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Express

AT&T Makes The Right Choice

by Lucy

HERSTORY - OUR STORY - HERSTORY

by Barb Fallon

I'm fascinated by lesbian herstory. But I rarely find the time to read all the books I buy from *On the Move* each year. Well this is the year! Unemployment has given me the opportunity, and I wish to be a productive citizen while collecting my most generous unemployment check.

The following are little snipits that I found pretty neat. Listed afterward are the books I found the information in, and further reading material on he topic. I hope to make this a semiregular feature in the LCN. (Unemployment allowing that is) Enjoy!

In many Native American tribes, women were held in high regard and thought to be profoundly connected to the Spirits. As such, they sat on tribunal councils, held high office and participated fully in tribal affairs. It was also thought that lesbians and gays became homosexual by guidance from the Spirit world. Though at times still ridiculed, other Native American tribes honored their unique spiritual authority. Within their culture, it would have been of grave consequence or unnatural to ignore the guidance offered by Spirits.

In studies, many lesbians have been found acting as Shamans for their tribes. (Spiritual leaders) In the Navajo, homosexuals were tribal leaders, collectively know as the Nadle. Those within the nadle married members of their own sex. In 1935, one lavajo elder said, "I believe that when all the nadle have passed away, it will be the end of Navajo culture... They are the leaders."

(Continued, p. 2)

As an employee of AT&T, I am happy to report that the Lesbian Herstory Archives have been approved for eligibility under the AT&T Employee Matching Gift Program. This is a program that will match, dollar for dollar, an employee's contribution to eligible organizations (minimum and maximum amounts may apply).

If you don't know about the archives, they are a wonderful library of lesbian herstory and culture. The first time I heard about the archives was at the National Lesbian Conference, and their presentation was one of the most enjoyable workshops I attended at the conference.

I have been disappointed by previous decisions made by AT&T, such as the decision to stop financial support to Planned Parenthood. I have also read much negative press in regard to that decision, and I know AT&T lost revenues from pro-choice customers who decided to switch long distance carriers. The decision to add the archives to the employee matching gift program is one I am proud of.

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON UPDATE

The second meeting of the National Steering Committee for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation was held in Dallas, TX, on May 9 and 10. Because of the gender/racial requirements of the organization, the committee has expanded the number of co-chairs from 3 to 4 seats prior to the election. The elected co-chairs of the 1993 march are Scout of Chicago, Derek Livingston of Providence, Nadine Smith of Tampa, and Billy Hileman of Pittsburgh.

The items of the March platform were adopted. In general, the platform planks cover demands regarding 1) equal civil rights based on sexual orientation, identification, or gender; 2) anti-racism; 3) education and concerns of students; 4) universal health care; 5) reproductive freedom; 6) partnership and family; 7) general and specific calls for an end to discrimina-

tion. "This meeting was a big success. We are putting the components together for a truly incredible event in Washington next year. The feeling of the members of the Steering Committee was excitement as they left Dallas. We will succeed in sending the message to the bashers and homophobes that we are stronger than ever," said Scout, one of the newly elected Co-Chairs.

Paside:

Pictures from the PRIDE March & LCN/WIT Picnic!

Advertising Sizes & Rates for the LCN Express

National News

DC DOMESTIC PARTNER CAMPAIGN

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has launched a campaign to urge Congress to support the recently-passed D.C. domestic partnership ordinance. The law, which the D.C. City Council overwhelmingly passed last month, is subject to review by Congress because of the limited home rule granted to the District of Columbia.

sion Act of 1992, extends health benefits coverage to the domestic partners of city employees; creates a city-wide registry for domestic partners; and extends hospital and health facility visitation rights to domestic partners. Some lesbian and gay couples would qualify for benefits under the law's definition of "domestic partner." More than twenty cities nationwide have

The D.C. Health Benefits Expan-

exacted legislation that provides some recognition of domestic partners and ten of those cities have health care coverage provision similar to the D.C.

