

Express

Privacy Project

an effort to protect the right to privacy in employment, housing, public services, and credit

Tampa, Fla. (April 3, 1994)

Support is growing throughout the State of Florida for a proposed amendment called the Privacy Project. After meeting with groups from Daytona Beach to Fort Lauderdale, and St. Petersburg to Orlando, State Coordinator Cindy Abel is finding groups in various organizational stages "eager to participate. They are celebrating the defeat of the American Family Association's discrimination amendment, then, without missing a beat, are wanting to move on to affecting positive change."

Sponsored by the Human Task Force of Florida, the initiative addresses the concerns of many citizens throughout the state regarding the amount and type of information being gathered and the lack of restrictions as to how it can be used. Additionally, it demonstrates respect for others' personal autonomy, echoing the feelings of the majority of Americans who believe people should be fairly evaluated, based on qualifications specifically pertinent to the matter at hand.

As illustrated by the response to the discrimination initiative, the American people in general, lesbians, gays and bisexuals in particular, have reached a pivotal point in history.

For more information or area contact names and numbers, call 813-281-8666, or write the Privacy Project, 1222 South Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 652, Tampa, Florida, 33629.

Psychiatric Abuse of Lesbian and Gay Youth

Reprinted from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

"In homosexual women there are intense desires for revenge and uncontrollable aggressive feelings."

Dr. Charles Socarides, member of the Nat'l Assoc. for Psychoanalytic Research & Therapy of Homosexuality, an organization working to resurrect the idea that homosexuality is a disorder requiring treatment and correction.

A young woman (herein called "Beth" for the sake of her privacy) came to NCLR last year for help. She is a 17-year-old lesbian whose mother had her committed to a psychiatric hospital because she is gay. School and county officials had Beth sent to a psychiatric hospital where she was strip searched and locked in an isolation room. Then she was "given the opportunity to express her desire to change her sexual orientation" and "treatment" began.

The "treatment" Beth describes consisted of visits from a local chapter of "Homosexuals Anonymous," so-called visualization techniques to make Beth change her sexual orientation, and anti-psychotic drugs. If she disobeyed the rules, Beth was punished by further isolation and threatened with electroshock.

Beth ran away while visiting her mother, who hired a private

investigator who found her. Beth ran away again and went to the police who placed her in shelter while an investigation was conducted. Beth saw another psychiatrist who found she had no mental health problems and did not belong in an institution. NCLR found a lesbian family to serve as her guardians and she is now attending school.

NCLR is now raising \$10,000 to file a lawsuit on behalf of Beth and other young men and women confined with her in Utah. And they're launching an ambitious program to stop this horrible form of homophobia on several fronts including:

▼ Legal Services to lesbian adolescents subjected to abusive confinement or treatment...

▼ Lobbying state and federal legislators to prohibit the use of "reparative" therapies on adolescents...

▼ Investigating and documenting the extent of abusive therapies on the adolescents around the country (50,000 committed yearly; 20-30% being gay).

Please help in this effort. Send contributions to the NCLR at 1663 Mission Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Lesbian & Gay Youth Resources & Hotlines:

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project 1-800-528-NCLR
Delta Youth Alliance, Orlando 407-THE-GAYS Hotline: 407-628-1227
The Hetrick-Martin Institute, New York City 212-674-2400

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new! 3/2, spa, deck screen porch, loaded with extras. Priced for quick sale only \$78,000. Ask for Margaret, 425-9982 Unique Homes.

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LCN Express Production Schedule

Call 831-2971 for more info

Submission deadline:

May 15th

Tues., May 17th: Editorial/ Production Meeting at 7pm.

Mon., May 30: 7:00pm Folding Party at GLCS! If you are looking for a way to get involved, this is a great help and a chance to meet some of the community!

Many thanks to the womyn who helped last month!

May Calendar

[also see LOCAL EVENTS]

May 14th: LCN Gathering & Pool

Party at Ann Dials house in Longwood. Bring a dish to pass, beverages and lawn chairs. Call 831-2971 FMI. See back page for details.

May 21st, PFLAG/Lee's Lakeside,

First annual Evening Out with Parents FLAG. Cash Bar cocktails will begin downstairs in The Tavern at 7:00. Dinner, entertainment, door prizes and networking at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 donation each. All individuals and groups are invited to reserve a display table- (No sales, please.) To reserve a table, call Karen at 834-2749

May 29th: The Fabulous Flirtations

at The Club [the Firestone Building], 8 pm sponsored by MBA. Tickets may be purchased at Out & About Books on Mills Ave. or by contacting Eric Rollings at 896-4827.

June 3, 4 & 5 1994 - The Gay Alliance

proudly presents Share The Vision Weekend. A gay day at Disney. For more information call GAYLINK, 407-857-1777

Don't miss the Laura Love Band Concert/Dance at the Unitarian on Robinson St, May 7th 8 pm!

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LOCAL EVENTS

Laura Love Band in concert and dance at the Unitarian Church Saturday May 7th at 8:00pm for fun and fundraising. Proceeds from the event will go to the Pride parade and LCN. Drinks and snack will be sold. Come join the fun!!!! See advertisement.

