

# T • H • E C E N T E R F ▼ O ▼ L ▼ D

**NEW!**  
**Starting**  
**This Issue:**  
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THE MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE FROM GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

## From Frustration to Understanding to Advocacy

### How the President of P/FLAG Fights the Battle for Gay/Lesbian Equal Rights

By Bradley Whiteside  
Center Fold Staff Writer

"I don't like the term 'gay rights'; we have had those implied rights all along. The term that should be used is 'equal rights.' That's something that we certainly do not have," said Paulette Goodman, the national president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), a national support group for parents, spouses and relatives of Gays and Lesbians.

During her mid-September visit to Orlando and The Center, Goodman recounted her many experiences with PFLAG at a special meeting of the Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI).

"We all know that the U.S., unlike most other countries, has difficulties dealing with sex, and homosexuality throws us into a real tizzy," she said. "It's a mystic and titillating term, and people are afraid of what they don't know. The fear of the unknown is powerful; it leads us down treacherous paths and into horrifying decision-making processes. P/FLAG had to be created ... to counter those negative forces."

Parisian by birth, but American by choice, Goodman is the founder and driving force behind P/FLAG. She started the first chapter in Washington, D.C., in 1982, when she discovered the informational vacuum that existed for parents of Gay and Lesbian children.

Goodman's daughter had come out, privately and with difficulty, to her immediately family two years earlier, and questions had flooded Goodman's mind: What would her extended

family, her neighbors and her friends think? Would she be perceived as a mother who had failed? How would her daughter cope, and handle the way society might now treat her?

"Initially, you have feelings of guilt when your child comes out. You don't know how to deal with the situation," Goodman said. "You know society is hostile, and you feel so helpless. Why is she that way? Why did she do that? Your feelings go beyond frustration to anger."

Goodman put aside all the conservative social/sexual habits instilled into her by her very proper French mother. "I never gave it a second thought. I knew instinctively that I had to do something to help," she said. "But it took me almost a year of constant thinking about it, pushing it out of my mind, procrastinating and then facing the facts again before I could even talk to my husband about it."

"Our daughter had come out to him (a real renaissance man in her eyes) first, without me being present. I was deeply hurt because she didn't trust me. But I would never give up on my children. Never! Society is not going to rob me of my child!"

Eventually, Goodman joined a support group of other parents confronted by the same issue, and she began to deal with her feelings. The turning point for her came when she attended a feminist seminar at George Washington University,

where she viewed a series of slides from New York City's Gay Pride Parade.

This led to her expanded activities on behalf of parents of Gay and Lesbian children, an effort that has grown dramatically. The P/FLAG roster has mushroomed from



PAULETTE GOODMAN

1,700 families in 1987 to over 10,000. There now are over 200 national chapters of the group.

P/FLAG's mission for the future includes:

"1) providing a support system for families and friends of lesbians and gays in their effort to understand, accept and support their children and friends with love and pride;

"2) offering support and understanding to gays and lesbians;

"3) speaking out and acting whenever necessary to defend and enhance those human and civil rights;

"4) providing education for individuals and the community at large on the nature of homosexuality."

Implicit in these goals is "the need to get to parents of new Gays and Lesbians," Goodman said. "The best way to reach the parents is through their children; if you get the children, the parents won't be far behind."

"We need to grow a powerful movement for change to bring ... and ensure ... equal rights for our loved ones ... to let every family touched by new and different lifestyles get the support they need," she said.

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## President: Will GLCS Close Up Shop?

By David Bain  
GLCS President

Sept. 15 was the first anniversary of The Center's Colonial Drive location, while The Center itself is now entering its fourth year of existence. This is quite an accomplishment. Orlando is the only city in Florida that can boast the existence of a Gay and Lesbian community center. We are doing quite a bit and making



some amazing strides forward.

Then why is it that I once again find my mind consumed with thoughts of doom?

I've just spent several hours on the phone with various GLCS board members, many of them discouraged by our

financial woes.

It seems once again, GLCS is suffering from a cash-flow problem. Our past efforts at fund-raising have brought in minimal revenues. It takes all the remaining energy I have left after completing my regular 40 plus hour workweek to maintain the morale of a group that works endlessly maintaining an organization that always seems in peril of shutting down.

I don't think there is anything I hate worse than having to ask for money (except maybe writing board reports which I think fall on the borderline of negative).

That's a task I prefer to leave to the experts like Jim and Tammy Fae Bakker. They'd make you feel good about giving and if that didn't work, they'd throw in an album, book or time-share resort. I've thought about the album, but what would I sing? "Thank the Lord for Sinners"? I just don't think it would work.

How about a United Way pitch: "Give us money or we'll make you feel guilty."

Now there's an idea ... guilt. It's the exact feeling I get every time I ask for money from our community. I start my pitch with a smile, knowing deep down inside my heart that your money couldn't be going to a better cause when ... BAM! You start with that look you give the doctor just before he says, "Turn your head and cough." Then comes the excuses, like the ones you give your mother when she starts to hint she's free next weekend.

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## The Center Announces Holiday Appeal

By John Rose  
Center Director

I am very pleased to announce The Center's Annual Holiday Appeal and schedule. This year, as in the past, your community center will have its usual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. These dinners are open to all who would like to enjoy their holiday meal in a comfortable Gay/Lesbian atmosphere.



There will, of course, be no charge for the meals, but we would welcome your donations. As in the past, those who are confined to their homes will be delivered a meal upon request.

Like all our events, these rely on volunteers to cook, serve and deliver the meals. We most especially will need people who would like to cook turkeys, since The Center has no kitchen facilities. If you would like to give us a hand or make a donation to this most worthwhile appeal, please call us at 425-4527.

To go along with these holiday celebrations, The Center will operate extended hours on both Thanksgiving and

Christmas Eve in order to have available a friendly voice to speak to those who are depressed during the holiday season.

Good things seem to happen in threes: a very successful start for our Youth Group, an incredibly successful trip to Tampa for GayEscape cruise negotiations and last, but surely not least, radio station 102JAMZ has offered an apology to the Gay and Lesbian community for the homophobic antics of DJ Joe Nasty.

The program director has assured me that Nasty will refrain from telling Gay/Lesbian jokes on the air and from making fun of our social events. A milestone to say the least. Thanks to 102JAMZ for realizing that we have feelings, too.

You still have time to get tickets for our benefit performance of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 11 p.m. at the Theatre Downtown.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door if available. Come on out and enjoy a night of comedy and help out your community center.

To put all the rumors to rest about GayEscape III, let me say that it will be in April or May of 1991 and the featured entertainment will be very well known.

The PALS (Patrons and Loving Supporters) Program continues to provide half of our monthly income. In order to raise these monthly donations, GLCS board member Skeeter Durham has volunteered to give a chaste and brotherly kiss to each new pledge member.

You can find Skeeter at the South Street parking lot at Southern Nights on Wednesday and Sunday nights running valet parking.

Watch *The Orlando Sentinel* for two upcoming articles. One, on Oct. 7 and another on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11. Both articles should provide some notable firsts for our community.



# GLCS' Role is to Nurture the Gay Community

By Linda Cartwright  
GLCS Office Manager

## Opinion

I got off the phone recently with a gentleman who had just moved here from New York and contacted GLCS for our voting recommendations for the September primaries. He was not the only person who asked us for that information, but our exchange is the one that stayed with me for days afterwards.

