



Him Just for Us

January 18, 1997

A Newsletter for Stefan Lynch from His Loving Friends Everywhere (HLFE)

Kate's Korner

Time warp!!! Travel back to the summer of 1992, when a group of motivated, support-seeking, friendly and queer families got together in the name of GLPCI to spend a July weekend in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Much like a family gathering, though a lot like a conference, the weekend was full of fun, laughs and tears. While the parents were amusing themselves with those things that they do — their children, of all ages, were talking and bonding.

History was being made. Here a 12 year old girl was about to experience a weekend that would change her life....

Many events stick out in my head, although meeting Stefan is one of the clearest memories I have of the conference.

..Continued on Page Two..

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Welcome
Food and mingle

Tributes and Triumphs
MC Rachel Hulstein- COLAGE member
Mike Beebe- COLAGE SC Chair
Mary Schmidt- Development colleague
Andre Jacinto- GLPCI President's message

Roast 'Em and Toast 'Em Skit
"Stefan's Nightmare"

Liz Hendrickson- Former ED of NCLR
Tim Fisher- Executive Director of GLPCI

Video presented by Hope Berry
Co-Founder of COLAGE

BREAK

Cake and Toasts
Toastmistress - Beth Teper- COLAGE SC member

Felicia Park- Rogers- Director of COLAGE
Liz Haas- COLAGE SF/Bay Area groups coordinator
Rachel Timoner- Friend and colleague
Gail Lynch- Stefan's Mom
Gift Presentation
Stefan Lynch

This entire evening is dedicated to Stefan Lynch, Director of COLAGE for three years. We wanted to gather members, colleagues, friends, and family to celebrate and honor not just the work of Stefan, but the person himself. He has played an important role in fighting for social justice and to end the isolation of kids with queer parents. In the process he was a visionary and a friend to many. Thank you Stefan for all that you have done and all that you are.

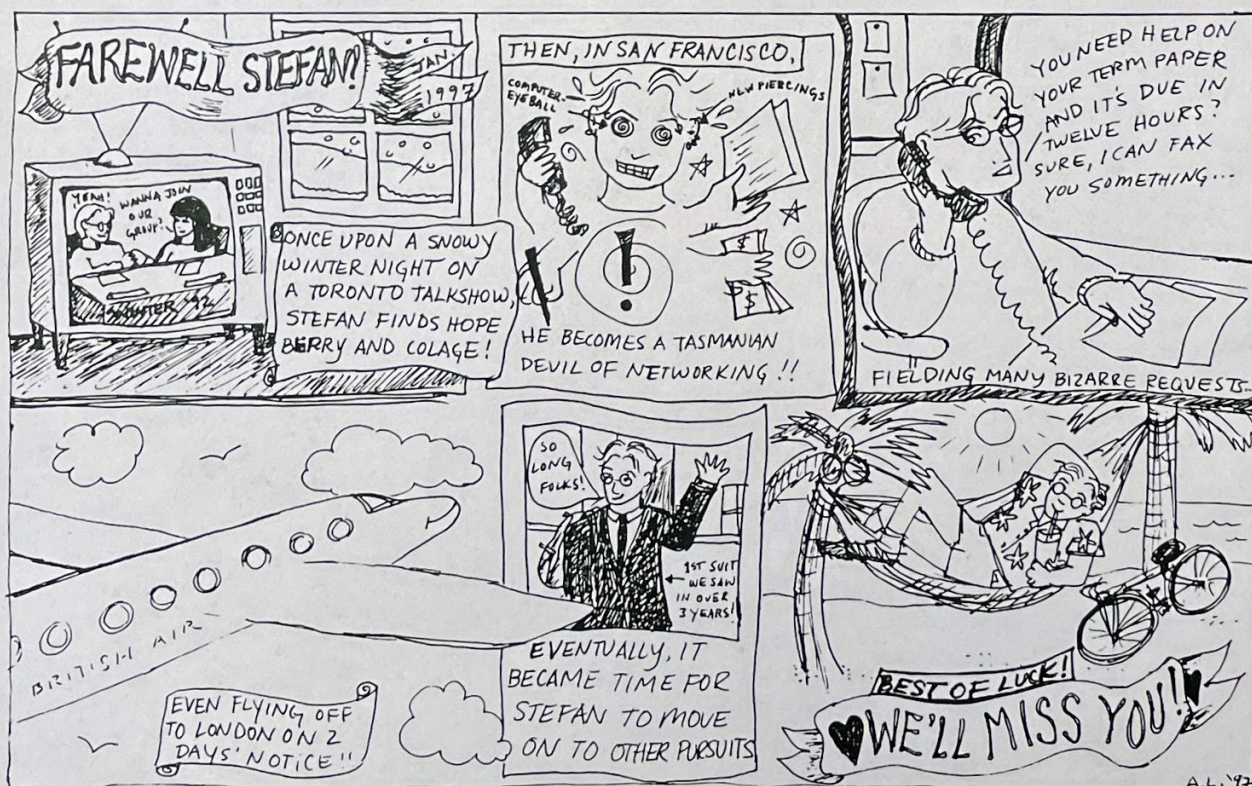
Tonight's festivities have been brought to you by the COLAGE: Roots & Wings Committee, made up of Hope Berry, Rachel Hulstein, Felicia Park-Rogers, and Beth Teper. The mission of the Roots & Wings Campaign is to increase awareness and visibility of kids with glbt parents in glbt communities as well as in the mainstream community, and to increase the capacity of COLAGE to achieve these goals.

