

# Gay Men Walking

By Dipka Bhambhani,  
Asst. Features Editor

"If someone respects me, then I will respect them. It's that easy. To be able to march in the gay pride parade is my own personal moment in time to show any and everyone that I am gay and proud of it."

Clint Spires, a USC junior who plans to march in next weekend's gay pride march

"The Big Day" for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgendered will be April 27, when they march from downtown Columbia to Riverfront Park.

"I think it's important just to let people know that we are here, and we aren't ashamed of who we are," junior Brantley Stone said.

According to Stone, who has marched for three years, the S.C. Gay and Lesbian Pride March is like a carnival or street festival.

"Different church groups, different youth groups, political groups, basically any facet that you would have in any other community will all be participating," Stone said.

Not all churches oppose the march. The Metropolitan Community Church, a gay-oriented church, and the Unitarian Universalist Church support their homosexual members.

"I think each body of Christians has to study and evaluate certain issues for themselves," said Jane Poster, Director of Baptist Student Union at USC.

Stone, however, claims that every year he has marched, there is a protest group where the parade ends promoting hate and homophobia.

"I think they have the right to express their opinions, but I don't like the fact that they accost people," Stone said. "If their message is true, then it will reach people by itself."

Commentary by the opposition was somewhat similar to the sermons of "Brother Jim" — all homosexuals were going to hell.

## GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APRIL 26	
• GLPM Welcome Center at the SC Gay and Lesbian Community Center. 771-7713	3-6 pm
• Welcome the Marchers Party. 771-7713	6-8 pm
• Elaine Townsend at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.	8:30-10:30 pm
• Incredibly True Adventures of 2 Girls in Love. Columbia Mall Theaters.	12 Midnight
SATURDAY, APRIL 27	
• Help blow up balloons at the Pride March Gathering site, Calhoun Street.	10 - noon
• Gather for the march. March begins at 1pm. Rally / celebration to follow at Riverfront park.	Noon
SUNDAY, APRIL 28	
• Pride weekend services at the MCC Columbia and at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.	11 am
• "The Life Expression of Profound Love" - workshop at the Community Center	2-4 pm
• Closing Ceremonies at the Riverfront Park Amphitheater.	7 pm

ETHAN MYERSON The Gamecock

"There is absolutely nobody, under any circumstance, that speaks for every Christian," Poster said.

Clint Spires, a USC sophomore, agrees that everyone has their opinions, including homosexuals.

"If someone respects me, then I will respect them," Spires said. "It's that easy. To be able to march in the gay pride parade is my own personal moment in time to show any and everyone that I am gay and proud of it."

For Spires, the march is a time for him to express his gay pride and to promote the increasingly accepted lifestyle.

"Every year, society is going to change," Spires said. "One day, it will be accepted."

"I'm going out there to support my gay brothers and sisters and to show everyone that gay and straight people can get along. It just takes a little effort

from both sides," Spires said.

The parade has been a Columbia event for about six years and has received some support from the city, which made getting a parade permit easier.

"It's always an issue, but it's not that difficult because local authorities are very supportive of our march," said Dallas Craft, co-director of the S.C. Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Craft said he does not expect negative reactions from Columbia communities.

"We do not anticipate any problems," he said. "My purpose in marching is out of respect for me. I live a normal life. The only difference is that I'm a gay man. I need to make that statement out of respect for myself and to express the right to live my life as I was destined to."

# 'Betrayal' at Benson Theatre

ALI FREEMAN Staff Writer

Excitement abounded at Benson Theater Saturday afternoon as students busily dashed about arranging props, painting finishing touches on furniture and practicing light and sound cues.

In the adjacent room stood Marco Barricelli, painting the words "Pinter's Betrayal" on a sign to be hung outside.

The USC Lab Theatre and Puppet Regime are currently presenting "Betrayal," a compelling play by Harold Pinter, at Benson Theater. The production is a particularly special one, for it was directed by guest artist, Marco Barricelli. "Marco is a brilliant director, and it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with him," said junior theatre major Meg Madden, the stage manager for the production.

Marco, a graduate of The Julliard School, is a freelance actor and director. USC's theatre department brought him in as a guest artist to conduct classes and direct a show.

"We're learning a lot by having the chance to work with such a great professional artist. Puppet Regime wanted to help out because it was an opportunity we just couldn't pass up," said Patrick Holland, a junior theatre major and president of the Puppet Regime. "Whether on the shift crew, acting, painting the set or watching, we're all having a great time working with Marco."

