Volume 1. Issue 4

October 1995

## Coming (and Going) Out

In the gay 90's many of us have finally begun to celebrate who we are: men and women who enjoy life, have children, pay taxes, go to church, work, play, and yes, love individuals of the same sex.

A part of our celebration includes a certain level of coming out. Whether we participate in gay pride activities or read gay/lesbian novels in the comfort (and safety) of our own homes is largely a personal decision.

Many of us have reason to fear coming (and going) out. But today is a different day. Lesbianism is chic - the "in thing" as movies, television shows, and entertainers celebrate womyn loving womyn. AIDS have pushed the gay community to the forefront as we continue to fight what is no longer considered just a gay man's disease.

About the town, we are beginning to fly rainbow flags on our car windows, our front porches, our storefronts, and even on the clothes we wear.

We talk about GAY PRIDE and HUMAN RIGHTS, but do we really know what they mean? PRIDE results when we have a positive sense of self and community. RIGHTS happen more quickly when we join as one.

## Get involved with YOUR community, today!

Great things are coming to Tulsa. As 1995 comes to an end, **expect** to see something very special happening in our community. You'll want to be a part of the excitement!

Make plans now to attend the CommUNITY meeting on November 7th at 7:00 PM (Alan Chapman Activity Center - Choteau Room, Tulsa University).

Meet leaders from the many organizations dedicated to providing services for Tulsa's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities. Cast your vote for next year's tohr leadership, and participate in round table discussions designed to bring UNITY to our Community.

Together we can make Tulsa a great place to come (and go) out.



# tohi

## Community (Center) News



Help us fill OUR Community Center by sending in your contribution TODAY!

Monthly Pledges		Center Stage	
		One time donations	
0	\$100	<b>\$2,500-\$5,000</b>	
0	\$75	O \$1,500-\$2,499	
0	\$50	<b>O</b> \$ 750-\$1,499	
0	\$45	<b>S</b> 300-\$ 749	
0	\$40	<b>\$ 100-\$ 299</b>	
0	\$35		
0	\$20	Other	
0	\$10		

Please mark your chosen pledge or donation category, detach and mail to: **tohr**, P.O. Box 52729, Tulsa, OK 74152

Please include your name and address, so that we may thank you properly.

All contributor's names and information are held in the strictest confidence



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

October 1995

Volume IV

Number 10

Newsletter of the Tulsa Chapter of Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 52800 Tulsa, OK 74152 Help line (918) 749-4901
Regular Meetings Second Monday of the Month Lynn Mostoller, editor Family AIDS Support Groups: First and Third Wednesday of the month and First and Third Thursdays of the Month

### **OCTOBER MEETING**

## Monday, October 9, 1995

Quadrangle Building 4154 South Harvard Suite H

Look for the entrance on the north side of the building-"The Gathering Place"

> 6:30 - 7:45 pm PFLAG 101 and PFLAG 102

**PFLAG** 101 is a group designed to support new parents and members as they begin their journey to accepting and supporting their lesbian and gay loved ones.

PFLAG 102 is a new group for those who have "graduated" from PFLAG 101, but who would like to meet in a small, supportive setting to discuss matters and topics on a more personal level than is sometimes possible in the larger, general meeting. Everyone is invited to attend.

SPOUSES, led by Carolyn Wood, is a new group forming to support straight spouses of gays and lesbians.

7:00 - 8:00 pm Social and Refreshments

8:00 pm General Meeting & Program

The program for the October meeting will feature presentations and training sessions for **Project Open Mind**. Public relations and media experts from the National PFLAG office will be on hand to present the project details. The TV ads that have been prepared for Tulsa's prime time viewing audience will be shown, and our training for this exciting project will begin. Come and be a part of this incredible opportunity. See inside for more details.

### CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 28, 1995** (Thursday) 1995 Family to Family HELPLINE (1-800-24 PFLAG) See inside for details.

