

New Magazine from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Orlando

The Monster  
Event is about  
to Sell Out!

# THE FOLD CENTER

August 1989





# APOLOGIES & PRAISE

## from the director

A letter to the editor appearing in the June issue publicly slapped the wrist of Michael Murphy for reprinting in other publications, his ad as designed for The Center Fold. The letter stated that Murphy Jim's had not been charged for said art work.

A paste-up and set-up charge had been paid under a previous editor and newsletter staff, and I therefore acknowledge Mr. Murphy's right to reprint the ad. Even if Mr. Murphy had not purchased the artwork, the proper way of handling the situation would have been to pick-up the phone to deal with the situation personally, rather than to deal with the situation on the first page of The Center Fold. This fact is made more inappropriate when

one considers that Murphy Jim's continuously and unselfishly donates to The Center.

I feel compelled to make two points...

1. The comments came in the form of a letter to the editor, written by an unpaid volunteer artist who offered her personal opinion and was not representing my feelings or that of The Centers. I believe that Lisa's reaction was justified since she donated her time and talent to create original artwork for The Center Fold, which to her knowledge was not paid for. This was an error in communication for which I take personal responsibility and for which I offer my apologies to both Lisa and Michael Murphy.

2. I would hope that all who have

the pleasure of reading the Center Fold would agree that since I became coordinator this year, the news magazine has become more newsworthy, better reading, more informative and a more responsible publication. This is attributable to the talents and untold hours of the all-volunteer staff including Eriq, Ken, Bill, Lisa, Lee, Jade, Pam, Johnny, Jim and Jason. As far as I am concerned, they have all performed a minor miracle over the past few months and I publicly thank these individuals for providing The Center with a publication the entire community can take pride in.

The logistics of watching over The Center is often overwhelming and sometimes things slip through the

cracks, the letter concerning Murphy Jim's being one of them. I would like to be able to say I will not make mistakes in the future but I promise I will, and so will my staff from time to time. I can, however, promise to minimize errors and to take responsibility when they occur.

*Michael Wanzie*  
Sincerely,  
Michael Wanzie,  
Center Director

## A LETTER TO The editor

Dear Editor:

Although I don't receive The Center's publication at home, I do sometimes pick-up one for information and/or amusement. Lately, though, it has been far from informative or amusing. It has been a waste of time.

Last month one of your artists wrote a scathing diatribe on the topic of Murphy Jim's. If Murphy Jim's is supposed to be a former advertiser, why was the ad run this month? There was no mention or explanation. Did you hope your readers wouldn't notice?

Do you also hope (or assume) that your readers are not discerning or literate? Jade's articles are fine in content and/or meaning, but Geeze Louise, can't you edit? Get it to press - don't take time to read or edit - just get it to press! Is that the truth? Maybe it is your typesetter? Will we ever know?

And, what happened to James Anthony's column this month? Did you delete it so you could accommodate all the pictures? His column is probably the most intelligent and well-written thing in the entire publication, and yet, it wasn't in this month.

In recent months, there have been some rather controversial comments and/or editorials, but in the following issues there has been no mention of any response by any member of the community. I find

that hard to believe! As editor, do you simply choose to ignore any and all comments? File 13?

Why is there no mention of the LCN gathering on the calendar? Have they stopped or are you too lazy to get the information?

It sure seems like the publication has lost the element of professionalism. Your graphics are sometimes so dark that reading the words becomes tedious.

It is nice to see that you've deleted notes by a Wanzie. Pleeze! Do we need to see tacky fag comments about the goings-on in the bar scene? Thanks for deleting that.

Another thing that has puzzled me is the comments by one of your board members Pam Barry/Berry. Is Pam Barry/Berry a transsexual? Is that why "she" found it necessary to indicate "her" gender? Gosh, are you that hard-up to find publishable information?

There are other exceptions I could take to this publication, but I doubt you want any further comments. Instead, I think I'll just delete The Center's publication from my reading list.

Sincerely,  
R.E. Crawford

## EDITORIAL



# "..wherever we stand..."

submitted by Pam Berry

Recent Supreme Court rulings have thrust the abortion issue into the states for decision. Governor Martinez immediately called for action to set-up legislation that will make abortion illegal in this state. Pro-Life, Pro-Choice, Right to Life, wherever we stand on this issue, our decision needs to evolve from a state-wide referendum.