Marco chose to direct "Betrayal" because, "I've loved this play for a long time."

The play consists of nine scenes and lasts about an hour.

The cast includes Liz Taheri, Richard Holland and Tom Dalton, an alumni of the USC MFA program.

"I haven't worked with people in this cast before, and it has been great. They're all doing phenomenal work," Dalton said. "Working with Marco

"We're learning a lot by having the chance to work with such a great professional artist. Puppet Regime wanted to help out because it was an opportunity we just couldn't pass up."

Patrick Holland, president of Puppet Regime

has been absolutely amazing. He doesn't let me get away with anything. That's the fun thing."

The play centers around a man, his wife and his best friend.

Barricelli said, "It's Pinter's idea of people's lives and how perhaps all of our lives, our relationships, have a certain foundation in betrayal, or lies, or duplicity. It's brilliantly written, certainly one of the best plays of the '70s."

The play is also interesting because the scenes are presented in the reverse of chronological order. The play ends several years earlier than the first scene.

"You see moments where people's lives change and that's what is kind of neat about it," Dalton said.

Though the play is dark, it does have humor.

"In a very odd way, it's hysterically funny," Barricelli said.

"Betrayal" opened last night and runs tonight through Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Benson Theater.

Benson is a black box theater in the old Florence Benson Elementary School. It is across on Whaley Street from Bates House.

Admission is free, so it makes for a great break from studying.

"At the end, it makes you think about a lot of different things," Barricelli said. "It's definitely a play everyone should see."

## WOW! CLASSIFIEDS WORK!



**Tori Amos**  
Dew Drop Inn Tour '96  
**The Township**  
Wednesday • April 24 • 7:30 PM  
**GOOD SEATS STILL AVAILABLE**  
— All Seats Reserved —  
Tickets Available at Township Box Office, Sounds Familiar Stores, C&C Concerts in Camden, All Capital Ticket Outlets, and all Select-A-Seat Outlets.  
Charge-by-Phone 803-251-2222  
Produced by C&C Concerts



Why Wait ... Your Career Path Can Start Today!

**Customer Service Specialists**  
\$7.00+ Per Hour

Staffing Solutions/U.S. Personnel has 15 Positions Available with Columbia's premier insurance company. This is the ideal "get your foot in the door" opportunity!

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Available 8am to 3 pm or 1 pm to 7 pm Mon. thru Fri.
- Strong Verbal & Written Communication Skills
- College Background & Customer Service Experience
- Comfortable w/ Windows based programs
- Ability to commit long term 9 months + (possible permanent!)

CALL TODAY TO APPLY • DO NOT HESITATE!  
**Staffing Solutions 798-1700**  
Many Other Opportunities are also Available!

All candidates will be required to sign a drug screen & criminal background check release form. Proper ID and proof of eligibility to work in US is also required. Staffing Solutions is an EOE.

**Expand Your Wallet And Your World**



Kelly is your best choice for summer jobs.

- Gain valuable experience
- Work at top companies

Office, technical, marketing and light industrial assignments. Never an applicant fee.  
Call today!

Charleston (803) 884-7455  
Columbia (803) 797-0765  
Florence (803) 664-0022  
Myrtle Beach (803) 626-4403  
Orangeburg (803) 534-6833  
Sumter (803) 775-4578  
**KELLY SERVICES**



**The Jewish Alternative**  
clothing jewelry gifts and cards  
747 saluda ave.  
3 points Columbia SC  
803-771-9138

**FIT HAPPENS**  
...for students at The Fit Athletic Club  
**\$99 for 3 Months Limited Membership for students**

- Aerobic & Step Classes
- Resistance & Cardio Equipment
- Free Weights
- Certified Professional Teachers
- Child Care

Call or come by for details!  
**THE FIT ATHLETIC CLUB**  
215 Palmetto Park Blvd. Lexington  
For details call 356-8900

**Last Stop Before the Beaches or Mountains**  
**SPRING SALE!**



**MOE LEVYS**  
Complete Outdoor Outfitters  
Corner of Lady and Assembly St.  
**765-0818**

**Thinking about Law School in '97?**



Taking the LSAT in June may be a better choice for you than waiting until the fall. Call today to find out why.

**1-800-KAP-TEST KAPLAN**  
The answer to the test question