



THE DATING SCENE



Trial and Tribulations

by Ken Berg

Dating. The word which conjures images of malt shops and puppy love, of prom nights and candlelight dinners where each Romeo escorts his Juliet. But in gay and lesbian relationships, dating also plays an

important role.

Dating of the "dinner and a movie" variety has seen a resurgence in popularity in the more-cautious AIDS era. Many gays look for more stable relationships and want to have a better knowledge of partners before bedding down. But in many ways, the "dating game" experience is a constant that spans the decades and bridges the barriers of sexual preference.

Finding someone special can take time and diligence. Susan, a 27-year-old technical illustrator, has used classified personal ads to pursue relationships in a systematic

"I hadn't met anyone I connected with at LCN or The Center, said Susan. "And when you are shy it's hard to meet people at bars. I thought a classified ad couldn't Susan got a lot of responses, and found that being able to evaluate responses and approach the ones she was interested in gave her an increased sense of confidence.

"It's a fairly positive experience," she says. "I've made a few friends. But you have to anticipate some desperate weirdos and not get downhearted about it. It's important to gear yourself up for it and organize to follow through. It

shouldn't be done on a whim. Why bother?"

First meetings can be uncomfortable, Susan noted, because people meeting through classifieds don't have friends in

"It's can be kind of awkward," she says. "Other times you click right away. Some people assume you want to jump into bed. Other times they seem normal, but on the second date they start to get strange and unpleasant. You have to take it with a sense of humor."

For some, gay social and political outlets such as Metropolitan Community Church and The Center prove to be ideal outlets for seeking new relationships.

"I like to be around the kind of people who are active in gay organizations. I think they tend to be more at peace with themselves," says Paul, who, at 32 is newly single after being in a couple for many

"It's more comfortable for me to let relationships just flow out of what you are doing with your life. Before I met my ex-lover, a good friend casually mentioned he had met someone I was `going to just love.' He didn't know how right he was. So you never know when you'llmeet someone, but it helps to be in the right circles."

Paul feels that breaking the ice and letting someone know you are interested is the hardest part of

"I was real uncomfortable at first," He says. "I stuttered and blushed and felt stupid. I got a lot of no's before that first guy I asked out said yes. Now I'm a lot tougher and more self-confident. I got stood up one time and it made me real angry, so I try to make sure someone is really interested and not just trying to be nice."

The charming suburban home of Harry and Jeff, a couple together over 30 years, stands as testimony to their commitment. Harry and Jeff met in a Washington, D.C gay bar on New Years Day, 1958.

"It was a different era," says Harry. "You weren't worried about diseases. MCC and Gay Centers didn't exist. But gays had a way of finding each other. We had a hot night, but I never thought I'd see him again. My car got stuck in the mud outside his apartment..I was real embarrassed."

A few weeks later, Jeff sent Harry a romantic letter.

"I was touched," recalls Harry. "It was kind of weird getting this mash note, as I was in the service at the time. We dated a few times after that, and we've never been apart."

Harry feels that relationships today are very much as they were when he and Jeff first dated, even though all-out sex may not be the first item on the agenda.

"Safe sex doesn't make or break a relationship, "he insists, "It's up to people. If you find someone who is respectable and loving, and all those things that you are looking for, you should make a commitment. That's always been true."

Dating has special complications for people who are just coming out. Steve, a young professional who came out six months ago, looks ahead to meeting more people, but hasn't had a lot of experience with dating yet.

"I haven't asked anyone out yet. This one guy did give me his phone number and it felt real good. Someone was interested in me. I liked it, I was interested back. We got together and we talked for like an hour, we had similar interests."

Steve's new love interest was cooled somewhat when his new friends "roomate" appreared on the scene and proceeded to vaccum through the intimate dinner for

"I'm going to be a little more careful in the future and find out a little history on someone, " says Steve, who says he wants to make sure someone he in interested is truly single and available.

"My biggest concern about dating men is that I wish that I could do those couple-type things in public like holding hands But it feels right to date other guys," Steve concludes. "I know I have made the right decison. I don't regret that."