APPOINTMENT OF GAY JUDGE IN TEXAS RAISES DUST

Leaders of gay rights groups were outraged at remarks from Dallas GOP chairperson, who called Gov. Ann Richards appointment of a felony judge a political payback. Bob Dreigert said June 1 in a news conference that Richards appointed former defense lawyer Jerry Birdwell as a pay back to gay and lesbian groups that supported her campaign. John Thomas, Director of the Gay Alliance, warned "(T)he last group that people can take on and bash is the gay community." Birdwell is open about his sexuality. Philadelphia Gay News, June 12-8, '92

4TH ANNUAL

LAMBDA LITERARY AWARDS

The 4th Annual Lambda Literary Awards have been made. Following is a partial list of finalists in the Lesbian categories. For more complete info, try Out and About Books, 930 N. Mills.

Fiction: Anna Livia, Minimax; Blache Boyd, The Revolution of Little Girls. Sci-Fi: Jewell Gomez, The Gilda Stories; BL Holmes, Mega. Anthology: Carla Trujillo (ed), Chicana Lesbians; Hutchins & Kaahumanu (ed), Bi Any Other Name. Poetry: Adrienne Rich, Atlas of the Difficult World; Becky Birtha, Forbidden Poems. Mystery: Katherine Forrest, Murder by Tradition; Mary Morell, Final Session. Nonfiction: Butler & Rosenblum, Cancer in Two Voices; Lillian Faberman: Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America Diana Souliami, Gertrude & Alice.

Congratulations and Thanks

to all the people who helped to make Pride Week the resounding success it was. Particular tribute is due the many individuals who worked on the Pride Parade. Lambda hats off to you,

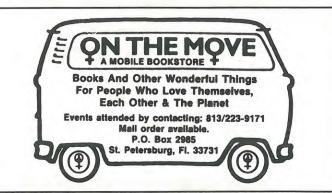
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7:15 p.m.

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during the Week.

Monday....

8:00 - A.A. - Cardwell Hall

Tuesday....

7:30 p.m. - Bible Study (TBA) Wednesday....

7:15 a.m. - Prayer Breakfast

7:30 p.m.- Discussion Group. A different topic every week, from sex to politics.

Check the Bulletin Board. Family Groups, Pot Luck Dinners, Volleyball, TLC Meetings and other activities fill the week. You're always welcome.

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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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Alcoholics Anonymous/Orlando	647-3333
Alcoholics Anonymous/Brevard County	242-8063
reaking the Silence MCC (Cocoa)	631-4524
Delta Youth Alliance	425-4527
GLCS Hotline and Info Line	THE-GAYS
GLADD	236-9499
GLPCI (Parents' Group)	420-2191
Gay & Lesbian Center	425-4527
Joy MCC (Orlando)	894-1081
LCN Express Information	648-4154
Orlando PRIDE	236-9480
PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians/G	ays) 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
Willow (Women in Lake County)	(904) 383-2883
WIT (Brevard County Women In Touch) 1- 727-1336
Aids Resources:	
AIDS Hotline/English	800)FLA-AIDS

AIDS Resource Alliance	425-2233
AREA AIDS Related Services	647-2765
CENTAUR AIDS Related Services	849-1452
Hope & Help AIDS Related Services	628-8542

Announcements from the Heart

Lucky Ladies - Marie and Karen exchanged touching vows last month in Orlando. The wonderful reception was held at Faces. Best wishes for a long and loving life together!
 Deepest sympathy to Karen and Dana for the loss of their brother-in-law Albert, survived by his lover Billy.



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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, Rita Krosber, Madeliene Abling, Becky Acuna, & Rachel Gardiner.

Advertisement Rates

Please see page 7.

Payment for ads should be submitted in advance, checks payable to LCN. 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

The LCN Express is free to all lesbians. But we do urge you to pay whatever you can to help keep the newsletter afloat.

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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Roommate wanted to share 3/2 home. \$350 per month, includes utilities. N.W. area. No Drugs. Call (407) 290-9318.

For Sale: Sears Lifestyler Treadmill, \$150. Double bed and frame, \$75. Both in excellent condition. Call 696-2701.

Herstory, Cont'd

A Kutenai lesbian named Kauxuma nupike, or "Gone to the Spirits" was described to have passed for a man while traveling with her "wife." She was described as a courier, a guide and a peace mediator as well as a shaman for her powers to heal. One European trader wrote about them: "... they were both adventurous amazons."

Many more accounts can be found of lesbians in the Native American culture. These are just a few. Happy reading. Becky Butler, Ceremonies of the Heart; Paula Gunn Allen, Lesbians in American Indian Cultures; George Devereux, Institutionalized Homosexuality in the Mohave Indians; Jonathan Katz, Gay American History.

