

Express

In Support of Camp Sister Spirit...

In case you haven't heard, Brenda and Wanda Henson are two lesbians who bought a hog farm in Ovett, Mississippi, with plans to convert it to a feminist retreat. When the "fine Christians" of Ovett got wind of the Henson's plans they began a campaign of intimidation and not-so-subtle threats. The townspeople hung a dead female dog on the Henson's mailbox and filled the mailbox with kotex. Some other -filled Ovett residents have visited Brenda and Wanda toting guns and plenty of homophobic anger. Brenda and Wanda have stood firm in their conviction to provide space for women to gather, educate themselves and one another in a safe feminist environment. What follows is a letter from an LCN reader who supports the Henson's efforts.

The townspeople hung a dead female dog on the Henson's mailbox...

Gentlewomen: Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Camp Sister Spirit. Their plight was written about in the Orlando Sentinel by Kathleen Parker, a copy of which is attached for your reference. They request assistance from the community. However, it might be appropriate for LCN to publish this

letter to alert everyone on the injustices suffered by these women. I give permission for you to publish. Perhaps other wonderful women could supply the items requested. I appreciate the LCN's attention to the above. In sisterliness, Jo-Ann W. Williams

(The following is a letter sent to Jo-Ann from Camp Sister Spirit.)

Dear Friend, This letter comes to thank you for your words of encouragement!! We are standing our ground in Ovett, Mississippi with the strength generated by supporters such as you. Together we will win this struggle. The Oprah Show has aired. I hope you were able to see it. We have also been on CNN, NBC, NPR, BBC, Swiss Press, London Guardian, Washington Post, Atlanta Constitution, and 20/20 has done a story to air after the first of the year. We still need \$\$\$, friends to visit/work a while on the land with us, a generator, CB radios with base station, cellular phone, food, guinea hens, with instructions (for noise and ticks), fencing, heaters, construction skilled volunteers, any building materials, and anything else you think we might need. We have also started a feminist reading room. Books and periodicals welcome. Also we are requesting postcards and letters be sent to us in Ovett-we want to show them we have support from all over the country, especially from religious leaders from your area if any will write. There are 18 Baptist Ministers involved with the opposition group! They need to know

not all Christians are serving a hateful God.

In Sisterspirit, Brenda Henson, M.Ed.

P.S. Can your community do a benefit? Press coverage, if possible.

Below you will find the names, addresses and phone numbers of the three men heading the opposition group, you may remember them from the Oprah Show. Attorney for the

Together we will win this struggle.

opposition (also Perry County Board of Supervisor's Attorney!!) Paul Walley Perry County Courthouse New Augusta, MS 39462 601-964-8370

President of the opposition: James Hendry Hwy 15 South Ovett, MS 39464 601-344-0213

Head Reverend of the 18 Baptist Ministers: Reverend John Allen 400 Elm St. Richton, MS 39476

Send letters of support to Janet Reno's office and to the following: Jones County Board of Supervisors Jones County Courthouse Laurel, MS 39440

Hattiesburg American PO Box 1111 Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Governor Kirk Fordice PO Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205 601-359-3100

Congressman Barney Frank to Address Anti-Gay Amendment Fight Fundraiser in Orlando

The Rainbow Democratic Club has announced that openly gay US congressman Barney Frank will be in Orlando on Friday, Feb 18 as a guest speaker at a cocktail party followed by a dinner. The events are being held to raise funds for the state anti-gay amendment fights. Proceeds from the fund raiser will go to the Floridians United Against Discrimination Board. The money will be used to partially fund a major Florida voter opinion poll and focus groups to study the approach which must be taken to defeat the AFA anti-gay amendment expected to be on the Florida Ballot next Nov. 6th. Detailed arrangements are under development.

Tickets for the cocktail party (5:30-7:00 PM) are tentatively expected to be \$30. RDC's Tickets for the dinner which follows at 7:00 PM are tentatively set at \$175 per person. RDC's goal is to raise around \$15,000 at the events. RDC is looking for corporate sponsors to underwrite the costs associated with the evening. RDC President Bob Spears stated that "We are very fortunate to be able to bring in a nationally known figure of Congressman Frank's stature." RDC is organizing a planning committee composed of representatives from a number of central Florida gay and lesbian groups. Call 236-9476 to volunteer to help with the event or for ticket information.