It is unfortunate we must fight again for what was ours - the right to choose. Reproductive freedom is a fundamental human right, along with freedom of speech and religion.

To voice your CHOICE call the Voter's Registration office in your area to attain the address of the State Rep. in your district.  
Orange County: 836-2070  
Seminole County: 321-1130

It is not killing. It is not murder. It is CHOICE. And every citizen who is eligible can cast their vote and make their CHOICE.

We must encourage our Senators and Representatives to put this issue on a state-wide ballot. Governor Martinez does not represent each and every person in this state. By allowing us to vote, we are exercising a choice, the same sort of choice women may lose. The following represents us, and they must hear our voices.



There's nothing you can do  
to stop the

# RETURN OF THE BACKYARD COOKOUT



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## A Letter

### TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my dismay at your decision to publish photos (with names!) in your last issue.

Because you are a gay organization and the photos were taken at a gay event, inferences having negative or even disastrous consequences to individuals could be made. To publish this material without contacting people in the photos, who are friends of The Center, and whose numbers you had, suggests that you were either insensitive or indifferent to the problems involving careers or families that you might cause.

In the first article of the same issue, "The dating scene" the names of people quoted were changed. Because these people were staff members, one might draw the conclusion that you care about your own privacy but not that of others.

When I called I was told that since the readership is gay there would be "no problem". Has no gay person

every behaved stupidly, vindictively, or irresponsibly? Because you have set yourself up to represent the gay community you have some responsibility to it. As an organization you must behave responsibly, not merely "hope" that your readership will.

One natural reaction to criticism is defensiveness. But another is growth. I ask you to consider my comments and if there is any validity, I ask that you draft a policy that enforces the privacy and affirms the rights of the people for whom your organization was established.

Because I choose to believe that this was a simple "mistake", because I am fond of the individuals associated with The Center, and because I feel that you are doing an outstanding job otherwise, I will continue my (heretofore somewhat limited) support. Thanks for listening.

Anon.

*Pronto*  
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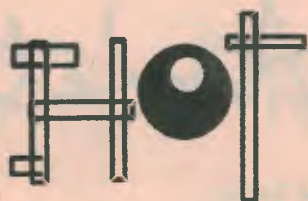
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**Oviedo Publishing Company**

## Deadline Deadline 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.

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





OFF THE PRESS



# TO CONQUER THE MONSTER

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CRUISE

The battle lines have been drawn with assaults on all fronts. Every facet of the gay community is being informed of the monster event of the season; a gay cruise which will be the buzz of conversations to come and help set the precedent for fundraising and leisure activities.

Over 60 people are involved in planning and executing the event to set sail September 15. The army of volunteers, under the leadership of Scott Alles, David Bain and Michael Wanzie, are involved in everything from selling reservations to planning and performing entertainment on the cruise.

The General heading the front line is Scott Alles, a long-time Center board member who originated the idea as a fundraiser for The Center.

Although he was willing to conquer the task alone, Scott presented a proposal to the Board of Directors, including board

members of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services (which is now sponsoring The Center through the recent merger). An enthusiastic response opened the doors for negotiations with SeaEscape and everything began to fall into place. In an exclusive interview, Scott confessed that The Center was tired of begging for funds as it had in the past, and with the success of "La Cage Aux Folles" and "On Tina Tuna Walk," everyone felt the cruise was the right way to offer quality entertainment and raise necessary funds at the same time.

Aside from disallowing publicity of the gay event in main stream publications, SeaEscape and its representatives have been most cooperative.

Organization of everyone involved has been most crucial to the already successful reservation sales. On July 1, 15 interested individuals were gathered in a special meeting

where a marketing plan was discussed. Number of tickets available, territories to be approached for sales, statistics, general sales hypothesis, entertainment updates and other viable information was discussed.

Some of the top volunteers include Publicity Coordinator, Doug Swallow, who designed the reservation forms and publicity fliers; Entertainment Coordinator, Michael Wanzie, who has organized a host of talent including dancers, singers, musicians (including and orchestra), disc jockeys and strippers. He has also undergone the task of explaining "P' On The Sea" as the theme of the extravagant musical revue being written for the cruise, and not to be associated with anything of an excretory behavior.