G.C.S. & THE CENTER

MERGE

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Gay Community Services are currently in the process of merging to become the Gay and Lesbian Community Services.

At a June 18 meeting, GCS voted to rename their organization to GLCS and to adopt The Center's board to vote on dissolving The Center corporation: That vote should take place early July.

All directors from the boards of

each organization will serve on the "new" board until January. Board of director elections will be held that month and all members will be up for reelection, however both organizations agreed that the presidents of each organization shall serve another year without having to be reelected. This should help to ensue a smooth transition.

GLCS President, David Bain said the merger will benefit the community by bringing community focus to one organization, rather than two. This will eliminate repetitive services and wasted money. David also said there would be more individuals to help in providing services, reducing the burnout often experienced by volunteers. The merger will also place The Center under the same tax status for deductions along with GLCS.

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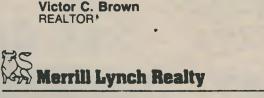
The center has recently purchased an anti-gay bashing public service announcement starring Bob Hope, and has distributed it to Orange Cable Vision which has agreed to air the PSA each evening between 6:30pm and 12:00am.

The 30-second spot was produced after Karin Schwartz of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) was watching Hope on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show and the comedian referred to his jacket as something "a fag would have worn twenty years ago."

After contacting NBC, Schwartz was referred to Hope's press agent in Burbank, California. The press agent suggested Schwartz send Hope a letter including a possible script for a public service announcement.

The Center has purchased 3/4" and 1/2" copies for use in lectures and discussion panels, and plans to continue distributing the video to other area television stations.

The National Gay Task Force recently released statistical figures for anti-gay violence for the United States which totaled 7,248 documented episodes in 1987.