He was not rude. On the contrary, he was calm, polite and businesslike, but I still felt defensive, and later, somewhat deflated over our conversation.

You see, GLCS doesn't have any official recommendations on who you should or should not vote for. At the time this gentleman called, we didn't even have the suggestions from *The Weekly News*, the National Organization for Women or We the People that we later gave out.

When I explained that no one in GLCS had done that work, he was surprised - as was everyone else who had inquired - but he didn't stop at expressing his surprise.

His response to me was that I should tell the powers that be at GLCS that rap groups, movies, cook-outs and such were all well and good, but the most important thing our organization could do is not social outreach, but political action. We had,

essentially, failed.

Usually, I can shrug off criticism concerning GLCS, The Center and my work. Most of the criticism we receive - both from community members and from ourselves - centers around things that have gone undone. The absence of Pride Picnic coverage in *The Center Fold*, the

sporadic and often overdue "thank yous" to those who contribute time, energy and/or funds, the less-than-spotless condition of The Center, etc.

It's so easy to see what is not being done. And those of us who are so busy striving to get those things done are often the most guilty of seeing only the "I should," "we shoulds" and, worse, the "I/we should have dones." We are painfully aware of what we have not accomplished.

Sometimes, mercifully, we are also made aware of those things that we have accomplished. That is what made this gentleman's criticism so painful. Not only did he point out what we had failed to do, but he also devalued everything that we had done.

The work that I and others pour our hearts and souls into is "all well and good," but is just so much fluff compared to the real work at hand. It's

*Much as we try, GLCS cannot be everything to everyone.*

a particularly harsh criticism to hear - and it's one I've had to think about for awhile.

What is the most important work GLCS could or should be doing? What does GLCS do now? Are we spending our (extremely limited) resources on programs that don't really benefit the community? Have we all been working so hard and intently on keeping the GLCS boat afloat that we've left the rudder unattended?

Of course, I realize, much as we try, GLCS cannot be everything to everyone. The Central Florida Gay and Lesbian population includes such a diverse collection of individuals that to respond to the needs/requests/criticisms of every one with a new program, project or action would destroy the entire organization within a matter of weeks.

So, we must prioritize and decide just what is it we want to do. What need(s) in the community should we strive to fill?

Currently, making consistent recommendations to the community on candidates for political office is not part of the work GLCS does.

Unfortunately, as far as I know, there is no permanent organization that fills that need in this area.

There is no truly organized effort as yet to question local candidates on their opinions on Gay and Lesbian issues, to sensitize candidates to Gay and Lesbian issues, to convince candidates that supporting those issues is not a political liability, to

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# What do Masquerades and Closets Offer You?

By Jeff Campbell  
Center Fold Staff Writer

So many Gays live in closets; places hidden away from our friends, families and employers. We conceal ourselves by building facades and pretending - trying to act the part in a play, lying about our personal lives.

In this manner, each of us builds our own closet with the means and materials we find convenient, with the reasons we find easy to justify. Each of us is responsible for the design and construction of our personal closet, and in so doing, we deny ourselves the fullness of life.

Those who hate us could not be more successful in segregating us than we are by isolating ourselves. Too often, we concern ourselves about our neighbor's observations and opinions of us as though we are criminals living in a police state.

Some closets are just shadows and allow us some peace of mind and tranquility, and acceptance in the community of our straight friends. But some closets are dark and tormenting and cause us to be trapped in a world of masquerade.

All closets are self-defeating to some degree and if we are truly to be free, we must learn to leave them. We must not let other persons and groups assign us to a place in life, especially to a place of hiding.

## MASKS & SECRETS

• **REFUGE** - This is the Closet of Denial. Many believe this is the place of easy comfort where there is no need of explanation; comfort with a few familiar friends on special occasions, but living in an unreal and empty world for most of the hours of our lives. It is a lonely place to live.

In this *refuge* we share momentary glimpses of pleasure and joy. But these happy moments are a compromise with the loneliness that follows as the party ends and the isolation from much of the real world continues.

• **SHAME** - Probably the most demeaning of all is this painful feeling. In this closet we are ashamed of ourselves, or ashamed of our personalities. It means we are unable to accept ourselves for the independent and creative persons that

we are; it means we dishonor ourselves for being the person we were destined to become and have become, and that we don't understand what Gay Pride is.

The Closet of Shame is the easiest to vacate for we have only ourselves to account for. The end of Shame is the birth of Pride and this can only come from within. Of the two, Pride is greater than Shame because it lets us speak out, to be ourselves; shame forces us to be mute and hidden and envelops us in self pity.

• **FEAR** is the most threatening of all closets! We fear for our safety, for our jobs and of the rejection by our families and friends. This is the closet dictated by intimidation and is the most difficult to open. Many spend their entire lives in this dark shadow because of this panic and deny themselves the joy of living and the joy of sharing.

Fear rivets the attention with the threat of rejection or reaction by others; fear to speak, to act, to be ourselves. We live in this closet only if we build walls around us through a dread of imagined reactions against ourselves. Just as Shame, the con-

quest of fear is from within and is an exciting achievement.

• **DECEIT** - The Closet of Deceit is the dishonorable place, for those hidden in the darkness of this abyss are the most destructive. They attack themselves and their friends with their efforts to impress the straight world around them; they seek to favor and respect of people with neither vision nor compassion.

They seek the baptism of praise from those who would scorn them knowing the truth of their being, and in doing so are untrue to themselves. Their entire lives, their personalities are lies and deceit and they are traitors even to themselves.

Those living in Closets of Deceit present the greatest danger to all of us for they pursue their ambitions at anyone's expense. They are arrogant for their ethics are cannibalistic and the gains they achieve are totally self-serving.

Maybe they are unaware that they do so much damage to the society of Gay people. Yet they must know that their laughter at crude "jokes" about

See CLOSETS, Page 2



## Divas Have a Ball, Raise Funds for GLCS

By Laurence Sheldon  
Center Fold Staff Writer

Thanks to the generosity of the owners of City Lights and its entertainers, GLCS received \$633 from proceeds of the Diva Ball. The black, white and red gala was held Sunday, Sept. 2, in the beautifully decorated show bar.

Chanaile Solitaire acted as mistress of ceremonies for the evening. Solitaire said that she discussed having a benefit gala for a worthy cause with Jan Koren and Wally Wood, owners of City Lights. Several organizations were considered, but Solitaire made the final decision, saying, "GLCS is the one!"

The show bar at City Lights was specially decorated for the Ball. Small intimate tables were set around the room. Banquet size tables were overflowing with delicious *hors d'oeuvres* and snacks, courtesy of caterer Ron Fillmore. Heather Trevel and Michael Burke acted as roving hosts.

The entertainment was a showcase for many local title holders. In addition to Chanaile Solitaire and "The Lady" Von Gretchen, the program also starred Miss City Lights, Kristina Grant, and Miss Parliament House, Latoyna Rogers.

The show continued with the talents of Ric Weber, Tori Holden, Robin Knight and Raccine Robbins. All of the entertainers gave great performances to a very appreciative audience. Lori Del Mar was the very entertaining emcee who brought out the entertainers for many encores.

GLCS was represented by Center Director John Rose and Office Manager Linda Cartwright.

Rose was very appreciative of the monies raised. "This money will help to pay a portion of this month's rent!" he said.

Rose also had high praise for owners Koren and Wood. "This is not the first time they have helped us," Rose said. "They were able to assist us in coming up with funds for the White Party."

