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Page 8

NEWS MAGAZINE FROM THE CENTER, A PROJECT OF GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

## Local Man to Compete in Gay Games '90

By Sal Capozzi  
Copy Editor

A world-wide competition for gay athletes comparable to the Olympics will have a Central Florida flavor this summer. Celebration '90: Gay Games III Cultural Festival begins Aug. 4 with a local gay athlete competing against other gay athletes from around the world. The week-long event in Vancouver, Canada, features some of the same sporting events as the Olympics.

Jeff Horn, a 28 year-old tennis pro, is entered in both doubles and singles competition in his age bracket. Horn has been playing tennis for about 14 years, and is ranked in the top 50 Florida players in his age bracket.

He has taught tennis at the City of Maitland Recreation Department for the last 10 years, and has also taught in Daytona, Tampa and Miami. When not teaching tennis, Horn attends classes at the University of Central Florida where he majors in psychology.

He explained the games will feature both open as well as age grouping levels for competition, although Horn will be playing only in his age bracket.

Typically, players are grouped according to age levels, with brackets for those in their twenties, thirties, and so on, up to the seventies. Open competition involves players of all ages and varying degrees of talent. Horn says there will be mixed doubles as well.

"I play a serve and volley game of tennis, and my doubles partner is mainly a baseliner. We have played

See TENNIS, Page 16



## Bad Babes Behind Bars ... To Escape, Pull I.T. Out!

## Group Works for Rights of Gay/Lesbian Parents

By Susan Lee Spence  
Center Fold Staff Writer

What constitutes a good parent? Everyone agrees that loving, protecting, and supporting children are the only real criteria for labeling anyone a good parent. Yet, what if one or both parents are gay? If so, then the criteria is often no longer about whether parents are good, but about their sexual preference. When that happens, "sexuality discrimination" denies gay and lesbian parents their right to be "good parents."

How can gay and lesbian parents find the means they need to insure their rightful claim? One way is by unifying their collective might.

See PARENTS, Page 7



The GLPCI held a news conference during its January convention.

## The Center: Personal Perspectives

By Jeff Campbell  
Center Fold Staff Writer

The Center is more than you may know, and those of us who are involved with some of its many activities would like you to know what GLCS means to you. It would be nice to stir your curiosity and it would be especially nice to stir your interest to the point that you would become a member.

The wave is about to crest and we want to be on that crest as gay pride expands to its full magnitude in the consciousness of American life. *Newsweek* quotes Tom Stoddard, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, as saying: "It is not possible to live in the United States today and not be aware of gay people. That by itself is a revolution."

We want to be a part of that national consciousness here in Orlando! We want you to be proud of The Center and to be a part of that pride. We are presenting views and news from a few people who are happy and proud to be on close personal terms with the activities of GLCS.

### LEJUNE'S STORY

LeJune Perry, openly lesbian, is an employee of the state department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and an active member of the board of directors of The Center.

She's been very involved with crisis intervention and has worked to coordinate actions of GLCS with HRS.

Perry tells the story of one young man "who was found in a state of hysteria, having been severely abused by an older man who had threatened to kill him, and in fact, had beaten him. He was admitted to

See PERSONAL, Page 10



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## A Simple Formula for Success: Planning + People = Progress

By David Bain  
GLCS President

prioritize our needs and dreams for the future.

All of us know that planning for the future is the key to the success of GLCS. Unfortunately, all too much time is often spent making sure that the present and often urgent needs are accommodated. With the rapid and sometimes overwhelming

### IMMEDIATE GOALS

Our most immediate need is in the FINANCIAL department. We are spending much too much of our limited staff and volunteer time on the planning and operation of our fundraising projects.

This is imperative considering 85 percent of our funding is through our major fundraising events. In fact, only 3 percent of our annual budget comes from individual donations.

It's unfortunate that these same fundraising activities that keep our doors open, often interfere with our ability to serve our clients and provide those services to the community that we exist for. In the next few weeks, you should become

aware of our latest pledge drive. Monthly pledges from individuals in our community provide that steady income that guarantees we will be here tomorrow, no matter how many people show up at our next fundraiser.

Knowing every month that the rent, phone and utilities will be paid allows us to concentrate on providing immediate needs and quality service to our community.

MEMBERSHIP is another area we will be concentrating on. Our current membership consists of less than .001 percent of the estimated estimated gay and lesbian population of the Orlando area. On the other hand, our newsletter circulation reaches over 6,000 households monthly. Still only 6 percent of the gay and lesbian population. In order for us to grow, we must continue to expand our reaches. New services, programs and discounts exclusive to our members are in the planning stages and will be announced in the near future. Our

See SUCCESS, Page 18



growth of our organization, the need to sit down and chart our course to the future has become a necessity. For the past few weeks, our GOALS committee has met to discuss and

## An Open Letter to President Bush

February 25, 1990

The Hon. George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My name is Michael Wanzie. I am an extremely proud American who loves dearly all that America symbolizes. I do take part in

my family and I love them. I am very spiritual. I am sober and responsible. I vote. In my lifetime, I have never knowingly harmed another human being. Even as a school boy I never hit another boy. I am a good man, a good friend, a good family member, a good citizen, a good American. I am also Gay.

I am a Gay American who in 1987 lost the most important person in my life, a beautiful man, also a good

citizen and proud American, a brother, an uncle, a mother's son, my lover and life partner - Ron Kimber died as a result of AIDS.

Ron died because we could not find a surgeon in a reasonable amount of time to perform a minor yet life-saving operation.

Ron died due to lack of proper care, denied him because of hysteria, mis-information, and most definitely because of bigotry - the very bigotry you spoke vehemently against during your State of the Union address recently.

I find it incomprehensible that you, Mr. President, could deliver a State of the Union address and make absolutely no mention whatsoever of the most crucial and devastating problem facing our nation today - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. I find it hard to accept that you mentioned our health care system and still managed to evade how that system responds to people with AIDS.

You mentioned that bigotry and hate are not to be tolerated and yet our federal government refuses to recognize Gay and Lesbian citizens as deserving of basic human rights and takes little or no action whatsoever to curtail or even monitor the ever-increasing anti-gay hate crimes committed against good people like myself each and every day in this nation.

Decade after decade, various groups of people have marched on our nation's capital, such as black Americans, in an effort to be recognized as being included in those three precious words, "We the People." When, Mr. President, will

See BUSH, Page 19



cultivating American ideals in my community. I do help my neighbors. I give more than 20 hours of my valuable time per week to volunteer work. I am a 32-year-old uncle of 11 nieces and nephews. I am loved by



## New Beginnings ...

By Bryan Yopp  
Managing Editor

This issue marks a new beginning for *The Center Fold*. We have a new managing editor whose function is to insure that the paper grows into a stable organization from both a content viewpoint and a financial standpoint. The paper's primary focus will always be the GLCS Center and how the GLCS will continue to strive to improve the quality of life for Central Florida gays and lesbians.

With the addition of a managing editor, *The Center Fold* will be able to increase the coverage of gay and lesbian issues that affect each one of us either directly or indirectly. This coverage will be able to develop if we as individuals support the concept of a "gay and lesbian community." We, as individuals, have to be able to place personalities and other personal and political differences to the side and come together as a whole to be able for this "community" to grow and prosper.

This support has to come from several areas. It has to come from advertisers and businesses, who,

besides purchasing advertising that supports this paper's ability to publish, need to lend assistance to the GLCS in its commitment to help our own when other governmental organizations are either not willing to help or not set up to meet the special needs of the gay and lesbian community.

This support has to come from people, volunteers, who either supply monetary support or even more importantly supply their time and energy. A support organization must rely on the skills, abilities, and expertise that volunteers can and do supply when they get involved.

Even with support from businesses and advertisers, it still doesn't come together without the help of individuals.

You may ask how can I get involved when: "I have a busy schedule," "I don't have any skills that will help other people," "I have enough problems of my own, so how can I help others." You can help by coming down to the Center and getting involved. We all have

See NEW, Page 5



### ▼ A Poem

Time - now,  
We're into 1990.  
the very best to all ...  
GLCS has moved us all in many ways;  
A very special thanks,  
For being a part of the new decade.  
May the goals set,  
Be reached.  
Meeting Ms. Pam Berry,  
Lead to new friends,  
Michael Wanzie, David Bain,  
Whose endless energy has proven in the past  
To help provide for the future.  
I'm grateful that The Center on Mills,  
Was.

Wayne DeRammelaere, volunteer

### ▼ A Rebuttal Letter

(Editor's Note: Syntax and spelling are copied from the original.)

Dear Editor:

After a discussion with fellow Gay and Lesbian Friends. It is time to

voice our opinions in regard to articles which appeared in your publication.

First your recent PORTRAYAL of Jeb Blankenbiller. There is allot [sic] more to the butter cream update you printed, After your first article "Orange County is Killing its Prisoners with AIDS," we felt compassion for Jeb and concern for the Gay community.

However, since that article we shared the opportunity of meeting Mr. Blankenbiller. It is our OBSERVATION that Jeb is killing himself. He SUFFERS from ALCOHOL ABUSE, while taking CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, and continues EXTREME PROMISCUITY. It is no wonder we here [sic] of him in jail and having PROBLEMS.

In light of the FACTS, we ask you CENTER Fold. Do you SUPPORT JebB., people like him, and the IMMORAL REASONING ("It doesn't matter we are all going to DIE

See LETTERS, Page 4

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## LETTERS, from Page 3

anyway")?.

We hope your answer is no. People like Jeb are committing a CRIME against the MORALLY DESERVING PWA'S. Their [sic] wasting limited drugs and funds, they lack the ability to conduct themselves in a manner of GOOD USE, for LIFE and LIVING.

Secondly we would like to comment on your dealings with PUBLIC officials. Such as the little ad running about the traffic on I-4, not to mention the Lawson Lamar INTEROGATION. Do you think that calling the Governor is going to improve the I-4 situation? Your [sic] putting large straws on the back of a small camel (center fold).

It is CONCLUSIVE[sic] in saying, Continued publication of BAD Gay propaganda, Geraldo styled interviews, and "Tit for TaT" ad's are DAMAGING. Damaging for Gay people as one, and to the CHARACTER of which we are PERCEIVED. Stop giving 2 or 3 individuals the opportunity to create a BLATANT DEFAMATION of the rest of US with paper, ink, and BAD SEMANTICS.

CONSOLE us.

One Gay Voice.

Dear One,

"Stop giving 2 or 3 individuals the opportunity to create a BLATANT DEFAMATION of the rest of US with paper, ink, and BAD SEMANTICS." OK. Turn in your paper and ink (you can keep the bad semantics).

### ▼ She'll 'Always Think of Liberace'

(In Re: Center Fold Vol.4, Issue 1)

Michael Wanzie:

Recently I was walking with my granddaughter in a small park in Palm Bay and came across your paper, *Center Fold*. I immediately thought of Ted Bundy's story and wondered what young boy may be mind contaminated by reading it.

In reading through, it was amazing to read how evil was considered good such as John Greene's being considered a hero when he is in reality a blackest of villain. I am wondering how many will die because of his pushing sodomy on campus.

Several things in your paper are definite lies per other more reliable resources. The Bible states that those who burn with lust for the same sex will be turned over to a reprobate mind.

The act of sodomy could also be slang termed "outhouse sex" because that is in effect what is happening. Sex organs, fists and other parts of the body are being put into feces. How gross!

The book I just finished by Lawrence J. McNamee, MD and Brian F. McNamee, MD has been written and from the prognosis for society things are very serious. I suggest you read it. AIDS \$12.95, National Medical Legal Publishing House, P O Box 342, LaHabra, CA 90633-0342.

It is most tragic a particular group of people because of sinful self-indulgence are willing to contaminate all of society and cause such a financial and medical burden also.

Many diseases that have not been self-centered and created need money for research but because of your group's selfishness it must be wasted for AIDS research. You could stop it if you practiced self-control or turned your life over to the Lord asking forgiveness for contaminating his temple, your body.

If the true source of the children's from Arcadia dilemma were known in all probability it would have come from a homosexual.

You condemned Anita Bryant, viciously, but if you had listened to her you may not be getting a funeral home to advertise in your paper. You wrote of homosexuals' contributions to society but it was not because of their deviancies [sic]. I can think of the lost [sic] to society that far outweighs any good. None have ever normally reproduced, died younger because of disease, molested young boys starting them on the same road. Dr. George Washington Crane, psychologist, stated that if you practiced a certain motion you will feel a corresponding emotion. You could be loving fathers and good husbands if you hadn't been brain washed.

I will always think of Liberace as giving in to lust and destroying himself instead of the great musician he was. He might have had children with his same talent going for generations.

When you are too old or become ill with the ills caused by sodomy, it will [be] others' children who must spend their time to care for you to the death.

See LETTERS, Page 5

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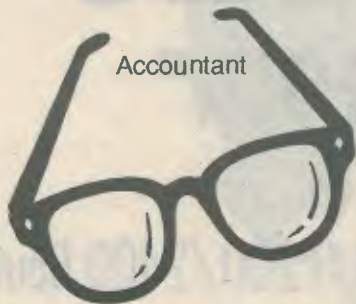
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## LETTERS, from Page 4

again since I can imagine my foods being handled by those who may have feces under their nails – so unhygienic. It sounds, per your paper, as if many work at [local theme park].

I have another idea – sexual IQ (SIQ) : masturbator – sexual idiot; homosexual or lesbian – sexual imbecile; fornicator and adulterer – sexual moron; and married – sexual genius.

I pray that you repent and ask God to cleanse you from sin. You could lead many from this self-destructive evil.

Yours truly,  
Coral Lee Craig

Dear Coral,

It is difficult to know where to start in answering your letter. It is obvious that you have spent a long time believing what you were told without really being aware of what was being said.

Were I to believe as dogmatically in the Bible as you say you do, then I should probably take the Apostle Paul's advice when he writes it is wrong for a woman to be allowed to instruct a man, and simply toss your letter out. But I realize that much of what the Bible says is phrased in the social laws and scientific knowledge that was current when it was written, but no longer practiced today.