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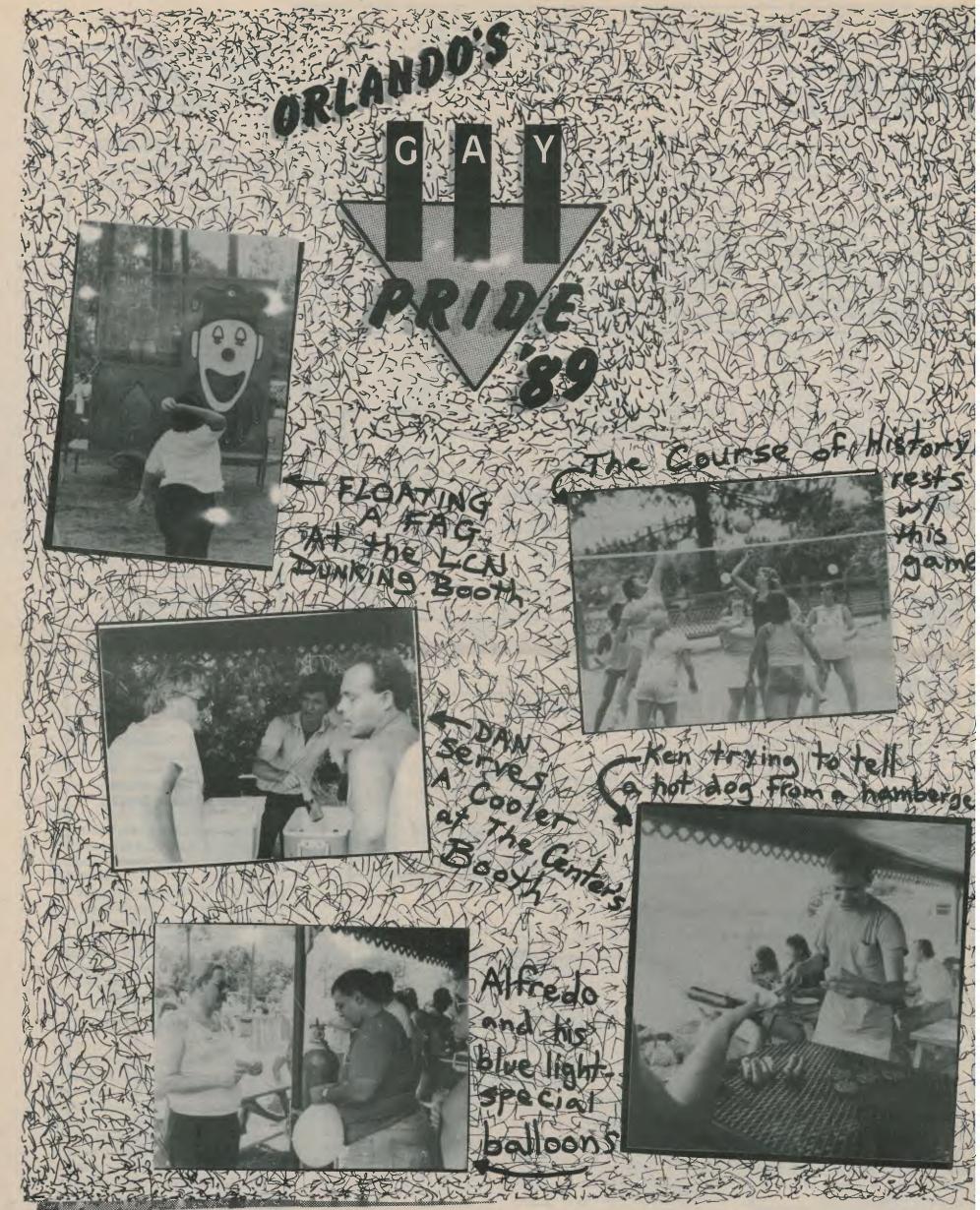
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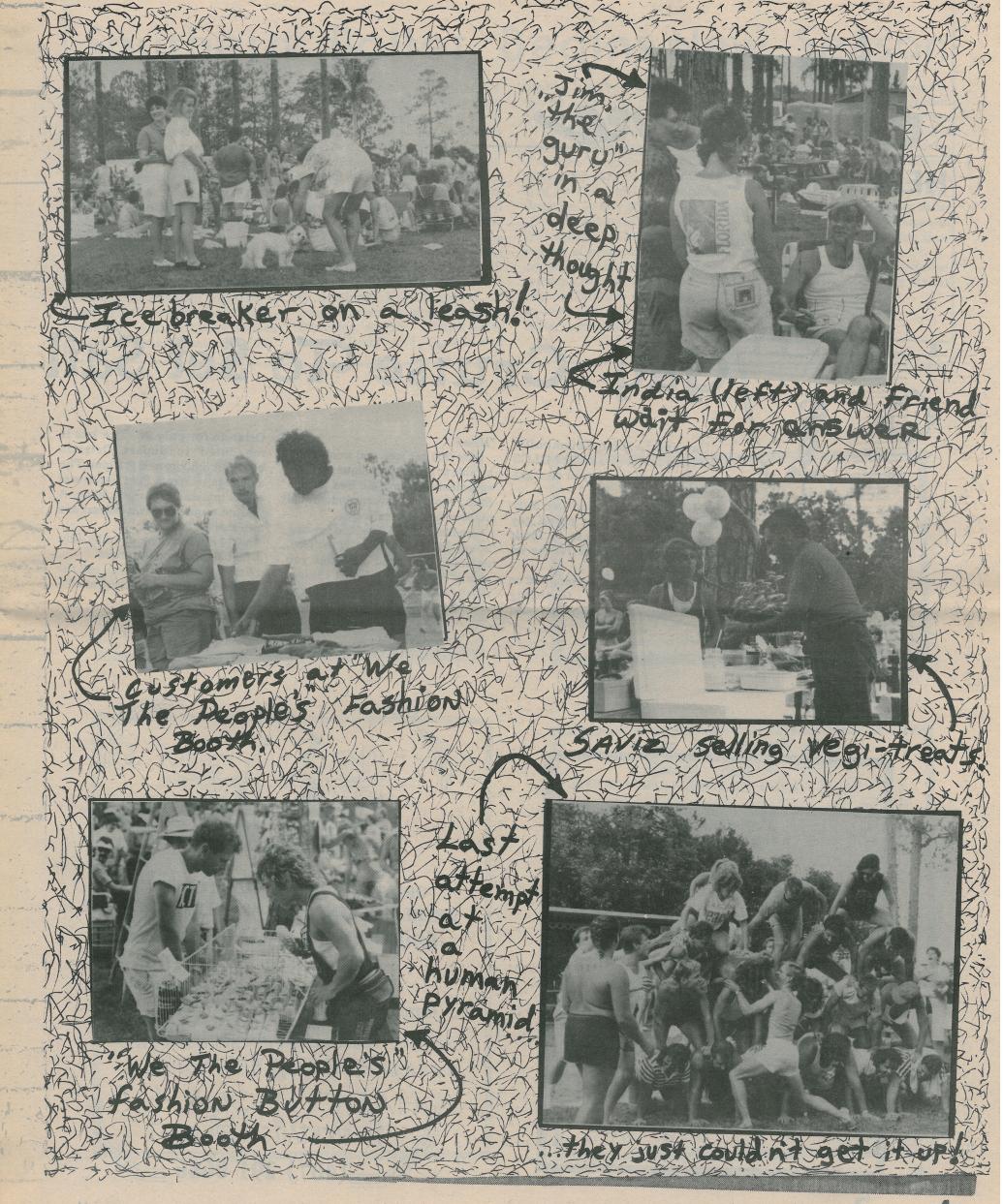
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Deadline

