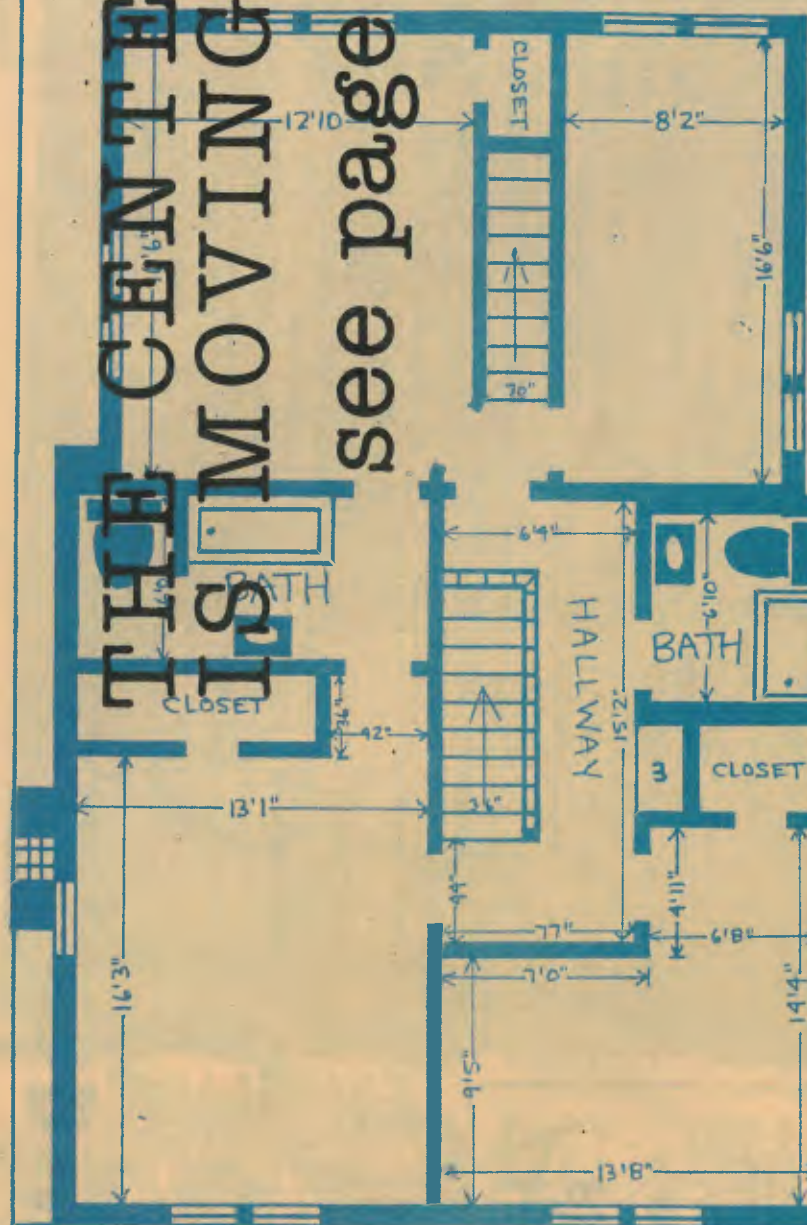


# THE FOOT CENTER



News Magazine from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Orlando



# Letters To THE EDITOR

## In Response To Last Month's R.E. Crawford and Anon.

Dear Editor,

For someone who claims to read The Center Fold only "sometimes" and "for amusement," R.E. Crawford seems to know an awful lot about the regular columnists and goings-on of the staff of The Center Fold and The Center.

Why doesn't someone from LCN provide the information on their gatherings to The Center Fold? All the other groups listed manage to do so. It's not The Center Fold staff's

responsibility to go out searching for things to put on the calendar; the calendar is a resource available to the gay & lesbian community to publicize their events. You should ask LCN why they don't tell The Center Fold about their gatherings.

There seems to be a great deal of anger in R.E. Crawford's words. Perhaps R.E. should stop reading The Center Fold and deal with this anger

properly, before it gets out of hand. The Center Fold is not a place for abusive and vindictive comments about any individual, and that's what most of that letter was about.

Very truly yours,  
Doug Swallow

Dear Crawford (Mr., Ms., or undecided),

As Contributing Editor we edit only for clarity or conciseness. We do not need to answer all letters to The Center Fold, especially letters or commentaries whose sole purpose is to inflame the community.

Mr. Anthony's column and Jade's column are interchangeable. Neither is deleted. Each is sought for publication on a monthly basis.

My gender is none of your business, Crawford. The word "female" was an editorial addition following an article (rebuttal) to an unfounded claim that this publication was biased. You are so unsure of your gender, R.E., that you fail to identify yourself with either sex.