The same Bible that you would use to condemn gays and lesbians, was used 70 years ago to confine women to the home as non-voting persons of lesser equality,

and was used 200 years ago to justify the degradation and segregation of African Americans. Ever since it was written, there have been people willing to distort God's message of love into one of love for only a few and hate for the rest. I, too, will pray that God might cleanse you from your sins. That you would equate homosexuality with only the sexual act betrays your narrow-minded view of love and sex. Contrary to what you seem to think, sex is NOT the most important aspect of my relationship with my partner. Sex is only a physical urge that can be satisfied in many ways, most of which you appear to consider dirty. I am in this relationship because of the love which we share for each other, the words spoken, the time together, the touches, the caring, and, yes, the sex.

It is most tragic that a particular group of people because of sinful self-indulgence are willing to allow a disease to spread because they think it is "a gay disease" and that adolescents should not be taught about sex. The current highest risk group for HIV contamination is adolescents and young adults, mostly heterosexual street kids. Getting the information to them concerning prevention is very difficult because of the number of adults who simply take the stand that they should not have sex, therefore they don't need any information. Period.

You seem to take the stand that those who have died from AIDS were out actively searching for the disease, and therefore we should feel no sorrow. You imply that the money spent on AIDS research is wasted and would be better spent elsewhere. These are certainly wonderful sentiments to be expressed by a woman who claims to love Jesus. If he spent time with the lepers, the tax collectors, and the other outcasts, do you not think

that he would be as compassionate today to PWA's?

As for the rest of your letter, it descends to a level of vitriolic verbiage that is quite typical of the closed mind. Anita Bryant was a vicious opponent of lesbians and gays, certainly not the great Christian she pretended to be, and as a result has created more problems for herself than she ever did for the gay community. I feel sorry for her blind attitudes.

There is no statistical evidence to support your claims of non-reproduction by gays and lesbians or their early deaths from disease. And there is statistical evidence to prove that the majority of those who sexually molest children are heterosexuals.

Think what you will about Liberace, but he was a great showman, not necessarily a great pianist. As for children to carry that talent, there is no guarantee that any children will be as talented as their parents. You seem to be of the opinion that gays and lesbians do not marry and have children; and long-term loving relationships. Obviously you are just totally uninformed of the very real world around you.

The purpose of The Center Fold is to help lead people away from self-destructive evil, but we see that as educating them to the rights and freedoms that we all are guaranteed by the Constitution; teaching them tolerance and acceptance of themselves and others; and realizing that many narrow-minded bigots will attempt to denigrate and debase them because of their sexuality, the same way that bigots have attacked African-Americans, women, and other minorities for years.

Sincerely,  
Keith Proud, editorial chief

Send Your Comments to The CenterFold, Attn.: Keith Proud, 750 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, Fla. 32804

## NEW, from Page 3

excuses but if we want a "gay and lesbian community" to develop into a thriving, self-supporting, and positive force in Central Florida it will take people, people like you.

You will notice that there are a couple of ads that ask for volunteers and we are no exception. The Center Fold is published with the help of volunteers who go out on their free time and use their own resources to bring important information back to you, our readers. The advertising that we receive goes back into the paper so we will have the necessary tools to be able to publish. So as you can see, volunteers with varying backgrounds and points of view bring this paper to life. I would like to thank them for their hard work and continued efforts.

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## A Q&A With Center Staffer Linda Cartwright

By Sal Capozzi  
Copy Editor

**Q:** Your title is "office manager." Exactly what does that mean?

**A:** Beats me. Officially, that means I do minor accounting work, update the volunteer reference manual, filing, typing, data entry (mailing list upkeep, pledges, memberships), input for *The Center Fold*, classified ads, answer the phone, deal with the mail, and assist Michael[Wanzie] in whatever projects he's involved in. I also try to get new materials for the brochure rack in the lobby and work with the volunteers to keep everything running as smoothly as possible. Working in a community center, I never really know what the day will bring my way.

**Q:** What steps in your personal life lead you to The Center?

**A:** The words "I'm gay" didn't come into my head until I was 17. It scared me so much I shut down emotionally for several years. The only people I knew of who might be gay or lesbian were so messed up I didn't want to believe that I was one of "them." Eventually, I met a couple of well-adjusted lesbians in college whom I could identify with better so I started investigating this whole homosexuality business from a distance.

I found out about The Center by reading TWN which, at the time, I was having sent to the post office box I'd rented specifically for gay and lesbian material. I was still living at home over on the Space Coast and didn't know anyone else gay - at least not that I wanted to know - so I was a reading and checkbook lesbian only. A lesbian in name only, as I like to put it. That was OK for awhile, but eventually that isolated and kind of desperate feeling crept back up on



### Fast Facts

**Name:** Linda Cartwright  
**Born** Aug. 4, 1965 in Vancouver, Wash.  
**Occupation:** Office Manager, the Center  
**Educational Background:** A.A. degree from Brevard Community College, 2 years of assorted college classes (mostly in philosophy)  
**Interests/hobbies:** Reading, needlepoint, shopping

me so I took the next step.

I was making the drive over to UCF twice a week so I committed to volunteering Tuesday afternoons at The Center after classes. It was scary as hell - I had to actually spend time in a gay and lesbian building, answer a gay and lesbian phone, and even speak the words "gay" and "lesbian." It amazed me how nervous I would get about the whole thing - the building wasn't scary, the people weren't scary, but now being a lesbian was more than my little secret - everybody there expected me to be one.

It was very reassuring to meet other gays and lesbians in neutral territory where the music wasn't too loud, the lights were on and I could be myself - whoever that was. I learned, and am learning, more about people and life in general here than I ever did in four years of college. More than anything else, I think The Center has given me a place to belong. I missed that so

badly in junior and senior high school.

Another reason I enjoy being involved with GLCS and The Center is the sense it gives me of continuing the fight. I survived the initial coming out process because Rita Mae Brown dared to write mainstream books with lesbian characters, Dr. Don Clark wrote *Loving Someone Gay*, and people whose names I may never learn risked everything in even more homophobic times and places to challenge the ignorance and hatred that twists and destroys our lives. This is the kind of stuff that fires me up. I'm no expert activist, but I'm doing everything I'm capable of right now to help other people be OK with themselves. I can't see myself doing anything else, really.

**Q:** What do you feel The Center has to offer the lesbian community?

**A:** So many things, I'm not sure I can do justice to The Center in trying to answer it. But if you insist, I'd

have to say we offer a safe and accepting place to come out, socialize and organize. We offer anonymity to those who need it, and the opportunity for greater visibility within our own community and in the community at large to those who desire it. We also direct lesbians new to the area or the gay and lesbian community to the different organizations, businesses or activities that might interest them.

Orlando's gay and lesbian community is so diverse and becoming so active, that The Center's function as a clearinghouse for information is steadily becoming more important. We're a tremendous resource for any group - gay or lesbian - that is forming, needs members, is holding an event or for whatever reason needs to let people know they exist. I can't tell you how many women I've steered toward Loving Committed Network and Lucky Ladies Bowling. Even if a group has no interest in associating with GLCS or The Center, they can benefit from our services.

**Q:** What would you like to see The Center do to strengthen or support the lesbian community?

**A:** I think The Center has the resources and support, i.e. the building and the organization, already in place for the lesbian community to make use of. The Center is what the community makes it. It's up to people in the community who see a need that is not being filled to come forward and make it happen. With the addition of Kathryn Proud to our board of directors as vice president, I think we're going to see more visible and positive lesbian energy coming from within the organization. We need more of that

See LINDA, Page -



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## PARENTS, from Page 1

Gay and lesbian parents are doing just that through the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI). The Washington-based GLPCI has over 30 member chapters in the United States, Canada and Australia, and within these are over 1,000 members.

This coalition includes policies that : support children of gay and lesbian parents, support local gay and lesbian groups, support the passage of legislation against sexual discrimination, and support education of the general public.

Included in the GLPCI's organization is the *Network*, a quarterly newsletter, and *Just For Us*, a newsletter by and for the children of lesbian and gay parents.

To the GLPCI the word "family" means something totally different than that of the general public. The group believes "family" now encompasses the hundreds of thousands of gay and lesbian parents who are trying to take an active role in raising their children.

In January the International Board of Directors Conference of the GLPCI descended upon The Center in hopes of creating a true depiction of gay and lesbian parents. Each member was there to protect and defend their parental urges against the tide of public opinion. Even the president of GLPCI, Wayne Schwandt, got a sparkle in his eyes when he spoke of his two sons.

Also, on Jan. 20, the GLPCI held a news conference. The main focus of the event was to gain public awareness and to establish a community gay and lesbian sensitivity training course. The eight-hour long prejudice reduction course will be directed toward three target groups: the Orlando Sheriff's Department, the Orlando Police Department and the Orange County School Board.

The GLPCI will hold its 11th Annual International Conference in Washington, D.C., on

June 1-3. It will be three days of closeness and growing for the GLPCI members who met 11 years ago on a march in Washington.

Less than 8 percent of all Americans live in what is perceived to be the "traditional family," i.e. two married, never-divorced parents with biological children, according to studies by the National Gay and Lesbian Task force.

In this changing structure of the children, Chris Jr. (left) and Jennifer.

"typical family" unit are lesbian and gay parents and their children, who can no longer be labeled atypical families. The March 12 issue of *Newsweek* magazine featured a six-page article, "The Future of Gay America," which included the role of gays and lesbians as parents.

According to the article: "While theorists debate the merits of marriage between gays, many are already living the settled-down life of their 'breeder' peers. That includes children - either through adoption, artificial insemination or arrangements between lesbians and gay 'uncles.' There are an estimated 3 million to 5 million lesbian and gay parents who have had children in the context of a heterosexual relationship."

The article also contained a positive outlook on the effects of such parenting, "Psychologists have

investigated the impact of gay parents on children with somewhat surprising results," *Newsweek* noted. "In a 1980 Massachusetts custody case, a judge allowed testimony showing that all 35 studies on homosexual parents from the previous 15 years found no adverse effect on the kids."

Even though lesbians and gays have created their own family units, public opinion still considers them unworthy of their ability to raise children.

A poll quoted in *Time* magazine (Nov. 20, 1989) asked 1,000 adult Americans, "Do you think homosexual couples should be legally permitted to adopt children?" Of those polled 75 percent said no, 17 percent said yes and 8 percent were unsure.

For information on the GLPCI write P.O. Box 50360, Washington, D.C. 20004 or call (703) 548-3238. Membership costs \$10 per year.



## Gay Couple Finds Happiness, Success as Parents

By Susan Lee Spence  
 Center Fold Staff Writer

Who would have thought that two gay men, who have been living together for over eight years, would be looking forward to becoming grandparents someday? This is the case with Scott Alles and Larry Nicastro. Scott, who had been married prior to his "coming out," has two children, Ryan, 16, and Aubree, 10, who live with their mother, and stay over often with their dad and Larry.

Scott founded the Orlando chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) over three years ago. "I came out after the first year, the parent group helped," says Scott.

Scott has an amicable relationship with both his ex-wife and in-laws. "My in-laws visit often. The divorce was not unlike any heterosexual couple breaking up, but we were lucky, and the children reflect that. A lot of people people in our group are less fortunate with their divorce, but that's why we have groups," says Scott.

Scott, who was apprehensive about telling Ryan (then 13) about his sexual preference, was surprised by his son's response: "Dad, I already

know. What do you think, I am stupid? I know a lot of gay people, and I have gay friends."

Scott's pride is apparent when he speaks of his son's reaction. "He's a super kid and very accepting. I raised him that way."

Scott explains his and Ryan's current relationship. "He brings his friends over here. Almost like he's showing us off. His group of friend are aware of what is going on. We don't carry on in front of them. They know who we are and what we are. They have a good time over here, we are alright guys."

Ryan is southeast editor with the GLPCI's newsletter for children, *Just For Us*, and will be in this month's issue. In addition, Ryan, Scott and Larry will attend the GLPCI's 11th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The three day conference, to be held June 1-3, will be the biggest one ever for the children. "They will have their own coming out experience," says Scott.

Scott's daughter, Aubree, knows of Scott and Larry sharing the same bed. "She's not old enough to discuss it. I've never really sat down and discussed it with her. When it comes up I will."

Scott's "life mate" Larry, while childless, has been involved with the children for over eight years.

"They were young enough to bond with him,"

says Scott. "Larry is a good friend to both and a real buddy for Ryan."

Larry recalls his "being involved with family - with children - being 'out' so early, I had no real interest in having children. I gave up. Then I met Scott. It was a different experience. I wondered how I was supposed to act with him [Scott] and with them. In time the necessity of taking care of them took over. Getting them ready for bed, putting them to sleep. I became completely involved. It has progressed and has been rewarding and enriching."

Larry's family is also a part of the act. "My parents are close to these kids," he says. Larry's sister, recently married to a man with two children, often seeks advice from her experienced brother. Larry knows that being a stepparent can put a strain on a relationship. "It's that fear of stepping on your partners toes," he says.

Despite the minor problems of parenting, Larry enjoys the extra company. "The kids always have friends over, there is always a tribe of kids roaming around. The bond continues to grow and it has been challenging, different and fun. And as we grow older - to be a grandparent - I'm looking forward to that."



# Postscripts

## Fiction

By Anthony Watkins

Thoughts of him have been raiding my mind more and more of late. They started early last week with notions here and there, and gradually they worked their way into full scale memories by the week's end. So that by Saturday last, the images had reached a level of annoyance that demanded reconciliation. The day had started out as every other had, but with one exception. My mind's eye had no sense of focus.

Thoughts would wander in and make themselves to home, enlightening, muddling and causing general havoc, only to leave as quickly as they had come. Some of the thoughts were of Pete. Some were of work. Still others were of life's usual circumstances.

