

# The LCN

Vol. 9, Issue 4

April, 1992

A LOVING COMMITTED NETWORK

## Express

### ARE YOU HAPPY YOU'RE A LESBIAN?

In a recent Ann Landers' column, a study indicating a connection between genetics and homosexuality was discussed. As a result, Ann has requested a response from lesbians and gays nationwide to determine if we're happy to be what we are.

So, please send your "Yes, I am" letters to Ann Landers, in care of the *Orlando Sentinel*, P.O. Box 211, Orlando, FL 32802-0211.

### Business Association for Gay & Lesbian Professionals, Businesses, and Supporters

Orlando has joined the ranks of a number of America's cities that have organized the resources of their gay and lesbian business owners and professionals. On March 12, the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA) was born during the guild's first general meeting.

About 30 business owners and professionals attended that first meeting at Joy MCC, and the room became electric with enthusiasm. No sooner than most people signed in, they were making connections, arranging to exchange services, and sharing common problems and solutions. They represented such diverse professions as printing and graphic arts, real estate, banking, travel, hairstyling, massage therapy, and many more.

Besides networking and getting the word out that these businesses and professionals are more than happy to serve gays and lesbians-- or those who are gay friendly-- the group will have an even farther reaching effect.

"When people start to see we have so many gay and lesbian business owners in this city, they will have to deal with us," said Keith Morrison, a group

founder. "We can be role models for people coming up behind us, and for people looking to move to our area. The chance and strength it gives our community is amazing."

During the meeting, everyone in attendance was given time to introduce themselves and plug their business or service. The next general meeting will be held at Joy MCC, 2351 S. Ferncreek Ave, just north of Michigan, on Thursday, April 2, at 7pm (social begins at 6:30). Subsequent meetings will be hosted by participating businesses.

The basic structure of the MBA has been established, though the offices of president and vice president have only temporary volunteers. The group is also searching for a logo-- using the abbreviation MBA-- to make tasteful stickers to put in the windows of member businesses and offices. Suggestions may be sent to the MBA, c/o GLCS, 750 W. Colonial, Orlando 32853.

Membership is \$75 for businesses, \$25 for professionals-- a fee which will NOT be collected for 3 months. Come share the excitement!

### Take PRIDE - Join In!

Gay Pride celebration time is nearly here. Below we've listed the events currently being planned. Please get involved; community events can't happen if volunteers like you don't **make them happen.**

To help out with the LCN picnic, please call Barb at 648-4154. The other Pride events are being sponsored by Orlando Pride, Inc. See p. 2 for a phone # and details on meetings.

**Sat., June 6:** Unofficial Gay Day at Disney. Wear red t-shirts to the Magic Kingdom.

**Tues., June 9:** Orlando Gay Chorus performs at Edith Bush Hall, 7:30pm on the Rollins Campus.

**Sat., June 13:** GLCS Pride Picnic at Camp Heronwood, off Redbug Rd., noon to 6pm.

**Thurs., June 18:** AIDS Memorial at Lake Eola, 7:30pm.

**Sat., June 20:** Gay Pride Parade, Lake Eola.

**Sun., June 21:** LCN Picnic at Key Largo! Music, food, and fun!

#### APRIL DATES TO WATCH OUT FOR

April 5: Pro-Choice March on Washington, see page 3.

April 8: Orlando Gay Chorus open house rehearsal at Knowles Chapel, Rollins. Free admission.

**April 11: LCN Auction!!! See page 7.**

April 18: Earth Day - 1992, see page 3.



# She Speaks Out

by Patty Sheehan

No, I'm not the LCN movie critic. But I've been writing a lot about movies lately. In our culture, movies and videos are easier to digest and less time consuming than books. They are becoming the major vehicle through which a story can be told in detail.

Movies are becoming more serious in dealing with social/personal problems. Movies like *The Prince of Tides*, *Dances With Wolves*, *JFK*, and *The Fisher King* are taking social problems or crime to a personal level. We are no longer looking at statistics, but an individual's life. We feel and understand a character's plight. Finally we can empathize.

No movie has touched me more personally than the movie *Thelma and Louise*. Even though my social contact with men is limited (by choice), I've been harassed, threatened, and fondled by more men than I'd care to remember. I've been beaten up numerous times, and nearly raped twice. As many times as I've been called a man-hater, I simply see that as a projection. Men hate women. In our society the behavior is condoned and encouraged. Statistics on the violence men perpetrate on women are well-known, so much so that I do not need to repeat them.