Barb is a radical lipstick lesbian who has worked within the lesbian community locally and nationally for 8 yrs. She's now on the LCN Editorial Staff. Petite, white female (very fem) seeks professional for friendship, penpal or possible relationship; ages 25-40. Write 1216 Spartan Ave, Port Orange, FL 32127.

North Carolina vacation homes: Available for rent May-Oct. Sleeps 6, \$350/week, \$250/weekend. Hiking, white water rafting. Secluded, beautiful. Contact Kathy or Lynn at (904) 332-8831.

Investigations: Confidential, discreet inquiries to determine character/background. Statewide Criminal Checks. Fees on sliding scale. Call (813) 920-0161.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear LCN,

I was sitting at a friends home the other day and noticed your magazine on the coffee table. I really enjoyed reading it. It was the first magazine that I could relate to. I also liked the fact that it was local. I would really like a subscription but I'm a little short on money.

Signed, W.J.

Response: Thanks we needed that! Your subscription is on its way. As always, we are free to lesbians. We ask \$12.00 (more if can and less if you can't) and many women send us donatation subscriptions for women who can't afford to pay.

Dear LCN.

Enclosed is my check for a subscription. We think your doing a great job and we loved RAGS!

THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

by Diane Kerkhoff

I'm on a high. I have just return from the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival, but I am resisting returning to reality. I've never been to a festival before and I've never been camping before (I know - what kind of lesbian am I?), and so it was a totally new experience for me. My friend who invited me has many years of camping experience and several friends tried to prepare me for the festival part, but you can't understand unless you've been there.

Here are my personal highlights and lowlights. First the lowlights: The only low of the whole trip for me was that first night in a tent when it got down into the 40's. I was freezing and I looked over to my friend for help, and there she was shivering away - so much for years of camping experience. Also, all night the sound of zipping and unzipping drove me crazy. Never having camped before I hadn't realized what a major part of camping zipping is. By the next night with a little rearrang ment of blankets and clothes, I was fine, and I slept through the zipping sounds.

That was the only low point for me, but I'll put in a complaint for my friend about the distance fom the campsites to the 'porta-janes'.

Now for the highlights:

▼ Quality time talking and laughing with my friend while driving to and from North Carolina and a beautiful site with hot days and cool nights.

▼ A 3-hour work shift in the kitchen (I buttered bread for 3 hours!) Imet lots of great women-like Ruby & Tammi.

(Continued, p. 6)

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LCN Express **Production Schedule**

Hev! Join in any time! Just call Barb: 648-4154.

7/15: Copy and ad deadline. Send in something! Be humorous, serious, informative ... or provocative, but be there! Blurbs, socalled, are very welcome. (I.e., you

don't have to be long or formal.) 7/14: Newsletter meeting, 7:00pm, 830 W. Smith St., College

Park. Decisions are made for each issue and for the Express in general. Everyone is welcome.

7/15-17: Typing articles onto diskettes. We need you.

labor to print the Express each

7/22-7: Pronto Press donates their

month! Volunteers arrange to use Pronto's machine to fold it. 7/27: 7:00pm. Folding Party at Key Largo. Lots of stuffing. sorting, licking, looking, and laughing goin' on!

See you there.

Local Events and Projects



Auditions for Act Out Theatre will be held August 9th at 6pm at the Phoenix for the one act play, Immediate Family. For more information, call 677-5407.

Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group, a lesbian and gay youth group. Leave message at the Center for Terry Deischer for info.

Women's Discussion Group at the Center every Wednesday at 7:00pm. Call the Center for information and topics, 427-4527.

Act Out Theatre announces the production of Fog, one act comedy drama written by Robert Patrick. This play can be seen at 8:00pm on July 7,8,14,15,21, and 22 at the Phoenix, 7124 Aloma Ave. (Tickets are \$5.)

Metropolitan Business Association: July 9, Big Bang, Orange 6:30pm social, 7:00pm meeting...the last that non-members will be admitted free of charge. Get there and get your membership application! (See p. 9)

tion International (GLPCI): For more information about the following upcoming events, call (407) 420-2191. July 2-5: GLPCI Annual International Conference in Indianapolis. 14 adults and children from the Central Florida Chapter are going to attend. Several social events are planned in-

Gay & Lesbian Parents Coali-

cluding a family picnic featuring the premier of a mini-play presented by the vastly talented members of the Central Florida Chapter. Throughout the weekend, the adults will have the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops. Children (ages 6-12) will be escorted to the Indianapolis Children's Museum and other fun places; youth (13+) will run their own conference.

