

Local Pizza Hut Delivers Bigotry to Gay/Lesbian Bar

By Bradley Whiteside,
Center Fold Staff Writer

A Winter Park Pizza Hut branch was found to be exhibiting homophobic behavior against the phoe•nix AT ALOMA in early February.

At that time, it was revealed that for several months employees at Pizza Hut store No. 0106, located at 3748 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, (phone: (407) 677-7144) had identified the gay and lesbian bar, for its own internal purposes as "FAGS."

Store No. 0106 serves the Eastbrook, Howell Branch and Goldenrod area with delivery/carry out orders. It is one of an estimated 58 to 65 Pizza Hut outlets in the greater Orlando metropolitan area.

For several months in 1991 and extending into early 1992 the bar had placed several pizza orders for both customers and staff with the Howell Branch store. Store No. 0106 had supplied pizzas not only to the phoe•nix, but also to its predecessor, The Flamingo Lounge. Located relatively close to the bar, store No. 0106 was a logical place to order pizzas, and enjoyed a healthy business with the bar.

Business between the two enterprises continued without problem until phoe•nix owners Dennis Garmon and David Hardy discovered one day that

"FAGS" was written on each bill and/or receipt submitted by the Howell Branch outlet. On each invoice there is a section titled "grids" which is a code to let the driver know the location of the customer.

As Garmon and Hardy indicate, it was evident that early on in the business relationship someone at store No. 0106 had pegged the bar as a "queer joint," and that an appropriate symbol for the customer thereafter was "FAGS."

When the youthful manager was confronted with the facts, his solution was to offer a free pizza to the bar. The offer was quickly rejected.

Further discussions occurred with area Pizza Hut management. On each occasion apologies were made, as were acknowledgments that the damage already done would be impossible to be undone. Letters of regret were sent by local representatives of management, and suggestions of improved staff training and customer service were made.

Two remedies were requested by the phoe•nix owners: that Pizza Hut make a serious contribution to a gay charity or community organization of Garmon and Hardy's choice, and that Pizza Hut provide some tangible form for support for the gay and lesbian community in this year's Gay Pride Parade.

The latter request was given an immediate and

resounding negative response.

Pizza Hut management did indicate that it would take action on contributing to a local gay organization. Two months, and several futile telephone calls later, however, no response has been made to the first request.

Several thousand gay men and lesbians who have above-average disposable incomes and an array of fast-food restaurants available to them live in Central Florida. It seems only reasonable that they will become increasingly discriminating in selecting pizzas from local chains.

Furthermore, and to be precise, it is plainly evident that Pizza Hut should be scratched from our list of fast food service suppliers.

We share the same rights as they. We should exercise these rights - of identification, selection and freedom of purchase.

For pizza lovers, a multitude of other excellent suppliers are available throughout the area. Let your fingers do the walking through the Yellow Pages, and your eyes do the selecting. Pizza Hut certainly has no corner on either pizza or related cuisine. But the chain does appear to have more than an average share of intolerance.

Someone at Pizza Hut said of the February incident that it was probably just a joke.

No one in the gay and lesbian community is laughing.

Pizza Hut's local management office is located at 1080 Woodcock Road,

Orlando. The phone number is (407) 896-4461.

Metropolitan Business Assoc. Forms

Orlando has joined the ranks of a number of America's cities that have organized the resources of their gay and lesbian business owners and professionals. On March 12, the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA), was born during the guild's first general meeting.

"We have no history. What we are doing is making history," said Michael Sopoliga, one of the group's founders. "We have laid the foundation ... I don't know what the potential of it is, but I think it's going to be great!"

About 30 business owners and professionals attended that first meeting at Joy MCC, and the room became electric with enthusiasm. No sooner than most people signed in, they were making connections, arranging to exchange services and sharing common problems and solutions.

Businesses and professions represented included printers and graphic artists, real estate agents, bankers, travel agents, hairstylists, mobile home dealers, massage therapists and many more.

Besides networking and getting the word out that these businesses and professionals are more than happy to

serve gays and lesbians - or those who are gay-friendly - the group will have an even farther reaching effect.

"When people start to see we have so many gay and lesbian business owners in this city, they will have to deal with us," said Keith Morrison, another group founder. "We can be role models for people coming up behind us, and for people looking to move to our area. The chance and strength it gives our community is amazing."

During the meeting, everyone in attendance was given a couple of minutes to introduce themselves and plug their business or service. The next general meeting will be held at Joy MCC, 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave., (just north of Michigan St.), in Orlando on Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. (social begins at 6:30 p.m.) Subsequent meetings will be held at locations provided by participating businesses.

The basic structure of MBA has been established, and meeting attendees selected members to fill the offices of secretary, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer. The offices of president, vice president and treasurer are still open and are temporarily being filled by the

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- Keith Morrison

group's founders.

The group is in search of a logo - using the abbreviation MBA - to make up tasteful stickers to put in the windows of member businesses and offices, as well as to be used for group activities and promotions in the future. Suggestions may be sent to the Metropolitan Business Association, c/o GLCS, 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32804, or they may be brought to the next general meeting.

Anyone still wishing to join is more than welcome. The membership fees - \$75 for businesses, \$25 for professionals - will not be collected until the group is through with its three-month organizational period.

Gay Pride Planning Underway

Plans are being formulated for Orlando's Gay Pride Month. In the past, there were only a few activities in the space of a week. This year, however, June is being called Pride Month. John Rose, who is the chair of the AIDS memorial program and also the GLCS board of director's liaison with Orlando Regional Pride, is expecting big things this June.

Times and places are still being negotiated at this point, but here are some dates to watch for:

• **Tuesday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 10:** Orlando Gay Chorus, time and location still to be announced.

• **Saturday, June 13:** Gay Pride Picnic, at Camp Heronwood. Same hours as last year.

• **Thursday, June 18:** AIDS Memorial, 7:30 p.m., Lake Eola

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The Gulf War: A Year Later, Its Accomplishments Prove to Be Desert Mirages

By Michael J. Sopoliga
Managing Editor

I am guilty. I admit it. When I heard that our country had declared war on Iraq, and was beginning to fight I was right in there cheering for our guys to whip Saddam's butt. I mean after all, from all the media hype prior to the beginning of the war, it seemed that our men, along with the multi-national force were heading into a meat grinder.

Do you remember the vivid pull-out maps in all of the weekly magazines depicting the elaborate defenses Saddam's million-man army had allegedly set in place to greet our men in uniform? I mean, they had lakes of oil which would incinerate thousands of soldiers. Mine fields, giant trenches for us to traverse only to be picked off like a shooting gallery. To tell you the truth, I feared for our men who would have to endure this killing field.

And so, like so many other Americans, I watched the Cable News Network from morning to evening, watching in horror the Scud missile attacks upon Israel and Saudi Arabia. Those haunting photos of people huddling deep within shelters, ready to don gas masks in case of chemical warfare. Yes, the hype was certainly effective in conditioning us to the inevitability of war in the Gulf.

It is said that hindsight is always 20/20. But it is also said that we learn from our mistakes. Some say, too, that no one wins in time of war, but everyone loses. Now that we have had time to reflect on the war, we can see the folly of our ways, and our justifications for going to war being snuffed out as readily as the 825 or so burning oil wells in Kuwait were extinguished. First, let me say that the danger presented by a dictator like Saddam Hussein must always be reckoned with and neutralized.

But we didn't get rid of Saddam did we? He's still in power along with his cutthroat gang of generals, who even as

you read this article are annihilating all those who supported the allies. The Kurds are being destroyed, and there are many other atrocities being perpetrated unchecked. What's more, though we used more explosives in the short timespan of the war than in Korea, even though we were so impressed with the Star Wars video game-like air war, with "smart" bombs exploding just where they were aimed (I like that: we call bombs smart!), we did not destroy all of Iraq's nuclear bomb-making capability. Now lots of former Soviet nuclear scientists on the non-existent unemployment lines in Moscow, reading the *Iraqi Gazette* classifieds, under the heading "Wanted: Nuclear scientists who can build atomic bombs. Good pay, benefits. Apply in person." In no time, Iraq will be more of a problem than it

was a year ago. No, we may not have to aim our bombs at Russia any more, but maybe a bit further southeast wouldn't you say?

If the Gulf War was anything, it could be likened to the Builder's Show, recently held in Las Vegas. There they had every conceivable vendor showing their stuff. What better way could military manufacturers of hardware suitable for fighting wars show how effective their stuff is, than in a war?

Call it luck, good marketing forecasting, or coincidence, but the Martin Mariettas of the world had their day in the sun, or should I say their laser guided infrared missile in the night. The Patriot worked superbly. The tanks rolled along without a glitch. The airplanes soared, why even the old queen of wars passed, the B-52 Strato-fortress dropped its deadly payload with earth-shuddering accuracy.

The TV military were primetime hits. Norman Schwarzkopf's briefings became better watched than the Weather Channel, and today all bask in the sunlight of popularity.

The military, after 20 years of derision has been vindicated. The shackles of

Vietnam were finally cast aside. Heros returned from the Gulf War, not a lot of pot-headed losers from the jungles. ROTC was not a four-letter word anymore in many students' eyes, in spite of its blatant discrimination against gays and lesbians. All was well with the military, our president and our country. We kicked butt, and were sitting on a cloud of patriotism.

How quickly things change. Our military did not defeat the world-class power called Iraq. It seems that in the final analysis, Saddam Hussein was more of a charlatan than anything else. All the talk in the media about the formidable force at Saddam's disposal was quite overblown given the short duration of the fighting. So what did we actually prove? That the United States and its allies could romp over an over-blown foe, just like the schoolyard bully beating up on some little wimp?