The next time you feel compelled to "take exception" to our publication, why don't you do something construc-

tive like volunteer your time? Let your misplaced anger work for you. Come and see exactly what it is that you are condemning.

Sincerely,  
Pam Berry

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter to the editor in the August Center Fold from Anon. He (She) wrote to complain that the editor was not showing proper respect for closeted individuals when he printed photos from the Pride Picnic with the names of some of the individuals.

The letter writer then continues, expressing fears over what could happen if some devious individual decided to use the information to damage someone.

I feel that the staff at The Center and at Center Fold have always kept the best interest of ALL persons foremost, and that includes protecting their right to privacy. Why not print the photos with little bats over the faces so no one would know who anyone was? Why not issue masks at all events, and false name tags? Why

not stay home in our closets and to hell with Gay Pride?

It took me a long time to get enough nerve to come out of my closet, and it wasn't complete overnight. I am still going through the process of learning to be open whenever possible. I realize that it is sometimes not possible, but I am not going to back into a closet, nor will I be influenced by someone else's need to stay in their closet.

Yes, it is possible that someone could use the photos from the newspaper to create a problem, but someone also could have taken their own photos at the picnic and done the same. I would question what anyone who is so concerned about their 'secret' is doing at a public function in the first place. There was never any indication that the Pride Picnic was to

be a "Homosexuals Only" event. Why, there might even have been some open-minded heteros there!

Events at The Center have always been congenial enough that one need only decline from being photographed. But at an outdoor function, with several hundred people in attendance, one can hardly expect the same.

At The Center we work to preserve the rights of those who wish to remain anonymous, by protecting our mailing list, and even by mailing in envelopes (at extra cost). It is very easy to sit back and criticize what others do. Would Anon. like to volunteer to do the research necessary every month, to insure that all those photographed are willing to have their photos published? Call The Center, 894-7097 to volunteer.

Sincerely,  
Keith Proud

### THE CENTER FOLD STAFF

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The Center Fold is printed by  
Oviedo Publishing Company

The views expressed in The Center Fold may not necessarily represent the views of The Center, its newsletter, or its editors. Advertisers who appear in this publication are not necessarily gay-owned or operated. For more information concerning The Center Fold, call or write: The Center Fold, PO Box 533446 Orlando, FL 32853. Phone: (407) 894-7097 or Eriq Poff at (407) 839-4976.

## Deadline

The deadline for submitting material for The Center Fold is always the second Sunday of each month. Any materials submitted after that day will be held for the next month, except for dated material which may be discarded. If you would like your original submissions returned to you please indicate as such on your material.

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**OFF THE PRESS**

# THE CENTER IS MOVING

At 750 West Colonial in Orlando, a major miracle is happening as crafts-persons, contractors, painters and design persons all take part in renovating an office building.

The office space will represent a certain growth in Orlando which some people fail to recognize and others wish to ignore.

Those in charge of this project will open this space to a variety of groups and activities, hoping to acknowledge and bring together a community of special men and women.

This two-story 3,600 square-foot renovated office building will be the new home for The Center. The Mills Avenue facility has become too small for the demands of the gay community --many groups are denied meeting space and schedules are having to be rearranged.

Gay and Lesbian Community Services, which sponsors The Center, felt that the move was overdue.

Scott Alles and Larry Nicastro located the property after a city-wide search. They also negotiated a two-year lease. Other volunteers began doing their part to see the dream become a reality: Jeff Taylor handled all bids by contractors; walls had to be torn down and relocated to help accommodate larger group meetings.

A special counter was also constructed for Center Volunteers to use when greeting visitors at the main entrance.

Doug Swallow oversaw the scheduling of the construction workers; Keith Proud was in charge of paint and color selection and Michael Wanzie was in charge of interior design.

A sneak preview party, by invitation only, will be held on September 24. This event will be for continuing supporters of The Center. The pur-

pose of the party will be to garner contributions to buy furniture needed to fill the empty spaces. All the used furniture at the present building will be sold.

A Grand Opening Celebration is scheduled for October 15 at which time the new Center should be completely furnished.

Expanded space brings expanded services: some of the services being considered by the G.L.C.S. Board of Directors are emergency temporary housing, youth support groups, and on-premises psychological counseling. "People of Color," a group for gay minorities begins September 20 at the new facility.

G.L.C.S. President David Bain feels the new facility will more than accommodate the growth projected for the next two years. ◊



## CRUISE SOLD OUT

Sold Out! The demand for tickets to this month's Sea Escape gay cruise has created a waiting list totaling over 175 individuals. The list keeps growing as more and more people hear of the excitement being planned for the M/S Scandinavian Sky on the night of September 15. Some of those on the waiting list have a good chance to attend the cruise because approximately 100 persons have been removed from the list of confirmed passengers because they failed to meet

the payment deadline. Those remaining on the waiting list will have a chance to apply their deposit for the next cruise slated for April 22, 1990.

