



## Pride Month Report

This year's Pride month activities were a great success! The Ecumenical Pride Worship Service had representation from a wide range of faiths; CeCe Cox had an excellent presentation on getting and making use of media coverage (for more details, see the PFLAG newsletter); the "Over the Rainbow" Ball was a lot of fun; and the Pride Picnic was extremely well-attended, with more than 20 informational tables, several hundred picnickers, and no incidents!

Of course, this was only possible with the help of many dedicated volunteers, who spent the past months coordinating activities, and our sponsors. We would like to thank...

- Picnic Commercial sponsors: American Airlines, Anheuser-Busch, Coors, Miller Brewing Co., Pepsi-Cola. American donated a pair of airline tickets which were won by a lucky picnic-goer; free drinks throughout the day were provided by the remaining sponsors.
- Picnic Benefit hosts and performers: Bill & Brian at Lola's; Sensuous & John at the Tool Box; John & Steve at the Silver Star; and Kirk & Terry at Concessions.
- BGLTA and its volunteers, for co-sponsoring CeCe Cox, the "Over the Rainbow" ball, and the Pride Picnic.
- PFLAG and its volunteers, for co-sponsoring CeCe Cox.
- FUSO and its volunteers, for co-sponsoring the Picnic.
- Rainbow Business Guild and its volunteers, for co-sponsoring CeCe Cox.
- St. Jerome Ecumenical Catholic Church, Family of Faith MCC, Community of Hope, Dignity/Integrity, Agape Christian Fellowship, for organizing the Worship Service.
- Everyone else who helped to make these events such a success! Apologies to anyone whose name has been inadvertently left out.

The July TOHR general meeting will focus on feedback about the Pride Month events. Please come by and let us know what you thought.

TOHR General Meeting  
Tuesday, July 2 at 7pm  
Alan Chapman Center's Chouteau Room

**"Defense of Marriage" Act***by Dr. John D'Emilio*

Bashing gays, lesbians, and their families has become a key method through which the religious right-wing builds its strength. Concerned Women of America launched a major fundraising campaign in response to the National Education Association's endorsement of gay, lesbian, and bisexual History Month. Lou Sheldon of the Tradition Values Coalition won a commitment from House Speaker Newt Gingrich that resulted in Congressional hearings on parenting, values and the schools, and then milked those hearings for publicity. The Defense of Marriage Act, which Sheldon helped draft, is no different.

So while having everything to do with strengthening the base and building the coffers of these extremist groups, the Defense of Marriage Act does nothing to strengthen the institution of marriage. Instead it attacks the integrity of lesbian and gay families. Throughout the United States, millions of lesbians and gay men have formed loving, committed relationships. They are caring for each other in good times and bad, contributing to the welfare of their communities, and paying taxes to support government services at every level. Yet they are systematically denied the benefits and rights of marriage. Lesbians and gay men can be turned away at the hospital when a partner has had an accident or illness, lack access to "family" health coverage and other forms of insurance, are denied the benefits of inheritance and taxation that surviving heterosexual spouses automatically enjoy, have no rights to a range of government benefits, and cannot make use of immigration law provisions to secure entry for partners who are citizens of other countries. Large numbers of lesbians and gay men are also raising children. Estimates of the number of lesbian mothers range from about 1 to 5 million; of gay fathers, from 1 to 3 million; and of children of lesbian and gay parents, from 6 to 14 million. Data gathered from exit polling after the 1992 presidential election found that while one-third of heterosexual voters had children under 18 living with them, one-quarter of lesbian, gay, or bisexual voters did as well. In other words, a population not thought to be at all involved with parenting is only 25% less likely to be raising children than heterosexual adults. The "Defense of Marriage"

proponents claim to have the best interests of children and their families in mind. Yet, their legislative solution will penalize and stigmatize the millions of children with lesbian and gay parents.

