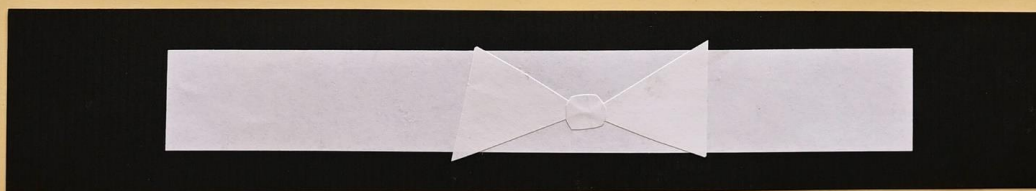
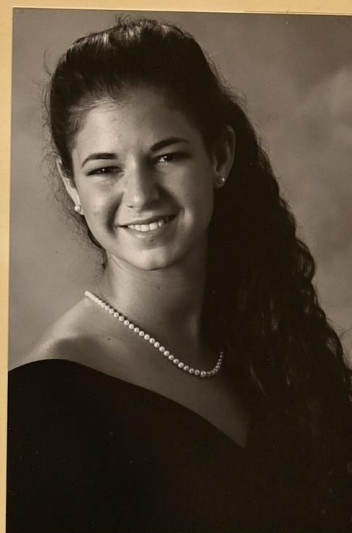




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DEBUTANTES 2001-2002



SARA ROSE AMES is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Granville Ames of Sarasota. She attends Pine View School, where she is a Scholar All-American. Sara is president of Future Business Leaders of America and was selected as a state delegate and Prudential Youth Leader.



KIMBERLY LYNN CHAVERS is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dunn Chavers of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School, where she is a member of the varsity baseball and varsity tennis teams. Kimberly serves as treasurer of SADD and vice president of Renaissance and is a member of the National Honor Society.



CHARLIE LEE COOK-ERLY is the daughter of Mrs. Kelly Kruger Cookerly of Sarasota. She attends Pine View School, where she is a member of the Spanish Club and is on the yearbook committee. Charlie is captain of the varsity cross country and varsity track teams. She is a volunteer for Special Olympics and is active in the Covenant Life Youth program.



AMANDA LOUISE FASOLI is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Alexander Fasoli of Bradenton. She attends Manatee High School, where she is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, the National Honor Society and the varsity tennis team. Amanda serves as editor of the Key Club and president of Manatee High School Teenage Republicans. She is also the winner of the Dartmouth Book Award.



LAUREN ELIZABETH GRAHAM is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Braun Howard Graham of Sarasota. She attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School, where she is a member of the Honor Roll, a Student Council Representative and is co-captain of the varsity swim team. Lauren has been a messenger for the State House of Representatives and is a member of Church of the Palms Youth Mission Team.



COURTNEY ELSPETH HOLLEN is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Rowland Hollen of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School, where she participates in the International Baccalaureate and Renaissance programs. Courtney is a member of the National Honor Society and the cross-country team. Her community activities include Church of the Palms Youth Mission Team and volunteering at the Humane Society.



SARAH ELIZABETH LANCASTER is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Paul Lancaster of Sarasota. She attends Sarasota High School, where she is a member of La Sertosa and the National Honor Society. Sarah serves as captain of the varsity volleyball, varsity basketball and varsity track teams.



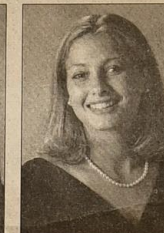
LAUREN BRITTANY MCCOMB is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward McComb of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School, where she is a varsity cheerleader. Lauren has been a member of the varsity track team and participates in weightlifting. She also serves as secretary of the Health Care Careers Club.



LAUREN ANNE MURPHY is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Murphy of Sarasota. She is a student at Riverview High School, where she is Student Council vice president and a member of the Homecoming Court. Lauren is the recipient of the International Foreign Language Award. She was also nominated to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.



STEPHANIE JO OLIVERI is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Nunzio Joseph Oliveri of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School and has been active in the Spanish, Interact and Social Justice clubs. Stephanie is a member of the National Honor Society and winner of the Dartmouth Book Award. She is also the recipient of the University of Rochester Humanities and Social Services Award.



MORGAN ELIZABETH POPE is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Ball Pope of Bradenton. She attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School and is an All-American cheerleader and dancer. Morgan is a member of the Harvard Model Congress and Renaissance Club. She also serves as captain of the varsity dance team and she plays varsity softball.



AL-LAYCIA KATYL WALTERS is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lincoln Walters of Bradenton. She attends Southeast High School, where she is on the honor roll and is the recipient of the President's Award and Student of the Year Award. Al-Laycia has participated in the Spanish club, Renaissance club, chorus and varsity track and field. She is a member of Delteens of Manatee County Inc.



BROOKE LAUREN SCHIEB is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Alan Schieb of Sarasota. She attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School, where she is a member of the varsity tennis team and the Mock Trial team. Brooke serves as co-editor of the yearbook and is a National Honor Society member. She participates in Church of the Palms Youth Mission Team and is a volunteer for KIDS by the Sea.