"City Lights has always been a staunch supporter of many local Gay and Lesbian activities," he added. "Thanks also to bartenders Mike, Micky, Jim and Cliff, all of whom donated all of their tips that night to GLCS!"

## AIDS Activist Asked to Take Part in Exchange Program

### Local Bar to Hold Fund-raiser for China Trip

The Chinese Medical Association of the People's Republic of China has extended a formal invitation to the Citizen Ambassador Program to organize a delegation of specialists in the management and control of HIV infection to exchange current information with their Chinese counterparts.

Local AIDS activist Shari Ranger, with AIDS Resource, Education and Assistance (AREA) – a non-profit AIDS support organization, has been invited to join this technical exchange in November due to her background and interest.

Although this is a wonderful opportunity, the burden of expense for this conference lies on the delegate. We at AREA are not willing to take these funds from our ongoing budget, so we are holding a benefit to help with the expenses.

The owners of City Lights, Wally and Jan, long-time active supporters of AIDS support organizations, have offered to hold a Benefit Auction on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m.

The auction items will be available for viewing on Monday from 2-8 p.m. On Tuesday from 2:30-6:30 p.m. there will be an opportunity for viewing and silent bids. Refreshments will be served at the auction.

For more information contact

AREA at (407) 647-2765 or City Lights at (407) 422-6826.

Ranger has been working with people affected by HIV since 1986.

One of the original organizers of CENTAUR, she has trained many of the Central Florida AIDS support volunteers in Orange, Seminole, Brevard and Volusia counties. As an educator, she has spoken to many professional and non-professional groups, organizations and agencies.

While in China, the delegation will participate in bilateral presentations discussing the diagnostic and therapeutic approach to the asymptomatic patient, cost effective treatment of opportunistic HIV infection, the role of investigational studies, and the use and role of alternative therapies in the Western world and approaches to alternative therapies in China.

Other subjects to be explored are how attitudes influence the personal and medical response to HIV, methods to rapidly educate health professionals, the role of research, support systems for patients, staff and families, methods of effectively managing very sick patients in the outpatient setting and management of the terminally ill.

All the information exchanged will

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## ABA Amends its 'Model Code of Judicial Conduct' to Include Ban on Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Successful lobbying by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) caused the American Bar Association (ABA) to include a ban against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

The code applies to many judges throughout the country and subjects them to discipline if they violate its ethical canons.

Specific protection in the code means that Lesbians and Gay men can expect and demand fair treatment in the judicial system. It also sends an explicit message to judges that they will be held personally accountable if they discriminate against Gay people.

Dallas Judge Jack Hampton told newspaper reporters in 1988 that he

*"A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, and shall not permit staff court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control to do so."*

– ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct

had given a lighter sentence to convicted murderers because their victims were Gay. NLGLA cited this and other outrageous examples of anti-Gay discrimination by judges when it testified before the ABA Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Roy Albers, co-chair of NLGLA, who testified in San Francisco, said

he was "thrilled that his group's lobbying had convinced the ABA to take the appropriate steps and correct an oversight in the original draft.

"Much thanks goes to NLGLA members, especially Suzanne Bryant for her appearance before the committee in Washington, D.C.," Albers said.

"I expect NLGLA and the ABA to

have a positive ongoing relationship in the future."

The committee issued a draft of the revised judicial code in May 1989, which banned only discrimination based on race, sex, religion and national origin. After oral and written testimony from NLGLA, the code was changed to state:

"A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including but not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, and shall not permit staff court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control to do so."

For more information about NLGLA, write to NLGLA, 14 Beacon St., Suite 720, Boston, Mass. 02108.



# Terry Thomas: Alive and Well and Playing in O-Town

By Cornelius Van Pelt  
Center Fold Staff Writer

## Profiles

Although Britain's Terry Thomas has gone to film's comedy heaven, the "other" Terry Thomas is alive and well and living in Orlando, where he tickles the "eighty-eights" for the Orlando Gay Chorus.

Thomas brings a multitude of talents to Orlando's musical community, and he contributes this talent with great vim, vigor and vitality to several local musical organizations.

First among these, however, is as the accompanist for the OGC.

Thomas is more than just an accompanist for the chorus; in the absence of OGC Director Charlie Callahan, Thomas leads the rapidly growing group of singers through their paces.

"He's a fine musician," Callahan says, "and he has great directing abilities. I feel very comfortable having him as my backup."

In whatever artistic role he has performed — as classical clarinetist, pianist, singer, dancer, music teacher, band director, dance instructor, choreographer or theater director Thomas has won rave reviews.

He grew up in Terre Haute, Ind., and received a bachelor's degree in music education from Indiana State University. However, Thomas hadn't planned to become a music educator. After spending several years as a classical clarinet student, he looked forward to a career with a major

American symphony; but because employment as a music educator offered a more stable career than employment as a classical musician, Thomas accepted his first position as a band director.

"Teaching music and being band director in a school of 650 students was a blast," Thomas says. "I was 22 years old, only four years older than my oldest students."

"Every Friday night for three football seasons, in rain, humidity and, sometimes, snow, I'd march my band of devoted musicians and pompon girls around this flat, windblown football field in the middle of this cornfield," he says.

"We made a lot of noise, and the crowd loved us. When winter came, we'd move indoors for basketball season, and whoop it up."

"I'll never forget the first time I took the band onto the field I showed up in what I thought was proper attire — a sweater, blue jeans and a knit shirt ... kind of preppy ... but it seemed right for the occasion," Thomas says. "The Parents Group was mortified! I showed up at the next game wearing a proper blue suit, white shirt and red necktie. It wasn't quite what I wanted to wear, but it's what they wanted."

"I've never forgotten that experience. So much of what we want and want to be can depend on how we look ... whether it's leading a small-town school band, enjoying a local bar's environment or sitting

in a tux behind a grand piano."

During this time, Terry also played piano, sang, danced and acted with civic theater and musical theater groups in Indianapolis. He performed such roles as "Tommy Djilas" in *The Music Man* and "Jimmy" in *The Gingerbread Lady* (the Gay role created by James Coco on Broadway), "which I camped up to the hilt," Thomas says.

Then, a vast change occurred in Thomas' life. He moved to Kuwait.

"I was looking for a change," Thomas says. "I lived in Kuwait City, joined the faculty of the American School, and became the performing arts coordinator."

"This meant that I directed the high school choir, the band, the drama club, the dance club, taught theater, choreographed all the dances, was both set and costume designer and did whatever else needed to be done."

"I had 60 students in the choir ... out of a total school enrollment of 350 students. I discovered early that they were well-trained and experienced, but bored to death. My challenge was to motivate them. It all worked out well."

*Oklahoma*, *The Music Man* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* were some of the musicals that Thomas' "Kuwait Kids" performed.

"One of my more interesting spare-time activities in Kuwait was accompanying the 70-member

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**EDITOR**

from Page 5

might make our paper better. Feedback from the readers is what makes a newspaper a living thing. Your letters to the editor will be important to me, and will receive my full attention.

A newspaper is a living thing. It is a vehicle for thoughts and ideas, hopes

and dreams, joys and disappointments. It should reflect the community for which it is written. That's how I envision *The Center Fold*.

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## Hope and Help to Hold Headdress Competition

Hope and Help of Central Florida Inc., an AIDS service organization, is sponsoring a floral headdress competition. The event will take place at the Beacham Theater, on Orange Avenue in downtown Orlando, on Oct. 15, from 6:30 p.m.-midnight.