▼
A Support Group for Parents of Gays and Lesbians meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 7-9pm at 111 South Knowles Ave., Winter Park, Fl. The cost per person is \$25 per/person or \$40 per/couple per session. This group is led by Karen Turner, MA a licensed Mental Health Counselor and Parent and limited to eight participants. For more info: 407 629 2937.

▼
Hat Box Revue will present "more Glimpses...", May 20 through June 5th, a festival of lesbian and gay one-act plays, at Out and About Books, located at 930 N. Mills Ave, Orlando. The event has been expanded to include three weekends celebrating the 2nd anniversary of Out and About Books and heralding Lesbian & Gay Pridemonth '94. Some of what More Glimpses will be featuring is the works of such literary pioneers, including Harvey Fierstein's "Widows and Children First" (Act III of Torch Song Trilogy), ...Terry Baum's "SEX" (excerpted from Dos Lesbos)...Tennessee Williams "Talk To Me Like The Rain And Let Me Listen" featuring Jaquine Perry and Geri Michael. (this is the first time the piece has ever been performed by two women. Proceeds from the door will go to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays of Central Florida and the Love Foundation. For tickets and onfo call 407 292 9088.

STATE

Davida Johns, feminist photographer from Florida, is seeking minority women to be included in her Women at Work series. The series, in both photography and slide presentation form, has been widely exhibited in Tampa at such places as runaway shelters and schools for pregnant teens. As a method of broadening personal horizons, providing role models, and encouraging young women to seek their own interests, it has already proven its worth. Contact Davida at 1-813-521-3829. *from Mama Raga*

▼
Voters in three more Oregon cities and one county have defied the state legislature and approved anti-gay rights laws. The extremists hope is to get enough of the state's cities and counties to pass such laws and then pressure the Legislature to repeal last year's law. Expect a similar approach from David Caton here in Florida. *paraphrased from The Rainbow Democratic Club News, May, 1994*

▼
Floridian writer (Tampa/St. Pete) seeks personal testimony of victims/survivors of psychiatric or mental health "treatment" for homosexuality. Confidentiality assured. Call 1-813-323-6080. *from Mama Raga*

▼
Women in Paradise, Key West's annual celebration, will be held July 11 - 17 this year. Last year, over 3,500 women attended and participated in such activities as day sail snorkeling, sunset sail trips, kayak tours, diving, volley-ball, mini-golf, and rollerblading. For info or reservations: 1-800-705-4376, PO Box 1268, Key West, FL 33041.

NATIONAL

Thanks to a group of New York Artists, several hundred **GI Joes** this Christmas were saying things like, "Will we ever have enough clothes?" and "I love to shop with you." The group, which calls itself the Barbie Liberation Organization (BLO), earlier this year bought some 300 GI Joe and Barbie dolls and swapped their computer chips. The dolls were then carefully repackaged along with a flyer urging the purchasers to contact their local media "about this funny doll they got" and stealthily replaced on toy store shelves in more than 40 states, Canada and England. When Christmas rolled around, of course, the effort became public as kids found their GI Joes exclaiming in a teenage girl's voice, "Let's go to the beach," and their Barbie's snarling in deep baritone, "Eat lead, Cobra!" and "Vengeance is mine!" The BLO says the voice-change operation was a head-on attack on "gender-based stereotyping in children's toys." So far everyone who's gotten one of the dolls seems happy with them since no one has acted on Mattel's offer to exchange them. *-from Outlines*

▼
Whoopi Goldberg is set to star as a lesbian lounge singer in "Boys on the Side," a movie tentatively scheduled for production this year. In the movie, she goes on a cross-country road trip with Mary Louise Parker (who plays a straight woman with AIDS) and Drew Barrymore. *-from The Washington Blade*

▼
Stonewall 25 is looking for a person to head up their domestic outreach program for the march on the United Nations. Stonewall 25 has written a commitment to racial and gender parity (minimum 50% women, 25-50% people of color) so they encourage resumes from these groups. Contact Susan Jester, Stonewall 25, 208 W. 13 St, NY, NY 10011. *-from Mama Raga*

Women in the Moon Publications announces the submissions deadlines for the Pat Parker Memorial Poetry Award-- July 31, 1994. Send SASE for submissions guidelines to PO Box 2087, Cupertino, CA 95015 or call (408) 864-8212.

Audition Notice:

Hat Box Revue is seeking an African-American actress to perform a monologue delivered by a lesbian living with AIDS. "God Bless the Child," excerpted from "more intimacies", touches upon the history of a black female growing up in the 1950's south and presents a powerful image of women-to-woman transmission of AIDS. Catherine Goodison will direct, for details call 292 9088.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Archaeologists in China have discovered a collection of 50 unpainted clay figures of women warriors believed to be more than 2,000 years old. The Chinese Amazon platoon was discovered in the Shaanxi Province near a tomb dating back to the Western Han dynasty (206 BC-AD24). Male military figures are common finds in ancient Chinese archaeological sites, but this platoon is believed to be the first indication that there were all-female units in the imperial Chinese armies. *-from the Alabama Forum*

PAKISTAN — After hearing reports that women were being sexually abused by police officers, Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced in December that she will open the country's first police station for women. The station will be staffed entirely by women, and will deal exclusively with crimes related to women. *-from Outlines*

An immigration judge in San Francisco has become the first in U.S. history to grant political asylum to a gay person on the basis of persecution because of sexual orientation. Marcelo Tenorio, a Brazilian, was beaten and stabbed in 1989. He left Brazil and filed for asylum in the U.S. He did not report the incident to the police because the police themselves often use physical violence when arresting homosexuals. INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) is appealing the judge's decision. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has launched a major initiative to challenge INS position. They are also representing a lesbian from Russia who has suffered numerous arrests, imprisonment, and physical violence because she is a lesbian. *-from Guild Notes*

Letters to the Editors

Dear LCN,

*Just when friends are needed
You find them always near;
Just when shadows darken,
Their comforting words you hear.*

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement and all the individual support each of you have given me. Losing a mother is the hardest thing to go through in life but I know my mother is at peace and no longer suffers.

