

Express

A RESPONSE FROM ALIX

Dear Lucy Ford and LCN:

I was sorry to read that you decided not to join us at Rollins College when I performed there this past February. We missed you. It was a terrific evening for me and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My thanks to Barb, The Lesbian Community Network, Penny and Bette at Rollins, and everyone who helped to present that splendid production.

I saw the May issue of LCN with *A Different Opinion About Alix* a couple of weeks ago in California. Earlier, I had performed in Napa, after which two women separately told me how hard a time each had with something they heard from me at their first concert of mine. However they decided to give me another chance and, over years of changes for each of us I was twice informed found themselves feeling closer and closer to my point of view with each subsequent hearing. Now they have only positive feedback for me, demonstrating a mutual process of emotional and intellectual enrichment which is accomplished only with time. I consider it the highest form of praise for sure. In fact, it's about my favorite compliment, and I am fortunate to hear it fairly often.

As far as I'm concerned, next to two-stepping and softball, its what we do best together, those of us who consider ourselves a part of Lesbian Feminist Community. That is, making a commitment to each other to engage over time in order to move our thoughts and feelings forward, using each other to expand our capacity to participate in every creative dimension of life. *A Different Opinion...* demonstrates that spirit, and I am truly gratified that you

chose to put your thoughts and feelings in print for the benefit of our Community, rather than grumble in private to friends.

Being an information addict keeps me tuned to many sources. I read widely and try very hard to keep up with Lesbian and other progressive thinking. Almost all of what I say on stage has been analytically examined over a good long time, exhaustively thought through alone, and talked through with friends and colleagues. It has been my practice for the better part of fifty two years, and my belief systems have remained reasonably constant throughout. My analysis, however, is always in process.

This is particularly true when it comes to deeply complex and passionate subjects such as "manhating," a topic I could expound upon for hours, possibly days, it's that complicated. That's why I may myself accessible to everyone, and consistently attempt to clarify notions like "manhating," sorting out thoughts/feelings from behavior, cautioning my audience against acting out negative feelings ("You don't have to spit at every man you see.. just the ones who deserve it," for example) or, reassuring my audience that, yes, there are individual men I actually do love. I communicate the best I can in the time I'm given, knowing that more will be passed over than I would wish. This is especially true in a short set, like at festivals or a conference such as the NLC.

But my mission, as I have chosen to accept it, is to provoke people to think. Occasionally during perfor-

Official Status for Gay/Lesbian Group

In an unprecedented move, a lesbian and gay human rights group-the International Lesbian and Gay Association(ILGA)-was granted roster consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at their session on March 29th. This allows ILGA to submit papers to the UN on issues concerning the worldwide lesbian and gay community.

"Our application for consultative status was deferred two years ago, and we were braced for more of the same treatment this round," said Rina Malonzo, co-chair of New York's Center chapter of ILGA.

The approval for consultative status represents a compromise victory, however. ILGA had requested approval for Category II, which would have bestowed approval for the group to speak as well as submit papers. As a consultative representative, ILGA may submit written proposals to further its goal of including lesbian and gay rights in the United Nations human rights agenda. In addition to the UN Project, ILGA also works with Amnesty International on behalf of lesbian and gay prisoners of conscience, and on immigration and asylum issues.

Thanks
to everyone
who worked on
and supported

PRIDE 93

Continued, p. 4

Too Sense Worth *by Kathryn Harmon*

TIMELY QUOTE: by Patty Sheehan in her June article "...certain situations demand certain forms of behavior. Unfortunately, in our zeal to display our cultural diversity, we failed in the basic tenets of manners and decency, of which our community has a wealth."

ON THE RADIO: The G-Man, former convict and current talk show host, G. Gordon Liddy uses his airwaves to slam gays on a daily basis. If Liddy were slamming any other minority, he would draw much ridicule from both the media and the public. In a recent broadcast, Liddy recommended that the 1994 congressional races be plastered with media exposure of those select out takes so that America could see who they really elected.