ELIZABETH DIANE SHIRLEY is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Dale Shirley of Sarasota. She attends Sarasota High School, where she is captain of the varsity swim team and a member of the National Honor Society. Elizabeth has been named to the USA Swimming Scholastic All-American Team and is a recipient of the Academic Athlete Award. She is also the YMCA "Sharks" team captain and a member and leader of Young Life.



TARA LINDSAY SMITH is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Michael Smith of Osprey. She attends Riverview High School, where she is co-captain of the varsity Speech and Debate team, a member of the Drama Club and a Highland Dancer with the Kiltie Band. Tara shows Arabian horses and is a national and regional dressage champion. She is also a member of the Church of the Palms Youth Mission Team.



MICHELLE LEE THOMAS is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Clifford Thomas of Sarasota. She attends Chatham Hall School, where she is a member of the Honor Council and president of Chatham Hall Senate. A National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, Michelle also rides horses on the national circuit.



DORINA JEAN VIRGILIO is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Grant Petrat of Sarasota and Paul Virgilio of Bradenton. She attends Bayshore High School, where she is secretary of the History Club. Dorina is a member of the Bayshore "Honeybears" dance team and was on the junior class board.



JENNIFER ALEXANDRA WILBUR is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Clark Wilbur of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School, where she participates in the International Baccalaureate Program. Jennifer is a member of the National Art Honors Society and the National Art Honors Society. Her community activities include volunteering for the Humane Society.



LYNN-DE WILLIAMS is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wesley Williams of Osprey. She attends the Out-of-Door Academy and is a member of the yearbook committee. Lynn-de is also a member of the Crew Team. Her community activities include volunteering with the Humane Society and the Child Development Center.



ERICA ANNE WOHLWEND is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis Richardson of Sarasota and Steven Edward Wohlwend of Clearwater. She attends Riverview High School, where she is a member of the varsity soccer team and a Highland Dancer with the Kiltie Band. Erica is a National Honor Society member, on the yearbook committee and a volunteer for G.W.I.Z. museum.



ASHLEY SEUNG HEE YUNG is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Enos Davidson of Bradenton. She attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School, where she is a member of Key Club and the Mock Trial Team. Ashley has participated in the Harvard Model of Congress and Spanish Conference.

The
Bradenton
Herald
December 11, 2001

BLACK TIE

The Social Observer

Inside Section B

Arts & Entertainment 7B
A&E Calendar 14B
Dining out 18B

DECEMBER 20, 2001



Michelle Thomas, Lauren Murphy, Jennifer Wilbur, Erica Wohlwend, Sara Ames and Elizabeth Shirley

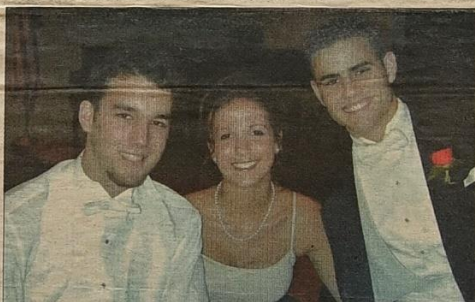
Photos by Lusia Sullivan



Lauren McComb and Lynn-de Williams



Dr. Robert and Amanda Fasoli



Josh Helmuth, Stephanie Olivieri and Logan Mirphy

Society welcome

By LUSIA SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

Twenty-one young ladies were presented to society at the annual Debutante Ball held Dec. 14 held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. It was an evening full of joy, tension and excitement.

As the debutantes prepared to

promenade through the hall and across the stage, their parents and grandparents looked on — some with tears in their eyes, while others faces brightened with tender smiles.

The ball, benefiting the Florida West Coast Symphony Youth Program, was chaired by Ethel Pawley and Debbie Partridge. □



Ashley Ying with little sister Nikki



Liz, Erica and Steve Wohlwend



Lauren Murphy

2001 - 2002



The Debutante Directory

Save This Date...

Friday, December 14th



The Post Debutantes are Planning a Celebration
at
The Debutante Ball - 2001
For our 20th Anniversary

Please join us on the Balcony
to see Old Friends and meet New Friends

The Debutante Committee

The pleasure of your company
is requested at an

Orientation Tea

on Sunday, May 20th
from Three to Five P.M.
Symphony Center/David Cohen Hall

R.S.V.P.
Mrs. Jane Faust 951-1507

Attire

Mothers & Debutantes:
Suits or afternoon dresses and heels
Please, no short skirts, spaghetti
straps or slip dresses

Fathers:

Sport jacket & tie
Please, no collarless shirts

Mother/Daughter Pot Luck Dinner

Tuesday, August 21, 2001
7:00 p.m.

at the home of
Dr. and Mrs. Issam Soussou
1559 Bay Point Drive
Sarasota

Dressy Casual

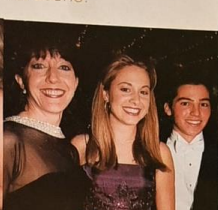
Shop by August 17th
with your favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert
366-7550



