

LCN News & Views

Volume 1, Issue 7

July, 1991

IT MUST BE SUMMER

When a friend called the other day to ask if it was too late to get a classified ad in the News & Views for the July issue, I said "No, the deadline isn't until this coming Saturday." To which she replied, "I thought your deadline was the 3rd Saturday of every month." "It is, which means you have until this coming Saturday!" After a moment of silence, she said, "Well, the 3rd Saturday of June is June 15th, and that was last Saturday." After a moment of silence, on my part, I asked, "Egads, what am I going to put on the front page?" "Lauri is in Atlanta finishing her degree, no one has submitted any Humor-Us responses and Rachel, Cathy, Lucy, Barb, Jeannette, Maria and thirty more women are involved in making the picnic happen - so what do I do?" She then emitted one of her evil laughs and said, "Have fun."

So, here I sit trying to come up with something that will be of interest to the masses, and all I can really think about is the heat. It is about this time every year that I threaten to move from The City Beautiful and head for the cool and beautiful mountains of North Carolina or Colorado. And, every year - I stay. Why is that?

The Weatherpeople (Danny, Pamela and Dave) are fabricators. The temperature isn't really 93 - it's really 103. I'm convinced they fabricate these figures because The Mouse owns them, and it wouldn't be good for the tourists to know that it is really 103 in the shade. I wonder what the statistics really are - how many people visiting the mouse drop dead or fall over from heat stroke on a daily basis? It's for sure, we'll never know.

Ever since my wreck two years ago, I've made a concerted effort to find the positive side to everything, so as an experiment, I actually took an egg outside this afternoon, cracked it and plopped it on the driveway - and it FRIED - IT REALLY FRIED! I thought that was good to know, in case I can't afford to pay my power bill sometime, I can still eat eggs. I then thought about how I can enjoy the rain that often falls out of the heavens on most afternoons because after the rain, there is that sauna-like effect. Saves money, I don't have to go pay for a suana. Of course, with all the rain that falls, the grass grows at least six inches overnight, and that provides me with the opportunity to get a lot of exercise - helping to keep this aging body (somewhat) fit. That's good. And with the exercise comes the sweat, which helps keep the weight under control. That's good too, right? My reflexes get a daily workout when I sit on 'Zeke's' vinyl seats, which convinces me that I've still got them, and that's encouraging.

So, when I look at all the good things about living in this cauldron known as Central Florida, I think - maybe I'll stay for another year. But the reality of why I stay doesn't have anything to do with the city or the advantages of the city. Rather, it has to do with the people - people like my friend with the wicked, evil laugh - because I know she will be there if I need her. And people like Sherry and Dwaine, with whom I have shared 15 years of fun and frivolity. That's why I stay.

BUT, I still bitch. And, I enjoy it. I especially enjoy bitching in the good 'ole summertime. See, there is a positive side to everything!

WE NEED: MORE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Judging from her article, "Gathering for Freedom," Lauri Carlson could have saved her money and skipped the National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta this year. The conference did not seem to improve the strong prejudices previously expressed in her article "Attitude Sisters." On the contrary, Ms. Carlson has moved on from taking pot-shots at the women she disapproves of at our local bars to insulting and undermining the efforts of lesbians willing to outwardly support our rights, just because she feel their demeanor is too unbecoming to represent her.

Ms. Carlson's suggestion that we remove what she calls "our more extreme stereotypical members of our subculture" from the limelight and replace them with acceptable "doctors, lawyers, professors, and other professionals" sounds like she prefers some lesbians to stay in the closet. This kind of reasoning makes Ms. Carlson about as evolved as the provincial press and homophobes who react so strongly against "hariy arm-pitted, men-hating dykes on bykes." The women who have openly campaigned for gay and women's rights deserve our support, regardless of their employment or appearance. Many of them have taken chances when the doctors, lawyers, and professors, and other professionals were not comfortable coming forward.

The first step toward gaining acceptance and rights for lesbians is to accept each other, without judgment or stratification. When you buy into "society's contingencies," you're no better than those who are against us.

Alice Pumba



PARENTS' GROUPS INFO

LATCH (Lesbians And Their Children) is on hiatus for the summer.

The local chapter of GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) recently elected a board of directors to conduct the business of the group and provide for the social, support and political needs of the individuals. We currently meet one evening a month for a social/support gathering (children are welcome, but usually disappear into a separate room with the toys). We also meet on an irregular basis for family-oriented gatherings - such as picnics. Our most visible political action to date has been our involvement in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Look for our signs on Highway 50 at US 441 and at Palm Street.

Another political action we have undertaken is to join the national organization of GLPCI as an entire chapter. One reason to do this is that increasing the national membership count increases our political clout needed to fight for our parenting rights. Because of this, we need all gay and lesbian parents to join GLPCI. The \$10 annual membership fee makes you a full member of both the local and national organizations. Members receive both the adult and kid newsletters. We recognize that people have different priorities and so offer the following membership types:

1. Regular
2. Non-participatory: You are welcome at all functions and will receive all mailings, but we won't call you because we know that you don't have the time or energy to participate further.
3. Anonymous: Send us your first name and last initial and the first names of your children and their ages. Then call Chris A. (831-8248) or Diane (293-7964) to arrange to get your newsletters. This will totally protect your identity, but will allow us to count you in our political efforts.