MY TOO SENSE: As we negotiate and legislate for our freedoms, our image as a people will be on trial. The Liddy's of this world are well schooled at manipulating sound bytes. Fanatics and exhibitionists are easily manipulated. How many times during the 1994 campaign, will I have to see the half-dressed and ill advised, chosen by the right, and called representative of a gay. I believe we should each take our individual responsibility seriously as each one of our actions does reflect on the rest of the gay community. At the national, state and local levels our focus on image must stay at the forefront. Large corpora-

tions like Dupont and Dow understand the ongoing, uphill battle to establish and maintain a clean image. They hire professionals, i.e.. image consultants and media experts who effectively target audiences, manipulate sound bytes, and eventually induce the desired change in public perception. While this is an expensive prospect, it would be money well spent. To those Patty or I have offended, "KEEP YOUR SHIRTS ON..."

WOMAN OF NOTE: 29 year old, Julie Crone became the first woman ever to win a Triple Crown Race riding high in the saddle at Belmont Stakes.

KUDOS: to Out and About Books for a fab anniversary celebration. Also to GLCS for the best PRIDEFEST ever. Thanks to all the volunteers and participants that made both possible.

DYKE PHILOSOPHY: Anyone who still believes that homosexuality is about sex has never met a lesbian with a broken heart.

HILLIARY AND BILL are taking a lot of crap from the conservatives who fear them. Funny that Hillary is focused on Healthcare and they stay stuck on Haircare. It really is a new administration. But Bill, don't let us down. You live in the White House, not the Waffle House.

Comments, criticisms, Dyke Philosophy... to Kathryn Harmon care of LCN.

Central Floridians United
Against Discrimination

CFUAD Update

The statewide organization formed to fight amendment proposals that would legalize discrimination, Floridians United Against Discrimination, recently incorporated in order to be able to raise funds. Nominations for the board have been received and confirmed. Committees will be formed to address the necessary concerns to truly organize and mobilize volunteers for this effort.

The local chapter, Central Floridians United Against Discrimination, is also taking steps to incorporate, and has already formed a Communications Committee, to address promotional, public relations, media relations, and outreach matters, as well as the ever-necessary Fund-raising Committee. One of the most immediate needs is that of raising money along with awareness. House parties specifically held for this purpose are being planned for the end of July, to help fund immediate promotional concerns as well as larger scale events. At such an event, a brief presentation will be made concerning the activities of both opponents and proponents of the amend-

Continued, p. 11

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CFUAD, Cont'd

ment proposals, potential affects on ur community, affects of similar action in Oregon and Colorado, etc. There is a current effort to identify people who would host such a party-- simply make their house available and invite their friends. A phone tree is also being organized.

A general meeting of CFUAD will be held Saturday, July 10 at 10:30am at Joy MCC. Anyone seeking to learn more about statewide activities, or to volunteer their time or services is welcome. In the remote chance there is a scheduling conflict, please contact Cindy Abel at 273-2389 to verify the date and time.

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Bible, Continued from p.

Jesus came as a fulfillment of the law (of the Old Testament), but he gave new laws of love (Matt. 22:37-39). By dying on the cross, he abolished the old laws that were too onerous (contrary to man) (Col. 2:13-14).

There are some theologians who suspect that Jesus was homosexual. In the Gospel of John, we read that Jesus loved ONE of his disciples, and that they reclined together. (John 13:23-25). When Peter asked Jesus what he would do with the one he loved when he (Jesus) left them, Jesus replied to him, "If it is my will for him to remain until I return, Of What Concern Is That To You?" (John 21:20-22).

When I see the persecution of homosexuals by so-called "Christians," I have to wonder if they have read what the Master taught that those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are the blessed ones, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 5:10) He also taught to Judge Not, Lest Ye Be Judged, and Let He Who Is Without Sin Cast The First Stone. James said, "Quit speaking against one another, brothers." (James 4:11)

I would ask every person who has allowed a religious leader of some sort to persuade you that homosexuality is a threat to you: can you speak of a personal experience where you were threatened, in any way by a homosexual? Can you personally account for any sordid sexual acts perpetrated upon yourself or your children by a homosexual? And may I remind you that although the inference is made that a man violating a male child is homosexual, it is usually a heterosexual who violates children of both sexes.

