

The LCN

Vol. 9, Issue 5

May, 1992

A LOVING COMMITTED NETWORK

Express

Plans Announced to Queer the Olympics ...or else!

Atlanta, Ga. - On Jan. 15 on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol, members of Atlanta's lesbian and gay community issued an invitation to lesbians and gay men across the U.S. and throughout the world to "queer" the 1996 Summer Olympics being staged in Atlanta. The large-scale celebration being planned will hopefully attract thousands and is being organized by a group calling itself "*...or else!*"

The announcement coincided with the opening week of the 1992 Georgia Legislative Session so as to alert lawmakers of the plans. It is hoped that by the 1996 Olympic Games, Georgia will have repealed its archaic sodomy law (oral and anal sex between married and unmarried partners is currently a felony and punishable by 20 years in prison) and passed hate crimes legislation that includes sexual orientation. Locally, domestic partnership legislation should be in place and nationally the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill should have been passed.

It is the action or inaction by lawmakers on these issues that will determine the tone of the celebration. These laws must be changed and/or adopted by the 1996 Olympics...or else!

"This is an international invitation from the lesbian and gay community to all our friends," said *...or else!* member Samantha Claar. "Come to Atlanta in 1996. You will either be helping us celebrate that we live in an

enlightened State that has taken a lead in assuring full rights for all of us or join us to demonstrate against the effontry of Atlanta and Georgia in billing themselves as an international environment worthy of hosting the 1996 Olympics."

Formal discussion of "queering the Olympics" began in April 1991, giving birth to *...or else!* The group is in the process of setting up a meeting with Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and his liaison to the Olympic Organizing Committee, Cecelia Corbin-Hunter and plans to have similar meetings with other elected officials and organizations involved in planning the Olympics.

As part of the "**Gay Nineties: A Decade of Demonstration,**" major events are being planned, of which the 1996 Summer Olympics are being included. During April 1993, over a million people will converge on the nation's Capitol for the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Equal Rights and Liberation. New York City will host Stonewall 25, a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots that gave birth to the modern lesbian and gay-rights movement. And in 1996, the focus will turn to Atlanta during the Twenty-sixth Olympiad.

Queer the Olympics...*or else!* For more information contact Jack Pelham: (work) 404-525-3821 or (home) 404-875-6280.

Press Release from the National
Gay & Lesbian Task Force

Who'll give me \$10?

by Lucy

If you were at this year's auction, you heard Cherie, our auctioneer, repeatedly ask this question. If you couldn't make it, we hope to see you next year! LCN's auction just keeps getting better and better. **Thanks to all the wonderful donations we received, we raised \$2000!** This money will be used throughout the coming year to sponsor entertainment, mail the monthly newsletter, make financial contributions, etc.

In addition to being a fundraiser, the auction provides the opportunity to purchase vacations, womyn's art, health items, home services, books, records, jewelry, etc. at prices that can't be beat! The vacation trips ranged from New Hampshire to North Carolina to Georgia. We even auctioned off a ticket to Rhythmfest; Suzanne was the lucky womyn to win this item.

If you're finances were tight and you didn't come for that reason, consider donating your time to the auction next year. Then you can still come and enjoy the evening without hurting your pocketbook.

As always, thank you to all the wonderful womyn who donated their time and talents this year. A special thank you to Cathy, affectionately known as "Frogger," for organizing this event. Without these efforts, our community cannot continue to thrive.

PRIDE

IS NEXT MONTH!

Show yours now-- volunteers needed!

New Books Received by LCN

Yours to Read and/or Review

● **Women, Girls, & Psychotherapy: Reframing Resistance**, edited by Carol Gilligan, Annie Rogers, and Deborah Tolman. "(H)ow to identify adolescent girls' resistance so that you can help them recognize their strengths and hear their own voices as they grow into young women."

● **Waiting: A Diary of Loss & Hope in Pregnancy**, by Ellen Reich. A journal look into the emotions that accompany women's transition into motherhood.

● **Grassy Flats**, by Penny Hayes. A depression-era story of two lovers struggling on the land and in a small town.