(adults only) at GLCS July 18: 7:00pm. Social/support meet-

July 10: 7:30 pm. Parents Rap Group

Catholic Mass: July 19, 7:00pm, at GLCS, 750 W. Colonial Drive. Sponsored by Dignity.

AN LCN SUMMER GATHERING!!!!

Saturday, August 8, 1992 3:00pm - ? (We'll eat at 5:30)

Potluck-- Bring a dish to share (We need food there, but girlfriends welcome, too.)

Lake access. Bring coolers, lawn chairs, bathing suits, rafts, etc. Volleyball provided. It's all happening at

Penny's, 2321 Roxbury Rd.

(You can call her at 628-4264.)

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PROUD PICTURES

Media sources reported over 3,000 people attended the PRIDE Parade that swept through the streets of downtown Orlando on June 20. It was a truly gayla and emotion-packed event. "I've been out for a long time," said one lesbian, "but I've never marched about it before. I had goosebumps-- really. It was very moving." I confess tears came to my eyes as I looked at friends along the parade route cheering the marchers on. I was so glad they came. Many were dykes and some were hets; one day we can all march together.

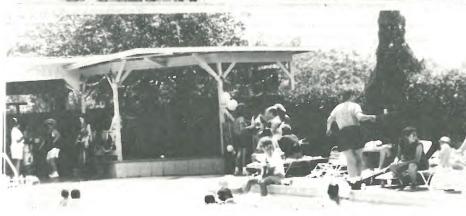
Though I love to protest advocate, I dread the programs organized for political events. So, I want to add that the speeches were great, very meaningful. They informed about PRIDE's origins, asserted good advice for building unity in the present (like right now!), and sent us looking toward the future with Central FL's rep to the '93 March on Washington, Nadine Smith. The PRIDE March organizers did a greatjob. Thank you! by Becky Acuña













The LCN/WIT* Lesbian Pride Picnic held at Key Largo on June 21 was a wonderful event to attend. Over 700 women and children swam, played volleyball, and were entertained by talented musicians all day long. Judy from Longwood commented, "I'm having a really great time ... but where did all these women come from?" It was nice to have shopping and info areas; thank you vendors and groups.

A great amount of any success is attributable to planning. It took a dozen lesbians 2 months to prepare and 76 lesbians to fill the hour-long workshifts that day. Cheryl, Sue, and the Key Largo staff did a super job. Special thanks are due the LCN/WIT coordinators: Rachel, Rita, Lori, Becky, Nancy, Kristine, Charlotte, Jan, Noreen, Barb, Kathy, and Donna. I'l' let the pictures tell the rest of the story.

Barb Fallon

* WIT is the Brevard lesbian organization: Women In Touch.

She Speaks Out

by Patty Sheehan

Finally the Savonarola (Spanish Inquisition witch-burner) of Orange County had his day in court and lost. Sheriff Walt Gallagher was found to have violated former Deputy Tom Woodard's right to privacy under the Florida Constitution. Finally, a ruling that a lesbian liberal can take heart in. Maybe these are not the Dark Ages, Act II, after all.

For those of you who do not know who Deputy Tom Woodard is, he's the Orange County officer who was forced to resign from the police force because he is bisexual. Woodard had an excellent record of performance, both as a police dispatcher and a Sheriff's deputy. Somehow, word got around that Woodard had been involved with another male dispatcher in the Apopka Police Department. Gallagher had his chief deputy, C.D. "Buck" Buchanan lean on Woodard to get him to resign, threatening he would be fired and never get another police job if he did t. This meeting took place April '89.

It has taken a while for this to come to trial, but luckily there was no change of venue to Simi Valley, California. In strong wording very supportive of homosexuals, Circuit Judge William Grindley ordered Sheriff Gallagher to immediately re-hire Woodard and pay him back wages. Judge Grindley's ruling stated that gay people "are inherently treated with prejudice." Grindley wrote that "The only homosexual conduct considered by the Sheriff occurred before he (Woodard) was appointed a deputy sheriff... There was no incidence that his job or public life was affected in any respect by such conduct."