SEPTEMBER 29 THRU
OCTOBER 1 (Friday - Sunday)
INDY 95 PFLAG CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 30, 1995 (Saturday) AIDS Walk Tulsa '95, Walk This Way Boulder Park 9:00 am Registration 10:00 am Step Off 1:00 pm Jaycees' Battle of the Bands

OCTOBER 4, 1995 (Wednesday) Established Family AIDS Support Group 6:30 pm

OCTOBER 5, 1995 (Thursday) New Family AIDS Support Group 6:30 pm Call (918) 749-4901 for more info.

OCTOBER 9, 1995 (Monday) PFLAG General Meeting See left for details.

OCTOBER 13 THRU 15, 1995 (Friday - Sunday) AIDS Memorial Quilt Returns to Tulsa

OCTOBER 18, 1995 (Wednesday) Established Family AIDS Support Group 6:30 pm

OCTOBER 19, 1995 (Thursday) New Family AIDS Support Group 6:30 pm

### The 1995 Family to Family HELPLINE (1-800-24 PFLAG)

Family to Family is a one Day, national toll free help line for people who have recently learned that their child, family member or friend is. or might be gay. Family to Family puts callers in one on one confidential contact with parents, families and friends of lesbian and gav men and select professional counselors. The date is Thursday. September 28. 1995

### The Quilt Returns to Tulsa

The Tulsa Chapter, Names Project, announces that a major display of the Quilt will be in Tulsa on October 13 through the 15, 1995. The display of the Quilt will be at a new location, the Expo Square Pavilion on the Tulsa State Fairgrounds. There will be approximately 800 panels on display. PFLAG will participate in the unfolding of the Quilt. If you would like to be a member of the team, please call Nancy at 742-8565.

## **Project Open Mind**

Tulsa, OK, has been chosen as one of three cities (along with Atlanta, GA, and Houston, TX) to pilot Project Open Mind. This project, designed and supported by PFLAG's National Organization, will focus on addressing the homophobia that exists in a community. Through a multimedia (radio, TV, print, forums, speaking engagements, etc.) educational program we hope to reach Tulsa's "mushy middle" on gay/lesbian/bi issues. Tulsa's PFLAG chapter can look forward to special media training, materials for TV and radio, and access to national staff support.

## Are You a PFLAG Member?

Hopefully, you feel that our organization is worth supporting and that you enjoy receiving this newsletter. This organization has continued to grow because there are people out there who need the support PFLAG offers. As an organization, we are completely staffed by volunteers. Your membership fee is not a luxury to us-it is essential for our survival. Please use the form below to renew your membership with PFLAG Tulsa.

1995/1996 Dues Are Due!!!	\$8.00 of your dues will be sent to National PFLAG to enable you to receive the FLAGPOLE, the national		
(Clip and Mail to PFLAG, PO Box 52800, Tulsa, OK 74152)	quarterly newsletter. The PFLAG	pole is mailed to your	
MEMBERSHIPS:	home. If you do not want receive hove, please check the box		
Individual membership \$20.00	Families, and Friends of Lesbians the return address of the PFLAG		
Household membership \$30.00			
Supporting membership \$50.00	VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR TIME AND ENERGYINDICATE IN WHAT AREA YOU WILL		
Gift for the ongoing support of the Tulsa PFLAG Chapter	WANT TO WORK.		
Name:	Program	Library	
Name:	Hospitality	Funding	
Address:	Hot line	_Support Group	
City:St:ZIP:	Your participation will enable		

### **Urgent Responses Needed on Legislative** Activity!!

Congress has returned from its August recess and is planning to consider several pieces of legislation of critical importance to our community. We cannot pinpoint when they will do so, but we can prepare you to respond. Please read this Action Alert carefully and take action using the information the Human Rights Campaign Fund has provided.

Issue #1:

Critical AIDS Care, Prevention and Education Programs At Risk!!

During the seek of September 11-15, the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee will take up the L/HHS/Ed appropriations bill which determines FY '96 funding levels for most federal HIV/AIDS, health and education programs including: The Ryan White CARE Act, HIV Prevention, and the Office of AIDS Research (OAR). Thereafter, the full Senate will consider the bill on the Senate floor and vote on any amendments.