● **A Certain Discontent**, by Cleve Boutell. This book has a lot of character and sophistication. Not just because it is a character study of (mostly) wealthy, white women, but also because it is quite intellectual in tone and structure and oddly mysterious--in a moody sort of way. In it, two girls fall in love and find seclusion and protection from their elder matriarchs--until of course, they must come of age and confront the real world. I enjoyed **Discontent** mostly for its unconventionality; despite the upper

PETITION!!

Please write a letter supporting Bessie Smith as a candidate for the 1994 Performing Art Series postage stamp. In order to do this, you must write a letter expressing your desire to have her considered. Below is a petition you may copy.

Dear Postmaster General:

Please consider BESSIE SMITH, the first woman to create an American art form from a musical folk expression, for a postage stamp in the PERFORMING ARTS series. Her blues/jazz legacy is the bedrock of America's greatest contribution to world culture. 1994 is the Centennial of the birth of Bessie Smith and would be the most fitting time to celebrate this great Black American artist by placing her image on a postage stamp.

Send your letter to: Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Support Branch, One L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC 20260 or to Mr. Anthony Frank, Postmaster General, US Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260.

crust subject matter, its quirkiness differentiates it from many of the more whitebread lesbian novels I've read. (Reviewed by Becky Acuna. Call her at 282-6569 to borrow any of these books.)

In Memory

Parke Bowman, co-founder of Daughters, Inc., died at her home in Key West, on Feb. 5, 1992 of lung cancer. Parke (Patti) Bowman together with her lover and partner June Arnold, founded Daughters, Inc., the lesbian-feminist publishing company most often singled out for the initial publication of Rita Mae Brown's "Rubyfruit Jungle." At the time of her death, she was editing a book entitled "The Way My Father Died," to be published by Running Press.

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

Aids Resources:

AIDS Hotline/English	1(800)FLA-AIDS
AIDS Hotline/Haitian/Creole	1(800)AIDS 101
AIDS Hotline/Spanish	1(800)545-SIDA
AIDS Resource Alliance	425-2233
AREA AIDS Related Services	647-2765
CENTAUR AIDS Related Services	849-1452
Hope & Help AIDS Related Services	628-8542

Heartfelt thanks this month to all of you who contributed to the LCN Auction-donors, workers, and bidders!



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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 Krossber, Becky Acuña, & Rachel Gardiner.

Advertisement Rates

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

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

Subscriptions

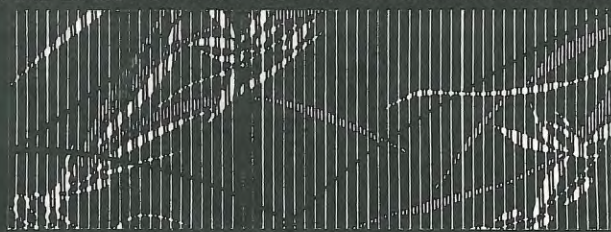
Suggested subscription donation is \$12.00 annually, more if you can, less if you can't. We welcome (and appreciate) subscription donations for women who can't afford to pay.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Classifieds

Gylrfriends (yes, Christy, that is girlfriends with a Y!):

I could tell by the smell the showers weren't working very well! What a fabulous camping trip that was! My accolades to Frogger (how's that shoulder by the way?), and all the other coordinators of the camping trip, for a job well done. It was wonderful, except for Saturday night's freezing temperatures, which left even me unprepared! What fun! We played volleyball, took canoe trips, met some wonderful new friends, and my favorite--music around the campfire at night (complete with those lyrical lesbians--Christy, Rita, Sandy, Lynn and Wendy!), singing my all-time fave, "Chocolate Cake" and, of course, those great sounds of the '70s. (Isn't that right, Frogger?) Sandy, I think I prefer the first rendition of "Dreaming;" it was quite lovely! Maddo was also the most MAGNIFICENT hostess of the campfire (except maybe for BODACIOUS Barbie). Remember, nick, nick--don't do dick!

If you've never been on one of these camping expeditions, don't miss the next one. I can't remember when I've had such a good time! Christy, will the No-Tell-Motel be open for business again in the fall? I've had several gyrls asking already! And really now, gyrls, although I do appreciate the potty (Rachel and Rita Boo) could I please have some air freshner and seat covers next time? Love & kisses to all of you who helped my sweetie pitch our tent, unload and reload our car, cook our meals, fetch my drinks, roast my marshmallows. (Ain't camping the deal?)

