

THE HIDE-A-WAY of Rock Hill

Rock Hill's only gay and lesbian bar
Thursday - Saturday
9:00 p.m. ... until



Every Thursday:
Free Pool and Pizza
\$1.50 Beer Specials

Every Friday:
Makaylah DuShot's Drag Show Review
with weekly guest appearances

Every Saturday:
Karaoke and Dance . . . all night long!!!

It's a New Year's Eve Extravaganza...

The Hide-A-Way is the perfect place to bring in the New Year with a midnight Champagne toast, loads of party favors, a full buffet and dancing 'til the sun comes up.

Call for pricing and any addition information.

405 Baskins Road, Rock Hill, S.C.
(803) 328-6630

**Time
Out!**

520 8TH. AVE. N.
MYATLE BEACH, S.C.
843-448-1180

**Patio Open
Weekends**

CRUISE PLAY POOL DANCE
OPEN DAILY AT 5 PM FOR COCKTAILS
Happy Hour 5-8

Calendar

MONDAYS

Female Impersonation Show at Midnight!

Featuring:

Leslie Lain & Special Guests

WEDNESDAYS

Beach Blanket Bingo

Hosted by Bimbos of the Beach

THURSDAYS

Thirsty Thursday

Free pool!

Pool Tournament at 11:30 pm, \$50 Cash Prize

Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight

Every Tuesday & Sunday - Karaoke - 10 pm

Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - No Cover (excluding special holidays or events)

THE HOTTEST DANCE MUSIC ON THE BEACH WITH D.J. MACKEL

For booking information (female impersonators/male dancers) contact Ken @ 843-448-1180, 10am-1pm

www.timeoutmbc.com

SCEC hires new director

Renaissance man Michael Drennan takes over the helm at South Carolina Equality Coalition



by Linda Ketner

Michael Drennan is many things.

He's the Montessori boy infatuated with the Goodyear Blimp and the valedictorian of his academically talented high school. He's the full scholarship chemistry major and the man who extracted the HIV virus from worms for research. He's also a certified financial planner and the son of a lesbian mother.

Drennan says he's "thrilled about our chances to defeat the *Discrimination Amendment*" in South Carolina next year. In fact he thinks it's just "a matter of fair-minded people stepping forward to do the right thing." Drennan's convinced — as is South Carolina Equality Coalition (SCEC) — that these amendments can be beaten if LGBT people will vote no and get just two friends, co-workers or family members to vote no. "One of these years we're going to defeat this prejudice," says Drennan. "And it may as well be next year in South Carolina!"

So how does a chemist, turned financial planner, morph into an activist LGBT executive director?

Clearly, it was a personal passion. According to Drennan, the career change is a matter of "taking something I've always [cared] about and making it an opportunity for my livelihood."

Says Drennan of his decision to come out during his junior year in college: "I thought everyone had same-sex feelings towards friends but that nobody talked about it. I had romantic encounters in high school but didn't equate that with being gay."

By his junior year in college, he knew better and came out "with gusto."

His senior year at Colorado College, while watching *Proposition 2* defeat the gay and lesbian community, he thought, "What in the hell am I doing watching this happen? I should be out there making a difference. If I want to complain, I should at

least be making an effort." And so began his activism, which became an important part of his after-work life when he moved to Santa Fe, N.M.

In Santa Fe and later San Diego, Calif., while working as a financial planner by day, Drennan found time to establish a college scholarship for LGBT youth, found an annual LGBT film festival, coordinate annual Pride events and assist in the production of a LGBT-focused radio show and public access television program.

So how does a native Texan, who has lived in Boston, Colorado Springs, Santa Fe and San Diego end up in Columbia, S.C.? Yet another decision based on passion.

Drennan's partner of seven years, Matt, finished up his Ph.D. in Philosophy at University of California-San Diego and they began looking for a suitable faculty position, finding it at the University of South Carolina. The men were also looking for a suitable environment for a family they may want to begin soon.

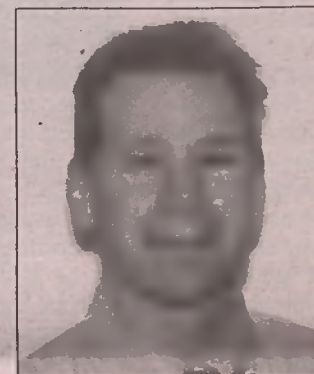
"We're currently considering having children. For the first time in my life, with Matt, in our home in South Carolina, I feel it's the right environment to rear children. Going to the theater and on vacations is wonderful, but I want the meaning and purpose that comes from having kids. Sharing our lives and what we've learned, helping someone grow up and have a good home, adds a whole new

dimension of meaning and value."

Drennan realizes the obstacles are formidable for two men wanting a family. "If we adopt internationally, we have to lie about who we are and that doesn't feel good. Surrogacy is very expensive, but that might be the route we take."

How does Drennan feel about his new state, South Carolina? "It's true that it's very friendly in the south and we find the arts accessible here. The gay community is more closeted than other places I've lived, but it's friendlier and less cliquish than other places. And, our community here is more relationship oriented. Everywhere I go here, I hear about couples who have been together 20 or more years. That suits us nicely!"

— Linda Ketner is the chair of the SCEC.



SCEC's new executive director Michael Drennan.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Upstate

Come celebrate God with us in a loving, kind, affirming and accepting place where *worship* is our most important priority.

Diversity is our strength. All are welcome in God's house, regardless of gender, color, creed or religious background. ALWAYS!

Metropolitan Community Church of the Upstate

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Rev. Donna Stroud, M.Div.

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Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm / Choir Practice: 4:45 pm