A Night to Remember February 12, 1994

Orlando Regional Pride
presents
a dinner dance at the
Hayley Hotel, 151 East
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News from All Over

The first-ever national gay/lesbian meeting in Java will be held in the city of Yogyakarta by the Indonesian Lesbian and Gay Working Group.--*Outlines*, 11/93

Evangelist Billy Graham apologized for telling 44,300 people in a sermon that AIDS may be 'a judgement from God' for sin. "I don't believe that, and I don't know why I said it," said Graham.

--*The Advocate* 11/16/93

The Hague, Netherlands City Council, has unveiled a 23-ft high sculpture in honor of the struggle of gays and lesbians against oppression. The inscription reads: "If friendship was as natural as sunlight, we would all live in boundless happiness."

--*Outlines*, 11/93

The University of Michigan Board of Regents amended the school's anti-bias statement to include sexual orientation.

--*Outlines*, 11/93

harassment policies, create support groups for gay teenagers, train teachers to prevent suicides and violence against gays, and provide family counseling.

--*Gay People's Chronicle*, 10/93

Backward Slides

A city ordinance in Lewiston, Maine protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination in housing, credit, employment, and public accommodations was repealed by a 2 to 1 margin.

--*Washington Blade*, 11/5/93

Residents of Portland, NH said "no" to a referendum designed to gauge public opinion on whether or not that city should provide human rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation.

--*Southern Voice*, 11/11/93

With a 68% majority, voters in Cincinnati repealed the section of their 1992 human rights ordinance that provided protection for gay men and lesbians from discrimination. Gay activists plan to file a lawsuit on the constitutionality of the new ordinance.

--*Washington Blade*, 11/5/93

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The State of Massachusetts plans to divert \$450,000 in cigarette tax money programs aimed at stopping harassment of gay teenagers in school. Schools are urged to develop anti-

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During the week.....

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------------------------|
| Monday | 8:00pm | O.A. Meeting |
| Wednesday | 7:30pm | Discussion or Services |
| Friday | 7:30pm | AIDS Support Group |
| | 8:00pm | AA Meeting |

Check the Bulletin Board. Family groups, Pot Luck Dinners, Volleyball, TLC Meetings and other activities fill the week.
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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Alcoholics Anonymous/Orlando 521-0012
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Brevard County 242-8063
- AA Hotline/Sanford-Lk Mary 647-3333
- Breaking the Silence MCC (Cocoa) 631-4524
- Delta Youth Alliance 425-4527
- GLCS Hotline & Info Line THE-GAYS
- GLADD 236-9499
- GLPCI (Parents' Group) 420-2191
- Gay & Lesbian Center 425-4527
- Family That Cares 365-3762
- FLOLOC (Old Lesbians-60 and over) (407) 779-4874
- Joy MCC (Orlando) 894-1081
- LCN Express INFORMATION-(Leave your # & time to call) 332-2311
- LCN Express SUBSCRIPTIONS/ADDRESS CHANGES 291-3791
- LCN Express ADVERTISING 648-4154
- Metropolitan Business Assoc. 299-1439
- Orlando PRIDE 236-9480
- Primetimers (Travel Club) 895-1965
- PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays) 236-9177
- Rape Crisis Center 648-3028
- Runaway Switchboard 1 (800) 621-4000
- Spouse Abuse Hotline 886-2856
- WILLOW (Women in Lake County) (904) 383-2883
- WIT (Women in Brevard County) 1-727-1336
- Women's Health Center 896-2022

Aids Resources:

- AIDS Hotline/English 1(800)FLA-AIDS
- AIDS Hotline/Haitian/Creole 1(800) AIDS 101
- AIDS Hotline/Spanish 1(800) 545-SIDA
- AIDS Resource Alliance 425-2233
- AREA AIDS Related Services 647-2765
- CENTAUR AIDS Related Services 849-1452
- Hope & Help AIDS Related Services 628-8542

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LCN Express

Publication Information

LCN Express is a monthly publication for and by the Central Florida Lesbian community. We invite readers to submit articles, letters, announcements, poems, short stories, and other items of interest.

Deadline for articles & ads: 15th of each month

Length: 300 words

By-Line: Anonymity guaranteed if desired (please specify) but telephone number is required

Editorial policy is as follows: The views expressed in the LCN Express are not necessarily those of the LCN or the newsletter editors. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity, conciseness and length. It is strongly recommended that caution be exercised to address an opinion, not to assault the author of an article, letter (or anyone else for that matter).

