



'GARFLIED THE MOVIE'
TOPS THE CHARTS
ENTERTAINMENT C5



SAO PAOLO TEAM PRACTICES
FOR THE WORLD CUP
SPORTS D8



GREAT MEN TALK POLITICS AT
THIS FAMOUS MEETING
WORLD D8

THE ST. PETE DAILY

WEDNESDAY • June 15, 2004

St. Pete's Leading community newspaper

35¢

INSIDE

NATION & WORLD

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CITY & STATE

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ENTERTAINMENT

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FEATURES

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TOMORROW'S PAPER

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WEATHER

MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 89 LOW 73
20% CHANCE
OF RAIN

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“I’m going to sound lusty tonight.” Oh Judy, B. Goode



ABOVE: Goode belts out “New York, New York” with her dog Chloe dressed for the occasion in a tuxedo. Chloe usually isn’t in Goode’s act, “This is her debut,” Goode said.

STORY BY LARRY CLOW
PHOTOS BY LISA HORNSTEIN

Judy B. Goode (yes, that’s her real name) takes the stage in tight black shorts and a black tank top with a sequined “J” on her breast. In her right hand is a microphone; tucked under her left arm is Chloe, a blind toy poodle dressed in a tuxedo.

“I’ve never sung to a sober group before,” Goode says before launching into a subdued rendition of “New York, New York.”

As Goode sings, Marlo and Rocko, two dogs in a cage next to the stage, bark and howl with the music. Goode laughs at the dogs and takes a break from the song. Her voice will be a little weak today, she explains—she’s been cheering for the Light-

ning all week.

“I’m going to sound lusty tonight,” she says.

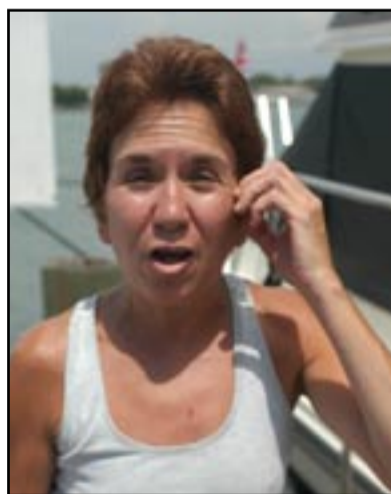
As Goode winds down with “New York, New York,” she lets the dogs bark for the big finish. She does a quick costume change; out of a blue plastic container she pulls a flowing black wig, some beads, and a mustache. She hits play on the stereo and the melody to “I Got You Babe” starts playing.

What happens next is a unique one-person duet. She throws on the black wig and lowers her voice so that it’s deep and husky. She starts singing “I Got You Babe” and does a fair imitation of Cher.

“This is going to be difficult,” she says as the chorus comes up.

For the big finish, Goode dolls up the wig and slaps the mustache on her face, sings “I got you to hold

JUDY CONT’D F6



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BY JANE RODRIGUEZ

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STORY3 CONT’D C6

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BY ALLEN GOODALL

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STORY3 CONT’D C6

Cooking up values with Caribbean cuisine

BY NICHOL HARPS
PHOTOS BY LISA HORNSTEIN

The M & N Island Kitchen is 100 percent owned-operated by husband and wife team, Monty and Nikita Goslin.

“We had to save a lot, to open up this business,” said Monty, as he cleans off his cooking station. Monty and Nikita disciplined themselves to save for three little investments.

“We’re in a good, central, midtown location,” said Nikita, who was born and raised in Saint Petersburg.

And Dominique, 10, Elijah, 2, and Trinity, 9 months (Monty and Nikita’s children) are positioned in a “good, central location” to learn some valuable lessons.

The M & N Island Kitchen is more than beef patties and cocoa bread. Monty and Nikita are presenting a legacy based on hard work and self-sufficiency, to their three children.