Floral headdress competitions have been scheduled in the past to demonstrate superior floral design abilities within the floral industry. This event, however, will be a fund-raiser to allow Hope and Help to expand its much needed services in the local area. Florida has the third highest number of AIDS cases in the United States.

Ten florists will be donating their time, flowers and efforts to this cause. Floral headpieces will be displayed by local models and entertainment will be provided by Miss "P" and other female "illusionists."

In addition to the headdress competition, there will be an auction featuring unique items, such as weekend getaways, jewelry, art pieces, food baskets, etc.

A cash bar and light snacks will be available for the enjoyment of those present.

Tickets for the headdress competition are \$20 and the event is open to the general public. Corporate tables are available for \$400 which includes an advertisement in the playbill. For more information, call the Hope and Help Office at (407) 894-1992.

## Fight Homophobia

## BOARD, from Page 2

Then, with claws extended, you make the final blow. You begin to list (in no specific order) all the things GLCS hasn't done for you. At about that time you'll look at your watch and say you've "gotta run" so you won't miss the crowd at your favorite watering hole.

Luckily for our community, not everyone is as selfish. Our organization is funded by roughly 150 people who give their money and time with no other reward than knowing that it's the right thing to do and that they are making a difference in our community - ensuring the future of the Gay and Lesbian community.

But our operating budget runs on a thin line that borders on disaster.

Any forgotten or abandoned pledge payment puts us just that much further in debt. One-hundred percent of our contributions comes directly from our own community.

Every membership pledge is budgeted to keep us operating. If everyone decided to skip their monthly payment, it would be an untimely and unfortunate end to our organization. Instead of writing about money matters, I'd be writing to explain the "For Lease" sign on the front of The Center. That is why we must continue to ask for you to become involved, to become a

member, to become part of the solution!

Please don't misunderstand me, we are not giving up. We are continuing to plan the future of GLCS, and *as long as we continue to receive your financial support*, GLCS will never cease to exist. It will always continue as long as there is a need and once you've seen all we offer, you too will never doubt the need for continuing our services. Wouldn't it be tragic, however, if we were forced to step backwards when we should be leaping forward?

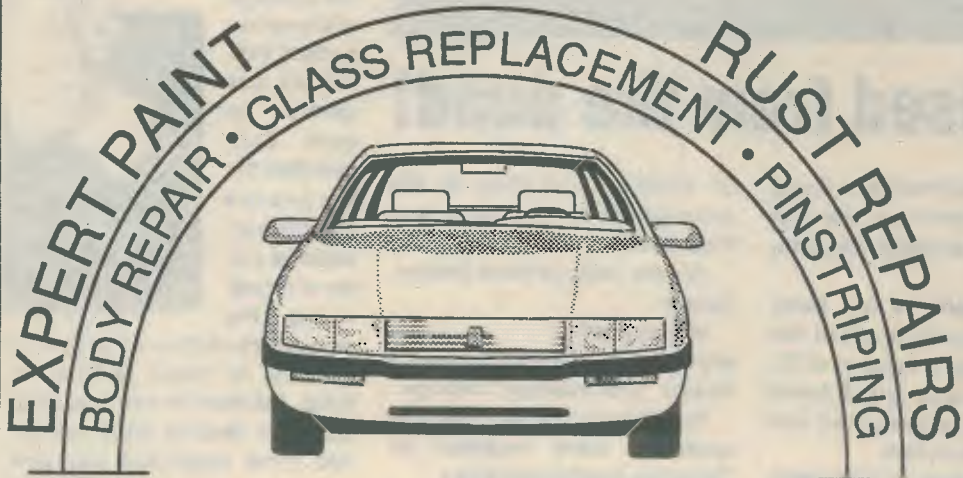
I cannot explain in such a small space, the commitment of the GLCS board, volunteers and myself to the well-being of *your* organization. We spend countless hours and our own dollars to make GLCS the best it can be. But there is definitely room for improvement. Will you please help us make it better - even greater than it is today?

Get out your checkbook now! If you can, send us a monthly pledge of \$15 or more (I do!).

If you are unable to make a pledge, a check for \$15 will show us you care and will make you a member for one year. If you really want to become a believer, come on down and become a volunteer. I guarantee that you will want to become a member once you experience first-hand all we have to offer. Drop by, let's talk if you wish!

And me, well I'll just take the night off to start work on my album ...

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October 1990

A program of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of Florida, Inc.

Joe  
Bruce

## COMMENTARY

If you're reading this there is a good chance you are a lesbian or a gay man, and that you live in Florida. If that's the case, you're very important to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation: GLAAD Florida.

How important do you think gay/lesbian visibility in the media is? For many people this is the only exposure they will have to the existence of gay people. It is unlikely that they will form a positive image of gays and lesbians from the all-too-frequently broadcast stereotypes. Or worse, they may have a negative image formed for them by depictions of gay men as pederasts and child molesters (which was done on a recent episode of the NBC television series "Quantum Leap") or lesbians as violent, biker types. The truth about all the positive and gentle aspects of gay people needs to be displayed and publicized, too.

Many people have trouble distinguishing the "gay movement" from gay people in general. Maybe this is because the only gay people you ever see in the media are waving flags and banners and demonstrating. Of course, not all lesbians and gays are this way. This was illustrated nicely, I thought, in a recent *The Weekly News* article about something the Broward county advocates for the human rights referendum mailed out regarding that legislation. "Eleven good reasons" to vote for the law were given: a display ad featuring pictures of eleven women and men in various stages of life and in various occupations who were gay. GLAAD wants to protect and defend the honor of lesbian and gay persons, in all their incarnations. We also want to en-

See **COMMENTARY**, Next Page



*The cast of Doctor, Doctor: Clockwise, with Dr. Mike (Matt Frewer) in the middle, Diedra (Maureen Mueller), Grant (Beau Gravitte), Abe (Julius Carry III), and Richard (Tony Carreiro).*

## TELEVISION

### Doctor, Doctor raised from the dead!

If you haven't seen this show now is the time to take a half hour off and watch — at 8:30 pm Wednesday evenings on CBS beginning September 19.

Matt Frewer (of Max Headroom fame), playing the eccentric Dr. Mike Stratford will take us on a rollercoaster ride of humor, as the new season of *Doctor, Doctor* gets underway. Why should the Gay and Lesbian community give a damn about a situation comedy? Because this one shows a gay character in a non-stereotypi-

cal way. That character is also a regular cast member, the first one since *Heart Beat* was canceled.

**Tony Carreiro** is our hero. He plays Richard Stratford the strong and stable brother of Dr. Mike. The character is well drawn and intelligently integrated into the show's storyline.

The symbiotic relationship between the brothers is also carefully drawn. There is a wonderful crash and burn of stereotypes, especially for heterosexuals who are unfamiliar with the real gay world, when the theatrical brother turns out to be the heterosexual one. There is no question of complete acceptance on Dr. Mike's part, of his brother's sexual orientation.

The show takes it so far as to jest about the stereotypes, with

Dr. Mike playing them to the amusement of his brother and their friends.

We are lucky to have *Doctor, Doctor*.

We almost lost it. In February the show was put on hiatus due to "just average" ratings.

In addition, the show and its sponsors were targeted by Christian fundamentalists.

Then GLAAD sent out the call to save *Doctor, Doctor*. There was an excellent response of supportive mail. CBS decided to bring it back for 13 new episodes this season. In addition two unseen episodes from the spring showed up at the end of August during the early releases of the other networks.