We love you all.

Cathy (Frogger) and Lucy



Dear LCN,

Love the new name. Also enjoyed the camp-out, as usual. Keep up the good work. News about RythmFest would be appreciated. Have never gone, but it sounds like fun. Here's a little extra \$ since I haven't been very regular in contributing.

Love, Your sisters in Malabar-- M & S

Dear LCN Sisters,

I was one of the founding sisters of LCN. I reflect back with fond memories of one of the first gatherings held at a South Street house. A lot has changed since then. The newsletter has grown to be quite a professional work of art filled with interesting articles and information to our ever growing community. Please keep up the good work and thanks to all of you who are still there to keep "LCN" ALIVE!!

Jeanne

Find the Woman of Your Dreams

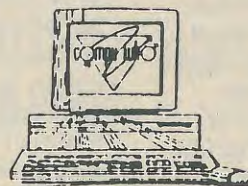
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Info About Community Events

Two Ways To Overcome Investment Jitters

If you've ever lost even a little sleep over an investment decision, you're not alone. Many investors get jitters from time to time, even when market and economic conditions are favorable. Here are two techniques that may help you reduce your investment worries - and perhaps make you a better investor:

1. TAKE A LONGER-TERM FOCUS. Despite short-term fluctuations, the long-term trends of the stock and bond markets have historically been upward. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. But history strongly suggests that your chances of earning consistently favorable returns are better with a long-term, buy-and-hold strategy than if you jump in and out of the markets over short periods. A longer-term approach can reduce the significance of each short-term fluctuation.

2. INVEST REGULARLY. Systematic investing can help you benefit from the power of compounding interest over time. As you add to your investment plan, you increase its earning power and growth potential. Investing a fixed amount at regular intervals - a technique known as dollar-cost averaging - can also help make price fluctuations work in your favor. Your fixed

investment buys fewer shares when prices are higher and more when prices are lower. Over time, this may lead to an average cost per share lower than the average price per share. That can translate into more investment power for your money.*

Don't let investment jitters stand in the way of your financial goals. Next month, we'll discuss a very important aspect of your portfolio: your broker!

*Dollar-cost averaging is not foolproof. It does not guarantee a profit or ensure against a loss. Since dollar-cost averaging involves continuous investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities, the investor should consider his financial ability to continue purchases through periods of low price levels.

Marceia Egler is a Registered Representative with First Investors Corp. in Winter Park, FL. From month to month, she will try to provide you with timely articles for both the experienced and new investor. If you have any questions, you can write her at 1801 Lee Rd Ste. 255 / Winter Park, FL 32789 or call (407)629-5499.

The Wherefore

*There is a light before the light
rises*

*Its ascent puts right the sight
Of acres of sea interspersed*

with

*Lumps of green quietly laid.
In the vast blues rhythm that*

plays

Today like this:

Silence...

A low resound

A crescendo of peak

*A crushing hearty tunnel of
wind*

And a stark white crash

That slowly fades into a

Carbonated watery fizz

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14 March 1994

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One good sign that Orlando may be evolving into something a bit more cosmopolitan than Mickey Mouse touristland is the new wealth of options (relatively speaking) for the endorphin-inclined among us. Until recently, if you wanted to get pierced you either did it yourself (not a good idea for anything other than earlobes) or you paid Gen (lead singer/dominatrix of the Genitorturers, and an RN) to perforate you in the virtually nonexistent back room at Orlando's pervy gayboy hangout, Absolute Leather. Of course, the uncomfortable ambience was partially made up for by the mere presence of Gen, a stunning Barbie bitch goddess with long platinum blonde hair and the cutest little behind and a tendency to dress entirely in black leather and an endearing willingness to yank out one of her own piercings (a nipple, for instance) as an example. Gen *likes* piercing people, she's very sincere in her perversity — and she is totally opposed to any kind of anesthetic. If you can't do the pain, you don't deserve the jewelry. However, Gen has recently moved to

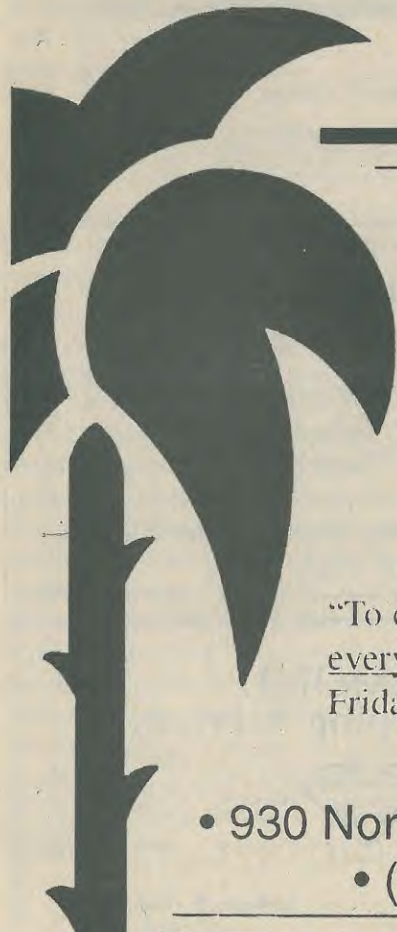
Piercing Questions

Piercing has recently become an extremely popular and incredibly widespread method of personal expression