Thanks! *The LCN Express Editorial Staff:*
Madeliene Abling, Becky Acuna, Cathy McElhiney, Barb Fallon,
Lucy Ford, Rachel Gardiner, Rita Krossber

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| Small Banner | 3½" tall x 7½" wide | \$30 |
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| <u>2 Column Ads</u> | | |
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| Business Card | 2" tall x 3½" wide | \$5 |
| (or vertical) | 3½" tall x 2" wide | \$5 |
| <u>Classified Ads</u> | Maximum 35 words | \$2 |

Payment for ads should be submitted in advance, checks payable to LCN. We can do typesetting for you; cost to equal the price of the size ad you are running.

Subscriptions

Suggested subscription donation is \$12.00 annually, more if you can, less if you can't. We welcome (and appreciate) subscription donations for women who can't afford to pay.

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 LCN, P.O. Box 149512, Orlando, FL 32814-9512.

The Parent Perspective

by Diane P. Kerkhoff

My son and I got to take a much-needed week's vacation last month. My Dear Friend (MDF) picked us up at the air port and greeted me with a long hug and "Don't you ever go away again without giving me your phone number. I missed you terribly." What a wonderful reception! What a good friend!

When we go home we found that a pipe had burst and the kitchen was a bit damp, to put it mildly. Now, what I want to know is if this is some kind of plumbing conspiracy. Why do pipes always burst when you're gone? Has anyone ever been standing in the kitchen, peeling a carrot say, when all of the sudden you hear water hissing and dripping and you alertly open the cabinet doors, grab the flashlight loaded with fresh batteries from the flashlight drawer, spot the leak, quickly shut off the water main with your water shut-off key conveniently hanging in its place

in the garage, and neatly fix the pipe with bathtub caulk and electrical tape (just until you can call a plumber) and all with one little puddle that damaged only one box of Spic & Span and can be cleaned up with one Christmas dishtowel while you go ahead and eat the carrot? No, I didn't think so. What I think is that certain pipes have tiny explosive devices built in with little noise monitors that can tell when you go on vacation. Then boom -- plumbing disaster! And I had to sleep with the last plumber to get the work done.

Country song title of the month: "Why'd you steal my heart just to give it back broke?"

In case you need to know, here's one of the worst things a person can do to a time-oriented person like me: stand me up.

The personal is the political is the personal... My friend Debra was

invited to a party at a friend's (hetero male) house. She felt self-conscious about going because the friend's wife had stated that she didn't think homosexuals should be allowed to be teachers. I pointed out to Debra that she has to go and she has to take her girlfriend (also a lesbian teacher) and she should take any other gay teachers she knows. She should be herself and let that wife know what a good person and a good teacher she is. Debra has the opportunity here to put a name and a face on that general homosexual that shouldn't be allowed to be a teacher. She needs to make sure that the next time the wife hears herself say that homosexuals should not be allowed to be teachers that she pictures Debra being forced out of the classroom and Debra's students being deprived of her teaching. We all need to keep in mind that we have to be visible to effect change



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Come out, Come out

Numerous times over the years people have assumed that the initials of the LCN stand for Lesbian-something-something. Like Lesbian Community Network, or Lesbian Community News or whatever. Anyway, we've been tossing around the idea of letting the Loving Committed Network, which has been the name for ten years, come out of the closet and claim our lesbian/woman-specific status. While we remain a loving committed network, times have changed and we know that the more out we are, the more powerful we are. We have been the only women-only organization serving central Florida for over 10 years. So, what do you think? (We would like to keep the same initials, since that's the way most everyone refers to us.) Please feel free to rip this page off your LCN and send it in with your choice.

- Lesbian Community Network
- Lesbian Community News
- other _____

Comments _____

Community Calendar-February 1994

GLCS Feb. 4 & 18th: Lipstick Lesbians of Orlando meeting at 7:30

Feb. 7th: GLCS Board meeting

Feb. 9 & 23rd: Womyn of GLCS discussion group 7:30 pm

Feb. 11 & 25: Women Steppin Out Group (Coming out support) 7:30 pm

Feb. 12: Florida Old Lesbians Organizing for Change [FLOLOC] meeting at GLCS 1 pm. Statewide group wants you to join if you're an old lesbian. [Their definition is 60 or older] Call 779-4874 FMI.

Feb. 12: Pride dinner & Dance at Harley Hotel. Call 860-1565 FMI.

