

Editorial Endorsement: A Stork In Our Future

The Express chose to make its home in Wilton Manors three years ago when we sensed that this was the most up and coming gay community in America. We therefore have an investment in its future, and our proud to call this city home.

The sixties taught us to think globally and act locally. Our reach is from South Beach to Palm Beach, but we support those causes just, those issues honorable, and those businesses and persons who are supportive of the gay community's larger presence in mainstream life.

Wilton Manors is a small town in a larger America, but we are an urban village, modern in aspiration, growing in stature, and developing in prestige. Fortunately, all the candidates for Mayor are honorable, and have marked their days of public service with dignity and distinction.

Joanne Fanizza is an aggressive and assertive professional who has sued the city to mandate that it follow the laws. She brings a credible history as a civic activist, journalist and litigator to the table. Some say her role on the commission has occasionally been divisive, but she wants a chance to lead and would clearly take charge.

Our current mayor, John Fiore, is a distinguished professional with a long career of public service, but his duties as an urban planner for Broward County take him away



of his political development, he nevertheless is a popular community leader who has quietly developed a broad consensus.

Jim Stork has mobilized divergent interests as the President of the Oakland Park Wilton Manors Chamber of Commerce, and paid his dues with tedious and time-consuming grunge

work as a participant of a broad coalition of community groups. He has brought them together in pro-active planning for growth in the 21st century urban village that has become our new home.

Jim Stork symbolizes the new and developing business life of Wilton Manors, not just as a gay urban professional, but as an open and forthright spokesperson for what is good and decent about gay lives everywhere.

Times and seasons change. Our city could use a new face to lead the way for the future. Jim Stork's candidacy is such a light, and the citizens of our community would be wise to elect him.

-by the staff of the Express

Theft Most Foul; Henn Disgraces Gays

Last week, *The Express* was privileged to report on a gay man who wrongly collected thousands of dollars in disaster relief funds from agencies helping the survivors of the World Trade Center attack. Last week, we reported. Today, we editorialize.

We have learned since our feature news piece that our story about Patric Ian Henn was very accurate. We found numerous men who claimed Henn tricked with them regularly, and that he was nothing more than a party boy in heat.

Mostly, they are surprised at how successful he was at conning the numerous social service agencies he dealt with. No matter. We know he had no domestic partner, not unless you count the different ones he dated every night.

Henn, 27, of Middle River Terrace, was never entitled to a penny. Telling agencies his domestic partner was lost in the attacks, he sought refuge, succor, and support as a victim of the tragedy. But he was a liar, a con artist and a fraud.

While most Americans were reeling from horror at the events of September 11, Patric Henn was conspiring to greedily line his own pockets. He methodically devised a dishonest story of a lost partner that never existed. He used that story to receive and demand monies he never otherwise would have gotten. He even stupidly attacked agencies that refused to turn over cash on demand. And he tried to use his gayness as an excuse for not having the kinds of

references married couples would have.

Patric Ian Henn is a traitor and a hijacker. He is a financial terrorist who held up charitable agencies that were providing support for genuine victims. He turned on his country in a time of crisis. He stole money out of the pockets of genuine and grieving victims. Henn did so in order to further his own egocentric, drug dependent, self-indulgent ways. There is no punishment too severe for him.

At the very least, he should be *persona non grata* in every bar, every business and every gay household in this community. He should be branded an outcast, a pariah and a thief most foul. He is a vile and disgusting human being who has disgraced the gay

community, himself and his humanity.

The genuine victims of September 11 will forever be cherished in our memory as casualties of terror. Patric Henn, will always be remembered as Thernadier of Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, a scoundrel and bandit who robs corpses, stealing watches off the innocent dead who lie in the streets.

Despite collecting over \$25,000 from the Red Cross and other agencies since November, Henn is now apparently penniless. Despite having his rent paid for November, December and January, he is now being evicted for not paying February's fare. But don't worry, Patric. There will always be a home for you in the sewer with the rats. That is where you belong anyway.

