

News notes: sc

from the palmetto state

by Ed Madden

AFFA meeting features Matt Foreman

CHARLESTON — The Alliance for Full Acceptance will host Matt Foreman, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, at the May program meeting. The meeting will be held on May 11 at 6:15 p.m., preceded by networking with a cash bar at 5:45 p.m.



Matt Foreman

Admission to members and first-time visitors is free. Visitors admission is \$10.

NGLTF is the national progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, with the vision and commitment to building a powerful political movement.

PT's pronounces 'Pride Idol' a resounding success

COLUMBIA — Perhaps one of the largest, single fundraisers in the area, Pride Idol 2004 raised \$2,547, bringing nightspot PT's total contribution to this year's Pride festivities to \$3,580.

Tony at PT's Cabaret extends his thanks to both members and patrons for making their events such a success this year. "As of December 2003, we had channeled \$37,377 back into the community for various causes. The Pride Idol total puts us over the \$40,000 mark!" he said. "Sure, we're proud, but without [our patrons], it just couldn't happen!"

Rainbow Alliance Town Hall raises awareness

AUGUSTA, Ga. — On Apr. 15 the CSRA Rainbow Alliance along with the Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, the SCGLPM and Georgia Equality held a town meeting in Augusta. The purpose of the event was to discuss with those living in the Augusta and Aiken area issues of importance to the GLBT communities of Georgia and South Carolina. "We were very happy with the results of this meeting," said Lisa Hall, chair of the Rainbow

Alliance. She noted a real increase in attendance from previous events, adding, "The Aiken-Augusta area has always been a bit reclusive about getting involved in GLBT issues. I believe that is getting ready to change after the town hall meeting, and its very exciting to be a part of that change."

GLPM Town Hall draws diverse, vocal crowd

COLUMBIA — GLPM and other community organizations hosted, "Religious Leaders Speak Out: A Town Hall Meeting on Church, State, and Same-Sex Marriage" on Apr. 20. The event drew a crowd of over 200 people, including students from the Benedict College (historically African-American school in Columbia), Columbia International University (a conservative evangelical Christian college) and the University of South Carolina. The forum featured five speakers from various religious traditions, and differing viewpoints on gay marriage. After the short presentations from the speakers, the meeting was opened up to comments and questions from the audience.

Organizers called the event an "important outreach to critical communities." Organizers gathered letters and postcards to deliver to South Carolina senators on the anti-gay marriage and benefits legislation.

Sponsors were the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, SC Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement, SC Equality Coalition, USC College of Social Work, and the USC Department of Religious Studies. Cosponsoring organizations included the Carolina Peace Resource Center, Columbia PFLAG, Lambda Legal, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, Social Work Student Association, USC BGLSA, USC Department of Women's Studies, and the USC Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. This is GLPM's third town hall meeting in the past year, each offering significant outreach to the local community on gay and lesbian issues.

Center to offer women's counseling and support group

COLUMBIA — Feeling disconnected? Struggling with lifestyle choice? Trying to figure out how to talk with family members about your lifestyle and your partner? Feeling like an "alien" at school, at work and at family gatherings?

Columbia-based counselor, Kerry

Lachance, MA, LMSW, LPCI, will facilitate a bi-weekly women's counseling and support group at the SC Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Lachance has worked in the field of community mental health for more than 20 years and is a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern. She is a doctoral candidate at the USC School of Public Health.

Kerry believes that we each have an Inner Wisdom which will guide us in life as we learn to listen its voice and a need to be in community with others who, just like us, yearn for connection and wholeness. The group is forming now and will begin on May 22, from 2-4 p.m. The initial plan is for the group to meet on the second and fourth Saturday of each month; however, there is some flexibility.

At the first meeting, the group will discuss preferences about moving the meeting day to a weeknight and will go with group consensus. The group is open to adult women and will be limited to eight participants. If more than eight persons are interested, Lachance will consider starting a second group. The fee for each group is \$5 per person with all fees going to the Center.

Info: email SCPrideCenter@aol.com

Gay bowling leagues being formed

GREENVILLE — The Freedom League, a gay and lesbian bowling league in Greenville, is into its fourth season with 42 men and women participating and the organizers are now trying to start similar leagues in Columbia and Hilton Head. If you are interested in joining the leagues, contact Dale at Out of Bounds at 864-239-0106.

SCGLPM Community Center hosts gay TV night

COLUMBIA — S.C. Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement offers "GayTV night" on Wednesdays as a way to inform, entertain and celebrate how far the LGBT community has come. They're featuring contemporary and classic television shows and motion pictures that touch on all facets of the gay community, including our ever-changing images and our favorite idols. Upcoming planned events include:

Gays behaving badly: includes the camp classic action picture "Cleopatra Jones," in which Oscar-winning actress Shelly Winters portrays the lesbian drug lord, "Mommy."

Spot the gay images (and win a free DVD): featuring the horror motion picture "Fright Night." The person who spots and names the most homoerotic/gay images in this motion picture wins a free DVD.

Look how far we've come: featuring classic and controversial gay-oriented motion pictures of yesteryear such as "The Killing of Sister George," "Cruising," "Caged" and "Victim."

Let's all laugh: featuring a "Designing Women" marathon night and motion pictures such as "In & Out" and "Jeffrey."

Diva Night: featuring "Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte" (Bette Davis), "Mildred Pierce" (Joan Crawford) and "Suspect" (Cher).

What were they thinking: featuring gay-oriented stinkers like "Boat Trip."

Info: SCPrideCenter@aol.com or CharleKenghis@aol.com

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