Ashley Yang



Tre Michel, Meredith Kuchler and Amanda Martin



Pam and Emily Kousar, Sarasota

limelight

Photos by Rebecca Baxter

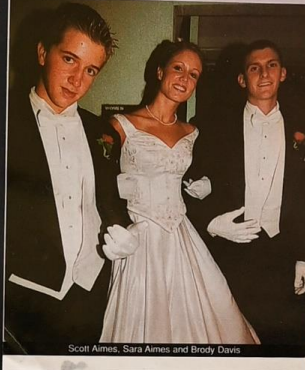
The definitive guide to the Sarasota social scene.

age of innocence

There may be some hardened souls who don't get misty viewing each year's crop of glowing young deb and their escorts, but we're not among them. Neither were the 530 guests (the most ever) at the 21st annual **Debutante Ball**, which benefits the **Florida West Coast Symphony**. Everybody gasped at the beautiful transformation of the Municipal Auditorium, but that was just a prelude to the teary smiles and applause when a diverse and radiant group of 21 deb made their curtsies and took to the floor with their daddies. Most joyful of all: **Tre Michel**, a deb at the first ball 21 years ago, which was organized by her late father **Bill**.



Brad Campbell, Lauren and Bill McComb and Justin Worsley



Scott Ames, Sara Ames and Brody Davis



Michael Thomas and Christopher Hansen



Ella McComb and Susan Worsley

SARASOTA March 2002 43

ON THE EDGE Contemporary Music with **Leif Bjaland** and the **Symphony Musicians**
April 12 • 8 pm • Holley Hall
Works by Steve Reich, Luciano Berio, George Crumb, James Grant and George Perle. General Admission \$10.

VOLUME XXX, NO. 3
FEB/MAR 2002

Score

FLORIDA WEST COAST SYMPHONY

MAGIC IN MARCH
at Holley Hall

Symphony

Spotlight



The Debutante Ball



The 20th annual Debutante Ball was held on Friday evening, December 14th. While encouraging young women to step out into the world with pride and self-confidence, the Debutante organization raises funds for the Youth Orchestra program, thus enriching the lives of youngsters who might never have been exposed to the joys of classical music. Twenty-one beautiful young ladies were presented this year.

Elbel Pawley, president of the Debutante Executive Board, shares a happy moment with **Joe McKenna** and **Paul Wolfe**. A record 500 people attended this year's Ball at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.



The Debutante Committee

requests the pleasure of your company

at

The Debutante Ball

Friday evening, the fourteenth of December

Two thousand and one

City of Sarasota

Municipal Auditorium

In Honour of the
2001-2002 Debutantes

Miss Sara Rose Ames
Miss Kimberly Lynn Chavers
Miss Charlie Lee Cookerly
Miss Amanda Louise Fasoli
Miss Lauren Elizabeth Graham
Miss Courtney Elspeth Hollen
Miss Sarah Elizabeth Lancaster
Miss Lauren Brittany McComb
Miss Lauren Anne Murphy
Miss Stephanie Jo Olivieri
Miss Morgan Elizabeth Pope
Miss Al-Laycia Katyl Salters
Miss Brooke Lauren Schieb
Miss Elizabeth Diane Shirley
Miss Tara Lindsay Smith
Miss Michelle Lee Thomas
Miss Dorina Jean Virgilio
Miss Jennifer Alexandra Wilbur
Miss Lynn-de Williams
Miss Erica Anne Wohlwend
Miss Ashley Seung Hee Ying

