



Parents, Families & Friends
of Lesbians And Gays

PFLAG WEAVER

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays/Dallas

January, 2003

Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends, through *support*, to cope with an adverse society; *education*, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and *advocacy*, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.



PFLAG provides the opportunity for confidential dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.



NATIONAL WEB SITE
www.pflag.org



DALLAS WEB SITE
www.pflagdallas.org



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Newsletter Deadline:

January 9, 2002
by mail, fax or e-mail

Next Meeting

January 9, 2002
Second Thursday, 7-9:30 p.m.
Midway Hills Christian Church
11001 Midway Road, Dallas

Mel Gibson...now Cracker Barrel. What next?

Cracker Barrel adds sexual orientation to non-discrimination policy

by Wayne Besen
Gay Financial Network

The board of CBRL Group Inc., the parent company of Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores and Logan's Roadhouse restaurants, has voted unanimously to add sexual orientation to the company's non-discrimination policy.

Cracker Barrel, based in Old Lebanon, Tenn., drew national attention in 1991 when it instituted a company policy that called for terminating employees "whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values which have been the foundation of families in our society."

At least 11 workers were fired as a result. The company's discrimination – which was legal in the states where it occurred and remains legal under federal law – touched off protests and boycotts at Cracker Barrel restaurants.

Cracker Barrel later revoked the policy, once described as a "well-intentioned overreaction to the perceived values of our customers," but until now, had not expressly protected gay employees from workplace discrimination.

In fact, the company recommended that shareholders vote against the sexual orientation resolution again this year. The measure would have garnered about 58 percent of the vote, according to numbers provided by a company official.

A shareholder proposal to add sexual orientation to the company's non-discrimination policy would have received a majority of the votes cast Nov. 26. But because no sponsor was present at the meeting to introduce the proposal, no formal vote was held.

This was the 10th time such a resolution was put before CBRL shareholders. The resolution was sponsored by the New York City Employees Retirement System, NYCERS.

"This small step has enormous significance for every gay or lesbian employee who has ever experienced job discrimination," said Human Rights Campaign Education Director Kim I. Mills, who oversees the organization's workplace advocacy project, HRC WorkNet.

"Cracker Barrel has undergone important cultural changes in the last 10 years, but until now has resisted rewriting its non-discrimination policy. This long-awaited change is a watershed and we welcome it."



Cracker Barrel was one of only three companies to earn a zero on HRC's 2002 Corporate Equality Index, which rates major U.S. companies on their policies toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors. Another company that had scored a zero, Lockheed Martin Corp. of Bethesda, Md., has announced that it would add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy and begin to provide health insurance benefits to gay employees' domestic partners.

"I am pleased that Cracker Barrel has approved the NYCERS resolution that asked the company to implement non-discriminatory policies relating to sexual orientation and to add explicit prohibitions against such discrimination to its corporate employment policy statement," said New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson.

"This is the result of a lengthy campaign by my office and the trustees of several of the city's pension systems. Working together, we hope to continue to push additional companies to enact other non-discriminatory policies in the future."

New York City Commissioner of Finance Martha E. Stark praised the move as well.

"We are proud of the role our pension fund has played in persuading Cracker Barrel to change its policies," said Stark, who chairs NYCERS.

"Though it has taken 10 years of shareholder pressure to make this historic change, it is a major achievement for everyone who believes in equal employment opportunity for all."

A total of 298 Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in company non-discrimination policies and 180 provide domestic partner benefits, according HRC WorkNet, which maintains a comprehensive online database of employer policies.

GLAAD's nominees for 14th annual GLAAD Media Awards

*'The Hours,' 'Far From Heaven,' 'Frida,' 'The Shield,' 'Sex and The City,'
Court TV, 'Teen People,' National Catholic Reporter among nominees*

by Scott Seomin
Entertainment Media Director

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the nominees for its 14th Annual GLAAD Media Awards presented by Absolut Vodka. The awards will take place in three ceremonies to be held in New York City on April 7, 2003 at the New York Marriott Marquis; in Los Angeles on April 26 at the Kodak Theater; and in San Francisco on June 7 at the Westin St. Francis.

The GLAAD Media Awards recognize and honor the media for their presentation of fair, accurate and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect our lives.

"Diverse media images continue to display the broad spectrum of our lives and stories, and this year's Media Awards nominees testify once again to the culture-changing power of those images," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD's executive director. "This past year, 'The Hours' and 'Far From Heaven' offered a window on our families and struggles; HBO's 'Real Sports' interview with openly gay former NFL player Esera Tuaolo and Court TV's gavel-to-gavel coverage of the landmark *Kantaras v. Kantaras* transgender custody case increased understanding of the reality of LGBT experiences; and *USA Today* and *National Catholic Reporter* coverage of the Catholic Church sex-abuse crisis exposed attempts to scapegoat innocent gay priests. Individually and collectively, this year's nominees made a powerful case for fairness and equality, and it's our privilege to honor them."