All one has to do is look at a rape trial to see how deeply entrenched misogyny (woman hating) is entrenched in our country. Even when a movie like *Thelma and Louise* comes out, the male critics can't handle the message. A local newspaper's critic moaned about glorifying the senseless violence in the movie. Say what? When

was the last time you heard one of these boys cry foul over the violence directed TOWARD women? *Thelma and Louise* challenged the status quo of women as helpless victims, while showing them persecuted even in their show of strength.

Thelma and Louise are modern women's heroes. We don't need the abstract silliness of a desert war to prove our courage. We do it every day in the city streets. We handle assaults on our self esteem at work and at home. We are whistled at, grabbed at, and worse, raped and killed by men; reporting such crimes, the insinuation is "we asked for it." We've probably all fantasized about fighting back the way Thelma and Louise did. But we all know too well the consequences of bucking the patriarchal system.

The only way to stop the violence directed toward us, is unfortunately to use weapons or inflict pain on men. Nowhere have I ever read that a man is exposing sensitive organs when he pulls down his pants to rape a woman. Nowhere have I read that when a man forces oral copulation with a woman that he is placing a sensitive appendage between jaws which can exert enough force to clip it off, or at least render it harmless.

Instead we're told to not fight back, lest we be killed, or disgustingly told to relax and enjoy it. It's time to fight back, and die if necessary. Men won't stop rape. Men ARE the rapists. And the only heroes available to save us from these rapists are ourselves--our strong woman selves.

Just ask Thelma and Louise.

## NATIONAL NEWS CLIPS

**The Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act** has been reintroduced into the 102nd Congress (house bill 5574). Gay Rights lobbyists urge all of us to write our congresspersons in support of these bills. For your information, the bill was first introduced by then Representative Bella Abzug in 1975. It gains in support each time we try. With your help, perhaps it will pass this time.

**Rochester, New York** -- Rochester school board voted 5-2 in December to bar military recruiters from city public schools until it drops its ban on lesbian and gay enlistments, becoming the first school district in the nation to do so. Board member Karen Grella said, "We need to say something about discrimination in this country." *Virago*, 3/92

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# CONFERENCE CALLS

## Dyke Doctors

9th Annual Lesbian Physicians' Conference: "Politics and Boundaries- Personal and Professional" May 10-13, 1992, Mohonk Mountain House, New Platz, NY. For more info and registration form, write: Women in Medicine Conference, P.O. Box 708, Bedford Hills, NY 10507.

## Crones

The 6th Annual Golden Threads Celebration will take place June 26-28 in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Lesbian women from all over the U.S., Canada, and other countries, will converge to celebrate what they are and their age, whatever it is.

Entertainment will be provided by Robin Tyler. A banquet will be followed by dancing with our own DJ, mixing in the pre-rock oldies. Sing-a-

longs and rap sessions will be offered. Attendance to the Celebration is limited to 250 women.

In existence since 1985, Golden Threads is a worldwide social network of Lesbian women over 50, and women who are interested in older women - no Lesbian woman is excluded. A contact publication, *Golden Threads*, is published four times a year. For more information please contact: Christine Burton, Golden Threads, PO Box 3177, Burlington VT 05401-0031.

## Love Makes A Family

Lesbian Mothers and Gay Fathers from around the globe plan summer family celebration. The 13th Annual Conference of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 3-5, 1992: Freedom,

Friends and Family Celebration 92.

This conference will be a gathering of parents, co-parents, partners, spouses, and our children. A time for children to discover that they are not the only kids in the world with a gay or lesbian parent. A time for us to discover we are not the only parents with a toddler in the "terrible-twos" or a teenager who talks constantly on the phone, but never to you.

There will be workshops, guest speakers, a banquet, a 50s Sock Hop, entertainment, fireworks, a family picnic and more. There will be a Children's Program for those aged 6-12 years and a Youth conference for ages 13 and up. Child care is available for infants to age 5. If you would like more info please contact: GLPCI Conference Co-Chairs, Vicki Harris (317) 353-6636, or John Sheets (317) 253-2280.

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## LCN "Library" Growing

by Becky Acuna

Various publishers are sending books to LCN in hopes we will review them and spread the word among women of their value and availability. We hope LCN will be able to expand our role in this women's (international!) network.

It is indeed exciting to see the growing number of women's presses and organizations and women artists who are creating materials that really speak to us and about us. To say nothing of the network itself... women promoting and supporting women outside (and in spite of) the male-run publishing establishment.