And what about President Bush? Sure he was tough with Iraq, and did what he said he would do if it didn't back down. But what is Bush doing for us here at home? Could it have been that the president was too preoccupied with trying to prove he had guts by beating up on Saddam to take steps to help people in this country keep roofs over their heads and food on their tables?

What about the results of the war? I don't think anyone really could claim victory. After all, Saddam Hussein says that we met the enemy, and they have left us without getting rid of me! So we won! Bush says no, we won, because we bombed you and killed more of your people. So we won!

Let's face facts. No one won. We got to see a lot of pyrotechnics. We slaughtered more Iraqis, we almost bombed Iraq back to the time of Christ, but Saddam Hussein is still very much back in power, and leading the slaughter of all the opposition. No, no one won... we all lost. The pain and suffering now going on in Iraq is our legacy. The murder of the Kurds in the north of Iraq is because they backed the Allies. Now they are paying the price of not winning totally... with their lives, many being tortured to death.

I remember reading in the history books about what prompted the fall of the Roman Empire. It was because while Rome was out conquering the then known world, making it safe for Rome's influence, Roman civilization was quickly eroding with mistrust of its leaders,

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social breakdown between the populace, and a general decay of the very foundations of its laws and freedoms. The problem with the Roman leadership, was that it too was too preoccupied with things abroad, and never realized how much trouble their own country really was in. Sound familiar? There are a lot of parallels that can be drawn between their civilization and ours. Maybe we can stop history from repeating itself... just maybe.


No, the Gulf War brought to light many frustrations that we as Americans have been carrying around with us. We needed to feel good about ourselves. The military needed a reason for us to think it deserves the billions of dollars we now lavish upon it.

The president needed to win the big one to assure his re-election. The Vietnam vets longed for some way to put the debacle of Vietnam behind them. We needed this war it seems. That may have been true, but all it has turned out to be was a sugar pill for the nation's ills. It was a deadly placebo, which as it was designed has made us feel great – for a while – but now the reality of our resolve and all the reasons why we needed this war have done little to make us feel good about ourselves.

Of course, who can feel good knowing that we have ruined thousands of lives and killed hundreds of thousands of people, and have wreaked havoc upon the lives of thousands more. Out of sight, out of mind is the way we think in America. Homeless people? What homeless people; as we look the other way. Pain? Suffering? Where? Not in America!

So who cares if it's in some land where those weird people in bedsheets live. Yes, it's sad. It's sad to think that this war in the Gulf was a good thing, especially if it did not complete the mission, getting rid

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Orlando Area Happenings

• **The Eola Theater Company** is Orlando's latest addition to its growing cultural scene. Founded by GLCS facilitator Bill Cosgriff and artistic co-director John DiDonna, the Eola Theater Company (ETC) will open Friday, April 10, with performances of "2 by Shepard," an evening of two short plays by the world famous playwright/actor Sam Shepard. These bizarrely comic plays deal with space aliens, a 130-year-old cowboy, a semi-nude male high school cheerleader and spirits of the desert.

ETC's year-round season will consist of six plays from the contemporary American and British repertoire. Under consideration for the second show is the wildly funny satire on religious dogmatism, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, by Christopher Durang.

ETC is located at 17 Wall Street Plaza, off Orange Avenue in downtown Orlando, around the corner from the Beacham Theater, and next door to the popular Yab Yum Coffeehouse. For more information, and reservations, call Yab Yum at (407) 422-3322. Tickets are \$8. If you would like to volunteer in this exciting new theater, call (407) 657-8732.

• **No Laughing Matter**, Orlando's premier comedy ensemble, will perform a benefit evening of comedy on Wednesday, April Fools Day (April 1) at 8 p.m., at the Enzian Theater.

Founded in 1990 by Christopher Murphy, No Laughing Matter performs all original routines. At the very least, their comedy can be called cutting-edge. Murphy promises no "I've fallen and I can't get up" holds overs from three summers ago. Only fresh, hot-off-the-plate satire and witticisms.

Beer, wine and food will be served. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Enzian Theater, a non-profit organization committed to film as art.

For more information, call Mark Mullen at the Enzian Theater, (407) 629-1088 or Christopher Murphy, No Laughing Matter, (407) 856-6452.

GULF WAR, from Page 2

of Saddam. Do you think without Hitler killing himself in a suicidal fit of desperation that the Nazis would have surrendered so quickly? When Hitler was dead, so was the war, because he *was* the reason they fought. And so too with the Iraqi forces. If we had gotten rid of Saddam the moment he invaded Kuwait, not six months later, we would have saved our nation from yet another embarrassing and deadly surge of America right or wrong patriotism, and we would have diffused this tragic result.

But then we would never have known if the Patriot missile really worked against a real honest-to-goodness enemy target. We would never have known just how big George Bush's gonads were, since he was considered slightly wimpish just before the war.

And we would have not had something to watch as exciting as CNN's coverage of the Gulf War, especially when the winter TV schedule can be a bit boring. So you see, it all worked out for the best.

The war did what everyone set out for it to do. Defense stock is up. Bush hopes we remember the war on Election Day, CNN got its ACE award, Ted Turner is *Time* magazine's Man of the Year. The only thing we fail to realize is that Saddam is still in power. People are suffering. Those who supported us are being executed daily, and we have only to wait until those displaced Soviet scientists begin to get paid in drachmas instead of rubles. Then the real fun will begin, only this time the shock waves will travel further than the sands of the desert.

For Bus Passenger, LSD Must M n 'Lousy Sense of Discretion'

C piled by Michael J. Sopoliga
Managing Editor

Editor's stories "News Bites" is an assortment of news the world with a difference. They are true sto if slightly "angled" just enough to border on the satirical. After all, who wants to hear only bad n Those doom-and-gloom stories which are a part o life.

In ' "you'll read news that (ouch!) hurts, albeit with a bit of humor. We hope you'll like "News Bites," t ing news of gay life and events at an angle.

P.S.: Have interesting tidbit? Send it in as is or write your o little "bite" at the end.

• MELB Fla. – It seems that a passenger on a Greyhound bus heading from Miami to Jacksonville h layover at the Bre untly Jail after being charged with possess' doses of L ho were tipped off by officials, c with

possess worth of LSD and psilocybin, a hallucinogen derived from mushrooms. The individual was hel bond. It was revealed later that the person, tho to be a female, was in fact Dr. Timothy Leary in d He confessed to being on a mercy m in order to help people who are forced to live there cope with it. He also would be bringing his mushroom farm business to Jacksonville so th could either grow their own hallucinogen or at least not have to pay outrageous p m pizza from Domino's. Police did not need to be off by bus officials to the fact that someone with LS as on the bus. This was due to the fact that th doctor wasn't in the bus, but riding on its roof!

• BOSTON – Ga shmen got the green light to march ay Parade last month after a judge a right to march. Five other groups, among those marching bands, a group of I soccer club, withdrew from march' of safety concerns. It was later disclosed that the safety reason previously stated was not the real reason why the groups decided not to march. It that members of the three bands can. down with a severe case of herpes, the Irish Stepdancers wanted to be the only drag queens in the parade, and the soccer club's head coach and star player want to march with their lovers in the gay section much to the surprise of the rest of the team.

• H , N.C. – The Jeffrey Dahmer syndrom and well, and living in Hillsborough, N.C. It app that more body parts, including some that appear be from a woman, were found in the kitchen of a rural farmhouse where earlier,

investigators found a male torso and skull. There is evidence that the person perpetrating this hideous crime is not gay. Why? Because a human ear was found as the centerpiece of a plastic fruit arrangement on the kitchen table. Most investigators agree that no gay person in the 1990s would be so tacky as to have plastic fruit centerpieces, let alone place cut off ears as its centerpiece!

• WILMINGTON, Del. – By the time you read this, a serial killer here will have been put to death by lethal injection. This will have been the state's first execution since 1946. This form of execution was decried by prison officials as unnecessary. You see, the prisoners on death row spent weeks painting Delaware's version of Florida's "Old Sparky" bright day glow colors, and re-wallpapering the execution room. One prisoner wanted assurances from prison officials that when it was his time to go, it would be in the room he helped redecorate. Prison guards conceded.

• NEW ORLEANS – Mom kills son over messy room! A woman arguing with her teen-age son over his refusal to clean up his room shot and killed him for it. She says she didn't know the gun was loaded, but did it to scare him. It worked. Her remaining four children not only keep their rooms in apple pie order, but their own house, as well as the houses of the next of kin for four generations. The father was unavailable for comment about his wife's actions because he was killed one year earlier by his wife for not putting the cap back on the toothpaste, and for wearing her pantyhose.

• TALLAHASSEE – There has been an increase in the activities of the Ku Klux Klan over the past years, studies have shown. In particular, Florida's KKK activity has increased dramatically with the popularity of the likes of David Duke. There have been unofficial reports that the Klan, in order to become more mainstream in the South have bought out the majority of shares of a popular convenience store chain. They plan to change the name of the chain to "Circle KKK."

• ORLANDO – "Gays are busting out all over!" Yes it seems that you can't drive down a highway or street and not see a gay group being a sponsor of Florida's "Adopt-A-Road" program, which is the state's way of getting citizens other than those incarcerated to help keep our thoroughfares clean of rubbish and debris. So far P/FLAG helps keep West Colonial Drive spic and span, and Gay and Lesbian Concerned Citizens patrol a portion of I-4 at the Lee Road area. Wonder how long it will take for some red neck from Palatka to see the signs, if he can, in fact, read, and write obscenities over them. In the mean time, it won't be long before those roadways in our care see all sorts of pretty things to look at while in those traffic messes!