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

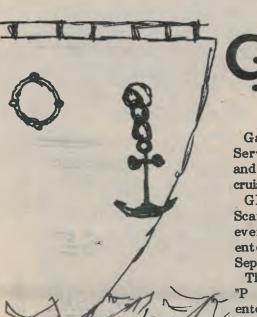


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HERE & THERE



Gay Cruise To Set Sail

Gay and Lesbian Community Services invite you to "let GLCS and The Center take you on a gay cruise."

GLCS has chartered the M/S Scandinavian Sky for an all gay evening of great food, entertainment and activities on September 15.

The theme for the evening will be "P On the Sea," featuring entertainment by the one and only,

"Miss P."

Over 900 gay men and women will be able to enjoy the unique cruising experience aboard the Sea Escape Ship. The ship features indoor and outdoor dancing, and a spa.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is only \$49 and includes all the food, entertainment and activities you would expect on a great cruise.

Round-trip motorcoach transportation is available from

Orlando for only \$6. The bus is scheduled to depart Orlando between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. The ship sets sail from Port Canaveral at 7:30pm and returns 1:30am. A limited number of staterooms are available for \$25 each.

A \$10 deposit is required by July 31 to hold space on the cruise.

For further information, call the 24 hour GLCS "Cruise Line" at 407-898-9413.





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Southern Ballet Begins New Season

The Southern Ballet Theatre, Orlando's only professional dance company, has announced its 1989-90 performance schedule. According to general manager Kip Watson, audiences can expect a varied array of entertainment, featuring more classical ballet, live music from the Florida Symphony Orchestra and world renowned guest artists and choreographers.

The SBT season starts off hot with two of ballet's most famous works. A futuristic interpretation of Stravinsky's powerful "Firebird" is teamed with the flirtatious "Graduation Ball," which will be performed to the music of Johann Strauss.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, September 22 at 8pm and Saturday, September 23 at 1pm. The Florida Symphony Orchestra will provide live music.

"An International Evening of Dance," with guest artists Lloyd Riggins and Rose Gad Poulsen from the Royal Danish Ballet, is slated for February 23 and 24. This performance features masterpieces from the classical repertoire of the Bournonville style. Also scheduled: "Missing Persons," a premier work by Belgium's Marc Bogaerts. A creative collection of short ballets, (including "Arcadia," "Don Quixote Pas de Deux" and "Clowns and

Others") makes up the SBT's annual Repertory Concert to be held March 31.

The SBT season concludes in May with the most famous comedy ballet of all time, "Coppelia." This colorful, lively story ballet will be accompanied by the Florida Symphony Orchestra on May 26.

Season subscriptions range in price from \$30 to \$92, depending on number of performances and seating. Saturday matinee discounts are available for senior citizens, children and students (including college students with appropriate I.D.) and military personnel.