Cruise Coordinator, David Bain, was originally cruise director, but demoted himself after he discovered

the position to be a scapegoat for things going awry, and he is not as lovely as "Love Boat's" Julie McCoy. David spends sleepless nights entering completed reservation forms in to a computer, tabulating numbers, and contacting individuals who send the receipt of a money order rather than the correct, valuable half.

Other volunteers are assaulting neighborhoods, giving everyone in the community a chance at setting sail on the seaEscape Gay Cruise.

The response has been substantial with everyone certain of a sellout.

The monstrous task will be conquered with the help of many, and a second cruise is already under negotiation for early next spring. This will give those individuals who waited too long to make their reservation a second chance.

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## Relationships in



Story by Bill Ehrig

There are currently several organizations which are helping to combat racism and prejudice within not only straight society, but also within gay society. They address the needs of gays who are members of a variety of racial and ethnic groups, and the quality of life for all in our society stands to benefit.

The National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays was founded in 1978 and currently has headquarters in Washington D.C. With over 2,000 members, NCBLG is a political, educational and support network of black and other race lesbians and gay men. The goals include actively working against racism, sexism, ageism and classism within the black and gay communities. An important purpose of the organization is to raise black homosexual's consciousness on major local, national and international issues. By stimulating a wholesome sociopolitical atmosphere, the organization

works cooperatively with other gay, lesbian and black groups in the pursuit of civil and human rights. NCBLG seeks to pursue political power and recognition in non-violent but aggressive ways. By conducting seminars, NCBLG supports community involvement in political activities such as educational programs and housing projects, seeking to maintain and stress the beauty of black lesbian and gay cultures.

NCBLG maintains a speakers bureau and publishes a bi-monthly news publication titled "Habari Daftari."

Another gay, multiracial organization for the betterment of all people is the National Association of Black and White Men Together. NABWMT was founded in 1978 and is based in San Francisco.

With over 1,200 members, the group compiles literature on the black and interracial gay experi-

ence. It conducts research on resisting racism and seeks to promote and foster interracial fellowship with the formation of coalitions among gays and others. NABWMT opposes racism within the gay community as well as homophobia within ethnic communities.

The organization maintains a speaker's bureau and sponsors seminars to achieve these goals; it also publishes the books "Resisting Racism" and "Reflections: Five Years of Collected Writings of Black and White Men."

A third group which addresses the needs of its community is the committee of Black Gay Men, which was formed in 1978 and is based in Chicago. With over 1,500 members, CBGM seeks to disseminate information concerning problems that affect black members of the gay community.

CBGM provides a wide range of community services through but-

reach programs and by networking with similar organizations. It provides individual and group counseling; access to hotline and crisis intervention; arranges for legal defense and legal advice; provides information on lobbying techniques for city, state and national legislation; and provides protection and support for gay teachers, students and persons in the art fields.

Another service includes blood pressure screening and plans are underway for an alcohol and substance abuse program.

A speaker's bureau conducts seminars and workshops. The group also compiles statistics and is affiliated with the All People Congress.



# Wedding AT SEA

The SeaEscape Gay Cruise will be a special event for all who attend; however, the event will have a special meaning for those couples who participate in a Holy Union Ceremony to be held during the gay extravaganza.

The Reverend James Barry from Zion A.C.C. church will preside over the brief ceremony which will take place aboard SeaEscape's Scandinavian Sky on a small, outdoor deck, adjacent to one of the ship's suites.

The Center will provide wedding mementos, a wedding certificate and a brief reception, including the traditional wedding cake.

Couples seriously interested in participating in the ceremony should contact Center Director, Michael Wanzie no later than August 15. Couples interested in counseling, as part of their plans for Holy Union, may also make an appointment with Rev. Barry through Michael.

A \$10 donation per couple is requested to help pay expenses, and excess proceeds will be further donated to Zion A.C.C.

Non-gay couples are also welcomed to participate, but they must have a legal wedding certificate.