Let me tell you of a love story in the Bible. The father didn't approve of it, although God did. "And it came about that, as soon as he (David, the giant slayer) had finished speaking Saul (the father), Jonathan's very soul became bound up with the soul of David, and Jonathan began to love him as his own soul." (1 Samuel 18:1) "And Jonathan and David proceeded to conclude a covenant, because his loving him as his own soul." (1 Samuel

18:3) Religions today are proclaiming the covenanting of gay couples as a sign of the corruption of America, but God stood with these two men. David had multiple wives. Mormons have been persecuted for this practice, because other religions who think they have all the right answers said that it is wrong. "Saul grew afraid of David because Jehovah proved to be with him, but from Saul he had departed." (1 Samuel 18:10) "But David swore in addition and said: "Your father must surely know that I have found favor in your eyes..." (1 Samuel 20:3) "Then Saul's anger grew hot against Jonathan and he said to him: "You son of a rebellious maid, do I not well know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the secret parts of your mother?" (1 Samuel 20:30) When David learned of Jonathan's death, his lament included these words: "More wonderful was your love to me than the love from women." (2 Samuel 1:26) Saul didn't call his son "queer," but close enough for Biblical terms. But the point I would make to fundamentalists is that God stood with the two men-- who bound up their souls together, and abandoned Saul. I also note what this story says to us - that love occurs in the soul. David and Jonathan would today be called soulmates. True love is blind to the

flesh, for flesh is simply the vehicle that allows participation in this school-room of life. If Jesus loved one of his male disciples, and David loved Jonathan, and these things are clearly written about in the Bible, then why have so many religions made persecution of homosexuals their way of life? Blessed are the persecuted! For those who choose to say that AIDS is a disease brought upon homosexuality as a curse from God, I would point out that lesbians are the least affected segment of the population, and by their very analysis, that makes lesbians God's chosen people. There are few people who will put something in their mouth without first examining it. One should be just as careful with their mind. There are some homosexuals who have been brain-washed with homophobia, and not only does this inner conflict create susceptibility to illness, it also causes some of them to cringe when it is pointed out that Jesus himself loved a man. If it has been done to the homosexual, imagine how much easier it has been to sway the mind of the "righteous straight." If your religious leader is not teaching you to LOVE your neighbor - and that IT IS NO CONCERN TO YOU who or how your neighbor loves, then go to your Bible, and to the God within. LOVE is the only thing that will get you into God's Kingdom.

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For more info or to send a donation write to Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc. (or LHEF, Inc.) PO Box 1258, New York, NY 10116

Lift the Ban

We need your help. The battle to overturn the military ban on gay men, lesbians and bisexuals is being lost. The compromises being proposed are not compromises but see-outs. The President is under pressure to compromise; Congress is anxious to vote and time is running out. We must act now or lose this fight. Letters and visits get the attention of members of Congress. Write your Representative and Senators immediately-and do so over and over again.

National Mobilization Against the Ban kicks off July 4 in Washington, DC. We will gather in Lafayette Park across from the White House. We will serve notice that discrimination of gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens will not be tolerated and that any effort to deny our freedom will not stand. For information or the name of a regional contact, call Jason Jeffner at 202-332-6483, ext. 3360, NGLTF, 1734 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

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News of Joy by Carol

Joy MCC has a new ministry that is available to anyone in the gay population. You do not have to be a member of the church. It is called the visitation ministry. If someone is in the hospital, convalescing at home, or housebound and would like a visit from a member of Joy MCC, all they have to do is call 894-1081. The visit may include praying together, communion, or just taking and spending time with the person, family and friends. At present, the visitations are only available in Orange and Seminole Counties. When you call for a visit, a couple of questions will be asked such as: which hospital and room number; what is the nature of the hospitalization; when you would like a visit? All answers are kept in the strictest confidence as well as any conversation during the visit.