Two Exchange Policies provide season ticket holders with optimum flexibility. With 24-hour notice, subscribers can exchange ballet tickets for vouchers to the Florida Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Downtown and the Orlando Opera Company, if available. In addition, subscribers also can exchange ballet tickets for another performance of the same show, or for another show entirely.

Season Tickets can be purchased by calling the Southern Ballet Theatre at 628-0133.



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	* Denotes this activity does not occur at The Center.		The Center will be closed.
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HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND THE GAY PLAY OF THE SEASON

ON TINATUNA THE CENT

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

The Center Hours Are: Mon.-Friday 1:00pm - 9:00pm

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23 /	Healing Circle 8:00pm	25	26	

"THE GROUPIES"

Alan Kasper Bridge Clnb. A group of Bridge players of varying skill levels gathers for a night of the game.

Coming Out Discussion Group. A group designed to deal with the pains and pleasures o coming ont. This group is open to anyone who is in the coming ont process.

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

GCS. Gay Community Services. Operates Gay Telephone Hotline for gay peer counseling. Organizes monthly Gay Skate Parties. Raises and distributes funds to other gay outreach organizations. Also organizes yearly Gay Pride Week. 843-4297.

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

LCN. Loving Committed Network. Publishes a monthly newsletter, the "LCN Express", and provides monthly functions for women. 290-9443

Men's Discussion Group. Meets Wednesdays. Gay men come together to discuss a variety of topics pertaining to men.

Moonlight Bowling. Late-night bowling at its best. This group meets at the Winter Park Bowl America Lanes.

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

Trans-Aid and Friends. A group of people infected with or affected by AIDS. The group discusses a variety of topics of direct concern to those involved. The atmosphere is positive and uplifting for the healing benefit of all.

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

Women's Discussion Group. Meets Wednesdays. Gay women and lesbians of the community gather to discuss any topic which pertains to women's issues and the community at large.

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

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.

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

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

AID Orlando. Anyone in Distress, including, but not limited to, people living with AIDS. Emergency assistance to anyone in the community in need. 648-9161

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

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

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

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

PFLAG. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays met the last Wednesday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, 316 Marks St., Orlando. This group was formed to provide a support system for families and friends of lesbians and gays in their effort to understand, accept and support their children and friends with love and pride. Write PFLAG, P.O.Box 141312, Orlando, Florida 32814-1312 for more information.

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

Trans-Aid. A support service which provides prevention information (prophylactics, seminars, facts on AIDS) and patient care (transportation, group support meetings, training on self-care). Trans-Aid also networks with other support services and medical support groups. Office: 839-0945, Alfredo Martinez: 351-6930, Jim Gentese: 332-8374.

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

BUSINESS FAX

The Center Wants To Get Your Affairs In Order

Death will be the subject of discussion at The Center on July 12 at 7:30pm. Death is not often a major topic of conversation, and talk of our own deaths is seldom mentioned, but Joanne Sommers of Woodlawn Memorial will be holding a special seminar which promises to be informative, not depressing or gloomy.

Joanne will be visiting The Center to discuss the topic "getting your affairs in order." The one-evening seminar will include discussions of

preplanning funeral arrangements and wills.

"We plan for births, relationships, weddings, but not our deaths. Why leave it to someone else as a burden," Joanne said in a recent interview.

Joanne stressed that you are never too young to make necessary arrangements, and preplanning has its advantages as it freezes the rates.

Self-help kits for wills are going to be available for participants wishing to write a legal will without the help of a lawyer.

Joanne visited The Center earlier this year and received some criticism from individuals who did not know what the seminar was all about. They felt she was there to "harvest the gays," and although no one attended that first seminar, there were some individuals who phoned Joanne to make private appointments to discuss preplanning and wills.

Joanne said the subjects to be

discussed are personal ones and she would be glad to make appointments.

Woodlawn Memorial has been in existence for 63-years. They offer a wide variety of plans for families and individuals, and take great pride in serving the community.

Tampa Business Community Sets Example

A Tampa group of gay business persons joined together in 1982 to help promote business, trade and interaction within the gay community, and their efforts set an example for other gay groups, including Central Florida.