In the past years, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced amendments to the L/HHS/Ed bill which attempt to restrict the content of HIV prevention messages and youth's access to contraceptives. And, just last month, Helms introduced an amendment to the Ryan White CARE Act to deny funds to community-based organizations that "Promote Homosexuality." Such amendments single out the gay and lesbian community for discrimination by denying them life-saving HIV/AIDS medical care, prevention information and counseling.

Urge your Senators to Oppose any Anti-gay Amendments!

Call your Senators through the Senate switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to oppose all amendments to the L/HHS/Ed bill offered by Helms or others that single out the gay and lesbian community for discrimination. Ask your Senator to speak out on the Senate floor in support of life-saving HIV/AIDS programs.

Issue #2

Ryan White CARE Act Expires on September 30!

The Ryan White CARE Act provides essential lifesustaining medical and support services to more than 350,000 women, men and children living with HIV and AIDS in communities across America. It empowers local communities to decide how dollars should be spent and is cost-effective, reducing costly hospitalizations and emergency room care. AIDS is now the number one killer of all Americans age 25-44. Now, more than ever, we need the CARE Act, but it will expire at the end of September unless it is renewed or reauthorized!

HR 1872, the CARE Act reauthorization bill was reported to the House floor by a unanimous, bipartisan vote in the Commerce Committee. However, we are now concerned that Representative Bob Dornan (R-CA) and

### Oklahoma Congressional Delegation

	0
U.S. Senator Don Nickles 133 Hart U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5754	U.S. Rep. Steve Largent 410 Cannon U.S. House of Reps. Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-2211
3310 Mid-Continent Tower 409 So. Boston Tulsa, OK 74103 918-581-7651	2424 East 21st, Suite 510 Tulsa, OK 74114 918-749-0014
U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe 453 Russell U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4721	U.S. Rep. Tom Coburn 511 Cannon U.S. House of Reps. Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-2701
1924 So. Utica, Suite 530	215 State Street, Suite 815 Muskogee, OK 74401

others may introduce amendments to the bill that would deny critical HIV/AIDS medical care to the gay and lesbian community.

Muskogee, OK 74401

918-687-2533

Urge your Senators to Oppose any Anti-gay Amendments!

Call your Representative through the House switchboard at 202-225-3121 and urge them to oppose all amendments offered to HR 1872 that would deny critical HIV/AIDS medical care to the gay and lesbian community. Ask your Representative to speak out on the House floor in support of this life-saving program.

Issue #3

Tulsa, OK 74104

918-748-5111

### Anti-gay Hearings on School Programs Planned!!

Anti-gay extremist Lou Sheldon, the head of the Traditional Values Coalition, has succeeded in pressuring Congress to hold hearings on public school programs which deal with issues of sexual orientation. Sheldon will use this forum to attack programs that he clams "promote" homosexuality but which, in fact, are modest programs, adopted by local communities, to respond to an epidemic of violence and discrimination that affect all students.

The issue of the "homosexual agenda in schools" will be part of a hearing entitled "Parental Involvement in Social Issues in Education" to be held by Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), Chair of the House Oversight and Investigations subcommittee of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee. The hearings were originally scheduled for September 12, but have been postponed, to the end of September or early October. Urge Chairman Hoekstra to cancel the hearing!!

Please call Chairman Hoekstra at 202-225-4401 to urge him to cancel these inflammatory hearings!

### ABOUT PFLAG

Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a not for profit, tax exempt, all volunteer, community-based organization of parents, other relatives and friends of lesbian and gay persons. PFLAG is not affiliated with any ethnic, religious or political group. PFLAG/ Tulsa is a member of the international federation of the same name.

### OUR PURPOSES AND GOALS ARE TO:

▼ Provide a support system for families and friends of lesbians and gay men in an effort to understand, accept and support their children with love and pride,

▼ Provide education for individuals and the community at large on the nature of

homosexuality, and

▼ Support the full human and civil rights of lesbians and gay men.