I'm sure a lot of lesbian and gay cops are heaving sighs of relief. I remember shortly after the word got out about Woodard's resignation. There were an awful lot of paranoid cops out there. Maybe they'll all go to Key Largo this weekend to celebrate. With all of the crime problems we have in this state, it's ridiculous that the Sheriff of Orange County is spending investigative money shadowing gay officers.

It is no coincidence that this investigator is the son of Rev. John Butler Book, a "religious" man whose main focus is woman and gay bashing "in the name of Jesus." Are there no homeless people you can help to feed, or any good works you can do for a change, my dear man? Morality is in the eye of the beholder, and these

Key West WOMEN IN PARADISE

The Key West Business Guild announces Women in Paradise, a week of events for women to be held September 14th through the 20th. During the week there will be concerts, women's theater, "The Prom You Always Wanted," watersport activities, walking tours, sporting events and other activities primarily designed for women participants.

For more information: Women in Paradise, PO Box 1208, Key West FL 33041. A recording answers calls placed to 800-535-7797. Early reservations are necessary for golf, the watersport activities, and the seminars.

religious fascists are really getting out of control.

Sheriff Gallagher's reasons that gays are unfit to be on the police force were that they could be blackmailed, wouldn't be accepted by other officers, and that suspects might object to searches by gays. If Gallagher's ignorant good-old-boy reasoning was allowed to really take off, we might also see female and black deputies hassled off the job. Gallagher's prejudice and stupidity is obvious. If anyone is unfit for his job, it is Sheriff Walt Gallagher.



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Festival, Cont'd

▼ Sitting around the campsite drinking beer, chatting with the neighbors.

▼ A private softball game every afternoon and sitting in the sun, drinking beer, watching the comedy and musical performers.

▼ Watching Lea DeLaria's show and then hearing one of her phrases echoed from every corner for the rest of the trip (I won't tell you the phrase - it tends to permeate your brain).

▼ Country & Western dance lessons with Donna E every morning and a Country & Western dance every night. I was struck by the image of the gym packed full of dancing women. Also, it was wonderful to have music (live and taped) by female performers only.

▼ Feeling totally in sync with my friend except when we had to argue about who was going to lead.

▼ Having a vacation from the responsibilities of parenthood. (Did you forget that I'm supposed to be writing the parenting column?)

▼ Everything was done by womenstage building, sound, production, food, security, everything-well, except they did have some men that came in to clean the porta-janes twice a day. Very appropriate, I thought. I hope they were paid 60% of what it was worth.

■ Waking up next to someone (I've been single much too long.)

September 14-20, 1992

6TH Annual

For information write or call the

Key West Business Guild;

P.O. Box 1208,

Key West, Florida 33041;

1-800-535-7797

One more lowlight: A sign at the

Lesbian Challenges Florida's Adoption Laws

A Fort Lauderdale lesbian who wants to adopt a child contends a Florida law banning her and other lesbians and gays from even applying for adoption should be struck down.

A Circuit Court suit filed in Broward County on behalf of June Amer, 40, is the third backed by the ACLU in a statewide campaign to overturn the 15 yr old law. Attorney Fran Tetunic noted that the law excludes homosexuals, but "there's no mention of homicidal maniacs or child molesters or rapists or any other group."

The ban was adopted amid an anti-

gate said, "Shirts required beyond this point." That was the slap in the face to remind us that we were stepping back into 'civilization'- where I have to remember not to hug or touch my friend, where we will be persecuted and prosecuted for loving whom we choose, where we earn 60% of what men earn, where the government (of rich, homophobic, white men) thinks it has some say over my body.

And now the final highlight: I want to publicly thank all my friends who insisted on taking care of my son so that I could have this experience. You've given me a wonderful gift and I'll never forget it! homosexual fervor stirred by Anita Bryant, but the test cases are forcing re-examination of the issue. ACLU directors charge Florida and New Hamshire are the only two states with a ban on adoptions by lesbians/gays.

A judge in Monroe County ruled against the law last year after the state declined to assert a position on its constitutionality, but the precedent applies only to Florida Keys. A ruling is pending on a challenge by a gay couple in Sarasota.

"What would make the most fiscal sense is that the Legislature sees the writing on the wall here and rescinds the statute," Robyn Blumner, FL ACLU Director, said. "We would be happy to see these lawsuits go away by a simple act of the legislative pen."