The Tampa Business Guild of Tampa, Florida currently has 105 members consisting of business professionals from all fields and backgrounds. Increases in membership have been sizable over the past year and it is believed the Guild is the third largest group of its type in the United States. Spokesperson, Frances Kensey believes the Guild will have an expanded role in bringing gay businesses a wider degree of respectability within the Tampa Community at large. It will continue to strive for wider press attention for gay causes and will act as a forum for gay ideas and events.

A directory of gay-owned businesses in the Tampa area is published annually and over 3000 copies are distributed free-of-charge. The directory consists of advertising, a list of members and meeting information designed to help locate and promote business

within the community.

Annual membership is \$60 and entitles members to discounts and attendance at seminars on subjects of interest to gays.

As spokesgroup for the community, the Guild has helped to unify the community by sponsoring speakers such as Cleve Jones, Jeff Levy and Jeff Schulte. The group also sponsors a booth at the State Fair and has done so for the past two years.

Perhaps Orlando could benefit from the example set by the Tampa Business Guild. Orlando has a growing, vibrant gay community, and it is only a matter of time before it takes its place as a world-class city and business center. The Central Florida gay community will continue to grow, and gay-owned and operated businesses need to recognize the potential that exists within each of us at this moment.





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Off THE Wall

COCAINE

BY JADE

Ah, cocaine! A bump, a line, a pop. That's all it takes. The more you do, the more you'll want, it's that simple. Before you know it, cocaine becomes your best friend and you will forsake all others. Oh, yes, you'll argue. It helps you, whether you want to make decisions, or maybe you want to lose weight, or bring you back up because you've had to much to drink. Whatever the reasons, they are all wrong.

You do a couple more lines, you've got to feel euphoria, you like the way it trickles down your throught numbing as it goes. Your high again, you feel nobody knows what you are doing because there aren't any tell-tale signs. How wrong you are. Cocaine does kiss and tell. The more you do the more your jaws constrict and you grind your teeth. Your eyes become big as saucers, and of course there is the constant sniffling.

One thing that cocaine users all share is the depression that follows the use of the last line, the party is over, unless you can find another gram or maybe you have enough money to buy an eight-ball. If no money is available maybe the dealer will front you a gram or maybe he would take a gold necklace or ring instead of money. They will also accept stereos, furniture or anything else you have of value. If you have nothing left of your own, you quickly remember a friend or relative has a habit of leaving a lot of cash in their house. You rob them, ah, there's your next line. But that only happens to addicts, and your not one, yet.

Cocaine alters your moods, one minute your happy, on top of the world. The next minute you are depressed or angry, you don't realize your moods are riding on a roller coaster. Finally, over a short period of time, paranoia sets in. You feel

someone is out to get you, or "they" are after you. You begin to withdraw from everyone and hide out in your cocaine confused-mind.

Riding the cocaine trail is a horrible ride which takes you on a scenic ride straight to HELL, non-stop. It is a dreadful feeling when you wakeup in the morning and you want to do another line just to get going, and make you feel better (especially if you were up all night "on it," you are bound to feel like shit)

By now you are probably wondering how I know so much about cocaine. cocaine was my best friend and companion for the better part of five months. I just about lived for the next line. When I used it, I felt I was going to set the world on fire, then in actuality all I did was spend all my money and fill my head with cocaine illusions. Thank God someone in the recesses of my

subconscious mind, I still had enough common sense to overcome my additions. Believe me it was not easy, I was doing pure off the rock cocaine, uncut.

It has been almost three years since my addition and I have stumbled once since then, it was offered at a party, but I am now stronger than cocaine and I will not let it grip me again, nor will I ever indulge again. Now, when I look around me and see my friends "on it," and making the same excuses I did, all I feel for them is pity and all I can do for them is pray they wake up and soon, before it is to late. Because when a friend offers you cocaine, they are not a friend, does the shoe fit? Think about it.