XXXOOO, Fluffy

P.S. Who was that snoring?

Dear LCN:

Do you like this kind of news? [*An announcement of vows.*]* As out lesbians we think we should send announcements to interested and interesting publications like LCN Express which we enjoy and respect.

We wrote our ceremony and received much love from our 53 guest witnesses. It was a beautiful day.

Marlene & Browne

*We do, so much so that we've created a new column, "Announcements from the Heart," dedicated to the acknowledgment of the milestones in our Lesbian lives. We encourage other members of our community to let us share in honoring celebrations of love. eds.

Dear LCN:

"Finally Wiser" is probably one-of-many. Perhaps because of her letter to the Editor(s), other older lesbians will begin to communicate-- **wonderful!**

The OLOC, (Old Lesbian Organizing Committee), is meeting the weekend after Easter in St. Augustine. My lover and I plan to attend the potluck and dance on Saturday. Sunday we hope to gather more information on forming "60 and over" groups in Florida.

Perhaps in Orlando you have something similar to SOL. This is the name we had for our Slightly Older Lesbian group in Cincinnati. It drew womyn from the forty/fifty age circle.

I would suggest that all who will, please let LCN know your needs and concerns. Would we like LCN to allow us a column to address our specials issues? I would gladly assist in this effort.

*Yours in sisterhood,
Airie*

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

Saphic Sisters- Lesbian "Personals." Nationwide including FL. Send \$2.00 for info or \$5.00 for current issue and valuable coupon: Matchmakers, P.O.Box 9974-LCN, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.

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

Wanted: Roommate, Female or Male. For 3 bedroom, 2 full baths with pool. Full house privileges in Deltona. \$250.00/month. No Drugs. Call (407) 860-0294 after 7:00pm, and ask for Sara.

Professional, petite, white female seeks feminine female ages 25-45 for friendship or possible relationship. Send note and phone to P.O. Box 430416, Kissimmee, FL 32743.

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▼ Local Events and Projects ▼

PARENTS' GROUPS

The Central Florida chapter of GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) has some exciting activities coming up in the next few months:

May 1-3 - We will be hosting the international board of directors. A full weekend of conferences and social events has been planned. If you have an interest in gay parenting, don't miss this.

May 8 - Parents' Rap Group at GLCS. April's meeting rambled through many topics, including some time on some every day parenting problems. One non-parent remarked at the end of the meeting, "I never thought about the fact that you face all the usual parenting problems that straight people face. I only thought about the problems associated with being a GAY parent."

May 16 - Monthly social/support meeting. April's meeting featured a lively discussion of homophobia within ourselves. What pre-conceived notions, stereotypes, oppressions, and prejudices do you have in your mind?

May 23 - Quarterly Adopt-A-Highway cleanup day. Last quarter's cleanup day was so much fun that you won't want to miss this. Reserve your bag and snappy little vest today!

June - Activities are being planned to coincide with Pride Week.

July 2-5 - Twelve members (at last count) will be traveling to Indianapolis for the GLPCI annual international conference.

Call the GLPCI message line at any time for information on the organization and activities: (407) 420-2191.

PRIDE Picnic Helpers! Can you sling a burger or greet women at the door, etc? Then we need you. Meeting tentatively set for May 3 at 4pm at Key Largo, but call Rita at 831-2971 to confirm. If you can't make the meeting, call and let her put you on the list.

GAY PRIDE SCHEDULE: Below we've listed the events currently being planned. To help out with the LCN picnic, please see above. The other Pride events are being sponsored by Orlando Pride; call 236-9480.

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

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

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

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

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

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

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: the next general meeting of this new organization founded to promote gay and lesbian businesses and professionals will meet at the Big Bang, 102 N. Orange Ave. Social begins at 6:30pm, and the business meeting begins at 7:00 (see p.9).

READERS CO-OP: Please call 282-6569 to get your name and address on the mailing list to receive notice and directions of the next potluck.

LCN Express MAILING PARTY: Monday, April 27 at 7:00 pm at Key Largo. We'll be done early this month-- thanks to the wonderful women who volunteered to help fold the newsletter at Pronto. Thanks to Lee, Nancy, Christine, Amy, and Helena.

JOY MCC WOMEN'S GROUP: May 9, 9am to 4pm. Stress Relief and Personal Enrichment Seminar. Call Coral or Dot at 365-3545.

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

DIGNITY: an organization for gay and lesbian Catholics, will be holding a Mass and social fellowship May 17 at 7:00 pm. See p.9 for contact address.

The Express Goes High Tech

It's great so many of you wonderful women are writing articles, letters, poetry, commentary, etc. for the newsletter. You can see we've had to expand to 12 pages -- **keep it coming!!**

However, we notice than most of you are sending us hard copy that you word processed on a computer. **Please** send us the diskette instead. Volunteers spend hours reentering it. So here's the skinny:

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In Good Health

by Suzanne Paszkowski, CNM

Menopause is the main health challenge that women face at midlife. It is a gradual process that takes place over approximately 15 years, during which the ovaries produce less and less estrogen. Eventually, this results in the end of monthly periods. Menopause is not considered complete until a woman has missed 12 consecutive periods. This usually occurs sometime between the late 40's and 50's. The age at which menopause begins is determined by heredity but is affected by smoking, alcohol consumption (both suppress the ovaries at an earlier age), diet, and overall health.

As women get older, they may notice changes in their menstrual cycles: irregular periods, periods that are heavier or longer than normal, more cramps or PMS symptoms. These are normal changes that may occur as estrogen production decreases. Other changes which may occur include: hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings, dry skin, increased facial hair, vaginal dryness, weight gain, insomnia, or headaches.

About 75% of women will experience hot flashes to some degree, although only about 10% describe them as severe. Most women who do have hot flashes will experience them from a year or two before until a year or two after their periods stop. Things that may aggravate hot flashes include: smoking, consuming large amounts of caffeine or alcohol, hot baths or saunas, or eating sweets, salt, or many spices. Some things that may be helpful in dealing with hot flashes are dressing in layers so that clothing can be peeled off as needed, drinking some-

thing cold when one starts, running cool water over your feet, or lowering thermostats. An ounce of aloe vera juice daily may help, and vitamin E has been helpful for about half the women who've tried it. Exercise is also beneficial. By far the most important coping strategy is patience: hot flashes are natural and will not last forever.

A good sex life is very therapeutic during menopause. Vaginal tissues become thinner and there is a decrease in the secretion of vaginal lubricants during menopause. Orgasms (with a partner or through masturbation) help tone and bring blood to the vagina and surrounding tissues. It may be helpful to use a water soluble lubricant, like K-Y jelly, if there is vaginal dryness.

Many women have heard the pros and cons about estrogen replacement therapy (ERT). It is a matter that each woman needs to discuss thoroughly with her health care provider in order to make an informed decision about the risks and benefits in her own particular situation. A discussion of ERT would provide enough material for another column.

It is also important to consider nutrition during menopause. The body's ability to absorb vitamins and minerals decreases during this time. However, the need for vitamin E, calcium, B-complex, vitamins A and C, iron and iodine increases during menopause.

And keep in mind that menopause is a normal, physiologic process. Many women find themselves more productive, self-confident, and satisfied with life after menopause.

OLD FRIEND

by Rita Boo

A woman I have known for 10 years came to visit us. I had first met her in college while I was studying theater and she, conservation. She was an oddity in that department, not wearing the standard flannel and jeans. She dressed in extreme colors and wore a Quaker hat decorated with beads and feathers. Her hair, reddish blonde was worn like most of us in those days, parted in the middle, hanging in braids. She walked in a long swinging gait, as if her feet were glued to the earth, almost an ice skating motion.

She happened to take a class in the theater department, one where she was confronted with an avant-garde, radical directing student, who stressed the extreme. I saw this quiet soft spoken woman as a challenge, wanting her to find within herself the loud mouthed, outrageous person I thought (at that time) we all had hidden within us all.

Working with her, finding out about her music, and her history of living with instrument builders in the Appalachians, enlightened me to a gentle and kind spirit. She was an amazing musician, experienced and a delight to jam with. Her voice was high, clear as a bell with a slight tremolo that could cause a ripple of sensation to rise up the back bone like a cool finger tracing your spine.

Over the months of studying together, I found myself writing love poems, thinking of her and dreaming of chance meetings. I looked forward to meeting her in the hallways, ex-

Continued, p. 7.



**DIGNITY
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START-UP COMMITTEE



Sandy DeLegal- "Private" Concert!

by Frogger

When I read the April issue of the LCN, I was very disappointed to read that Sandy DeLegal's concert and the LCN Auction was scheduled for the same night. Since I was the coordinator for the auction, I immediately called Sandy and desperately tried to figure out a way to schedule the 2 events so women could go to both. (Other women that called LCN about this, too.) HELP!

Sandy and I discussed having a second show at 10:00pm. Her original show was scheduled for 8:00 and the auction at 7:00. After several days of communication we decided that it just wouldn't work. I was also informed that Sandy will be appearing again in Brevard County in the near future. (Watch the LCN for details.)

Sandy donated to the LCN auction a half-hour concert for a private dinner. LCN decided to purchase this item to be used at a very special dinner party to thank the auction volunteers who missed her April concert, as well as PRIDE picnic helpers. The thank you dinner will be held in August.

If you haven't seen Sandy in concert, she's great and a lot of fun. She takes music and comedy and adds her own special touch to make a special night out.

(Yes, women-- this IS a bribe. Call Rita at 831-2971 to volunteer for the LCN Pride Picnic.)

SPECIAL THANKS TO AUCTION DONORS!

The following individuals, businesses, and organizations donated items for LCN's 1992 auction. Their contributions will help keep this newsletter and other LCN projects coming to you and for you. Return their acts of good faith and commitment-- "matronize" their services whenever you can!

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(Add \$2 for mailing costs.)

Movie ReViews & News

BASIC INSTINKT

by MS

I had been reading comments in various publications and seeing short pieces on television concerning the movie *Basic Instinct* for the past few weeks. I decided that I would go see this movie so I could make my own judgment as to the negativity expressed toward lesbians. I was totally disgusted at the blatant stereotypes presented.

I realize that this article may be too little too late. If however, I succeed in persuading just one person reading this not to go, and to express that opinion to someone they know - gay or (especially) straight, I will feel that I have done something to speak out.

In brief, Michael Douglas plays a cop who gets involved in a sexual relationship with a bisexual woman who is the prime suspect in a murder (and who indeed is the murderer). He wrongly believes that his ex-girlfriend is guilty, and ends up killing her. The movie plot is very predictable and the "steamy sex" played up in the media is overblown hype to sell movie tickets.

Some examples of negative stereo-

types I found particularly disturbing:

- the murderer has a lesbian lover who is portrayed as a jealous, secondary person who gets off by watching the sexual exploits with Michael Douglas' character from a concealed position
- the lesbian relationship is completely trivialized
- Douglas' character confronts the lesbian at one point and baits her to talk about the situation "man-to-man"
- a scene in a presumably gay bar shows only the negative aspects that one sometimes finds in our bars-people doing drugs in the bathrooms, blatant sexual behavior between patrons
- before shooting his ex-girlfriend (who had slept with the murderer once in college) Douglas' character sneers "do you still like girls?"

As I sat in the theater, I found myself looking at the movie from the perspective of the average straight person, and I became very angry at how my lifestyle was being portrayed in such negative and shallow terms. Movies that portray us as one-dimensional characters only encourage fear and hatred of homosexuals.

I'm sorry I blew \$3.25 on the mati-

nee, but I'm not sorry that I now have the chance to tell everyone I know how much I did not like this movie.

SEXIST TITLE-- SURPRISING CONTENT!

by Rachel

The Butcher's Wife, starring Demi Moore, was the last movie in which I expected to find a positive lesbian subplot. This light-hearted movie centered around a woman with abilities to see more than met the eye, predominantly concerning affairs of the heart. When she encounters the thus-far closeted lesbian character, her advice is well received with satisfying results. The subsequent revelation of the lesbian relationship was handled with humor and, in this viewer's opinion, refreshing acceptance. I would recommend this movie to anyone, including my mother! (Now available in video)

FILMS WIN HONORS

Frankie & Johnnie and *Fried Green Tomatoes* won honors at the 1992 GLAAD Media Awards for "accurate and positive images of lesbians and gay men."



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OLD FRIEND

Continued from p.4

changing a glance and a faint smile. I felt obnoxious compared to her sweet demeanor.

As the last year of my study at that college came to a close, we found ourselves writing notes to each other, hiding them in the student mailboxes, never signing our names. I felt like a puppy-love-sick teenager, giggling, with heart a-flutter.

After graduation, I took a job which required long hours. Working in the fields around my upstate home. I would watch the sun come up and set from the back of a truck, feeling my body grow hard and lean from the physical labor. At night she would always meet me, the weariness of the day disappearing upon seeing that old red VW pull into the parking lot. We never spoke of our feelings, afraid as we were of the passion, fearing more the possibility of rejection.

It was the summer solstice that finally enticed a conversation about our 'friendship.' Laying on a hillside, watching the sun sinking slowly over Canandaigua Lake, we talked about everything, except ourselves. Passing a bottle of wine, listening to the summer sounds, how many times did I dream of rolling over, looking her in the eyes and telling her that I loved

her? I was and still am such a coward of love.

It is funny, that she, this shy quiet woman, was the one to breach the subject. With a touch of her hand, she stopped my rambling on. I looked at her, as she told me of a conversation she had with a mutual friend. The friend had said that I was the type of person that she found easy to fall in love with. And at that, she told me, she loved me.

I think of that evening, still amazed at how life carries us along. The woman she had confided in, was dead within the year from cancer. A brilliant light of a friend whose passing I still mourn. And then, our relationship ended because of the internal struggle to find the strength of heart needed to face a changing lifestyle. As the years pass, certain things remain constant, but relationships change, some never recovering from falling out of love, some greater because of the enduring friendship that grows out of a common history.

On this visit, after all these years, she was worried about turning forty. Knowing she needs a change, because she can feel her body changing. I looked at her, not seeing a trace of the years that have come and gone between us. I saw only that woman, quiet and shy, with an amazing wit. The gentle manner she has, the woman

Announcements from the Heart

☪ Marlene Perry, long-time resident of Port Orange, and Browne Hollowell, of Asheville, N.C., exchanged vows and rings to pledge their life commitment in a ceremony at Ormond Memorial Gardens on March 28. A reception was held at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Ormond Beach. They will tour the U.S. this summer and make their home in Asheville.

☪ Laurel Cicarello and Christine Craig celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary on May 7th.

that opened my closet door and freed my heart with wings.

I know I am lucky to have loved and been loved by such fine women in my life. I also know that it is friendship that lasts the test of time. When we can finally put the painful past in its place, we can cherish the memories that are the foundation of an old friendship. If there is anything I could have done for my friend to ease her concern of aging, I hope that I let her know that time has done nothing to lessen the love I have for her, and that no matter the years, or the miles, she has still a place of my life.

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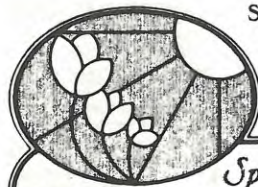
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COMMENTARY

Submitted by Andrea C.

John Chancellor, July 23, 1992:
 I have finally figured out what's been bothering me in all the talk about the Supreme Court. Defenders of Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Court say all they want is a Court that will faithfully interpret the Constitution. Well, here's my problem with that. There is one central idea in the American Constitution that the rights of the individual are more important than the rights of the State. The Constitution and its Bill of Rights says government can't tell you where to pray or when to speak. The Constitution makes you safe at home against government searches. It protects you from secret government trials and from cruel government punishment. The genius of the Constitution is that it sides with the citizen against the State. That's why it's such a world wide success. But today's Supreme Court tends to favor the State over the citizen. This term it has ruled that confessions coerced by government are not necessarily unjust. That some government searches can be made without warrants. That the government can put you in jail for two days without charging you with a crime. That government can tell some doctors not to speak

State and Regional News

WARN: A chapter of the National Women of All Red Nations (WARN) has been established in Florida. WARN is open to all Native American women who are tribally enrolled or can document their heritage. WARN is a support group and activist organization interested in the concerns of Native women, as well as preservation of Indigenous traditions and the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations. Contact Lois Tomas of Native People's Information Exchange, Box 1954, St. Pete, FL 33731, (813) 823-3524 or call Mary Ann Reinhardt at (407) 259-9914.

Womonwrites 1992: SE Lesbian Writers' Conference, June 3-7 in Central Georgia. Workshops, open readings affinity groups, discussion and recreation...to inspire and stimulate

certain words about abortion. The Chief Justice even wonders if government really has to tell an arrested person of the right to have a lawyer. In this Supreme court the state wins more often than the citizens. Something to keep in mind when they give you the old malarkey about the court being true to the spirit of the Constitution. This Court isn't.

creativity among Lesbian writers in all stages of development. \$60 (more or less), limited registration. For more information and/or registration, send S.A.S.E. to: Womonwrites 1992, c/o Katy Wildsister, 440 60th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL. 33705

Auburn Shooting: On Feb. 8, 400+ supporters gathered on the Auburn campus to protest a Jan. 28th shooting which was apparently directed at members of the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association (GLA) two weeks earlier. Controversy had surrounded the fledgling group since the first stages of its formation 2 years ago. The Auburn Student Council had refused to grant the group a permanent charter in 1991, but were overridden by the VP of Student Affairs. Group members had been on campus distributing flyers about the group as part of their weekly activities, when they heard shots coming from a dorm. When they determined that the shots seemed to be meant for them, the students called the campus police, who responded quickly. The student firing the shots from a pellet gun, claimed he was not aiming at the students. He is now out on bond while the investigation continues.

Painting by **WENDY** 

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WILL THE REAL GAY PLEASE STAND UP?

This article originally ran in the San Francisco Chronicle. We saw it in Vi-rago, a newsletter from Columbia, SC.]

We're still trying to check this, but around USAir, staffers are circulating the story of an employee, last name Gay, who boarded a USAir flight with a non-revenue ticket. Finding the seat assigned to him occupied by a paying passenger, he slipped into an empty one a couple of rows back.

Due to a mechanical delay on another flight, the plane began filling up, so the gate agent came aboard to get all non-paying passengers off. Stopping at the seat assigned to Mr. Gay, he said to the man, "Are you Gay?" Looking startled, the man nodded, at which the agent said, "Then, you'll have to get off."

Mr. Gay, hearing this, called out to the agent, "You've got the wrong man. I'm Gay." Whereupon a young man seated across the aisle leapt to his feet and announced, "HELL! I'm gay too! They can kick us all off!"

New Groups Forming In Orlando

Dignity

Are you a Catholic lesbian who is looking for a safe and warm place to worship and find fellowship? The Orlando Chapter of **Dignity** is preparing to have monthly worship services for lesbians and gays.

Dignity is an organization whose aim is to unite lesbian and gay Catholics. Members of Dignity will promote spiritual development and education, social involvement, feminist issues, and social events. We will create a family within our own lesbian and gay community. This will be an avenue to share your faith, enjoy the fellowship of others, and work for the acceptance of men and women as equal members of Christ.

All lesbians and friends are welcome to attend the next Mass which will be followed by a social fellowship on **May 17th at GLCS at 7:00pm.** See you there!

Want more information? Write:

Dignity
Box 616870
Orlando, FL
32861-6870.

Metropolitan Business Assoc.

With all of its offices now filled, the **Metropolitan Business Association** is off and running. Keith Morrison was chosen president and Debbie Simmons as vice president at the last MBA general meeting at Joy MCC on April 2. Karen Good accepted the position of programs director, and will also act as assistant secretary. The offices of treasurer and secretary were also assigned.

The 30+ attendees decided upon an annual membership fee of \$50 per person. Several sharp-looking logos were presented, and will be voted on at the next meeting.

The next meeting, to be held **May 7th at the Big Bang**, promises to be an interesting one as members of the Tampa Bay business guild share some of their experiences. New members are always welcome. This is your organization, Orlando!

Nancy Valmus, vice president for the Tampa Bay Business Association, and Rand Hall, publicity director for the TBBA, will be the guest speakers.

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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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