GLAAD Media Awards nominees were published, released or broadcast between Dec. 1, 2001 and Nov. 30, 2002 (with the exception of film category nominees, which were released between

Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2002). Nearly 1,000 media projects were considered in 23 categories.

This year, GLAAD expects more than 6,000 people to attend the three ceremonies, raising more than \$2.5 million for the organization's work. Founded in 1985, GLAAD is a national organization with staff of 32, an annual operating budget of \$5.8 million, and offices in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco.

More than 100 corporate sponsors are showing their support, including Absolut Vodka which is returning to the Media Awards as the Presenting Sponsor. GLAAD is proud to acknowledge the 14-year commitment of Absolut to the Media Awards as the Founding Sponsor, and their 22 years supporting the LGBT community. David Bohnett Foundation, the Michael Palm Foundation and Terry K. Watanabe are also major sponsors of the event. American Airlines (GLAAD's official airline), Anheuser Busch/Bud Light, Coors Brewing Company, Motorola and Wells Fargo Bank join the Media Awards as the event's Underwriters. AOL-Time Warner, AT&T, Jaguar/Land Rover and Perrier are Gold Patron sponsors of the event. Bloomberg News; William Derrough & Alvaro Salas; Rufus Gifford & Russell Bennett; Hansen, Jacobson, Teller, Hoberman, Newman, Warren & Sloane, L.L.P.; JPMorgan Chase, The Mansfield Hotel, Sundance Channel, *Time Magazine*, Barry Skovgaard & Mark Wolinsky, the David Geffen Foundation, Garry & Barbara Marshall; and Verizon are also sponsoring the event.

Nominees for the 14th Annual GLAAD Media Awards

Outstanding Film, Wide Release – *Far From Heaven* (Focus Features), *Frida* (Miramax Films), *The Hours* (Paramount Pictures), *The Rules of Attraction* (Lions Gate Films), *Sweet Home Alabama* (Touchstone Pictures)

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Nominees for the 14th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, *continued*

Outstanding Film, Limited Release – 8 Women (Focus Features), Borstal Boy (Strand Releasing), His Secret Life (Strand Releasing), Kissing Jessica Stein (Fox Searchlight Pictures), Y Tu Mamá También (IFC Films)

Outstanding Comedy Series – Sex and the City (HBO), Will & Grace (NBC)

Outstanding Drama Series – Once and Again (ABC), Queer As Folk (Showtime), The Shield (FX), Six Feet Under (HBO), The Wire (HBO)

Outstanding Individual Episode (in a series without a regular gay character) – “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner, Honey?” George Lopez (ABC), “My Own Private Rodeo” King of the Hill (Fox), “Pararse” Resurrection Blvd. (Showtime), “Relax!” Grounded for Life (Fox), “Scared Straight” Crossing Jordan (NBC)

Outstanding Television Movie – The Badge (Starz!), Bobbie’s Girl (Showtime), The Laramie Project (HBO), The Matthew Shepard Story (NBC)

Outstanding Documentary – Gay Weddings (Bravo), Middle School Confessions (HBO), Southern Comfort (HBO), Trembling Before G-d (New Yorker Films), True Life: I’m Coming Out (MTV)

Outstanding Daily Drama – All My Children (ABC), Daniela (Telemundo), Undressed (MTV)

Outstanding Television Journalism – “Coming Out” Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel (HBO), “Kantaras v. Kantaras” CourtTV (CourtTV), “A Matter of Choice?” Nightline (ABC), “Nick News Special Edition: My Family is Different” Nick News with Linda Ellerbee, (Nickelodeon), “Rosie’s Story: For the Sake of the Children” Primetime Thursday (ABC)

Outstanding Newspaper Article – “Coming Out: Revelation Alters Daughter’s Relationship with Folks” by Martha Irvine (The Associated Press), “Dos Madres para un Hogar (Two Mothers in One Household)” by Patricia A. Gonzalez-Portillo (*La Opinión [Los Angeles]*), “Gay Muslims Face a Growing Challenge Reconciling Their Two Identities” by Robert F. Worth (*The New York Times*), “Mauling Death Creates an Activist” by Anna Gorman (*Los Angeles Times*), “Queer and Present Danger” by Ken Picard (*Independent [Missoula, Mont.]*)

Outstanding Newspaper Columnist – Margery Egan (*The Boston Herald*), Thomas Oliphant (*The Boston Globe*), Leonard Pitts, Jr. (*The Miami Herald*), Deb Price (*The Detroit News*), Steve Rothaus (*The Miami Herald*)

Outstanding Newspaper Overall Coverage – *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *USA Today*

Outstanding Magazine Article – “About a Boy Who Isn’t” by Benoit Denizet-Lewis (*The New York Times Magazine*), “Free and Clear” by Esera Tuaolo with Luke Cyphers (*ESPN The Magazine*), “Indian Gays Step Out” by Kavita Chhibber Narula (*Little India [Reading, Pa.]*), “A Killing in Colorado” by Jon Barrett (*Teen People*), “Mormon Family Values” by Katherine Rosman (*The Nation*)

Outstanding Magazine Overall Coverage – *AsianWeek*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Teen People*, *TV Guide*

Outstanding Music Album – Become You, Indigo Girls (Epic Records), Cookie: The Anthropological Mixtape, Meshell Ndegeocello (Maverick Records), Crucible, Halford (Sanctuary Records), Release, Pet Shop Boys (Sanctuary Records), A Wonderful World, k.d. lang & Tony Bennett (Sony Music).

Outstanding Talk Show – “Adopted by Gay Parents” The Rosie O’Donnell Show (syndicated), “Gays in Sports” Donahue

(MSNBC), “Dolly Parton” So Graham Norton (BBC America).

Outstanding Comic Book – The Authority (Wildstorm/DC Comics), Green Lantern (DC Comics), Murder Mysteries (Dark Horse Comics), Strangers in Paradise (Abstract Studio), X-Statix (Marvel Comics).

Outstanding Los Angeles Theater – The Big Voice: God or Merman?, A Cold Coming We Had of It, The Day I Stood Still, Dementia, Drama Club.

Outstanding New York Theater, Broadway & Off-Broadway – Elle, The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?, Kilt, A Man of No Importance, Take Me Out.

Outstanding New York Theater, Off-off Broadway – A to B, Rhapsody in Seth, Single Wet Female, Spanked!, Zanna, Don’t!

Outstanding Washington, D.C., Theater – Corpus Christi, Glory Box, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, The Laramie Project, Not As Cute As Picture.

A great big PFLAG thank-you to Jim McBride!

Nov. 30, Jim trained five members to be rap group facilitators. Those trained were Dave Gleason, Jan LaMasters, Kathy Collier, Ginger Georgulas, and Jordan Carter. With Donna Akin, Sandy B. and Joan Nall, we now have eight trained facilitators.

E-cyclopedia’s glossary of words for ‘gay’

BBC News

Since 1998, the E-cyclopedia has been charting the use and abuse of particular words behind the news headlines.

Amid rising debate – inspired by the UK Government and legal authorities – about what are suitable terms for minority sexual groups, here as a special public service is a one-stop primer clarifying what words are in and out about being in or out.

- “homosexual,” from now on, the word that dare not speak its name. The UK government has decided that, following consultation with the gay community, the term “homosexual” will not be used in its papers. The word was coined in 1869 by Hungarian writer Karl Maria Kertbeny; its introduction was in fact intended to stop use of the word “pederast.” For decades “homosexual” was regarded as a non-discriminatory alternative to words like “queer,” ironically a word now preferred by some gay groups.

- “gay,” still part of the government’s vocabulary (just), and still the most widely used term. However, opinions vary on how long it will be around. A spokesman for the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group said that, when judges were considering hate crimes against gays, they would best understand a simple term like “gays.” But gay writer Philip Hensher says young people now use “gay” to mean “hopelessly naff”; he suggests the use of “sodomites.”

- “lesbian,” as every schoolboy knows, owes its derivation to the Greek poet Sappho, who lived on the island of Lesbos. Still a perfectly acceptable term, even according to the government.

- “OTPOTSS,” the phrase which will replace “homosexual” in the government’s anti-discrimination laws. Short for “orientation towards people of the same sex”; has already inspired spin-offs, like “OTPOTSS-hags.” *The Sun* asked, “Will Northern gays be Lancashire OTPOTSS?”

- “LBGT,” another acronym, for lesbian, bisexual, gay and trans people (see below). The term which will define the groups who can be targets of “homophobic” hate-crimes, according to the Crown Prosecution Service.

- “Trans,” as in transsexual and transgender, and thus by extension transphobic crimes, those targeting the trans community. Emergence of word may have implications for sustainable trans-poor pressure group, Sustrans.

Page Four

Hey, Puddin's,

Happy New Year to all. This year promises to be an exciting one for our chapter. We have new co-presidents and new board members. We also have new members who want to get more involved. Big changes are in store for us.

With the help of the other PFLAG chapters in Texas, we will be hosting a PFLAG National Meeting in October.

We will be more visible in the public eye.

We will reach out to GLBT youth and let them know they are not alone even if their families shun them for being who they are.

We will continue to help parents process the news that they have a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered child.

We will continue to educate an ill-informed public.