The show's nonconformity with societal expectations of

See **TELEVISION**, Next Page

## PRINT

Seven of *Life Magazine's* 100 most important 20th Century Americans are gay or lesbian.

**Leonard Bernstein**  
(1918- )  
Composer/conductor

**Jack Kerouac**  
(1922-1969)  
Writer

**Billie Jean King**  
(1943- )  
Tennis champion

**Margaret Mead**  
(1901-1978)  
Anthropologist

**Eleanor Roosevelt**  
(1884-1962)  
Ambassador-at-large

**Andy Warhol**  
(1928-1987)  
Artist

**Tennessee Williams**  
(1911-1983)  
Playwright

With the exception of saying that Tennessee Williams wrote about homosexuality, and that he was a "master playwright who cast from his own hell," the H, G and L words are not mentioned. What a pity the factor that played so heavily in the spirit of these special Americans was ignored.

We have been short-changed in print, but not by the legacy of their work.

Let the editors of *Life Magazine* know you're disappointed the heritage of these important individuals was ignored in print. Suggest that the magazine establish an editorial policy of recognizing the sexual orientation of gays and lesbians in future feature articles. Ask them to consider publishing a feature story on the 100 most important gay and lesbian persons of this century in America. Write to *Life Magazine*, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020 and cc: a copy to GLAAD Florida.



GLAAD Florida

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## "Take Your Next Step"

National Coming Out Day has rolled around again, and **GLAAD Florida is pleased to be an Official Sponsoring Organization** for the project.

**October 11** was chosen as the annual date because it commemorates the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The march was a milestone for the more than 600,000 who attended it.

Coming out can take many forms. The theme "Take your next step!" is intended to encourage each individual to the the next step that is appropriate to him or her. It also stresses that coming out is not a singular event, but an ongoing process.

**NCOD** is designed to help build stronger, more open communities. Being invisible is unhealthy for gay men, lesbians and society as a whole. Being invisible fosters misunderstanding and bigotry.

The vast majority of people who report knowing someone gay or lesbian, overwhelmingly support our equal rights. Conversely, those who think they know no one gay or lesbian oppose us on every issue important to our survival. Our ability to "pass" as non-gay has consequently been our greatest liability.

It is clear that lesbian and gay-related issues will not be taken seriously until people know us. We are part of the

mainstream and it is up to us to let the world know that. Most people think they don't know anyone who is lesbian or gay and that's what we get for hiding.

GLAAD has a particular interest in seeing to it that our community is fairly portrayed.

Our mission is to gather together information about this portrait, and to encourage those we come in contact with to "take their next step" as a natural extension of that activity.

We feel that hiding robs younger generations of lesbians and gay men of the opportunities to grow with dignity, have role models and access to differing viewpoints.

**Take your next step**, large or small. For instance, why don't you write down your coming out story and send it to the GLAAD archives, or write us a letter and tell us what you did this year to further coming out. Maybe you would send us a letter about your work and how being gay has affected your career. It could be an inspiration to young people who need a role model.

Maybe you just want to declare you are gay or lesbian and want to leave behind a record that proves it, maybe you will enclose your picture. In any case we want you to be creative and do whatever moves you. **We wish you a happy National Coming Out Day 1990.**



## COMMENTARY from Previous Page

courage and thank forward-thinking employers and others who are making fairness and tolerance a reality in their own ways here in Central Florida.

Well, how important is it whether people like us or not? Who cares about public opinion? You might never care until events force you to. Until maybe a priggish landlord tells you to move out because he does not like your living arrangements. Or maybe he doesn't like that you have same-sex overnight guests, especially if he knows you are gay. How far can he go? Are there any real protections under the law? No. And there never will be as long as people like **Senator Connie Mack** take the easy position that "homosexuals are already treated equally" and that there is no problem with discrimination in housing or employment.

In New York City, and elsewhere, there are laws banning discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment. You cannot legally be fired or denied a promotion just because you are gay. Many people you encounter professionally will have a neutral reaction (if any) if they learn you are gay. When settling into a home or an apartment with your same-sex partner you have similar legal protection and social acceptance.

In Orlando we have nice things, too: A gay/lesbian community center, mild and sunny weather, clean streets, relatively low crime, and a booming economy. Unfortunately, not only homosexuals but also bisexuals can be dismissed from their jobs simply for deviating from the heterosexual norm, as in a recently publicized case involving a man who was a Central Florida law-enforcement officer. Folks like my friend Mike can be put out of their apartment after notes like "**Fags go home**" do not cause them voluntarily to leave. The ubiquitous "religious" organizations who spread hate and ignorance about gay people in so many different ways are here in abundance. All Floridians are entitled to fair treatment and equal opportunity in employment and housing, and this includes gay and lesbian Floridians.

GLAAD confronts those elements in our community who do not share this view. Our feelings about some local happenings have already appeared in letters published by the Orlando Sentinel — and we have only just begun!

**But in order for GLAAD to know what's going on in your area, we need you to tell us.**

Not everyone has the time or the desire to be an "activist."

All GLAAD needs is for you to use your eyes and ears and to privately and confidentially report to us — that's all! Think of it as a sort of "**neighborhood watch**."

How has being gay affected your life here? Have you had positive experiences you would like help with? GLAAD's purpose is to monitor the social, business, and political climate here as it relates to lesbians and gays, and to stand up and make a fuss when unfair, defamatory situations arise. This might be a comment made on television, on the radio, in print, or in person as well as discriminatory business practices, vandalism, personal violence, or just plain hateful words and actions against us.

So share your experiences with us! Good or bad. We need you to be our eyes and ears. (If you want to help us more, great!)

No matter how much of a conformist you might be in other ways, if you are gay you are a part of a marginalized minority. Our world at large still doesn't treat us fairly in many ways. You need to tell someone when you are angry. It's the purpose of GLAAD to listen and spread the collected information. We believe in rationally but relentlessly confronting these inequities, because they will not just go away.

Morale and self-esteem are essential in life for all people. It starts with how you feel about yourself. If you are a strong person and maintain a positive gay identity without help — great! But there are times when all of us struggle to achieve this. And there are plenty of people out there who don't want us to see the happy, healthy gay people we know and love represented in the media.

*Joe Bruce is a member of GLAAD Florida's Administrative Board of Directors and lives in Central Florida.*



Paulette Goodman, president of Federation P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and Allene Baus of Central Florida P-FLAG were featured guests on **WWNZ 740 AM** talk radio in Orlando.

**Clive Thomas** devoted his show on Sept. 14 to the tragedy of teen suicide, and how gay youth are three times more likely than the national average to commit suicide. They focused on ways to help the schools help these students.

GLAAD Florida salutes Clive and WWNZ.

## TELEVISION

from Previous Page

family and gays opens all sorts of possibilities for interesting and engaging plots. One episode last season titled "Torch Song Cardiology" involved a growing friendship between Richard and Grant, a preppy white studlet in Dr. Mike's group practice. Grant and Richard become friends because of mutual interests, but he is forced to come to terms with his own discomfort about the friendship when he learns that it has led to rumors that he was gay also. He backs off, but eventually Grant apologizes for avoiding Richard, telling him "I've never had a gay friend before. I'm not good at this," and then they hug. Unbelievable! But true; and true to life also, as many of us can verify.

