

*Express***Dateline Daytona**

by Sue York

The Klu Klux Klan, an organization infamous for its hatred of nearly everyone who isn't wearing a sheet, is now actively enraged at Gays. We offend them and should die. If the state doesn't kill us, then they are ready to do this little chore; all they need is the "Go" sign from their God, at least that is what chief Klan dragon Baumgardener says. He and his gang came to Daytona today but were met with a surprise when hundreds of Gay activists surrounded them singing "America, the Beautiful" and assertively countering hate with love. It was a triumph for the Gay community and fiasco for the Klan.

Why do they feel they are God's executioners, calling for the "Death Penalty for Homosexuals?" Perhaps it is only a logical step for extremist to take, turning popular prejudice into a self-righteous Religious Crusade. They are supported in their hatred of Gays by churches which deny Gays the right to exist, by institutions that banish and punish Gays, by families that fear Gays, and by our government which not only refuses to give Gays full rights, privileges, and protection, but may even arrest them and send them to prison for being Gay.

As long as so many people segregate and abuse groups because of race, religion, gender or sexual preference, there will be rabble to take this abuse to its natural conclusion: death. So, where does the responsibility lie? Certainly part of it lies with those of us who claim no connection to the Klan yet are linked by our prejudices.

There is no fence sitting in the field of human rights. Local Gays came

LOCAL PBS STATION REFUSES TO AIR *IN THE LIFE*

In the Life is a monthly national series about gay and lesbian culture. It is hosted by comic Kate Clinton with a guest list from who's who in the Lesbian and Gay community. It is offered free to all PBS stations. Community Communications of Central FL/WMFE-Channel 24, Central Florida's PBS station, is currently refusing to air programs dealing with homosexuality such as *Lost Language of Cranes* and *In the Life*. (Channel 24 did run *Tongues Untied*, created by and about gay black men, some months ago with little adverse effect.)

LCN and FLORIDATA, Center for Strategic Research and Information Development, are encouraging Central Floridians to withhold their support from Channel 24 until reforms are implemented. This action is not to threaten the station, but is a response of "Why support a television station that's to be for Central Florida if we (gays and lesbians) are going to be discriminated against?" The Extended Community of Sexual Minorities in Central Florida is also asking businesses, professionals and individuals to withhold their support.

Send a letter in support of gays and lesbians directly to Channel 24 and a copy to LCN. Our voices need to be heard. We have political and financial clout! Please use it. (WMFE, 11510 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32817.)

LCN and GLCS will have a private showing of *In the Life* at the Center at 7:30 p.m., August 27 for anyone interested in seeing it. And it's FREE. Following *In the Life* will be the March On Washington 1987 official video. Don't miss it!

to this conclusion on the Wednesday before the Klan's appearance. The Gay community, their support network (family, friends, "friendly" churches), the National Organization for Women, local African-Americans, Jews, and many others, formed the coalition counter-protest that surprised and outnumbered the guys in white drag by 3 to 1.

Why was Daytona picked to be the 1st city on this hate tour? Who knows? Easy pickings, perhaps. Gays here are just beginning to test the public waters; for instance, this was the first year the annual June Gay Pride activities were published in the journal.

For years, because of fear of ostracism, or worse, most local Gays have

Continued, p. 4

Three Cheers for Harvey

Near the season's end, *Cheers* featured openly gay actor/playwright/wit Harvey Fierstein a Mark Newberger, who was Rebecca's high school sweetheart before coming out. Fierstein says the openly gay character could return in future episodes of viewer response is positive.

August Dates to Watch Out For

August 8	LCN Gathering 2321 Roxbury Rd.
August 27	LCN & Center Showing of <i>In the Life</i>

A Miss Manners Letter

reprinted from *The Orlando Sentinel*

Dear Miss Manners: After realizing that there is no right time to tell one's parents that one is gay, I finally did it, and somehow we've all managed to survive. They don't fully understand, but at least we're communicating.

I've also informed relatives and close friends about my sexual orientation, because I didn't want them to hear about it from a third party. As a result of all this sharing, I've found most people to be supportive, and many of my relationships have grown even closer.

I've recently moved into an apartment with several other people whom I've known for a couple years. Should I sit each person down, as I did with my family and close friends, or leave a gay newspaper [*the LCN Express?*] on the coffee table and see what happens?