## 1990 RSVP Cruises Set

Story by Bill Ehrig

RSVP Cruises has announced their schedule of all gay cruises for 1990. A seven day Caribbean cruise is scheduled to depart from Miami February 18 on the SS Seabreeze; A Yucatan cruise is set for March 10 from New Orleans on the SS Queen Of Bermuda; A Mexican Riviera cruise is planned for March 24 from San Diego on the SS Bermuda Star; and the ever popular "Fantasy Fest" cruise is scheduled to depart from Miami On October 27 for a three day cruise to Key West.

RSVP started with the idea of all gay cruises in 1986 and they have proven to be an outstanding

success. What started as one cruise then, will now feature five all gay cruises in 1990. A new itinerary planned for June 30 is a seven day French Canadian cruise aboard the SS Bermuda Star. The ship departs Montreal and calls on the ports of Quebec City, Provincetown and Philadelphia.

As an international tour operator, thousands of passengers the world over have cruised with RSVP. The ships chosen on their itineraries are chartered exclusively by RSVP and have been tailored to gay lifestyles.

For further information, contact your gay travel agent.



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## Parents FLAG

*Hosts Area Clergy  
At Next Meeting*

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be holding a meeting on August 30th at the Friend's Hall on 316 Marks Street in Orlando beginning at 8pm. The Parents FLAG meeting will host a panel composed of area clergy. Each clergy participant will address the question: How does your denomination/faith tradition regard gay and lesbian people and their call for gay and lesbian rights? The participants are: The Rev. Tim Labo of Saint Margaret Mary Roman Catholic

Church in Winter Park; Rabbi Maria J. Feldman of the Congregation of Liberal Judaism in Orlando; The Rev. Canon Robert J. Vanderau, Jr. of The Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Episcopal in Orlando and Pastor Jimmy Brock of Joy Metropolitan Community Church in Orlando.

Following the speakers will be a question and answer session. The event is free and the public is warmly invited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 321 C.O.N.T.A.C.T

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# The Center In

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

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

1

Rap Group 7:30pm

Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc.  
9:00pm \*

*Pay for my  
SeaEscape Reservation*

2

Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm

6

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

7

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

8

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

9

Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm \*

*Gay & Lesbian Marriage Sem  
7:30pm*

13

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

*Pot Luck 3:00pm  
Theme: Polynesian and Other  
Island Dishes*

14

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

*Gay Skate 9:30pm \**

*call friends about  
skate !!*

15

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

16

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm

Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm

20

Joy MCC 7:15pm \*

Zion AAC 7:00pm

21

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

22

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

23

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm

Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm

PFLAG 8:00pm \*

27

Zion AAC 7:00pm

Joy MCC 7:30pm \*

28

Coming Out Discussion Group  
7:00pm

Healing Circle 8:00pm

29

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

*Volunteer Training 7:00pm*

*Bring Pencil and  
Paper to Training*

30

Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm

Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm

Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm

PFLAG 8:00pm \*



# AUGUST

ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>3</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm We the People 7:00pm	<b>4</b> <div> Movie Night at The Center  Presents: "Torch Song Trilogy"  7:30pm </div> <i>take Kleenex to movie night!!</i>	<b>5</b> The Center is closed today.
	<b>10</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Courage to Change 8:15pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition 7:30pm	<b>11</b> Games Night presented by Zion AAC 7:30pm	<b>12</b> The Center is closed today. Combined Groups Yard Sale 8:00am-5:00pm *
	<b>17</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm We the People 7:00pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Courage to Change 8:15pm	<b>18</b> <div> Movie Night at The Center  Presents "Desert Hearts" 7:30pm </div> <i>Meet friends for movie night</i>	<b>19</b> The Center will be Closed Today.
	<b>24</b> <div> Safe Sex Seminar 1:00pm </div> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Courage to Change 8:15pm	<b>25</b> <div> Movie Night at The Center  Presents 3 Episodes of the TV program "Brothers" 7:30pm </div>	<b>26</b> <div> Backyard Bar-B-Que 4:00pm </div>
	<b>31</b> Zion Prayer 7:00pm Alan Kasper Bridge Club 7:30pm Courage to Change 8:15pm	Phone:(407) 894-709 7 MAILING Address: PO Box 533446 Orlando, FL 32853 LOCATION: 1036 N. Mills, Orlando <p>* Denotes this activity does not occur at The Center.</p>	