That said, would you volunteer to read one of these books and review it for the *LCN Express*?\* Two or three paragraphs is all it takes, unless you want to write more. Nor does it have to be a formal review. I know when I get a book recommendation, I'm listening primarily for a personal account of what was liked or disliked and why, rather than plot/style analysis.

You may have noticed that *Womonkind Books* in NY has been sending us reviews in exchange for plugging their store. (They do have a great inventory of women's books!) Our goal in generating local reviews is also to plug the women's booksellers in Florida, struggling to make it in this too often unfriendly, smaller Southern market. They have also been supporting us-- see the *On The Move* ad on page 3 and *Brigit Books* ad on page 6.

So here's a list of what we currently have as well as a review I wrote of one of our books whose cover called to me. If you want to borrow a book to review or "just" to read, call Becky at 282-6569.

*\*Sometimes we get women's music to review and promote, too. Call Barb at 648-4158 to ask about it.*

● **Gaia's Guide - 1991/92 World-wide Lesbian Guide Book**, Lambda Rising. *LCN is listed on page 243!* You can order direct, \$16: 1-800-621-6969. (In store price is \$12.95.)

● **Houston Town**, Deborah Powell, Naiad Press, 1992. A Hollis Carpenter mystery. (Catch this quote from the back cover: "Drop the knife!" I've got a gun on you, Dub. This's my special gonad gun. That's all I shoot with this gun-- gonads... You know what gonads are, don't you?" ... "Its them tribes that wander around in the desert, ain't it?" he whispered fearfully... "That's right... and I'm going to shoot you in your wandering tribes if you don't let go of me." His grip loosened in my hair...)

● **AIDS Health Services at the Crossroads: Lessons for Community Care**, Robert Wood Foundation, 1991. Covers nuts & bolts issues such as community consortiums, case management, prevention education/advocacy, media coverage, and financing.

● **A Flight of Angels**, Sarah Aldridge, Naiad Press, 1992. Please note review on this page.

## Book Review: A FLIGHT OF ANGELS Sarah Aldridge, Naiad Press

Art...romance...intrigue...politics... all favorites on my list of passions-- which help to make this a Naiad novel I really like. Set in the 1950's, one protagonist works for the National Gallery of Art in DC, the other for a Congressman. This means they are living and loving under the spying, lying eyes of McCarthyites-- ready and able to punish anyone/anything deemed "morally corrupt"-- be it art or homosexuals. This was particularly interesting as both of the aforementioned women are first-time lesbians, making their discoveries and fears about loving other women all the more dramatic.

I like the sex between these women, too. Aldridge focused on the emotional dimensions of their relationship-- as portrayed by their physical closeness and need for each other. It was nice to read allusions to lesbian sex without reference to wetness, moisture, waves, caves, and pulpy fruits or flowers. I was disappointed that too much of the story was explained in lengthy dialogue, but I still liked it well enough to get in trouble at work for reading it on the sly. I bet you'll like it too.

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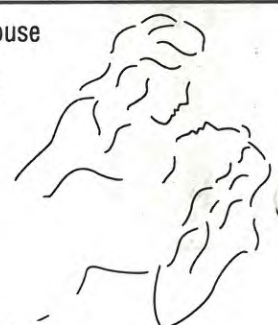
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# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

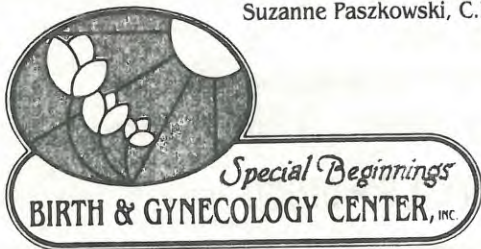
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Orlando 647-3333
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Brevard County 242-8063
- Breaking the Silence MCC (Cocoa) 631-4524
- Gay & Lesbian Community Services THE-GAYS
- GLADD 236-9499
- GLPCI (Parents' Group) 420-2191
- Joy MCC (Orlando) 894-1081
- LCN Express Information 648-4154
- Orlando PRIDE 236-9480
- PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays) 236-9177
- Rape Crisis Center 648-3028
- Runaway Switchboard\* 1 (800) 621-4000
- Spouse Abuse Hotline 886-2856
- Women's Health Center 896-2022
- Women's Resource Center 898-1599

## 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

\*LCN recently received information from this organization which aids runaway teens and other troubled youth. Many, many young girls run away from home because they are being sexually and/or physically abused; their sexual preference may also be a factor. If you know someone in need of crisis intervention, give them this number. Confidentiality is assured.