News Bites ...
(ouch!)

Tours Starts bian Division

Orlando – Andrea Tours announces the opening of its Gay and Tour Division. Headed by former GLCS board member Bill Ehrig, Andrea Tours will featur vacations, escorted scuba diving trips (begi to advanced), golf packages, luxury c ises, as well as city packages to t, Atlanta, San Juan, Washington, Los Angeles and beginning in

June, tremendous savings on all of gay Europe.

Andrea Tours is truly a "full service" gay tour operator in Florida. For more information about exotic cruises aboard sleek yachts, call Andrea Tours at (407) 345-4814.

Andrea Tours has developed a fund-raising program for non-profit lesbian and gay organizations in which a portion of every travel dollar spent by members of the sponsoring group is returned as a donation to that group. Andrea Tours is also a member of IGTA (International Gay Travel Association), and the newly formed MBA (Metropolitan Business Association), as well as the Orange County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

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Behind Enemy Lines

By Jeff Campbell
Center Fold Staff Writer

A young man, whom I shall call "Luke," recently moved here from California and telephoned us concerning a matter he considers discriminatory and an invitation to violence against gays.

On the drive to his home in Volusia County one afternoon he was listening to the radio and became aware of the words to a particular tune. It is a song he had heard before when living in California, a song that he feels is demeaning to gays. The words reflect on the disposable income of "faggots," perhaps insinuating that this income is greater than that of Joe Sixpack.

Luke feels this is an ill-disguised invitation to commit violence upon gays. It is important to understand that Luke was the victim of a violent attack at the hands of a gang of skinheads and suffered extreme physical injury and emotional torment. The end result, he has told me, is a fear of people – an extreme claustrophobic condition that prevents him from walking out of his home for fear he will encounter people; not violent

America Bashing: The Truth Hurts

By Michael J. Sopoliga
Managing Editor

Why all the fuss about a few leaders in Japan telling us that we're lazy, or that we've lost our work ethic? They're just telling us the truth because unlike our elected officials they don't have to worry about getting re-elected.

As Americans, we have become a herd of ostriches when it comes to healthy – yet biting criticism – about our nation and ourselves. If the criticism about our country by Japan has any affect on this country, it shouldn't be swinging a bat at an old Honda, in petty retribution. Instead it should cause us to analyze ourselves as Americans and try to find out why we are perceived in that way abroad.

Sure the Japanese have taken everything that we have invented and made it better. I say good for them. But let's remember that Japan has done little more than be the biggest copycat in the free world. So what if they buy a BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar, for example, take them apart bolt by bolt, take the best of each car and come up with a model that can compete with those classic automobiles? Maybe those automakers in Detroit should have done the same thing. Instead their CEOs rake in millions in salaries and bonuses, the unions want

From the Editor's Desk

more money for less than sub-standard quality, and we're mad at Japan? Go figure!

Before we start Japan bashing, we should take a look at what we're missing by not being a citizen of the Land of the Rising Sun. Their prices for food are at least 10 times higher than ours. They are ingrained with a work ethic which borders on the maniacal. Many factory workers, for example, live so far from their places of employment that they leave home on Monday and don't return until Friday. In the meantime, they live (or exist really), in dormitory-like structures each with literally their own cubicle, which resemble a train's sleeping car. Pollution is so bad in most Japanese cities that they have opened up "oxygen stores," which literally sell oxygen in small gas mask-like containers.

So why should Americans envy the Japanese? All we have to do is forget about the Milkens of our country, stop wishing to win the lottery, stop relying on government handouts (welfare), stop having babies we can't afford to educate and take pride in whatever we do.

Sure, that's a tall order. I mean, why should some poor person work a minimum wage job when they can make thousands in one drug sale? Why should someone go to work when they can increase their welfare check by having more kids? In some parts of the country, we can't even live together respecting one another's cultural differences. Instead we see walled camps with battlegrounds which were known just a few years ago

"social" activities.

Radical organizations are the most dangerous threats, not only to the gay community, but to the whole community of freedom, and participating in any of their activities tends to diminish our awareness of their intent.

Central Florida has not seen any serious demonstration of radical brutality but the groups that initiate violence and inflame the emotions, are here in Orlando. The beatings and murders of gays at the hands of skinheads and other radical groups that other areas have witnessed have not yet come here; organizations such as the Klan and neo-Nazi groups are not readily visible here yet. But be assured, these organizations exist locally, when and how they will surface is anyone's guess.

These concerns of Luke and the music that may offend his well being or his sense of security, should be met head on. All of us are in position to discourage broadcasters from publicizing prejudicial, anti-gay attitudes by letting it be known where our money will be spent. We need only notify all advertisers of any offending station that we will boycott any product advertised on that station and send a copy to the broadcaster. The offended person should take it upon himself to influence his friends to do the same thing.

Radical organizations are not always

as Main Street U.S.A.

It was almost 15 years ago when President Jimmy Carter gave his now famous "malaise" speech to the American people. Well, I've got news for you: Jimmy Carter was right. Sure he was lambasted by the Republicans as being a goody-two-shoes, as being weak, as being soft on America. How dare he blame the American people for the way things were in America, and for what the future would hold in store for us if we continued that path. Well, we continued down that path, led by the Academy-Award winner for Best Actor in the Role of a President, Ronald Reagan. I like to think his presidency was just another one of his B movies, as always too long with too little substance.

Sure he made America feel good about itself, but at what cost? WE could be likened to a country addicted to the opium of self-serving patriotism, only the flag waving seemed to get in the way of seeing ourselves for what we were to become in the '90s. And now that the drug has been taken away from us, we are going cold turkey. We are realizing that we need this drug to make sense of our folly.

Americans are no better or no worse than any other people in any other nation. We obviously don't have all the answers to everything as we've been told in the Reagan years. Maybe we haven't retained many of the founding principles which made us a great nation, and Japan like some far Eastern conscience is telling us that. Let's take it to heart, and learn from it.

Sure, the truth hurts, and opening up the markets of Japan to our cars won't solve the problem, especially is we send them the same junk we sell here. Maybe

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Perspective

people – just people. It is the trauma of this attack that drove him from California. Luke said he called the radio station and spoke with one of the DJs at the radio station and with the manager. Their reaction was that gays are "too sensitive," reacting to circumstances that are not valid and are making mountains out of molehills. Luke advised them of an alternative verse of the song that is played in California but their response to this was that they play only music as originally written. They further defended this particular selection as a current popular recording stating that many local stations also feature it in their broadcasts.

Not wanting to belittle the concerns that Luke has, but also not wanting to stir up a hornets' nest of conflict and controversy, I spoke with a few gay acquaintances, people whom I know to associate on the edge of some radical groups and am surprised with some of my discoveries: We are certainly a diverse group of people, but some of us are "sleeping" with the enemy.

What surprises and alarms me is the number of our community who associate with these groups, subscribing to their publications and attending some of their

clearly defined or so militant or extreme that they are recognized for what they are; sometimes they don't want the publicity. But we are in the midst of an election year in the nation and there is a rebel in the ranks of one of the recognized political parties campaigning for the nomination. This person is crusading – or perhaps masquerading – as a "conservative" and the obvious fact is that he will not succeed ... this time. The ambitions of this faction are aiming for 1996.

If those of you who read this column will take the time to hear and read the words of this "candidate" and compare them with the blunt and intimidating words of open radicals, the analogies are frightening. It is not only the rights of gay people that are in jeopardy but the rights of immigrants and people of color; a threat to democracy. And while we in the gay community do not enjoy full rights today, it would be folly to use this fact to deny that we enjoy more privileges today than we did 25 years ago – and far more than we will in the future if this type of extremist political environment takes control.

During the week I spent writing this article, I took the time to spend a little time in three of our most popular bars here in Orlando. I spent this time not to talk to people but to observe them and listen to their pleasant conversations with

See LUKE, Page 5



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GLPCI Keeps Busy with Spring Events

Gay/Lesbian Parents Coalition International

Past events:

Jan. 25 -GLPCI's Clean Team cleaned up our stretch of Highway 50 as our part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. After the work the parents and children enjoyed a picnic at Langford Park.

Feb. 15 -Members of GLPCI enjoyed an afternoon at the Central Florida Zoo before attending the monthly social/support meeting.

Feb. 22 -A group of GLPCI members

met at Langford Park for a picnic and a stroll through the beautiful gardens.

Upcoming Events: April 4, 6 p.m.- *Nonsense* at the Mark II Dinner Theater. This is a fund-raiser for GLPCI and St. Margaret Mary AIDS Ministry.

Reservations required.

April 10, 7:30 p.m.-Parents Rap Group (adults only) at GLCS, 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando.

April 18, 7 p.m.- social/support meeting.

For more information, please call us at (407) 420-2191.

Church Chat

Family That Cares Church Announces Easter Activities

We would like to welcome all of you to our caring and loving church. We have many activities to share with warm and friendly individuals like yourself.

The joyous Easter holiday will soon be upon us. Our Easter services will begin with a sunset service at 5 p.m. followed by an Easter egg hunt for children of all ages.

Following the services that evening, an

Easter egg hunt, and pot-luck dinner will be served at the church. On Easter Sunday evening, we will have a sunset service at the church. There will be no Easter morning service. Why not join us for the Easter holiday. Come and celebrate Christ with us! Why not bring a friend.

For more information, please call The First Unitarian Church of Orlando, 1815 E. Robinson St. You may call the church at (407) 236-9188. We are a Christian church open to everyone who has a belief in Christ. We meet every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church. We hope to see you this Sunday at 5 p.m.