There were design plans that needed work before Monday morning. There was the garage which needed cleaning, correspondence to compose, bills to pay and, there was shopping to be done. All simple tasks which, in themselves, posed no threat. However, thinking on the whole, they seemed insurmountable. I attempted to determine what my first plan of attack would be.

"The design plans can wait," I thought. "And in my present mood, a letter was definitely out of the question. The bills aren't due yet. And shopping? Well, spending money would not be advisable either."

So the final conclusion was to clean out the garage. Beside the fact that I had been putting it off since forever, though it was desperately needed, that particular objective would give me the freedom to let my mind roam at will, yet still be productive.

As I opened the door from the kitchen, a million things that needed attention came to mind. The least of these was the mountain of newspapers that I had been meaning to give to the neighbor boy for his school's paper drive. Gathering the papers, my thoughts again wandered. They began specifically at first, then yielded to generality. Memories of my own paper drive days melted into school days on the whole and then faded to thoughts on the life of the time.

"I wish I had known someone like myself when I was younger and collecting this stuff for all those school projects."

Moving the papers to the front of the garage, and therefore out of the way, my assault on the corner boxes began. Those glorious cardboard containers of dust collecting time. Most of them were familiar on sight: movie magazine collections, cards and letters, party invitations and favors. You know! The usual 'pack rat' junk. The laughter swelled inside me. It seemed absurd that anyone should keep so many useless items for so many years.

As my house cleaning stroll down memory lane continued, I was confronted with a flood of nostalgia. With me again were activities of ten years prior: classrooms of graded papers and projects, school dances, ceremonies, extracurricular

frivolity, personal triumphs and tribulations. There were post cards from every imaginable place around the globe, some of which had been sent to me, others by me. There was an old Havana box that could have, knowing me, contained my first grade Crayolas. Everything within had hints of things happy and, at the same time, things a little sad and somewhat frightening.

Though not visible, I sensed that several of Pete's belongings were also in that worn out box.

He was everywhere. He was in the classrooms, at the parties, laughing and playing. His spirit emanated from every object. But there was nothing tangible to prove this.

"There had to be something?" I thought.

I searched recklessly, swimming through time for some concrete evidence of a friend from long ago. As my quest continued, moments of life flying by, it became apparent to me that the time had come to clean out the closet of the past, and reconcile myself with feelings long forgotten.

Suddenly, there it was! The evidence I had sought was before me. I remembered packing it as if it were only yesterday. There among the cards, letters, and photograph was his high school ring.

These were just a few of the artifacts of a friendship that blossomed and grew into a love unyielding. As I studied the contents, reading pieces of letters and glancing over photos, my heart dropped from the heights of the discovery to the depths of the reality and I began to cry.

It was the last day of school. The coming of summer break, though a welcome change, didn't thrill me. Don't get me wrong; it wasn't that I liked school. That was far from the truth. However, it did give me something to do with my days.

On the other hand, summer, with its mask of freedom, offered little more for me than a regimen of endless household chores and errands. "Tommy do this!", "Tommy do that!". Twenty-four hours a day in which to endure my parents, for whom little affection remained.

To say that my parents were different would be an understatement. My Dad worked... a lot! This was good. Mom was alright, but she got lost somewhere along the way and just didn't seem to care anymore. They had reached a point in their lives where the original reasons they got together had escaped them, leaving them with nothing but



contempt for each other, and for me as well. He hated her and she hated him for hating her. They hated each other and consequently, I felt, hated me. This was life with the Beckers. Not a bad plot for a sitcom; sort of a *Leave It To Beaver* gone bad.

I didn't blame them for hating each other because they weren't very likable, anyway. But, I couldn't understand what they had against me.

"I'm an OK kid," I thought. "Do my work. Good grades. Try to keep everything smooth at home. Why is it that we can't be just a little happier. Just once in a while. Is that too much to ask for?"

I reached the conclusion that avoiding home and hearth was essential to maintaining my sanity over the summer break. But, the question remained: how could I do this?

"Spending time with 'friends'?" I asked.

"Now, there's a laugh." 'Friends' were few and far between! None to be precise. But this was my fault. I was the one that didn't want to get close to anyone.

"Maybe a summer job?" I went on. "I don't think so. Work in this hick town was scarce enough."

Summer jobs were simply not possible for a sixteen-year-old boy with no real need. There was the paper mill though. They sometimes let me help out, but not for money, of course. The time away would be worth the effort. That was the solution! The paper mill on occasion, supplemented by

*See POSTSCRIPTS, Page 9*





### Postscripts, from Page 8

swimming and sun at the swimming pond, a place I discovered quite by accident, in the thicket bordering our property.

After that was decided, I had to resolve what to tell 'June and Ward.' This didn't pose any particular problem, they never listened to me anyway. Oh, they heard me, so they knew someone was there, but to hear and to listen are all together different concepts.

"I could say that I flunked gym at school and had to make it up over the summer." I paused to reflect on this.

"NAH, too dull!... Maybe, I could tell them that Russian spies had brainwashed me and said they would kill me if I didn't spend, at the least, twelve hours a day out of the house."

"Now that had possibilities!"

"Perhaps the truth. Mom! Dad! The thought of spending five minutes of my summer cooped up in this insane asylum nauseates me, so I'll be here to eat, sleep and use the bathroom and if there are any messages, I'll read the refrigerator."

Maybe to say nothing would be best. Yes, nothing! They'll just think that school wasn't over yet.

As it turned out my idea was great! I would get up early every morning, grab something to eat, read the refrigerator, spend a few hours at the paper mill engaged in various tasks and end up at the swimming hole. It was the perfect plan and caused no problems. I was lost in paradise!

Well, what do you want! I was a sixteen-year-old kid with home problems!

There was one morning which offered hope for happiness in my life. A new addition to the town of the terminally dull. The house next to ours was finally being occupied, thus offering a new opportunity for friends. That was if they didn't turn out to be like everyone else. Geeky!!

My second-floor bedroom window gave me an eagle's eye view of the goings on below, and I discovered that a couple with three children was to reside in the home.

"Let's see! There was a young boy, about eight." I guessed, playing in front. And a girl, about eleven, helping to carry boxes from the moving van to their new box.

And, there was another boy about my age. He had sandy brown hair to my jet black. He was a little taller than me and more muscular. Not that I was puny; I could hold my own. He had fair skin, which contrasted greatly to my darker tone. Not knowing why at the time, I focused on these details and watched in earnest as he lifted, rearranged, and did your basic move-in type stuff. Though my first inclination was to disregard the lot of them as new parts for an old car, curiosity sent me down to check things out.

"Movin' in?", I asked the older boy.

"Yeah, just today!", came the reply to my brilliant observation.

"Where ya from?"

"We just moved from Asheville," he answered. I couldn't help but notice that he had dark brown eyes and the longest black lashes I had ever seen. His face was striking.

The new boy added, "My dad's got a job with the paper mill."

"Lucky for him!" I retorted, half sarcastically.

He continued to maneuver boxes from the front of the truck to the back edge and my eyes wandered, taking in every detail as if I were studying a book.

"You live around here?" he inquired as he went about his work.

"Next house over!"

Not being adept enough at social niceties, I couldn't think of anything more to say, and decided to terminate the conversation before I said something really stupid.

"Well, gotta go! See ya 'round"

"Say, what's your name?" called the boy from the truck.

"Tommy. Tommy Becker," I replied "Yours?"

"Pete Staley!" came the answer and with that, the real summer commenced.

Day after day saw gradual growth in our friendship. We'd sometimes go to the paper mill, or maybe up the bridge at Hunter's Pass to talk and toss rocks into the muddy waters below. Pete seemed different from the rest. He was open and honest and didn't feel like he was any better, or worse, than anyone else, unlike most of the others I knew. I liked Pete and hoped that he liked me.

*See Postscripts, Page 13*

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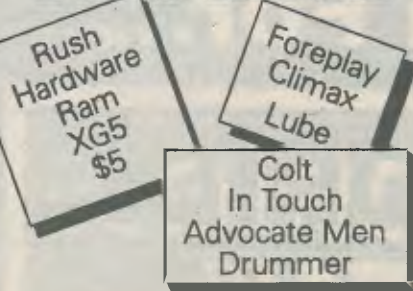
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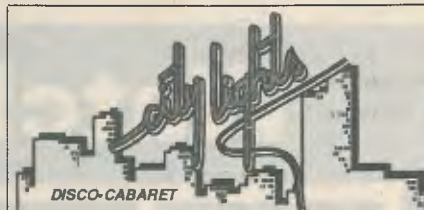
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## CENTER, from Page 1

a hospital because he was from out of state and had no place to go. I interviewed him and some other patients because of complaints they had made, and they were evicted from the hospital approximately a half hour after talking with me on Christmas Eve, and with less than ten minutes notice. He was literally put out in the cold in that freezing weather – and with no shoes.

"He had no place to go, no money, no friends. He was simply put out in the cold with no apparent concern for his welfare – or even his survival. His 'crime' was being labeled a troublemaker and 'faggot.'"

She continues, "I was able to get in touch with Alfredo who operates Trans Aids, and he was able to put the boy up for the night. The next day we found housing for him through the facilities of The Center, and we helped him get his clothes back as well as provided him with additional clothing. We were making efforts to obtain a job for him when his parents came from out of state and took him home.

But where would he have gone if we had not been here!? After all, he was thrown out of a hospital partially funded with federal HRS funds. Finally, I was taken off the case due to doubt about me being objective because I am openly gay. When I told Michael Wanzie about the incident, he expressed doubts that HRS removes straight counselors from cases concerning non-gay persons."

She is pleased and proud of the counseling services offered by volunteer certified counselors. Now she feels a new direction for growth at The Center is a need of a panel of attorneys to whom members of our community can be referred.

"Activities such as these," she points out, "are based on the ability to pay but provide quick response to

*"When we come inside the doors of The Center, we're in our own nation. Outside in the other world we are outnumbered in our daily activities."*

- Ginnie

sudden need. We need a support system for our own people."

Perry is a fountain of ideas to help those in need: a clothing bank for those we assist and a food collection program for those living with AIDS are just two of them.

"We need the food and clothing and toilet articles," she said, "but we also need more concerned people to join hands with us. We need our people to vote so we can make a difference. We need to have more positive exposure – why are we buried in the pages of the 'Style Section'?" she asks.

Listening to her gets the adrenalin flowing – and for just \$15 you can join all of us at The Center and help make a change. And it's not all work – you'll have a helluva good time!

### CHRIS' STORY

Chris Alexander first heard of The Center from a friend and neighbor; his friend asked if he was going to a rally being held in one of the city parks.

"Until that time I was unaware of any organization like The Center. I knew there had been some arrests charging lewd behavior and the rally was to challenge that police activity, but I knew nothing about The Center. I went to the rally and as a result was invited to visit The Center afterwards. Ever since I have been an active supporter and am currently on the board of directors," says Alexander.

"When you realize we were probably all raised to believe

homosexuality is wrong, it's wonderful to discover we have such a support group. The Center offers the counseling program for all who need it, and for those people going through the pain and anxiety of 'coming out,' this is invaluable. We provide emergency housing and the food bank and we have been able to help PWAs who have lost their housing with these programs.

"We don't discriminate with our programs; we've assisted families in need during the holidays with dinners offered here at The Center, offerings that are provided by restaurants and businesses around town. The crisis counseling offered here is an in-house function with services offered by professionals, not a government-supported program.

"I find the social interaction here so beneficial. Much is serious such as the rap group, and out of these activities, strong friendships are developed. We went to The Names Project in Tampa, there is gay skate and gay bowling and, while we are not essentially a political organization, we do not shy from our responsibilities in this field when it is needed. It's good to let the general public know we are here to stand against bigotry and bias.

"Eventually we must bring about change in laws that sit mostly abandoned, waiting to be used against us, laws saying our practices are illegal. Arrests are not made if a woman invites a man to her home if no money is exchanged or discussed but that is not true of a man-to-man invitation. That is a double standard application of the law.

"I'm active with the Coalition for Human Rights and we're trying to get an ordinance for sexual orientation as a protected class as it relates to housing and employment.

"I bring my children to The Center for the afternoon barbecues but that's a family type activity. My kids love coming here. There are games here and they enjoy them and there are books they like in our library. The Center is a really good place to visit; there are so many people who pick up 'The Centerfold' at the bars yet never set foot in here. Maybe there's nothing we offer that interests them but we offer so many programs that's hard for me to believe.

"Our goal for the future is to expand into whatever area our people want us to – sports, political clubs, or spiritual, but we need their input into letting us know what they want. We also need their efforts to help organize and implement these programs. We have a strong core of

volunteers who work long and hard to keep all these activities going but we need a few hours from a lot of people to help with many things.

"And of course it's always nice to welcome new members for just \$15 a year – money helps, too, because every dollar that comes in we spend on the services we offer."

### GINNIE'S STORY

Ginnie Birchmire is one of those prize catches: a volunteer who is chief librarian, phone answerer and spends at least two days a week here. She has been with The Center since its inception almost three years ago.

"Aside from all the fun stuff we do here, we also have the outreach programs for those living with AIDS. We provide space for various activities, we also have our library and, unlike most commercial bookstores, we have gay related books which have happy endings.

"When we come inside the doors of The Center, we're in our own nation. Outside in the other world we are outnumbered in our daily activities. This is such a better alternative than going to the bars because most of the people you meet there are bar people and they love to drink. A lot of the younger people think because there isn't a pool table and a disco here that it's boring, but it's not, and it's better than heavy smoke and loud music that attacks the ears.

"I find it so interesting here; such a great variety of people come here. I bring a lot of my straight friends here and they are so amazed to find us so – normal! My family never forced me into the gender game – they just let me be me. Mother said I was harder on my clothes than my brothers, and she is a great supporter of my lifestyle and of The Center.

"This is a good place to come 'charge your batteries,' to get out of that heterosexual world and plug into your own people. While I am a 10th-generation Floridian, for a brief time I lived in northern California – Eureka, a town just big enough to be on the map – and there was maybe a gay community of 200 scattered throughout the hills. Every June all the gays would leave the hills and go to San Francisco to charge our batteries for the rest of the year.

