

huge opportunity here to create, in a sense, a utopia which has to do with respecting the environment, respecting differences, respecting integration of people of different ages—truly honoring diversity in every sense.

FS: Last year, you were considering throwing your hat in the ring for mayor.

TL: Yeah, my life was a mess.

FS: Why did you change your mind?

TL: I couldn't. The band wasn't taken care of. The album wasn't out. I was a personal mess. My relationship was a mess. There was no support. I would have been nuts.

FS: How do you feel about the over-

whelming anti-gay votes across the country?

TL: It's not surprising. I think that unfortunately gay marriage and that whole thing really ruined the election. I think it was the motivating factor for all of those people who go to church and are fearful of gay people. That's why we lost so big, and that's why Bush is still in power. It's because Karl Rove successfully made everybody frightened of gay marriage...if it wasn't election fraud, then it had to be gay marriage.

FS: What do you think that progressives need to do to take down these bastards?

TL: I think we need to be involved in other people's struggles, ones that are

not related at all to gay stuff, like building alliances with people around issues which are not ostensibly affecting us. Like education...I think the educational system is set up for only a few people to succeed, and everybody else just sort of gets by or falls through the cracks. It really takes individual attention. I was always lucky. Growing up, people always paid attention to me. That can't be said of most young people.

FS: Running around town in a dress probably helped.

TL: Well, it didn't hurt. But to be able to feel that supported that I felt comfortable enough to do that is a pretty amazing thing.... I had a gay father and a very supportive moth-

er and a fantastic set of older people who I listened to—my piano teacher, my English teacher from high school. Most people don't have that growing up. If you're not unconditionally loved growing up, I think you're fucked, totally fucked. ☐

PINK MARTINI performs 8 p.m. Dec. 28 at Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Ticket prices and opening acts to be announced. For more information visit www.pinkmartini.com.

Contrary to popular belief, FLOYD SKLAVER has a life that doesn't revolve around Marc Acito. Write him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.



Ann Magnuson at the opening of the Standard Hotel in Los Angeles



New York drag queen Joey Arias and Ryan Offutt



Niqi Monroe at the final Peacock in the Park



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