The Goslin’s spend many days and nights at the Island Kitchen. Usually, Monty arrives at the restaurant at 8 a.m. in preparation for the day. Nikita stays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Monty closes. The Island Kitchen does not have a large staff, because it is important for the Goslin’s to work hard themselves, to maintain their investment. It’s an investment that is as precious to them as their children’s futures. They choose to operate every other Sunday, to allow themselves time to rest. On this particular day, Elijah is the host. He smiles at us as we enter and wave as we exit.

“We want to instill these values in our children,” said Nikita, who sold women’s accessories independently, before starting the restaurant with her husband. Nikita still maintains that business. Reiterating to her children, through example, that “Nothing comes easy, and you must work for whatever you want.”

M & N Island Kitchen is a marriage of spices and of cultures. Monty is from Jamaica, he represents the “M,” his wife Nikita is from Florida, and she represents the “N.” The duo joined together four years ago in matrimony. This past February, they renewed their vows to serve up Jamaican cuisine at M & N Island Kitchen.

The Goslin’s are setting up a foundation for their children and children’s children. They hope to expand this restaurant into an enterprise spreading throughout Saint Petersburg, Tampa and beyond. Prior to creating this restaurant, Monty worked at the Taste of the Islands

CARIBBEAN CONT’D D6



ABOVE: Goode's tattoo combines both a pink triangle and the pride rainbow. Most people think it's the number seven, Goode said.

“ Gay guys would come in and say ‘Bette Midler started out in bath houses, you should come to a gay bar because the boys love you.’ ”



ABOVE: Goode released her first album last fall and has sold more than 150 copies.



ABOVE: With her dog Chloe in hand, Judy B. Goode sings during the Pride Pet Show Saturday at The Platform in St. Petersburg.



ABOVE: Goode walks to her day job on Treasure Island at the Tennis and Yacht Club where she cleans both boats and houses.

Oh Judy, B. Goode

JUDY CONT'D F6

my hand” in Sonny Bono’s nasal voice, yanks the mustache off, throws the wig on, and sings “I got you to understand” as Cher. The dogs keep barking and there is a smattering of applause from the crowd of 15 people.

Goode’s latest gig is emceeing the Pride Pet Show held at Grand Central Station, at 2612 Central Ave., part of the annual St. Pete Pride Festival. Goode’s 30-year career has taken her from Ohio to Florida and to Europe and back. On June 25, Goode, 49, will have another crack at stardom: her song, “God Made a Rainbow of People” will be used in a JumboTron video at the Toronto Skydome as part of Pride Community Day, sponsored by the Toronto Blue Jays.

By day, Goode cleans houses in St. Petersburg. Every Thursday night at 6:30, however, she channels the spirits of Liza Minelli and Judy Garland and takes the stage at Grand Central Station to sing a mix of original songs and covers.

“I think she has a very eclectic style. She’s diverse, very talented,” said Deb Belinsky, executive producer of game entertainment at the SkyDome in Toronto. While in town two weeks ago to see a Tampa Bay Lightning game, Belinsky and a friend caught Goode’s performance at the Station. When Belinsky heard Goode’s song, she asked to use it in the JumboTron video.

“What I liked about [the song was] it transcended all

this issue and meaning and everything else and [said] people are people...and I think that’s an important message to convey if you can,” said Belinsky.

Brian Koch and Chris Bohmholz, patrons at the bar, had Goode perform at their May 15 wedding.

“God Made a Rainbow of People” was our opening song,” Bohmholz said. “When she did her performance, everybody loved it, even the straight people. We’re trying our best to make her big.”

Goode sits at the bar of Grand Central Station, drinking a Stolli martini, straight up and dirty, with two giant olives in the center of the glass. Whenever she wants to make a point, has something serious to say, or has a juicy bit of gossip, she leans in close and grabs my arm. Tending bar is Mark Bias, one of Goode’s best friends. As we talk, the two trade quick quips with each other.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Goode was “always a ham” as a kid. She grew up listening to Judy Garland and Broadway music. Goode got serious about theatre as a teenager when, after seeing “1776,” she rushed out to buy the script book and recreated the production in her room, featuring herself in every role. After that, she went to summer theatre camps and was set to go to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts on a scholarship when she was 19. Goode wanted to be “Liza Minelli and Judy Garland all wrapped up into one.”

“I did one of those dumb things and got married instead,” she said.

Goode Broadway for bars and started singing at watering holes in Cleveland.

“I only knew ten songs,” she said. “This Italian guy who was running the bar, he said ‘You’ve got to wear make up, you’ve got to wear slinky clothes.’ He really shaped me...I was a lounge lizard back then.”

After moving to Florida in 1979, Goode began singing at a Holiday Inn and garnered a following of gay men.

“Gay guys would come in and say ‘Bette Middler started in bath houses, you should come to a gay bar because the boys love you,’” she said.

She made friends in the gay community and was invited to start singing in a lesbian bar in Tampa.

“I said ‘Oh no no no, that’s a lesbian bar and I’m straight,’” she said. “But I went there and the next thing you know...”

Goode came out in 1984. She is unflinchingly honest when she talks about her husband’s reaction. “He tried to kill himself...he cried and then I felt bad,” she said. “He’s a good man, the only man I ever loved. He was very handsome, he looked like a young Robert Redford.”

Goode’s mother learned she was gay a short time later. Sitting on the beach one afternoon, Goode’s mother asked about her partner, Angie.

“My mom leaned over and said ‘I know Angie’s gay. Are you gay, Judy?’ And I said yes,

and she said, ‘Are you happy?’ I told her I was and she said okay, and that was it.”

She pauses, and before the conversation gets too serious, says, “My brother’s always been a pain in the ass though, but he voted for Bush, so what does he know?”

Goode divorced her husband, David, in 1984, and began traveling. Meanwhile, Goode’s kids, Todd and Candi, were living in Florida with their father. “I spent most of their time growing up talking to them on the phone,” she said.

“I couldn’t stand leaving my kids. I’ll never forget what my daughter said to me before I left. She said, ‘Mommy, it’s okay, go after your dream,’” Goode said. Since then, Goode’s dreams have changed.

“It used to be to be big and famous, but it’s impossible now unless you’re Britney Spears...and anyhow, I’m a cabaret singer. Right now, I’m just shooting for this song to be heard. I think it needs to be heard by the whole country.”

Goode has been cleaning houses for the last three years, but she doesn’t like to dwell on the topic. She started the job following a break-up with Kathy, a long-time girlfriend.

“I was with [Kathy] for 11 years. Everybody I’ve been with has always been the breadwinner,” she says. “She left me about four years ago.” Kathy owned the house and during the break-up, told Goode, “one of us has to go.”

“I told her I was staying, and she said, ‘How are you going

“ [My dream] used to be to be big and famous, but it’s impossible now unless you’re Britney Spears and anyhow, I’m a cabaret singer. ”

to survive?” Goode says. “But I survived, because that’s what I did.”

Goode is only slightly bitter about the break up. She wrote a song for her ex, titled “Rot in Hell,” and put it on her CD.

Since then, Goode has stayed single.

“And I don’t want anyone,” she says. “All I need is my little toy poodle.”

After Kathy left, Goode stopped singing for two years and became depressed.

“I lost faith in everything. It’s a hard business. My girlfriend left, I got depressed, tried to slit my wrists. I went to Morton Plant (Hospital in Clearwater),” she says. “Then I realized those people were all nuts there. I’m crazy in a good way, not crazy that way.”

Bias, who also owns MC Films in St. Petersburg, got her back on stage.

“Judy is genuine. She’s

100 per cent just Judy. She doesn’t try to be anyone but herself,” he says. “She’s the John Waters of the lesbian scene. She has her own little cult following.”

Bias encouraged her to record a CD last fall. The CD has sold more than 150 copies since its debut.

“I just want people to hear me,” she says.

Bias slips Goode’s CD into the stereo and plays “God Made a Rainbow of People.” Goode stands up and starts singing along. A few feet away from Goode, Koch and Bohmholz embrace and start to dance. Goode grabs her martini glass, the two men grab their beers, and they toast.