

City to debate gay provision at meeting

By **WILL VASH**
Alligator Writer

City officials will continue to explore the issue of sexual orientation in Gainesville's anti-discrimination ordinance at a meeting tonight.

An ad hoc committee on human rights, headed by Mayor-Commissioner Bruce Delaney and Commissioner Pegeen Hanrahan, was created about three months ago to draw up a recommendation to the full commission.

At 6 p.m. in City Hall, city staff are expected to give a presentation on the procedures needed to include sexual orientation in the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Delaney said the committee will look specifically at protecting gays in areas of employment.

Public comment will be taken as part of the committee's aim to find out whether enough support exists for a change to the ordinance.

The protected classes under Gainesville's current anti-discrimination ordinance only include sex, race, color, religion and natural origin.

At the last meeting on Oct. 20, the committee heard from city staff and UF scientists about how other municipalities have dealt with gay rights measures.

The Human Rights Council of North Central Florida also presented a study to the committee that found of 195 Alachua County residents, most of whom were gay, 27 percent said they had witnessed discrimination in employment, and 57 percent said they had been the victim of violence or harassment.

Some residents have voiced their displeasure with the possibility of reconsidering the issue after 57 percent of county voters said they did not want to include sexual orientation in a similar county ordinance in 1994.

This is the third of four meetings scheduled on the issue. The next meeting will be in December.

A recommendation is expected to be forwarded to the commission by the end of the year.

Free ride



KELLI TAYLOR

Garrison Gerard, 3, takes a ride on a tire swing at Kanapaha Park on Tower Road.

Kaleidoscope colors month with Asia's vivid cultures

By **NIRVI SHAH**
Alligator Writer

UF's Asian students hope to cultivate a new appreciation for their cultures this November during Asian Kaleidoscope Month.

This year's celebration focuses on how different Asian groups have united to display their cultures rather than to chastise those who have trodden upon their cultures.

"The major difference is usually Kaleidoscope is run with a lot of speakers who say how Asians have been mistreated," said Marilyn Fong-Yee, director of Kaleidoscope. "This year, the idea is learning through entertainment."

The festivities begin today with an organizational fair on the Reitz Union Colonnade from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Along with information booths, students will be demonstrating Chinese and Korean calligraphy.

Fong-Yee said this year, Kaleidoscope is a more diverse display of Asian cultures.

"We tried to include more groups . . . because a lot of people misinterpret when you say Asian. They think 'Oh, so you're Chinese.'"

This vivid diversity is shown in the Asian Student Union's collaboration with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Union. Together, they will bring Denise Uyehara and her show "Mad Asian Bitch on Wheels" to the Reitz Union ballroom Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.

Uyehara explores love, dating and sexual orientation through the eyes of an Asian-American woman.

The Asian Showcase in the Reitz Union ballroom on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. will demonstrate Asia's diversity. Students will perform dances and exhibit traditional clothing.

Fong-Yee, an advertising junior, said she looks forward to a performance of "Exit the Dragon," a three-man play about actors struggling to accept themselves and their identities. "Exit the Dragon" is produced by actress Ming-Na Wen of "The Joy Luck Club" and "ER."

The play will be Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Reitz Union Auditorium, preceded by film showings days before the performance.

All movies will be in the Reitz Union Auditorium. "Big Brawl" starring Jackie Chan will be Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.; "Enter the Dragon" starring Bruce Lee will be on Nov. 20 at 8 p.m.; "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story" will be on Nov. 21 at 10 p.m.; and "Kama Sutra" will be on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m.

The Vietnamese Student Organization will hold the Mr. and Miss Charming Pageant on Nov. 14.

VSO president Cam Nguyen said the pageant is for anyone who knows about and appreciates the culture. The group is still looking for contestants.

"I want people to know that the Vietnamese culture is more than they think," Nguyen said. "It's not all about war — there is a brighter side."

Professor: Subtle racism saturates media

By **KIMBERLY WISCHNOWSKI**
Alligator Writer

The mass media stereotype people of color, and it is the public's responsibility to be "sophisticated media consumers" and recognize these generalizations, a UF public relations professor said Thursday night.

Gail Baker Woods, chairwoman of the public relations department, discussed racism in the media with students and faculty in Gannett Auditorium as part of Students Taking Action Against Racism week.

Woods said she first noticed media stereotypes while teaching advertising at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where she was the first black woman ever hired as a professor.

"I watched the news and became very interested in the

way people like me were portrayed," Woods said. "I found out that we're either not there or we're there in a way that does not reflect me."

That misrepresentation led Woods to further analyze the issue of minorities in the media and particularly in advertising.

Woods said she knew blacks existed, and they bought things, but from an advertising standpoint, they were either invisible or visible and stereotyped.

Woods conceded advertisers have to stereotype to a degree because they have such a short time to make their point. However, she thinks Asians and African-Americans are subtly portrayed as beneath everyone else.

She added white males are victims as well. They are portrayed as wealthy, successful businessmen, and that is not

always the case, she said.

"This is a new, different, insidious kind of racism," Woods said. "This is not the kind of racism where you see a cross burning or you see somebody hanging, this is the racism that you will miss if you're not paying attention."

Woods said these subliminal messages delivered in the mass of 20,000 to 30,000 times a day ultimately teach consumers that, "if you are blonde, you are this, if you are black you are that, and if you're a black male, you are to be avoided."

Woods said the overall manner in which blacks are portrayed "is a real problem" for her.

"When we see gangs in L.A. or in New York, we see the perpetuation of the black and Latino male as gang members," Woods said.

Having grown up in Chicago's inner city, Woods said she knew some "white boys that could hurt you" that she had seen in real life, but never on television.

As sophisticated watchers, Woods urged the audience to use e-mail and let media executives know when something is wrong.

Woods said it worked for fans of the television show "Living Single," Fox Network's positive portrayal of four single African-American women living in New York.

When the network pulled it, the network received a large volume of complaints and eventually put it back on the air.

"They bowed to the pressure," Woods said. "The pressure comes from people like you."