"But here, with The Center, I can come whenever I want and not worry that maybe someone will see us touch hands or some such thing. The Center gives us courage to be ourselves.

See CENTER, Page 12

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Compute the amount you owe. Motorcoach transportation and stateroom are optional.

You can pay a deposit and pay the balance by March 15, 1990 or within 30 days, whichever is sooner. Compute the deposit based on the number of passengers and staterooms reserved.

If you make full payment now, you do not have to compute the deposit.

Number of Passengers	X \$49 =	Cruise Price
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Stateroom Desired?	X \$30 =	Stateroom Price
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This reservation is a contract between you and GLCS. Read these rules carefully. You are bound by them and your reservation will be handled as these rules specify.

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- All communications concerning this reservation must be made by the named person on this reservation, in writing, to GLCS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, Florida 32853-3446 or in person during normal operating hours at 750 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, Florida 32804.
- This form constitutes a request for a reservation and agreement with the terms set forth. You will receive written confirmation within two weeks of your reservation being made.
- All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- If you cancel your reservation in writing and it is received by GLCS by midnight April 20, 1990, you will receive a full refund less a \$10 per person and \$10 per stateroom handling fee. If you cancel your reservation after April 20, 1990 but before midnight May 3, 1990, you will receive a full refund less a \$25 per person, \$8 per motorcoach passage and \$15 per stateroom handling fee. If you cancel on the day of sailing or do not show up for the cruise, you will not receive any refund.
- There is a \$10 charge to change the name associated with this reservation.
- Full payment must be received by GLCS by midnight March 15, 1990 or your reservation is subject to cancellation.
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Signature (required, or your reservation will not be accepted)	Date
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We are pleased to announce a la carte dinner service aboard Gay Escape II. Only 100 passengers will be able to take advantage of this unique shipboard dining experience. I recently had the pleasure of having dinner in the small, semi-private dining room available exclusively aboard the M/S Scandinavian Sun. The service was impeccable and the menu offers a wide range of choices.

The five-course meal can be enjoyed for an additional \$20 per person. The pre-set price allows you to select an appetizer, soup, salad, entree, vegetable, and desert of your own choosing. A lovely candle-lit restaurant offers seating times pre-arranged as you board the ship, eliminating the need to stand in a buffet line. The atmosphere is very relaxed, unhurried and somewhat intimate. I highly recommend making this special feature part of your cruise experience.

For Reservations, simply include a note along with your cruise form advising us that you wish to reserve a la carte dining. remember to include an additional \$20 per person. Price does not include liquor or gratuity. If you are already reserved on GayEscape II call our direct cruise line at 425-4527 from 1-9 p.m., Monday through Friday to amend your reservation. Please have your reservation number ready. Remember, this special added feature to our cruise program is only available to 100 persons. Make your a la carte dining reservations today.



## CENTER, from Page 10

"Between The Center and my mother it would be hard for me to stay in the closet. Mother does TV interviews and her saving grace is that we have different names. I've given her broad and sweeping permission to use my name and she's always worried that someone will 'do ugly' to me if they know who I am, but if they want to, they better knock themselves out because I can be just as ugly.

"The worst problem mother has with me is she doesn't know where to shop for me. I told her to just keep going to Chess King. I feel good that the real strict definition of roles is dying out.

"They'd have a hard time classifying me. I lived in real rural Texas and was the only Anglo lesbian there, and I didn't fit in their mold of butch or fem. I don't like playing the gender game.

"The sadness is so many gays are denying themselves the facilities offered here at The Center. There's so much to enjoy here and so much coming in the future.

"The future of Gay Pride is sitting on our doorstep right now and we all share the opportunity to welcome it at The Center. Come join us and share

in the celebration."

### CENTER EASES 'COMING OUT'

He stood by the city lakes as he told me of his introduction to The Center. He is a gentle, soft spoken young man looking to the future with confidence and at peace with himself. His journey to this juncture is with gratitude toward The Center for guidance over rough and rocky roads.

"About three years ago - I was 21 years old - and I was seeing a counselor because I couldn't handle this bit about being gay. I had in my mind a picture of the stereotype 'flaming queen' and I just could not cope with that stress. I finally reached the point where I could admit silently to myself that I was gay - but I couldn't say it out loud. Not even to myself.

"I went to a medical doctor because I was always so tired but he sent me to a psychologist saying my problem was not physical but was mental stress. Eventually I was able to tell her I was gay but it was difficult and uncomfortable for me to say it to someone else. She advised me to get out, do things socially but I just couldn't go to bars and she told me of a rap group at the 'We Care Center'

and I went to that group for 10 - 12 months but I was still very homophobic.

"All that time I hardly said a word, was extremely withdrawn; I wouldn't socialize - I was a real basket case.

"Then The Center opened and I began going there to the rap group and I went to the backyard barbecue, and the healing circle helped me a lot. I saw all these people who were gay and were relaxed and being themselves and not caring that they were gay. I went for almost two years and gradually began to relax. The Healing Circle showed me that I could love myself not because I am gay but just in general.

"I used to wake in the morning and look in the mirror and say, 'You're a fat slob and you're a faggot,' and I couldn't even like myself. Now I've lost 40 pounds and still want to lose more. After rap group I would be invited to go out with the group but I couldn't go to the bars because it was still too hard to handle so I'd go home and tell myself I should have gone out and stress myself and then eat like crazy.

"The Center gave me a place to go; I was too homophobic still and too withdrawn to make the bar scene and my self-esteem was too low to go out alone. But at rap group I became part of a group and after over a year began to relax. Then I began to open up; I didn't hate myself anymore. Gradually I began making friends and went to gay functions, and, at Rollins College I did a speakers panel. That was something I just had to do and I really felt good about myself after that. The credit for this belongs to The Center.

"The Center is the place for people who are struggling to come out because it's not a stress situation such as a bar. I had friends there and I had never had friends because I was afraid they would find out that I'm

gay. Now I find I want to tell everyone that I am gay.

"I can't spend as much time at The Center as I did because now that I have my own business I don't have time in the evening. But I keep up my membership and donations because it would be a blow to the gay community if The Center were to close. You can go there and get any kind of information you need: roommates, housing, jobs.

"Many of the people I hire are through their facilities. If you're bored and want to go out, there are so many activities there.

"A big part of my problem is that I am part of a redneck family. I'm from Louisiana and they are really bigots. When I told my mother I walked out on her. I should have waited but I thought she would never talk to me again, knowing how she expresses her attitude toward other minorities. But three weeks later I spoke with her and I'm still her son.

"My brother had a difficult time with it at first but he realizes we are still brothers and has accepted it; his whole attitude toward gays has changed dramatically. For the first time in my life I'm comfortable with my family and can show affection for them. They had to accept me or forget me because I can't live a lie.

"It's a shame that there are so many gays in the Orlando area, yet when you go to Gay Pride Day or even The Center this great number is nowhere indicated. I am going to try again to volunteer a day for work at The Center. If I have the opportunity, I would really like to work with gays who are just coming out having gone through such a long and difficult time myself.

"And I have a lover now, too! Never did I think I would have a lover but we've been together now for seven months. Now that I have stability in

See CENTER Page 16



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## Postscripts from Page 9

We took advantage of every opportunity to be together that summer. It soon became evident that we had a host of things in common. Pete's family situation, although not *Leave It To Beaver* either,

was much better than mine. It seemed that his family prided themselves on being able to "communicate" with each other. It was a conscious effort that was held in sanctity, but one which annoyed Pete.

Everyone was allowed to voice their opinion. That, of course, didn't alter the outcome of any situations, but the thought was there. The formality of family discussions had taken on the semblance of democracy.

"At first," Pete started. "I thought this was a great idea, and it was. But I soon found out how things really worked. It got so that I would agree with anything and everything. It saved time and caused me less frustration."

As far as meeting people and establishing friendships, we were in exactly the same boat. We found that we could talk to one another about most anything. Through our conversations, I discovered that Pete was what might be considered a spiritual person, though certainly not fanatical. He, on the other hand, discovered my lack of thought given in that direction.

We talked of school, which he hated; writing, which he loved, and swimming. "Great!", I thought. He liked to swim and the pond supplied ample opportunity to indulge. We were good for each other. A sounding board onto which we could project our hopes, our fears, our desires and passions. Once we had exhausted every subject from the classes we would take next school year to the changes we would make once we conquered the world, we would venture down to the swimming pond to revitalize our bodies and souls.

The pond was a world unto its own. It lay in a hallow enclosed by a thick curtain of fragrant pine, oak and various other foliage. It was a place to take refuge from the world. When Pete first accompanied me there, my emotions ran the spectrum from nervousness to excitement at revealing such an intimate part of myself. I was thrilled when he accepted it, and therefor me, unquestionably and unconditionally.

He reveled in the beauty of its gently sloping banks, blanketed with fine, soft grass. He appreciated, as I, the rays of nourishing sunlight that filtered through the trees, causing magnificent images on the ground and water below. And, he was enthralled by the faint breezes that whispered secrets to the trees which echoed the gossip amongst themselves, and to the birds who chirped fanatically as though they had something urgent to expose. His reaction was exactly as I had hoped. I wanted him to be happy in the place that had given me such solace. It seemed fitting that this would also be the place where we would become more than just friends.

In my wildest imagination, a more agreeable connection could not have been planned. Pete had

a way of opening my mind even further to the splendor of the place and all associated with it. From then on, we considered that swimming pond to be our secret hide away, (though I considered it more like a piece of heaven here on earth). Our lives began to revolve around the pond and each other. The days began by 10, at the latest, and found us there, sans clothes, cavorting, sunning, swimming and talking. The closeness we had found rode the skirts of intimacy and, inevitably, the startling revelation occurred. I was in love with Pete.

It seemed a natural occurrence, like the very air that breathed life into our bodies. The perfection of the day was as though it had been ordered by God especially for the occasion. A baby blue sky was accented with slight wisps of soft white clouds. And a pleasant summer breeze sang praises through the trees, while birds harmonized with the sentiments. The sleepy pond waters magnified the sky's blue warmth and balanced the scene. All was well with the world and we were well within it.

"Hey watch this," I called from the tall oak tree at the bank of the water. "Have you tried this great swing yet?" I did my impression of a pendulum on a grandfather clock and plummeted feet first into the water below.

Pete was adequately impressed and decided that his turn would be next. As he parted his way through the basin and lifted himself outward, droplets of water cascaded down his lissome, and now sun tanned, form. They rolled downward catching and blending with more droplets; flowing back home to join their countless relatives below. My perception of my friend was taking an abrupt turn toward the physical and I was aware of this.

Pete climbed up the ravine edge to the base of the powerful oak. Tightly grasping the rope that was securely attached to the strongest branch, he pulled himself up. His muscles contracted with the weight of his body and became more pronounced under his velvet skin. The broad hairless expanse of his upper torso heaved outward as he began the ascent. My eyes followed their instinct to move down and noticed the overhang of ribs as they curved slightly inward revealing the taught, flat surface of his abdomen.

I followed a thin blonde tuft from his stomach down again and digested the sight of the manhood that was delicately encased in a treasury of the same. My eyes lingered there for a few precious moments and finally continued their journey to take in the slim, muscular legs and feet. I drew back from scrutiny and marvelled at the sight of the complete figure of man before me.

"Get a load of this one," Pete hollered, breaking the intensity of my gaze. "Watch me do a flip!"

"Be careful," I retorted. "Have you ever done that before?"

"Nope, but you know what they say. There's got to be a first for everything."

With the tips of his toes, Pete forced his body away from the tree and out over the water. Letting go, he began to curl into a fetal like position. Not being a diving connoisseur, I couldn't begin to explain what was technically wrong with the attempt, but something definitely was. He dropped like a bird cut down mid-flight, and with flailing limbs he fell to the water's surface. Anticipating the eventual, I swam to the general area of impact and readied myself to offer whatever aid might be

necessary. His backside was the first to strike the water tension, causing a loud crack as arms and legs followed. As I reached that point, Pete had begun to thrust up from below the surface. Quite unintentionally, he assaulted the pit of my stomach with his head, grazed my upper body and struck my shoulder before regaining control.

Somewhat breathlessly, Pete turned to check the damage he had done and cried, "You OK, Tommy?"

"I'm not sure. I think something might be broken." Exaggerated.

"Let me take a look! Where does it hurt the most?" he asked, genuinely concerned.

"I think it's worst in my ribs. I think my ribs are broken."

Pete immediately began to poke and prod the vicinity to determine the damage. Just then I grabbed his arm and, overpowering him, drove us both backward. The wet, nakedness of our bodies together was an exhilarating sensation. He retaliated by breaking free from my hold and capturing my legs to pull me under.

We both resurfaced no more than two feet apart. There was a pause while we tried to figure out the other's next move. That slight pause engulfed us. Breathing deepened, hearts raced and adrenaline pumped violently. Pete lunged toward me as if to attack. My reflexes were slow and before I had time to think of my counter attack, I realized that the arms around my mid section felt more inviting than threatening.

Pete's beautiful face rested warmly against my breast. I reached around to embrace my friend. My hands slipped between skin and water, exploring every inch of his body attainable. Our physical attraction was noticeably mutual.

Eyes linked in shameless delight. The electricity in our gaze was a combination of so many different emotions. There was understanding, concern, friendship, love, and fear. So much to comprehend in a split second's time. It was evident that words could not do one ounce of justice to the thoughts or feelings inside. Pete raised his hand and delicately caressed my cheek while slowly, but with purpose, our lips touched in a tender union.

Passion built to unsurpassed levels of ecstasy. My limbs trembled with excitement. Just then, Pete lifted me into his powerful arms and carried me to the shore. He placed my body on the cool hard ground and arranged himself next to me atop the new summer grass. Hands roamed freely and without fear or hesitation as our lovemaking continued. Smooth and sun soaked skin beautifully contrasted against coarse hair of mid-sections and baby fine hair of arms and legs. Flexed muscles pressed hard against, soft backsides and rigid sex. The sensations were intoxicating. We rolled together in the afternoon sun, kissing, fondling and caressing. We hadn't a care in the world, simply in each other. On this heaven sent afternoon, we shared in intimacy.