The Spring cruise has been planned as an all day affair, setting sail at 10:00 am and returning to port at 10:00 pm. The cost will be \$79.00.

Preliminary coordination is already taking place and Gay and Lesbian Community Services Board Members say the second cruise will be more spectacular than the first!

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# GAY ORLANDO

## PAST PRESENT FUTURE

Part One: Parties and Paranoia

By Ken Berg

Orlando. From its agricultural and military beginnings, through the Disney boom years and movie studio blitz, the so-called City Beautiful has remained true to its small town, southern conservative roots.

The same could be said of Orlando's gay community, where the closet remains a way of life for many, and political and social activism take a low profile - if not priority - in comparison to other urban centers.

To what extent is there an Orlando gay lifestyle consistent with our regional heritage? And how will being gay change for Central Florida in the coming years? With this, the first in a series of articles, the Center Fold takes a look at gay Orlando: Past Present and Future.

In the late fifties and early sixties, as elsewhere, gay activity in Orlando was, if not limited, extremely cautious.

"It was very closed here," recalls Andy, an Orlando gay man who has lived here almost sixty years. "Nothing was very open. You couldn't flaunt your gayness. There was no protection like there is now. Orlando is wide open now compared to what it was way back then."

"We mostly went to parties," chimes in his lover, George. "Today, the gay world is not as hidden as it was then. At parties people let their hair down and were more campy and outrageous. There were hat parties, bathing suit parties, some of them very elaborate.

At one party we were led blindfolded to a cruise on the St. Johns, then found our cars mysteriously at Sanford when the boat docked."

"It was a very private thing to be gay," recalls John, another Orlando gay man who was in his 20's in 1960.

"But we had wonderful parties. And we always dressed for them, in coats and ties."

"In Daytona people could kick up their heels a little more," said George, a school teacher at the time. "People from Orlando could let their hair down and get a little wilder. Teachers wouldn't run into their students. You could easily lose your license in those days," he added. George lost his own teaching license in the late sixties for being gay.

"Daytona was the wild place," John agreed. "The Hollywood Bar had camp drag shows. But not like the ones now. They didn't try to look like women, but did it more for fun, like the British do. Chiquita Banana was a big number - anything by Carmen Miranda - and of course, Judy Garland was very popular."

According to John, blacks were welcome in the more open atmosphere of the gay bars of the era, despite segregation. "They called us their 'white sisters,'" he recalled, adding a hearty laugh. "But as far as real sisters, there was no lesbian scene, at least that I was aware of."

In Orlando, the bar scene consisted

of just one exclusively gay night spot: The Tropitan. Located across from the Orange Court Motor Hotel, the Tropitan occupied the spot were one now finds the public services center of the Orlando Sentinel. The Tropitan was a cozy, working class piano bar with rattan furniture. Another spot frequented by a gay crowd was the Cactus Room, a bar mixed in the day and gay after hours.

Despite the festive party circuit and campy nights out-of-town, Orlando gay residents of the fifties and sixties had good reason to live much of their lives in fear. Many still shudder at the mention of the Johns Committee, a homophobic nightmare that smashed open closet doors and left ruined lives in its wake.

Created in 1956 by Senator Charley E. Johns of Starke, the Johns Committee was an investigative arm of the state legislature. Originally intended to identify individuals with Communist affiliations, the committee's activities had, by 1960, been expanded to cover other "subversive elements" in state supported schools - namely homosexual teachers and textbooks with "questionable" content. Names of alleged gays were published and distributed by the committee in the dreaded "Pink Pamphlet."

"They would call you and harass you, luring you to a hotel," Andy recalls with anger. "If you went there they would interrogate you. They would tell

you that they knew you were a homosexual and get you to say the other people you knew were. It made you afraid to go out nights."

"It was scary," Andy continued. "They called me at work and tried to get me to meet them. They told me they would be waiting for me outside when I got off work. It had a very chilling effect."

John also had a run-in with the committee. "I was on the hit list," he recalled, eyes widening. "It was just terrible. You have no idea. They came to my fraternity at college. It was very embarrassing. I had two friends who committed suicide as a result of being singled out by them."

The influence of the Johns Committee began to slip in 1962, when the Florida Supreme Court ordered reinstatement of three school teachers who had been fired due to allegations that they were gay. Techniques used by the committee, including entrapment, harassment and the use of ex-cons, narcotics and prostitutes, came under criticism. In 1964, new guidelines were set by the legislature to protect individual liberties.

NEXT ISSUE: Sixties Radicalism and The Disney Boom Years.



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# "Resolution On Human Rights"

The Orange County Democratic Committee has once again proved that its platform will continue to include basic human rights for "all" people.