Suzanne Paszkowski, C.N.M., M.N.



1010 Arthur Avenue • Orlando, Florida 32804 • (407) 291-4777

# LCN Express

## Publication Information

LCN Express is a monthly publication for and by the Lesbian community of Orlando and the Central Florida area. We invite readers to submit articles, items of interest and announcements about women's groups and organizations. We welcome poems, political articles, social concerns, short stories, community questions and notices for upcoming events. **Deadline for submission of ads and articles is now the 15th of each month.**

Editorial length will be limited to 250 words and a phone number must accompany every article. Anonymity is acceptable, but a phone number is mandatory. Articles should be typed/neatly printed or preferably submitted on diskette, with word processing program specified.

Editorial policy is as follows: The views expressed in the LCN Express are not necessarily those of the LCN, the newsletter or its editors. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity, conciseness and length following consultation with the author, if possible.

It is, however, 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:*

*Barb Fallon, Cathy McElhinney, Jackie, Becky Acuna, & Rachel Gardiner.*

## Advertisement Rates

Classified (5-line maximum)	\$2
Business Cards	\$5
1/4 Page Ad (5" x 4")	\$20
1/2 Page Ad (5" x 8")	\$30
Full Page Ad	\$50

Payment for ads should be submitted in advance, checks payable to LCN. We can create an ad for you, the cost of typesetting to equal the price of the size ad you are running. (Eg., typesetting a business card ad costs \$5; a full page ad, \$50.) Get your check and camera-ready artwork or rough copy to us by the 15th of the month: **LCN Express, P.O. Box 149512, Orlando, FL 32814-9512.**

## 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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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear LCN,

I'm looking for the Elder and Wiser Dykes. I had heard of the Gray Panthers? Is there such a group locally? Please send any info you may have.

*Signed, Finally Wiser*

(Editors note: We receive many inquiries regarding this. Is there something going on in the community already? Is there someone willing to organize? Please write us with info.)

Dear Womyn,

Over the years I have enjoyed staying in touch with the gay society. Recently I have moved... Thank you for providing an invaluable service to womyn throughout Central Florida. Your newsletter provides humor, support, camaraderie, contact information, current events, important political information that is generally unavailable. Keep up the good work!

*Sincerely, LLM*

Dear Ladies,

Please remove my name from the mailing list. My friend is on the list and we are sharing.

*Thanks for your support, Ann F.*

Dear LCN,

Here's my (\$ for a) subscription for the year. I've really enjoyed your paper. Keep up the good work.

*Judy and Mary*

Dear LCN,

Gay and Lesbian Community Services exists solely to serve Central Florida's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community. As most people are aware, we provide a number of services for our people that are not necessarily available elsewhere, or are not available in a Gay positive, non threatening environment.

Our In-house Counseling Program, Delta Youth Alliance, The Center Fold, The Center, Discussion Groups, and assistance to the area's AIDS support groups are among the things we are noted for.

Another service not as well known is the availability of meeting space to area Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Organizations. This space is available on short notice if necessary for your Board, or general Membership Meetings. There is no charge for this service although donations are welcome if offered. Ample off street parking is available on site.

In addition we gladly will publish notice of your Meetings/Events in our award winning Monthly Newspaper "The Center Fold." Ample advance notice, of course, must be given.

If GLCS can be of assistance to your group please do not hesitate to contact myself, or GLCS President, David Bain.

*Yours in Pride,  
John Rose*

## Classifieds

**Lesbian, 33, seeks penpals.** Interests include traveling, sports, animals, writing, etc. Write, P.O. Box 5992, Oxnard, CA. 93031-5992. Hope to hear from someone soon.

**Professional, petite, white female** seeks feminine female ages 25-45 for friendship or possible relationship. Send note and phone to P.O. Box 430416, Kissimmee, FL 34743.

**Cottage for rent at the Pagoda.** A lesbian community on the beach in St. Augustine. June-Dec. One bedroom, queen size waterbed, A/C, heat, ceiling fans, furnished. Wanted one lesbian, non-smoker, no dogs. Rent negotiable. Call Barbara or Valentine at (904) 829-9709.

**Still seeking land.** LCN chose to return to the campground previously used for last years campout, but we are determined to find something for the fall, and/or the next campout. The land must be lesbian owned or lesbian safe for our events. Call Cathy at (407) 291-3791 for details or suggestions.