If they do ask, I plan to say yes, I'm

Cont'd, p.11

OREGON ANTI-GAY INITIATIVE THREATENS US ALL

by Donna Russell Red Wing,

Executive Director,

Lesbian Community Project of Portland

The Oregon Lesbian and gay community faces a profound and disturbing challenge to its dignity, its integrity and its safety. The Oregon Citizen's Alliance (OCA), through a series of initiatives and public actions, has responded to the basest fears and prejudices of the far right. In the past year, OCA has been responsible for a number of overtly anti-gay activities, activities that continue to be excessively damaging to Lesbian and gay people and go far beyond their rhetoric of '...love the sinner, hate the sin...' Here are some examples:

OCA filed an hysterical and historical initiative to amend the Constitution of the State of Oregon that connected Lesbian and gay people with sexual predators, and people who have sex with animals, children and corpses. OCA demanded the resignation of our

Police Chief, Tom Potter, because of his advocacy of a human rights agenda that includes all people, including the Lesbian and gay community. OCA created and distributed 10,000 copies of a video of 'selected' Gay Pride parade footage to show the 'perversity' of the homosexual community. It launched a signature campaign at shopping malls, centers and grocery stores. Banners proclaimed, "Do you want your tax money to fund homosexuals?", "Should homosexuals have 'special' rights?" The accompanying rhetoric included discussion about 'disease-carrying' homosexuals, pedophilia, God's hatred of homosexuals, the peril of the 'homosexual agenda' and the homosexual threat to children and family.

OCA has garnered an extraordinary amount of media coverage. The Lesbian and gay community often finds itself in a reactive mode, responding to the myths and the stereotypes generated by OCA.

If the initiative passes in November, it will have a remarkable effect on the lives and the future of all Oregonians. The initiative is designed to amend the Constitution of Oregon to legislate normalcy and morality. The

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She Speaks Out

by Patty Sheehan

Most everyone arrived at the parade fashionably late. While it was hard to make a grand entrance among so many people scattered about, there were those men and women who struck a pose with flash and flair. There were the outrageous, the fun, and just folks, the leathermen, dykes on bikes, Disney workers, professional and church organizations, and bars represented. A cross section of Orlando's lesbians and gays.

It was the first time I had marched in a long time. My lover had never been comfortable being as "out" as I was. I had decided to put my energy into a relationship with something other than a picket sign. But, years later, I found myself here alone. She couldn't handle the condemnation society directs toward lesbians and gays. I had to let her go back to a world where she may not be happy, but she'd be "safe."

My group spent 15 minutes trying to figure out where to march in the parade. We fell in behind some members of the Gay Mens Chorus. I held one side of the banner, which said **Orlando Lesbians**, and Rita held the other. I felt proud to be one of the bearers of the banner I'd designed and helped paint so many years ago, for the March on Washington in 1987.

As we marched, the men in front of us started singing. I didn't catch the words, but was moved as they harmo-

nized together. It was beautiful. And as they sang, I thought of all the times each of us has been ridiculed, harassed, threatened, lost a job, or been disowned by our parents. All the pain we've felt as victims of homophobia. Yet here we were, marching and smiling, waving to our friends along the route who felt they couldn't join us for fear of retaliation. Here we were, in downtown Orlando, out in the sunlight, declaring that we are here and gay and proud. My eyes started to tear up. Just as I felt so good to be here with these beautiful people, I felt a bitter-sweet sadness, for a woman I'd come to love, who would never understand my sense of pride and sense of belonging to the people around me.

We are all a family, bound by the experiences, good and bad, that make us who we are. Lesbians and gay men dancing in the sunlight, declaring our presence, reclaiming our dignity.

Miss Manners, Cont'd from p.10

gay, and ask if they want to talk about it. If they're not thrilled with this, I plan to tell them that I don't have time to deal with their sexual insecurities, and walk away.

The worst that could happen is they would ask me to move, and honestly, that wouldn't be the end of the world. I just want to live in a situation in which I can be fully open about my sexuality, as much as I am about my enjoyment of watching *Northern Exposure* every Monday night.

Gentle Reader: To allow people to find out that you are gay, even to make sure they find out by the newspaper ploy you suggest is one thing. Roommates generally know what one another's social lives are like, and you don't want to have to hide yours.

But to invite people to talk it over is to invite them to offer opinions on a matter which is none of their concern. Their approval would be as patronizing as their disapproval would be distressing.

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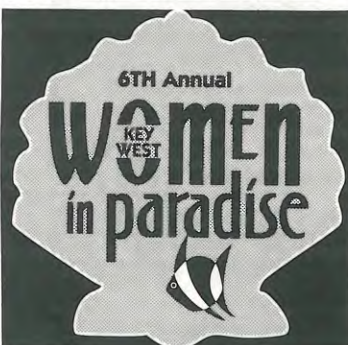
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Oregon Initiative, Cont'd from p.10

initiative process, and its campaign, have already begun to create a climate that fosters prejudice and violence. Should the initiative pass, it will, I believe, inspire an even more repressive and dangerous climate for Lesbians and gay men.