**Loving us can carry a price of stigma for our heterosexual friends. We must be sensitive and appreciate them all the more, that they care enough about us to put up with abuse.**

We were surprised that the storyline did not stop there. In one of the episodes shown this summer, Dr. Mike comes home and Grant and Richard are there alone. They were having a quiet dinner together, just like "regular friends." We hope they keep this storyline alive this season. It will be fun to watch and see.

In another episode "Emphasize the Positive" an effort was made to dispell irrational fears about AIDS. Dr. Mike says in an epilogue, "AIDS doesn't discriminate, only people do."

GLAAD Florida encourages all our readers, their families and friends to gather together on Wednesdays and watch Doctor, Doctor.

Please write and thank **Jeff Sagansky**, President, CBS Entertainment, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

But the people who really deserve to hear from us are the cast and writers. Write them at: **Doctor, Doctor**, Hollywood Center Studios, 1040 N. Las Palmas, Bldg. 18, Hollywood, CA 90038. Tell **Tony Carreiro** you appreciate the fine example he is setting for other actors in taking a prime-time gay role.





# Thoughts on a Woman's Festival

## Perspectives

*Editor's Note: The views expressed in this article are those of the writer, and are not necessarily those of GLCS, the Center or The Center Fold, and their staffs and volunteers.*

**By Robbin Tyler**  
Contributor

I have just recently returned from attending the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival in Northeast Georgia.

I have attended the festival for seven years now, as long as it has been in existence, and have warmly regarded it as a part of my life.

Regrettably, I must say here that I will never attend it again, nor will I ever support another Robin Tyler production.

The purpose of this letter is to reveal my reasons for having to make such a sad decision, and to inform my community of abuses within. I personally wish Robin Tyler no ill will, and hope that this letter and any responses it may generate, will bring her back to a sense of moral responsibility to those of us who are her sisters (and brothers), as well as her bread and butter.

I suffered an on-the-job injury two years ago, and have been disabled since that time. I have a herniated lumbar disc and associated sciatic nerve damage/dysfunction which causes severe debilitating back and leg pain, with my right leg sometimes going completely numb.

To alleviate some of the adversity involved in carrying/setting up camping equipment, I have always made arrangements by phone well in advance of the festival, to come in a day early, of course paying extra (approximately \$150 extra for my lover and myself - *much* more than a NICE motel room!). This year was a

little different, in that I had an additional obstacle - I would be having an epidural block done on my spine one week before the festival (this procedure I had done in hopes of allowing me a little more mobility, but it is a chancy thing and can backfire.) I explained all of this to one of Robin's co-producers who assured me that all would be as it had been in previous years. I even offered to send the additional monies in advance, but was told I could pay at the gate, and should ask for the co-producer by name.

Upon our arrival, at the gate we were given a minor hassle about driving to our spot and dropping off equipment - although there were barely 20 womyn there yet!

And, of course, the co-producer was nowhere to be found. Eventually, a previous year's festy buddy identified us as "friendly" and we were allowed to proceed.

So, after much ado already, my lover and I unloaded our stuff and I was ordered *immediately* to move my vehicle. My lover began to stretch out the tent, and I went to park the car.

When I returned to my site, I discovered Robin Tyler, patrolling in her golf cart, had told my lover that we could not camp on that spot, that it was part of the "pathway."

I informed Robin about my condition, and that I needed a flat place to camp, and that we and others had used that same spot in previous years. She said that whoever allowed it before was wrong, that it had to be kept clear as an alternate pathway. I pointed to an area approximately 30 feet down the main path, off to the side by the lake and asked her if that

would be suitable as it was too flat. She emphatically told us that the area I pointed out was also a pathway.

Then Robin suggested that we move our things to the OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE, under the cabins (about a quarter mile or more distance). I told her that this was not possible, we had no way to transport the equipment, as we'd been forced to move the car. Besides, I couldn't physically re-load and re-unload at this point, needing all my remaining physical resources just to set up!

Under Robin's watchful eye, Mitzi and I moved all of our gear, as well as our friends' - to a spot directly across the path from where we were.

The spot was on a slight incline, but enough of a slant to be painful to me. I decided to try and rough it, as I really wanted to be on my lakefront, just like in the past six years.

Robin sat in her cart, watching us, and ordering "No Camping on Pathway" signs on her walkie-talkie. Other bits of conversation made us feel as though we'd violated some sort of sacred law by trying to camp where I knew I would be more comfortable!

Forty-five minutes or so later, Robin's signs were in place, and we felt properly chastised. We then exhaustedly began to set up.

About 10 HOURS later, two couples of "moneyed Lesbians" from my town arrived in their vans.

They apparently had no trouble driving directly to their desired spot to unload and set up. They began to park in precisely the spot we'd tried earlier. I told them that Robin had told us that we could not camp there. They then moved to the exact second

spot I'd inquired about and been refused. As a courtesy - so that no one in a golf cart would come and scold them - I walked down and told them that Robin had also deemed that a "No Camping on Pathway" area. One of them blurted out viciously, "Well, we'll just see about that!" and she stormed off down the path.

Minutes later, from my campsite, I saw that she had returned, and that they were indeed setting up in the "forbidden" territory. I thought this was strange, and set out to find out what was going on.

Finding one of Robin's security staff, I explained the situation, and asked if she could check it out. She said that she knew the area, and knew that it was NOT to be used as a camping spot, and she would have to ask them to leave, and find another area.

However, when we again ran into the security woman, she looked incredibly sheepish, and said the woman had a note of permission from Robin Tyler to camp in that spot! I could not believe it, but it was true.

Other security staff and co-producers came to our campsite several times, agreeing that it wasn't right, and assured us they'd do what they could to straighten things out.

Robin Tyler rode by, stopping in front of our campsite "discussing" the situation, but she did not see fit to acknowledge our presence, nor even to look in our direction - but she spoke loudly enough for us to hear that "the path in front" of us must be kept clear for wheelchairs. (The part of the "path" she was referring to had so many roots and stumps, it was difficult to negotiate it on foot!)

Then another woman from Robin's staff rode up to tell us that "Robin

See FESTIVAL, Page 15

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**FESTIVAL, from Page 14**

was very sorry ..." (if that was the case, why couldn't she say that HERSELF?) and that "life isn't fair."

Mitzi and I said that we felt like second-class citizens, and that we had definitely been discriminated against.

This woman got very angry, and said that there perhaps had been a poor judgment call, but *no* discrimination.

I looked her squarely in the eye, and told her that I certainly had the right to my opinion, and I felt it was discrimination and I was not going to be quiet about it, as she [had] verbally implied she wanted me to be.

The other co-producer said she'd continue to work on it. She did not, and did not speak to us about it in the next five days!

What did occur was on several occasions our private conversations around the campsite seemed to be of extreme interest to some of the authoritarians in golf carts - who would stop off to the side of us and "just sit for a while." It felt like we were being monitored by the Lesbian police or something!

... Because of what happened to me ..., the Seventh Annual Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival

left a very bad taste in my heart.

I will miss the fest, and miss bringing my own bizarre little brand of fun to it - dressing scantily in leather and posing with many of my sisters in the sunshine - the "Inhibition-Free" camping area - and the dinosaur "party zone."

I will miss the floating island in the lake. I will especially miss disorganizing the famous "Lobster Races," a festival favorite of many. And I will miss being the *real* Robbin Tyler.

What happened to make Robin treat us the way she did? Was it monetarily motivated? Was it petty personality problems? I haven't a clue, I do not know.