- Billy Green

EDITOR, from Page 4

before sending over any cars, the Big Three should build warehouses over there filled to the ceiling with auto parts. That way, when our cars keep breaking down, the Japanese might not have to wait as long as we do for the part to come in. Come to think of it, that wouldn't be a bad idea here either!

It's official! "The Metropolitan Business Association"; Orlando's very own gay-owned/operated, and gay friendly association to promote gay/gay friendly business: What was great about our first meeting of the Metropolitan

Business Association was its diversity of business and professional persons attending. There was a massage therapist, mortgage banker, theater production specialists, caterers, club owners just to name a few.

All who attended agreed that the purpose of the association would be to promote gay businesses, and networking. I would like to thank those who attended the first meeting and encourage all businesses who are gay owned, operated, as well as professionals to come to the next meeting at the Joy MCC church hall, on the first Thursday of the month which will be the regular day the association will meet.

LUKE, from Page 4

one another.

Virtually all strangers to me, I was surprised at the number of people and their enthusiasm and their youth. But it is difficult for me to realize that so many of them will not vote to represent themselves and yet most of them complain they feel slighted on the matters of apportioned rights and privileges.

Paradoxically, this is a time when we should be most politically aware. Seeing all of those bright young faces at the Cactus Club and The Phoenix and The Full Moon, a generation of people with their entire future before them, it is impossible for me to realize they really don't care what the future is; many of them really can't be bothered. Yet if legislation were passed prohibiting gays from voting, or even from congregating at these clubs, there would be outrage over cocktails, and laments about lost freedom.

We currently have the right to vote, but to keep this freedom we must exercise it; we have got to care - because there won't be another "Stonewall" for a long time. A

storm of anti-gay sentiment is growing fueled by the AIDS crisis, and while it is without justification, we should defend ourselves while we still have a voice.

In the meantime, take a lesson from any socially active minority group. Boycott those who attack, offend or deny you. But take the time to let advertisers and the media know of their offense, and the reason for your protest.

Have a vehicle for spreading the word to those in your community, both locally and nationally. Have the guts to stand up and protest visually so the media will give you equal time. Your individual actions will do more to influence change simply because it translates into dollars - and no advertiser wants to feel that every time his ad is run before the public, he may offend potential customers.

Editor's Note: How do you feel about this situation? *The Center Fold* welcomes differing points of view, as well as similar stories. Should we protest anti-gay music being played on our airwaves? Should we have a real fear of skinhead, Klan or neo-Nazi groups here in Central Florida? Let *The Center Fold* hear from you.

Marijuana was once a medicine with a perfect safety record!

The Libertarian Party of Florida (LPF) condemns the Public Health Service's (PHS) decision to withdraw medical marijuana from research and/or use by patients to ease pain and suffering.

It is intolerable and mean-spirited for government to restrict access to "non-traditional" health care based on the nebulous idea it "might" make people sicker.

In these days when health care and medical costs are controversial and hotly debated topics in the political arena, the LPF feels it is every American citizen's right to seek the medical care he or she feels is in their best interest.

The use of plants and natural substances to relieve pain is in keeping with the natural order of things. Thousands of years of human experience have shown this to be true.

Before marijuana (*cannabis sativa*) was outlawed in 1937, cannabis-based medicines had been used in this country with a perfect safety record for over 100 years.

This decision of the PHS is in direct conflict with an American citizen's rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The LPF recognizes that Americans must be left alone, free from government harassment and interference in their personal and private lives.

Ralph Swanson
state chair
the Libertarian Party of Florida
P.O. Box 1034
Winter Park, Fla. 32790-1034
(407) 628-2337

Election '92 Soapbox

Health Service Says No to Use of Pot for Illness

(AP) Washington – The government says Americans suffering from AIDS, cancer and glaucoma can't use marijuana to ease their plight. Officials say the drug might make them sicker.

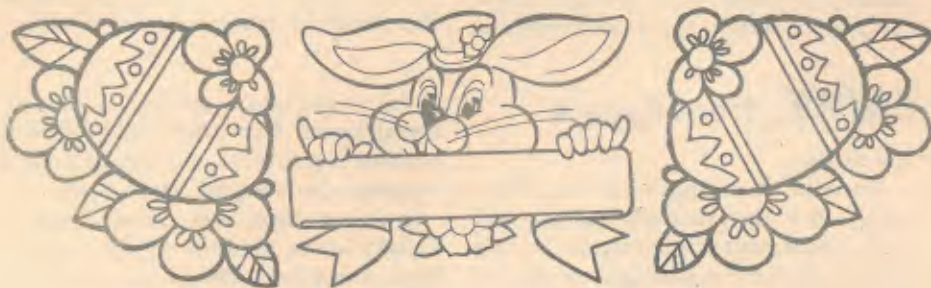
The public Health Service said Tuesday that only 13 people already smoking marijuana legally for medical purposes will be allowed to continue. Their supplier: the federal government.

"The decision was made by the Public Health Service primarily because of fear that the smoked marijuana would harmful to people with compromised immune systems," said Bill Grigg, the agency's spokesman.

There was no public announcement of the decision by Dr. James Mason, Public Health Service chief. Grigg revealed it in response to a query by the AP.

Advocates of medical marijuana say it combats nausea, vomiting and weight loss common to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and to some AIDS sufferers; reduces eye pressure in the treatment of glaucoma; and helps reduce muscle spasms common to neurological conditions.

Editor's Note: In the interests of encouraging participation in the democratic process and to better inform the public, The Center Fold will print letters and short articles about political candidates, parties and issues in "Election Soapbox '92." Send your letters or articles to The Center Fold, 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32804, Attn.: Michael J. Sopoliga, managing editor.



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Turning Away from That Dead-End Street

By Frank J. Dekanchuk
 Contributor

There once was a young couple so much in love. These two young men would do anything for each other. One day the truth of their love was tested to the fullest extent. They both received the results of their HIV tests.

The 21-year-old one, the oldest of the two, who had been raped the year before, was the first to receive his results ...

The doctor notified him that he had tested positive!

With tears flowing out of his eyes, he looked at his other half with great sadness and fear.

A look of instant terror seemed to fill his lover's eyes. His lover turned toward the doctor, waiting for his results. But a sense of relief seemed to wash over him when he was told that his test had come back negative.

While going through the emotional fight of anger and denial the HIV-positive lover was destroying himself little by little. While his companion began to take control of both of their lives. He had a dark side to him, the need for money and control became an obsession.

Still going through the emotional battlefield and feeling the sense of loss. Because of his family and friends turning their back on him for being HIV positive. The companion convinced him they would never part, that he would always

love him. Being in the emotional state the HIV-positive one was in, he believed every word—feeling love and security.

Still feeling confused, hurt and angry, the two young lovers moved from their hometown to start a new life in a new area where no one would know them and keep the HIV a secret.

Slowly the insults started, leaving doubtful opinion flowing through the oldest male's mind. As time went on deceitful and disturbing acts occurred, putting his personal needs and desires and sexual activates onto others.

The HIV-positive lover stood back watching all of this happening around him. He started to feel hurt. The one whom he loved was having sex without him!

Feeling left out and alone, with the desire for love and so much more, he started to review his life. He knew that he had some major decisions to make. He reviewed his relationship and saw things that he refused to see before, including that he had forgotten to love himself.

One day, feeling lonely and scared, he approached his lover with these emotions. Letting him know how he really felt.

It ended with physical violence. Looking into the mirror, gazing at his bruises, suddenly a scream of "No more, I can't take it anymore" flowed through his

See STREET, Page 12

Community Calendar

DAYTONA BEACH AREA

Sunday— 6 p.m. Hope MCC choir practice is held every week at the First Unitarian Church, 56 N. Halifax, Ormond Beach. Call 673-5632 for information.

7 p.m. Hope MCC holds services every Sunday at the First Unitarian Church, 56 N. Halifax, Ormond Beach. Call 254-0993.

Monday — 7 p.m. The AIDS Support Group meets every Monday. It is open to all HIV+/PWAs, their friends and relatives. For information call 258-8888.

8 p.m. The New Women AA Group meets at the Easy Does It Club in Holly Hill. For information on this women's group, call 258-9407.

Tuesday — 7 p.m. The AIDS Family & Friends Support Group meets every week. It is open to all family members and friends of HIV+/PWAs. Call 258-8888.

Wednesday — 7 p.m. Hope MCC in Ormond Beach holds socials, study groups or discussions every Wednesday evening at the First Unitarian Church, 56 N. Halifax, Ormond Beach. Call 254-0993.

Thursday — 7 p.m. The Serendipity Rap Group meets every Thursday. If you have any concerns or are interested in discussing gay activities in the community, call 253-9678.

Saturday — 8 p.m. The Live and Let Live AA Group meets at the Easy Does It Club in Holly Hill. It is open to all, but primarily composed of gay women and men. Call 258-9407.

To have a meeting or event listed in Community Calendar, send the information to The Center Fold, 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32804, Attn.: Michael J. Sopoliga, managing editor.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL.....