Tampa, so Absolute Leather has trained Steve to be their resident piercer. Steve charges \$30 per hole, the piercing jewelry is extra (Absolute Leather carries Silver Anchor jewelry). Steve is of a different breed than Gen, and he will use anesthetic if requested. He's multiply pierced for that sleek badboy look only, wanting to feel the pain as part of the ritual seems to be incomprehensible to him (working in an S/M leather shop you'd think it wouldn't be *such* a foreign idea).

Piercing has recently become an extremely popular and incredibly widespread method of personal expression (it would be difficult to watch MTV for any length of time or pick up an issue of the formerly militant-vanilla On Our

Backs without seeing at least a nosering or two.) The most popular and the easiest piercings for a woman are the nostril, tongue, nipple, navel and labia. Believe it or not, the two that hurt the least and heal the easiest are the tongue and the labia. It is also possible to pierce the septum and the lip, but these are a bit trickier and are often harder to heal. Body piercing is a much different procedure from getting your earlobe gun-punched in the mall. The gun drives a pointed post through the earlobe; the advantage to this is that it's so quick, by the time you feel the pain, it's over. This is not a good method for anyplace else, with the possible exception of a nostril. With body piercing, a hollow piercing needle (like a metal tube) is used, so that instead of pushing the flesh aside to make room for the ring, the needle actually cores out a hole for the ring to fit into. It sounds incredibly gross and painful (it *is* a little gross) but it's far more efficient for healing; if everyone got their ears pierced this way there'd be way fewer people with infected earlobes. The ring fits into the end of the needle and just slides into the hole. Very quick, very efficient, and much less painful than it sounds. (I know, I didn't believe it when people said that to me. But would I lie to you? And never underestimate the power of endorphins!) The newest piercing parlor in mouseville, Leather Tiger, downtown in clubland on Orange Ave. Leather Tiger is woman-owned and one of their 3 piercers, Shari, is a lesbian (and an EMT). Leather Tiger charges \$20 per pierced part and they're having a two-for-one special, so you can either get an extra hole or bring your sweetie in for a really unique and intense commitment ritual. The people at Leather Tiger encourage and respect special ritual requests. Unlike Absolute Leather, which is an S/M leatherboy store complete with plenty of penile perversity, Leather Tiger carries only their own brand of body jewelry (which is less expensive than Silver Anchor) and a small selection of regular jewelry. The piercing area (which is screened off) is the majority of their floor space. If requested they can provide you with a spray-on Lidocaine anesthetic, but they generally encourage people to go for the chemical-free experience (which is, as most pierced people will tell you, not usually as painful as imagining it beforehand). As the illustrious Susie Bright said of her empowering labia piercing, "Pussy Power: The clit that rocks the needle rules the world." (Almost as poetic as what I myself said upon getting my own labia pierced: "Ow!")



Out & About Books

"To celebrate our second anniversary, everything in the store is 20% off Friday, May 20th!"

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MODERN DAY COWGIRLS RIDE AGAIN!

Women's Motorcycle Festival '94 will be held in post surroundings. The Radisson Inn, just south of Rochester, NY will be home for five days and four nights to "Modern Day Cowgirls" and their chrome and metallic steeds: July 18 - July 22.

The schedule is jam packed with rides, events, workshops and entertainment. Competition will focus on two main events, the Dice Run Round-up and the All Cowgirls Riding Rodeo. Social events will abound as well, such as a Tug of War and a Tattoo Fashion Show.

Women Motorcyclists, don't miss out on the WMF '94 extravaganza. It was conceived, designed and orchestrated with you in mind. Write to WMF, 7 Lent Ave., LeRoy, NY 14482 or phone (716) 768-6054.



THE ECO CORNER

by Becky Acuna

There's a new eco-org in town called Eco-Action. It's dedicated to raising awareness about earth-friendly lifestyles, about how to make conscious, responsible consumer choices, and about how to get actively involved in environmental issues.

Here's a list of Eco-Action Workshops for starters. Location: The Eco-Action Resource Room, 2421 Edgewater Dr. Members: \$3.50. Non-members: \$5.00.

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| May 4 | Papermaking |
| June 1 | Paper Marbling |
| May 18 | Landscaping |
| June 15 | Recycling |
| May 22 | Bicycling |



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Somebody's Gotta Say It!

By Judy Shaw

Books are my friends. Like people, some are good friends and others not so good but each bringing something to challenge the way we look at life. So it is with Bruce Bawer's *A Place at the Table*, which was intended to be a friend for the gay community but better succeeded at alienating rather than educating. His harsh criticism of the gay community caused me to look at how we continue to be our own worst enemy, not in the sense he speaks of by behaving in socially inappropriate ways or playing to stereotypes, but rather in our constant criticism of each other.