Feb. 19: MBA first Annual Business Expo. Feb 19th, 1994 12-6 pm
Maitland Civic Center Registration and table info: 299-3969 Come see who's family and who's friendly in our community and stop by and say hello to the LCN staff.

Classifieds

New Year's Resolution to get in shape? Come run with the womyn and men of Orlando Front Runners, Orlando's Gay Running Club. All levels are welcome, from walkers to marathoners; cyclers and bladers, too. Dinner follows exercise. Mon. 6:30 PM, Wed. 7:30 PM, Sat. 9 AM at the Lake Eola Pagoda. Have fun, meet people, feel good! For more info, call 422-9111.

Electric Guitar for sale. Solid body, white Ovation with amplifier. Excellent condition. \$400.00 Call 831-2971 or 332-2311.

Roommate Wanted - Lake Underhill/Semorán area. Spacious 3BD 2BA Pool Home. Washer/dryer, microwave. Quiet, crime free neighborhood. No drugs, smokers. \$325 includes all. Dianna 249-3917.

Tax Returns Prepared - Day/evening appointments. Available at your convenience. Computerized tax returns prepared professionally at reasonable rates. Call Ann, 658-2000.

Looking for petite FEM. If you would like to be wined and dined, love surprises, flowers, travel and security in Central FL area only, write PO Box 291596, Port Orange, FL 32129.

GWF seeks pen pals, would especially enjoy hearing from women in law enforcement, firefighting, military, all are welcome though just be honest and sincere like myself. Write R.L.S., POB 5992, Oxnard, CA 93031-5992.

Employment Wanted - With the New Year upon us, why not start it with a new look. I do residential pressure washing and painting with 15 yrs. experience. Excellent reference and a full 3 yr. warrantee. Call Greg 407/354-3153.

Lesbian Pilots, 99's, 66's, Aircraft Instructors. I have seven hours logged. Looking for further instruction and prefer funding womyn - any of you out there? Going to Oshkosh. EAA lives on. Please call A.J. 678-6628.

Roommate wanted to share 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath Pool Home in Casselberry. Washer, dryer. Smoker Okay. \$65 per week plus 1/3rd utilities. Please call 834-3565. Linda or Carol.

Beginner Guitar Lessons: Learn the basics from Rita Boo! 25 years playing acoustic guitar. \$10.00 per session. Call 831-2971 FMI.

**LCN Express
Production Schedule**
Call 831-2971 for more info.

**Submission deadline:
February 15th
Tues., Feb. 15:** Editorial/
Production Meeting at 7pm.
Mon., Feb. 28: 7:00pm Folding
Party at GLCS! At your
suggestions, we have started
having the folding party in a
new location. Please come join
us!
Many thanks to the womyn
who helped last month!

Lucky Ladies Looking for Lesbians

Lucky Ladies Bowling league is starting the new season and will bowl on Thurs nights through May 19th at Indian Hills Bowling Lane. Indian Hills is located in Casselberry. Our league is a fun league, it does not matter whether you are a "bowler" or not. For information call Cherie or Cheryl at 293-8849.

Holy Union Announcement

*Evania Gaye Nichols
and*

Cynthia Kaye Moors

*are pleased to announce
their Holy Union*

on March 26, 1994

as their two hearts

and two lives,

joined together in friendship,

are united forever in love.

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues

Forget the film and read the book.

In the last issue of LCN an enthusiastic writer gave her unqualified endorsement to the movie "Even Cowgirls get the Blues" even though she hadn't seen it yet. I would like to share in her excitement, however, the film has been pulled from release. I was among the few hundred who saw the directors first cut this past October in New Orleans. Sadly, my favorite book is NOT going to be my favorite movie. The reasons are easily accounted for. The filmmaker took on a tricky and difficult task in attempting to translate the cerebral writing style of Tom Robbins in the first place. Ninety percent of Robbins writing is ladled in eloquent and quirky metaphors which all reflect the dated psychedelic ideology of 18 years ago when the book was first published. The dense and obtuse qualities of the movie are amplified if you have not previously peered into the pages of the novel. For instance, no one could possibly figure out the meaning of the rattlesnake carrying the jack of hearts across the screen unless they were privy to the tale of the peyote visions experienced by the character Delores Del Ruby. Additionally, many of the more illuminating details of the Clockworks are not present in the movie. It seems the director very intentionally plays up the lesbian aspects of the main character Sissy Hankshaw and neglects to mention that she also married and slept with almost every man that picked her up hitchhiking. In fact, one must really reach to find the story line in the movie "Cowgirls". So much is underplayed or overlooked compared to the magical circumstanced created in the book that the plot never fully materializes. It certainly never achieves the grandeur of purpose in Sissy's spiritual journey nor displays the

dynamic mystical qualities innate in the characters Robbins originally rendered.

What is important in this film is that women loving women is portrayed with some taste and tenderness.

I wish I could report stunning performances by actors Rain Phoenix and Uma Thurman. Yet, my hopes again were dashed. Watching Rain Phoenix deliver Bonanza Jellybeans opening monologue was painful. I have read that passage out loud better myself. I kept expecting to hear "CUTTTTT". Poor Jellybean, the heroine of the movie who I imagined as a fearless freedom fighter turns out to be a stubby looking adolescent with less than convincing delivery. Uma's acting finishes it. She is Sissy Hankshaw, the main character, and turns out the performance as a wussy aimless tumbleweed. She plays Hankshaw's part as a silly, passive, and mindless. This is NOT the Sissy Hankshaw we all know and love!!! But, hey, she

does look great. The saving grace of the casting in this film is in the directors choice of using some "real" cowgirls, this in essence is the only truly authentic aspect of the movie, otherwise the acting is laughable.

What is important in this film is that women loving women is portrayed with some taste and tenderness. All in all the movie is still actually better than most of the horrifically "thin films" that are put out today. I should also allow that it is perhaps not entirely fair to make a unilateral comparison with the artistry of Tom Robbins' book. The movie only attempts to glamorize the outer actions rather than the interior motivations of Sissy Hankshaw. Although the romanticized cowgirls of my youth can never be brought fully into the present, I suppose "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues", the movie, at least makes an effort in that dimly lit direction. Keep in mind I saw this flick after the first cut. Sources at the Enzian say the second edit has not been receiving much better reviews in Europe, yet it may be re-released in the U.S. again as early as February. If you want to see this film in Orlando called the Enzian and let them know!!!

Happy trails.

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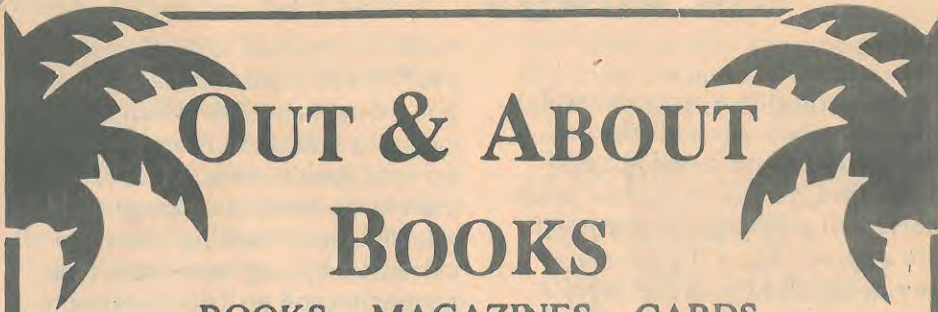
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Orlando Regional Pride Press Release

Love is in the air this February, and what better way to celebrate than by bringing your loved one to Orlando Regional Pride's "A Night To Remember" dinner dance! This year the event will be held at the Harley Hotel, 151 East Washington Street, at 7:30 pm on Saturday, February 12th. The cost of the event is \$25.00 per person, which includes dinner, music by Mac's Sound Machine, and lots of fun activities. Dress is casual to semi-formal. Call Orlando Regional Pride at (407)-236-9480 for information and reservations, no later than February 7, 1994. PLEASE attend if you reserve, as your dinner will have to be paid for whether or not you show up. All proceeds will benefit Orlando Regional Pride, the people who bring you the parade. For more info: Patty Sheehan (407) 860-1565



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The Bridge- AC/DC on the defensive

by Jo Wiggins

Confidential to a certain diesel dyke in a certain gay club about a week ago as I write: Lady, if I may call you that, you are a clueless bitch. I considered publishing a picture of Katie as proof that a "bald-headed nose ringed freak" is in fact way, way, way, prettier than you. Then again, so is Dave Grohl or Bill Clinton. K's doing a very satisfactory job, thank you, and does not need your help in "sucking the bisexuality" out of my system. What the hell were you drinking? What the phuck

...bigotry against
bisexuals or
anyone else is
unattractive as
well as immoral.

were you thinking? Were you thinking at all? Whatever, at least I got column fodder and an anecdote to share with my friends. I did indeed tell them that a Mack truck, or at least a person with the build, brain, and subtlety of one, tried to seduce me. Didn't people like you become endangered species around the seventies? Honey, bigotry against bisexuals or anyone else is unattractive as well as immoral. It certainly didn't get you a date for the evening, now, did it. I'd tell you where to new jack swing since you obviously pay attention the column, but I don't think I want you anywhere near.