GLCS/CENTER EVENTS March 29 - May 9, 1992



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	Mar 30 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:30pm Healing Circle	Mar 31 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	Apr 1 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	Apr 2 7:30pm CODA-- Co-Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	Apr 3 7:00pm Movie Night: "The Hunger"	Apr 4 The Center is OPEN--Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church Service
Apr 5 4:00pm GLCS Board Meeting 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	Apr 6 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:30pm Healing Circle	Apr 7 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	Apr 8 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	Apr 9 7:30pm CODA-- Co-Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	Apr 10 7:00pm Movie Night: "Tidy Endings/The Truth About Alex" 7:30pm GLPCI Parents Rap Group	Apr 11 The Center is OPEN--Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church Service
Apr 12 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	Apr 13 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:30pm Healing Circle 7:30pm Orlando Pride 9:15pm Gay Skat	Apr 14 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	Apr 15 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	Apr 16 7:30pm CODA-- Co-Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	Apr 17 7:00pm Movie Night: The Whores Of A Different Color"	Apr 18 The Center is OPEN-- Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church -Service 6:30pm Reality-- Transexual Support Group
Apr 19 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	Apr 20 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:00pm GLCS Board Meeting 7:30pm Healing Circle 8:00pm Singles Group	Apr 21 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	Apr 22 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	Apr 23 7:30pm CODA-- Co-Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	Apr 24 7:00pm Movie Night: "As Is"	Apr 25 The Center is OPEN--Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church Service
Apr 26 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	Apr 27 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:30pm Healing Circle 7:30pm Committed Couples Network 7:30pm Orlando Pride 9:15pm Gay Skat	Apr 28 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	Apr 29 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	Apr 30 7:00pm MBA Board Meeting 7:30pm CODA--Co- Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	May 1 7:00pm Movie Night: "Cabaret" 7:30pm Zion Free Catholic Church Game Night	May 2 The Center is OPEN--Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church Service
May 3 4:00pm GLCS Board Meeting 7:00pm Fantasia- -Transvestite/ Transexual Support Group	May 4 6:00pm Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group 7:30pm Healing Circle	May 5 7:30pm Coming Out Group 7:30pm Rap Group	May 6 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Womyn Of GLCS	May 7 7:30pm CODA-- Co-Dependents Anonymous 7:30pm Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence	May 8 7:00pm Movie Night: "Parting Glances" 7:30pm GLPCI Parents Rap Group	May 9 The Center is OPEN--Noon to 5:00 PM 3:00pm Zion Free Catholic Church Service

CALENDAR OF EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

CODA is a group for co-dependents meeti Thursday nights. **COMMITTED COUPLES** n work is a social planning group for couples me the fourth Monday of every month. **COMING OUT GROUP** deals with the issues of coming out. **FANTASIA** is a transvestite support gro open to gays and non-gays. **GAYSKATE** is op to all ages and held twice each month at Semor Skateway. **GLCSBOARD MEETINGS** are op to the public and are held on the first and thi Mondays of every month. Any items for the agen must be submitted at least 24 hours in advan **HEALING CIRCLE** is back and meets eve Monday. **LESBIAN SURVIORS OF DOME TIC VIOLENCE** is a new support group for abu victims. **MEN'S DISCUSSION** and **WOMY OF GLCS** are each general discussion group **MOVIE NIGHT** is every Friday night. As wi other GLCS activities, there is no admission fe but donations will always be gratefully accepte **RAP GROUP** is a mixed discussion group of m and women. **REALITY** is a transexual suppo group. **SINGLES GROUP** open to all singl meets the third Monday of every month. **YOUT RAP** and all other Delta Youth Alliance activiti take place off-site and are open only to 13-21 ye olds. Call (407) 425-GLCS for information on a of these events. **ZION GAME NIGHT** meets th first Friday to play board and card games.

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Ads under Friendships/Relationships, Employment Available, Employment Wanted and Housing are free to individuals. See ad instructions, Page -.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOFTBALL PLAYERS WANTED

looking for experienced female softball players. Level C competition for summer league. If interested, call Pam at (407) 696-4581. (05)

DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED

gays and lesbians and any others who know sign language, want to start a gay deaf group? Send your name, address and TDD # to GLCS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, FL 32853, attn.: David Rhinehart.

MEOW! CAT NEEDS NEW HOME!

Female cat, long-haired, gold and white, spayed, declawed, looking for good home. (407) 647-6781, leave message.

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For details, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: T. Walker, P.O. Box 973, Crossville, AL 35962.

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FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

HOT MAGNETIC

human chemistry experiment! Attractive, masculine, GWM, 29, moustache, seeking similar born ONLY: March-August 1969; October-November 1968; January 1953; January-April 1943; May, June, December 1942. Randy, (407) 277-7174. NO phone sex!!! (05)

SINGLE BLACK MALE

From England, 29, 5'11", 190 lbs., seeks BiWF, 25-25, who's responsible, honest and educated and likes movies and beach dinners for friendship and possible relationship. Letter & photo, please. C.C., P.O. Box 680254, Orlando, FL 32868. (05)

TO YOUNG MALE

Pro businessman, 49, seeks trim young male for sensitive relationship, fun times, companionship & quality lifestyle. Much to offer by no drugs/booze, caring male. P.O. Box 592191, Orlando, FL 32859. (05)

GWF, 19

Br/Haz, 5'2", looking for spontaneous, fun-loving butch to share fun times, possible relationship. No head games, bars occasionally. Age, race unimportant. Letter, phone, photo. D.B., 2660 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Box 64, Kissimmee, FL 34744 (05)

ATTRACTIVE GWM, 29

seeking attractive GBM, 23-33, for relationship.

I'm 5'11", 155 lbs., muscular built. Seeking built male, non-smoker, no drugs. Send photo & respond to P.O. Box 874, Winter Park, FL 32790. (05)

GWF, 41, YOUTHFUL EXECUTIVE

seeks discrete, professional woman who would like to share my interests in golf, computers, movies, theater, travel. P.O. Box 915064, Longwood, FL 32791. (05)

PRINCE CHARMING

GWM, 27, 6'2", 180 lbs., br/br, handsome, romantic, seeking boyish male, 22-30, for relationship. No bisexuals. P.O. Box 161361, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-1361. (05)

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TOWNHOUSE TO RENT - EOLA HEIGHTS

2 BR/ 1 1/2 BA, unfurn., \$525/mo., \$250 sec. dep., short-term OK. Keith Bergstrasser, Realtor, (407) 422-2800. (05)

ROSEMONT-LOCKHART AREA

GWM seeks same to share 3 BR/2 BA, 2-story Calif. Cont. home on large wooded lot. Must be HIV-, clean & enjoy music, meeting people, have no pets, work a day job. Non-smoker a plus. \$300/mo., phone, cable and elec. all included. (407) 293-7652. (05)

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convenient to all roads, Disney, Universal and downtown Orlando. Quiet subdivision, fenced yard, screened porch, own BR & BA, trees, garden, 2-car garage. Washer, dryer, cable, dishwasher. I'm a pro female (grad. degree) and seek either M or F, responsible, cat-lover or at least cat-tolerant (I have 2 indoor cats). \$350/mo. + 1/2 util. (407) 352-3464 for more info. (05)

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ROOMMATE WANTED

non-smoker, dependable, HIV + OK, to share 2 BR/2 BA condo off Goldenrod near University Blvd. \$275 + 1/2 util. Guy, (407) 671-7473. (05)

ROOMMATE WANTED

to share 3 BR/2 BA house near Colonial & Kirkman. Includes Jacuzzi, alarm system, fireplace, large storage area, corner lot. \$280/mo. + 1/2 util. Darryl. (407) 293-4764. (05)

ROOMMATE NEEDED - ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

about May 29. Unfurn. \$215/mo. + 1/2 util. Aaron, (407) 788-6304. (05)

M/F ROOMMATE OR COUPLE

to share a 2 BR/2 BA apartment near UCF. Private BR w/BA. \$85/wk. (includes power, water & rent). (407) 425-4527, leave message for Debra, c/o realty agency, or 823-2471, wk. (05)

1 BA APT. FOR RENT. - DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

427 N. Shine Ave., behind the YMCA. Gay neighborhood (straight landlords, nice). \$85/wk., includes util. Sid or Tom, (407) 896-0635. (05)

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931-0032 after 3 p.m., ask for Joanne. BE DISCRETE. (05)

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ALL other classifications are \$10.00 for 30 words.

Each additional word over 30 is 10 cents.
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HOW TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE CENTER FOLD

On a separate piece of paper, type or print your ad. Mark down the classification you want. Include your name, address and telephone number in case we need to verify your ad. Please make your check or money order payable to *The Center Fold*. Mail your ad and payment to: THE CENTER FOLD CLASSIFIEDS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, FL 32853-3446. The deadline is the 20th of each month. *We also have classifications for Services, For Sale and Miscellaneous. We reserve the right to refuse or edit classified ads.*

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Spring Proving Busy for OGC

By André Provencher
Center Fold Staff Writer

Following an all-too-brief vacation, the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) resumed a hectic schedule of auditions, rehearsals and fund-raisers, pretty much in that order. Beginning on Jan. 15 and for the following two weeks, over a dozen new candidates auditioned for Dr. Charles Callahan, director of the OGC, and Bob Smedley, its president.

Give or take a sabbatical or two, the occasional relocation to another town, and the minimal casualties of exhaustion, OGC's latest membership stands at 65.

New members immediately began memorizing two years worth of repertory, while returning members forged their way through five pieces to be featured in a command performance for visiting members of Lesbian and Gay United Employees of AT&T (LeAGUE)'s first annual convention in February.

The chorus shared a double-bill with lesbian singer-songwriter-comedian Monica Grant, an ideal blend of music and mirth. Surprisingly, the affair gave local chorines a chance to meet members of gay and lesbian choruses from around the nation.

Posters and notes of well-wishes were placed throughout OGC's dressing area; and, afterward, a few brave souls offered official greetings from their hometown organization. OGC will be reunited with these gracious folks in June for GALA Festival IV.

(GALA is an international alliance of over 90 men's, women's and mixed choruses, dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement through excellence in choral arts. GALA's fourth festival, a week chocked full of workshops and

performances by choruses from around the world, will be held in Denver in June. OGC is scheduled to perform.)