If we just look for a moment at the women's community and the diverse ways that homosexual women incorporate their sexuality into their lives or build their lives around their sexuality, we will see tremendous amount of bias that operates to separate and disempower us socially and politically. Take just the issue of what we should call ourselves-gay or lesbian?

To satisfy my own curiosity, I did an informal survey for two weeks on each gay woman/lesbian I spoke with. The question I asked was what does LESBIAN mean to you. Three categories of response emerged. One group clearly abhorred the word and found themselves incapable of using it in reference to their sexuality. They wanted to know why we can't just use the word gay, too?

The second set of women seemed to be neutral and felt that lesbian activism and the media have taken some of the sting out of the word and its meaning. Not surprising, the more politically active women who occupied the last category embraced the entire concept of being a Lesbian, clearly understanding the power of the word.

The important information that emerged from this informal query was that more women preferred to be gay than lesbian. What's the big deal about what we should call ourselves? GAY WOMEN are attracted to and desire to have some type of relationship with other women. It may be strictly physical, emotional or both. LESBIANS, on the other hand, take it at least one step further beyond just the sexuality issue to encompass everything that it means, sociopolitically, to be a woman on

this planet at this time.

The problem is that as women none of us have any real power (rights) and until we come together we never will. We isolate from each other on too many issues. What we call ourselves- How we look. Dykes versus femme. Closeted versus out. Jocks versus fashion victims. And so on, and so on, and shooey dooby do.

Who cares if Mary Jane is still disgusted by being called a Lesbian? Perhaps it is an indication that us political lesbians have not done enough education. What is more important is whether Mary Jane is actively involved on any level in helping

women obtain equality in both gay and non- gay communities.

Mr. Bawer, through his book, was so intent on shaming gay people into doing their sexuality in a way that would best serve him. As women, let us evolve beyond judging each other on how much more or less masculine we appear or what we call ourselves. Let us agreed to disagree on all issues except one-that women whether gay or not, whether in a gay community or not, have not acclaimed their right to equality. Let us educate each other not alienate.

(Judy Shaw does counseling in her private practice in Winter Park)

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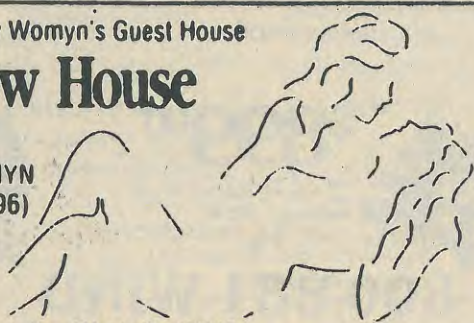
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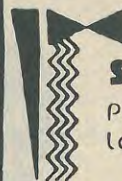
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The Bridge — a poet's death and the wet-and-pointies

"My heart is broke / but I have some glue / help me inhale / I'll mend it with you / we'll float around / and hang out on clouds / then we'll come down / and have a hangover..." -Dumb

Damn. I am still feeling it. On April 9, 1994, a man blessed with multiple talents, intelligence, money, a dream career and a family felt compelled to eat a shotgun. The idea of Kurt Cobain's beautiful brain and beautiful face destroyed by his own hand makes me completely ill. Everyone who's read this column awhile knows that I was greatly influenced by the music of Nirvana and thought highly of Cobain. A friend of mine jokingly called him and Sinéad O'Connor "co-poet

Nirvana helped in my sexual awakening...

laureates of the Bridge." I reckon that's right—if I could be one-quarter the poet he was, I would be ecstatic. When I first heard "Smells Like Teen Spirit," the band's breakthrough single, I felt like all of the rage/cynicism/ennui inside my own head was somehow transported outside me. The music and Cobain's wonderfully growly voice reflect my usual mental state. I am not ashamed to say that I spent that horrible Friday afternoon that Katie Lunacharsky called me with the news, crying with assorted friends, nauseous with the extraordinary loss of human potential. **K does not cry.** It takes something truly awful to make her shed two tears. I think it'll take me a good long time to forget the choking in her voice when, without even checking to see whether I or someone else had answered the phone, she told me, "Jo, Kurt Cobain shot himself this morning." Just like that. My brother Joey, though not a grunge fan, cried for Courtney Love and Francies Bean Cobain, his surviving wife and daughter. In light of the coma incident, I am shocked. I am, however, saddened that the world lost yet another of the great ones.

"I feel stupid and contagious / here we are now, entertain us..." Almighty, a couple of days before I had been bitching because Nirvana wasn't going to play Lollapalooza 4 like I'd heard they would. (Let us hope and pray that after a decent interval for grieving, bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer Dave Grohl go on to make some more music. Assuming of course that any other singer or guitaraist is truly worthy of playing with that rhythm section.) It would've been fucking awesome, I know it! Whatever. It still will be if nothing happens to the rest of the lineup—The Breeders and A Tribe Called Quest and George Clinton, among many others. It's a damn good thing I'll most likely be seeing it near NYC. The devil and the deep blue sea can't keep me from seeing this show, but perhaps the clueless owner of our lovely Orlando fairgrounds can

keep some of you away. Last year a few hundred too many pierced/dyed/shaved/tattooed young people made a little too much noise partying to music that contained several too many cuss words. The fairgrounds owner had a major hissy and is now refusing to let Lolla come back. Typical Orlando response—instead of, like, remembering that they were kids out helling at one point (or did they hatch?), the people in charge cowered to Big Tourism and in the process showed their utter contempt for those of us who have to live here full-time. Just like the curfews. As I write, the measure is on its way to becoming law. Am I bitter? That's Flawduh Orange Juice aftertaste, y'all. I am a proud Cracker, but our local government makes me forget why sometimes. The only good thing, really, happened in the judicial branch when Florida's

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(Continued from previous page)

Supreme Court reaffirmed what we knew all along. David Caton's little homophobic measure is UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!