The anti-family tentacles of the Right-wing extremists do not stop at gay families. They reach in and seek to undermine other "non-traditional" families as well. The Right uses a rhetoric of traditional family values to condemn the immorality of single mothers and to campaign for "welfare reform" that is punitive. It attacks government programs such as publicly funded daycare for working mothers who need it. The Right supports a "parental rights" movement that would undo gains made to prevent battering of women and child abuse.

NGLTF urges all members of congress to turn back this mean spirited, misleading, and deceptive effort. The Halls of Congress should not be used as an election forum to scapegoat gays and lesbians and divide the American people.

*Dr. D'Emilio is the Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.*

**WANTED:** Silent or not-so-silent type, loves to do one or more of the following: plan or participate in social events; talk on the phone; get involved with causes; help others; write; raise money; or draw. For more information on how we can become great friends, leave a message for Debbie or Tom at the volunteer hotline - 743-4297.

**We want your feedback!** What did you think of the Pride Month events? What would you like to see TOHR do next? What do you see as the primary focus or vision of TOHR in the future? The Board is planning a "vision-gathering" retreat for July, and welcomes your suggestions and comments. Drop us a note, leave a message with the volunteer hotline, or e-mail to [kanga@galstar.com](mailto:kanga@galstar.com).

Gay and Lesbian individuals in Oklahoma are under attack! If you find this difficult to believe, please obtain a copy of the 1996 Oklahoma Republican Party Platform, or listen to people like Bob Enyart on UHF Channel 47 and cable Channel 7 at 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Check out the attacks made by Rep. Steve Largent and Sen. Don Nickles on the national level. The list of Oklahoma elected officials who are proposing, passing, and signing anti-gay legislation into law is extensive. However, it is not too late to stop the campaign of hate in Oklahoma.

The primary power held by gay and lesbian individuals in Oklahoma is the vote. In order to be effectively "heard" by our local, state and national politicians, we need to unite and present numbers of votes that can not be ignored. Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights (TOHR) is sponsoring an effort to create a database of gay and lesbian voters, as well as "gay friendly" voters. The database will enable us to influence local and state politicians to give gay and lesbian people more consideration when they propose, or vote on legislation. We can use the database to provide helpful political information to gay and lesbian voters, as well as those who are gay friendly. It also provides us with a means to unite and promote our sense of community. For those in our community who wish to become political activists, or political office holders, we want to be able to support their efforts.

Please consider submitting your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available) to

TOHR Political Database  
P.O. Box 25729  
Tulsa, OK 74152

Please encourage your friends to participate in this project. With our vote, we have a voice which will be heard.

### Community Events and Organizations

Lambda Bowling League  
Mondays @ 8:45pm  
Sheridan Lanes  
3121 S. Sheridan

Alternative Skating  
Tuesdays from 8:30 - 11:00pm  
Sand Springs Skate  
\$4  
for info call 241-2282

Tulsa Family Chorale  
Thursdays @ 9:30pm  
Lola's  
2630 E. 15th

Alternatives  
weekly social events for LGBT women & men  
Thursdays @ 7pm  
for info call 646-5503

BLGTA - University of Tulsa  
Sundays @ 6:30pm  
Canterbury  
5th & Evanston  
for info call 583-9780

Gay & Lesbian Student Association  
TJC Southeast Campus  
for info call 631-7632

SWAN - Single Women's Activity Network  
for info call 832-2121

Send information about your organization to:  
Community News  
P. O. Box 25729  
Tulsa, OK 74152

*Membership in TOHR is membership in the future of  
OUR Community and  
OUR Community Center!*

TOHR Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

GLBT Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the triangle next to your membership choice

- Student / Limited Income - \$10.00
- Regular Membership - \$20.00
- Organizational / Household - \$35.00
- Sustaining Membership - \$100.00

Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied to the gay men's outreach program.

Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied to the Community Center.

*Please mail your application and/or donation to:*

TOHR Memberships  
P.O. Box 25729  
Tulsa, OK 74152