**Window cleaning, painting** (interior only) and other odd jobs. Call Terri at (407) 291-9391.

**Home Repairs & Improvements:** Ceramic tile, Painting, etc. Call 869-0089 or 291-4839.

**North Carolina Vacation Home:** Available to rent May-Oct. Sleeps 6, \$350/wk, \$250/weekend. Hiking, white water rafting. Secluded, beautiful. Kathy or Lynn, 904-332-8831.

**Volunteer Needed:** Someone to run the *LCN Express* thru the folding machine at Pronto Press (near Mills & Colonial). Once a month during work hours; only takes about an hour. Please call Becky, 282-6569.

  
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## ▼ Local Events and Projects ▼

**LCN Express FOLDING PARTY:** Monday, April 27 at 7:00 pm at Key Largo. We do have some fun at these folding parties-- so jump right in. Great way to meet women you may not know, or see new sides to those you do!! (You can judge how nimble-fingered she *really* is.)

**READERS CO-OP:** We will be potlucking together on Sun., April 26, 6pm at Becky's house, 1013 Tucker Ave. Call 282-6569 for directions.

**PARENTS' GROUPS:** On Saturday, March 7, 1992, eight members of the Central Florida chapter of GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) travelled to Tampa to meet with a group interested in starting a Tampa chapter of GLPCI. Twelve adults and eight children from the Tampa area entertained the Orlando group with a potluck supper. The combined groups discussed organizational tips and the upcoming international conferences (Indianapolis - July '92 and Orlando - July '93). Many of the Tampa group are planning to come to some of the next Orlando social/support meetings which are held on the third Saturday of each month.

The International board of directors and regional directors of GLPCI will meet in Orlando May 1-2, 1992. The Central Florida chapter will be serving as hosts and hostesses for this meeting. Hotel and private accommodations, transportation, and social events are currently being planned. Offers of help will be gratefully accepted. Call the GLPCI message line at any time for information on the organization and activities: (407) 420-2191.

**SANDY DELEGAL CONCERT**  
Willow is producing Sandy in concert at the Mount Dora Community Building on April 11 at 8pm. All tickets are \$8.00. Call Peggy or Linda at (904) 383-2883 for more info. Sandy is just finishing her album and as always is in rare form! Treat yourself to this one!

**SOFTBALL PLAYERS NEEDED:**  
New team forming in Orlando. Need experienced players only to play in (C) division leagues. For more information please call Pam at 696-4581.

**EARTH DAY IN ORLANDO:** Earth Day 1992 is April 18 and celebrations will be held at Orlando's Loch Haven Park. Admission is free and Mother nature permitting, a fine program has been planned. There will be speakers, entertainers, alternative environmental products, information and craft tables etc. For more info call 422-3479.

**GLCS -- The Center:** Wednesday night Womyns' Discussion Group. Open to all lesbians. Starts at 7:30pm. Thursday night - Lesbian Survivors of Domestic Violence. Starts at 7:30pm. Call the Center for more info.

**ORLANDO PRIDE:** Pride Week, June 13 - 20th, 1992, will soon be here. Add whatever you can to make it successful. (See page 1 for a review of the kind of events that are being planned.) Every little bit helps-- even if it's "just" a donation of cash or in-kind good/services.

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday at GLCS, 750 W. Colonial. Call for more info call the **24-hour message number: 236-9480.**

### PRO-CHOICE MARCH ON WASHINGTON!

Come to Washington on April 5. Tell George Bush to read OUR lips: We won't fall back to the Days Of Illegal Abortion! The Supreme Court will no longer protect women's right to safe legal abortion, so now it's the responsibility of all women and men to defend reproductive freedom and all equality issues, otherwise we will go backwards.

NOW is committed to getting all willing women and men to Washington on April 5, to wake the nation up that its future of equality depends on everyone as voters, candidates, and activists for change.