The Orange County Democratic Committee has pledged to continue its party's tradition of seeking, for all the people in our state and in our nation, individual freedom in the framework of a just society. Once again, the Democratic Party announces boldly and strongly, that gay and lesbian people will not be excluded from the phrase "we the people."

The Orange County Democratic Executive Committee has recently passed a "Resolution on Human Rights" urging Orange County Sheriff Walt Gallagher and the Orange County Commission to take action as described in the resolution which follows:

A resolution of the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee urging the Orange County Sheriff's Department to reinstate Deputy Thomas Woodard, the development of a consultation committee, and passage

by the Orange County Commission of a Human Rights Ordinance, as follows:

whereas, the Orange County Sheriff's Department is a public agency serving the public in law enforcement,

whereas, intrusion by a public agency, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, into the personal and private lives of the citizens who comprise it or work for it, attempting to penalize such citizens on the basis of private conduct, must be justified as serving a paramount societal interest, and must be approached with great caution in deference to respect for the individual rights and liberties of those citizens,

whereas, the Orange County Sheriff Department's action in compelling the termination of Deputy Thomas Woodard's employment with the Sheriff's Department on the basis of sexual preference was unjustified, and exceeded the limits of governmental

or public agency intrusion into the private life of this citizen, penalizing a citizen on the basis of private conduct, in disregard of individual rights and liberties,

whereas, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, as a public agency, discriminating against a citizen on the basis of sexual preference, sets an example for acts of discrimination in employment of such citizens, in disregard of a citizen's right to equal opportunity through gainful employment pursued by this society for its citizens in general,

whereas, the Orange County Sheriff Department's actions and derogatory statements, arising in the course of Deputy Woodard's termination, with regard to Deputy Woodard and gay and lesbian individuals in general, contribute to an atmosphere making acceptable further discrimination against such citizens, and attacks upon citizens upon the basis of their personal and private lives,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee:

Urges Sheriff Walt Gallagher to immediately reinstate Thomas Woodard as a deputy in the Orange County Sheriff's Department;

Supports the development by Orange County Personnel (or other appropriate department as directed by the Orange County Commission), together with individuals in the gay and lesbian community, of a gay and lesbian educational and informational committee to be available for consultation by any Orange County department;

Urges the Orange County Commission to expeditiously pass a human rights ordinance which would among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual preference,

resolved this 27th day of July, 1989.



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# MASTER MIND

## USING THE MIND TO CREATE CHANGE

Story by Bill Ehrig

An increasing number of individuals are bringing dramatic changes into their lives by forming Master Mind Support Groups. By following the Master Mind principles made popular by Jack Boland, people are able to set goals and achieve results.

The Master Mind principle is based on the belief that each and every person on Earth is an individualized expression of the Master Mind and has the innate ability to tap into the power, genius and wisdom of the Master Mind. The Master Mind is defined as the power source that created, guides and directs the universe.

By practicing a system of quantum prayer, an individual calls upon not only their own strength and that of creative intelligence, but also upon the mental

energy of at least one other person. This principle is based on the ancient premise that the combined energies of two or more like-minded individuals is many times greater than the individual energies involved.

An important point of such a support group is that other like-minded individuals can believe and accept as true for us things which we find hard to conceive and believe for ourselves.

Master Mind groups are most effective with between two to six members. By meeting on a regular, weekly basis, the group members provide mutual support and encouragement for themselves and others. Requests, needs and other good desires are turned over to the care of the Master Mind. The belief is that an

infinite presence and power greater than oneself is waiting to respond to each person in a loving and personal way simply by asking.

Group members use creative visualization techniques in supporting each other's requests. Members report shared successes, prayers answered and goals achieved. The belief that nothing is impossible and a belief in miracles opens the channels for divine power to flow through each and every individual, creating results. Our belief system creates our own realities.

Among the eight steps on the path to Master Mind consciousness include the surrender to, and belief in the power of the Master Mind; forgiveness of those who have injured or harmed you in any way; accepting and giving thanks for

gifts received; and a dedication to be of maximum service to God and your fellow man.

Goal setting and the use of positive affirmations are instrumental in achieving requested goals. A personal inventory of strengths, weaknesses, needs and desires help clarify individual goals. Group members are also encouraged to create an "image book" which reinforces creative visualization.

Thousands of people who have been involved in Master Minding can attest to its success. All you need to do is ask and be prepared to hear the stories of success.

## Fall Yard Sale Most Successful

The Combined Groups Yard Sale held Saturday August 12 was the most successful sale to date, topping the May sale by approximately \$200. Gross sales for all fine groups participating were \$588.81. Many thanks to all who contributed to this effort by donating, pricing and working the sale, namely, Stan, Terry and Randy. A special thanks to those who came and shopped. Extra special thanks to Dee

and Tom who graciously invited the sale to their yard at the last minute.

