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti, the crash of ValuJet flight 592 and the suicide of Gianni Versaci killer Andrew Cunanan. He has hosted the GLCC's Stars of the Rainbow awards for the last two years.

As Shakespeare's Soothsayer once said, "Beware the Ides of March." Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the controversial media show host who has called gays a "biological error," saw her short-lived TV series be cancelled at the end of March after a year-long campaign to protest it by gay and

liberal groups. Over 100 TV advertisers dropped out from the show in the US, causing the network to dismiss Dr. Laura and creating a victory for gay people and their allies.

Copa Stands Up to Dania Beach

The Copa, one of Fort Lauderdale's longest running and best-known gay clubs, encountered ongoing battles with Dania Beach over its request for an extended hours license.

The Copa had legally asserted its late hours were grandfathered in, and it should not be under the auspices of any city. But a compromise was reached, and the city of Dania Beach and the Copa resolved their legal battles with a stipulation giving the club the right to remain open until 4 a.m., but deputies alleged this past Fall that the popular nightclub was breaching the agreement.

After a series of warnings, the club was cited on November 24 and its manager was charged for allegedly violating the law and serving liquor after hours.

Non Discriminatory Gay and Lesbian Softball League Begins Play

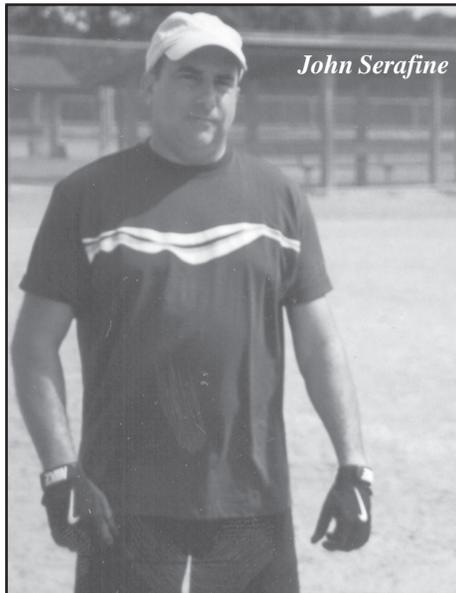
The Gay and Lesbian Open Softball League had their inaugural game at Broward County's Mills Pond Park on September 17th. The league was promoted by Norm Kent and *The Express*, in response to the other league which had passed a rule limiting the number of non-gays on any team. Kent announced that GLO Softball would not be part of any group that discriminates against straight people. The new league is committed to a policy of non-discrimination.

The co-ordinator of the league who stepped in to get it going and insure its success was John Serafine. This week they will celebrate a season ending party. See their ad in today's edition.

Local Gay Publishing Wars

The continuing saga of South Florida's gay magazines came to a head in 2001.

On January 26, Brad Casey, the then-



John Serafine

publisher of *Scoop* magazine, and Jason Bell, the longtime publisher of prominent gay lifestyle magazine *Hotspots!*, announced an agreement whereby *Hotspots!* Printing would publish *Scoop* from thereon in.

Retitled *The Inside Scoop*, Casey and his publication moved into office space leased by Bell. Just eight weeks later, Casey announced he was leaving his magazine to start his own, independent venture despite a non-compete agreement he had signed. Meanwhile, Bell announced the dissolution of *Inside Scoop*.

On September 5th, a new competing Broward magazine emerged named *FYI*, also printed by Bell and founded by *Hotspots!* and *Scoop* alum Bob Keckskemety with Bill Huelsman. Meanwhile, Outlook magazine, a publication actually not printed by Bell, continued to add advertisers and editorial content.

Later in the year, as Bell showcased a rebuilt lobby after a suspected ex-employee demolished it in a vandalous attack, he announced another lawsuit against Casey to reclaim a debt allegedly amassed during the *Inside Scoop* debacle.

The year closed with the reemergence of Casey with a new bar guide publication, *411*. Published by Casey and managed by George Kessinger and Adam Burnett, the new magazine features a staff of several former *Scoop* and *Hotspots!* ad executives.