What I *do* know is that it was terribly cold and cruel to do what she did to us to *anyone*, and to do what she did to someone who is fighting a disability is well beyond reproach.

Please, if any of you reading this have the opportunity to communicate with Robin - tell her that we can and do get this type of mistreatment anywhere and anytime in "mainstream" society on a daily basis - and that we expect, deserve and DEMAND better from our leaders, our sisters.

## Call for Writers, Contributors, Volunteers for 'The Center Fold'

As *The Center Fold* grows, we are looking for people to grow with it. There are many new and exciting avenues we wish to pursue in the hopes of making *The Center Fold* the best Gay newspaper around.

If we want to make *The Center Fold* great, we need great people to make it happen. You don't have to be a mild-mannered reporter from another great metropolitan newspaper to qualify.

Writers/staff meetings for *The Center Fold* are held the first Tuesday of every month at the Center, 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando. Or call the Center at (407) 425-GLCS for more information.

Volunteer to make *your* Gay community and yourself better.



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## Being a Parent Not Necessary to Join P/FLAG Support Group

By Allene Baus  
P/FLAG

### P/FLAG

For a long time, I assumed that all of you out there knew who we were. After all, we know you - our daughters, sons, relatives and friends. But assuming others know what you know can sometimes cause a whole heap of trouble. So ... let me introduce you to Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (P/FLAG).

This national/international organization was formed over 10 years ago, when Adele Starr, then president of her local support group in Los Angeles, found there were many like groups all across the country. She and other interested persons/members pulled these groups together to form Parents of Lesbians and Gays. A few years later, "Friends" was added to reflect the growing membership diversity.

*Anyone is welcome to join who shares P/FLAG's basic beliefs, among which are the wholeness of our children and all Gay/Lesbian persons and working towards human rights for everyone ...*

which are the wholeness of our children and all Gay/Lesbian persons and working towards human rights for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation.

By 1990, the organization had grown to over 200 chapters and contact persons across the United States. Florida currently has one P/FLAG chapter (ours) and three contact persons, in Pensacola, Palm Beach and West Palm Beach.

This month, P/FLAG's 9th International Convention is being held in Anaheim, Calif. In October 1991, Charlotte, N.C., will host the convention. An executive director is soon to be named. As of Sept. 1, all activities which were based in Denver, have been transferred to the Washington, D.C., office, thus making that P/FLAG's national headquarters.

The local chapter was formed about two years ago in support of the opening of The Center (now GLCS).

It seemed that if the "children" in the greater Orlando area had a place of support (as well as other things, of course) to go to, then parents (friends and relatives), also needed a support place

Anyone is welcome to join who shares P/FLAG's basic beliefs, among

See P/FLAG, Page 17

## Cleff Notes

By Cornelius Van Pelt  
Center Fold Staff Writer

Beginning with this issue, each month's *Center Fold* will carry a new column, "Cleff Notes," which will spotlight brief news items, notes and stories of the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) and other Gay musical activities.

Readers having news items to share should submit them to *The Center Fold*, in care of Cornelius Van Pelt, by the fifth of the month preceding the issue in which the story will appear.

- The OGC's Holiday Concert will be presented on Saturday, Dec. 1. The \$10 donation tickets will be available from The Center, as well as from chorus members, beginning Nov. 1. The Chorus has added 25 new members since the June concert, and now has 66 singers.

- At the recent Chicago meeting of GAYLA International (the Global Association of Gay and Lesbian Choruses), David Schuler, president of the OGC, was elected a GAYLA International vice president. The gathering drew over 240 Gay and Lesbian chorus board members representing 88 choruses from the United States, Canada and Germany.

See CLEFF NOTES, Page 17

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By Mark James  
Correspondent

## Church Chat

October is a busy month at Joy Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) as members and friends prepare for the fall conference of the Southeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

Joy MCC will be the host church for the last semiannual conference of the Southeast District.

Beginning in 1991 the district will hold an annual conference in the fall. The various conference activities will take place at the church at 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave., Orlando.

A special guest for the conference will be the Rev. Stephen Pieters, field director of the UFMCC AIDS Ministry. He will speak at the 8 p.m. service on Saturday, Nov. 10, and the Orlando Gay Chorus will perform at that service.

The other special guest for the conference will be Elder Larry Rodriguez of Los Angeles. Rodriguez is the only lay person on the Fellowship's Board of Elders, and he serves as the liaison elder for the Southeast District.

If you have never been to a service at Joy MCC, you have missed something special.

Almost all first-time visitors are impressed with the warmth and love of God that they feel in our services. They also comment on the friendliness of the sisters and brothers at Joy.

so as soon as possible.

Sunday worship services are at 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Communion (or the Lord's Supper) is celebrated at both services. Tuesday Bible study is at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday there is a prayer breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and a discussion group at 7:30 p.m. Bingo is played at 7:15 p.m. every Thursday.

Joy MCC is selling the Gold C Discount Coupon books as a fund-raiser throughout the month of October. The books, which contains thousands of dollars worth of discount coupons to area restaurants, attractions and services, are available for \$8 each.

The books can be purchased in the Mark Cardwell Hall before and after the worship services on Sunday and at the church office during the week.

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets at 8 p.m. on Mondays in Cardwell Hall. The group is open to anyone.

Also, the church's food bank is available to anyone in the community who is in need. Please contact the church office for assistance. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you need to talk with Joy MCC's pastor, the Rev. James T. Brock, please contact the church office.

So if you haven't visited with us yet, we invite you to do

## P/FLAG, from Page 16

to go to. For the first several months the group met at members' homes. For a year and a half the meetings were held in places more open to the public and since June, the group has met at a local church.

We have had tables at the last two Pride Picnics, been on GayEscape II (we had to go to a P/FLAG meeting in Charlotte, so we couldn't make the first cruise), are planning to be in the Fall Festival, GayEscape III and in the Pride Parade. (We've got the banner to carry, too!)

That, briefly, is who we are. Now that you know us better, let's get to know you better. Our meetings are open to all who subscribe to the above stated beliefs. Come by and meet with us. Next Month: Can we answer some questions from you?

## CLEFF NOTES, from Page 16

Other OGC members attending included Bob Smedley, vice president; Greg Bell, treasurer; Stephen Brooks, secretary; and Don Ostergard, membership chairman.

• **Note to Orlando Instrumentalists:** Another Orlando musical activity is waiting to be born. Cathy Steains, local musical activist, is recruiting musicians for a Gay Marching Band (GMB). A pianist, guitarist and saxophonist, Cathy has a realistic and fascinating ambition: to field a marching band of Lesbians and Gay men for the 1991 Gay Pride Week parade, as well as in the Kumquat Sashay, the parade that precedes Light Up Orlando. "Of course, there'll be pompon girls and a flag corps, as well," says Cathy.

All persons interested in joining the Orlando GMB can call Steains at her home number, (407) 380-5164, most nights after 7 p.m. Or leave a message at The Center, (407) 425-4527.



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## ADVOCACY, from Page 1

"Among the most powerful elements available to us today is the media. We need to help them develop accurate role models for Gays and Lesbians," Goodman said. "They need to listen to us to realize that Gays and Lesbians look and act like everyone else ... that they get up in the morning and go to work and pay taxes just like everybody else," she said.

"We want other lifestyles to be presented naturally, directly, effectively and with pertinence and relevance ...," Goodman said, "as contributors to our professions, society and the national fabric in exactly the same way as their straight sisters and brothers."