Suggested Reading

If you're looking for a good book to curl up with, check out these winners of the fifth annual Lambda Literary Awards:

Lesbian Fiction: **Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound**, Judith Katz, Firebrand Books

Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy:

Ammonite, Nicola Griffith, Del Ray

Lesbian Nonfiction: **Eleanor Roosevelt**, Blance W. Cook, Viking

Lesbian Poetry: **Undersong**, Audre Lorde, W.W. Norton

Lesbian Mystery: **Two Bit Tango**, Elizabeth Pincus, Spinsters Book Co.;

Crazy for Loving, Joyce Naiman, Naiad Press

Lesbian Anthologies: **The Persistent Desire**, Joan Nestle, editor; Alyson Publications

In Memoriam

Countless members of the lesbian and gay community note with regret the death of Pamela Pratt, chair of New York's Center's, **In Our Own Write** reading series for emerging lesbian and gay writers. She died on March 28 from diabetes-related causes. She was 35. Pamela founded the In Our Own Write Writing Workshops and the In our Own Write Journal when she became chair of the reading series in 1991. A writer of fiction as well as a dedicated and nurturing editor, Pamela edited the forthcoming anthology of lesbian fiction, *Woman in the Window*. She is survived by her parents, Lois and Samuel Pratt, and her two cats, Clyde and Calypso.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear LCN,

This letter is in response to the *She Speaks...* article in June's newsletter written by Patty Sheehan.

After coming home from D.C., I watched the entire 6 hours of coverage by C-SPAN (not CNN) since I had missed it waiting to get on the parade route. I was very impressed by the speakers, diverse representation, and the MC's.

When I read Patty's article, I thought I had missed something. So I replayed it again. The bare breasted womyn and the comments from Lea DeLaria account for a little more than 145 seconds of the 21,600 seconds of tape. Hardly enough to lecture all the brave American Heros that Marched on D.C. or your community.

Setting behavioral standards and censorship guidelines are very dangerous suggestions. At your pride parade, how butch is too butch? And perhaps all the men with flamboyant lips or gestures should stay home? In the closet? Where the religious right is wishing we would stay? I don't think so.

The civil rights' I march for are for all my brothers and sisters, without regard to their political correctness or social acceptability. The PR campaign you seem to imply is perhaps a good idea. In this day of sound bytes and flash headlines, a controlled media response would be a great project. But in the context of a Pride parade or a civil rights march it borders on censorship.

*Warmest Regards,
Barb Fallon*

EVA FAJARDO, L.M.H.C., C.A.P.

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a student at the University of Central Florida. Due to lack of funds, I thought I would not be able to attend the March on Washington. Thanks to the fund raising done by the committee, the trip was made possible for me.

I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to experience "DC in '93." I want to thank everyone who had a hand in organizing the trip I will never forget. Thank you once more for the wonderful memories.

Debbie B.

[Ed. Note: This thanks goes to all you LCN supporters, too. We gave seed monies to the local DC in '93 group, which really helped get the ball rolling!]

LEAP

The Living Earth Project, (LEAP) is capturing the spirit, essence and passion of the 1993 March on Washington in a commemorative poster set and video, to benefit the March and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Call (202)986-1993.

DEBS & DYKES BALL

JULY 24

Crescendo, The Tampa Bay Womyn's Chorus, Inc. proudly presents a "Gayla Event" ...The Debs & Dykes Ball!!

Live a fantasy role for an evening at this outrageous and elegant event. We are Coming Out!!! Dust off your old prom gown, visit a thrift shop for a tux or create your own formal attire and join us for lots of fun at this satirical event.

Saturday July 24, 1993 from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am at the Sheraton Tampa East located at 7401 E. Hillsborough Ave. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information call Kathie at 813-932-7329.