The next sale will be held in early November with a gift-giving/holiday deco theme. Start collecting donations now: record albums, sports equipment, musical instruments, games, puzzles, tools, household and kitchen items, good linens, and jewelry, are all popular items.

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# CHURCH CHAT

News from  
*Joy* Metropolitan  
Community  
Church

News from Orlando's Joy Metropolitan Community Church

Attendance at MCC Services has been at an all-time high, with record numbers of visitors. Recent services have been packed with over 140 people and Joy MCC continues to offer a wide variety of both special and regular events for the gay community.

Vocalist Mark Cady will be featured in a special benefit performance entitled "Friends" on Saturday, September 9th, beginning at 7:00pm. The concert will feature a variety of popular and non-secular musical selections. The concert will be held at the First Unitarian Church at 1815 East Robinson Street. A five dollar donation is requested. Tapes of the concert will also be available at the show.

The annual Joy MCC auction will be held after Sunday worship services at First Unitarian Church on September 17th and 24th at about 9:00pm. Included on the auction block will be a first edition of the famous groundbreaking lesbian novel, *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall. Also available for bidding will be a Wayne-sart sculpture.

The Joy MCC AIDS support group is now meeting each second and fourth Sunday at the church offices at 1611 Page Street at 10:00am.

For more information on Joy MCC activities call the church offices at 894-1081.

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## H·E·L·P

The Center Fold is searching for a few, good, volunteer staff writers. If you are interested in interviewing and writing news stories, feature articles or entertainment pieces, call or write The Center Fold Editor, Eric Poff at 407-839-4976 or 4211 Winford Circle, Orlando, Florida, 32809.

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**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wedne**

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LOCATION: 1036 N. Mills, Orlando

**3**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*  
Zion AAC 7:00pm

**4**

LABOR DAY  
The Center is Closed Today

**5**

The Center Opens at 4:00pm Today  
Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm  
Rap Group 7:30pm  
Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm \*

**6**

Women's Discussion G  
Men's Discussion Gr  
Joy MCC 7:15am,

**10**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*  
The Center Continues its Move

**11**

\*\*Gay Skate 9:30pm \*  
The Center is Closed Today.

**12**

Orange Blossom Bowling  
Assoc. 9:00pm \*  
The Center is Closed Today.

**13**

Joy MCC 7:15am,  
The Center is Clos

**17**

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*  
Zion AAC 7:00pm

**18**

Healing Circle 8:00pm

**19**

Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm  
Rap Group 7:30pm  
Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm \*

**20**

Joy MCC 7:  
Sign Language Cla  
Women's Discussion  
Men's Discussion G  
Nutrition Class  
People of Color

**24**

Zion AAC 7:00pm  
Joy MCC 7:30pm \*

**25**

Healing Circle 8:00pm

**26**

Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm  
Rap Group 7:30pm  
Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm \*  
Volunteer Training 7:00pm

**27**

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7  
Women's Discussion G  
Men's Discussion Gro  
PFLAG 8:00pm



# THE CENTER IN SE

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The Center Hours Are:  
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	<div>4</div> <div>LABOR DAY</div> <div>The Center is Closed Today</div>	<div>5</div> <div>The Center Opens at 4:00pm Today</div> <div>Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Rap Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm *</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm *</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Zion Prayer</div> <div>Courage to Char</div> <div>Alan Kasper Bridge</div> <div>We The People</div>
<div>*ts Move</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Gay Skate 9:30pm *</div> <div>The Center is Closed Today.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Orange Blossom Bowling</div> <div>Assoc. 9:00pm *</div> <div>The Center is Closed Today.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm *</div> <div>The Center is Closed Today.</div>	<div>14</div> <div>The Center is Closed Today.</div>
	<div>18</div> <div>Healing Circle 8:00pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Rap Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm *</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm *</div> <div>Sign Language Classes 7:00pm</div> <div>Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Nutrition Class 9:00pm</div> <div>People of Color 9:00pm</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Zion Prayer</div> <div>Alan Kasper Bridge</div> <div>Courage to Char</div> <div>We The People</div>
	<div>25</div> <div>Healing Circle 8:00pm</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Coming Out Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Rap Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm *</div> <div>Volunteer Training 7:00pm</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm *</div> <div>Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm</div> <div>PFLAG 8:00pm *</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Zion Prayer</div> <div>Alan Kasper Bridge</div> <div>Courage to Char</div>



# SEPTEMBER

day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>The Center Hours Are:</b> <b>Mon.-Friday 1:00pm – 9:00pm</b>		<b>1</b> Movie Night at The Center Presents: Ruthless People 7:30pm	<b>2</b> The Center is closed today.
	<b>7</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm We The People 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Movie Night at The Center Presents: "Outrageous Fortune"	<b>9</b> The Center Will Move to its New Location.
	<b>14</b> The Center is Closed Today.	<b>15</b> SeaEscape Gay Cruise Sets Sail 7:30pm * The Center is Closed Today.	<b>16</b> The Center will be Closed Today. LCN Gathering (Call 273-1825 for details.) *
	<b>21</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Courage to Change 8:15pm We The People 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Movie Night at The Center Presents: "Down and Out in Beverly Hills" 7:30pm	<b>23</b> Backyard Bar-B-Que 4:00pm
	<b>28</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Courage to Change 8:15pm	<b>29</b> Movie Night at The Center Presents a Double Feature: "Divine Madness" and "Mondo Beyondo" 7:30pm	<b>30</b> The Center is closed today.

\* Denotes this activity does not occur at The Center.



## 3·2·1·CONTACT

### COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

**ACE, Inc. AIDS Coalition Endowment.** Public educational awareness endeavors, raising funds for Sharehouse. 422-0935.

**AIDS Hotline.** Nationwide up-to-the-minute information. 1-800-342-AIDS.

**AID Orlando.** Anyone in distress, including, but not limited to, people living with AIDS. 648-9161.

**AREA.** AIDS-related services for all of Central Florida. 843-4368.

**CENTAUR.** Central Florida AIDS Unified Resources. Orlando-based AIDS support, direct care and assistance, medical and counseling referrals, peer counseling groups. 849-1452.

**Drug Crisis Center.** Immediate counseling and withdrawal programs. 425-6611.

**Joy MCC.** Joy Metropolitan Community Church. A Christian church open to all denominations regardless of race, sex or sexual orientation. 894-1081.

**LCN.** Loving Committed Network. Publishes a monthly newsletter, the "LCN Express", and provides monthly functions for women. Call Donna 273-1825.

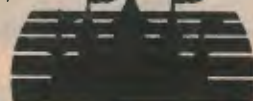
**PFLAG.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meet the last Wednesday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, 316 Marks St., Orlando. Write PFLAG, P.O. Box 141312, Orlando, Florida 32814-1312 for more info.

**Rape Crisis Center.** Counseling and emergency assistance. 648-3028.

**Trans-Aid.** A support service which provides prevention information and patient care. Trans-Aid also networks with other support services and medical support groups. Office: 839-0945, Alfredo Martinez-Garcia: 351-6930, Jim Gentese: 332-8374.

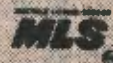
**We Care.** A 24-hour suicide intervention counseling service offered to anyone in a crisis. The service provides confidential, professional counseling. Call 628-1227 or the Teenline at 644-2027.

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## THE GROUPIES

### GROUPS WHICH APPEAR ON THE CALENDAR

**Alan Kasper Bridge Club.** A group of Bridge players gather for a night of the game.

**Coming Out Discussion Group.** This group is open to anyone who is in the coming out process.

**Courage to Change.** A group for friends and family members of alcoholics.

**GLCS.** Gay and Lesbian Community Services. Operates Gay Telephone Hotline for gay peer counseling. Organizes monthly Gay Skate Parties. Raises and distributes funds to other gay outreach organizations. 843-4297.

**Gay Parents Coalition.** This group is for parents who are gay. They meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Contact Scott Alles or Larry Nacastro at 889-9919.

**Healing Circle.** A loving gathering of men and women using Louise Hay's principles to promote healing of body and spirit.

**Men's Discussion Group.** This group for men meets Wednesdays.

**Movie Night.** The Center presents Friday Night at the Movies each week. There is no ticket price, however, refreshments are available for a donation.

**Orange Blossom Bowling Association.** Meets Tuesday nights at Winter Park Bowling Lanes. The leagues take over the facility for a fun night of bowling.

**Rap Group.** A mixed gathering of men and women, young and old, discussing a variety of topics concerning the gay community.

**We The People.** A concerned group of citizens gathered together to fight for the rights of all citizens.

**Women's Discussion Group.** This group for gay women and lesbians meets Wednesdays.

**Zion A.A.C.** A liturgical, charismatic church which believes Christ died to save everyone including lesbians and gays.





# IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## ONE OBSERVER: THEATRE

It's no secret that theatre is alive and well in Orlando, Florida. I am taken aback time and time again when I produce a show with a "gay" theme and present it at a "gay" theatre, only to find a whole new group of gay people who are seeing a live performance for the first time in their lives. Don't these people know we're supposed to love the theatre and attend it often?

Well hopefully, we've whet some appetites. Be it known that excellent theatre abounds right here in Orlando!

Most of us know that Producer Zev Buffman presents a series of Broadway Touring Companies at The Bob Carr Center for Performing Arts in Orlando.

The Civic Theatre of Central Florida, touted as being among the nation's finest community theatre facilities, boasts a six-play mainstage season, a theatre for young people, and a drama academy.