The suit filed May 28 names as defendants the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and the Childrens Home Society, a private agency helping the state agency place special children such as minority, disabled, and older children.

HRS spokesperson Catherine Deans said "We don't have judgement calls on it. We are simply following the law. We're standing neutral." Jay Rader, county director of the Children's Home Society, said the agency has no written policy on gay adoptions. But he said he believes most natural parents would prefer adoptions by heterosexual couples.

"Whether it is right or wrong legally, society still sees the father and mother, male and female, as providing the better parent figures for the children to grow up with," he said. "Personally, my preference would be for the 2-parent family, number one, and for the heterosexuals. I'm not saying they're the only ones, but they are my preference."

But Tetunic contends the law is in conflict with itself because it also says the state should provide a family life to all those who can benefit from i'...(E)very group should be treated based upon the potential adoptive parent's ability to parent a child."

From an Associated Press article





P.O. Box 1367 Franklin, N.C. 28734-1367 704/369-5162 by Rita Boo

Lewis Routh and Act Out Theatre did an exceptional job with Merrill Harris Mushroom's Lesbian play, Bar Dykes. (It was their May production.) The characters were well thought out, humorous and for many of the younger lesbians in the audience, educational.

The stereotypical butch/fem role, that the heterosexual society still brands lesbians with, is in truth all but a vanishing memory. Plays, books and movies depicting that era in lesbian herstory are vital for our community. We need to know the struggle of the womyn who helped change the 'rules' of behavior and gave all lesbians a voice without regard to role playing.

Humorous though the play was, it portrayed the harassment of the lesbian/gay community by the establishment. Although today we enjoy a relatively safe space at lesbian and gay bars, without the fear of shakedowns by police, there are towns in this country passing anti-lesbian and gay legislation today. We can laugh at our herstory, but we need to remain on guard against the bigots that roam free.

All the womyn who portrayed the "Bar Dykes" need to be commended on their believable characters; sisters we could identify with. They seemed comfortable on the stage and relaxed in the ambience of a fifties bar. I must give special attention to the following actors for their exceptional work: Cathy Goodison for her portrayal of the butch, Rusty; Terry Wolfe as the wonderful, attentive bartender, Bo; Ruth Hoglin as Cynthia; Ginny Edwards as Joyce; Debbie Barretta as Andy. Last but not least, Maria Sinclair as Sherry.

I hope we will continue to enjoy more fine production from Act Out Theater and that the lesbian community will support the theater.

(See page 3 for upcoming Act Out Theatre auditions and performances.)

YES ANN, WE'RE HAPPY!!!

Several months ago we asked you to tell Ann Landers whether or not you were "glad to be gay." Well, surprise, Ann reports in her column of April 27, that "this issue has generated more mail than almost any other since I started writing the column nearly 37 years ago." More than 75,000 readers answered her question and their replies were decidedly positive-- 30 to 1, said, "Yes, I'm glad I'm gay."

Following are excerpts from letters. *Boston:* I'm 32 years old, the chairman of a multimillion dollar, hightech company. And yes, I'm gay... We

are your doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, bus drivers, waiters and florists. But best of all, we look, walk and talk like everyone else. For me, being gay is as natural as being straight is for you. Would you want to change? Well, neither would I. Denver: If I could take a pill that would make me straight, I wouldn't do it. I love the sensitivity and honesty that women have and men lack.

Ann's conclusion: "It is my firm conviction that homosexuality is **not** a learned behavior, it is genetic. It can be supressed but not altered."

New Advertising Schedule for the LCN Express

The Editorial Staff has decided to change the advertising rates for the LCN *Express*. We had to solve several problems. For instance, we were concerned about balancing ad and copy space. With former ad sizes, we were running out of space to print all the articles and ads you have been sending in.

We also needed to standardize the size ads we print; it has been very time-consuming to accommodate the many different sizes of ads we have received. And lastly, there's the ever-present pocketbook issue. (Not to be confused with the purse issue previously discussed.) Though we need to raise money to help pay for the costs of producing and mailing the newsletter, we are ever mindful that the LCN Express exists in order to serve the lesbian community-- businesses and consumers alike. So we retained our \$5 rate for business card ads...and we think you'll still find it the best bargain in town!