Our name comes from the phrase "A community must give its children roots to grow and wings to fly."

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DANCING!!



Kate's Korner

...Continued from Page One...

I am sure that we had spoken earlier but Saturday night stands out. It was the usual banquet time, lots of people in varying attire. I remember everything, the tables, the centerpieces, the colors on the wall. Most importantly I remember standing next to a tall striking man and conversing for some time. I even remember his outfit. (Being twelve at the time I didn't know what the conversation would bloom into and how much the ramifications would shape my life.)

The next day it was time for the wrap up session, the room was full of conference attendees (and Hope and a flipchart). Young, ambitious, and clearly out of my mind I had myself nominated for the job of newsletter editor. Me, Stefan and two others were running for the responsibility of publishing the link between COLAGE members around the country and in Canada.

As fate would have it, I didn't win, and everyone is better off because that was Stefan's first official position with COLAGE! COLAGE was benefitted with an intelligent, creative editor with the knowledge and experience to produce a fine newsletter. And I had the opportunity to contribute and learn. That morning was the beginning of a little recurring piece in the newsletter "Kate's Korner."

For more than a year or so Stefan kept a space for my rants and raves. We communicated via fax and phone, maintaining contact that has continued. Writing was quite an experience and I am ever indebted to him for including me at such a young age. As I have gotten to know Stefan better over the years I have seen more examples of his phenomenal character. Always generous and constantly drawing more people to be involved.

After the demise of "Kate's Korner", my activity with COLAGE also declined. Before mass use of email, (how DID I survive?? :), not attending conferences made it difficult to keep in touch and be involved. Just as my memories were beginning to fade (I am now 16) the phone rang. The voice on the other end revitalized my interest and encouraged me to become involved again. ("Kate, you should run for the Steering Committee...") So I did (naively) and the truth be told these past few months have been the best. I have reacquainted with old friends and made plenty new ones.

Best of all, I have been able to work with Stefan again. As life continues, situations come full circle. I entered the COLAGE ranks with his encouragement, and it was Stefan who got me reinvolved. I will miss him, as will we all, but I will always thank him for his support and inspiration.

Beth, Rachel, Felicia, and Hope would like to thank the following people for helping us make tonight possible:

Les Addison, Stephanie Alison, Mike Beabe, Noel Black, Scott Braley, Beth Bronley, Denise Connett, Freakish Little Clan on Capp St., Michael Greer, Justin Green, Trish Grima, Mike Haskell, Hallie Iannoli, Rosanne Johnson, Jen Kagan, Alice Lancefield, Ken Liberty, Cybelle Lyle, Gail Lynch, Nadine Lurie, John McBride, Sasha Mobley, Darca Morgan, Holly Newstead, Susan Pedrick, Suzanne Pullen, Erica Pulley, Maria Ramos, Kate Ranson-Walsh, Tara Rose, Tom Shepard, Laura Sigaloff, Shane Spitzer, Charlotte Thompson, Rachel Tuxner, Eliza Torlyn, Ian Wheeler-Nicholson, Sara Schleimer, Sharon Snyder, Paul Vandecarr, Michael Velez, Dan Veltri, Andrea Wachter, & Anna Wolitzky.

COLAGE would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support:

Black China Bakery, Cafe Istanbul, Cliffs Variety, Harvest Ranch Market, La Mediterranee, Millennium Restaurant, Nabolom Bakery, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Picaro, Rainbow Market, Real Food Company, Rose and Radish Floral Design, The Slanted Door, Trader Joe's, Treehouse Video, Truly Mediterranean, Valencia Whole Foods, Valentine's Cafe, & Zante's Pizza

An extra special thank you to Hope Berry, Rachel Hulstein, and Beth Teper, the three volunteer members of the COLAGE: Roots & Wings Committee. They worked tirelessly, with great humor and patience, for no pay except for the sweet rewards of a job well done, a great love for COLAGE and for Stefan, and because they are total maniacs! Thanks you guys, nobody could ask for better volunteers or better friends!

Classifieds

GLANCES

5 years and still looking. You: Ravishing in maroon sportscoat, I loved your Canadian accent. I saw you in syndication. I hope we meet soon, meanwhile I'm watching "Shirley" in reruns.

SEEKING

30 year old lesbian, vegan, feminist, dyke, Michigan going womyn-loving-womyn seeks Cassanova. Are you out there?

WE GOT THE BEAT?

Female vegan, '80's Music fan, culturally lesbian, erotically straight, tennis player & salsa dancer seeks male twin-call me.

HELP WANTED

Unemployed vegan bachelor seeks help around the house. Duties include light housework, cooking (mostly bread & french fries). Must play Nintendo.

HELP WANTED

Work-a-holic! Benefits: Warm fuzzies, view of the Mission and Anna's Danish Cookies. No salary, so heart must be in the right place.

PEN PAL

He may be out of the office but he's not out of our hearts. You can still write Stefan in care of COLAGE — we'll see that it gets to him.

Looking Ahead ...

Let's all give a cheer for FELICIA PARK-ROGERS the New Director of COLAGE for all she's done and all she'll do. It's nice to know we've all still got a friend at COLAGE. Best wishes Felicia!