Artistic Director Michael Fortner has become an artistic, bona fide cheerleader for The Advancement

Theatre in Central Florida. Michael is the founder of A Director's Club, organized to promote a collaborative effort among all area theatres, as well as to lend them all support and assistance.

The Civic, being the most financially solvent theatre "hereabouts," is most adept at mounting major musicals with large casts, elaborate sets and extensive costuming. The current production is "Sweeney Todd."

The Mark II Dinner Theatre on Edgewater Drive is Orlando's only theatre which employs members of the actors' equity association. The Mark II, which had gained a reputation in the past for being "safe" and "conservative" in its play selection, has taken some very happy risks this season producing "Nunsense" and "La Cage Aux Folles." Currently playing at the Mark II is "Love, Sex and the IRS." It runs through September 10. "The Music Man" will open on September 13.

Valencia Community College, the University of Central Florida, Rollins College, and Seminole Community

College all have theatre departments whose shows incorporate the talents of area actors, actresses and students.

Under the artistic care of Director David Clevenger, Mount Dora's Ice House Theatre has blossomed from a small group of local players and theatre groups into a highly respected organization that attracts actors and ticket buyers from throughout Central Florida. "The Boys Next Door" will open September 22.

The Osceola Players, out Kissimmee way, opens its Fall season with "Camelot" on September 8.

The Orlando Theatre Project has taken on the artistic task of transforming a portion of the abandoned Orlando Utilities Commission Building into a theatre. Instead of waiting for the construction crew to renovate the structure, the group utilized the buildings architectural quirks as part of last years show "A Christmas Carol." What have they got up their sleeves this season?

Finally, near and dear to my heart is "The Theatre Downtown" which doesn't look like a theatre and isn't

downtown. This group somehow manages to consistently draw on the talents of the finest actors and actresses that Orlando has to offer. Theatre Downtown is a personal favorite, not because it's better than any other group, but because it operates in a manner that allows for risk-taking, experimentation and production of newer, unusual, and lesser known works. In fact, this recipe has become the hallmark of The Theatre Downtown. Typical of their style, the controversial "Beirut," opens September 15. The show is incredibly poignant in its graphic portrayal of future America quarantining anyone who tests positive for the AIDS virus.

Independent producers mount shows all over Central Florida. The Calendar section of the Sentinel, has up-to-date listings. That is also where you'll find audition information. Now please be gay and go to a play.

## P. HOUSE LUAAU

The Parliament House will be jam packed with exciting activities September 4, as the popular gay resort presents its annual Labor Day Luau.

- Tropical T-dance..... 2pm-9pm
- Caribbean Stars Steel Drum Band (direct from the Virgin Islands). 3:30pm-8:30pm
- Limbo contest..... 4pm
- Hula contest..... 5pm
- Best tropical attire contest..... 6pm
- Miss Luau contest, parade and floats (\$100 cash prize)..... 7pm
- Banana eating contest (\$50 cash prize)..... 7:45pm
- Tan line contest..... 8:30pm
- Polynesian Island Revue (featuring the Footlights Players)..... 9:00pm

## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

"In the Neighborhood" is a column dedicated to highlighting special newsworthy activities of businesses who advertise in The Center Fold. We are also happy to announce the happenings of non-profit organizations. The Center Fold staff does not have time to call every group

and business in town each month for copy. Advertisers and groups must submit material to Michael Wanzie at The Center by the second Sunday of each month. This space is available free of charge. Call Michael at 894-7097 for more information.



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## JUST ANOTHER LOVE STORY...

By Scott Atkinson

### Chapter I: In the Abyss

Bright red and white lights danced in quick, rhythmic movements, first up-down then left-right as he floated in and out of a night-mare. He could hear sounds: loud trumpets blaring monotonous cries, aborigines shouting indiscernible tribal war chants. He could feel himself being carried away, but he didn't know to where, or by whom, and he was powerless to stop them. Powerless to stop the tormenting pain in his head, his chest, his legs.

"Stop, please stop!" he tried to yell, but the words came out an inaudible, muffled groan. Everything was moving quickly around him just beyond his range of vision. Hands touched him, eyes stared down in wonder at him. He couldn't push them away.

*Is this hell? He thought, Am I really dead?...*

And the world went black.

At first there was nothing. He seemed to be drifting, floating alone in a dark empty abyss. There was no sound, and he felt that, even if he'd attempted to speak, his voice would evaporate--no, more like it would be sucked out into the emptiness like light being absorbed by a black hole. He could tell he was moving, not upward nor downward, more like *outward*; his body--but not his body--his *being* stretching out in all directions attempting to fill the abyss. Trying to overtake the lonely darkness.