The OGC joined Joy MCC in celebration of its 13th anniversary on March 28. A trio of chorines joined Bryce Ward, a local performer, in a touching rendition of "First You Have a Dream." The event allowed the chorus to perform its own sacred music, so often unceremoniously interjected among showtunes and standards during its biannual concerts, including its Holiday celebration. "Joyous" is the only word befitting such an event.

Deserving of equal but much briefer mention is OGC's second annual rummage sale at Joy MCC on Saturday, April 4. The sale begins at 8 a.m., so come early before all those blue light specials end. And, on Wednesday, April 8, the chorus is offering an open house rehearsal.

Refreshments will be served, and the public will have an opportunity to see and hear the chorus rehearsing its latest and destined-to-be greatest numbers. At last, the community-at-large will get to see exactly what Dr. Callahan does with his baton to get chorines to reach those top notes! Rehearsal begins at 7 p.m.

Dorothy Dish, OGC's in-house gossip queen (which one? They have so many!) has placed a flea in my ear concerning a potential songfest featuring members of the chorus at a local establishment I cannot disclose as of yet, but it begins with a "P" and ends with an "H." Rumored hostesses have ranged from Miss Jacquelyn Jones to the divine Miss P, perhaps even both. (Wouldn't that be worth the price of admission alone?!) Updates will be given.

In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for a fairy or two in the garden at City Hall handing out flyers. One of them just may be me!

Clef Notes

Bookshelf

Growing Up Gay in the South: Race, Gender and Journeys of the Spirit
James T. Sears, Ph.D.,
associate professor,
Department of Leadership and Policies,
University of South Carolina

This groundbreaking book weaves personal portraits of lesbian and gay Southerners with interdisciplinary commentary about the impact of culture, race and gender on the development of sexual identity and focuses on the distinct features of the unique pressures faced by gay men, lesbians and bisexuals in this region. A group of Southern lesbians and gay men candidly share their attitudes and feelings about themselves, their families, their schooling, and their search for a sexual identity.

These insightful biographies illustrate the diversity of persons who identify themselves as gay or lesbian and depict the range of prejudice and problems they have encountered as sexual rebels. Not just a simple compilation of "coming out" stories, this book is a human testament to the process of social questioning in the search for psychological wholeness, while examining the personal and social significance of acquiring a lesbian or gay identity within the Southern culture.

Copies of *Growing Up Gay in the South* can be ordered from the Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Project Inc., P.O. Box 5085, Columbia, S.C., 29250, for \$39.95, hardcover, and \$24.95, softcover. Postage and handling is \$1 for the first book and 50 cents for each additional book.

All royalties earned from this book are donated to not-for-profit lesbian/gay/bisexual organizations.

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Act Out Theater Presents Fierstein's 'The International Stud'

By Cornelius Van Pelt
Center Fold Theater Writer

Act Out Theater, Central Florida's only non-profit corporation organized to produce plays with gay and/or lesbian themes, announces its production of Harvey Fierstein's one-act comedy, *The International Stud*.

This is a play that everyone knows. It appeared on Broadway for months, and subsequently was made into a highly successful, and somewhat controversial, movie.

The International Stud is the first act of Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*, and according to Lewis Routh, director, is an incredible piece of theater.

Fierstein's *The International Stud* gives us Arnold, a flamboyant drag queen with a poignantly quick wit, and Ed, a shy, straight-looking bisexual school teacher. Their stories are presented in monologue form against a background of jazz standards sung (*a la* Helen Morgan) by the Torch Singer.

Through the play, we are treated to gay bar scenes of the '60s (complete with their backrooms), and are introduced to the complex world of gay relationships.

Yet, for all its vivid accounts of the gay experience, the play compelled *Newsweek* to write that it is the most conservative play to be presented in years ... that it is a play committed to the classic values of fidelity, family, loving ... all the while being a play about homosexuality.

The magazine refers to it as being funny, poignant and an unabashedly entertaining work that actually is a play

for the whole family.

Act Out's production of *The International Stud* will feature a cast of regulars familiar to Act Out Theater audiences.

Doc Winters is the musical director/arranger and pianist. The production will be directed by Lewis Routh, Act Out's founder.

Performances of *International Stud* will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18 and 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. at the phoenix AT ALOMA, 7124 Aloma Ave. (one mile east of Highway 436).

Tickets are \$5 in advance, available only at the phoenix, or \$6 at the door.

Telephone reservations will not be available for this production.

For more information, call Act Out Theater at (407) 677-5407.

Note to all local actors and actresses:

The May production of Act Out Theater will be Merrie Harris' one act play, *Bar Dykes*.

Performances will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 22, 23, 24 and 29, 30, 31.

Auditions for the play will be on Sunday, April 12, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the phoenix AT ALOMA.

Set in the 1950s in a lesbian bar the one-act play explores the relationships between women.

The play looks at an era when there was a distinct difference between butches and femmes.

The roles were defined clearly until a new young woman dared to enter the world of Bar Dykes. For more information on the auditions, call (407) 677-5407.

PERRY, Page 15

been turned up brighter. I slept well that night, and was ready to whip a wildcat the next day.

The morning after the transfusion, I was in a roadside produce stand buying some strawberries and things for my lunch. It was a very pleasant day, with sunshine and warm breezes. I was selecting some pears when I heard, over my shoulder, a mockingbird singing.

The mockingbird is, to me, a symbol of cheerfulness, optimism and good times. It has a confident, brave attitude that cannot be broken. This little plain gray bird is more courageous than any other creature in the world. Any trespass into mocker territory will bring a fierce, determined attack to drive away the intruder, whether it be a cat, a man, a crow or a bear. The mockingbird is my hero, for it is undefeatable, eternally

optimistic and always friendly. I will love and be inspired by the mockingbird forever.

When I heard the mockingbird singing at the produce market, it was the first one of the year for me. I had been knocking along through months of sickness and weakness and gloomy skies, missing my little gray friends. During the winter, not a day would pass without me thinking about spring and summer and mockers singing all around.

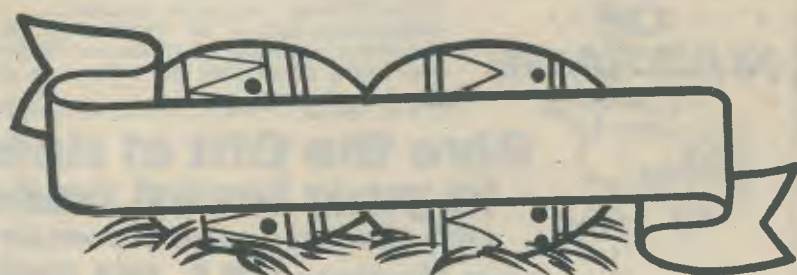
I turned to see the source of the song I heard, and saw two of them flirting in a tree just outside the market. One of them flew down under the roof of the open-air market, landed a few feet away from me, stole a grape from a display and flew out again. From that very moment, I knew that everything was going to be all right. I faked shopping a little longer, for I didn't want the lady at the register to see the tears in my eyes.

Where Are You?

By Laurence Sheldon
Center Fold Staff Writer

You say you want something different and fun in *The Center Fold*? Well, folks, here's your chance for fame and almost no fortune. From time to time, we will publish a picture of a well-known, or not so well-known structure or landmark. If you think you know where it is, send a letter to Center Fold Managing Editor Michael j. Sopoliga, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, Fla. 32853-3446.

If you're the first correct person to respond, you will be highlighted as a winner in the next issue. If you have any suggestions for future Where Are You? topics, forward them to Michael Sopoliga, as well.



DONATIONS WANTED!

We always appreciate the donation of equipment and supplies that help reduce our operating costs. The following is a brief listings of items needed.

- 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" High Density Computer Disks
- Gay or Lesbian Themed Books
- Literature or Magazine Rack
- Subscriptions to Gay or Lesbian Magazines
- Paper Shredder
- 40+ Mb Hard Disk (IBM)
- Copy Paper
- Computer Paper

Canadian Women and AIDS: Beyond the Statistics

Canadian Women and AIDS is one of the very few anthologies about women and AIDS. It contains over 40 articles, 11 by women with HIV/AIDS, and is organized in five thematic sections:

- An Introduction to the Issues of HIV/AIDS;
- Women with HIV/AIDS Share their Stories;
- Women and AIDS: Who's Vulnerable (young women and adolescents, Haitian & other Black women, lesbians, women using IV-drugs, prostitutes & women in prison);
- Educating Ourselves, Educating Each Other; and
- Organizing our Communities: Women Helping Women.

Read an overview of women and AIDS in Canada and another article placing women and AIDS in a worldwide context. See through the eyes of an epidemiologist studying the evolution of AIDS, then through the eyes of an ordinary woman suddenly diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, then through the eyes of a nurse in an AIDS clinic or a volunteer in a community organization or a social worker in a hospital as she attempts to support, to explain, to educate and to destigmatize the illness.

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Medicine and Mockingbirds

Editor's Note: The following essay is the third contribution to The Center Fold by one of its most unique writers. The author is a modern-day storyteller (akin to a folklorist), and a victim of our community's modern-day disease. His stories are true; his words are simple; his messages are heartwarming. We hope you enjoy the writings of Brinson Perry.

By Brinson Perry
Special to The Center Fold

A couple of things happened to me lately that boosted my physical strength and gave my attitude a terrific lift. I got a needed blood transfusion, and I heard my first mockingbird song of the year.

My HIV disease had been dragging me down for a couple of weeks, and I was in pretty bad shape physically because of it. My hemoglobin level had tapered off to a dangerously low level, and my strength and endurance were almost gone.