If you are a parent, please join GLPCI by sending your \$10 membership fee to: Parents' Group, P.O. Box 561504, Orlando, Florida 32856-1504.

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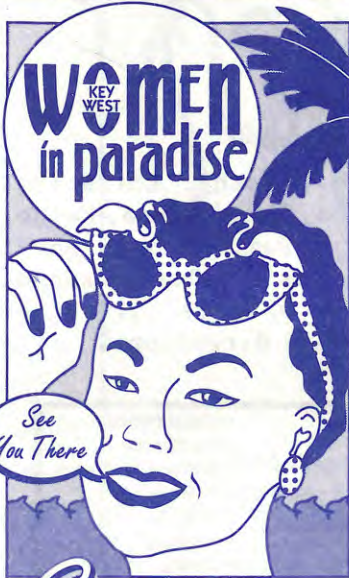
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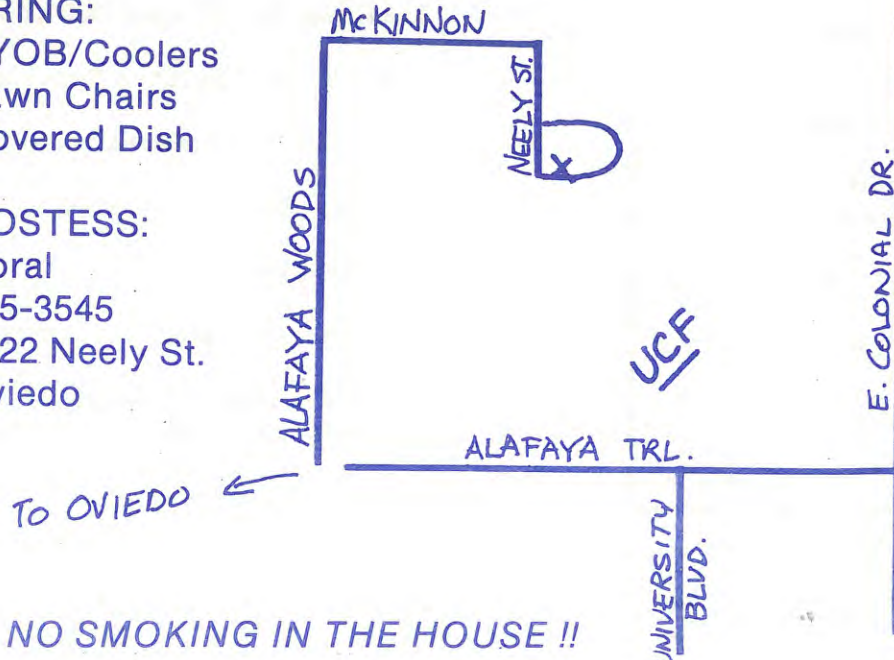
647 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32803

JULY GATHERING

SATURDAY, JULY 20TH 5:00 PM - UNTIL

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Lawn Chairs
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NEW & VIEWS
Publication Information

LCN News & Views 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 short stories, community questions and notices for the calendar of events. These items are printed free of charge. Some of the views expressed in the News & Views are not necessarily those of LCN, the newsletter or its editors. The newsletter reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity, conciseness and length. Editorial length will be limited to 250 words and a phone number must accompany any editorial. Anonymity is acceptable, but a phone number is mandatory. Articles should be submitted in either a typed or neatly written, double-spaced format.

NEWS & VIEWS STAFF

Editor Shannon Addison
Assistant Editors Jayne & Rhea
Contributing Writer Lauri Carlson
Layout/Graphics Pam Berry
Advertisement Representative Rachel Gardiner

Ad Rates:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Classified Ads (5-line maximum) | \$2.00 |
| Business Cards | \$5.00 |
| 1/4 Page Display Ad (5"x4") | \$20.00 |
| 1/2 Page Display Ad (5"x8") | \$30.00 |
| Full Page Ad | \$50.00 |

Deadline for submission of ads and articles is the third Saturday of each month. Payment for ads must be submitted with camera-ready artwork to:

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THINK TANK MEETING

The July Think Tank Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20th at Coral's home. Please refer to the Gathering information for directions. If you have interest in LCN's directions and goals, please plan to attend.

THANKS

Barb, Carol, Cathy M., Cathy, Christine, Dottie, Jayne, Jeanette, Lauri, Lisa, Maddo, Marcia, Mary R., Mary, Pam, Rachel, Rhea, Rhonda, Rita, Stacey, Sue C., Sue, Suzanne. The next Folding Party will be July 31st. Call 894-9191 for info & directions.