The summer continued to offer endless opportunities for the expression of our love. It seemed quite natural to both that this was meant to be and somehow sanctioned. So natural, in fact, that it was simply not questioned. It was as in Plato's Symposium when Pausanias argued that it was, "... beautiful to gratify for the sake of virtue."

*See Postscripts, Page 21*



## SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FESTIVAL

Well ladies, it's that time of year again. Robin Tyler Productions presents the 7th Annual Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival. For those of you that have been, you know you want to go again if only to be surrounded by all that powerful wimmin energy and once again charge your spirit to last you the whole year through. For those of you who haven't been ... go check it out.

Sue Fink will work your very last Gay nerve, not to mention Kate Clinton whose outrageous Lesbian humor will keep you doubled over in laughter. Just imagine 200 acres of woods with tent sites for the more rustic sisters and RV spaces for our hot house variety of sisters. There are also cabins available with bunk beds and unlimited possibilities for adventure.

On the more serious side for a moment, Urvashi Vaid (executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force), Paula Ettelbrick (director of the LAMBDA Legal Defense & Education Fund), and Patricia Ireland (executive vice president, NOW) will be speaking. Don't miss hearing from these women who are actively working on solutions.

Some new things this year: Country & Western Dance Lessons and a Clean & Sober Dance.

The Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival has continued to grow each year that it has been presented to us. Each year something improves and each person leaves with renewed positive wimmin-energy.

For more information contact SWMCF at 15842 Chase St., Sepulveda, CA. 91343 or call (818)893-4075 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5p.m. PST.

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## Counseling Services Now Available at the Center

By Laurence Sheldon  
Center Fold Staff Writer

As we move into a new decade, GLCS has taken another step in providing the gay and lesbian community with another valuable project. In the last several months, a counseling and crisis hotline service has been implemented. At the present time, three volunteer counselors are providing on-site services and referrals. Eileen Hefferin is co-chairing the program with a consulting psychologist, Lorraine Winkler and Sharon Durrant are also providing services.

The need for a counseling program became apparent when The Center began receiving numerous phone calls from gays and lesbians asking for assistance. Many calls, according to Hefferin, came from vacationers. "People came here on vacations. They read the CenterFold and went home. Then they would call here long distance for counseling."

Center Director Michael Wanzie saw the number of requests increasing and decided to initiate the counseling and crisis hotline program.

Those wishing assistance may call The Center (THE-GAYS) during business hours, 1 to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and will be given information on how to contact a counselor.

The counselors are available at different hours on different days. Hefferin stated that it is beneficial to make an appointment beforehand, but last minute drop-ins can be accommodated if time permits. She feels that on-site sessions make the clients more comfortable.

Winkler clarified how the program works. It is not long term psychotherapy. Referrals are

available. "After the initial consultation we send the person where he needs to go." The counselor may refer the client to another agency, or to one of the GLCS counselors for additional service. No minors will be able to participate in the program unless they have written parental consent.

Durrant became involved in the program because she had previously advertised her services in *The CenterFold* and received referrals. "I liked the opportunity to give something back to the community." In previous years, she has worked in a variety of settings. She has also worked with substance abuse issues.

The counselors agreed that the mission of the program is to promote a positive gay/lesbian identity. The hotline and crisis intervention services will deal with a broad range of human issues in order to promote an affirmative, ethical and safe gay/lesbian environment. Every problem can't be solved, but the counselors are available and willing to help send the client to a resource where help will be available.

No fee is charged for services at present, but a sliding scale will be instituted. Referrals are being made to community professionals on the basis of ability to pay and the nature of the problem.

A counseling schedule is kept at the front desk of The Center and is updated weekly. Counselors check regularly with the schedule to verify appointments.

The program is actively looking for professionals to donate their counseling services in return for referrals from The Center. Volunteers for the front desk at The Center are also needed. All potential volunteers should call The Center for further information.

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## New Group Forms in Ocala

By Michael Wanzie  
Director, The Center

It's the sign of the times. The Gay '90s have arrived and even Ocala is riding on the crest of the wave of gays and lesbians across the nation who are stepping out of their respective closets. Groups are organizing not only under the protective cover of large established gay meccas, but in unthinkable settings like Marion County, Florida.

The Local Ocala Gay Organization (LOGO) is a group of concerned gay and lesbian citizens who have come together from Marion and surrounding counties. The group began its organizational meetings in January and its general election is slated for May 2. The LOGOline - (904) 620-0150 - has been established along with an impressive calendar of social events.

LOGO held its first major event at the Moss Bluff picnic area on Feb. 25. The day-long event, which included organized field day competitions and plenty of prizes, culminated with a wine and cheese river cruise.

A surprisingly large number of both men and women showed up and although there was much anxiety about having the function in the very public park setting the event went off without incident.

A group spokesperson said he believed everyone was "glad that they took the chance to brave the cooler weather and came to see how things would go. We take the chance now to thank all who came out and

helped with this function to make it the huge success that it was."

A contingent from GLCS, including Center Director Michael Wanzie and Office Manager Linda Cartwright attended the event and presented LOGO board members with an official gay (rainbow) flag. GLCS also donated a GayEscape II cruise for which the group sold raffle tickets.

Acting LOGO Vice Chairman Tim L. has effected the sale of many GayEscape II cruises and reports that the group will be chartering two buses to attend Orlando's Pride Picnic in June.

LOGO will sponsor Ocala's first Spring Fest on Sunday, April 29, from 1-7 p.m. The BYOB event will feature a Hat and Parasol Contest, a Croquet Tournament (players must wear white) and a drawing for a Daytona Beach weekend for two.

Orlando's Mom & the Boys will be serving the mixers as well as entertaining. Additional entertainment will include female folk singer/guitarist Liz Snow (also from Orlando) and "Flip Side" male and female impressionists from Gainesville. Spring Fest general admission tickets are \$5, \$4 for LOGO members.

An overnight camping trip is planned for the evening of May 19 at Orange Springs, 16 miles north of Ocala. The cost is \$15 per campsite.

For event reservations, LOGO membership information or general inquiries, contact LOGO at P.O. Box 5906, Ocala, FL. 32678 or call the LOGOline at (904) 620-0157.

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Top row (left to right): Roy Enos, 'The Center Fold'; Rich Hill, GLCS; Wanzie; Arnold D., LOGO acting-treasurer; John S., LOGO acting chairman. Bottom row (left to right): Cartwright; Charles Cooper, GLCS; Tim L., LOGO acting-vice president; Rick K., LOGO acting-secretary.

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AN001



## TENNIS, from Page 1

against each other in various local and state tournaments, but we haven't actually played together before. So we have our work cut out for us," he says.

Horn estimates that about 20 to 30 other Floridians will be participating in the Games in various other sports. He adds that there is still time for those who are interested in participating to register.

"There is no qualifying - at this time," Horn says, "but eventually there probably will have to be as the popularity increases."

This is the third time for the Gay Games, which had been billed as the "Gay Olympics" the first two times. However, a court order restrained the promoters from using the name "Olympics" this time around. The first two Olympiads were in San Francisco, Calif., and plans are to move the events around to different locations in the future.

Those who are interested in finding out more about the Games can write to the Metropolitan Vancouver Athletic and Art Association, 1170 Bute Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6E 1Z6, or by calling (604) 684-3303.



HORN

Horn closed by saying he would welcome local support and sponsorship for the trip to the Games since, by his estimation, it will cost him well over \$1,000 to participate. "But its all worth it. I plan to take the two months prior to the Games off from school and work, and really concentrate on preparing.

"I want to make a good showing for Central Florida athletes."

## CENTER, from Page 12

my life, I want to return to college and make something of my life. I'll run my business at night and pursue my degree during the day."

All of this promise of a whole life because The Center is here. And it's here for you, too!

## DERRICK'S STORY

Derrick's life was virtually rebuilt out of a shambles of emotions.

"I discovered The Center in the second week of October 1989. I was involved in a biracial relationship which didn't work out too well. My friend also wanted to maintain a relationship with a girl and I didn't handle it very well; I tried suicide.

"After they rushed me to the hospital and pumped my stomach out and the nurse came in - how she knew I was gay, I don't know unless I said something while I was out. She gave me a list of places and the third was the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

"Well, when I got home that Wednesday I called The Center. Michael Wainzie was on the phone and told me about The Center and where they were located. I drove there and Michael and I recognized each other by our voices. Michael showed me around and I found it quite interesting - a place I could meet people other than bars.

"Had I known about The Center I'd have been there long before. My first activity was with the

See CENTER, Page 17

## Become an Athletic Supporter!

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## LINDA, from Page 6

going to see more visible and positive lesbian energy coming from within the organization. We need more of that energy both from the inside and from without.

*Q: What are your future aspirations?*

A: I see myself working for GLCS for anywhere from three to six years. Beyond that, I'm not too sure. I've played with the idea of working for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or the Human Rights Campaign Fund. I would like to stay employed within the non-profit sector, the "we can change the world" part of the workforce.

*Q: How would you describe your life as a lesbian in the open?*

A: A constant coming out process, a challenge, a continual series of revelations. Nothing will make you realize how often you tell people where you work like working for *gay* and *lesbian* community services. I put the G and L words are on my health and car insurance applications and every time I put my car in for service, I have the mechanic contact me at The Center when the car is ready. The pause after I answer the phone "Gay and Lesbian Community Services" is just too precious. I also have the TWN, pink triangle, and lambda stickers on my car and I've learned to say "lesbian" without stuttering.

As I come further and further out of the closet, I'm realizing that people aren't nearly as concerned about my sexuality as I once thought they were. I was convinced in high school than everyone could somehow tell that I was a lesbian and - even worse

- they discussed it at great length when I wasn't around. Most of them really couldn't care less, and I've finally recognized that those who had or have a problem with it are the ones with a problem - not me.

*Q: What does it mean to be a lesbian?*

A: That's difficult to say. Sexuality isn't as easily categorized as race or religion. I've kind of adopted the formal definition of a lesbian as a woman whose primary sexual attraction and emotional attachment is with other women. It's a rather broad definition, but because we're such a cross-section of society I think it's as accurate as we'll ever be able to get.

*Q: If you had to name one person who influenced your life the most, who would it be and why?*

A: Rita Mae Brown. Because her books have broken into the mainstream, I didn't have to go any further than Waldenbooks in the mall to find them. For someone just coming out, that accessibility was invaluable. Her writing was the first positive reinforcement I received for my sexuality and is some of the best fiction I've read that deals with everyone as complete and real people - straight, gay, male or female. She's taught me that I can live a full, interesting, and productive life as a lesbian and a complete human being and still be a part of society. I don't have to like the way things are, but that doesn't give me an excuse not to participate and work for change. My contribution is important. She told me so, and I believe it.

One of my best days was the day I met Rita Mae in Miami. She was signing copies of *Bingo* at a bookstore down there, so I took the day off and drove down.

## CENTER, from Page 16

healing circle on Monday nights and then I began the rap group on Tuesdays

"Once feeling at home there, I began attending 'movie night' and slowly became involved in volunteering. Because I am so involved with my church and work, my time is limited but I am involved in the backyard barbecue. I help at the desk when I can. I really enjoy taking the desk duty because I get to talk with people on the phone and greet people when they come in.

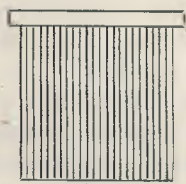
"I'll be getting involved with the upcoming Pride Week Committee and I'm also involved with the Gay Chorus both here in Orlando and Tampa. I have friends now that I've made here at The Center and we meet and go to local gay bars or to a movie. I'm just glad I've become a part of The Center. My life was empty and now it's so full I don't have time to do everything.

"I was at the White Party - I took my mom and we both enjoyed that; I had to go to add some color! My mother is very supportive and she wanted to come to the party. Now she wants to get involved with The Center - and they just love her to death and that makes me feel good. Everyone took to her and she really took to them; she had quite a time snapping pictures all evening. There we were at a gay party in Apopka and mother was right along with us! So out of something bad like a suicide try, something really good happened. The only bad part now is that so many more people don't take advantage of everything available at The Center."

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**SUCCESS, from Page 2**

membership fee is only \$15 and goes a long way, if not simply for just showing that you care about what we do. If you do nothing else this year to support your community, a membership in GLCS is a must!

Even if the only benefit of becoming a member is the satisfaction of knowing your supporting the organization that supports you.

**VOLUNTEERISM** is what makes our organization work. Without them, we would not exist. Nobody to answer the phone, produce our

newsletter, organize events, sell tickets.

*No bodies = No Work.* The more volunteers we have, the more enthusiasm commitment will be made. We are working on a complete list of volunteer opportunities in GLCS and will publish and post them monthly.

Our committee structure is opening up opportunities for individuals to "take charge" of specific areas of our organization.

We've put a stop to the misconception that you have to be a board member in order to actively

participate in the operation and future of GLCS. We plan on being more responsive to individuals who offer to help out.

**HANDICAP ACCESS** to our building has become a major issue of concern of our staff.

We are looking for persons who have expertise in this area to help us make this a reality in the most cost efficient manner. Design, construction and funding of a wheel chair ramp and handrails for our main entrance is where we need help. If you can offer some assistance, please call (407)425-4527 and let us know ... Please ...

**STATISTICS** is another area that needs our attention if we are to begin applying for grants and to help plan for our future needs. Keeping track of attendance at daily meetings, phone calls and pledge trends is an assignment just waiting for the right volunteer.

In just the past few weeks, we have learned that 70 - 125 calls a day are being processed by our THE-GAYS computerized information line. That's over 2,000 calls a month, wow!

Keeping track of this information is imperative. Once it is in hand, GLCS will be more prepared to actively pursue GRANTS from various from various businesses and organizations. We are currently seeking individuals with the capabilities and desire to serve as grant writers for our organization.

