

1996 Spectrum Awards March 3, 1996

See the April issue of *The Triangle* for full details and pictures

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THE TRIANGLE

The Monthly Newspaper from Gay & Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc.
Serving Orlando's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community

A Buchanan Nomination?

GOP spokesmen across the country are dismayed to discover Pat Buchanan has surfaced to be the prominent player in pursuit of the party's presidential nomination. "He's a leader alright," said one spokesman who spoke on condition of anonymity "he's leading us to defeat. You can't help but wonder just whose side he's on."

Florida GOP Chairman Tom Slade said the prospect of a Buchanan nomination would be a victory for Clinton. Slade continued that he would not care to see Buchanan win the republican nomination. But Florida republican leaders appear to shy away from expressing dismay over Buchanan's New Hampshire win.

Phil Handy of Winter Park, the man who headed Jeb Bush's failed try at winning the governorship of Florida is the campaign chairman of Lamar Alexander's campaign for the presidency. He expressed the conviction that Alexander must win an early primary to keep himself in the race. Such a win is as important to Handy as to Alexander.

The GLCS Fax line has been kept busy with statements from gay organizations across the nation. These messages remind us of Buchanan's opposition to the rights of gay people. One message read, "let the Democratic Party remind all voters of the 18th century mentality of Buchanan's political and economic ideas. We have a campaign, too: Emphasize his opposition to justice, to

equality and to civil rights. He'll have us denied the right to a job if he has his way," she said.

Much of the nation, not just the republicans, seems to be waiting for Buchanan to trip over his blatant use of prejudice and intolerance. "His message is European is fine, but no blacks, gays, orientals. No trade, no abortion and no say in anything."

Buchanan's campaign for isolationism and militancy has been stirred by his rhetoric: "All the forces of the old order are going to rally against us," he said. "Do not wait for orders from headquarters. Mount up and ride to the sounds of guns." Many feel this is an appeal to the militia to insurrection and as such it is a dangerous tactic.

Senate Leader and Presidential hopeful Bob Dole declared, "This is a race between the mainstream and the extreme." This was as close as Dole has come to accusing Buchanan of being a racist. But Dole has his alliance with prejudice, too, having declared that he is opposed to civil rights for gays.

Pandering to the bias against any unpopular minority, Buchanan is playing his cards with fear. As the campaign and the rhetoric heat up, most believe he will use the opposition from minorities to bolster his case with

the claim that these groups are opposed to his candidacy on the basis that he has exposed their "special treatment." The Grand Old Party is not celebrating.



Mad in the U.S.A.

GLAAD Presents Award

On March 7, 1996, GLAAD will present the first-ever *Excellence in Media* award to Barbara Walters at the seventh annual Media Awards in New York City.

Veteran journalist Barbara Walters will be honored for her commitment to covering gay and lesbian issues, culminating with her interview of Olympic gold-medalist Greg Louganis. Walters' ground-breaking interviews have made her one of the most highly acclaimed journalists on television and GLAAD is proud to acknowledge her achievement.

Walters joined ABC News in 1976 as the first woman to co-host the network news. She joined the newsmagazine "20/20" in 1984. Prior to her tenure with ABC she appeared on NBC's "Today Show" for 15 years where she became that show's first female co-host. Walters' numerous and timely interviews appear regularly on "20/20," "The Barbara Walters Specials," and ABC's "Turning Point."

Founded in 1985, GLAAD works for fair, accurate and inclusive representation in all media as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. The GLAAD Media Awards were created in 1990 to celebrate the organization's successes and to congratulate those whose work exemplifies the tremendous improvements that have been made in media coverage of the communities GLAAD represents.

In New York, the Media Awards event, held at The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, included cocktails, dinner, and both a silent and live auction. In Los Angeles it was held at the Century Plaza Hotel on March 10.

The GLAAD Media Awards are underwritten in part by a generous contribution from Absolut Vodka.

News from the ACLU National Headquarters

Federal Appeals Court in Georgia Renders Landmark Ruling for Lesbian Attorney Wedding Plans Became Basis for Losing Job with State Attorney General

ATLANTA — In an important victory for lesbian and gay civil rights, a federal appeals court in Georgia today ruled that a lesbian's relationship with her partner is safeguarded by the Constitution and entitled to the highest level of judicial protection.

The ruling came in a case brought by Robin Shahar, who

sued the Attorney General of Georgia, Michael Bowers, when he terminated her employment upon learning of Shahar's plans to enter into a Jewish marriage with another woman. The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed and litigated the case, applauded the decision.

"This careful, respectful ruling affirms the constitu-

tional freedom of all government workers, including lesbian and gay employees, from being fired because of their intimate and personal relationships," said Ruth Harlow, associate director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights

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