



Parents, Families & Friends  
of Lesbians And Gays

# PFLAG WEAVER

## Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays/Dallas

July, 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

**PFLAG/Dallas**  
(Newsletter and all correspondence)  
P.O. Box 111148 • Carrollton, TX 75011

**972/77 PFLAG**  
(972/777-3524)

**PFLAG/Dallas Co-presidents:**  
Donna Akin – 972/443-1422  
pflagdonna@yahoo.com  
Pat Smith – 214/538-2574  
psmith@pflagdallas.org  
**Newsletter Phone/Fax**  
972/418-1898  
newsletter@pflagdallas.org

**Newsletter Deadline:**  
July 10, 2003  
by mail, fax or e-mail

### Next Meeting

July 10, 2003  
Second Thursday, 7-9:30 p.m.  
Midway Hills Christian Church  
11001 Midway Road, Dallas

### Our Pat Smith does Austin in style!

A few weekends ago I attended the Gill Foundation Training Institute in Austin.

I got a lot out of it, made some strong connections and learned a lot! Here's some of it.



• The buzzphrase these days is Youth Groups.

Organizations want to invest in the future by helping out the youth, yet these groups are not structurally sound or maintained well. Therefore, the group usually folds in three years. People make commitments they cannot keep, promising the youth group that they will help out. Subsequently, the youth get let down, once again proving to them that they are "worthless." Promises broken once again. So instead of helping the youth, the well-intentioned group hurts them.

Starting a youth group without proper procedures written by a board, without legal counsel and without proper facilitation and staffing, only does a disservice to the youth group. Therefore, it was strongly urged for us not to start any group that we couldn't properly sponsor or support. Isn't that interesting?



• Our database is VERY tiny.

Of course, I knew that. We don't have the manpower to properly establish a real fundraising database. Too bad – that information would come in really handy. Even though we are small, we could have fundraisers that could boost our visibility, and give us some cash flow.



• Our budget is lame.

I knew that, too. We only have money coming in from our membership that we can count on, and that's really only 50 people a year. I couldn't count the Black Tie money in our budget because it's not a given that we'll get it every year. And the amount varies.

Sitting next to the representative from Cathedral of Hope was very humbling. Her budget balanced to the cent. I couldn't do a fundraising budget because we have no real numbers to go by. Hers was in the millions; mine was in the negative thousands.

It's obvious to me we need to start a fund-

raising budget. We need to handle our money in a constructive manner, and we need to start getting a cash-flow that will help us in future fundraisers.

• We are partnering (with Board approval) with Cathedral of Hope.

Our first event is the free screening of "Family Fundamentals." We will have a panel of religious leaders at COH to discuss the movie in a town meeting kind of way after the screening. I have already booked Michael Adee to be our moderator. He speaks all over the nation, and he will ROCK!



• We need to find, keep and reward our volunteers.

We need to post the positions we need filled, and let people know exactly what we want from them, like Ladye did in the last newsletter for help with stuffing the newsletter.



• We can get grant money.

I learned how to do a grant proposal with cover letter. This could be very interesting!

• Jim Null from PFLAG/Houston was there.

He gave me the template for their billboard campaign. He told me that they had three billboards going at once all over the city. Every month the billboard locations changed. The most successful ones were on the way into the gay community. It gave the GLBT people a sense of pride seeing them. I never thought of that. Anyhow, the billboards cost \$70,000.00 for a year – three of them – in cruddy locations. Seeking out the advice of an outdoor advertising company is the way to go.

• PFLAG/Houston will not renew their ad in the Texas Triangle.

They feel they are preaching to the choir. So we are not partnering with them on an ad.

• We need to get corporate sponsors more involved with us.

That would be through fundraisers.

Lots of stuff, but a good seminar all the way around. Lots to think about, talk about, try to act upon.

*Pat Smith*

# Pro-gay Democratic slate shows progress

by Deb Price, The Detroit News

The current crop of Democratic presidential candidates is the most gay-friendly in history. In large measure, that's a reflection of how quickly our society's notion of fairness is progressing.

At this stage in the last presidential campaign, no candidate had a position on civil unions. Why? Because Vermont had not yet invented that legal status, which extends to gay couples all the state-level rights and responsibilities of marriage.

Now, civil unions are actively endorsed by six of the nine Democrats in the running: Former Vermont governor Howard Dean, Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, former senator Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, and the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York.

Dean brags of signing Vermont's history-making civil union bill into law in 2000, and has described that act as "in many ways the most important political event in my life." He says he'd go a step further as president and work for federal recognition of gay couples by, for example, extending Social Security survivor and spousal benefits to us.