Jo's First Law of Bisexuality, which Barb Fallon reminded me of, is that at some point in you life you realize that all genders and orientations produce assmunches. The woman I mentioned got me thinking. Even my megaenlightened lovehoney has said offensive stuff. Take one time during her otherwise wonderful, law-breaking visit down here when we were eating at a restaurant. I couldn't decide between two entrees. She "joked", "Darling, you can't

really be expected to decide, can you?" I was quite naturally pissed. She thought she was kidding the way me and BISEXUAL friends do when we can't decide what to wear, eat (huh-huh), etcetera. I thought she was plain out insulting. Just add a pair of bitchy, argumentative temperaments and girlfriend status, then stand back! As if we couldn't make restaurant patrons stare otherwise.

By the way, Katie got her lower lip-facial feature—pierced while she was here. I guess Mack Truck Woman would consider her even more freakish. Katie just found it painful as all hell, as if I'm suppose to be sympathetic or something. It looks good on her, but all of her friends are placing bets on when she takes it out. I say six months. Actually, I heard some place that if a piercer didn't know what s/he was doing, the lip could be numbed

permanently. Thank God the piercer was obviously an expert. I couldn't resist including that.

People, including myself, are capable of such great feats of ignorance. I'd like to address some that polar, meaning those who are one thing or the other, have inflicted on me. I do not mean to implicate other sexual types or stereotype anyone. I simply want to let some members of some groups know that some of their actions are not appreciated.

To gay women: No, I do not cheat. No, my girlfriend is not an "experiment" in an otherwise heterosexual life. Do not try to change me, for I can't be changed anymore than you can. Do not assume that I will give you AIDS merely because I am mentally capable of loving both genders. Do not attribute our philosophical differences to our

[Continued next page]

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sexual/emotional differences. Attribute it instead to our possession of critically-thinking brains.

To gay men: Don't bother telling me to come out all the way and take responsibility for my queerness. I already have. Some days I feel queerer than anyone else because of all the biphobic bullshit I get. I don't have to choose anything! I respect your right to be yourself if you respect mine.

To straight women: I don't care how cute you are, I don't want you sexually. Don't be afraid to show me

human decency—I see stuff like that for what it is. I'm not going to try a man to please you or try to be like you. I'm not going to influence you to be what you're not.

Straight men: Bisexuality is an orientation, an identity, and a culture, not an act. I will not try a threesome. I will not let you watch. You will not "cure" me—there is nothing to cure. Yes, some of you are fabulous babes, but I'm not breaking up with my girlfriend to be with you. She is all the way gay, so don't even think it. The people I respect and

consider my friends are in all sexual stripes. They're thoughtful, intelligent people who only occasionally cross the line of good taste. I tend to forgive their comments

People, including myself, are capable of such great feats of ignorance.

quickly. They are not even one-eighth as ignorant as the people whose comments I answered. Lord knows I can be a fool myself. Certainly the staff of LCN are examples of bi-respecting gay women, as are Katie Lunacharsky, Ellen Hone, and others too numerous to mention. Mack Truck Woman made me grateful that my circle of acquaintances is so enlightened. Thank you all! Rage Against The Machine says that "Anger is a gift." Use it wisely. And Then Some...Did you catch the subtle Nirvana reference? Not the blatant one in this paragraph, but the other one. To piss off an anonymous acquaintance of mine who believes for some dumb reason that the greatest noise-rock band in the universe is politically incorrect, I will include a reference to them in every column until I get the chance to see them live or stop writing, whichever happens first. So now you know. If you caught it, you get the knowledge that you're reasonable intelligent.

*Notes: Rage Against The Machine is a progressive band; Dave Grohl is the drummer for Nirvana and, in my opinion, the only one who's not a babe.