**LONG-TERM GOALS**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** is also a concern of GLCS. We are currently seeding the way to better community relations by making contact with schools, government officials and police agencies. A speakers bureau and sensitivity training are all goals of this project.

**PROJECT COMMUNITY** is a program designed to encourage the

gay and lesbian community to offer volunteer services as a group to the mainstream community as a gesture of good will.

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE** is becoming a common request among individuals who call our offices for assistance. We would like to institute a low cost legal counseling service similar to our current professional counseling program.

**A BUILDING FUND** has been a long talked about desire. As our organization's growth begins to stabilize, it will become necessary to look toward a permanent facility for our Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

**SEMINARS** on gay related concerns are and important and sought after service which needs to be expanded.

**COMMUNITY FUNDING** is our most ambitious goal for the future. We would like to institute our own "United Way" funding program for the gay and lesbian community. We would like to begin earmarking a percentage of receipts from membership dues and fundraising activities to be divided among GLCS member organizations. Your support of GLCS would also benefit other gay and lesbian organizations.

All these goals (and many others) would not be possible without the support and vision of our community. We are fortunate to have a small group of dedicated individuals who understand the importance of the existence of our group and the services it provides. It is their efforts and financial support that allows us to continue. If we are to expand and act upon these plans, it is imperative that our volunteer and membership base is expanded. If you believe in our plans and goals, it is up to to make sure that they happen! The opportunities are now here so that you can make a

See **SUCCESS**, Page 19



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## SUCCESS, from Page 18

difference. The plans are laid out. All we need now are the people who can make it happen. If you can help, please make a commitment today to GLCS. Only you can make that choice. Only you can make a difference.

Please call (407) 425-4527 or plan attending on our next volunteer meeting on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at 750 W. Colonial Drive. You won't regret it.

## BUSH, from Page 2

will those words, "We the People," honestly and truly mean "All the People," and why must we as Gay and Lesbian people have to fight to be included and to claim what you yourself declare are every American's inalienable rights?

I have long been a critic of yours, Mr. President - but before you spoke I promised myself I would clear my mind of prejudice and open my mind and ears during your address.

I was a bit surprised at what I saw and felt.

In your eyes I saw sincerity. In your words and voice I heard passion. On the TV screen I saw a proud American, a grandfather, a husband and neighbor, a good man.

I have never written to a U.S. president and I have no earthly idea how to ensure that you will ever read this, but I must at least try, because I do believe you to be a good man. Therefore, I make a passionate appeal to your goodness, Mr. President.

You have been charged with protecting the rights of all citizens of the nation which you have been elected to safeguard. All citizens, Mr. President, not only those whose sexual orientation conforms to your personal religious beliefs. I know this has to be hard for you, but please remember that our great nation was founded on the basis of religious freedom. America exists because our ancestors felt that all people should be able to live the lifestyle of their own choosing, live according to the dictates of their own conscience, be free to pursue their own happiness and claim their personal liberties.

Mr. President, my happiness has been greatly diminished due to the loss of Ron Kimber and countless other friends who have suffered less from AIDS than from America's

inability to recognize AIDS as a health issue rather than a "moral" issue.

My lifestyle and my pursuit of happiness, my personal freedoms and my so-called inalienable rights are denied me on a daily basis because as an openly Gay citizen, it is legal to deny me housing, terminate my employment, deny me insurance, etc., etc., because I am illegal. "Fag bashing" has become the latest fashionable national pastime of the perpetrators of hate crimes. Persons with AIDS continue to be ill-treated because most of America still links this disease to the Gay community.

I am hurt, Mr. President, and I turn to you, our nation's leader for healing. If you are indeed the sincere, honest and feeling individual you project on TV, then you must not leave me out of your dream of a "kinder, gentler nation."

It is not your place to judge me because of how I love, or how I use my body in my private life. It is, however, your responsibility to protect me and to guarantee my inalienable rights as an American regardless of your personal feelings or religious beliefs concerning homosexuality.

I often wonder if you knowingly

deal with Gay and Lesbian individuals in your daily life. The key word there is "knowingly" since there is no doubt that you do interface with Gay and Lesbian people on a daily basis, but they are most probably too frightened to let you know who they really are.


I want you to know that I did not choose to be gay. Logic should tell you that no one would elect to become someone who is declared to be perverse and unclean.

People don't just wake up one morning and decide "I think I'll become someone that my family and church and half the neighborhood will ostracize."

I did not choose to be gay, I simply am gay. I know you may not believe or understand this and that's OK, but you cannot insist and you certainly cannot legislate that I believe as you do.

Whether you like it or not, it is my right to be gay. It is my right to love however and whomever I care to... and so I write an impassioned plea to you, the leader of our nation, to recognize me as an equal partner in this country and on this planet. I beg

See BUSH, Page 20



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On April 14, book author Richard M. McGarry will be at the store to autograph his book, "Key West Scrapbook," and on April 28 from 4-8 p.m. at The Center, there will be a book display available for your viewing.

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## Church Chat

### THE FAMILY THAT CARES

By Roy Trussell

The Family That Cares Church will observe Holy Week with an April 12 Maundy Thursday Communion and Meditation in the Chapel from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This is a drop in time, you may stay and meditate as long as you wish.

April 13 Good Friday services are at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. April 15 Easter sunrise services will be held at Lake Mills Park, State Road 419, Chuluota at 6:45 a.m. Coffee and danish will be provided after the service, as well as an egg hunt. There will be no 4 p.m. Service Easter Sunday. You're invited to celebrate the Risen Christ with The Family That Cares Church.

March was bittersweet for the Family That Cares. Bobbi Dampier, a charter member, died March 4. A memorial was held March 11. It was wonderful to see so many of her friends including those from Joy MCC and Zion AAC attend the service.

This month's event is a pot luck dinner and a yet-to-be-announced guest speaker, April 21 in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. Call the Church office for details.

The Family That Cares is a Christian church where everyone is always welcome. Sunday Services are at 4 p.m., at 2090 Forsyth Road, Suite 205. The Rev. Mary Jo Gunn, pastor. Call 671-8800 for more information.

### ZION APOSTOLIC ANGLICAN CHURCH

A lot has been happening at Zion Church in the last few months. In January, we started having a morning worship service on Sunday mornings at The Center at 10:30 a.m. We have had a nice turn out for this service and will be continuing it indefinitely. In February, the elders of the Church laid hands on

"In Germany they first came for the Communists  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a  
Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and  
I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then  
they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't  
speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then  
they came for the Catholics, and I didn't  
speak up because I was a Protestant. Then  
they came for me - and by that time  
no one was left to speak up."

- Pastor Martin Niemoller

our pastor, Father Jim Barry, and consecrated him as bishop with the approval of our bishop in Boston, Richard Sittinger.

In March, we started a series on the New Age Movement in our Friday Vespers Services which are held at the Church Office at 7 p.m. every Friday except for the Friday when we have our Game Night at the Center.

Game Night this month will be on Friday, April 27. For April and the Easter Season, we are having a Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. on April 12 instead of our regular Christian

Awareness Class. Our Good Friday Service will be at 7 p.m. on April 13 followed by a showing of the movie *King of Kings*. On Easter Sunday, April 15, we will have our regular services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. with Father Jim presiding over the morning service and Mother Debbie presiding over the evening service. So, we would like to invite everyone to join us during this special time of the year when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. For more information or to arrange counseling please call 895-1246 after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### BUSH, from Page 19

you to take a more active interest in "Gay Rights" which any intelligent person must simply equate to "Basic Human Rights." I call upon you to make AIDS research and education, and more importantly, competent compassionate care of persons living with AIDS, a national priority and to publicly proclaim it as such.

I stated earlier that I am a proud American. That statement is not as true as it once was. It would be more true to say that I am a proud individual. My pride in America is somewhat tarnished and it continues to diminish each time I reflect on the fact that I am an American who simply does not receive the full benefits that other Americans do. In my heart of hearts I know I am equally deserving, but my

President sends a very different message. I fear I may die ashamed of my country, stripped of all pride in

America.

I implore you to search your heart and not the popularity polls. It is not too late for George Bush to become the first president in history to truly be the president of all the people.

I trust you will give my words the consideration they deserve, and although it may sound ridiculous, I am formally requesting a meeting with you in the near future at your earliest convenience. I will make myself available any time at any place. I am denied my basic human rights - please don't deny me 10 minutes of your time to allow you to see me as a person and not just a Gay letter-writer. I will anxiously await your reply.

Respectfully,

Michael Wanzie  
director

Gay and Lesbian Community Services of  
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# Postscripts, from Page 13

"I don't care! I can't wait until

Our's was indeed, by any account, the most beautiful kind of love. Some thing so magnificent as to seek the virtuous end of oneness, body and soul, with another human being. It was the first time that I truly felt the presence of God in my young life and I owed it all to Pete.

"Summer's going to be over soon," he began. "We'll have to start back to school. Do you think that things will change very much?"

We were lying together in our usual spot along the bank. Our bodies fully and unabashedly exposed. My head rested on his shoulder and our fingers twisted playfully at our sides.

"I don't know!" I answered. "We won't be able to spend as much time here anymore. That's for sure."

"We can still meet a few afternoons a week. And, we still have the weekends," Pete offered.

I ventured onto unknown ground when I offered, "I'm not saying that it will or that I want it to, but what happens if one of us gets involved with something at school that takes up more of our time. I don't think I'd like that. I don't want this to end. But, just suppose."

"It won't," came his reassuring answer. "It just won't!"

School began and, just like promised, we still managed to spend a good deal of time together despite that fact. As seasons changed and settled in, we enjoyed what we knew was perhaps the last day in our secret retreat. The pine was not as fragrant and the oaks and others were tired and ready for a winter's rest. Needles and leaves fell from outstretched limbs to form a multicolored winter blanket for the earth below. The blue in the sky was different now; not as vibrant. The water was like glass and the summer breezes yielded to crisp fall currents. We sat on piles of crumpled leaves beneath the old oak tree. That wonderful oak. Our hands were clasped together and, though no words were spoken, it was a comfortable scene. One which almost had an air of reverence.

Suddenly, Pete leaped to his feet and shouted, "I'm gonna do it!"

"Do what? What are you talking about?"

"I'm gonna do that damn flip!"

"You've got to be kidding! The water is freezing cold."

spring."

He peeled off his clothes; chill bumps formed under his skin. His nipples became erect from the touch of the cool air. Again he climbed the rope and I reminisced about that first time at the beginning of the summer. I thought to myself, how breath-taking he was dangling at rope's end. He thrust himself off the side of the tree and attempted to perform that which had eluded him some months before.

Swinging high, he commenced with the formation. He curled his body in a ball and, head over heels, dove into the icy blue water.

Upon surfacing, he cried, "I can do much better than that!"

He came out of the pond, shivering to the very bone. As he passed to get back to the rope, he winked playfully and tweaked my cheek. "I love you, Tommy!"

He set himself in the exact position as before and began the thrust outward. The form was visibly much better. He was right, he could do much better. Pete broke the water causing very little displacement.

I called to him to get out of the water before he caught too much of a chill, but he hadn't come up yet. I waited patiently for him to surface but still nothing. I yelled out to the water.

"Come off it, Pete! Stop playing. It's freezing in there!"

Still nothing. Images darted in and out of my mind. I rushed to the water's edge and called again.

"Pete!"

Fully clothed, I dove in head first. Searching frantically, I thought to myself that if he were playing around, I'd kill him personally. My heart pounded faster and faster as my eyes caught sight of him before me. He didn't seem to be moving. My arms couldn't tread the water fast enough. I swam harder and, grabbing his arm, pulled him to the top and dragged him to the shore. Once there, panic struck.

"What could I do?"

Calm down, I thought. Check his pulse. He wasn't breathing!

My friend, my love, my passion and life, was dying and there wasn't a thing that I could do about it. Memories of maneuvers for help flashed in my mind. I gave him mouth to mouth and heart massage. My fear was growing and tears formed in my eyes. Crying out in anguish, my hands pounded his chest.

"NO!", I screamed. "Please God, NO!"

I remember that I carried his body - that firm, trim, beautiful body, back to my house. Sadness consumed me.

They said later that there was nothing that could have been done. They added that his heart had been weak and the shock of the winter chilled water brought on the attack.

For several months life was completely empty. A void into which I had cruelly been thrust. My parents tried as best as they could to console me. This, however, was much too late and all in vain. The months and years passed and though the reality made itself at home long ago, hurt remained a constant visitor. Hurt and anger. Anger at God for allowing this to happen to such a beautiful human being. And, anger at myself for being useless in the attempt to save him. I had only just reached God through Pete, and God turned away from me. It was all His fault.

Now, here it is some eight years later. My life has stabilized, thanks to my own persistence. I had made my own way. I was successful. I had done something with my life. For Pete? Maybe. But, perhaps also to show God that He wasn't going to get me, too.

However, sitting here today, crying on the floor of my garage, the emptiness within divulged the truth. He did get me! When Pete died, I died too. My grief had eaten away every part of my soul. And it was at that precise moment that I realized

how foolish and meaningless my life had become. More importantly, I realized that I, alone, had allowed it to happen. This was not the fault of God. This was my fault. Pete's death! That was an accident. My death was attributed to turning away from the things in which I had come to believe. It was my fault that grief had destroyed the love and faith I had come to know and trust. Now was the time to make amends.

Isn't it strange how memories have a way of glorifying the past, by transforming what might otherwise be the ordinary into the grandiose. I don't know that this was true in my case, but one can never tell what deceitful games the mind can play.

One revelation was most certainly clear on this particular Saturday afternoon. My suppression of grief for Pete had caused me tremendous harm. But, God willing, not irreparable harm. My love for Pete would never die, but I wanted no more of the pain and grief. I gathered all of the belongings there in those dusty cardboard boxes, and calmly placed them outside of the garage to be taken away for good.

All but one item. Pete's school ring in which he had inscribed, "P.S. I love you."

