

Bill Farrington

by Doug Kent

Winter had just given up its freezing grip on New Haven Connecticut when Mr. October (Mr. O) decided to enter the world on the evening of April 21, 1945. He had also decided then and there he would be the only child of his loving parents, both of which were school teachers in their late forties.

Mr. O's mother and her only child developed a very deep bond, and education was always stressed in their home. Mr. O's early education was relatively uneventful, good grades, reasonable childhood activity, and help from mom, made sure he breezed through grade school. High school was also uneventful, except for an emerging propensity for drawing and playing the clarinet. He also had the dubious distinction of being the only member of his senior class to take a girl to the prom who entered the convent shortly after graduation.

Southern Connecticut State University was Mr. O's next adventure. Hard work and long study hours yielded his BA in Political Science in 1967. Having lost his 2S deferment for the draft, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, spending most of his time at Andrews AFB, in Maryland and had a wonderful overseas tour, to the ever beautiful, Da Nang Air Base in Viet Nam.

Now safe and sound back in the good old USA, Mr. O concentrated on his education, receiving his first Masters in 1973 in Art Education and his second Masters in Counseling with a concentration in Guidance in 1981, both from Southern Connecticut State University. Fully educated now, he began his work career counseling young people in various high schools. Mr. O was devastated by the passing of his beloved mother in 1988; they had shared a very special bond together due to his father's separation from her. He was fortunate however to be able to re-establish a loving relationship with his father, who was now living in Florida. They were able to spend three great years together before he passed away in 1993. Mr. O continued his career working with various state organizations and mental health agencies, and finally retired in June of 2010.

Mr. O never married as a result of his experience with the senior prom. He had his first

male encounter with an ex-priest in 1977.

Throughout his career he had casual contacts with various men, but established a relationship with his first live-in partner in 1996. It lasted 7 years and he remains close to him to this day. It was in April 2010 that Mr. O met, and is still with, his current partner and is "happily ever after".

Mr. O has traveled extensively, is a member of SAGE and Prime Timers, and attends all the fine arts and theater he can. He is an accomplished artist and has worked in many different media. He enjoys cooking for himself and his partner, and volunteers for the Catholic Charities. He has been associated with "Dignity" and "Black/White Men Together". Always smiling and a joy to be with, in any social situation. Who would you guess fills the qualifications of Mr. O?