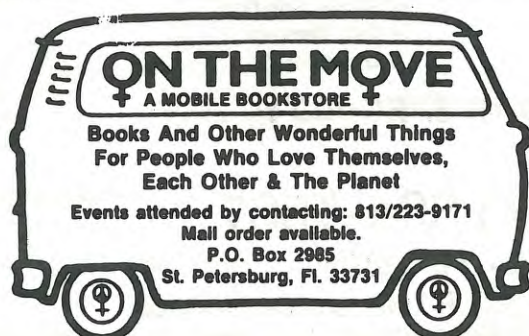
**Orlando:** Call Orlando NOW Hotline @ (407) 649-4280. Bus is full; Car pool hookups available. **Tampa:** Bus seats are \$100 and donations are being collected for scholarships. For bus reservation and info call Kate, (813) 978-1972. **Pinellas:** Contact UPCNOW at (813) 447-4094. **Brevard:** Information on Accommodation call 1-800-554-2220. For ride info contact Smitty Hooper 636-1813. Wear white clothing.

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# In Good Health

by Suzanne Paszkowski, CNM

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) may involve any part of the urinary system, from the kidneys to the bladder to the urethra, the opening where urine leaves the body. Cystitis is another word sometimes used as a catch-all term for bladder conditions, including bladder infections.

UTIs are much more common in women than in men because the urethra is much shorter and bacteria can pass more easily up into the bladder. They may occur less frequently in lesbians than in straight women because they are more often related to the friction and irritation of heterosexual intercourse. Almost all women, however, will experience UTIs at some time in their lives.

The common symptoms of a UTI may include: increased frequency of urination, urgency (feeling that you have to urinate immediately), pain or burning during urination, cloudy or foul-smelling urine, feeling that the bladder is not completely emptied after urinating, blood in the urine, backache, chills or fever.

UTIs are generally not too serious initially, but if they are not treated they can spread up to the kidneys,

causing a severe infection. Women are advised to get treatment quickly when blood is present in the urine because blood may indicate kidney damage.

Antibiotics are usually needed to cure a UTI. Health care providers will send a clean-catch midstream urine specimen to the lab for a culture and sensitivity, to find out the type and number of bacteria present as well as which antibiotic will be most effective for treatment.

It is important to finish the whole course of antibiotics prescribed, even though symptoms may improve after a few days, in order to be sure the infection is completely cured and to avoid producing strains of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.

Some ways to prevent UTIs are:

- wearing clean cotton underwear and avoiding pantyhose or tights (nylon may trap moisture and provide an environment where bacteria can thrive);
- wiping only from front to back after using the bathroom to avoid bringing bacteria from the rectum or vagina to the urethra;
- rinsing soap thoroughly after washing the vulva;

- making sure hands and fingernails are clean (your own and your partner's);
- urinating after sexual activity to help wash away bacteria that may have been pushed into the urethra;
- cleaning sex toys between partners;
- using only water-based lubricants such as K-Y jelly;
- avoiding perfumed soaps, powders, bubble bath and toilet paper;
- changing tampons or sanitary pads frequently;
- drinking lots of fluids, especially water and cranberry juice (helps make the urine more acidic so it is harder for bacteria to grow); and
- urinating more frequently to prevent urine from sitting in the bladder for long periods.

Hopefully, by following these guidelines, UTIs can be avoided.

*Suzanne Paszkowski is a Certified Nurse-Midwife working in a private nurse-midwifery practice in Orlando. She provides well-women GYN care as well as pregnancy and childbirth services for women in the Central Florida area.*

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## New Groups Starting in Orlando to treat Gay and Lesbian Batterers

submitted by Sandra Pollack

The battering of one's partner is NOT a heterosexual problem; it is a societal problem that is also greatly seen in the lesbian and gay community. Sadly, it is something that many lesbians and gays rarely admit and often keep hidden whether they are the victims or the perpetrators.

Earlier this year the Florida law changed to start protecting lesbians and gays who suffer physical abuse at their partner's hands. Obviously this indicates our law enforcement agencies are responding to the growing emergence of this problem.

Violent and coercive tactics used in lesbian and gay battering include: physical assault OF ANY KIND, sexual abuse, destruction of property, threats against one's partner or a significant third party, control of economics, emotional abuse (humiliation, degradation, mind games, bursts of fury, etc.) and controlling one's partner through homophobic behaviors (threatening to "out" the person against their will).

NO ABUSE INC., (a non-profit counseling program for perpetrators

of domestic violence), is responding to this devastating and dangerous secret in the gay and lesbian community. NO ABUSE INC. will be offering 26 week open groups for lesbian and gay batterers.

The purpose of these groups will be to educate the batterer about what abuse is, why it occurs and how to establish an equal, intimate relationship. The person who takes this courageous step in starting to heal themselves will be challenged to examine their belief systems and behavior patterns. The groups will be facilitated by Joyce Pastorek and Sandra Pollock.