As remarkable as it is to have a credible presidential candidate with such an outstanding record of helping gay Americans, three of Dean's rivals go further and take the next logical step. Kucinich, Moseley Braun and Sharpton support actual same-sex marriage.

Feel like you need a scorecard to keep track of where all the Democrats in this year's crowded field stand? Well, help is at hand.

A new report by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, available at [www.nglft.org](http://www.nglft.org), shows that all nine share a basic commitment to ending anti-gay job discrimination and are open to extending to gay couples at least some of the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

"The extreme right will try to characterize the stands of the Democratic candidates as pandering to the gay community. We show through polling data that the Democratic primary candidates' positions are more reflective of the average voter than the Republican leaders' are," says report co-author Sean Cahill, who analyzed the candidates' answers to an NGLTF survey as well as their voting records and public statements. The nonpartisan task force plans to release a similar report on President George Bush's record later this year.

As Cahill points out, the news media's increasing willingness to ask candidates about gay issues plus the proliferation of candidate forums mean that there will be plenty of opportunities for the laggards – Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina, Bob

Graham of Florida and Joe Lieberman of Connecticut – to be pressed to rethink their foot-dragging.

Graham recently told the *Boston Globe* that he supports "the general principle of recognizing the legal rights of gays and lesbians short of marriage." Can he tell us what he means? Does he think my partner, Joyce, should have the right to visit me in a hospital? Does he think she should have to keep paying special, anti-gay federal taxes just because I am on her health insurance plan?

And every candidate needs to be asked how they would begin reframing the national gay rights debate to emphasize that bringing minority groups further into the mainstream always benefits the rest of the country.

Our nation is a better place because in 1990 a Republican president, George H. W. Bush, signed a law aimed at tearing down the barriers that marginalized people with disabilities. The question for today's candidates is: How would you help the nation by tearing down barriers to gay progress?

Deb Price's column is published on Monday. You can reach her at (202) 662-7370 or [dprice@detnews.com](mailto:dprice@detnews.com).



## Did you know? PFLAG has an official airline!

It's American Airlines! Now you can help support PFLAG whenever you travel by using our official airline. Go to [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) or call 1-800-433-1790 and provide PFLAG's Business ExtrAA #527590. No waiting!

It costs you nothing, you get better service, and it helps PFLAG build a better relationship with American Airlines. Pass this number along to friends who want to book reservations, but don't want to hear "please wait 10 minutes for the next available agent."

Ken, this is for the Jenna Brouillette ad which I will send tomorrow about 10 a.m.

I need to have it scanned at work.  
Thanks.

You have the Ebby Halliday ad from May, I believe. I forgot it last month...



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## *Gays celebrate with pride at festival in park*

by Sonja Garza, San Antonio Express-News  
sgarza@express-news.net

For Justin Brown, an openly gay teenager attending a local high school, participating in Pride Fest 2003 on Saturday was a chance for him to feel like he belonged.

"I figured that here, I was part of something," the 16-year-old said, adding he's never been around such a large group of people who think the same way he does. Brown joined thousands of gays and lesbians in celebrating their pride and numbers at the 21st annual Pride Fest picnic at Crockett Park.

The all-day picnic included music, food booths, arts and crafts, female impersonators, a children's area, church booths and a health fair. Janie Ray, of San Angelo, attended the picnic with her partner and two daughters, ages 10 and 16. Ray's booth, The Rainbow Teen Group, dispensed information aimed at helping gay teens come out and helping their families. Her message, in part, was to make teachers more aware of the harassment many gay and lesbian students endure.

Saturday's picnic drew a couple of protesters across the street, carrying signs reading, "Save Us From Gays" and "Stop the Parade! Stop the Plague!" The protesters were largely ignored.

That night, several thousand people gathered on Main Street, cheering and whistling as the annual parade passed by. Singers, dancers and other performers delighted the crowd.

Pride Fest capped off the city's first Gay Pride Week proclaimed by the city; Mayor Ed Garza signed the proclamation last week. Lujan said, "The proclamation shows acknowledgement and recognition for our community."

## *'Meet The Press' excerpt*

**GUEST:** General Wesley Clark, Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander and Potential Democratic Presidential Candidate

**TIM RUSSERT:** So you have no problem having openly gay Americans serve in the military as long as they abided by the same code of conduct that heterosexuals abided by?

**CLARK:** Well, the British have a system. ... They call it – "Don't ask, don't misbehave." I think the leaders in the armed forces will look at that some day. But I have to tell you, also, we have got a lot of other issues on the plate for the United States armed forces, and this is one among many. And the men and women charged with those responsibilities need to look at those issues. But this is only one issue.