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ELLA'S HOUSE

BYJESS

Ella woke up quickly, she had slept like a lamb. As she stretched, she scanned the room. She noticed the bric-a-brac she had collected: The jewelry box her late husband had given her (funny thing was he could never afford to give her something to put it in. Ella treasured it though); there was that old wig everyone at her old church gave her compliments about, they thought it was real until one day Josie Mae, the big usher who smacked children when they played in church, reached over Ella's head to smack a boy. She had on a tacky blue dress with green rhinestones and big floppy sleeves, one of which snagged that prized wig. That was three years ago and Ella hasn't been

back to that church since.

"I'm gonna go and face the music Sunday," Ella though as she slowly, like a caterpillar, limb-by-limb,\ moved toward the kitchen.

The kitchen was clean and smelled of the collards she had cooked yesterday. Ella fixed a light breakfast and wondered how Junior was doing.

"He's probably singing his heart out, I won't worry," she thought as she flicked on the television.

Geraldo had women who killed their brothers for Satan and Donahue had the Klan on, Ophrah was talking about how to buy the perfect purse..."click," off went the television.

Ella sat up and rocked for a

minute before deciding on a walk. She put away the dishes, dressed and set out for a stroll. She got as far as the front porch.

"I've walked a jillion times and I'm tired of it, I've baked millions of pies and cakes, I need something new to do," Ella thought. Many of her friends who waited tables downtown popped into her head.

Ella saw herself in a cute little waitress outfit, waiting tables. She jumped up and down, and like Scarlet O'Hara who had stood on a hill overlooking Tara, Ella stood on her porch and proclaimed, "As God is my witness, I'm going to find a job."

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OUT TAKES

30+

The "Over-Thirty" social Group began as a small group of friends wanting to get together, without the pressures of a bar-scene, and now wants to expand to the public in order to increase the membership, and meet new people with similar tastes and interests.

Future goals are to plan trips, outings, parties, cookouts, gaycruises, etc., for the enjoyment of group members. There is a possibility to invite other gay social group members on a combined effort. There is no reason why anyone should remain home alone, and lonely, when such a group is reaching out for a more meaningful lifestyle.

Please be advised this group is not based upon sexual encounters. Also, no drugs are allowed at any of the functions.

For more information contact The Center at 894-7097.

MOVIES

Movie Night at The Center Presents a Lucille Ball film festival in July. Each Friday evening (excluding July 14) a different film starring Lucy will be shown. The movies to be presented are: "Forever Darling," "The Big Street," and "Fancy Pants." Movie Night is free, however refreshments are available by donation.

SKATE

Gay Skate at Semoran Skate Way has officially moved to the SECOND Monday of each month beginning in July. If you have not attended a Gay Skate then you have no idea what you are missing. Admission is \$3.00, and your ticket stub is good for admission and drink discounts at several gay night clubs and lounges.

AIDS

Current issues of "The HIV Informer" are available at The Center. This newsletter published by TRANS-AID Support Services, Inc. gives current information concerning AIDS related topics.

Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds

GWM mid 40's seeking fulltime general office, light wholesale or retail sales. Experienced, reliable. Orlando 407-297-3793 Bob.

UNIQUE SEALS

Are your affairs in order? Wills, Notes, quit-claim deeds, Powers-of-Attorney (special), any other legal document needing full Notary Services. Ask for Margaret or Kathy 425-9982 or after hours 629-5870 for appointments. "Here to serve our community."

Roommate Wanted. Gay couple seeks reliable, "non-party animal" type of roommate to share 3 bedroom house. \$250 a month + 1/3 utilities. Includes cable t.v., phone and private bathroom. Call Lee or Steve at 578-3456.



The center of Florida's gay life

120 Newly Decorated Rooms overlooking the pool or lake 5 Acres of Private Lighted Parking Levi/Leather Bar Centroplex Bar

Tropical Pool

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PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Powerhouse Disco Footlights Theatre Piano Bar Daytime Pool Bar Midnite News Blue Parrot Art Deco Shop

> 24-Hour Garden Cafe

\$160+tx/1 wk

HURSDAY

BAR HI-BALLS

4 PM 10 9 PM DANCE 54 bar hi-ball

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