"And just maybe, I'm to blame for all I've heard / but I'm not sure."

Ed Tyll, Real Radio 104.1's honest, abrasive and hilarious midday talk-show host, happens to be the only radio personality that matters in this town. Though I don't always agree with him ("You mean you don't completely agree with every single word I say?!"), I truly respect his program and the way he expresses his views. Tyll is a mega Nirvana fan. In fact, he hosted a tribute to Nirvana and Cobain. He is also a hellagaysupportive straight man who is turned on by the idea of two chicks, one bed. (Find me one who isn't, please!) I called in to his show awhile back to comment on Roger Clinton's stupid, pointless, hypocritical marriage to his extremely pregnant girlfriend. Yuck. I hold some views that are often considered old-fashioned in this society. I personally cannot and will not have sex without love. I have never had heterosexual intercourse, not because I didn't want to, but because I did not fully love the men who came closest or trust them to be fair. Fair to me means sticking around, calling the morning after, and being prepared if, God forbid, the condom breaks. I told Tyll that maybe incidents like Clinton's "marriage" make policies like mine smart and decent, not outmoded. He listened rather patiently for him, then asked me a few questions. I let him know that I am making love with (as opposed to fucking) a woman. You should have heard the shock in his voice! He spent a few minutes ragging me a little, though not maliciously. He said I came off like "some little church lady" before I flipped the script! He then clarified things for a clueless rightwinger who called after me. Some of my friends are fans of the only radio host who makes an effort for young people.

They heard the whole thing, and they love to tease. Oh boy, oh boy.

"Couldn't wait for you/bounding back and forth/in a passionate kiss/ from my mouth to yours/when nothing else is left/you're my vitamins/and I like you. . ." That comes from "Drain you," among the sexiest songs ever in my book. I would've told Kurt Cobain this story if I ever met him, but too late now. So I'll tell you instead. Nirvana helped in my sexual awakening with the little Chihuahua Goddess whom I too seldom make love with. There was our "practice session," so called because it **sucked** completely for us both. She stormed out of the room. I sat at the edge of her bed, crying

...there is a reason the
Hindus called their
heaven Nirvana.

because we/I had waited so long for what? I knew she would leave me in disgust for someone much more skilled and attractive. I had Nevermind and Incesticide on at highest volume to cover my sobs.

"I don't even care / we don't have to breed / she said" Katie came back in and silently hugged me. We just held each other for a few minutes, listening to the music. All of a sudden, we were swept along into an intense make-out session. We soon realized that when you fall off the horse, the best thing to do is to get right back on. Clothes were taken off, Nirvana was not. Let me say simply that those tapes rotated at least twice each and that there is a reason the Hindus called their heaven Nirvana. Even now, I get a serious case of the wet-and-pointies listening to "Breed" and "Drain You." That's my term. If you can't figure it out, perhaps you should try a different 'zine.

Y'all, I'll try to make next month's column a little more fun. Until then, why don't you kick back, relax, and have a snack or two?

Jo Wiggins

To Whom It May Concern...

*When I pick up a paper
or turn on the day's news,
I'm shocked by the violence
that the media views.*

*The bloodshed and sadness
run rampant through our days,
the indecision and indifference-
a country so set in old ways.*

*Gay rights, human rights
and the rights to carry a gun,
abortion rights, civil rights
so much is still undone.*

*I pray for the children
and those left to watch,
the lives stricken with AIDS
growing too quickly to stop.*

*The hate and impatience,
the abuse of every kind,
the unemployed and the homeless-
has our country lost its mind?*

*I mean not to complain
without solution or a plan,
I'm not talking with a pointed
finger
but with love for fellow man.*

*To simplify this complex life
I once read it on a sign:
HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE.
Can we make this a change in
time?*

*Let us search for goodness
in every soul we pass
reach out a helping hand
without prejudice towards a class.*

*I challenge those who read my
words
to start with love today,
to judge not who's right or wrong
but by how and what WE say.*

Kim Dickey

10/19/93

Of Breast Cancer, Behavior, and Politics

Cindy L. Abel

To paraphrase Judy Shaw, "when are we going to think enough of ourselves as women to make sure we are seen and taken seriously?"

To quote Rachel Gardiner, "I don't need a condom, thank you, I need a breast exam."

What do we really want, and what do we really need? And what are we willing to do to get it?