The Debutante Ball



Friday evening, the fourteenth of December
Two thousand and one



Before
the
Ball





The

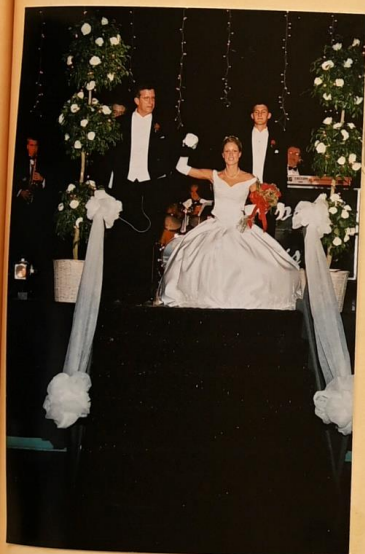


Processional





The



Curtsey





The Promenade



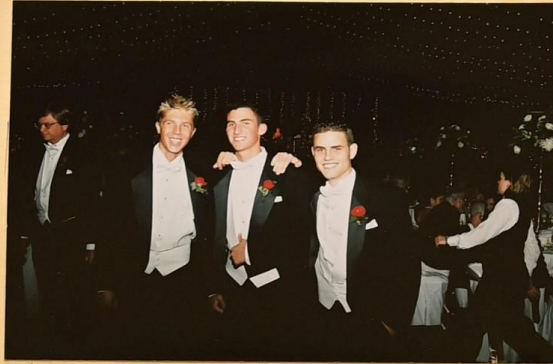
The Grand Waltz

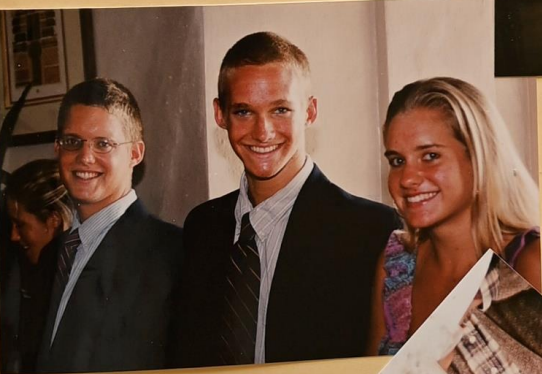




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Sarah Lancaster Liz Shirley Michelle Thomas

SOME LIKE IT

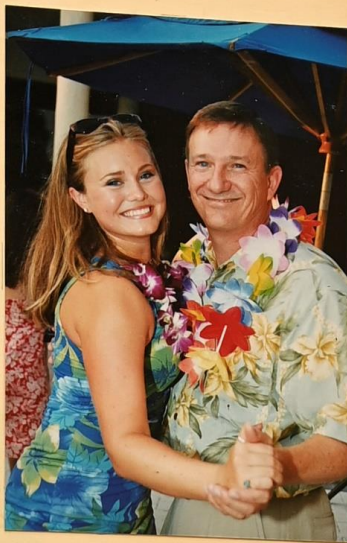
HOT

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A CELEBRATION
HONORING OUR DAUGHTERS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2001
AT 7:30 PM
CHELSEA CENTER
2506 GULF GATE DRIVE

Join in the fun & dress in red-black-white
Semi-Formal
RSVP by August 3rd: (941) 365-1644

Marlene & Alex Lancaster
Barbara & Jim Shirley
Dora Maria & Nevin Thomas





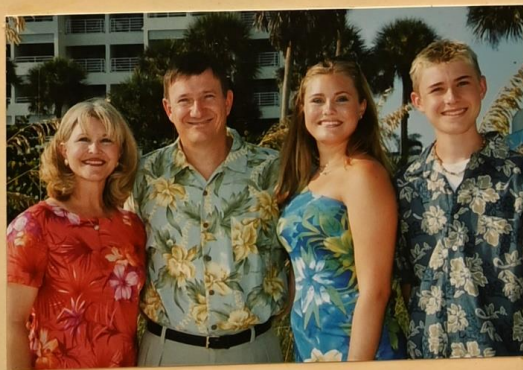
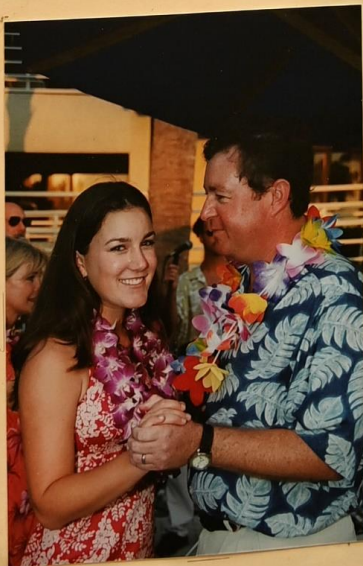
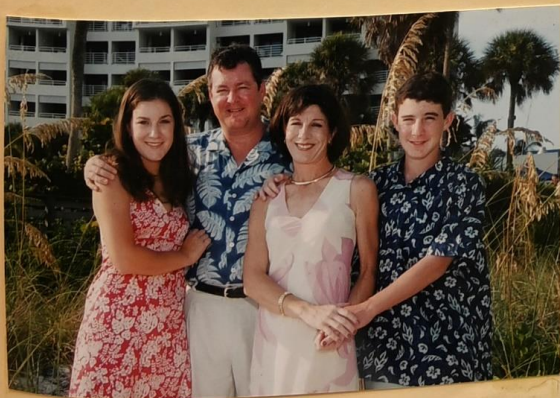
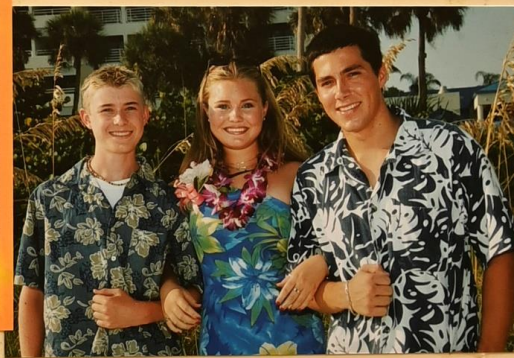
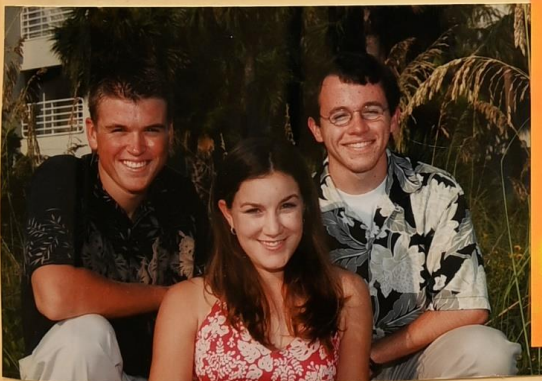
"Reggae on the Bay"