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Exotic Male Dancers**

### **WEDNESDAY**

**75¢ Bar Hi-Balls/\$1.00 Call Brands & Beer (9 PM - 1 AM)  
Talent Night (10:30 PM)**

### **THURSDAY**

**25¢ Bar Hi-Balls/\$1.00 Call Brands & Beer (9 PM - 1 AM)  
Live Shows**

### **FRIDAY**

**Live Shows**

### **SATURDAY**

**Live Shows, Disco & More (8 PM - 2 AM)**

### **SUNDAY**

**T-Dance  
75¢ Bar Hi-Balls/\$1.00 Beer (4 PM - 9 PM)  
Live Shows  
Exotic Male Dancers (8 PM)**

410 N. Orange Blossom Trail • Orlando, Florida 32805 • (407) 425-7571



# INSIDER TIMES

PULL I.T. OUT!

April 1990

This is *I.T.*! INSIDER TIMES is a handy removable section of The Center Fold. You'll find that *I.T.*'s a very versatile little section. Within *I.T.*'s four pages you will have, at your fingertips, articles, blurbs, and listings of all Center and community events in one concise section. *I.T.* will also preview upcoming events. You can pull *I.T.* out. And you can do *I.T.* in public. You can hang *I.T.* on your

refrigerator or corkboard. When opened up to *I.T.*'s centerfold, you can check the dates of meetings and events and immediately refer to the related phone numbers from the directory. If there's a special event at an area night spot, fundraiser, political rally, or social event, you'll discover it in *I.T.* We think *I.T.*'s a good idea, and we hope you like *I.T.*

## Women Behind Bars

**Live on Stage!**

Written by Tom Lyen

Directed by David Lee

Featuring Chris Robison & Michael Wanzie  
and a cast of thousands (or at least 9)!

An adults-only show for those who will not be offended by "dykes in jail."

A bizarre portrayal of life in the Women's House of Detention.

Performances to benefit GLCS.

Mon. & Tues., April 16-17, 9 p.m. in the Footlight Theatre - Parliament House

Also, Mon., April 23, 9 p.m. - Key Largo

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### RESERVATIONS BY MAIL

Please send at \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the enclosed total of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Circle performance choice: *Mon. April 16 and Tues. April 17* - Parliament House; *Mon. April 23* - Key Largo.

For all GLCS performances: Box office opens at 7:30 p.m., general seating begins at 8 and the curtain goes up at 9.

Send coupon and a check made payable to GLCS to Tickets, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, FL. 32853-3446.

Please note: Tickets will not be mailed, all reserved tickets may be claimed at the box office on performance date only. No phone reservations accepted. Advance purchase tickets are available at The Center, the Parliament House and Key Largo. Additional performances to benefit the Perform-Ants April 12-28, Thurs. -Sat., at Big Bang.



# APRIL 1990

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:30am Zion AAC Service 4:00pm Family That Cares Service 7:00pm Zion AAC Service 7:15pm Joy MCC Service</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:00pm Coming Out Group 7:00pm Center Fold Staff Meeting 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Healing Circle</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:30pm Rap Group 9:00pm Orange Blossom Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7:15am Joy MCC Prayer Breakfast 7:30pm Joy MCC Program 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Women's Discussion Grp 8:00pm People of Color 8:30pm JOCC General Meeting 8:55pm Tangerine Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30pm Lucky Ladies Bowling at Fairvilla Bowl/America 7:00pm Joy MCC Bingo 7:00pm Christian Awareness Class 7:30pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Fantasia/Cross-Dressers 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Trans-Aid Support Services</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:30am Zion AAC Service 4:00pm Family That Cares Service 7:00pm Zion AAC Service 7:15pm Joy MCC Service</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:00pm Coming Out Group 7:00pm Center Fold Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>Pride Week planning</b> 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Healing Circle 9:15pm GaySkate Roller Skating</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:00pm Central Florida Coalition for Human Rights 7:30pm Rap Group 9:00pm Orange Blossom Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:15am Joy MCC Prayer Breakfast 7:30pm Joy MCC Program 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Women's Discussion Grp 8:55pm Tangerine Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30pm Lucky Ladies Bowling 7:00pm Joy MCC Bingo 7:00pm Christian Awareness Class 7:30pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Fantasia/Cross-Dressers 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Parents Coal. 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Trans-Aid Support Services</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:30am Zion AAC Service 4:00pm Family That Cares Service 7:00pm Zion AAC Service 7:15pm Joy MCC Service</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00pm Coming Out Group 6:00pm Center Fold Staff Meeting 7:00pm Central Floridians Against Censorship at Orlando Library 7:30pm Healing Circle 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:30pm Growth Management at UCF Student Center 7:30pm Rap Group 8:00pm 12-Step Program 9:00pm Orange Blossom Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:15am Joy MCC Prayer Breakfast 6:30pm Human Rights at UCF 7:00pm Orlando Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm Joy MCC Program 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Women's Discussion Grp 8:00pm People of Color 8:55pm Tangerine Bowling</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30pm Aquatics/Wasie at UCF 6:30pm Lucky Ladies Bowling 7:00pm Joy MCC Bingo 7:00pm Christian Awareness Class 7:30pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Fantasia/Cross-Dressers 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Trans-Aid Support Services</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:30am Zion AAC Service 4:00pm Family That Cares Service 7:00pm Zion AAC Service 7:15pm Joy MCC Service</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:00pm Coming Out Group 6:00pm Center Fold Staff Meeting 7:30pm Healing Circle 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:00pm Film benefit for Central Floridians Against Censorship: "The Last Temptation of Christ" 7:30pm Murraw Bookchin speaks at Bush Auditorium at Rollins 7:30pm Rap Group 8:00pm 12-Step Program 9:00pm Orange Blossom Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:15am Joy MCC Prayer Breakfast 7:00pm Orlando Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm Joy MCC Program 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Women's Discussion Grp 8:55pm Tangerine Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:30pm Lucky Ladies Bowling at Fairvilla Bowl/America 7:00pm Joy MCC Bingo 7:00pm Christian Awareness Class 7:30pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Fantasia/Cross-Dressers 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Trans-Aid Support Services</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:30am Zion AAC Service 1:00pm Ocala Spring Fest 4:00pm Family That Cares Service 7:00pm Zion AAC Service 7:15pm Joy MCC Service</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>6:00pm Coming Out Group 6:00pm Center Fold Staff Meeting 7:30pm Healing Circle 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>7:30pm Rap Group 8:00pm 12-Step Program 9:00pm Orange Blossom Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:15am Joy MCC Prayer Breakfast 7:00pm Orlando Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm Joy MCC Program 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Women's Discussion Grp 8:00pm People of Color 8:00pm P-FLAG Meeting 8:55pm Tangerine Bowling at Winter Park Bowl/America</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:30pm Lucky Ladies Bowling at Fairvilla Bowl/America 7:00pm Joy MCC Bingo 7:00pm Christian Awareness Class 7:30pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Fantasia/Cross-Dressers 7:30pm Hope &amp; Help Support Grp 7:30pm Trans-Aid Support Services</p>
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Shaded entries on the calendar are events which occur at a location other than The Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

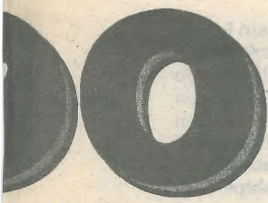
**LOCATION**  
750 W. Colonial Dr.  
Orlando

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
P.O. Box 533446  
Orlando, Florida 32853-3446

**24-HOUR HOTLINE**  
(407) THE-GAYS  
(407) 843-4297

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
Monday - Friday - 1 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Weekends - As required





FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6

om Film Festival:  
Up Your Ears" - Biography of  
aywright Joe Orton

7

THE CENTER IS CLOSED TODAY

13

om Film Festival:  
of Kings" - Jeffrey Hunter in  
ory of Christ epic  
Cruise Giveaway at  
ern Nights

14

THE CENTER IS CLOSED TODAY

20

om "Trash Your Campus  
Week" culminates on the  
ampus lawn at Rollins  
n Earth Night Extravaganza  
t UCF Student Center  
n Couples Group  
n Film Festival: "The Day  
After," a nuclear holocaust...

21

12:00pm World Hunger Concert,  
Rollins College soccer field  
5:00pm Family That Cares Dinner  
6:00pm LCN 5th Annual Auction  
8:00pm Disney Cast Party  
12:00 Cruise Giveaway at  
Key Largo

27

om Couples Group  
m Film Festival:  
Hunger"  
Bowie, Catherine Deneuve  
Sarando.  
n Games Night - come  
play your favorite board  
games!

28

2:00 Volunteer Training  
4:00pm Art Show/Book Sale  
4:00pm Backyard BBQ - If you've  
never been to The Center  
before, now's a great time to  
come see what it's all about  
and meet new friends  
8:00pm Lynn Lavner at Bush  
Theatre, Rollins College

4

om Couples Group  
m Film Festival:  
tte Davis in  
Wicked Stepmother"

5

THE CENTER IS CLOSED TODAY

11

om Couples Group  
om Film Festival:  
Victor Victoria"  
A woman playing  
man playing  
woman

12

THE CENTER IS CLOSED TODAY

## THE GROUPIES

### Groups Appearing on the Calendar

**ALAN KASPER BRIDGE CLUB.** A group of Bridge players gathers for a night of the game. New players always welcomed.

**AREA.** AIDS Resource Education and Assistance. An AIDS support group.

**BACKYARD BBQ.** A cookout which happens indoors when weather demands. Complimentary burgers, hot dogs and more are offered.

**CENTRAL FLORIDIANS AGAINST CENSORSHIP (CFAC).** A group chartered to fight any attempts to limit what a person can read, watch or listen to.

**CHRISTIAN AWARENESS.** Discussions on the symbiosis of homosexuality and Christianity.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.** Working towards passing legislation in Orange County protecting rights of all citizens. Meets the second Tuesday every month at the First Unitarian Church, 1815 E. Robinson St. in Orlando.

**COMING OUT GROUP.** This discussion group is open to anyone who is in the coming out process.

**COURAGE TO CHANGE.** A group for friends and family members of alcoholics or anyone who may benefit from a 12-step program.

**CROSS DRESSERS SUPPORT GROUP.** A group for those who enjoy dressing in clothes for the opposite sex.

**FAMILY THAT CARES ULC.** A Christian Church where everyone is always welcome.

**GAMES NIGHT.** All are welcomed for an evening of table-top board games from Trivial Pursuit to Clue and Uno and everything in between.

**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. Publishes Gay and Lesbian Guide to Central Florida and operates The Center.

**GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS COALITION.** This group is for parents who are gay. They meet the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

**HEALING CIRCLE.** A gathering of men and women using Louise Hay's principles to promote self love, loving relationships, and a healthier body and spirit.

**HOPE AND HELP CENTER.** An AIDS support service organization.

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

**LCN.** Loving Committed Network. Publishes a monthly newsletter, the "LCN Express," and provides monthly functions for women.

**LUCKY LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE.** All female bowling league meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Fairvilla Bowl America.

**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. Those not in a league are always welcome to socialize and discover what a great spectator sport bowling is.

**PFLAG.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meet the last Wednesday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, 316 Marks St., Orlando.

**PEOPLE OF COLOR SUPPORT GROUP.** A discussion time for non-Caucasian lesbians and gays - Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, etc. Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday. New facilitator is needed.

**RAP GROUP.** A mixed group of men and women, young and old, discussing a variety of topics concerning the gay and lesbian community.

**TANGERINE BOWLING ASSOCIATION.** Meets Wednesday nights at Winter Park Bowl America.

**TRANS-AID AND FRIENDS SUPPORT SERVICES.** For P.W.A.'s (people with AIDS) and care-givers.

**TRI-COUNTY AIDS NETWORK.** Meets the first Monday of each month to discuss specific areas of need in the AIDS 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 lesbians and gay-sensitive women meets Wednesdays.

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

## 3-2-1 CONTACT

### Community Contact Information

Alcoholics Anonymous	
Orlando	(407) 647-3333
Brevard County	(407) 242-8063
AIDS Hotline (Nationwide)	(800) 342-AIDS
AIDS Testing, Anonymous	
Orlando	(407) 244-2601
Volusia County	(904) 257-1700
AREA - AIDS related services	(407) 647-2765
Breaking the Silence MCC	(407) 254-5884
(Brevard County)	
CENTAUR - AIDS related services	(407) 849-1452
Center for Drug-Free Living	(407) 423-6611
Center, The, 24-hour phone line	(407) 843-4297
Central Floridians Against Censorship	(407) 843-CFAC
Family That Cares Church	(407) 671-8800
Fight for Life Support Group	(407) 846-0456
(Kissimmee AIDS service organization)	
Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition	(407) 889-9919
(Scott or Larry)	
Gay Information Hotline	(407) THE-GAYS
(24 hours)	
Gay Peer Counseling	(407) THE-GAYS
(8 p.m. - 11 p.m., 7 days)	
GLCS - Gay and Lesbian	(407) THE-GAYS
Community Services	
Health Dept. (Orange County)	(407) 244-2601
Hope and Help Center	(407) 894-1992
(AIDS related services)	
Joy MCC (Orlando)	(407) 894-1081
Lambda Legal Defense	(212) 995-8585
LCN Express	(407) 273-1825
Legal Aid Society	(407) 841-8310
Local Organization of Gays/Lesbians-Orlando	(904) 620-0157
National Gay and Lesbian Law	(904) 656-2024
Association	or (904) 488-5899

Ocala-Marion County Community	(904) 629-5124
AIDS Network	
PFLAG - Parents and Friends	(407) THE-GAYS
of Lesbians and Gays	
Professional Women's Group	(407) 862-6732
Rape Crisis Center	(407) 648-3028
Suicide Intervention	(407) 644-2027
Spouse Abuse	(407) 886-2856
The Center, 24-hour phone line	(407) 843-4297
Trans-Aid - AIDS related	office (407) 839-0945
In emergency	(407) 351-6930
We Care, 24-hour suicide	(407) 628-1227
intervention hotline	
Women's Health Center	(407) 896-2022
Women's Resource Center	(407) 898-1599
We The People	(407) 839-0595
Zion AAC	(407) 895-1246

### ORLANDO BARS/DISCOS

#### CURRENTLY ADVERTISING IN THE CENTER FOLD

Big Bang	(407) 425-9277
City Lights	(407) 422-6826
Faces	(407) 291-7571
Flamingo Lounge	(407) 677-4299
Games Lounge	(407) 260-8001
Key Largo	(407) 291-0686
Parliament House	(407) 425-7571
Southern Nights	(407) 898-0424

For a complete listing of all area gay businesses and services, consult the Gay and Lesbian Guide to Central Florida, Orlando's own gay yellow pages. Available at The Center and other area nightspots.