We gratefully accept advertising from those who wish to market their goods & services to our members, space permitting. As a non-profit organization, however, we do not endorse any business enterprise.

Sandra J. Hill, M.S.

Psychotherapy and Clinical Consultation

2865 East Skelly Drive Suite 215 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105 (918) 745-1111



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WOOD BLINDS

MINI'S VERTICALS
SHUTTERS

UPHOLSTERY BEDSPREADS

BACK ROW OF SHOPS WEMBLEY CENTER

### Established Family AIDS Support Group

Wednesday, October 4, 1995 & Wednesday, October 18, 1995

6:30 pm HIV Resource Center 4154 South Harvard Suite H

### New Family AIDS Support Group

Thursday, October 5, 1995 & Thursday, October 19, 1995

Call 749-4901 for Location and Time

PFLAG/ Tulsa's Family AIDS Project, HIVRC, and the Tulsa Visiting Nurses Association now provide two bimonthly support groups for families with members who are living with HIV/AIDS. These sessions are facilitated by professional counselors who have experience in AIDS related concerns. If you or a loved one are dealing with HIV/AIDS you are most welcome at these meetings.



GENE REID (918) 836-4007 5634-C S. 122nd E. Ave. Tulsa, OK 74146

## KELLY H. KIRBY

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## tohr and HIV

Many may wonder why a human rights organization manages the only anonymous HIV testing clinic in northeastern Oklahoma. Perhaps a visit to the past and a look at the present might explain.

In the mid-to-late 80's when AIDS was first becoming a regular part of our Oklahoma vocabulary, tohr was one of the few organizations already positioned to provide HIV prevention activities. The first Testing/Counseling program was developed in response to what tohr believed was a fundamental human right - the right to be tested for the HIV virus in an anonymous fashion. Who better to protect the rights and anonymity of Tulsa's gay, lesbian, and bisexual community than the city's oldest gay and lesbian organization?

Today, the work of the clinic is greatly expanded. Testing and counseling continue on an anonymous basis while outreach workers provide prevention information to gay men, youth, and women. Although many organizations now provide HIV/AIDS services, tohr remains steadfast in its goal of providing some HIV services by and for, (but not exclusively for) the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community.

Programs like the newly established Positively Negative continue to provide prevention services specifically designed to meet the needs of the gay and bisexual men. Positively Negative is one of the first programs in the Nation to explore a new method for promoting the prevention of HIV.

tohr was originally chartered to: (1) bring an end to discrimination and oppression against all persons based on sexual or affectional orientation or preference; (2) to encourage freedom of expression of affectional orientation or preference; (3) to obtain equal treatment under the law for all persons regardless of sexual orientation or preference; (4) to discourage prejudice or stereotypical treatment by officials and news media on account of sexual

orientation or preference; (5) to educate the general public about human rights; (6) to provide a forum for the discussion of human rights issues, and; (7) to disseminate information on such issues to its members and to the general public.

Some may argue that our mission is not in line with our two HIV programs (prevention and anonymous testing). Prevention for the members of our community benefits all of us. Secondly, many of the battles fought on behalf of individuals living with HIV or AIDS have also been battles related to discrimination based on sexual orientation. No matter how much we would like to separate the disease from the reality of our sexuality - a primary mode of transmission is through sexual activity. The very nature of exposure often leads to many individuals being "outed." Discriminatory treatment related to HIV is largely based on fear. It is also based on the fact that until recently, AIDS was considered a "gay disease."

Past comments from leaders of the religious right have forced us to address the human rights of persons who were not only HIV+ but who were also gay. "AIDS is God's way of destroying homosexuals" becomes a battle cry for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community, as well as for all those working in the area of HIV/AIDS.

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities across the Nation are now credited as being the protectors of rights, the providers of hope, and the promoters of services for persons living with IIIV or AIDS, regardless of their sexual orientation.