The Express Reaches Three Counties, 7-11's

The Express, which published its first issue, January 24, 2000 and had 24 pages grew to 72 pages in its 63rd issue on December 17, 2001.

On April 1st, *The Express* vastly increased its distribution by making the newspaper available in 7-11 convenience stores throughout Broward, Dade and Palm Beach County.

The popular bi-weekly gay newspaper also unveiled an increased circulation, a new online digital datebook for use by the entire community, a revised arts and entertainment section, photo and voice personals and the announcement of the new *Express Update* for 2002.

Also this year, Associate Publisher Ron Gunzburger, News Editor Ian Drew and Arts and Entertainment Editor Mary Damiano joined *The Express* staff, with new webmaster Gary Hallock redesigning the dynamic www.expressgaynews.com website.

Beginnings and Endings for Spiritual Institutions

The Sunshine Cathedral, the Metropolitan Community Church of Fort

Lauderdale that welcomes worshippers of all orientations, announced that it had successfully purchased a new home at 1480 SW 9th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale on May 30th.

The official dedication service was held on October 28th and brought forth some of the 30-year-old congregations longest standing members, including MCC Founder the Reverend Troy Perry. The Cathedral's new home will help to expand their reach in the community and allow for more members to worship with them.

In June, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church voted 317-208 to recommend lifting the church's ban on ordination of lesbian and gay ministers, elders and deacons. The decision by the nation's sixth-largest Protestant denomination must still be ratified by a majority of the church's 173 local presbyteries over the next year.

On October 29th, the long-admired rabbi of Congregation Etz Chaim, Greg Kanter, South Florida's home for gay and lesbian Jews, announced that he will step down from his position as leader of the popular synagogue. Amongst his other career options, Rabbi Greg plans to contribute a monthly 'Spirituality' column to *The Express*.

Pride, Circuit Parties Offer Times of Celebration



Barnett "Karl" Clark

The community continued to raise funds and show pride at its annual events.

The Second Annual Gay Black Pride Celebration kicked off on February 24th to support AIDS Walk Miami, while Pride South Florida's annual parade kicked off along South Florida's Las Olas Boulevard on Sunday, March 4th.

Similar Pride celebrations kicked off in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County, while Broward was treated to a double dose as Pride of Greater Fort Lauderdale held the Stonewall Street Festival and Parade in Wilton Manors on Sunday, June 24th. The event was saddened by the May 5 death of one of its founders, gay activist Barnett "Karl" Clark.

The South Beach Winter Party attracted 5,000 revelers to South Florida bars, hotels and guesthouses on Sunday, March 11. The beach was transformed into a magical fantasy world as guests from around the country participated by pumping dollars into local charitable ventures.

Similarly, Care Resource's 17th annual White Party Week took over November to raise needed funds for the AIDS service organization.

Where's Reno? ...She's Everywhere!

After announcing her run for the Florida Democratic gubernatorial ticket this year, it seems there was nary an event in the community that former Attorney General Janet Reno didn't appear at. It almost became an art-imitating-life scenario of the popular book *Where's Waldo?* as Reno worked hard to cement a reputation as a ubiquitous cosmopolite.

After first appearing at the Millennium Dolphin Democrats Awards Gala in October, Reno next showed up at a fundraising event at Miami Shores Vice Mayor Greg Ullman's bayfront home.

After that, the Dade Human Rights Foundation's Recognition Dinner on November 3rd hosted Reno alongside performer Cyndi Lauper and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt.

Then, she prominently accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award and gave a speech at the GLCCSF's Stars of the

Rainbow Awards on November 17th.

As if that wasn't enough, Reno gave the keynote address at the World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil and ceremony at Fort Lauderdale's Esplanade Park.

Not one to tire quickly of the limelight, the dynamic politico got into her red pickup truck after that event and made an appearance at the Holiday Open House of the Posie Patch Florist in Wilton Manors.