Goodman attributes her success to what she calls her "three Ps: patience, persistence ... and I'm a pain in the neck."

"AIDS has brought the Gay community together like nothing else has, but there's so

much yet to be done. I'm getting impatient!" she said.

"Please help seek out parents who will acknowledge their children's interest in other lifestyles," Goodman said. "We cannot discriminate against our own. Please help!"

*Locally, P/FLAG is headed by Allene Baus; it meets at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month in the Wesley Building (at the corner of South Street and Rosalind Avenue) of the First United Methodist Church of Downtown Orlando.*

*The membership fees are \$20 for the first family member and \$10 for other members. Student membership is \$10, and reduced income membership is \$10 for the first family member and \$5 for the balance of the family. The group publishes a quarterly newsletter.*

*Information on local P/FLAG activities can be secured by writing to: Box 141312, Orlando, Fla. 32814-1312. Or interested persons can leave messages for Baus at The Center.*

## Recommended Books on Gay Children-Parent Relationships

▼ *Beyond Acceptance* by Carolyn Welch Griffin, Marian J. Wirth and Arthur Wirth (Prentice Hall)

▼ *Are You Still My Mother? Are You Still My Family?* by Gloria Gussback (Warner Books)

▼ *My Son, Eric and Coming Out to Parents* by Mary V. Borhek (Pilgrim Press, paperback)

▼ *A Family Matter* by Charles Silverstein (McGraw-Hill)

▼ *Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality* by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)

## NURTURE, from Page 4

formulate and distribute voter recommendations to the community, and, once they're elected, lobby officials to take appropriate action on Gay and Lesbian issues.

Because no other organization is doing this work, should GLCS automatically assume responsibility for it?

No. Should GLCS reconsider its stated objectives and redirect its resources to do this work? I'm open to arguments, but right now, my answer to that is also "no."

Here, for your benefit and mine, is why.

First, GLCS's stated purpose is "to provide supportive, educational, social and referral services to the Gay and Lesbian community and the organizations that serve that community. We uphold/affirm that homosexuality is a natural state of being and offer positive support to all members of the Gay and Lesbian community." That covers a lot of territory.

GLCS attempts to cover that territory in three ways:

1) GLCS operates The Center, Orlando's Gay and Lesbian community center. The Center is home to more than a dozen support groups, many social activities, the 24-hour information line, a library and professional counseling services;

2) GLCS creates and publishes *The Center Fold*, a publication that not only lists upcoming community events, but also has recently tackled such issues as rape of Lesbians, "coming out" and domestic violence;

3) GLCS provides social events like the monthly GaySkate, Backyard BBQ and annual Pride Week activities, knowing full well that by bringing people together at these events we are helping people overcome the isolation and internalized homophobia we too often fall prey to in a hostile society.

Social events like these are "safe space" where all of us are welcome, including our sexuality, and we are free to affirm ourselves as complete and worthwhile members of a community. This is more than just "all well and good." This is real work.

Second, GLCS has a limited number of people and resources attempting to serve the entire community. We know that we cannot do everything.

Therefore, as an organization, GLCS fosters the development of, and supports in any way it can, other community organizations that fill needs GLCS is not prepared to.

GLCS provides or has provided support in some form to: Zion Anglican Apostolic Church, Trans-AID Support Services, The Orlando Gay Chorus,

the Central Florida NAMES Project and the Central Florida chapter of Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), among others. Each organization is a valuable part of our community, working to fill a specific (and more narrowly defined) need.

This then, is how I've reconciled the need for a political organization with the purposes and goals of GLCS.

No, we won't take on as much political action as some community members expect us to at this point.

But, the work we do now to create and nurture a true "community" of Gay men and Lesbians is not only valuable in and of itself - it's important to any group that wishes to address a specific need or issue within that community. Every month, hundreds of visitors come to The Center, about 1,700 call our information line and over 4,000 read *The Center Fold*. We've created the network - it's there to be used.

So, should Central Florida have an active, permanent, Gay and Lesbian political organization?

Absolutely - and when the individuals who feel strongly enough about filling that need come together, I'll be proud to offer them all the meeting space, publicity and loving support that GLCS can and does offer.

## CLOSETS, from Page 4

Gay life, and their participation in bigoted conversations add fuel to the fires of misunderstanding and hate.

One cannot live in a world of deceit and not recognize the injustice and violence it encourages.

Those of you who have read the articles I have written since November 1989 may say, "It's easy for him to speak out, he doesn't have to worry."

You should have no more concern than I do, for I was in my closet until

proached by someone asking permission to publish a letter I had written defending the rights of Gays. I hesitated because I was afraid!

But it was this request that made me think, made me realize: as Gays, we must defend ourselves and speak up for ourselves. If we don't and we continue to disguise ourselves, the society at large will gratefully accept our timidity.

No duty calls us to stand and announce our individual sexuality; it should not be worn on our sleeve nor as a chip on our shoulder. But all

and proud and free to express their feelings.

Last month I received a note from Gregory King, the communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington, D.C. He was complimenting me on my *Center Fold* article on our rights and our need to vote.

How happy I am to know that our little newspaper has reached so far and that he took the time to tell me so.

You see, we can make a difference! Each of us can help achieve our place

Opening the door of your closet and walking into the real world is a challenge that you alone can decide to undertake. It is an experience that frees you to pursue your life, to be the person you have always really been.

Come downtown and visit The Center, join with us and you will learn how you can begin to open the door.

We won't yank you out of your closet or publicize your name. But becoming a member will increase our numbers, and in these numbers we



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## 'The Prom That Never Was' Was a Huge Success

By Michael J. Sopoliga  
Managing Editor

Gay/Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida held its first "Prom That Never Was" on Saturday, Sept. 8.

It was a nostalgic return to "Lambda High," that mythical high school that never was ... but maybe should have been. This year's theme was "Decades of Deco-Dance," and the Orlando Community Center, the site of the prom, became a deco wonderland with images of that era.

Michael Wanzie, the prom's organizer, left nothing to the imagination. This was, remember, supposed to be a high school prom.

So there was Ruda Wakening, the school guidance counsellor, rushing around with her student "PPPs" (Pupil Personality Profiles), there was Sister Mary Euphoria making sure that students danced 12 inches apart.

Music was by Gay Lombardo, with a mix of tunes spanning the '30s to the present. The Church Lady also showed up interviewing Saddam "Satan" Hussein. Madonna Reed, the home ec teacher, and her students supplied the baked goods. Members of the cast sang a nostalgic song about high school times, good, bad and confusing.

There was even a token nerd, and a Jewish-American princess straight from Miami!

GLCS Director John Rose said that the Prom will be a yearly event due to the good turnout.

Photos by MICHAEL SOPOLIGA

Photos Continue on the Next Page

Top:  
Sister  
Mary  
Euphoria  
is caught  
nipping.

Left:  
Michael  
Wanzie  
and  
Madonna  
Reed 'cut  
the carpet'



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Center Director John Rose (left) and GLCS President David Bain enjoy the moment with Wanzie (right).

Right: Guidance counselor Ruda Wakening confers with former students Gary and Gary



(Left): 2 Prom Queens, Glarish Glamore and Plastique Du Jour; (center): The 'JAP,' Sofonda-Bagel; and (right), the Nerd.



Charles, Susan and entertainer Sissy Sometimes all in proper prom attire.



Promgoers Brandie and Jane from Daytona.



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