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| Breaking The Silence MCC (Cocoa) | 254-5884 |
| CENTAUR AIDS-Related Services | 849-1452 |
| Gay & Lesbian Community Services | THE-GAYS |
| Hope & Help AIDS-Related Services | 628-8542 |
| Joy MCC (Orlando) | 894-1081 |
| LCN & News & Views Information | 894-9191 |
| PFLAG Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays | 236-9177 |
| Rape Crisis Center | 648-3028 |
| Women's Health Center | 896-2022 |
| Women's Resource Center | 898-1599 |



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THUR. - Beat the  & Disco w/Gizmo

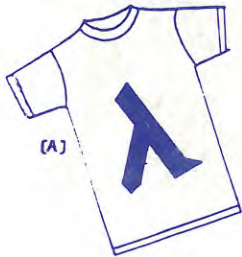
FRI. - ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA
& Showtime 10:30 & 12:15 w/ Danielle,
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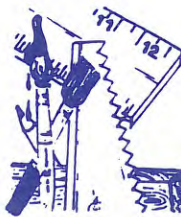


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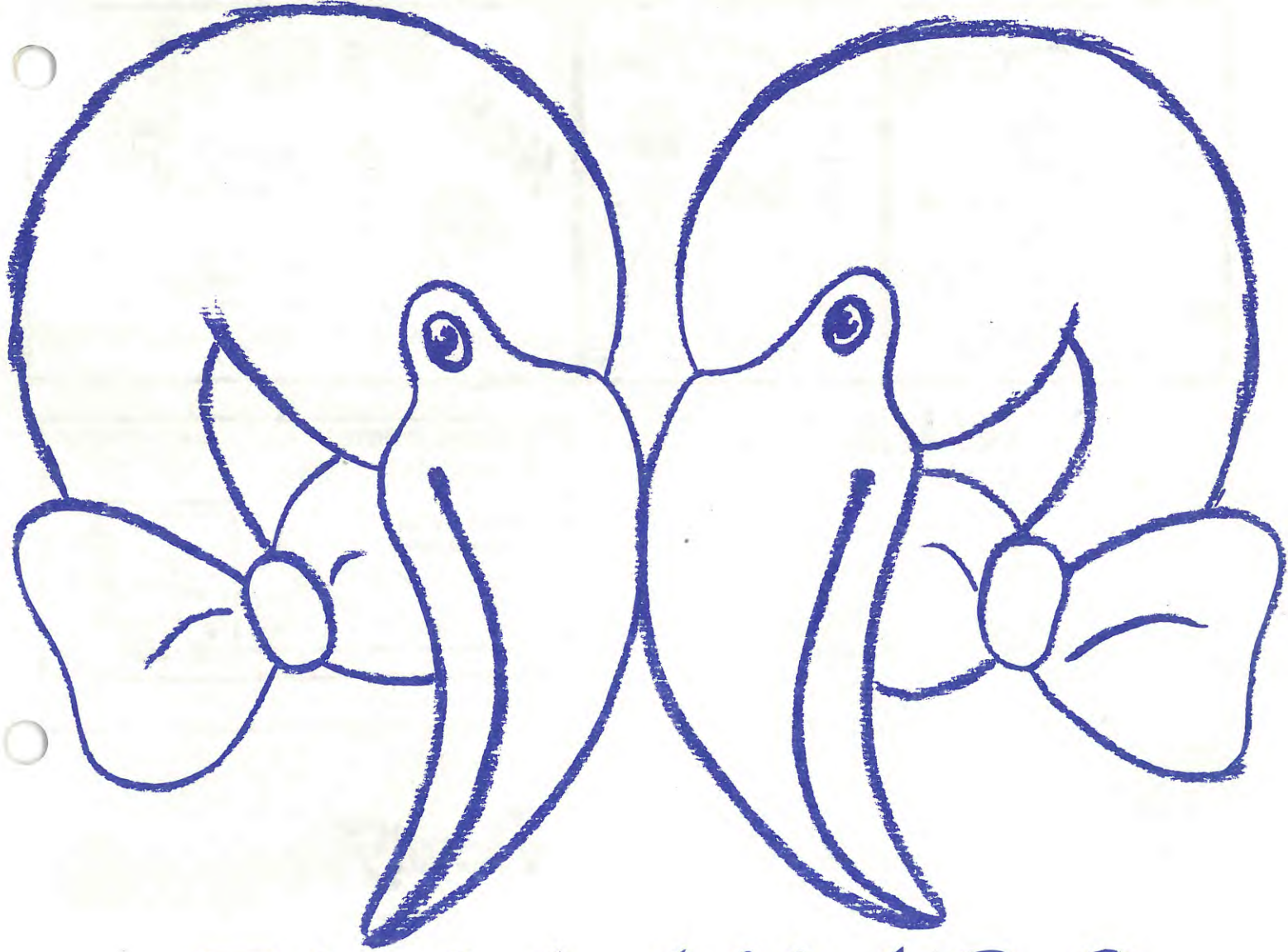
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