**RUSSERT:** But it's an important one to many Americans. *Parameters*, which is a journal published by the *U.S. Army War College Quarterly*, has an article by Professor Aaron Belkin of the University of California. He says that 24 countries now have gays in the military, most of our NATO partners. Would you allow American troops to serve in joint exercises with NATO partners that had gays in the military?

**CLARK:** They already are. And they served together in Kosovo and in Bosnia and so forth.

**RUSSERT:** That being the point, should the United States not allow openly gay people to serve in the military?

**CLARK:** Well, I think we need to charge the men and women responsible for the armed forces to come forward with that answer. I think that has to come from them based on what we need for the armed forces, as well as, you know, their concerns about society as a whole.

**RUSSERT:** But you'd look at changing the policy?

**CLARK:** Absolutely.

## *Gay stockbroker charged with Stewart*

Former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic was indicted recently in New York along with home design guru Martha Stewart in an insider trading scandal that has damaged Stewart's media empire.

Bacanovic, 41, who is openly gay, and Stewart, 61, face charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice in the nine-count federal indictment. He is also charged with perjury in testimony to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and creating false documents to explain Stewart's trade of ImClone stock.

The charges stem from Stewart's Dec. 27, 2001, sale of 4,000 ImClone Systems Inc. shares one day before news broke that an ImClone cancer drug was rejected by federal regulators. Stewart claims she sold due to a standing agreement with Bacanovic to unload the shares if the price went below \$60.

Federal investigators, however, contend that Stewart and Bacanovic fabricated their story to cover up what was an illegal trade based on insider information.

Both pleaded not guilty on Wednesday and were released, and Bacanovic was required to hand over his passport. Stewart subsequently resigned as chairwoman and chief executive of her company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

Another key figure in the scandal, Douglas Faneuil, who was Bacanovic's former assistant at Merrill Lynch, agreed to an SEC order forbidding him to ever work for a brokerage company or investment advisory firm.

Last year Faneuil pleaded guilty to concealing details about the trade. He is expected to testify against Bacanovic and Stewart.

In the case against Bacanovic, prosecutors allege that he altered a Merrill Lynch worksheet about Stewart's portfolio with a "\$60" notation next to the ImClone entry, according to the *New York Times*.

A highly visible society figure in New York, Bacanovic was reportedly hiding in Los Angeles in recent months to avoid media attention. Prior to the investigation, he was a popular escort, or "walker," for society housewives.

If convicted on all counts, he faces up to 25 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.25 million, *Newsday* reported. Stewart faces up to 30 years and \$2 million in fines.

## *Richard Chamberlain, actor*

by Christine Badowski, Chicago Tribune

**Q:** This very personal book "Shattered Love: A Memoir," reveals a lot about you. Why now?

**A:** I'm older now and the older you get, the more you think about life. [When I started to write] I wrote about life and ... was encouraged on all fronts to make it more about my personal life.

**Q:** You publicly come out as gay. Again, why now?

**A:** It really was not wise until now. I've been playing all these leading men roles and wasn't in a position to reveal it.

**Q:** Is Hollywood that homophobic?

**A:** I think Hollywood has a lot of the ignorance and prejudice of many parts of this country. You can say you're straight and that doesn't say anything about you. It doesn't say you're smart or dumb, good or bad. And you can say you're gay and it says almost nothing about you, whether you're a saint or a murderer ... but people have a lot of ideas about who you are [if you're gay].

**Q:** Ever feel guilty playing leading men?

**A:** Guilt? Not in the tiniest bit. You just do it, play the role.

**Q:** Some say Rosie O'Donnell should have come out sooner, like she lied to the public. Have you had that feedback?

**A:** I'm 69 years old. Who cares? If they do, it's totally their problem. I feel so liberated, so free. It's a non-issue for me.

## Page Four

### From the President

Hey, Puddin's –

Happy Fourth of July and National Ice Cream Month!

Well, talk about fireworks! Governor Perry just signed the "Defense of Marriage Act." This act, also known as "DOMA," states that a marriage consists of one man and one woman. It specifically prohibits lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders from marrying each other.

I don't understand what the big deal is. The way people react to GLBT people getting married, you'd think we had "Weapons of Marriage Destruction" out there! No, all we want is equal rights. We want to be able to visit our partners in the hospital in case of emergency or not. We want tax breaks. We want our unions to be official.

It's interesting how straight neo-Puritans keep trying to say that GLBT people are doing illegal acts by being together, and yet they won't let us get legally married! Sounds like the neo-Puritans are the ones with special rights.

I recently attended a Gill Foundation Institute seminar in Austin. Tim Gill is a gay man who'd had enough when his home state of Colorado almost passed "Amendment 2" which would have repealed existing laws that stopped discrimination against GLBT people. He gave \$1 million to help stop the amendment (which did not pass). He has since given annual donations of \$4 million to lesbian, gay and HIV/AIDS causes, as well as other non-gay organizations. His foundation sponsors seminars that teach non-profits how to be better organized. At the seminar I learned about fund-raising, grant-writing, getting corporate sponsorships and building a strong board. It was a lot of info in two days.

I had booked myself in the "Bates Motel" adjacent to the fancy hotel where the seminars were held. I mean, this hotel scared me and I'm not scared easily! I went over and booked into the nicer hotel. That made all the difference. Tim Gill believes that people who work for non-profits should be treated with respect. Too often people involved in non-profits work very hard with little reward. So we got very nice rooms for an affordable price – meals included.

Let me tell you, the difference between staying in a dump and staying at a nice hotel was like night and day. And it physically affected me. I felt better. So did other attendees, who were from all over the country. I spoke with mostly GLBT people. We all concluded that being treated right made a difference in our attitude toward the seminar, ourselves and even each other. When we settle for less, we think we are less.

Many times GLBT people believe that they are "less than." We believe all of the negative stereotypes that tell us we are bad, and worthless. That's why there's a high suicide rate among GLBT teens: no one tells us that we are worthwhile. No one cares enough to make a difference. It takes just one person to help us; one person who believes in us. Then we do amazing things.

PFLAG helps parents and friends become that person or persons. We educate, and dispel myths about GLBT people being worthless because of their sexual orientation. It's just not true. One person can make a difference in many people's lives. One person who says, "I care." When people feel worthless, they act worthless. PFLAG gives parents hope, and helps them help their children and friends be the best people they can be. And it keeps going around. It's good energy. One person *can* make a difference. Now there's something to celebrate!

*Pat Smith*

## Gays deserve a salute

**Dear Abby:**

Whenever I read in one of your columns a reminder about sending messages of encouragement to personnel in the military, I become frustrated. I would like to send a message, but I'm not sure where to send it.

I want to send encouragement, love and heartfelt thanks to all the gay men and women who serve our country whenever and wherever they are needed. In an already stressful situation, they have the added stress of staying in the closet. They not only have to fear the enemies of our country, but also that a homophobic colleague will betray them.

As it was in the Gulf War, their sexual orientation will be ignored because they are needed, but as soon as the action and/or threat is over, they will be tossed aside as many before them have been.

Please, Abby, let them know that we admire, care and think about them and the sacrifices they are making.

*Martin*

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

*I'm sure you wondered why I included this in our PFLAG newsletter. Well, Martin is an old friend of mine. When I first knew him, he was a Weight Watchers leader. Under his tutelage, I lost 100 pounds in ten months. Unfortunately, I found it again ... but that's not Marty's fault.*

*Now he's in Fort Lauderdale, waiting tables at an Italian restaurant and being besotted by his two birds. And seeing "A Chorus Line" every chance he gets: I truly can't remember how many times he's seen it. But he's on the mailing list – perhaps he'll let me know. – Ladye*



## NCOP-D/FW's Fruit Bowl strikes back!

**You're our only hope – bowl like you're saving the universe**

### **Fruit Bowl 2003**

Saturday, July 26, 2003, 1 p.m.

Don Carter's All Star Lanes Dallas – West  
10920 Composite Drive, Dallas, Texas

Fruit Bowl 2003 is coming up. Sign up now and save five dollars per bowler. Get out your bowling shoes and join our friends and families for a fun afternoon. Win fabulous trophies and cash prizes! Awards for best team uniforms (be creative). Register soon.

Form teams of four people or if you don't have a team, we can place you with one. If you register by July 14, the fee is \$20 per team member and you will be entered into a drawing for a FREE Don Carter's bowling party of your very own. One lucky team will win a party for up to five people (bowling, one large pizza and sodas included). After July 14 the cost is \$25 per team member.

Download your registration forms from the National Coming Out Project – DFW Web site at [www.comeout.org](http://www.comeout.org); look for it in the Fruit Bowl information of the Events section. While you're there, take a look at photos from Fruit Bowls of the past.

To learn more, contact National Coming Out Project – Dallas / Fort Worth at [www.comeout.org](http://www.comeout.org) or 214/521-5342, ext. 1725.



*Send me your news; I'll tell everybody!*