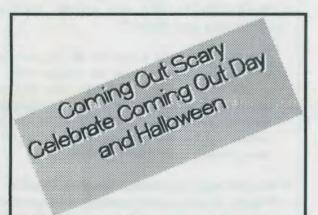
With all this behind us and so much more before us, the real question may be: "How can tohr NOT have a visible presence in the area of HIV/AIDS?"



### PROJECT OPEN MIND

The October 3rd meeting of tohr will feature PFLAG's Project Open Mind. The Tulsa PFLAG was chosen as one of three Project Open Mind sites nationwide. Hear the history of the Project, find out the exciting things to come, and learn more about how you might help PFLAG with this important Project. (See the PFLAG newsletter for additional information regarding Project Open Mind.)

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Gathering Place, 4154 South Harvard. A short business meeting, including the nominating committee's presentation of the 1996 tohr slate of officer candidates, will be held prior to the program.



### ALL COMMUNITY DANCE

Saturday October 21, 1995 8:00 PM to Midnight

Park Plaza Shopping Center - 61st and Sheridan Community Room - Behind Charleston Bay (Look for the purple ribbon) 61st and Sheridan \$3.00/single, \$5.00/couple (Costumes Optional) Don't renew your tohr membership without asking a friend to join with you. Although memberships are due on August 1, 1995, tohr gratefully accepts memberships throughout the year. If you've not sent your membership - please do so today and invite a friend to join you!

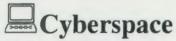
Please detach and mail to: P.O. Box 52729, Tulsa,			
OK 74152			
Name:			
Address:			
City:State;_Zip;			
Phone:			
Signature:			
□ \$10 Limited Income/Student Membership			
□ \$20 Regular Membership			
☐ \$35 Organizational/Household Membership			
□ \$100 Sustaining Membership			
O I am currently receiving tohr mailings			
O I am not on the mailing list			
O Please contact me about volunteering			

## Say No to Hate

A week of "Say No to Hate" activities are currently being planned for October 16 -20, 1995. Friday October 20 has been dedicated to Say No to Racism and Hate Crimes. Activities (tentatively scheduled) include an 11:30 AM "march" from the north side of the Martin Luther King bridge to the Cultural Center on Greenwood. This is a chance for the gay and lesbian community of Tulsa to join with others and have a presence in saying no to hate crimes. Complete details will be available by calling the Helpline at 743-GAYS after October 5th.

UCO Women's Research & BGLTQ+ Center 100 N. University Dr Edmond, OK 73034

# Alternative Resources

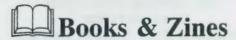


Gay World Net - The Online Service to the Gay and Lesbian Community - 1-800-953-0065 for info

Eye Contact - Exclusively Lesbian Nationwide Online Service or Gay Men's Worldwide Computer Bulletin Board - For a local number and logon instructions call 1-800-949-2668

OUT. com - Your one-stop OUT source on the World Wide Web - http://www.out.com

In a Different Light - "explores the gay and lesbian experience in 20th century American art" http://www.uampfa.berkley.edu/exhibits/idl/dlhome. htul



Great Gay and Lesbian Places to Live,
"The Official Guide"

More than 130 cities and towns profiled. Available in book form (\$16.95) or on diskette (\$19.95). Call (901) 274-6620 for direct orders.

Like People in History: A Gay American Epic by Felice Picano; Viking Press "This is the big novel we've all been waiting for the gay Gone with the Wind." Edmund White

OUT - America's Best selling Gay and Lesbian Magazine

Subscriptions call 1-800-876-1199 (Also available at TomFoolery and Vicious Pink)

Denueve - The Lesbian Magazine
Subscriptions - write to Deneuve, 2336 Market
Street, #15, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call 818760-8983. (Also available at TomFoolery and
Vicious Pink)

The Family Next Door - For Lesbian and Gay Parents and the Children Who Fill Their Lives Subscriptions - P.O. Box 21580, Oakland, CA 94620