The impact of OCA will not stop at the Oregon border. And, it will not stop with the Lesbian and gay community. Oregon and Colorado are the gay agenda test cases. We have only to look at the connections and alliances that the OCA has made to understand that OCA is part of a much larger 'traditional values' coalition agenda: The Rutherford Institute, The Eagle Forum, Concerned Women of America, the American Coalition for Human Values, and the Heritage Foundation. Clearly, OCA is part of a large, dangerous agenda that is xenophobic, racist, sexist and bigoted.

It is so important that our friends and our family in Florida and around the country understand the importance of this campaign. It is so important that you respond. The battle can be won here, with your support. Please consider a donation of time, money, or expertise. Send a letter of support to an Oregon activist, write a check, send

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a box of chocolate chip cookies to the Lesbian Community Project, spend your vacation with us, send frequent flyer coupons, be creative and be supportive. We, in Oregon, are facing one of the greatest challenges of our lives. Please remember the Anita Bryant dyas, remember how her campaign of bigotry impacted the nation. Please stand with us.

Lesbian Community Project
P.O. Box 5931
Portland, OR 97228
(503) 223-0071

Festival News

Rhythmfest: Sept. 3-7, Lookout Mountain, GA. Third annual festival for Music, Art, and Politics. This year's festival introduces a Southern Women's Writer's Track. Women's works will be showcased from the Stage and Cafe areas. Anyone wishing to submit work can contact: Katy Wildsister, 440-60th Ave. S., St. Pete., FL 33705, 813/864-1182. (See ad on p. 8.)

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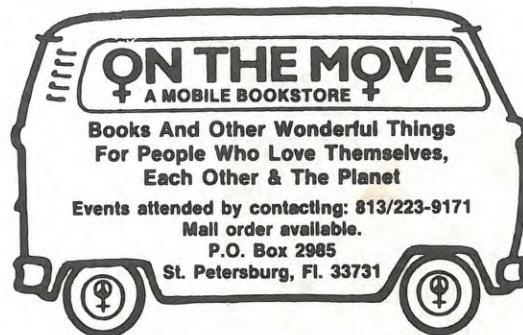


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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Alcoholics Anonymous/Orlando 647-3333
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Brevard County 242-8063
- Breaking the Silence MCC (Cocoa) 631-4524
- Delta Youth Alliance 425-4527
- GLCS Hotline & 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/Gays) 236-9177
- Rape Crisis Center 648-3028
- Runaway Switchboard 1 (800) 621-4000
- Spouse Abuse Hotline 886-2856
- WILLOW (Women in Lake County) (904) 383-2883
- WIT (Women in Brevard County) 1-727-1336
- 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
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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 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:
Barb Fallon, Cathy McElhiney, Rita Krossber,
Sue York, Stacey St. James, Madeliene Abling,
Patty Sheehan, Becky Acuna, & Rachel Gardiner.

ADVERTISEMENT SIZES AND RATES

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Large Banner	8" tall x 7½" wide	\$50
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Small Double	3½" tall x 5" wide	\$20
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Single Medium	5¼" tall x 2¼" wide	\$15
Business Card	2" tall x 3½" wide	\$5
(or vertical)	3½" tall x 2" wide	\$5
<u>Classified Ads</u>	Maximum 35 words	\$2

Payment for ads should be submitted in advance, checks payable to LCN. We can do typesetting for you; cost to equal the price of the size ad you are running.

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

Classifieds

Dear LCN,

Each month, after receiving our copy of the *Express*, I intend to send some money and let you know how much we enjoy your newsletter. I also wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the camping trip at Wekiva Falls. We wanted to take part in the Gay Pride events but couldn't this year. Thanks to all of you for your dedication to our "community." Thanks again!

Signed, Suzi & Mary

Hi!

Stacey and I really enjoyed being with you again--to fold, etc... At the time, Stacey asked me if we had paid for our subscription, and I confidently said "yes"... However...I have searched my checkbook and found no solid basis for this confidence...I have in fact, erred!! So, to correct this and put us back on the PC track - here is a check ... Plan to keep in touch - and do a few articles....

Love to all,
Sue & Stacey

Dear LCN,

I've been looking for a lesbian caterer. Is there a restaurant or home business that could cover my home and/or business events? I've been watching your advertisements for over a year.

Signed,
Hungry but Still Looking

[Response: I certainly hope so! Lets also hope someone responds to this and writes LCN a letter or better yet, sends in an ad. Business is waiting for you! Eds.]

Dear LCN Friends,

Here is my very much long overdue letter. I've been in FL for a couple of years struggling to make it and avoid becoming a transient statistic. I moved here on a job transfer with my lover from Indiana. I'm originally from Boston, MA. This is story is the typical "city gyrl meets small town gyrl." Unfortunately, this story has a very sad ending. The small town gyrl, as much as she tried, could not adjust. But, enough struggling time had passed and the city gyrl has planted the roots of security. Yes, she bought a house and got a cat.

Debbie's gone back to her comfortable environment and I have 7 years of the most beautiful memories. The following is a poem she wrote for me. I'd like to share it.

P. Hope Resendes

Hello to a Beginning

I walked away from you slowly, thoughtfully... It's so hard to say good-bye.

I felt your gaze following me, your reassuring love... With every step I took.

I sensed your mind touching me with thoughts of all our secrets we know about each other.

Then, I turned back to you, for a moment... I see your embracing smile.

And that's when I know "Hello" would follow all of our "good-byes."

Dear LCN,

This is a "Hope" donation. [We] hope this helps for someone who can't pay for their subscription.

Unsigned

North Carolina Vacatio

Home: Available to rent May-Oct. Sleeps 6, \$350/wk, 250/weekend. Hiking, white water rafting. Secluded, beautiful. Contact Kathy or Lynn at (904) 332-8831.

Petite, white female (very fem) seeks professional for friendship, penpal or possible relationship; ages 25-40. 1216 Spartan Ave., Port Orange, FL., 32127

Room for Rent - Lesbian couple has room for rent. W/D, Bath, Pool, Tennis. SE Orlando, \$300.00/mo. includes utilities, \$100.00 security deposit. Woman preferred. Call (407) 380-5653.

White, female seeks feminine, professional ages 25-40 for friendship/relationship. Send note to: P.O.Box 291692, Port Orange, FL 32129.

Sapphic Sisters: Lesbian "Personals" Nationwide including Florida. Details \$2.00 or \$5.00 for current issue and discount coupon. Matchmakers POB 9974-LCN, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.

Wanted - Tour Guide/Companion. Must be GWF, single, 25-35. Attractive, feminine, with weight proportional to height. I am 35 yrs old single, fairly attractive, androgynous to feminine. I will be vacationing in Orlando the 3rd week in Aug. and would like to meet someone to enjoy being a tourist for a few days with me.

Not looking for a sex partner, just a nice woman to enjoy a good time. No butch or druggies please! Those interested call (702) 594-4424 leave name, number and brief description and I will return your call.

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LCN Express Production Schedule

Call Barb, 648-4154, for more info.

Aug. 18: Production Meeting

Aug. 18-21: Type articles
(You may be able to help do this
on your own computer!)

Aug. 24: Need volunteer to pick
up newsletter at Pronto Press
and bring to Key Largo

Aug. 24: 7:00pm Folding Party
at Key Largo!!!

We've Only Just Begun

We are making herstory in Florida as an outreach of the national steering committee of OLOC. We are FLOLOC (Florida Old Lesbians Organizing for Change). Each of us, or our partner, is 60 or over. Our goal is to enliven our sunset years as we confront ageism.

We met July 18 in St. Pete, after previously gathering in St. Augustine and Jensen Beach. Soon we will be forming local groups throughout the state.

Please pass the word... The closeted, as well as the uncloseted, may suddenly feel alone after the passing of a long-term lover. Together we can enhance an aliveness in this stage of life for ourselves-- while forging a pathway for future old lesbians. Contact Airie in Brevard County, 407/ 779-4874.

[Airie signed her letter, "Yours in Adventure." Thanks for your pioneering spirit! See p. 10 for more OLOC news. LCN Eds.]

▼ Local Events and Projects ▼

LCN GATHERING

Aug 8th, 3:00pm Back by request! Potluck dinner, lake access swimming, volleyball, and lots of great conversation. 2321 Roxbury Rd, Winter Park. (Turn north off Fairbanks on Cambridge. Skycraft Surplus is on the corner-- it's close to I-4. Then turn left on Roxbury, just before the lake.) Call 629-4264 for further information or check last month's LCN for a map.

Murder Mystery: Monday, August 31, a murder will occur at Out & About Books, 930 N. Mills Ave. The Reverend Richard "Dick" Head will be fatally poisoned by a glass of fruit punch. The owner of the bookstore is the one who offered him the fatal glass but is he the murderer? Or could it be the internationally famous drag diva Afta Noone? Or maybe Brenda Star, famed lesbian investigative reporter is the culprit. Maybe it was Madge Marmalade, an octogenarian oddball defrauded by Rev. Head. Who knows? It could be the person sitting next to you. Show up at 7 p.m. and help the brilliant criminal investigator, Miles O'Smiles solve the mystery.

Gay & Lesbian

Community Services (GLCS)

- Support and Social Group for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual community. Meets 3rd Friday each month at 7:30. Signing Classes open to everyone; call 425-4527 for times and dates.
- Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group: every Monday at 6 pm
- Womyn of GLCS: every Wed. 7:30 pm
- Movie Nights at GLCS: Aug 21, *Consenting Adults*, 7 p.m. Sept 4, *Life & Times of Harvey Milk*, 7:30 p.m.

LCN and the Center co-sponsor the private showing of *In the Life*: August 27th at 7:30pm. This is the show PBS refuses to air! Followed by the March on Washington 1987 Official Documentary that will make you very proud. Don't miss it! The Center, 750 W. Colonial.

Daytona Lesbians: Rap group meets every Thursday 8 p.m. at LAMBDA Center. Corner of Harvey and Hollywood. Everyone welcome!

Gay & Lesbian 50-50 Dance: Aug. 9, 7:30pm at 1815 E. Robinson (UU Assembly Hall), Line dances, top 40, square dancing, live DJ, and lots of fun. Families welcome! \$5 at the door; \$2 off if you bring this ad (No copies).

Readers Co-op: We'll be meeting at the Gathering on Aug. 8 to talk about our group. Bring any books you owe to others. Call Becky, 282-6569.

- G&L Parents Coalition:** for more info about events call 420-2191.
- Aug. 14, 7:30pm - Parents rap group at GLCS (adults only)
 - Aug 15, 7:00pm - Social/support group
 - Aug 22, 8:30am - Adopt-a-Highway Clean up; childcare & refreshments
 - Aug 29, 9:00am - Family activity

Act Out Theatre Moves!

Act Out Theatre has its own home now at 533 N. Virginia Ave, W. P. Artwork by established and emerging artists will also be displayed!

The premier performance at the new location is FOG; it opens Aug 1, 8pm with a champagne celebration. Performances thereafter will be Aug. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 with an AIDS benefit Aug. 9.



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A MEMBER OF THE COUNTRY CLUB

by Nan Schultz

When I recently found myself single again after 5 years, I was at a loss for a way to occupy my time and reconstruct my social life. I've always loved to dance, and had in the past found it an excellent way both to meet people and to "banish the blues." So, once I found myself able to walk and talk again, I headed for the local bar to do a little dancing. It was a daunting experience.

First of all, I realized that I had grown old. I was not sure that everyone there was even of the legal minimum age, but I was sure that at the very least they were all 10 to 15 years younger than I. Strike one. Then I found that I had difficulty relating to the style of dancing and the music being played. Must come with the age. Strike two.

A third problem was that I felt a tremendous pressure there, both to perform and to either "pick-up" someone, or be "picked-up" myself (I know, it could be worse). In fact, I felt that every time I asked someone to dance (twice!) or was asked by someone else, the question "will you go home with me" was implicit in the invitation. Strike three. I went home scared and depressed.

Depressed, yes. Defeated, no. I remembered that I had often wanted to learn country-Western dancing and several local gay bars were giving lessons, so I decided to give it a try. It wasn't so difficult a leap for me because I've always loved country music. That's not an easy thing to admit given certain aspects of my identity.

I am a highly-educated, city-born, lesbian-feminist who grew up in a

time and place where country wasn't cool. And in fact, country music isn't cool. It's hotly emotional. It's painfully honest. It cries, it whines, it moans, and it laughs. Not cool.

Maybe that accounts for some of the resistance to country music I find among people who identify themselves as I do. But, I think that's not all. Let's start with that "highly-educated" bit. What, too highly educated to tolerate grammar like "I ain't never gonna love nobody but you?" Maybe. But, not too educated to know that I can feel that way!

How about that "city-born" stuff. Was I afraid of being identified with somethin', god-forbid, rural? Not hip or sophisticated enough? What happened to all the nature lovers and animal rights types? Natures's o.k. as long as I don't have to live in it? I can love cows, but I refuse to dance to any music which mentions them by name?

And then, there's that lesbian-feminist tag. Granted, country music is sexist and rabidly heterosexual. So is life in America, but I don't notice people refusing to come out of their houses. You don't have to buy in to it. You can laugh at it. You can refuse to identify with the little-woman-in-the-kitchen-crying-her-heart-out-over-him stuff. Or, you might, to your surprise, find that you can identify with either or both sides presented in this little drama.

Besides, if you listen closely to a lot of today's country female vocalists, you might find that they're mad as hell and not going to take it anymore. Anyway, you don't have to believe it to dance to it. Don't even tell me that people

Continued, p. 6

Klan, Cont'd from page 1

kept quiet and out of sight. Today though, Gays are tired of being invisible. Sure that being Gay is as natural as having blue eyes, many Gays are coming out of the closets. Gays realize that the only way to fight the problem of homophobia is to come out in the open, take risks and be heard.

And, it is beginning to pay off. Gays now have a strong voice and are using it. Families are more supportive; some churches and communities are reviewing and revising their "Gay Laws." Gays now have a strong network that extends beyond the Gay community. Politicians are hearing this growing voice and paying attention.

So it was only a matter of time before the Klan realized that with Gays becoming accepted, the Klan had a hot and controversial issue that could put them center stage again. They squawked and waved the Old Testament, as they did this Saturday. Their battle cry is to rid the world of all Gays, but that may be difficult.

Gays can be any color, any age, any sex, any size, any religion or any ethnic group. Gays look like ..just about anyone. Something to think about, because once the Holy Massacre starts, these executioners will kill first and ask questions second. Anyone who seems different to them could make their Hit List. Anyone who says "I'm safe, I'm not Gay, better think again.

It is easy to dismiss fringe-heads in pillowcases as so much flotsam left on the beach from last Halloween, but it is harder to take responsibility for stopping them. As was once said in the old civil rights days: you are either for us or against us, part of the problem or part of the solution. Which are you?

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The Parent Perspective

by Diane P. Kerkhoff

INDIANAPOLIS - When Andre Jacinto went to the podium to give his candidate speech, I expected him to say something silly. This was his chance to speak in front of a couple of hundred gay and lesbian parents at the annual international conference of GLPCI (Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition Internat'l). He was running unopposed for the office of international secretary, so he didn't have to sell himself to us. Besides, he is one of those guys everyone likes to be around to hear all the funny things he has to say.

I was surprised, therefore, when Andre spoke eloquently about his opponent. "My opponent," he said, "is also your opponent - George Bush." Andre quoted from Mr. Bush's recent interview with *The New York Times* in which Mr. Bush said that he didn't approve of same sex parents and didn't accept them as normal. Andre called for all of us to work to defeat George Bush and his homophobic thinking.

GLPCI president-elect John Sheets added, "We never once heard George Bush or Dan Quayle say 'to have good parenting, the most important ingredient is love.' We never heard them say 'spend time with your children, play with them, educate them to feel proud of themselves.' We want to tell them 'Love makes a family'."

Best T-shirt at the conference: "WE'RE HERE. WE'RE QUEER. AND WE BROUGHT THE KIDS."

Best dressed: The stunning Orlando lesbian dressed as Snow White.

Biggest question in my mind: Why aren't there more women here?

Now I think I'll start my year-long campaign for two things I want at the next conference (in Orlando, July 1993).

GAY VETS AND SUPPORTERS

by Stacey St. James

"...Hundreds of gay and lesbian activists and their supporters [held]...a gala reception honoring leaders in the struggle to overturn the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members." The event was held on June 24, 1992, in Washington D.C. I read about it in a National Gay and Lesbian Task Force press release.

This is one reception I wish I had known about, because I definitely would have been there. I think it is long overdue to correct a wrong to a group of people who were willing to volunteer to enter the Service without being drafted, who were then threatened with the ruination of their lives because they chose same-sex partners with whom to spend the rest of their lives -- like myself.

As a person who was in one of the Army's "witch hunts," I spent more than six months fighting for my medi-

cal career. This fight and the treatment I received left a scar that 22 years later is just as painful as the day it happened.

I feel that Congress definitely needs to overturn the current military ban on gay and lesbian service members. And, once this has been overturned, they need to go back and reverse the decisions that have ruined so many peoples' lives in the past.

Other Vet News from the NGLTF Alert

U.S. Representative Pat Schroeder (Democrat-CO) introduced a bill in Congress in May that will prohibit discrimination by the armed forces based on sexual orientation. HR-5208, the Military Freedom Act of 1992 has 32 co-sponsors. The NGLTF urges you to contact your legislator to co-sponsor and vote for this bill.

PRAISE FOR TWO TV SERIES

The hit series *Northern Exposure* deserves praise for two recent episodes and encouragement to make lesbians and gays recurring characters. Late April saw the return of Ron and Erik, a gay couple who bought Cicely's bed and breakfast, but hadn't been featured again. They proved anti-gay prejudice to be unhip in this series. The May season finale was a flashback about Roslyn and Cicely, the lesbians who founded the town at the turn of the century as a colony of free thinkers.

Roseanne Arnold told QW magazine that her TV sister Jackie on *Roseanne* may have lesbian relationships in upcoming seasons.



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HERSTORY IN THE MAKING

by Barb Fallon

In the reading I've done of late, I'm always curious to discover the first time something was done. The making of history, so to speak. Of course, since lesbian lives are rarely recorded as such, most "firsts" that follow are tentative. I still found it rather interesting though.

First public figure to support lesbian rights in the US: political activist Emma Goldman, romantic friend/lover of activist Almeda Sperry; began speaking publicly on the issue in 1910. First American lesbian publication: *Vice Versa*, 1947. First lesbians to openly dance at the white house: Barbara Love and Kay Whitlock, who danced to chamber music in the lobby, 1978.

First woman to reach the north pole: Lesbian Ann Bancroft, 1986. First openly gay stand-up comic on TV: Robin Tyler, on the First Annual Funny Woman's Show, 1978. First lesbian sorority: Lambda Delta Lambda, University of California, 1988.

This list is from **Lesbian Lists** by Dell Richards, Alyson Publications, Inc., 1990. Happy reading!

Country, Cont'd from p.4

believe the things they hear in the words of disco songs.

O.K., you say. Maybe I could tolerate the music. What else makes this dancing different from disco dancing? Well, for me, the biggest difference is that you actually get to dance WITH someone. Not at them. Not near them. Not to them. But honest-to-god with them. You look at them (after you quit looking at your feet). They look at you, your face, no less. Agreed, it's a little unsettling at first, but after a while it's downright pleasant, not to mention sociable.

You also feel yourself a part of a group as many of the dances do involve the entire group, and there is a certain amount of dance etiquette to be observed to insure that the entire group enjoys itself. What else? The pressure is gone. The focus of a country dance club is the dancing. Which is not to say there isn't plenty of looking and flirting and all that other good stuff going on. But, it's not the point.

The point is to dance, to have fun, to learn new things, meet new people. When you ask someone to dance in a country bar, there's no need for awkwardness when the dance is over as you wonder what to do next: you go back to your table for a quick drink and to rest up for the next one. Then ask her again! You're still not obligated to take her home.

What about the dancing itself? You say you can't dance? Well, you don't suppose cowpokes actually dance, for god sakes? Heck, no. In the words of one dance instructor, if you can walk, you can country dance. It's true; it's that easy. The basic steps can be mastered rather quickly by anyone, and how fancy you want to get is up to

you. It is also more comfortable than disco dancing because it is rather structured. You don't have to be always thinking of how you've run out of moves and wondering what the hell you're going to do next.

This is especially true when it comes to line dances. They are intricate, but repetitive, which makes them both challenging and comfortable. You can dance the line dances without having to ask, be asked, or touch anybody (but, then, that's half the fun!) There are even mixers where you get to dance with everyone. An incredible opportunity to grin in the face of an attractive woman without feeling like a fool.

Are you ready? Well, as the song says, "Everybody's dancing to the cowboy beat." You can take lessons at Key Largo on Tuesdays; country dancing is on Thursday evenings. The Phoenix has lessons on Wednesday and Friday nights (the latter for beginners), and country dancing on Saturdays. Lessons at both places are free and low key. Faces is also playing country music and the Parliament House now features country dancing on Wednesdays, 8-11pm.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about an organization called **Southern Country**. It's a national gay and lesbian country dancing association who's aim is to promote country dancing (surprise!) and other social activities such as canoeing, traveling and picnicing. An effort is currently being made to determine if there is enough interest locally to form an Orlando chapter.

So, call the above bars for more information on what they offer and call me if you're interested in Southern Country. Come on! Join the country club!

Nan Schultz 657-5651



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KATE CLINTON - FUMERIST

*Kate, the comic who is hosting the series about being gay called **In the Life**, has performed in Orlando twice. She has a seering wit and a quick smile.*

*We thought you might like to know something more about her before you come to the showing of **In the Life** at the Center on August 27.*

*Here are some excerpts from an article published in **Trivia**, Fall of 1982. She speaks about what humor and women mean to her as her life's work and pleasure.*

I want to talk of women laughing and women's humor. I want to say that our humor can illuminate our oppression so that we can overcome it. I want to talk of those cherished hilarious moments of women laughing together as coming from the same source as the erotic. I want to talk of women laughing as an intimation of women in community. And I wish I could speak of all these things at the same time...

For most of my life, I have worked hard on my humor. I have always believed it is serious. Before coming out, I spent years covering, protecting that belief. I covered so well, I almost lost it. Early on, I learned to deny my wisecracks, to say I was just kidding. I learned to apologize for insights which flew unplanned and unbidden out of me. Later I learned to turn those wisecracks on myself and others, usually other women. I learned it was dangerous to make fun of men and I protected myself. For years I worked hard, building layer upon layer to protect myself and my humor. After I came out, I began working hard to strip away all those layers.

I must say that I have always

loved women best because I have laughed best with them. For years I mourned deeply because I knew I was supposed to get married and I knew I would never be able to laugh with a man as I could with a woman. I have always used a sort of intuitive laugh meter and no man ever measured up...

I met a woman and we laughed and made love and we laughed as we made love and we made love as we laughed. It was serious and I tell you I was happy. I told a friend about it. I told her I was so happy and why and she actually said to me, with a sneer: "Well, you've certainly made a commitment to joy in your life." And I almost denied it. But she was right. As a lesbian, I have made a commitment to joy in my life, and let me tell you, Joy is not an easy woman to please.

I have always been told not to make light. I say I believe in making light. Light enough to see by. Light enough to fly free. Both have to do with this women's movement. Without our humor, without making light, we become too heavy to move; it is impossible to see. A feminist humorist makes light. She is a fumerist, a sparking incendiary with blazes of light and insight. Fumerists make whys cracks. We ask our own questions and they have the potential of splitting the world apart. Light shines through the whys cracks we make and illuminates all aspects of our oppression.

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Book Reviews

by Dee

Fried Green Tomatoes, the book by Fannie Flagg, was published by McGraw Hill in 1987. 1987??? Where has this book been hiding??

If you have seen the movie and enjoyed it, you will enjoy the book much more. The love story told in such a low key way against the panorama of the Old South in Depression captures the imagination just as the rich and deftly-told tales of the simple life before TV, air travel, computers and credit cards captures the heart.

A great many authors today are incorporating homosexuals in their stories in their attempts to portray the "real world."

Private Eyes, by Jonathan Kellerman, Bantam Books, 1992, is one. The awful cost of homophobia and misogyny, portrayed in gently-told tales of secrets, pain, human triumphs and failures, peppered with lots of insights into the workings of the human mind, is blasted across the landscape in the shocking denouement.

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A League of Their Own

by Stacia Lewis

This is the third year in a row my friend and neighbor Alice has forgiven me for coming to celebrate her birthday a month late. We did the usual simple ritual; talking for hours in her living room, then dinner out. I told her I saw an HBO special about the making of *A League of Their Own* and I wanted to see it because I'm an avid Penny Marshall fan. (She directed the film.)

Alice wanted to see it too, which didn't surprise me. You see, 15 years ago, when Alice and I were lovers, she told me she was a former semi-professional softball pitcher for the Indiana state champs. I, of course, made her prove it by stinging my gloved hand with a few pitches in the back yard. I can still remember her asking me if I was sure that I wanted her to "pour it on." (Thank goodness it was only a softball.)

Alice is from Valpraiso, IN. She used to pitch to her brothers in the front yard. Mr. Helvey, who lived down the street, was quite impressed with her talent and made her promise to come play on his baseball team as soon as she graduated high school. He was the owner of the South Bend Blue Sox in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. The league was cancelled before Alice graduated.

A League of Their Own tells the story of women's professional baseball during the WWII era. Until now, most of us were unaware of its existence. For the making of the movie, actresses were required to play baseball 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for months before filming. Even the injuries seen in the movie are real. Original league players were consultants, authenticating everything from uniforms to specific events.

ON BELONGING.....

by Terpi

[The following is an excerpt of an article from the *OLOC Reporter*, published by the Old Lesbian Organizing Committee, PO 980422, Houston, TX 77098. It was sent in by Dee.]

As women we seek for "our real selves" by looking for the place in the universe where we fit in the jigsaw puzzle of life. Some women find it in their first family; some find it decades later with their grandchildren. We know that somewhere there are others...women who will welcome us and with whom we share common interests... We gather together with "people like us" and we are enriched

There is little embellishment of their story. Geena Davis' character, catcher for the featured team, is seen at the opening and the close of the film as a woman in her sixties. The older actress, Lynn Cartwright, was so convincing as an older Geena that I was sure they must be related. I later learned that voice-over technology was used and that many older actresses hope this effect will create more roles for them.

I will caution you not to leave the theatre as the credits are being shown. The last few minutes of the movie contain excerpts of an exhibition game between original league players at the Cooperstown reunion. Alice even recognized a few of them. I, myself, felt it a privilege to share this little piece of herstory with a woman who there but for fortune would have been on the screen. Happy belated birthday, Alice; crone extraordinaire! May you never stop sharing your stories with me.

by belonging.

As lesbians most of us had a more intricate search: the journey to find others like ourselves, the struggle against "not belonging" to the accepted world of family, church, school and society... We have observed the sorrows of "not belonging" in observing sexism, classism, racism, ableism, ageism. And many have found hope in our lesbian organizations, offering us comradeship, growth, love, and power.

Yet there is another side to "belonging:" the exclusivity of close-knit groups... We define LESBIAN as "people like us" and then erect barriers around our magic circle.

Sometimes the barrier can be our own very visible all-whiteness... We create various "more perfect lesbians"...[and] disdain those formerly married and/or with children... We have anti-drinking, anti-drug, anti-smoking dykes who can't abide the bar scene (and vice versa!)... We put up massive walls against bisexuals, S&M, "jocks"...

WE TALK "DIVERSITY" BUT WE SEEM TO BE AFFLICTED WITH DIVISIVENESS.

Now that some of us are old, we look back on struggles, victories, defeats, and mistakes. We seek new ways to belong, as we lose friends and lovers, parents and careers. We hope that in these older, wiser days that we can remember the words of Barbara Deming: "We are all part of one another!" Maybe part of our role as OLD lesbians can be to provide leadership in the area of allowing all our sisters to be who they are, where they are...



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