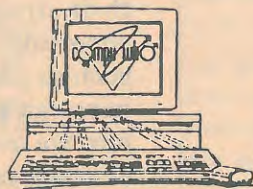
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AFA Petitions Ranked Second in Submission to Bureau of Elections

by Le June Perrin

On January 13, 1994, the Orlando Sentinel reported that the American Family Political Committee of Florida, the PAC of American Family Association (AFA) ranked second in the number of petitions pouring into local election offices. The American Family Association seeks to repeal laws that give "special civil rights" protection to homosexuals. The AFA seeks to exploit the American/Florida Public as to what is their real agenda; namely the making of second class citizens of Florida's Lesbian and Gay population through the use of the ballot box. Many of the supporters of the AFA are supporters of those who would prefer that America turn back the time clock to pre 1960. When blacks held servitude jobs in

America and women were kept "barefoot and pregnant" and were forced to remain in abusive marriages because of the lack of financial opportunity and the stigma of divorce. There is a parallel between the Civil Rights Movement of Black Americans and that of the Lesbians and Gays. The Civil Rights of Black America began after there was empowerment by individuals and groups that they were deserving of rights and that Blacks began to act on this empowerment by protest marches, speeches, and boycotts. In Lesbian and Gay America, the rioting of Lesbians, cross-dressers and others at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 was the first public acknowledgment that we are deserving of equal rights and an opened presence in American

Society. The theme of Orlando Pride Week is "Stonewall 25 only the beginning..." The first twenty-five (25) years of Lesbian and Gay

**fight for our rights...
acknowledge your presence to others who may be unaware that they are voting to enslave you.**

Rights Movement can be likened to the acknowledgment, acceptance and empowerment that the Blacks of the Civil Rights Movement experienced before they began their struggles for equality opportunities in American Society, such as jobs, and voting rights. We have celebrated our gayness and now we must be willing to take our empowerment and fight to maintain our existence in American society. In order to fight for our rights, one must be willing to acknowledge your presence to others who may be unaware that they are voting to enslave you. Volunteer for an organization fighting the American Family Association. Donate to one of these organizations. Host a "Victory Party" to educate others and fundraise to fight this proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment. If you desire to obtain any information or want to volunteer, please contact CARE, PO Box 536624, Orlando FL. 32853-6624. Or phone: 407-236-0190

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MBA Hosts Nationally-Known Gay Psychologist and Activist

What does a psychologist have to say to a group of business owners and professionals? Quite a bit, when the person in question is Rob Eichberg, Ph.D.! The focus of his work has been on being an open, loving and powerful gay individual in all aspect of life. He will address the Metropolitan Business Association on these topics at the March 3rd meeting. Eichberg is the founder of National Coming Out Day, committed to increasing the visibility of approximately 25 million lesbians and gay men in the United States, and is the creator and facilitator of The Experience, a weekend workshop. His best-selling book, Coming Out:

An Act of Love, is about telling the truth, taking control of your own life, and creating an honest, fulfilling life of love. This book is not just about being gay-it's about being human. Not to be forgotten is the first gay and gay-friendly business expo in Orlando, hosted

This book is not just about being gay-it's about being human.

by the Networking Committee. On Saturday, Feb. 19, from noon until 6p.m., MBA members and non-members will be able to showcase their services and products at the Maitland Civic Center. Admission to the Expo is \$3 per person and includes food, fun, T-shirts and drawings for prizes. The Metropolitan Business Association is a professional organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and gay-supportive individuals seeking to network and interact on business matters, as well as to socialize and exchange information of interest to the community. MBA general meetings are the first Thursday of each month, at the Radisson Hotel on Lake Ivanhoe. The fee for members is \$5.00, non-members is \$10 and includes hors d'oeuvres. The networking and social hour is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome. For more info contact Cindy L. Abel 407-425-7691

The Spectrum Awards

The Spectrum Awards will be given out February 22, 1994 and we have reason to be proud. The LCN has been nominated in two categories. Volunteer organizations and recreation. In addition, LCN editor, Becky Acuna has been nominated for Volunteer of Year and Barb Fallon has been nominated for two categories; Lesbian Activist and Lifetime Achievement.

They/we are in very good company, as the list of finalists are just a small sampling of the fine community talent we have grown in Central Florida. Regardless of who wins, we are honored to be among the finalists. We look forward to seeing you all decked out at this Gayla event which has all the earmarks of being a 5 triangle event.



The Spectrum Awards is an awards ceremony and fund-raiser by Gay & Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc. and is sponsored in part by The Club at Firestone, Tracks (Orlando and Tampa), and The Parliament House.

Tickets are now available for the First Annual Community Services Awards.