## Gifts, Cards, Etc.

Jungle Red

Located in the Habana Inn 2200 NW 39th Expressway - OKC Open

2 PM to 2 AM - Mon to Fri Noon to 2 AM - Sat & Sun

### **TomFoolery**

Located in Family of Faith MCC
5451-E South Mingo
Open (October 14th)
Noon to 6PM on Saturdays
(Sunday openings coming soon)
15% of gross sales benefit Tulsa organizations

#### Vicious Pink

Located in Concessions 3340 S. Peoria - Tulsa Open 2 PM to 2AM - Thurs to Sun



#### Available on Video

- Boys in the Band
- (A) Personal Best
- (A) Lianna
- (3) Once is Not Enough
- & Long Time Companion
- 3 The Hunger
- (A) Prick Up Your Ears
- (A) Desert Hearts
- Philadelphia
- Boys on the Side
- 3 The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
- (A) Claire of the Moon
- (a) La Cauge Aux Folles

### Coming Soon to Video

(October 31)

#### Recently Shown, Now Showing or Coming Soon

- The Incredibly True Story of Two Girls in Love
- The Sum of Us
- (A) Jeffrey (Movies 8)
- To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar (Eton Square, Eastland Mall, Promenade)

# Alternative Activities



Hoisting the Banner of Color

A Regional HIV Prevention Education and Substance Abuse Conference. October 9-10, OKC. Contact Dennis Green at CarePoint, Inc. for information 1-800-285-2273.

**Creating Change** 

The National Conference for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Movement, November 10-12, Detroit, MI. Call 202-332-6438 for information

### Other Activities

Phillip Morris/Virginia Slims Legends Tennis
Tournament - Implemented by the National AIDS
Fund and benefitting CarePoint, Inc. - OKC
Concerts

October 6th - Gladys Knight and Regina Belle October 7th - Barbara Mandrell and Martina McBride

#### **Tennis**

October 7 & 8 - featuring Martina Navratilova, Bille Jean King, Chris Evert, and many more Call CarePoint for more information 1-800-232 2273 or 405-232-2437

National Coming Out Day
Service at Family of Faith - MCC
5451-E South Mingo
October 11, 1995 Call 622-1441 for details

Their Legacy Lives On... The NAMES Project
AIDS Memorial Quilt Display

Opening ceremonies 6:30 PM Friday October 13 October 13 - 15 at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Pavilion Building

Women's Supper Club - Picnic at Zink Park on 31st between Utica and Peoria Bring a covered dish and a yard game October 15th, Call 743-GAYS for more info

Coming Out Scary Dance - October 21st See this issue for additional information

### Herland Fall Retreat

October 27-29, Fountainhead State Park Call 405-521-9696 for information The Third Annual Boo Bash - Benefitting RAIN
October 28 at The Silver Star

Mr. Oklahoma Leather Contest November 4 at The Silver Star

### **COMING SOON**

GAY TULSA: A guide to businesses serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community of Tulsa and the Surrounding Areas. Watch for it in October

### Red Ribbon Treefest

December 3, 1995 - Watch for additional information in next month's Community News

All Community Holiday Party
sponsored by tohr
December 8, 1995 - Watch for additional
information in next month's Community News



RING, RING - ANSWER THE PHONE.

Tulsa's Gay and Lesbian HelpLine needs your help. Approximately 10 volunteers are currently needed to answer the Helpline and provide information and assistance to members of our community and visitors to the Tulsa area. If you have been looking for a special way to help get information and assistance to Tulsa's Gay and Lesbian community, THIS IS IT! Call the Helpline at 743-GAYS and leave a message for the Helpline Coordinator.

Alternative Activities and Resources may not reflect a complete listing of resources and activities. If we have failed to include your specific resource or event, we apologize. Future information to be included in this listing should be sent to Community News, P.O. Box 52729, Tulsa, OK 74152 or faxed to 918-584-4541. Submission deadline is the 15th of every month.