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Roommate wanted to share 2br duplex downtown. Must be clean, quiet, responsible, love dogs. No smoke, drink or drugs. Veggie a plus. \$230 + half utilities. Move in mid to late August. Call Sunny for interview. 897-1157.

KEY WEST Great room in Lesbian home. Vacation or long term. Private entrance, fridge, microwave, A/C, private bath. Quiet neighborhood in Newtown. No drugs, reasonable Rates. 305-294-8109.

Downtown Orlando house for rent. 2 bd, 1 bath with garage and central heat/air. No dogs allowed. Prefer quiet, non-smoking single or couple. References required. \$525 monthly. Call 897-1358.

Female roommate to share large 2br/2b apt. with same in Maitland. No pets. On bus line. \$370/mo plus long distance; \$150 deposit. Call 740-0151.

N. Carolina Mountain Home for rent. Very secluded near Asheville, hiking, rafting, hot springs. Women only. No pets or smoking. \$350/week or \$200/wkend. Call Lynn or Kathy, 904-332-8831/

LCN Express Production Schedule

Call Rachel, 831-2971 for more information.

July 15: Copy/Ad deadline

July 20: Editorial Meeting

July 21-23: Type articles
(You may be able to help do this on your own computer!)

Aug. 2: Need volunteer to fold and/or pick up newsletter at Pronto Press and bring to Faces

Aug. 2: 7:00pm Folding Party at Faces!!!

ALL WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Triangle Palms, a gay and lesbian guesthouse/resort is offering a women-only weekend July 29 - August 1, 1993. Sunset parties all 3 nights and BBQ on Sunday.

Triangle Palms is located on the Banana River, 1 block from the beach. Rooms/ suites run from \$30 - \$110 / day. For more info, call Tony at 407-799-2221.

WRITERS WORKSHOP

The 19th Annual Feminist
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July 11-18

Hobart & William Smith College
Geneva, N.Y.

SASE: Women's Writing Workshop,
Inc. PO Box 6583, Ithaca, NY 14851.

Local Events and Projects

MBA Politicians Panel

July 1: Orange County Chair Linda Chapin, Rep. Alzo Reddick, Comm. Mabel Butler, and (perhaps) a rep from Mayor Glenda Hood will be available for your questions. The Radisson, Lake Ivanhoe. Social at 6:30; meeting at 7:30pm. \$10 for non-members.

WILLOW Picnic!

July 25: 11am - 6pm, Coca-Cola Park in Leesburg. Food, games, boating, BYOB. Live music by the Creamettes.

Adults, \$15; Children, \$7.50. BBQ lunch is served from 12 - 2pm. For more info, call Dee (407) 896-3312 or Terry (904) 357-3648.

Tampa Bay Women's Chorus Crescendo

The Tampa Bay Women's Chorus, Inc. celebrated their one year anniversary in September.

Crescendo is a Lesbian & Feminist centered chorus dedicated to social change through musical excellence. We are women of varied ages, social backgrounds, political interests, religious beliefs & musical experience. We honor the creativity & diversity of women and we are committed to the performance of music that inspires, educates & unifies.

Through our music we seek the abolishment of all forms of oppression including homophobia, sexism, racism & ableism by giving voice to the desires and dreams of all people who seek to co-exist in a world of unity and kinship.

The chorus is currently holding auditions for all vocal parts for the next performance season. For more info call Sunny, 813-858-2620 (Lakeland) or Kathie 813-932-7329 (Tampa).

FL Coalition For Peace & Justice Dear Friends at LCN,

January, 1994, will mark Bill Clinton's first year as president. It seems a natural time for we in progressive organizations to be considering where we've been, where we are, and what our major themes and goals should be. In other words, how should we view the Clinton Administration and what should we be doing about it?

That is why we propose a statewide conference in central Florida (tentatively Rollins College, Winter Park) for the weekend of January 21, 1994.

Please poll your membership about this proposed event. We always hear from our members that they want us to work with other groups thus building our collective strength. Ask them if they agree that we should explore some form of statewide unified action, or even networking?