A moment--no eternity--had passed when he began to hear the voices: strangely familiar voices beckoning "come". Uncle Dave--great old Uncle Dave--Granny, cousin Lucey, and...Jenny! Jenny was here too. He'd recognized all the voices; all from his distant past, and all had been dead for

years. All except for Jenny. The sound of her voice had startled him. She should have been beside him. She *was* beside him just a moment ago--or had an eternity really passed? He couldn't be sure.

Suddenly, without a sound, a star exploded into existence before him. Its warm, brilliant white light bathed his soul in a soothing calm. Staring into it he found peace and tranquility, empathy for his pain, though he didn't know for what pain the light was empathizing. He'd suddenly forgotten about pain and sorrow, if only for the moment...

Then as suddenly as the pain had disappeared, he felt it again. Sharp torrents of pain and agony ripped through his universe. The voices faded and the star collapsed until it had shrunk into a tiny spark.

Another explosion of searing pain shattered his new found peace and then--again--all was dark...

Next Month:  
Chapter II: *The Truth*



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# ELLA'S HOUSE

BY JESS

Ella was enthusiastic about her decision to go back to work. She danced around the house and into her bedroom. Ella's mood was lessened when she searched through her wardrobe.

"I would be in style if it was the sixties," Ella said softly to herself.

Down went one outfit after another. The blouses, bells and all the polyester. "I'm goin' shopping first," Ella thought.

The bus was about half full. Ella stepped on and sat close to the driver.

"Haven't seen you on my bus before, sweetie." The driver said as he winked. Ella rolled her eyes and shook her head.

"You can't speak sweetie?" The driver asked.

Ella glared at the husky driver. Returning the glance the driver asked, "You gotta bee in your bonnet honey?"

"I don't got no bee in my bonnet, I'm a happy person who ain't named

honey, baby, sweetie or sugar." Ella said as she pursed her lips and snapped a finger.

"Calm down, I'm sorry." The driver said as he pulled the bus into the station.

Ella was glad the bus ride was over and looked forward to shopping. Suddenly she felt a hand on her shoulder.

"Miss, we got off to a bad start. What is your name?" The driver said with a humble look on his face.

"Well, It's Ella."

"Ella, I hope you take my bus again."

"Well...I will...Mr?"

"Frank. Ella I got to go. See you soon, okay?"

Ella smiled.



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# OUT TAKES

## HEALING WORK- SHOP

A workshop based on the New York Times best selling book by Louise L. Hay, "You Can Heal Your Life," will be held September 23 and 24 at the Holiday Inn at 5750 Lake Willisara Circle.

The workshop was developed by Louise L. Hay, internationally renowned metaphysical teacher, lecturer and author.

The workshop has allowed thousands of people to make positive changes in their lives. It will be taught by one of the associate teachers from the Hay's Institute.

In addition to the instructions presented by the workshop teacher, participants will experience Louise on videotape as she personally presents the basic points of her philosophy. "If you are willing to do the mental work, almost anything can be healed." - Louise L. Hay.

Registration fee is \$150 and the deadline for registration is September 12.

## SIGN ME

Sign Language I is a twelve week course in signing for communicating with hearing impaired individuals. The class instructor, Robert Reynolds, will meet from 7pm to 9pm Wednesday evenings beginning September 20. The course is based on the book "Sign Language Made Simple," by Edgar D. Lawrence. It is available at local bookstores (\$12). The purchase of the book is helpful, but not a prerequisite for the class.



## DIET

The Diet and Nutrition Class is reemerging at The Center. The first "new" meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20 at 9:00 pm.

For those who participated in the previous class the program proved to be most beneficial. Center Coordinator Michael Wanzie lost a total of 26 1/2 pounds and maintains his weight loss because of helpful nutritional hints learned from the class.

Betsy, the facilitator for the course, uses recipes, nutrition and motivation to help participants reach their goals. Aside from diet, Betsy discusses nutritional topics such as salts, fats, good calories and bad calories, giving participants the necessary information to reach and maintain their goals.

## MOVING

The Center will be in the process of relocating on September 9 and 10. We will be moving all our treasures and sure could use a helping hand or two or three. We also need a truck. We appreciate your support.

## CONCERT

Don't forget the "Sensible Pumps" concert at Key Largo on September 14. This is a great professional all-female Rock and Rollin' Rhythm and Blues Band. Tickets are \$5.00 at Key Largo. What a way to start your Cruise Weekend! As always, gay gentlemen are always welcome at Key Largo.

## A MULTI- COLORED FORUM

"People of Color," a discussion group catering to the minority portion of the homosexual community, will begin meeting at The Center Wednesday, September 20 at 8:00 pm. This group for gay minorities will have structured meetings. Topics of particular interest to the group will be discussed and the group will host guest speakers, forums and panel discussions. "People of Color" will be hosted by Johnny Stewart Jr.

## quote


"How are men and women to think about their maleness and femaleness in this twentieth century, in which so many of our old ideas must be made new?"

--Margaret Mead



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