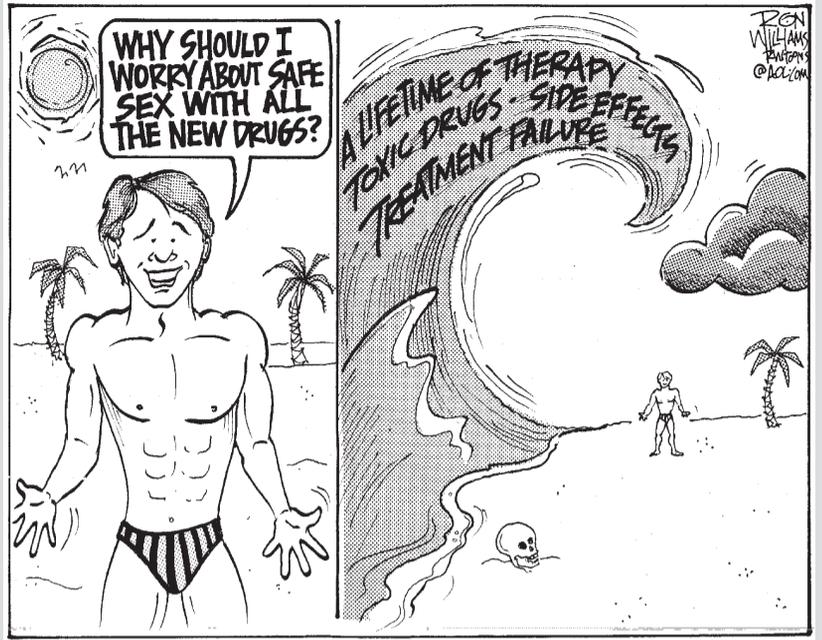


from the growing responsibilities of the Manors. His occupation requires that he work every day in another city, and correspondingly limits the amount of time he can even spend here, let alone devote to the demanding and developing new issues we face.

Our problem with both the able Councilwoman Fanizza and current Mayor Fiore is that city management is corrupted presently by rancor and discord. It may be wise to put the days of divisiveness behind us.

Jim Stork is a businessman who has drawn together diverse populations in civic associations wide and varied. In the nadir

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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Letters to the editor

Gay Network Programming is a Great Idea

Amory Lewis' eloquent response to the article regarding the gay TV channel only partially addresses some of Michael Christian Daniel's' questionable thinking. Having worked in marketing operations in the cable industry for 15 years and heading Lesbians and Gay Men at Time Warner during much of that time, I do know a bit about minorities and the television business so I would like to offer another point of view.

How interesting that Daniels fails to mention Black Entertainment Television.

BET continues to be successful and has coexisted with a bounty of African-American product on the major networks, syndicated channels, basic and premium TV. Not only have the number of black representations increased dramatically in the last decade, but the roles offered to African-American actors include chief medical residents, heads of law firms, police chiefs, judges, principals and other respectable professionals on many of the highest-rated, high profile shows on TV. Similarly, Lifetime certainly has not deterred other female-oriented channels from launching and the major networks continue to show a commitment to programming targeted to women.

Delta Burke alone, a star with high appeal to female audiences, has had a series on each of the three major networks in the last few years.

Mr. Daniels has obviously fallen prey to a terrible misconception about LGBT representations, often perpetuated by our own media. Since serving as chairman of the media committee for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for several years in the mid-90's, I have continued to remain vigilant about how we are depicted in the media and I challenge any LGBT person to take a closer look at their *TV Guide*. LGBT characters are few and the

roles most often are insignificant. Sure, there's *Queer As Folk* but in the age of so much reality TV, how real is it that many shows set in urban gay meccas have all heterosexual characters? How can the very liberal David E. Kelley produce *Boston Public* where the entire faculty is heterosexual while his other shows always address diversity by having African-Americans in major roles?

Will & Grace and *ER* are the gay-friendly half of the Must See TV lineup. Just Shoot Me is supposedly set at a New York based fashion magazine employing only straight people and somehow the characters on *Friends* live in that same alternate universe (the lesbians have not been on the show since 1997!). Many in our community rejoiced at Ellen's return to sitcoms but I first wanted to know why she got a Friday night slot, usually the glue factory for a washed up series. And don't get me started on the heterosexual skin fests on daytime where only *All My Children* has a lesbian character (whose girlfriend was killed before they even consummated the relationship).

This gay network will allow talent in our community to create programming with two of the deepest pockets in entertainment-MTV and Showtime. If successful, these talents will inevitably go on to mainstream products where LGBT lives are more likely to be depicted with accuracy and fairness.

My only reservation about the venture is that MTV and Showtime never seem to need a table close to the stage at awards shows. How I wish my former employer Home Box Office, or even A & E, had undertaken this project so our community could more likely look forward to quality programming instead of possibly tuning in just to make a political point.

Richard Mayora

This Above All...
To Thine Own
Self Be True.

**EXPRESS
YOURSELF!**

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