For more information please contact: FL Coalition For Peace & Justice Box 2486 Orlando, FL 32802, 422-3479.

[Editors' Note: Feel free to write or call LCN about your views on this.]

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International

July 1 - 4: Annual GLPCI International Conference at the Clarion Hotel in Orlando, featuring workshops, speakers, entertainment, and networking. Hosted by the Central Florida Chapter.



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Alix, Cont'd from p. 1

mances I have been known to get an audience's attention as I got yours, by voicing that which has been largely or completely "unspeakable," and although I am intensely aware that a concert stage can tolerate only so much elaboration, my pronouncements are deliberate, if abbreviated. I feel I must take a chance and trust those in my audience to incorporate my words into their own empowerment. Sometimes it takes years to happen, as I described at the beginning of this letter, and sometimes, I suppose, it never does.

You wrote about "teaching our male children..." and I couldn't agree with you more. In fact, the week before I read your words I was bood on stage at Mama Bears' in Oakland for expressing my belief that I know and love a couple of young men who have been raised by Lesbian friends and whom I've known since they were children. I have been saying that for awhile now, but have never before been hissed for declaring that these boys are really different and that there is a place for them and other non-lesbian allies. Oh well, sometimes you just can't win for losing. (But then again, "Sometimes you're the wind-

Democrats Face Gay Issue

Peter Mitchell, Orlando Sentinel, May 93

Should homosexuals be protected from discrimination? The issue is quickly becoming a partisan one in Orange County as local Democrats prepare to make statements on the issue..

Orange County's Democratic Ex-

shield" to paraphrase Mary Chapin Carpenter).

In any case, Lucy, thanks for taking the time to put words to paper on behalf of all of us. And I really, really hope that you'll say "hello" the next time I come through Orlando. But if not, another "contribution to Spouse Abuse," as you wrote, instead of the price of a ticket, is a buck well spent.

And you needn't "feel sad" on my behalf. I'm not afraid of saying, or even owning, the thought spelled "h-a-t-r-e-d." It is one word among many which I carry with me, along with a political analysis, lots of opinions, lots of precess, a few songs, and a love of women in general and Lesbians in particular. I trust you feel the same.

*Stay well and stay sweet,
Alix Dobkin*

ecutive Committee, the party's governing body, is deciding whether to object to two proposed constitutional amendments that would prevent establishing civil rights protections for gays and lesbians.

The vote comes on the heels of the Orange County Republican Executive Committee's decision to endorse a ban, which broke ground for Florida's GOP as it angered some party moderates. Sensing a split in the GOP, county Democratic Chairman Doug Head decided his party should propose a resolution of its own, criticizing the amendments as discriminatory and commending local Republicans who dissented in the GOP vote.

Two constitutional amendments have been proposed calling for an end to local initiatives to protect homosexual rights. One has been proposed by American Family Association of Florida leader David Caton and another by perennial Republican candidate Anthony Martin. The Democratic resolution, which says the amendments would "endanger personal liberties and must be defeated," also offers no concrete assistance to opponents of the amendments.

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THE BRIDGE

by Jo Wiggins

PERSONAL GODDESS AWARDS

I tend to refer to women I admire as "personal goddesses." In tribute to them, I decided to devote a column to 10 women who are worthy of Personal Goddess Awards, or would be if I had the money or inclination to go out and buy 10 gilded tin trophies. You'll notice a lack of traditional queer-women heroes like Audre Lorde and k.d. lang. Not that they aren't worthy of respect. However, as a bi-women, I'm not traditional in the straight or the gay communities.

Instead, I chose the lucky winners based on their intelligence, talent, style, class, and courage. Some are famous, others obscure. It's a mixed bag--musicians, writers, political figures, and a teacher. Whenever I consider one of the honorees physically attractive (which doesn't influence my selections at all, no ma'am!) I'll let you know. The list is in alphabetical order

because nobody here is more "important" than anyone else. May you find your own personal goddesses.