Big changes are in store, and yet, PFLAG is still the same chapter that Pat and Dan Stone invited me to six years ago. I didn't know lesbians could go to a meeting! I thought it was strictly a support group for parents, families and friends. I soon learned that I could be a big help to struggling parents. Just by being me. Just by telling my story.

I'll never forget my first PFLAG meeting. You'd never know it to look at me now, but I was scared. I didn't know what to expect, and I didn't know anybody. The next one was a little easier.

I'd always look for Dan, and he was always there with a warm friendly smile that made me feel right at home. I'd attend the rap groups he led. He would speak from the heart. I could feel his pain when he'd tell about when his daughter announced she was lesbian, and that she and her partner were moving to the East Coast. He was more upset about her moving than her being lesbian. I found that incredible. He really loved his daughter.

I realized that I basically did the same thing to my parents. It must've been very painful for them to see me and my partner, with U-Haul (of course) in tow, starting our 1,200-mile trip to Texas. Listening to Dan and others, I got a sense of what it's like to be a parent.

I've been thinking a lot about Dan these days. I NEVER dreamed I'd be a co-president! The first rap group I led was in the same room Dan used lead his rap groups. I instinctively sat in the same chair he used to sit in. I had quite a few newcomers in my group, and we had an affirming heartfelt discussion, just like Dan used to lead with his groups.

I keep thinking about Dan because he was a role model for me, and I didn't even know it. With his friendly smile and warm demeanor, I felt right at home. It was easy to open up to someone who was passionate about acceptance and love ... about PFLAG.

Pat was president then and she led the meetings. She was so friendly and helpful. You could never put Pat out by asking her about anything concerning PFLAG. She was always available to answer questions. She helped me find an out-of-state chapter for my mom to attend. She too was passionate about PFLAG and its mission. I didn't realize it, but Pat was also a role model for me.

As I start on my journey of being co-president, I want to share that you never know who is listening to you. You never know who is instinctively looking to you as a role model. You never know whom you are affecting with a warm smile. You don't always know whom you are helping.

The most important thing we have is our story, and it is crucial to share it. Because in telling our stories, we learn that we are not so different after all. I can help someone else, just by being me. I never know. Maybe I'll be a role model for someone ... maybe even a future PFLAG president.

Pat Smith

Vermont's lesbian sheriff second in U.S.

(Texas was first)

Washington Blade (glbt)

NEWFANE, Vt. — A recount confirmed Dec. 4 that former Brattleboro police Sgt. Sheila Prue, a lesbian, defeated incumbent Sheriff Henry Farnum in last month's election, the Associated Press reported.

The recount gave Prue an additional 92 votes, increasing her margin of victory to 382 votes.

"I don't think she has any questions," Farnum said of Prue after the recount was final. "It appears to me she knows it all, and you can quote me."

Farnum said he believed he lost the election because Windham County is a Democratic stronghold, and that Prue's gender and sexual orientation helped her.

Others attributed Prue's election to a wish for change and a rejection of what they saw as a "good-old-boys network" that had grown during the tenure of longtime Sheriff William Graham.

Farnum has been sheriff since February, when he was appointed to the post by Gov. Howard Dean to succeed Graham.

Prue joins Margo Frasier, the sheriff in Travis County, Texas, the other openly gay law enforcement official.

Gay chorus sings at national arts tribute

Planet Out

For the first time in the 25-year history of the Kennedy Center Honors, a gay men's chorus performed on Sunday for the president, the first lady and the five honorees during the annual cultural tribute in Washington, D.C.

In a salute to movie star Elizabeth Taylor, one of the five honorees for 2002, the 160-member Gay Men's Chorus sang a version of "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" that was custom-arranged for the evening.

The Washington, D.C., group also joined Burt Bacharach and Dionne Warwick in a rendition of "That's What Friends Are For" in recognition of Taylor's efforts to boost AIDS research.

The other honorees for the evening were Broadway star Chita Rivera, actor James Earl Jones, singer-songwriter Paul Simon and conductor James Levine.

"This was a shining moment both for the chorus and for the gay and lesbian movement," Jeff Buhman, artistic director of the chorus, said in a written statement. "The chorus was proud to represent our fellow gay men and lesbians at such a prestigious event, in front of the president of the United States and, through the broadcast, in millions of homes across America."

The artistic celebration will be broadcast on television on Friday, Dec. 27, on CBS.

Newsletter deadline moved back

To build in a little slack in getting the newsletter to you in a timely fashion, I'm setting the deadline *firmly* for the date of the monthly meeting. Yeah, I know the notice has said that, but I've been cutting some slack and it's gotta stop. There's a two- to three-week turnaround between make-up and mailing and, since there are only four weeks most months, that's cutting it pretty fine.

So help me, help the printer, and help yourself get the newsletter earlier: if there's something you need in the newsletter, get it to me at the meeting. Thanks!

Ladye