# The Center In

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
The Center Hours Are: Mon.-Friday 1:00pm – 9:00pm		1 Rap Group 7:30pm Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm * <i>Pay for my Sea Escape Reservation</i>	2 Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm *	3
Joy MCC 7:15pm * Zion AAC 7:00pm	7 Coming Out Discussion Group 7:00pm Healing Circle 8:00pm	8 Rap Group 7:30pm Orange Blossom Bowling Assoc. 9:00pm *	9 Women's Discussion Group 7:30pm Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm Joy MCC 7:15am, 7:30pm * <u>Gay &amp; Lesbian Marriage Seminar 7:30pm</u>	10
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GUEST SPEAKER AND FACILITATORS FOR HEALING CIRCLE

CENTER STAFF VOLUNTEERS

CENTER FOLD WRITERS

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MANILA ENVELOPES

LARGE MANILA ENVELOPES

CLIP BOARD

SHELVING

A NEW BUILDING

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BUSINESS ENVELOPES

SMALL STATIONARY ENVELOPES

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POSTER BOARD

AIR CONDITIONING FILTERS

CHALK / BLACKBOARD ERASERS

PENS / POST-IT NOTES

MESSAGE PADS

SCOTCH TAPE

3 X 5 CARDS



OFF THE WALL

ONE OBSERVER

# "ON THE EDGE" BY JAMES ANTHONY

I am toilworn, footsore and hoarse. It is not easy being a monthly columnist, especially one with such an exhaustive topic as mine.

This month, my series "How to Be Gay" spends some time socializing with Our Betters and even some of Our Worst. I've noticed there are certain customs, as practiced by Gay people, which seem to belong to we alone. After weeks of scrutinizing you all in public, I present the following...

1. GOSSIP. Exists there a Gay person who has not thrilled to the early-Sunday-morning telephone call? The news about the night before is always sleazy and seems to come from the mouths of the filmiest sources. GOSSIP leads directly to the following events...

2. BRUNCH. Gay people invented

Brunch because we cannot wait until lunchtime to rehash the cud which we have been chewing all Sunday morning. We fill the hotels and restaurants, gleeful in the fact that our conversational topics are seated not six feet away from us.

3. TEA DANCES. Sunday's theatricals reach a peak here. This is where we face our Saturday-night nemesis in the flesh, tongues sharpened (men's bars) and dukes put up (women's bars). Afterwards, truces are called (instead of names) and peace is restored for another six days. Except for department store workers, most of us find it imprudent to dish on the office phones.

4. SHOPPING. There are 42,786 gay people in Central Florida. I know this because I have counted. (Some of you I may have counted

twice but that is another story.) On Saturday mornings, half of us go to the stores and play "customers." The remaining half play "salespeople." The two halves glare at each other and nothing is accomplished. The salespeople are put upon to secure discounts for all their friends and ex-lovers, and the customers have no money anyway. I have concluded that we should all stay home on Saturdays and brake.

5. CRUISING. Straight people do not cruise, nor can they. They THINK they can but they fail to understand the nuances of the art. Straight people speak while cruising; this is laughable and ruins everything. Two gay people can stare at each other up until last call without moving a lip or blinking an eye. Except for me. I once cruised a rather good-looking young man

across the bar from me. The gin was getting to me: I flirted shamelessly, biting my lips in what I thought was a sensual manner. After many minutes of this, my cloud of inebriation lifted sufficiently and I realized that I was cruising myself in the bar mirror.

It has been fun, ladies and gentlemen. After many weeks of observation, I conclude: We are a unique and varied lot. Why, if I weren't gay myself I would probably want to be.

NEXT MONTH: I will respond to your letters in print, so get writing and let me hear from you before August 10.

Personal to Steve: I am a direct descendant of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, so there.

(THIS MONTH JADE IS ON VACATION).



