

Special Four-Page Pullout of the 1996 Spectrum Awards

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THE TRIANGLE

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Serving Orlando's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community

Hawaiian Hopes In Disarray Legislative Efforts Dim Hopes

Earlier hopes for what appeared to have the potential of a victory in the Hawaii Supreme court have been substantially diminished. It was widely thought that applying the requirement by the state to present compelling reason for the state to deny same sex marriage, the court could rule in favor of such marriages. The Hawaii House of Representatives voted 37 to 14 to put the same sex marriage question up for a state-wide ballot and when the senate votes, if only 17 senators agree, the November ballot will ask the electorate whether to ban same sex marriage. Polls indicate voters would say no to same-sex marriages.

If this comes to pass, the tentative case scheduled before the court to interpret the existing law as permitting same-sex marriage would be moot. In the event the electorate votes a change in the Hawaii State Constitution defining marriage as a "union between one man and one woman," that would determine any court ruling.

Conservative organizations from across the nation are pouring their wealth of resources into Hawaii, financing opposition to any bill or judgement favoring same-sex marriage. Reports are that evangelicals, fundamentalists, the Mormon Church and the Catholic Church are a few of the larger groups to intercept the effort. These groups represent vast wealth and can provide blocks of voters on demand. Combined in a single effort they can buy the end result in any election because a large percentage of registered voters simply do not vote.

Contrary to such wealth, the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project has no money nor financial support for campaigning or lobbyists or media. If this is a David versus Goliath battle, the advocates of Biblical lore will disprove one of their favorite fables for

the slingshot of justice is no match for the power of hatred.

There has been no effort from any factor of the anti-marriage forces to deny this is a direct and specific effort of religion to determine constitutional matters and influence in the political process. In fact one sees a determined effort on the part of the religious communities, many of which are at odds with another on other matters, displaying a sense of pleasure in displaying their muscle.

Some feel there is a possibility that reason will prevail and the electorate will recognize that marriage is a legal contract but only upon personal choice is it a religious matter. It remains to be seen if the public recognizes that the primary purposes in seeking same-sex marriage are protection of properties, equality under the laws as prescribed by The Constitution of the United States. One supporter of the same-sex movement interviewed in writing this story said, "All this concern about the breakdown of the traditional family should have these people concerned about incest and about physical abuse of family members. But they don't want to look in the mirror."

As of this writing, there are twenty-five states that have before them, or have already ruled upon, bills relating to same-sex marriage. Two have denied such marriage, seventeen are in some degree of process, Florida being among them, and six have killed the effort.

The results are yet to be seen but it appears proponents of the legal case in Hawaii have a weakened position from which to speak.

Join us for "PRIEST" In APRIL!

The GLCS Screening Room will be showing the film "Priest".

* April 12th * 6:30 PM * FREE!!

Dress and attitude are casual, feel free to bring blankets and pillows if you would like to relax on the floor (although we do have chairs!) and join your friends at GLCS!

"Priest" shares the difficulties and challenges of being a gay male in the Catholic

Church and how one man reconciles his faith and his homosexuality. The movie is free, however, donations for these special events are always gratefully accepted. So come on by April 12th at 6:30 PM, here at GLCS at 714 East Colonial Drive for film and fun!

Political Realities

Couch Seat Open for a New Position

The vacancy opened by the resignation of Marvin Couch opens a new contest. On the Republican side of the race is Tom Feeney, the hand picked candidate of the Republican leadership, who at this writing resides in Lake County, and Oviedo City Council member Hampton and occupies the position of City Council Chairman.

The political powers of the Republican Party tried to pressure Hampton to abandon his efforts but he refused to step down, charging Feeney as a "carpet bagger and a clone who goes to the back row and pushes buttons" He calls attention to the fact that Feeney is moving into Oviedo to be qualified for the office he seeks to win.

Feeney was one of the prominent voices backing a movement in Lake County schools to teach the superiority of American culture and pushed for school vouchers to enter students into private schools, competing with the tax dollars for public education.

Another advocacy of Feeney is in support of Florida seceding from the union. A major support for his political efforts comes from the Christian Coalition.

Hampton is giving priority to his district highlighting the improvements in the roads of Seminole, Orange and Volusia counties that fall within the jurisdiction of District 33.

After the intra-party battle of these two hopefuls is decided, the winner will face Sanford attorney James Hattaway in the special election on April 27.

The winner will be elected for an abbreviated term because of the coming election. However, which ever candidate and party is the winner will have a springboard for the fall election - an election the Republicans are anxious to use for possible taking control of State House for the first time in 125 years. The results of the 1996 election will possibly effect the life of Floridians for many years into the future.



Keith Meinhold, John Rose, Allene Baus and Melinda Paras, Hosts and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners at the recent 1996 Spectrum Awards.