Friday, August 24, 2001
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Longboat Key Club
Poolside

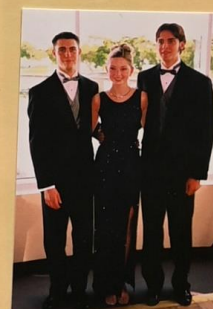
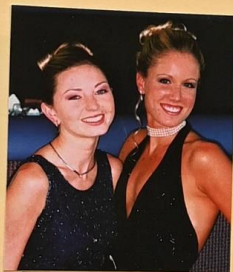
Hosted by:
Lauren Graham
Brooke Schieb
Ashley Ying

Attire: Island Casual

RSVP by August 17
366-8232 Lauren 379-9005 Brooke









THE BIG 80'S... TOP GUN... MILLI VANILLI... SKINNY TIES... MALL HAIR... BILLY IDOL... MOONWALKING... 867-5309... THE BREAKFAST CLUB... ACID WASHED JEANS... SWATCH WATCHES... THE PREPPIE HANDBOOK BIKER SHORTS UNDER SHORT SKIRTS... PARACHUTE PANTS... HOT FOR TEACHER... WAX ON, WAX OFF... HUBBA BUBBA BUBBLE GUM... MIAMI VICE... MARY LOU RETTON... CHURCH LADY... GAG ME WITH A SPOON PUNK ROCKERS... BREAK DANCING... THE BLUES BROTHERS... BEVERLY HILLS COP... THE POLICE... CHEERS WAKE ME UP BEFORE YOU GO-GO... WAYFARERS... GNARLY... THRILLER... MULTI COLORED SCRUNCH SOCKS

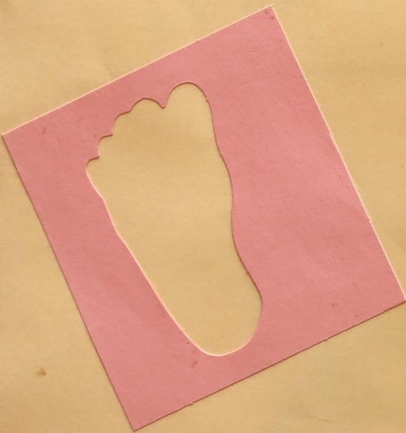
ITALIAN HORNS...
...DIRTY DANCING
GRODY TO THE MAX
LIVE AID... DALLAS
PEOPLES EXPRESS
JUST SAY NO...
CAMARO Z-28
THE TERMINATOR...
SNIGLETS... DEVO...
FLASH DANCE...
THE SMURFS...
PAC-MAN... DYNASTY
ARTHUR... SPANDEX...
POP ROCKS... WHAM!
HILL STREET BLUES
THE BAHU HUT... FAME
LIKE A VIRGIN
CROCODILE DUNDEE
WKRP IN CINCINATI
AQUA NET... TOOTSIE
VUARNET... JELLIES
SHOULDER PADS
FIRE MARSHALL BILL
ROLEX WATCHES...
GHOSTBUSTERS...
THE CURE... MAD MAX
WONDER WOMAN
TEQUILA... LOVE BOAT
SPACE INVADERS...
NORM AND CLIFF...
LABAMBA... TUBULAR
LETHAL WEAPON
TRANSFORMERS...
GEORGE MICHAEL...
WHO SHOT J.R.?
BETTY DAVIS EYES...
RAINMAN... SHEILA E.
SUPER MARIO BROS.

BORN IN THE 80'S
It's GOING TO BE A BLAST
WITH AN
80'S PARTY FROM THE PAST!
COME CELEBRATE
THE DEBUTANTE SEASON WITH
LAUREN McCOMB
DORINA VIRGILIO
LYNN-DE WILLIAMS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2001
7:30 P.M.
BIRD KEY YACHT CLUB
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
BE HIP, DRESS 80'S!
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 29TH
(941) 966-7030 (Mrs. Karen Williams)

ELLE & BILL McCOMB
CINDY & WIL PETRAT
KAREN & WES WILLIAMS

BOY TOY... JOURNEY... ROBERT PALMER'S "IRRESISTABLE" BACK UP BAND... ELVIRA, MISTRESS OF THE DARK 306TH BOMB SQUADRON... HOMIE DON'T PLAY DAT... BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE... FOOTLOOSE... JUNK BONDS... JANE FONDA WORKOUT VIDEOS... A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS... WHATCHU TALKIN' ABOUT, WILLIS? NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK... SOLID GOLD DANCERS... PEE-WEE'S PLAYHOUSE... YOU LOOK MAHVAALEOUS... FERRIER WITH A TWIST... REFRIGERATOR PERRY... TURNED-UP COLLARS... AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN... DUNGEONS & DRAGONS... THE WEDDING OF CHARLES & DIANA... THE DUKES OF HAZZARD... CHAKA KHAN BOY GEORGE AND CULTURE CLUB... FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH... WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN... BEAT IT





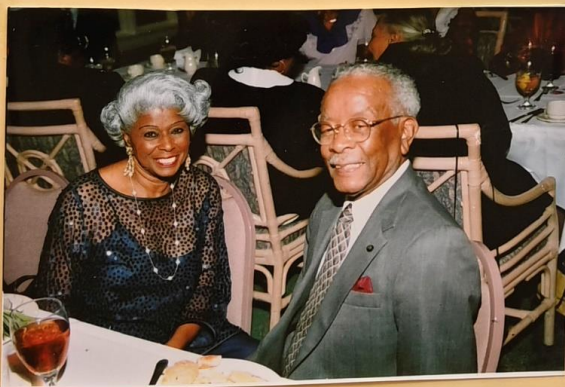
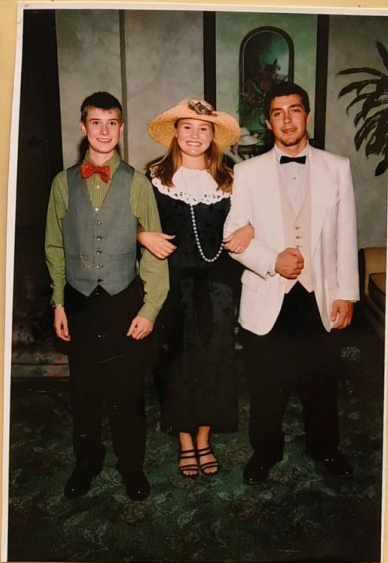

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Salter
request the pleasure of your company
at a Debutante Theme Party

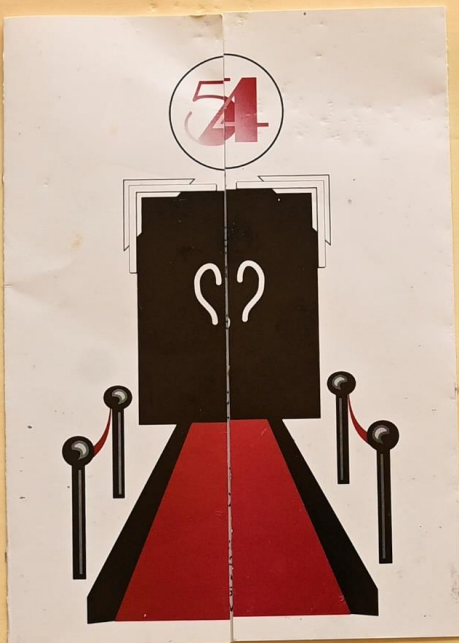
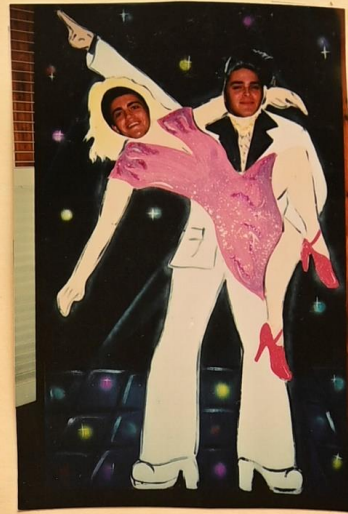
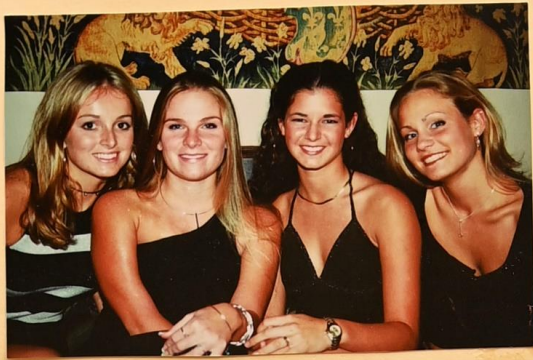
"An Old-Fashioned Social"
in honour of their daughter
Miss Al-Laycia Katyl Salters

Sunday, October 28, 2001
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Rosedale Country Club
5100 87th Street East (S.R. 70)
Bradenton

Theme Party Attire
and Musicale

Rsvp by October 20th
(941)739-8020



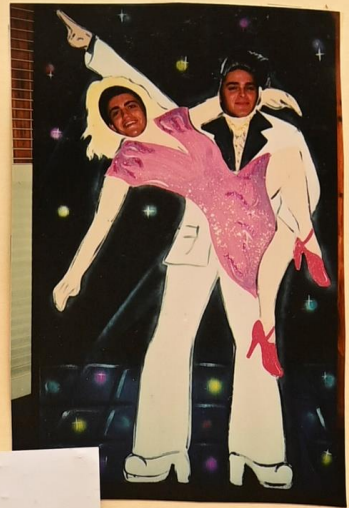


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DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
AT A DEBUTANTE PARTY
IN HONOR
OF OUR DAUGHTERS

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2001
7:30 PM

THE FIELD CLUB

FEEL FREE TO JOIN THE FUN IN
70's DISCO OR NIGHTCLUB
ATTIRE

RSVP 377-9862
BY NOVEMBER 10 (LINDA HOLLEN)

Linda & Chuck Hollen
Lilli Anne & Charlie Murphy
Lisa & Dave Richardson
Laurie & Steve Wilbur
Steve Wohlwend



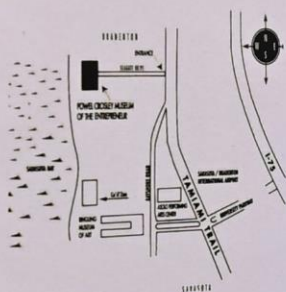
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The Museum is Located at One Seagate Drive
8374 North Tamiami Trail

*Let the Good Times Roll
Down on the bayou
Honoring*

*Amanda Fasoli
And
Morgan Pope*

*Saturday January 5
7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Powell Crosley Mansion*

Authentic Cajun Cuisine

*Entertainment by New Orleans
Recording artists
George Porter, Jr. & Runnin' Parners*

Casual attire

*RSVP by December 29
Bob & Maureen Fasoli 794-0827
Dan & Becky Pope 792-6926*



VALENTINE POPS CONCERT
The traditional Valentine Pops Concert, sponsored by the Manatee Symphony Association, had the Manatee Convention and Civic Center in Palmetto swinging Saturday night as Leif Bjaland conducted the Florida West Coast Symphony.

The symphony orchestra performed 20th-century classics by composers Gershwin, Armstrong and others for "That's Entertainment," the theme of this year's concert. Dee Bennett was this year's "mystery maestro."

The Manatee County tradition of hosting the symphony's Valentine's Day concert also includes the presentation of this season's debutantes from Manatee and Sarasota counties, introduced in December in Sarasota. This year's debuts were: Sara Rose Ames, Kimberly Lynn Chavers, Charlie Lee Cookerly, Amanda Louise Fasoli, Lauren Elizabeth Graham, Courtney Elspeth Hollen, Sarah Elizabeth Lancaster, Lauren Brittany McComb, Lauren Anne Murphy, Stephanie Jo Olivieri, Morgan Elizabeth Pope, Al-Laycia Katyl Salters, Brooke Lauren Schieb,

Elizabeth Diane Shirley, Tara Lindsay Smith, Michelle Lee Thomas, Dorina Jean Virgilio, Jennifer Alexandra Wilbur, Lynn-De Williams, Erica Anne Wohlwend and Ashley Seung Hee Ying.

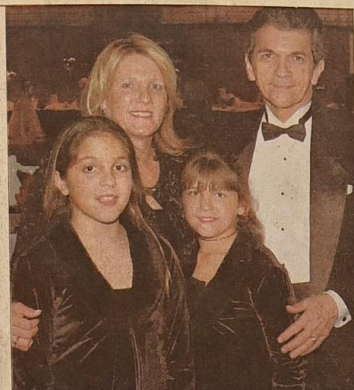
PEOPLE



Artie Bartholomew, left, Lauren Graham and Worth Graham at the Valentine Pops ball.



Marcus Lowe, left, Al-Laycia Salters and Alton Lilly at the Valentine Pops ball.



VALENTINE POPS

ABOVE: The Oliveri family — Jena, left, Carol, Emily and N.J. — at the Valentine Pops ball at the Manatee Civic Center. **LEFT:** Alvin and Delseta Salters.



Photos by RICHARD M. BROOKS
The Herald

Sports

RETURN OF THE BRAND-NAME DRIVER

Michael Andretti's victory in the CART Long Beach Grand Prix Sunday reminded people there is still life in America's first family of race drivers. The win was his second at Long Beach, the sixth for a member of the Andretti clan. His father, Mario, won the event four times. **3C**

AMERICAN LEAGUE

RED SOX 4, YANKEES 3
WHITE SOX 13, ORIOLES 4

PRO BASKETBALL

BULLS 98, SIXERS 96
CELTICS 93, TIMBERWOLVES 90

SPORTS ON CALL

Call NFLonline for updated scores. The numbers and category codes are on Page 4C.

C HERALD-TRIBUNE / TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2002

www.heraldtribune.com



STAFF PHOTO / ROD MILLINGTON / rod.millington@heraldtribune.com
Amanda Fasoli, a senior at Manatee High, sets up to return a shot to Sara Dart of Riverview High at Sarasota High on Monday. Fasoli beat Dart, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-2.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS / Class 4A-District 6 Tournament

Lady Sailors, 'Canes grab leads

By PERRY D. PENTZ
perry.pentz@heraldtribune.com

SARASOTA — All season, the Sarasota and Riverview High girls tennis teams were the best of Class 4A-District 6.

So it wasn't surprising to see the Lady Sailors and Lady Rams in first and second place after the first day of the district tournament Monday at Sarasota High.

The Lady Sailors, which had all the top-seeded players going into the tournament, lead

Riverview by two points and will play in all five singles finals.

In the regular season, both teams finished with 11-0 dual meet records.

"All our girls are seeded to win and they did just that," said Sarasota High girls coach Lucy Cowan. "It was a good start."

Sarasota and Riverview will match up at No. 2 and 3 singles while four of the five singles finals will have an all-local flair.

In the boys tournament at Riverview High, Manatee

leads with 10 points while Venice and Sarasota are tied for second with eight points.

Manatee still has five singles players and a doubles team alive.

"We are playing pretty good," said Manatee High boys coach Brian McAllister. "I thought if we played to our ability we would be on top."

Manatee and Venice will collide in three of the five singles finals and all of the singles finals will feature area players.

PLEASE SEE TENNIS ON 3C

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 Judge weighs constitutionality of restricting autopsy photos. PAGE 12C

LOCAL & STATE



Photos by GRANT JEFFERIES/The Herald

Above, Saint Stephen's student Ashley Ying acting as the plaintiff's attorney, gives opening statements in a mock trial at the Manatee County Courthouse. Saint Stephen's and Manatee High competed in competition finals Tuesday. Below, Manatee High student Laura Seheult, acting as a defense attorney, listens to arguments.

Future lawyers win mock trial

MICHAEL BARBER
 Herald Staff Writer

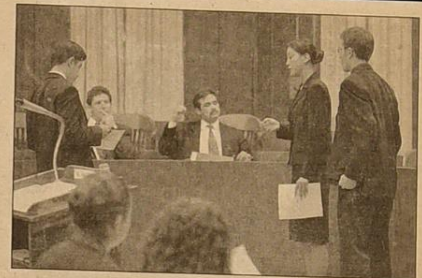
BRADENTON — Jurors determined Tuesday night that Metro City's contaminated water supply killed Sam Jones — and eight students at Saint Stephen's Episcopal School couldn't be happier.

By proving that Metro City was culpable in Jones' demise, Saint Stephen's topped Manatee High to win the 12th Judicial Circuit High School Mock Trial Competition at the Manatee County Courthouse. The fictitious case centered around a terminally ill man whose death was supposedly hastened by hazardous drinking water.

The win advances Saint Stephen's to



MOCK TO 10C



GRANT JEFFERIES/The Herald

Ashley Ying, far right, attorney for the plaintiff, approaches the "jury" with a witness, Justin Winkel, while Josh Spagnola, left, looks on during the mock trial.

MOCK FROM 1C

the Florida Mock Trial Competition to be held in Orlando later this month. This marks the fourth-straight year Saint Stephen's has advanced to the state competition.

"We started working on this back in October, usually twice a week," said Saint Stephen's senior Will Butler, who delivered his team's closing argument. "I think the key, more than anything else, is familiarity with the case. If you have that, you have the confidence you need."

In addition to Butler, the Saint Stephen's team consisted of Brooke Schieb, Ashley Ying, Felix Boecker, Justin Weinkle, Morgan Woodland, Andrew Gestrich and Mitchel Galizia.

In the scoring system used by the jurors, Saint Stephen's outscored Manatee by a final margin of 294 to 285.

The members of the Manatee team included Cara Perinetti, Laura Seheult, Josh Spagnola, David Kye, Steven Hussey, Lace Allenius, Stephanie Stratos and Carl MacMichael.

"This is the fourth year I've done this and it's one of the greatest things I've done in high school," said Perinetti, who plans to study law in college. "It was a great experience."

Saint Stephen's and Manatee advanced to Tuesday night's final by surviving qualifying rounds last Saturday that included six county high schools.

The mock trials were held in real courtrooms in front of real judges. Local attorneys acted as jurors and ultimately decided which team won.

Tuesday's final was

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Scott Kallins

local attorney with Kallins & Little, P.A.

presided over by Manatee County Judge Doug Henderson. The three jurors were attorneys Brett McIntosh of Sympula and McIntosh, Scott Kallins of Kallins & Little, P.A., and Cynthia Barry of Barry & Newhall, P.A.

The competition was sponsored by the Manatee County Bar Association and R.B. "Chips" Shore, clerk of the circuit court and comptroller.

"These two schools have an amazing track record in this competition," said Judge Henderson, who has a long affiliation with the mock trial program. "These students are ready to be lawyers right now."

The real lawyers who sat on the jury heaped praise on both teams.

"I was extraordinarily impressed with the poise they demonstrated and with their preparation," Kallins said. "All of the students were extremely articulate and capable."

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