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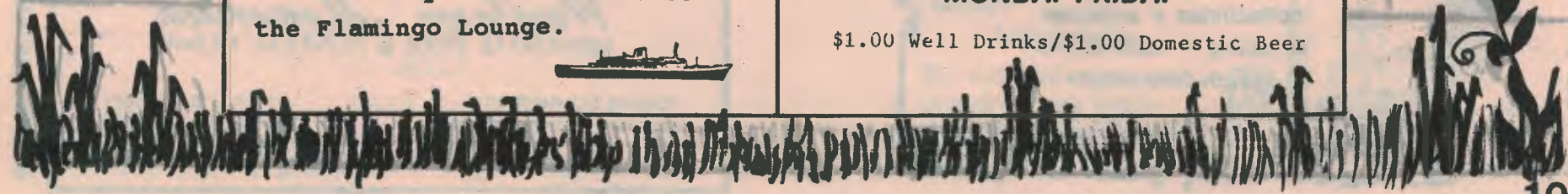
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## ONE OBSERVER:

# NEW CLUB WITH a TWIST OPENS

Notes by Wanzie.

A few doors south of the French Market on Orange Avenue, in an abandoned retail space, the most unusual of clubs has opened its doors. Entrepreneurs, Sam Singhaus and Betsy Benson along with the help of designer Bill Haire and a host of other people (Miriam, Rhonda, Glen and Margarete) who just stopped by to create a space or glue a country to the ladies room wall, have successfully created an alternative club that is truly an alternative. The all-black interior of the small night spot has splashes of color and excitement surprising and delighting at every turn.

Big Bang (the name of the new club) is open until 4:00am Friday and Saturday nights. The beer and wine sales stop at 2am, but the music and partying continues for another two hours, complimented by coffees, juices and sparkling water available for purchase.

The place is downright delightful, and while there are many reasons to fall in love with the Big Bang theory, two reasons rise above all others.

1. It is the only club in town boasting a "God bless our camper/fish stick lounge," which one must pass through to gain access to the "Elvis in the '90's men's room," complete with "Graceland lavatory facilities." The lounge, with its hardwood floor-

look-a-like, ink printed, indoor/outdoor carpeting, is intended to breathe new life into the genre of tacky mobile home.

The tiny lounge fulfills its objective (not a place to sit if you are feeling queasy) by including such appointments as an olive green pole lamp and a laminated slice of a tree trunk wall plaque. It's just too much fun!

2. Although gay owned and operated the Bang is not intended to be, nor is it marketed as an all-gay establishment. Its objective is to have a universal appeal where everyone is welcome to come as they are, and feel free to be who they are. I like that.

To get the story behind the story, One Observer stopped by the Bang on the eve of its July 20 opening.

The would be club operators and their friends were strewn in various positions amid a chaotic jumble of chairs and props. The interview went as follows...

WANZIE: Who actually owns the club?

SAM: The city of Orlando and the county of Orange, but Betsy and I are trying to convince ourselves that we do.

WANZIE: Whose idea was the club's concept?

SAM: Betsy's and 'kinda mine, but everyone's...Bill Haire designed the interior.

WANZIE: (studying the design) Bill, did you actually design something or did you just come in and let it happen?

BILL: Actually, I dreamed it. I woke-up at 4:00am and started drawing. I called Sam and said, "I'm looking at Big Bang." I literally dreamed the whole thing.

SAM: It's been modified...

BILL: It's been modified for cost effectiveness. I dream big.

WANZIE: What exactly do you call this particular motif?

BILL: It is a cross between Pee Wee Herman's play house and the surrealistic artists of the early twentieth century. There was a lot of opium use back then. Although this was not opium inspired. This is what the inside of my head looks like.

WANZIE: What kind of music can one expect at the club?

EVERYONE: cutting edge! ..... house! ..... progressive! ..... funky! Our DJ

is Bobby Clarke, the only DJ in Orlando.

SAM: When the fire inspector was here today, I let the Christian music station play on the radio the whole time. By the way, did you notice the door to the ladies' room? That is Barbie (of Barbie and Ken fame). Under the black light, she looks a lot like Mary Wells.

(NOTE: THE BARBIE DREAM HOUSE FOYER leads into "THE WORLD IS YOUR PHIL OYSTER" lavatory; created by Rhonda Vivheny, as a tribute to a past "Zello Magazine" editor.)

WANZIE: What would you say is the club's drawing card?

EVERYONE: You can come here from other bars when they close, dance and actually get to know that person you just picked-up. Maybe act a little more sane. Maybe help save each other's lives.

The Big Bang is located on 102 North Orange Avenue and is open on Thursday from 9:00pm to 2:00am, and Friday and Saturday from 9:00pm to 4:00am. There is a \$3.00 cover charge at the door.

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## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### An AIDS Benefit

On Saturday, August 19th, the Edyth Bush Theatre will be the sight of a glittering AIDS Benefit.

7:00pm-8:00pm Silent Auction

8:00pm Jackie Jones Live on Stage  
The \$50.00 per person evening, chaired by Carole Nelson, will also include a wine, cheese, and champagne reception. Seating is quite limited, contact Centaur at 894-1452 for reservations.

### A P.H. Pageant

Yet another pageant at the Parliament House. The Florida Preliminary for Miss Continental U.S.A will take place on August 7th, with the Mr. Florida Contest following on August 28th. Call 425-7571 for details.



The Sensible Pumps, an all-female rock & roll/blues band will appear in concert at Key Largo on September 14. The Pumps are a rhythm and blues quartet that play clubs throughout the Southeast. Recently they entertained an enthusiastic crowd at the Southern Women's Music Festival in Georgia. The Pumps are a "full-time" band-totally dedicated to exciting entertainment for their audience.

After their appearance in Orlando, the band will be heading to Key West.

Tickets for the Key Largo event are \$5.00.

### A GAY SKI TRIP

Dan, at the Flamingo Lounge, in Association with All Inclusive Travel, has planned a 7 night Orlando/Aspen ski excursion, January 20-27, 1990. The package includes air fare, accommodations, ground transfers, and private parties with other gay groups. For more information, contact Dan at 677-4299, or Ginny or Jan at All Inclusive Travel.

### A POETRY READING

Penny Chessman, a local resident and author of original poetry will be reading her works at Visions Books Etc. in St. Petersburg, August 12, from 4pm to 6pm. Penny hopes local Orlando residents will attend to give her support.

The book store is located at 111 2nd Avenue, suite 111, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701. You may call 813-821-2190 for more information.



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# OUTTAKES

## YARD SALE

The Combined Groups Yard Sale's next bargain session will be held August 12, beginning at 8:00am to 5:00pm. It will be located at 1529 Iowa Place, just follow the signs from the intersection of Mills and Nebraska. Several community groups will be represented including The Center, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition and National Organization for Women. The event is held four times a year, and everyone is invited to hunt for those items one might not be able to live without and in doing so, support the groups represented.



## SAFE SEX SEMINAR

Another of Dr. Jeff Goodgame's "Safe Sex Seminars" will be held at The Center August 17, beginning at 1:00pm. The seminar was scheduled in the afternoon to accommodate bar tenders and lounge employees who might not be able to attend in the evening. Dr. Goodgame recently received the Humanitarian Award at the Central Florida Dixie Awards for unselfish work in the AIDS community.

## GAY PARENTS MEET

The Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, a social and political group meets the second Thursday of every month at the Center beginning at 7:30pm. This group is for parents who are gay or lesbian and a variety of topics are discussed. If you are interested contact Scott at 889-9919 or call The Center for further information.

## Looking for A FEMALE

The Center is actively seeking a female co-coordinator to fill a full-time employment position beginning October 1, 1989. Interested women must respond immediately for consideration. Contact Michael Wanzie at 894-7097 or any GLCS/Center board member.

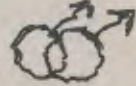
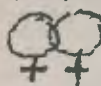
## VOLUNTEERS

Center Volunteers are desperately needed each week to help answer phone calls, set-up for special events, greet visitors, and to perform a variety of other tasks. If you would like to get involved, the next Volunteer Training Session will be held at The Center on August 29, beginning at 7:00pm.

## We The People

We The People, a gay and lesbian human rights group, will hold monthly meetings the first and third Thursday at The Center beginning at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend and become involved in the progressive struggle for human and gay rights.

## MARRIAGE SEMINAR




A Gay and Lesbian Marriage Seminar will be held at The Center on Wednesday, August 9, beginning at 7:00pm. Attorney Anne Colby will be on hand to discuss ways that same gender partners can enact legally binding contracts which afford all basic legalities and protections offered by a state marriage license.



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