We apologize to current advertisers if this presents an unexpected expense in terms of creating new ads. We can desktop publish your ad for you; the proceeds going to LCN. Call Becky for info on this: 282-6569. And thank you all for your support. Let us hear from you soon! You can contact Barb at 648-4154 for further advertising information.

The LCN Express

Adverti	sing S	izes	and R	ates
AD TYPE	DIMENSI	ons (INCHES)	PRICE
	Height		Width	
3 Column Banner Ads				
Large Banner	8	x	71/2	\$50
Medium Banner	51/4	x	71/2	\$35
Small Banner	31/2	x	71/2	\$30
Business Banner	2	x	71/2	\$15
2 Column-wide Ads				
Large Double	8	x	5	\$40
Medium Double	51/4	x	5	\$25
Small Double	31/2	x	5	\$20
1 Column Ads				
Single Medium	51/4	x	21/4	\$15
Business Card	2	x	31/2	\$5
(vertical)	31/2	X	2	\$5



MUSICAL PERFORMERS — COMICS DANCE BANDS — THEATRE

Altazor • Jamie Anderson • Boink Dee Deek • Lea DeLaria • Hunter

Davis and Friends • Mrs. Fun • Marga Gomez • Pam Hall • Ellen Hines Nana Korantemaa & Nuru Dafina Abena • Ellen Rosner Zoe Lewis and Julie Wheeler • Judith Sloane • Suede • Two Step

Dancing • Erica Wheeler • Theories of the Old School • Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie • "Toshi" • Two Nice Girls • Karen Williams •

Yer Girlfriend • Leah Zicari and exciting guest stars! **SPEAKERS:** Mandy Carter (political activist) • Michelle Crone

(activist/'93 March on Washington) • Rosemary Curb (author) • J.E.B. (videographer) • Jona Olsson (cultural advocate) • Kay Ostberg (legal advocate) • River (spiritual healer) • The Rhythm Fest Producers

Sabrina Sojourner (legislative activist) • Betti Bonni (hearing impaired/deaf activist) • Marilyn Rodan (film maker)

PLUS: Southern Women's Writer's track with workshops • readings from Daystage and Cafe

CARNIVAL & PICNIC featuring jam sessions • jugglers • mimes

games • clowns • and more!

Name

TICKET	ORDER	FORM

	TICKET	ORDER FORM	
Purchase tickets early.	Space limited to 1500.	Tickets at gate \$10 above top sliding scale. C	ash Or

dress	
7.575	

5 days \$195 RV: (includes 1 ticket) 4 days \$190

CABIN: (limited spaces) 5 days \$185-190__ 4 days \$160-170_ CAMPING: 5 day (Thu-Mon) \$165-175____ 4 day (Fri-Mon) \$145-155_

3 day (Sat-Mon; limited passes) \$125-135____ 9-16 yr. old women \$50_ 3-8 yr. old children \$35_

TOTAL ENCLOSED

I'd like info on: ☐ Disabled Resources R.V. Rentals Motels

☐ Childcare

Cabin Selection: Smoking ☐ Non-Smoking I'd be willing to distribute Rhythm Fest flyers. #_

I will use interpreter services

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS—Please enclose info

Clean and Sober

Come join us for a fun and exciting

Labor Day Weekend Sept. 3–7, 1992

Atop Lookout Mountain in Georgia overlooking Tennessee and Alabama!

700 acres of beautiful private land with a lake, hiking trails, cabins, lots of flat land for camping, moonlit hayrides, canoeing, and much, much more!

Only: 3 hours from Nashville

2 hours from Atlanta 3 hours from Birmingham

2½ hours from Knoxville 4½ hours from Asheville

Festival Includes: music, comedy, theater,

dance, crafts, sports, raffles, concessions, workshops, camping, food (vegetarian or

meat), swimming, square dancing, films, videos, political tent, speakers. Women-only space, Women of Color tent, Environmental Awareness Tent, Writer's Tent, over-40's

space, on-site General Store, Hipsway Cafe, Disabled Resources. All concerts interpreted for the hearing impaired; showers and portable toilets provided. No dogs permitted, except seeing-eye or hearing-impaired (must

be registered). Gates open 12 noon Thursday; festival ends Monday at 3 p.m. TICKETS: 5-DAY: Thurs-Mon; 4-DAY: Fri-Mon; 3-DAY: Sat-Mon

CABIN: only 125 spaces available, so reserve early. Rooms 12-20 women with

RV's: Plenty of space but no hookups. RV ticket includes admission for one; others can purchase camping tickets.