Tickets can be purchased at The Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center (714 E. Colonial Drive, Near Downtown Orlando), at Out & About Books (930 N. Mills Ave, Near Downtown Orlando) or at the Parliament House Motor Inn (410 North Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando).

For tickets/info call Lyle at GLCS or if you would like to do work in exchange for a ticket. Volunteers are needed!

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Central Floridians United Against Discrimination had a busy year in 1993. The group was formed last June to combat a proposed amendment to the Florida constitution that would allow discrimination against lesbians and gays. A Board of Directors was elected to lead Central Florida in educating the

The only way to insure that "It Won't Happen Here" is to **KEEP** it from happening here.

community as to the danger of this amendment and to provide funding for

CFUAD UPDATE

the statewide organization. The Board has worked hard over the last several months on many worthwhile projects. Educational brochures and promotional materials were produced to raise funding and awareness. The group participated in the October "March for Our Lives," making the bold statement "It Won't Happen Here" on signs, banners and shirts. This is in reference to Amendment 2 in Colorado, which was recently found to be unconstitutional. A very successful fundraiser was held in November at Scott Laurent Galleries. A contribution was sent to the statewide organization FUAD and a good time was had by all who attended including Orange County Commissioner Fran Pignone. A picnic was held in December to galvanize support and to identify volunteers, which are

desperately needed. That brings us to the present. With the State Supreme Court hearing arguments on the constitutionality of the Caton Amendment, many people in our community have become apathetic. The only way to insure that "It Won't Happen Here" is to **KEEP** it from happening here. Join CFUAD. Volunteer your time and effort. Please don't wait until it is too late. Preserve your rights NOW by calling 407-236-0121. Send a donation today, if you can, to CFUAD, P.O. Box 532012, Orlando Fla 32853. Strategies in the next few months include formulating press packets to increase visibility of the local organization in the media, distributing information to the community, and raising funds for the statewide effort. Join us today! For more information contact: Patty Sheehan 407-860-1565.



A statewide conference for progressive Floridians.

ROLLINS COLLEGE

Feb 4, 5, 6, 1994
Winter Park, Florida

A time for Progressive Floridians to gather together, sharpen their organizing skills, learn about current issues of importance to each other's communities and build and renew their bonds.

Sponsored and organized by a unique coalition of people and groups from many parts of the state who endeavor to restore tolerance and respect for diversity and to build inclusive and truly democratic institutions and social structures.

Cost: Sliding scale, \$20 - \$60 dollars
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Coalition of Progressive Floridians at Rollins College

A statewide conference of progressive Floridians will be gathering at Rollins College the weekend of February 4 through the 6th. The

A call for lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

"Finding Common Ground, a Gathering of Progressive Floridians," conference is to be held at Rollins College on Feb. 4-6. A special discussion period/workshop on lesbian/gay/bi-sexual issues will be held on Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. We would like to invite the lesbian/gay community to share its opinions, concerns and issues at this mini-conference so that we can find out the common goals of our community to be shared during the regular conference. If interested in being a part of the conference, please contact Shaviz Shafaie at 645-3616 or 678-7327.

See Coalition article on page three for more information.

purpose of the conference is to gather together, sharpen our organizing skills, learn about current issues of importance to each community and build and renew our bonds. The weekend begins with the one day workshop entitles "Goals for the Gay 90's/ share the Vision Join the Movement." This workshop will center around the concerns, findings mutual goals, reviewing obstacles to working with non gay groups and finding ways to work together. This one day workshop is sponsored by: We the People, Gay and Lesbians Coalition for Human Rights, Orlando Regional Pride, Citizens Acting for Rights and Equality and Central Floridians United Against Discrimination. This workshop is opened to all individuals who are interested in challenging homophobia. This conference is being sponsored and organized by a unique coalition of people and groups from many parts of the state; including the National Organization for Women,(UCF

Chapter), Broward Citizens for Peace and Justice, Animal Activists for Central Florida, Calvert Social Investment Fund and Relatives, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Rollins College). Some of the conference goals are to endeavor to restore tolerance and respect for diversity and to build inclusive and truly democratic institutions and social structures. Some of the conference panels and workshops will include: building Unity Between the Movements; Religious Right Update; Student Political Activism; Alternative Political Parties; Challenging Heterosexism and Homophobia and Speciesism and a Progressive Perspective on Animal Rights. The day session of the conference begins at 9:00 a.m. The cost for the conference is a sliding scale between \$20 and \$60 and a single session cost between \$5 and \$10. For additional information, please call the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice at 407-422-3479.



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