1.) *Hillary Rodham Clinton* - should have been the President, in my humble opinion. Still, it's good that she's in the White House, period. I admire her for using "Rodham," influencing policy, and so obviously loving Chelsea.

I admire her for her transformation from geek girl to a First Lady who looks as classy as she acts. I admire her especially for taking on the "traditional" First Lady role while trying to straighten out that tangled mess we call health care. (Of course the fact that I got to interview her via satellite link on TV last September has nothing to do with this choice.)

2.) *Aretha Franklin's* voice alone makes her a Personal Goddess. However, for those skeptics who say

that the rich, glorious, versatile, full-bodied voice isn't enough, there's more! She recorded soulful female anthems like *Respect*. She became one of the first successful, independent black female artists. She worked, and still works, for civil rights. And nobody else could seem so regal while bulging out of a too-tight strapless dress.

3.) *Patricia Ireland* - is almost exactly what I want to be when I grow up. She has a husband and a female lover, which I consider uncool. However, she's warm, classy, funny, feminine, and effective. Under her leadership, the National Organization for Women has become a highly gay/by friendly group. Not only does she fight for queers, but like any feminist leader worthy of the title, she fights for the rights of all people.

4.) *Ladybug* - also known as Mary Ann Viera, is the lovely girl rapper in Digable Planets. she works with two female-friendly men, raps smoothly yet forcefully to jazz grooves, and records songs like the pro-choice *La Femme Fetal*. Her stance is intellectual with out snottiness and pro-black without prejudice. Like other female rappers, she is making sexist hip-hop boys sit up and take notice of women.

5.) *Sinead O'Connor* - sings the soundtrack to most of my writing, as I usually play her tapes when I type. I can't resist anyone who looks so stun-

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The Bridge,

continued from p. 5

ning hairless, though she's grown her hair out recently.

Sure, she's done some truly weird and misguided stunts. However, she also uses her fierce, seductive voice to help charities like the Kurds in Iraq, Special Olympics, and IRS victim Willie Nelson. Most importantly, her risks and her pro-woman lyrics are good influences. Pretty good for a former abused child going through the crisis of faith! No I'm worried. I admire the formerly bald Sinead, model Eve Salvail's shaved, tatoood head inspires lust, and Katie Lunacharsky, my companion/the most beautiful woman in the world, also shaves her head. Is it a fetish-in waiting or what? Oh well, at least I haven't fallen for the woman in those *Stop the Insanity* infomercials.

6.) **Janet Reno** - is our first 6'2" female Attorney General whose mother wrestled alligators. Like other cool, smart women (me, for instance), she was made in "Flawduh." She's capable and honest. It broke my heart to see her so guilt-stricken about the deaths in Waco. It inspired me to see her stand up for the Justice Department later. Anquette, a Florida rapper, recorded a single called *Janet Reno*

when she forced delinquent daddies to pay child support. Like Time magazine said, she's a "full-fledged folk hero."

7.) **Patricia Schroeder** - is one of the women that political columnists think will be our **FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT**. She deserves it. She's bee a Representative of Colorado since 1972. She serves in the House Military Committee and wants gays and women to serve fully in the military. She stands up for children and women. Best of all, she opposed that scummy **COLORADO** anti-gay rights ballot measure.

8.) **Cher Stempler** - is my debate teacher. I'll get this right out of the way. I'm about to graduate and I have an A average in that class, thank you, so I have no need to kiss up. She taught me to argue and write effectively and wrote a fantastic recommendation for my college application. She's supportive, fair, and a liberal ex-hippie. I respect her for finding creative ways to teach us the power of words. Isn't it uncool to like your teacher? Do I care? As she says: not!

9.) **Alice Walker** - wrote the brilliant **The Color Purple**, a novel about an abused woman who learns to love herself as a lesbian. I don't know what Alice is, but I do know that she's

very gay-supportive. She's also "womanist," pro-black, and sex-positive. She's against pornography, but who needs it with sexy, romantic stories like hers?