CHILDREN: All children must be preregistered for childcare by August 1st 1992. No overnight childcare; "potty-trained"

only; boys 8 and under welcome. PAYMENT: Money Order, certified check or cash; personal checks accepted until Aug. 25. For overnight express mail, use Federal Express. For tickets along with brochure

and map to festival, send self addressed, legal size, stamped envelope to: RHYTHM FEST, 2009 CHAPEL HILL

RD., DURHAM, NC 27707. (919) 419-1923; Fax (919) 419-8315. WORKSHOPS: Send description of work-

shop if you wish it listed. OPEN MIC: Sign up at the Fest; some day stage slots available for theater and dance.

Send tapes early. Southern Women's Writer's contact

(813) 864-1182. The Cooperative of Workers are: Mandy Carter, Michelle Crone, Kathleen Mahoney and Barbara Savage.

All festival

participants

will need to

sign a liability

release form.

No Refunds.

News from the METROPOLITAN

BUSINESS

ASSOCIATION

submitted by M

The July 9th meeting of the MBA promises to be one of the most exciting yet, with travel tips for gays and lesbians and entertainment by *The Implications* topping the agenda.

The meeting, which begins with a social at 6:30 p.m. and business at 7 p.m. at *The Big Bang**, is also the last time non-members will be admitted free, so get your membership application in now! Following a membership drive at the Pride Picnic, Orlando's gay and lesbian business and professional guild now has about 30 charter members.

Work continues on the group's bylaws, which stress promoting our businesses and professionals in the community and protecting the confidentiality wishes of our members. "We want to put out a nice set of bylaws so we can brm this organization to be a true power for months and years to come," said Keith Morrison, MBA president.

More than 40 people attended the June 4th meeting, which was headlined by Bruce Ground, owner of Orlando's new *Out and About Books*. Ground emphasized the MBA's importance to the gay and lesbian community: "The more we project a positive image, the more they'll see we aren't the negative things that stereotypes make us out to be."

The address of The Big Bang is 102 North Orange Avenue in downtown Orlando.

Seeking: Unity AND Diversity

by Becky Acuña

It's been a while since I've done any work in the lesbian community. I find organizing on any issue difficult, despite the joy and infinte rewards it offers. It's not the work that makes it hard, it's the emotions.

Burd Bullock's speech at the PRIDE rally reminded me of one reason these "political" things can feel so lousy. He related the incident in which he was publicly slandered by a local radio station. With the help of GLAAD, the station's bigotry was confronted and an apology was aired.

While that was painful, Burd continued, it wasn't as bad as the hurt that came from fighting our own gay/lesbian community to "clear his name." He made an eloquent call for unity-and an end to the divisive attitudes we inflict upon each other.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's news to you?" you yawn. OK. But think about the last time another lesbian said or did something that really stung. Think about the places or things you avoid because lesbians make you feel so mad or frustrated or tired. (Could be articles like this one!)

Over the years, I've seen this come up about things like children, racism, being professional, using the term lesbian, being chem-free, promoting women-only, bisexuality, being political, religion, being a non-drinker, etc.

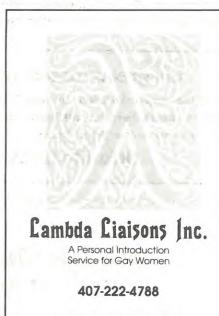
What would you add? What would you say to lesbians who, hopefully unknowingly, hurt you with their attitudes. What could you say to help us extend our ability to withhold judgements and truly value your experience, your point of view, your most

"sacred core," if you will.

I'd like to do a series of short articles in the LCN Express which might help us build unity through diversity. Unity doesn't mean we all agree; it means we're all rooting for each other. It means we're really supporting each other's right to be who we are-- just like we ask the straight world to do. It means turning to the mirror to confront someone who oppresses homosexuals.

Please write to me at the address below. Include a number if you'd like to be called; let me know if you want or don't want to be quoted or published. Thanks.

Becky Acuña, 1013 Tucker Ave., Orlando, FL 32807



12319 S. OBT • Suite 228 Orlando, Florida 32837



Dignity/Orlando

Lesbian and Gay Catholics
Catholic Mass

Sunday, July 19th at 7:00 pm 750 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando