

## Robbie Simoes

by Doug Kent

Our story this month begins way south of the United States. Mr. May (Mr. M) began his life in a very small town on March 2, 1940. He was the oldest of two boys and had a very normal life until his parents divorced when he was two years old. He moved with his mother to live with his grandparents. At age 13 his grandparents passed away and he and his mother move to a much larger city where he began high school. Childhood continued on a very normal path until Mr. M was 15 years old and he met his first partner, who was much older. This relationship lasted only 27 years.

While in his fourth year of a six year medical school program, Mr. M had an unfortunate accident that crushed both femurs. He was in a full body cast for the next two years. He and his partner sold all their assets and in 1967, while still on crutches, Mr. M relocated to Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Not knowing English, Mr. M was able to find an entry level position in the hospitality industry as he studied and learned English. In 1969 Mr. M moved to Columbus, Georgia and began working in a bakery. He met and married his wife of two years but still maintained his relationship with his partner. The marriage ended in divorce with no children involved in 1971, and Mr. M and his partner moved to Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. M and his partner were able to find factory work in Chicago. In 1975 Mr. M began studying electronic engineering at DeVry University and in 1979 he graduated with his degree. Now a college graduate, Mr. M began work with International Imaging Electronics as an electronic engineer. Life was good for Mr. M and his partner. In 1980 Mr. M's partner retired, and decided to return to his native country. They parted on good terms and remained good friends.

In 1983 Mr. M met his second partner. They dated for a short period of time and then decided to move in together. They purchased a home and lived together for the next 23 years. They both worked and traveled a great deal. Life was good for both of them. Mr. M's partner retired in 1997. Mr. M decided to end his working career in 1999 at the age of 59. They bought a home in Fort Lauderdale, after

after visiting the area many times, and settled into the life of retirement. Mr. M became a beach bum and went to the beach virtually every day. He of course met and developed many friendships at the beach and developed a kind of reputation with the many fashionable swim suites he wore and changed every day. His partner on the other hand did not like the beach and became the gardener at their home. Their life together in Fort Lauderdale was wonderful and they were very much a part of the gay life that was developing in the area.

Tragedy struck this happy couple in July 2005. After a prolonged illness, Mr. M lost his partner to cancer. He passed away quietly in the home that they both loved. Down and lonely, Mr. M continued his life as best he could after two very successful and long term relationships. He was not used to being alone.

He traveled back to his native country as he had done every year, and as fate would have it, he met his third partner. After extensive dating while he was in his home country, his new partner came to the United States in March of 2006. Mr. M and his new love have a wonderful life together in the same house in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. M enjoys every day he can at the beach while his new partner works and keeps the yard in great shape. They enjoy their time together and Mr. M is no longer alone.

Mr. M is a Prime Timer with a very active social life. He enjoys his home, his birds, his mango trees, and of course the beach. He still does extensive travel to his home country as well as other parts of the world. His low key demeanor, his positive attitude towards the world, his relaxed approach to life make him easy to talk with and a joy to be around. So you think you know who Mr. May could be? Make your guess now.