I had slipped so far that I could barely make it from my recliner chair to the kitchen and back without having to lean on other furniture to steady myself. I drove myself on a few errands one day, and found that I had to be extremely careful because I just about couldn't reach my brakes fast enough to avoid hitting the car ahead of me. My reaction time was off.

I made it to my nursing office OK, and gave a blood sample which was tested

right away. The nurse came back and said that my hemoglobin level was 7.0, which is dangerously low. Ten days before, it had been 8.3, so the decline I had felt had been real. My low level made the nurses become borderline freaky. They were worried that I couldn't drive safely, which was true, but I promised to only go straight home. The nursing company made arrangements with my doctor to get blood for me, brought it out to my house, and filled me up with fresh blood to build my strength.

Hemoglobin is the substance which carries oxygen from the lungs to the muscles of the body. Without enough hemoglobin, the muscles will run out of oxygen, and out of strength very quickly. The patient will start walking, and feel good for the first good feet. After the first few feet, his legs will deplete their oxygen and become tired. A few more feet, and the legs will become so fatigued that the patient cannot stand without help. In a healthy adult, the hemoglobin level will be around 13 or 14. Most doctors will order transfusions when the level drops to 8.0. No wonder I felt bad, with a reading of 7.0!

So, to strengthen me, a home care nurse brought three units of good, rich blood. I settled in my recliner, and the nurse took care of the rest. Three units took a few hours to flow in but I didn't mind the wait, because I could literally feel the strength returning to my body, and the color back to my face. When the transfusion was over, I felt like a new man. It almost seemed like the lights had

See PERRY, Page 18



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New Groups to Treat Gay, Lesbian BATTERERS Forming

The battering of one's partner is *not* just a heterosexual problem; it is a societal problem that is also greatly seen in the gay and lesbian community. Sadly, it is something that many gays and lesbians rarely admit and often keep hidden whether they are the victims or the perpetrators.

Earlier this year, the Florida law was changed to start protecting lesbians and gays who suffer physical abuse at their partner's hands. Obviously, this indicates our law enforcement agencies response to the growing emergence of this problem.

Violent and coercive tactics used in gay and lesbian battering include: physical assault of *any kind*, sexual abuse, destruction of property, threats against one's partner or a significant third party, control of economics, emotional abuse (humiliation, degradation, mind games, bursts of fury, etc.) and controlling one's partner through homophobic behaviors (threatening to "out" the person against their will).

No Abuse Inc., a non-profit counseling

program for perpetrators of domestic violence, is responding to this devastating and dangerous secret in the gay and lesbian community. No Abuse Inc. will be offering 26-week open groups for lesbian and gay batterers. The purpose of these groups will be to educate the batterer about what abuse is, why it occurs and how to establish an equal, intimate relationship. Person who take this courageous step in starting to heal themselves will be challenged to examine their belief systems and behavior patterns. The groups will be facilitated by Joyce Pastorek and Sandra Pollock.

The group for lesbians will be on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. beginning April 21. A separate group for gay males will be on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. beginning April 23. The fee will be \$25 per group. If you find yourself to be abusive at times or know someone who would benefit from this program, please get some help. For more information, or to register, call (407) 895-7151.

ATTENTION all writers, contributors, new advertisers: The deadline for articles and ads is the 15th of every month. Any copy or ads received after that date cannot be guaranteed space in the next issue.

The deadline for the May issue: Wed., April 15.

AUCTION

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CORRECTION

Due to a clerical error the Unique Homes and Investments classifieds were not updated in the February and March *Center Folds*. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused Margaret Davis or Paul R. Ricci.

Michael Collins
Advertising Representative
The Center Fold

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5/22--The Kiss of the Spider Woman

Fortress of Solitude

A Reflection by Michael J. Sopoliga
Managing Editor

I can think back to my childhood and remember a lot of things about the place I still call home. Of course, I now just "visit" home (the place where I grew up), because I have made my own home in Orlando.

Inevitably, however, when I make my visit at home, I seem to walk those hall ways and spaces with many memories both good and bad.

The physical environment always seemed smaller than what I experienced as a child, but then again, I was much smaller then. My parents, both of whom still live there, did some remodeling; luckily, however, it didn't take away those spaces and hallways that I remember so vividly.

We all have a tendency to reflect upon our childhood. Many times we are prompted by times of joy, and also, times of sadness. Going home for none of these reasons is always what I prefer best. When I'm home, I don't make attempts to visit that many people, or places. Gay bars are the farthest thing from my mind.

When I'm home, albeit for a long

weekend usually, I just like to spend the time home. Home with my parents, who are up in their years, but seem to make me tired with all of their activities.

Inevitably, I take my nostalgia trip down memory lane, looking at books, old 8mm home movies, and just being in the spaces I called home as I grew up.

One place that I am so grateful still exists, was up on the third floor of our two-story house which was an attic, until my dad thought it would be nice for me to have my own room. So he converted half of it into a dormer bedroom. It was

hot as blazes during the summer, but window air conditioners were the rage, and helped make summer sleep-

ing tolerable. But that one space was a small portion of the attic, which was my very own place. My fortress of solitude.

It was likened to a tree house, perhaps, which others had. It was my space. I can remember going there in good times and bad. I used to make believe that it was my very own castle, which would protect me from the cold cruel world. I could never stand up-right in it as a little boy. This was a place that you had to crawl into, which made it all the more special, since parents and other grown ups would find it difficult to visit for more than a few minutes. It was my space that I could retreat to when my report card wasn't the

See FORTRESS, Page 14

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FORTRESS
from Page 13

greatest, and thought my parents didn't love me. It was my space where I could go and feel safe when my parents would fight with each other. It was my escape from everything that scared me while I was growing up.

Of course, I searched other parts of the house for my fortress of solitude. I thought a place in the finished basement would do, but thought differently. After all, that was the place where my parents would threaten they would send me if I misbehaved.

Besides that, it had the "oil burner." That blasted thing would scare the pants off any young kid. If you saw the movie *Home Alone*, you would know what I'm talking about. I can remember my parents saying, "Michael, if you don't behave, we'll put you in the basement so the bogey man will get you!" Of course, they meant that big cast-iron monster that would glow in the dark, smell funny and growl all night. No way would I want to escape to my fortress of solitude down there!

There's one big problem that I'm sure many of us who have had our places of escape have encountered today. I still have times in my life when I wish I could seek refuge in that special place that I made for myself so that I could feel safe. But that one's too far away, and I have yet to find another so suitable. A bar maybe?

No, I could never feel fully safe and at peace there. My own home? Perhaps, but they don't make them with attics down here too often. Thank goodness they don't make them with too many basements either.

*Psychologists, psychiatrists
and others all suggest that
it's good to have a place
where we can go to be
alone with ourselves. They
say it's very therapeutic.*

Does this mean that because we've grown up we don't need places where we could feel totally safe and secure? I doubt it. Are special places like that non-existent today? That's probably true. Should we keep looking? You bet.

Even Superman, in the movie could always go back to his Fortress of Solitude. He could go back to chat with his father and mother long since gone, except for a faded hologram. He could find wisdom, courage and solace there. If it weren't so cold there I wouldn't mind it either.

Psychologists, psychiatrists and others all suggest that it's good to have a place where we can go to be alone with ourselves. They say it's very therapeutic. You see, I knew what I was doing when I cleared all of the junk from that special place, put down a small piece of carpet, placed a small lamp in it, got inside and closed the small door, and felt that no one could harm me. It was a place I felt safe. Could it have been a second womb that I was searching for?

As grown ups, we may not have to worry about the bogey man anymore. We may think that we can take on the world and everything it can throw at us. Perhaps. But I would long to have that attic nearby. That place where I was invulnerable. My fortress of solitude.

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Residence (407) 249-0640

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Affordable Professional Counseling

Professional counselors are available by appointment at The Center to members of the community who need short-term counseling but cannot afford standard fees.

For more information, call The Center during regular office hours at:

(407) 425-4527

Have you been a victim of Severe Public or Private Physical/Verbal Harassment while residing in Central Florida?

Speak out and let us know by calling:

(407) 425-4527

**Ask for either Jeff Sullivan, David Bain, or John Rose
All Information is strictly confidential.**

**Don't let your silence allow this to continue.
This can be fought with numbers. Be Counted.
Because you count!**



*This is what your membership
and donations help us to do!!*

February 1992	YTD
Walk-ins at The Center	1113 2103
Telephone calls at The Center	946 1775
Telephone calls to the Hotline	1343 2552
Number of nights Emergency Housing in use	29 60

*And with your continued support
we can do even more!!!
Join GLCS today!!!*

MONDAYS

7:00 P.M. AEGIS OF BREVARD COUNTY MEETS THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE MELBOURNE LIBRARY. (407) 784-3063 .

7:30 P.M. HOPE & HELP AIDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETS EVERY MONDAY. (407) 894-1992 .

7:30 P.M. THE PROJECT RESPONSE RAP GROUP FOR CENTRAL BREVARD COUNTY MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY EVERY MONTH AT THE BURNHAM-WOODS COUNSELING CENTER, 640 N. BREVARD AVE., COCOA VILLAGE, COCOA. CALL (407) 242-0352 .

7:30 P.M. THE PROJECT RESPONSE VISUALIZATION/RELAXATION GROUP MEETS THE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY AT THE BURNHAM-WOODS COUNSELING CENTER.

8:00 P.M. THE JOY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC) ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUP MEETS IN THE MARK CARDWELL HALL EVERY MONDAY EVENING. JOY MCC IS LOCATED AT 2351 S. FERNCREEK AVE., ORLANDO. (407) 894-1081 .

9:15 P.M. GAYSKATER ROLLS INTO THE SEMORAN SKATEWAY IN CASSELBERRY THE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH. ADMISSION IS OPEN TO ALL AGES, \$5 PER PERSON. (407) 425-GLCS.