The group for lesbians will be Tuesdays 11:30am - 1:00pm beginning April 21. A separate group for gay males will be Thursdays 11:30 am - 1:00pm beginning April 23. The fee will be \$25 per group.

If you find yourself to be abusive at times or know someone who would benefit from this program, please get some help. For more information, or to register, phone 895-7151.

## Trapped

How do days sift into nights  
And does pain pass like time  
Or maybe in spite of it?  
Another dream decays  
As we cling to our ways  
And struggle through it

The trap which we create  
Forces us to play it safe  
And stand protected  
From those who are the same  
Only our fears project the shame  
Of thoughts rejected

How can one look at another  
To judge, yet not discover  
A new and wondrous birth?  
For no one can be humbler  
Than when hearing all the thunder  
And realize the worth

As I look upon the world  
Through bitter eyes and broken voice  
I gain the wisdom  
That few can claim to live  
Accepting each day as a gift  
And not a prison.

*Anonymous, 1992*

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# STATE NEWS AND WOMEN'S EVENTS

## Women's Arts & Crafts Fair at Brigit Books

On Saturday April 18th from 10-4 pm, Brigit Books will sponsor the 5th Women's Arts and Crafts Fair. Admission is free. Beadwork, goddesses, jewelry of many kinds, ceramics, copper work, fortune-telling, and mini-massages among the items for sale. General public welcome. All crafts are woman-made.

## Non-Traditional Jobs - Jax

The Jacksonville Plumbers and Pipefitters Joint Apprenticeship & Training Trust announces applications for plumbing and pipefitting apprentice. Training will be available from April 1 - 24, 1992. Applications may be picked up at 5437 Cassidy Road weekdays from 9:00 to 11:45 am and from 1:30 to 4:45 pm only. Women are encouraged to apply.

## Legislative Update

Call your legislator to support these bills: House Bill 703 to eliminate the statute of limitations regarding suits on alleged abuse or incest is on the House calendar. Companion Senate Bill 1018 is in committee.

## Lynn Lavner in Concert

Friday April 10, at 8:00 pm, Metropolitan Charities presents Lynn Lavner at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Lavner has traveled the world and performs in clubs in London and Paris, as well as Boston, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. She has performed at many colleges, universities, and special events across America. Tickets cost \$50, \$25, \$20, and \$15 and may be obtained from the Ruth Eckerd box office or by calling 791-7400.

## Marilyn Murphy, Author Reads at Brigit

April 10th at 7:30 pm, the St. Augustine author of *Are You Girls Traveling Alone; Adventures In Lesbianic Logic* will be at Brigit Books to read from her book. A compilation of her articles for the L.A. Lesbian news this covers a variety of topics-- "Looking for Lesbians," "Old is In," "Thinking about Boychildren," "Girls at the Altar," "Lesbians Who Go Back to Men." She is humorous opinionated, feminist, empowering. Brigit Books, 3434 4th ST. N. St. Petersburg, 813-522-5775. Free, Women only.

## Swazi Custom: Women May Marry

*Exit*, South Africa's only gay newspaper, reports a traditional tribal authority has ruled that a Swazi woman can marry another woman, and the woman who pays "lobola" (a dowery-like payment) can delegate a man to sire her children. The ruling came during a civil hearing in which Thalitha Mngomezula accused a man of cheating her out of four cattle.

Ms. Mngomezula told the court that she wanted the cattle to be handed in as lobola for a woman she wanted to marry. She had arranged for her brother to father children with her fiancee, but that she would be responsible for their financial well-being and he would have no claim on them. The court president told shocked spectators at the hearing that this was nothing new in Swazi law and custom, and it was acceptable if the parents of both women agreed.

## The Rayne Sings at Pagoda

The Rayne, an acoustical duo, will perform at the Pagoda on Sat., April 18th at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$7 - \$10. 2854 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine.

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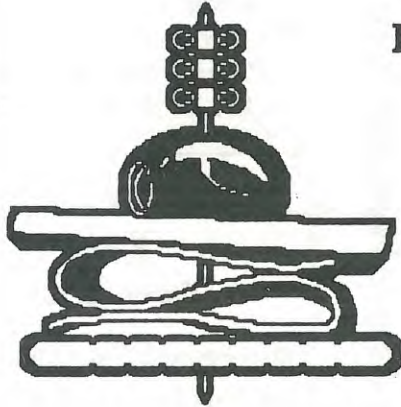


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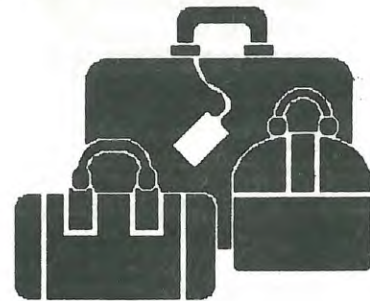
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## Bar Dykes Auditions

**Act Out Theatre** will be holding auditions for the play, *Bar Dykes* on Sunday, April 12th, 4:00 to 6:00pm at the Phoenix, 7124 Aloma Ave. The play calls for 13 women. Set in the 1950's, it explores the relationships between the women and the roles of the era.

Performances of *Bar Dykes* will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sundays, May 22, 23, 24 and May 29, 30, 31-- all at 8pm.

## WOMONWRITES - 1992

### 14th Annual SE Lesbian Writers Conference

This year's conference will be held June 3 - 7 in central Georgia. Lesbians will gather to share their stories, to celebrate their lives, and to enrich one another by bringing together a fertile blend of experience and insight.

To inspire and stimulate creativity among lesbian writers, *Womonwrites* continues to evolve as a thoughtful, innovative gathering. We encourage Lesbians of all colors, nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, in-

come levels, and degrees of physical ability to come celebrate *Womonwrites* 14th year.

*Womonwrites* gives writers in all stages of development an opportunity to learn, teach, support, critique, and share their work. This five day conference will include activities such as workshops, discussions, open readings, affinity groups, and recreation.

Cost: \$60 for each woman who attends (less if you can't; more if you're able.)

Registration: Space is limited, so please register early to assure entry. (Site is minimally wheelchair accessible.)

Childcare: Available during workshops and readings, tho facilities are limited. *Womyn* encouraged to make other arrangements, if possible. Children must pre-register by April 25; girls under 17, boys under 8. \$20 per child.

Contact: Katy Wildsister, 440 60th Ave. So., St. Pete, FL 33705.

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## New Publications

Want to fight back, Women? Have you ever been offended by the usage of nudity and sexuality in advertising? Do you experience discrimination or patronization as a woman trying to buy a car or a personal computer? Ever been refused a job, or mortgage, or lease because you are a woman, lesbian, or single parent?

Now is your opportunity... **Women Fight Back**, a new publication published by Women to Women Communications, premiered Jan. 15, 1992, with complimentary copies sent to the CEOs of the Fortune 100, the top 100 press and TV news editors, current U.S. Senators, and the U.S. President and his Cabinet.

Packed with personal testimony of women from across the country, this monthly national newsletter will tell it like it is. To send them your story, include name, phone, request for anonymity if desired, and permission to publish/edit for length: **Women Fight Back**, P.O. Box 161775, Cupertino, CA 95016. \$36 for 12 monthly issues.

Where can a lesbian safely ask questions or try to learn without being attacked for not knowing? If we dare to question the status quo in our community is there a backlash from our sisters for not conforming? Do we often live in a closet in our own community sharing only those things that "OUR COMMUNITY" has deemed "POLITICALLY CORRECT"? Does this "army of lovers that cannot fail" often feel like the "Lesbian Police?"

If you want to question this supreme authority, who do you question? Where do you go to be heard? Try **Cauldron**, a new publication which premiered in March, '92. It talks about women's lives--as we are, not as we are supposed to be. It is lesbian identified without projecting another "ism" into the world.

**Cauldron** is seeking writers, artists, photographers, and subscribers. A years subscription is \$13 (4 issues). Make your check or money order out to: **Cauldron**, P.O. Box 349, Culver City, CA. 90232-0349.

## ARTS & LETTERS

**Canada** -- As of this year, negative portrayals of homosexuality are prohibited from being broadcast on Canadian TV or radio. The Canadian Radio, TV and Telecommunications Commission has added this to the list of abusive comments that cannot be broadcast over the airwaves.

*Virago, 3/92*

**Artists' Fund** -- The National Fund for Gay & Lesbian Artists Highways Performance Space started "The National Fund For Lesbian and Gay Artists." It was created in 1991 by Tim Miller and Holly Hughes, with funds from the proceeds of the 1991 OUT Auction, a project of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center. The Fund was established to increase the visibility of lesbian and gay artists, and encourage cross-pollination between different communities. Eight lesbian and gays won fellowships of \$1,000.00 each. For more info: Highway Performance Space, 1651 18th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 (213) 453-1755.

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