There has been, and rightly so in this writer's opinion, a growing cry among lesbians requesting support from their gay brothers in matters regarding breast cancer. "We were there for you when you were being decimated by a disease we were all but immune to. Now come help us with our disease." Beyond the incorrect notions surrounding lesbian invincibility to HIV/AIDS when not involved with a bisexual woman or IV drug users, and the fact that breast cancer also afflicts men, there is a greater problem lurking in the shadows. Are we so consumed with diseases for which there are no cures, and no accepted (among "traditional" medical fields) significant methods of prevention that we ignore the real killers of women (referring only to physical diseases)?

If a prevention for breast cancer were discovered, how many women would actually follow the safety guidelines to ensure their own health? Think carefully before responding. (Yes, this is a very loaded question)... Consider this:

The #1 cause of death among women is heart disease, by a 10 to 1 ratio when compared with breast cancer. And it is, to a large degree, preventable. The factors that put a person most at risk are: high blood pressure, smoking, high lipid levels, lack of physical activity and being overweight.

The #1 cancer killer among women is lung cancer (breast cancer is #2, and colon cancer is #3). It is also highly preventable. The most dangerous and easily avoided risk factor is smoking.

Two types of diseases that threaten women's health: both are preventable, and both have a common risk factor: smoking. Let's ask the question again: If a prevention for breast cancer were discovered would you actually follow the safety guidelines to ensure your own health? [And by the way, this is not an anti-smoking essay, but rather one that utilizes smoking as an illustration. Please read on before using your cigarette lighter to send this publication up in smoke.]

Why the focus on breast cancer within the women's communities? It is definitely a valid concern, but why does it overshadow those diseases which are an even greater threat to women's health? Could it be (please, put down those lighters!) that breast cancer usually leads to physical disfigurement before resulting in death, while those fighting lung cancer and heart disease are not faced with the removal of

visible body parts? It is said, among women whose concerns with their physical appearance seem predominant, that even a partial mastectomy results in a severe decline in self-esteem and feelings of attractiveness, beyond that brought about by the loss of a limb. It might appear, then, that breast cancer is more of a physical, body-image issue than its fellow killers, and therefore we fear it more than the invisible attackers. If this is so, perhaps we need to honestly reevaluate our true standards of beauty and sources of self-worth. Have we fallen prey to the very values imposed upon us for so long by a patriarchal society, whose consequences we reap daily and still struggle against in other arenas? Have we unknowingly absorbed them to such a degree that even our politics of health have succumbed?

Consider yet another reason. Do we really want to find out how to prevent diseases, or is our attitude here the one that undelies most of our society? Do we want to learn how to halt the spread of deadly diseases, or merely to find a cure so that our behavior can continue, unchecked? We live in a credit-card culture (and I don't just mean "plastic"), where the messages hurled at us are "play now, pay later." The most terrible and preventable epidemic of our time cannot convince the majority to alter their sexual practices even when they are made aware of fatal dangers. Much of life seems to be reduced to behavior Russian roulette. Sorry, sisters, there is only safer sex, even for lesbians. And breast cancer is a problem that demands a cure, to be certain. But right now, perhaps it is safe to crusade for research, because no one within the traditional medical community has told us how to reduce our risk of contracting it. And what about the diseases

that are attacking countless more women, like heart disease and lung cancer? Have we grown so callous to their appeals for research dollars to find a cure that we ignore the prevention methods? Perhaps we do not want to alter our lifestyle today to save our lives tomorrow; perhaps we don't think enough of ourselves...

The radical right spends much of its time working to mold tomorrow. So many of us were denied a part in creating a past, that it probably is good to be in the here and now for awhile and just enjoy it. But tomorrow will come nonetheless, and it will be the composite of today and yesterday. There was not a lot of response in Central Florida when various groups were trying to organize to hold off the AFA's discrimination amendment. Many simply shrugged and said "I'm not discriminated against, this isn't about me." And maybe it wasn't—or maybe they simply couldn't see, because the light was off in the closet. But it was a close call, and just because the "tumor" was removed, it is not gone for good—the "disease" of the radical agenda is only in remission, and will return, even stronger if allowed to proceed, unchecked. Heart disease and lung cancer, like long-term divisive political strategies, may not show immediate results, but they are most certainly deadly and preventable.

So what do we really want? Do we care enough to give our brothers (and some of our sisters) condoms, and all of our sisters breast exams, as well as reinforce in all other the skills of healthy living to prevent the other killers?

Do we plan on being around long enough to make working for positive change in all areas of our lives a worthwhile investment?

Do we think enough of ourselves to be seen and heard, to participate in the creation of our own future? I certainly hope so.

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Local Pride Events and Information

The Gay and Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc. is pleased to announce our 11th Annual Pride Festival, which will be held on Saturday June 18, 1994 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, West Colonial Drive, Orlando, from 10AM until 8PM. Plans are currently being developed to make this one of the largest gatherings of Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals in Central Florida and will offer a great opportunity to showcase your business or organization to our community. Our location offers attended parking for thousands of cars and room for over 100 exhibitors. We are expecting over 2,500 participants to attend. We will be in the same location as last year, the building is covered, but has no walls and is not air-conditioned, so please prepare accordingly. We are currently looking for businesses and organizations who wish to participate by exhibiting at the festival. If you desire to participate, please contact G.L.C.S. at (407)425-4527.

the parade people -- are proud to announce the 1994 Pride Parade will be held on June 11, beginning at the corners of Amelia Street and Orange Avenue, travel south on Orange, turn left on Washington and swoop down into the Lake Eola bandshell for the post-parade rally. The parade will start at 10 A.M. and we will use Amelia, west of Orange Avenue as the marshalling area. We will need each group to pre-register and pre-pay the \$25.00 float and mobile unit fee. This helps greatly in defraying barricade and parking costs. If you know anyone in your group who wishes to help with parade planning, please us know--we can use all the help we can get! For more information, call Orlando Regional Pride at 407-236-9480.

The Genesis Foundation is planning an exciting event called "Share The Vision '94" to be held on June 3, 4, and 5, 1994. The events/activities start on Friday, June the 3rd at the Parliament House with the "Welcome to Orlando" Cocktail Party. Saturday will be a gay day at Disney. And the Grand Finale of the weekend will take place on Sunday at the Parliament House as a huge street faire and --love in-- takes place. A special tribute is planned to commemorate Stonewall. Billed as "A Day of Magic", "A Night Of Pleasure", more than 12,000 lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends and family members are expected to make the annual trek to the heart of the sunshine state just for this event. Last year, Disney officially counted over 8,000 people partaking in this phenonmenon. FMI, contact Doug Swallow, Florida Events Coordinator, Digital Queers, (407)352-0808.

March with a Buddy

A casual remark by a homebound AIDS patient was the inspiration for what is sure to be one of the most dramatic, emotional moments at the Stonewall 25 march on the United Nations, June 26.

"I wish I had walked in a Gay Pride parade," was the comment made by Bob Cohen to his friend Ron Antman. After Cohen's death last year, Antman was determined to fulfill his wish.

Now in the works, the actual "March with a Buddy" program is much loftier than the original idea. Instead of snapshots, participants will march with poster-size enlargements. Organizers anticipate upwards of 1,000 buddy marchers.

To participate as a marcher or to have a picture carried, call 800-313-8485.

Calling all Lesbians & Gay Womyn

by Rita Boo

While sitting around the fire at our annual Irish Celebration, pounding on drums, knocking sticks together, strumming guitars and just generally enjoying the womyn rhythm, a comment breezed across the flames that we should do some kind of drum corps for the Pride Parade in June. Not much was discussed, but the seed was planted. I discussed the idea first with my lover then with other wild womyn, and we all agreed that since this is the 25th anniversary of Stonewall (and since it was one wild lesbian that got that started), and equally important the 10th anniversary of LCN!(and the many wild lesbians that compile our community that keeps it going), what better way to show our pride than to drum, shake, whistle and whatever down the road. So it was decided that we should have a get together and invite anyone who wants to come. We're going to decorate coffee cans, paint cans, garbage cans, paint buckets, pots (anything you can bang on), cut up mop handles, broom handles, plunger handles for sticks; make masks for those of us who have cause to fear direct retribution; and just create all kinds of wonderful noise makers and things to carry so that noone attending the parade can possibly miss us coming down the road.

If you want to take part, bring your energy (most important), and (if you want to play one) your potential instrument (anything you think will make a great noise), if you have any art supplies you may want to contribute, poster making stuff, a dish or snack to pass and your favorite beverage. This is going to be fun! Musical ability not required. We will also be constructing a banner/float-type contraption.

Place: Becky's house, 1615 Weber Street, Orlando. Call 894-9333 for directions and info. Time: May 22, 1pm

Breast Cancer Drug Alert

The FDA upgraded warnings about tamoxifen, a cancer drug which, though effective against breast cancer, increases women's chances of getting uterine cancer. Women taking the drug must be vigilant about getting gynecological checkups and watching for symptoms of uterine cancer.

About 180,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year and 46,000 die. Those taking tamoxifen also face a risk of uterine cancer that is two to three times greater than in the general population.

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The Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival - Unity 94 will be held in New York City June 18 - 25, 1994. 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in front of a half million spectators.

One athlete will be the only powerlifter from Florida preparing to compete in the games. Andra Haviland has been a competitive powerlifter for 10 years, competing in Nationals in 1986, winning the Florida State Championship in 1990 and the Central Florida Championship in 1991. She wants to bring a Gold Medal home, but needs some financial help to prepare for the games.

She is seeking sponsors, items and services for raffles, and fund raising locations. All sponsors will have their names displayed on a Team Florida jacket or shirt that she will wear during events at the games.

Please send her your support. Make checks payable to Andra Haviland and mail them to LCN, PO Box 149512, Orlando, FL 32814.

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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
FLOLAC (Old Lesbians-60 and over)	(407) 779-4874
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Primetimers (Travel Club)	895-1965
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Rape Crisis Center	648-3028
Runaway Switchboard	1 (800) 621-4000
Spouse Abuse Hotline	886-2856
WILLOW (Women in Lake County)	(904) 383-0928
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
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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, Barb Fallon, Rachel Gardiner, Cheri Goyette, Rita Krossber

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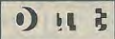
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a festival of lesbian and gay one-act plays including Harvey Fierstein's "Widows and Children First" (Act III of Torch Song Trilogy)...Terry Baum's "SEX" (excerpted from Dos Lesbos)...Tennessee Williams "Talk To Me Like The Rain And Let Me Listen" featuring Jaquine Perry and Geri Michael. (this is the first time the piece has ever been performed by two women.

Proceeds from the door will go to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays of Central Florida and the Love Foundation.

For tickets and info call 407 292 9088.

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