10.) **Jeanette Winterson** - also writes sexy, romantic stories. At 25, she wrote her eccentric autobiography, **Oranges are Not the Only Fruit**. She was adopted by a Pentecostal family. Her mother was quite strict and wanted her to be a missionary. That idea stopped when Mama found Jeannette in bed with another woman when she was 15. Jeannette was exorcised and finally ran away.

She survived to write **The Passion** and other genius novels. Here's a line from her latest, **Written On The Body**: "Articulacy of fingers, the language of the deaf and dumb, signing on the body body longing." Yummy. When she says, "My books are the best," know that she is not arrogant, but truthful.

I'm getting out of high school! I'm getting out of high school! Yeehaw! Thanks for letting me get that off my chest. See y'all next month! I promise.

[Thanks to Jo for writing for the LCN. She

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The Rainbow Democratic Club is open to anyone who believes in equal rights for all citizens who believe that the Democratic Party is the preferred political vehicle for achieving that goal. Membership consists of many leading Orlando area gay and lesbian activists and other party officials and community leaders.

Your help has never been needed more. We need your involvement to fight the proposed Florida constitutional amendments to legalize discrimination against gays and lesbians. The threat of constitutional amendments, the effort to lift the BAN on military service, and the need for local ordinances to protect our rights are all reasons to join! This is not an issue of tomorrow, it is now!

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The Sixth Annual Creating Change Conference will be held November 10-14, 1993 in Durham, North Carolina. This will be a skills building conference for activists and organizers. For more information, contact National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, Creating Change 1993, 1734 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 332-6483.

Peace Celebration

In celebration of 10 years of the Women's Peace Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice, womyn there have decided to transform the camp into a women's land trust called (for now) Women's Peace Land. They invite all women of peace to come celebrate this transformation with them anytime, but especially July 31-August 9, at the Women's Peace Land, 5440 RTE.96, Romulus, NY 14541. For more info call (607) 869-3801.

Gay and Lesbian employees of the United States Postal Service in the Northland District, which includes large areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin, are pleased to inform your readers of the existence of the Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (G/LPEN).

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HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE

by Roz

It is a frightening prospect to return to witch trials and religious inquisitions, but religion is setting a course to re-establish them. We had a political candidate here in Florida who was black-listed by religion mongers because "he belongs to a cult." The "cult" is the Masons. It was Masons who were instrumental in creating our form of government, with its Constitution, that grants religious freedom. Such is the tyrannous ignorance of so-called "Christian" groups of today.

Religion is frenetically bombarding the populace with homophobic rhetoric. It created homophobia in the psyche. Only those who have developed some level of understanding of how their higher and lower selves work will be able to surmount the bigotries of hatred that have been force-fed into them since they were children. It is not love, but hate and persecution, that God will judge.

Jesus, whom "Christians" claim as their savior, gave only two laws. One was to love God. The other was to love your neighbor, as yourself. He gave these laws as our path to salvation.

Since religion has used the Bible as its justification for creating the homophobic mindset, I would like to show more of what the Bible says relating to homosexuality, and why it says some of the things it says.

When one searches back in time, one finds that Biblical philosophies were lifted from more ancient teachings, particularly those that "Christians" call pagan.

In the ancient Tao, it was taught that a man should not lie with a man, although it was fine for a woman to lie with a woman. It had nothing to do with morality. It had to do with energy - of which most "Christians"

remain unaware. Masculine energies (Yang) are aggressive and so do not mix. Feminine energies (Yin) are nurturing and blend just fine. The Tao also teaches that a man spills his life-force when he spills his seed. From these teachings, we find in the Bible four scriptures that prohibit man from lying with man. We find more than 50 that prohibit man from lying with woman outside marriage, and we find that Paul even advises against sex in marriage - except when having specific intent to procreate. If there are Twelve Times as many admonitions to not fornicate, why has the focus been on homosexuality? Note that no scriptures forbid women lying together.

Since the original form of these laws related to energy, it is also relevant to note that masculine energy is sometimes the energizing force of a female body, and vice-versa.

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