TUESDAYS

7:00 P.M. CENTAUR'S MEDITATION/RELAXATION GROUP MEETS EVERY TUESDAY EVENING. (407) 849-1452

7:00 P.M. AEGIS OF BREVARD MEETS THE LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT CAPE CANAVERAL HOSPITAL, 2ND FLOOR LIBRARY. (407) 784-3063 .

7:00 P.M. THE OCALA-MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY AIDS NETWORK SPONSORS A PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP TUESDAY EVENINGS. (904) 629-5124.

7:30 P.M. JOY MCC HOLDS A BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY EVENING IN THE MARK CARDWELL HALL. (407) 894-1081.

9:00 P.M. THE ORANGE BLOSSOM BOWLING ASSOCIATION (OBBA) BOWLS AT BOWL AMERICA, 1111 W. FAIRBANKS AVE., WINTER PARK EVERY TUESDAY EVENING. SPECTATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. (407) 644-2244.

WEDNESDAYS

7:15 A.M. JOY MCC PRAYER BREAKFAST IN THE MARK CARDWELL HALL. (407) 894-1081 .

6:00 P.M. CENTAUR'S SOCIAL "DROP IN" AND HANG OUT NIGHT IS EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENING UNTIL 9 P.M. (407) 849-1452 .

7:00 P.M. CENTAUR'S SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MEN, WOMEN AND FAMILY IS EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY EVENING UNTIL 9 P.M. (407) 849-1452.

7:00 P.M. AEGIS OF BREVARD MEETS THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 200 N. 1ST ST., COCOA BEACH. (407) 784-3063.

7:00 P.M. HOPE MCC IN ORMOND BEACH HOLDS SOCIALS, STUDY GROUPS OR DISCUSSIONS EVERY WEDNESDAY. FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 56 N. HALIFAX, ORMOND BEACH. (904) 676-1030

7:30 P.M. THE JOY MCC WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS IN THE MARK CARDWELL HALL. (407) 894-1081.

7:30 P.M. PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) MEETS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WESLEY BLDG. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM PORTION OF THE EVENING. THE RAP GROUP IS OPEN ONLY TO PARENTS AND MEMBERS. ALLENE BAUS AFTER 6:30 P.M. (407) 896-0689.

OPEN THE LOCAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY/LESBIAN OCALA (LOGO) HOLDS A GENERAL MEETING THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. (904) 620-0157.

THURSDAYS

6:30 P.M. METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT VARIOUS BUSINESSES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY. (407) 425-4527.

7:00 P.M. CENTAUR HOLDS NAMES PROJECT QUILT NIGHT UNTIL 9 P.M. EVERY THURSDAY EVENING. (407) 849-1452.

7:30 P.M. THE HOPE & HELP SUPPORT GROUP FOR HIV-POSITIVE PERSONS AND CAREGIVERS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING. (407) 894-1992.

7:30 P.M. THE FIGHT FOR LIFE AIDS SUPPORT GROUP IN KISSIMMEE MEETS EVERY THURSDAY. (407) 846-0456.

FRIDAYS

7:00 P.M. AEGIS OF BREVARD HOLDS A MEETING EVERY FRIDAY FOR HIV POSITIVES AT THE AEGIS OFFICE, 200 N. 1ST ST., COCOA BEACH. (407) 784-3063 .

7:30 P.M. THE JOY MCC SINGLES GROUP MEETS THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE MARK CARDWELL HALL FOR A FRIENDLY GET-TOGETHER. (407) 894-1081.

7:30 P.M. GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS COALITION PARENT'S RAP 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH 750 W. COLONIAL DRIVE, (407) 420-2191.

SATURDAYS

2:00 P.M. AREA (AIDS RESOURCE, EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE) HOLDS RAP GROUPS THE SECOND AND FOURTH SATURDAYS OF THE MONTH. (407) 647-2765.

4:00 P.M. PROJECT RESPONSE HOLDS A POT LUCK AND SOCIAL THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN NORTH BREVARD COUNTY. IT ALL HAPPENS AT THE WUESTHOFF PARK BLDG. ON BARNUM RD., SOUTH OF HWY. 50. (407) 242-0352.

OPEN GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS COALITION SOCIAL MEETINGS 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH. KID'S DAY 4TH SATURDAY WITH OUTINGS FOR THE KIDS. (407) 420-2191.

OPEN THE LOCAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY/LESBIAN OCALA (LOGO) HOLDS A GENERAL MEETING THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. (904) 620-0157.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 1992

SUNDAYS

10:30 A.M. & 7:15 P.M. JOY MCC SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ..(407) 894-1081 .

2:00 P.M. THE BLACK STAR LEVI/LEATHER CLUB MEETS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE FULL MOON SALOON. MICHAEL (407) 420-2787.

5:00 P.M. THE FAMILY THAT CARES CHURCH, A CHRISTIAN CHURCH "WHERE EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME" HOLDS SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 1815 E. ROBINSON STREET. (407) 236-9188.

7:00 P.M. HOPE MCC HOLDS SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 56 N. HALIFAX, ORMOND BEACH. (904) 676-1030.

7:00 P.M. BREAKING THE SILENCE MCC IN BREVARD HOLDS SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, 1261 RANGE RD., COCOA. (407) 254-5884 .

TO HAVE YOUR GROUP'S MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS LISTED IN THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, SEND INFO. TO: THE CENTER FOLD, ATTN. CALENDAR SECTION, P.O. BOX 533446, ORLANDO, FL 32853. INCLUDE DAY, TIME, ORGANIZATION, AND PHONE FOR EACH LISTING. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

COMM CAL PM4

PRIDE, from Page 1

Bandshell

- **Friday, June 19:** An invitation-only champagne reception at The Center
- **Saturday, June 20:** Pride Parade, following a similar route as last year.

Rose is seeking volunteers for various pride activities. People wishing to assist in the reading of names during the AIDS Memorial and those wishing to give names to be read should call John Rose at the Center, (407) 425-GLCS. The names do not have to be local; anyone can be remembered at this ceremony. GLCS will be carrying the world's largest flag, 18-by-36 feet, in the parade.

GLCS will need 30 volunteers to help carry this flag. The goal for all of June will be to stock the food banks for the three local AIDS agencies: Hope and Help, Centaur and AREA. Canned goods

will be collected at the AIDS Memorial site and during the entire month of June. Naturally, financial donations will be gratefully accepted as well, according to Rose. All of the monies collected will go directly for food as part of the Pride Week Appeal.

Jack Hansen and Heather Sanders of the Southern Ballet will perform at the AIDS Memorial. Members of the local clergy will also participate. One of two speeches will be given by Hope and Help director Chuck Hummer. Voter registration will also be available at that time.

This is the time for all of us to volunteer time and money. The food drive is targeted to collect enough canned and dried foods to stock the food banks for six months. This can be done if everyone chips in. Call the Center if you wish to volunteer your services. Many of our brothers and sisters need your help.

wonderfully. Thinking of himself more and learning to love himself more. Also feeling comfortable by saying goodbye to the life that he really didn't want! – by turning away from that deadend street. Thanks to his new family and friends for their support in his new life.

STREET

from page 7

black and blue lips. He told his lover that it was over, putting an end to the foolishness and to the relationship.

Today the HIV-positive one is doing

24
HOUR
HOTLINE



(407) THE-GAYS

843-4297

NEED HELP OR INFORMATION
ABOUT THE GAY COMMUNITY?

Gay and Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc. (GLCS) has been operating a 24-Hour computerized phone information and referral service for the past 3 years.

HOTLINE DIRECTORY

0# - Transfer to GLCS Volunteer

1# - Bars, Nightclubs, Restaurants

2# - Counseling Services

3# - Local Support Organizations

4# - AIDS Information

#6 - Gay Facts/Coming Out

#7 - Upcoming GLCS Events

#8 - Business Referrals

#10 - Center Schedule

#12 - Youth Information

30# - GLCS Information

31# - AIDS Support

32# - Alcohol Abuse

33# - Health Services/Clinics

34# - Performing Arts

35# - Political Action

36# - Publications

37# - Recreation

38# - Religious Groups

39# - Social and Support Groups

40# - State/National AIDS Info

41# - Professional Counselors

61# - Youth Crisis Information

62# - Delta Youth Alliance Info

63# - Alternate Lifestyle Definition

64# - Coming out to Your Parents

65# - Suggested Reading (Youth)

66# - Bookstores and Sources

67# - Youth Pen Pals Program

70# - Attorneys

71# - Physicians

*You must enter # after your selection. A touch tone phone is required.

Gay & Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc.

750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32804 (407) THE-GAYS

SUPPORT GROUPS

These groups offer support and help to all individuals without cost.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:
"AA"

Brevard County
Orlando
Tampa

(407) 724-2247
(407) 647-3333
(813) 933-9123

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS
"CODA"

Tampa
Orlando

(813) 876-7483
(407) 831-5410

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
"NA"

Brevard County
Orlando
Tampa

(407) 631-4357
(407) 425-5157
(813) 879-4357

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
"OA"

Brevard County
Orlando
Tampa

(800) 338-5838
(407) 628-1227
(813) 254-4190

Gay and Lesbian Community Services
of Central Florida:

Orlando (407) 425-4527

Hope and Help Center of Central Florida

Orlando (407) 894-1992

National AIDS TTY HOTLINE

1-800-243-7889

Any groups offering help and support at no cost are invited to add their name to this list. Call (407) 649-8615, Monday - Friday 1-9 pm.

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reservations and information 677-5407