

# Highland Beach manager details sex charges



Mariano



Rand

By **ELIOT KLEINBERG**  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

HIGHLAND BEACH — Vice Mayor John Rand asked Town Manager Mary Ann Mariano on dates, put nude photographs on her desk and made sexual comments about women, Mariano says in an affidavit detailing what she describes as five years of sexual harassment.

"I informed Vice Mayor Rand on numerous occasions that his off-color

jokes and comments regarding other women and their body parts were offensive," Mariano says in the affidavit to the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, with which she's filed a complaint.

She says she continually told Town Attorney Tom Sliney, Mayor Arlin G. Voress and other commissioners of alleged incidents between 1992 and this year.

Rand has apologized for displaying sexually suggestive pasta and Groucho

Marx glasses at a November meeting, calling that "an isolated incident."

Rand, 73, said last week that he'll neither resign nor repay more than \$15,000 in legal fees generated by the complaint. Attorney Ken Lipman, who returned calls made to Rand Thursday, said Rand wasn't aware of Mariano's specific claims until he saw her affidavit.

"Mr. Rand denies having committed

# 'Hot dame' one of the comments

## CHARGES

*From 1B*

any acts of sexual harassment," Lipman said. "We expect there to be a number of women who work for the town who will both confirm that fact and state that he is a gentleman."

Mariano's affidavit says Rand called then-Assistant County Attorney Denise Dytrich "a hot dame" and described "how hot" he believed County Commissioner Karen Marcus was. Mariano says Rand also "made tasteless sexual comments" to her several times regarding Town Clerk Doris Trinley.

Mariano, 44, alleges Rand in September "directed me to find out who the sexy blonde was" after viewing a photo from a town barbecue. In 1993, she says, Rand tossed nude photographs of women on her desk.

She says that at a 1993 dinner meeting, Rand "commented to me on how sexy I looked." In September 1995, after Mariano suffered a heart attack, Rand asked her at her hospital bed "to come to his house so that he could take care of me while his wife was out of town," she says.

Mariano said she declined Rand's February 1994 invitation to a hockey game after learning his wife was out of town. She said Rand "often touched me and put his hands on me when he was attempting to talk to me."

Attorneys for the town have said that no incidents of harassment for which the town can be held liable have occurred.

But a January letter from Vorse to Mariano acknowledges that "the inappropriate conduct which you complained about did, in fact, take place."