# In The Neighborhood

## RHYTHMFEST

A new Lesbian festival, Rhythmfest will be held over Labor Day weekend high in the mountains where Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee meet. A work party is planned for the latter part of Apr. through mid-May to prepare the land for accessibility. Lesbian painters, carpenters, etc. who would like to help will be housed and well fed during any length of time they could give to the project. (possible ticket exchange also) Contact Susan Fuchs in Albany, NY at (518) 463-1051 for more information.

## VOODOO DOO DOO

The ever-popular Pink DooDoo celebration the second Friday of every month at Southern Nights falls on Friday the 13th this month. Thus, the wierdness gets even wierder as it becomes VooDoo DooDoo.

Don't forget Southern's free Sunday BBQ's. Complimentary burgers, dogs(hot) and fries are served on the patio from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Also free Michelob Dry draft from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## WOMEN BEHIND BARS

Is it a black and blue comedy, a bad "B" film on stage, a true account of prison life in the sixties, or just an excuse to do a play with a lot of women and lesbian overtones? Who knows? And are those women really female? Perhaps not. Does anyone really care? Probably not, but if you're looking for an off-color evening of sheer mayhem on an "adults only" level, you must see "Women Behind Bars."

The show, directed by everyone's favorite theatre-queen, David Lee, will feature a cast of women and men and womyn, including popular lesbian talent, Chris Robison, and Sheriff Walt Gallagher's second favorite major homosexual - Center Director Michael Wanzie.

The GLCS benefit performances are as follows. Monday and Tuesday, Apr. 16th and 17th, 9 p.m. at the Parliament House. Monday, Apr. 23rd, 9 p.m. at Key Largo. Admission is \$8. See the front of the I.T. Section for reservations.

Additional performances are scheduled at Big Bang. Call 425-9277 for information.

# GLCS Events

## THE WOMYN OF GLCS

The women's discussion group at The Center (the Womyn of GLCS) is a group of lesbians who meet once a week, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., to discuss women's issues.

The Womyn of GLCS has tripled since January of this year and new faces join us weekly. We are women of different nationalities and color with various backgrounds and interest and we welcome the wide range of viewpoints brought to our group. We are there to learn about ourselves and each other as we offer encouragement and support.

At each meeting, announcements are made of upcoming events; those related to The Center (monthly BBQ, cruises, skating, etc.) and those we have planned for our group (parties, canoeing, camping, etc.) After announcements, we join our voices together to discuss such issues as coming out, dating, sexuality, partners w/ children, spirituality, AIDS, and more. We conclude our evening with a social hour at a local coffee shop.

As mentioned above, our group has planned and enjoyed several successful social events and we look forward to more in the future. For a list of our topics, speakers and activities for the month, please call The Center at 843-4297, 0# from Monday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday night!

## COUPLES GROUP

A Couples Group will be starting mid-April for gay/lesbian couples who are interested in sharing their experiences and concerns with other couples. Mike Harrell will lead the group and provide support.

Participants must have been a couple for a minimum of three months and preferably live together. Both persons in the couple must attend for the first time and try to keep that standard. At this time, this group is for both gay and lesbian

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) of Central Florida meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month at the Society of Friends (Quakers) meeting house at 315 North Marks St. at the corner of Highland near downtown Orlando. The public is welcomed to attend the program portion of the evening only. The rap group is open only to parents and members.

P-FLAG of Central Florida is a self-supported group, membership is open to anyone who supports the aims and philosophies of P-FLAG. Dues are \$12 a year although membership is not required of anyone who attends. These dues enable the chapter to promote, among other things, educating the public about their children. Donations are always welcome.

## KISSIMMEE CLUB

The Central Florida Gay Friendship Club of Kissimmee has recently been formed. The main goal of the club is friendship and helping people. Although membership is currently small, there are many people who are interested in joining. Any other local groups are encouraged to share their literature with the Friendship Club and Tom King, President of the organization writes, "If you would like to know more about the CFGFC and what we are trying to do to help the Gay Community, please feel free to ask. I would be more than happy to send you more information about our newly formed group of Friends." Address all correspondence to: CFGFC, 3350 S. Orange Blossom Tr., #8, Kissimmee, FL 34746.

## FREE CRUISES

When attending Southern Nights or Key Largo during the month of April, you may receive free raffle tickets for a GayEscape II cruise drawing. At Key Largo you may collect a ticket each time you attend the nightspot on days tickets are being offered. (Contact Key Largo for specific details). At Southern Nights free tickets will be available on Friday, Apr. 13th only and the cruise will be given away that same night at 11:30 p.m. The Key

couples, however, if the demand is such, Eileen Hefferin has agreed to lead an all female couples group, and Mike will lead the male couple group.

The group will start April 20th and meet Friday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at The Center. To sign up, call The Center during business hours (1:00 to 9:00 p.m., M-F) at 843-4297, 0#.

## PRIDE WEEK COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be on Apr. 9, 7:00 p.m. at The Center. Come and get involved!

## ART SHOW AT CENTER

The next in our series of one-person art shows will be held on Saturday, Apr. 28, beginning at 4 p.m. in conjunction with our Backyard BBQ and Gay and Lesbian Book Sale.

This month's featured artist will be Lisa Anderson.

## TOMES AND TREASURES GAY AND LESBIAN BOOK SALE

The popular Tampa-based bookstore, Tomes & Treasures will be on hand with a fabulous array of gay and lesbian books, including fiction, biographies, magazines, Gay & Lesbian history and reference books. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Center. The sale will be open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## "LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST"

On Tuesday, Apr. 24, The Center will host an evening fundraiser for CFAC (Central Floridians Against Censorship) with 75% of the proceeds going to the newly formed organization. The featured film will be "The Last Temptation of Christ". No admission will be charged, but donations will gladly be accepted and strongly encouraged. Food and beverages will be available for purchase along with bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc. Limited seating available beginning at 7 p.m. The film will air at 7:30 p.m. Please join us Tuesday, Apr. 24th.

Largo giveaway is scheduled for Friday, Apr. 27th. You must be present on the evening of the drawing in order to win.

## TAMPA PARADE

People interested in representing Central Florida in the Tampa Bay Area Parade on Sunday, June 24th should call Chris Alexander. His work number is 849-2686, leave a message with your phone number if I'm not there. Join our formation meeting at The Center, Apr. 9th at 7 p.m.

## LCN AUCTION

Mark your calendar! LCN's 5th Annual Auction. When: Saturday, Apr. 21st. Where: College Park Women's Center. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction begins promptly at 7 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase vacations, gifts, home improvements, health items, and much, much more!

## LYNN LAVNER IN CONCERT

Lynn Lavner, who has been performing her own material in New York and around the country for the past several years. She has composed a body of work which not only touches the gay experience, but also manages to universalize it. Apr. 28th Lynn Lavner will be performing at Bush Theatre at Rollins. Singer, songwriter, Jamie-Anderson from Tuscon, AZ will be opening for Lynn. For more details contact LCN.

## ATTENTION LITERARY WOMEN

Women's Energy Bank (WEB) will publish an as of yet unnamed magazine which will contain poetry, prose, drawings, and photography by and about womyn-oriented womyn of the South-eastern United States. Womyn writers and artists are encouraged to submit material for consideration by June 30, 1990. For guidelines, write to Women's Energy Bank, Attention: Rena, P.O. Box 15524, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-5524. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be included with all correspondence and submissions.

## KEY LARGO HAPPENINGS

Sundays after 7 p.m. and Wednesdays (all day) are now 18+. Dart Tournaments are every Monday night and the Pool Tournament on Sundays starts at 6 p.m. It's recommended that competitors show up at 5:30 p.m. to sign up for the Pool Tournament.

## HOPE AND HELP NEEDS CARING PEOPLE

The Hope and Help Center of Central Florida announces another training class for its Buddy Program. The Hope and Help Center is in need of caring and giving people to become Buddies. With the number of AIDS cases in the Central Florida area increasing every month, we have a great need for Buddies. A Buddy is a friend, dependable visitor, and a very good listener. All potential Buddies will receive extensive training in the medical and psycho-social aspects of AIDS, spiritual concerns, death and dying, and much more. The dates for the next training are Mar. 25th, 31st, and Apr. 1, 1990. The training will be held at the Hope and Help office, 1815 E. Robinson, Suite 3, Orlando. A donation of \$10.00 is requested to assist with expenses. For more information please contact Cindy Christian at the Hope and Help Center, (407) 894-1992.

## CUT-A-THON BENEFIT

A hair cut-a-thon to benefit those affected by AIDS will be held at Carousel Club apartments on Sunday, June 24 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 4100 S. Rio Grande Ave., Orlando. \$10 donation - proceeds to The Center and Hope & Help. Please attend or get involved. Volunteers are needed to donate their time and talents for a good cause. We need additional licensed barbers/cosmetologists to perform cuts. We also need support team to staff food, beverage, and ticket sales booths. Please call Kelly at (407) 297-0314 to volunteer.

## FEELING GOOD HAPPENS!...A SHARING OF AWARENESS, THOUGHTS AND NEURO-SCIENCE TECHNIQUES

This four-hour workshop allows you to not only feel better but also gain positive behaviors as you lovingly release self-sabotaging patterns.

Our process includes experiential sharing of familiar New Age concepts that we integrate with the technology of psycho-acoustical sounds (to stimulate brain-awareness, access) and state of the art subliminal recordings (suggesting permission for you to release and replace negative patterns) along with an electronic brain-mind expansion device that allows you to lower your brain wave state enhancing your receptivity to learning.

With the help of Kevin Bradfield, Scott Lang who is creating this workshop based in part on

techniques of the California Whole Brain Learning Institute believes that "When we are shown and experience these methods that allow us to access our inner resources more easily, we can better harness the limitless power within whether we choose to use it for breaking out of destructive behavior patterns, or creating healing with ourselves and our relationships with others."

Limited to only eight persons to ensure maximum equipment usage and personal sharing. Paid reservations for the \$25 Sunday, May 20th, 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. workshop can be made by calling Scott at 425-5766.

## KEY LARGO OWNER GOES COLD TURKEY

After 34 years of smoking up to two packs daily Sue Hannah simply stopped smoking on Jan. 2nd and hasn't puffed since. What prompted the withdrawal? Sue said "I have a 75 year old mother I visit in a nursing home to take her for a walk. She was having to wait for me to catch up while I was huffing and puffing...it used to be the other way around."

Congratulations, Sue. Hopefully you'll be an inspiration to others who desire to kick the habit.

## EARTH WEEK OUTDOOR JUBILEE AND OTHER EVENTS

The Tri-College Earth Day Coalition is sponsoring an entire week of activities in observation of Earth Day 1990. The UCF Campus will be the site of the daytime Jubilee with booths sponsored by student and community groups set up on the campus green from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, Monday - Friday, Apr. 16th through the 20th. Also at UCF Student Center, a series of Earth Nights programs will be presented evenings at 6:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, Apr. 17: Growth Management Night  
Wednesday, Apr. 18: International Focus Night/Human Rights

Thursday, Apr. 19: Aquatic and Marine Environment/Waste Management

Friday, Apr. 20: Earth Night Extravaganza. Student readings and live music including approximately five bands.

At Valencia Community College, Wednesday, Apr. 18, recycling displays and information will be available throughout the day.

It's Trash Your Campus Week at Rollins, where Earth Day observances include saving one week's worth of campus garbage and dumping it on the college lawn Friday, Apr. 20 at noon.

Rollins will present a world hunger concert on the campus soccer field Saturday, Apr. 21 at noon and Professor Emeritus of Social Ecology, Murraw Bookchin, will speak at Bush Auditorium on Tuesday, Apr. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Caught up in the Earth Day spirit, The Center will air "The Day After" on Friday, Apr. 20. The controversial ABC drama which predicts the effects of a direct nuclear warhead strike on the U.S. will air at 7:30 p.m.

For up-to-the-minute Earth Day/Week information, dial 299-5000, ext. 2406 or ext. 2408, Valencia East Campus Student Government office.

## NAME CHANGE

The Human Rights Coalition, the group laying the groundwork for the introduction of a Human Rights ordinance in Orange County and the City of Orlando has changed its name. The group's official title is now Central Florida Coalition For Human Rights. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Apr. 10 at the Robinson Street Unitarian Church in Orlando.

## HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW SALOON?

The Parliament House expansion now includes the Full Moon Saloon. If a rustic setting and clientele peppered with leathermen and Clint Eastwood wanna-be is what blows your skirt up, then visit the Full Moon Saloon. The new bar (formerly Bluebeard's Oyster Bar) at 500 N. Orange Blossom Trail is open 7 days a week from 12 noon to 2 a.m.

The new watering hole features indoor and outdoor bars, Sunday BBQ's (sandwiches and complete dinners available for purchase), a spacious, fully enclosed backyard complete with picnic tables and "The Eagle Shop" leather store.

## GAY SOFTBALL LEAGUE IN ORLANDO

Interested in forming a gay softball league? Apparently quite a few people are! The plan is to form a league in Orlando as part of the National Amateur Gay Athletic Association (NAGAA) which has member teams in over 30 different states. There's even a Gay World Series! This year, the series will be played in Pittsburgh. Next year it's held in Boston.

Interested? Call Dave Sheldon at (407) 425-4527 and join today!