Vol. 10, Issue 9

September, 1993

#### A LOVING COMMITTED NETWORK

# Express

#### **FREE Special Projects Preview**

Over the next sixteen months, the FREE Campaign will be developing a number of wide scale volunteer programs across the state. These programs will require a great deal of hard work and a significant commitment of time on the part of our friends and activists. Three of the programs we will be launching shortly will include:

#### The Letters to the Editor

Bank We will need to have a reservoir of letters and of people willing to sign letters to the editors of newspapers around the state to amplify our campaign themes. Because of the length of the campaign, we will need to be able to generate waves of letters at various times, and to have letters and signers ready to go.

#### **Voter Registration**

Voter Registration of anti-discrimination Floridians will be critical, and will high priority to the FREE Campaign. While we will be announcing details of e Voter Registration Drive in the next newsletter, it is critical that our supporter become deputized to register voter NOW! please call 904-561-6336 if you have questions about where to get deputized in your community.

#### Bipartisan Local Outreach

One critical message we need to communicate to our local political leaders is that there is significant opposition to these initiatives within both political parties, and that we need to put together a list of partisan officials and county executive committee members who support our goals.

We urge out supporters who are registered as Democrats and as Republicans to attend their party's county executive committee meetings this month and let us know who our friends are. We will be using this information to expand our support list and prepare for both parties' coming State Conventions.

For more information contact Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality, PO Box 20021 Tallahassee, FL 32316.

(Reprinted from the FREE Campaign News, July 1993)

#### THE BRIDGE

by Jo Wiggins

It's the end of summer and the beginning of school. No more Monday night dance parties, no more road trips to Key West, no more passionate kissing sessions with that girl you met out of state. Fret not, dear readers. Look at the positives! You get to buy new clothes. You get to meet new people (say, that leather jacket wearing girl in English who seems totally uninterested in boys?) You get a reprieve from endless days of heterosexist soap operas.

You can make school a bit more fun. It all starts with clothes, girl-friend! This is your opportunity to improve your image, so do it right! A long, floral rayon dress just looks right with lipstick, a black biker jacket, Doc Martens, and a clip-on nosering. This look suggests that the wearer is in touch with her femininity and fully capable of kicking ass. A good combination for queer women. However, the important thing is to look like yourself. Anything is a good queer-girl look, as long as a proud queer-girl wears it.

(Cont'd, p. 4)

#### From The Heart

In memory of DEE T., who up until a short time ago wrote book reviews for the LCN. She made her transition on or near August 2, 1993. We were lovers for a short time, lived together, then after a while went our separate ways. I received a note from her and we ere the best of friends from that time until her passing. I miss her everyday and I'm sure I always will. She was one "H-- Of a LADY". So-long ole friend, 'til later. Jane P.

(Ed. Note: We'll miss you, Dee. Thanks for all you gave us.)

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#### **Fund-Raiser at Faces**

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#### Thanks

to all the women who help us fold each month. August's crew included Laurie, Vickie, Donna, Blanca, Lucy, Cathy, Becky, Cristi. Suzanne, Rachel, Rita, Sandy, Lynn, Bette, Val, and Steph.

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#### Orlando-- A Film Review by Linda Lopez McAlister

Sometimes (especially if you live far from the country's film meccas, New York and LA) you can't wait for a film to come to you, you have to go to the film. Last month I was in New York and saw Sally Potter's film version of Virginia Woolf's Orlando (which won't reach Tampa until Fall). I'm glad I did, for I can now spend the intervening months looking forward to seeing it again in a few months.

Sometimes women directors whose 1970s films are staples of feminist film studies classes get a chance to make big feature films and their feminism seems to evaporate before your eyes. Sally Potter is not such a filmmaker. From her most well-known feminist experimental film, Thriller (1979) through her first feature Golddiggers with Julie Christie, to Orlando, the hallmark of her work is her dazzling creative intelligence and originality working with uncompromisingly feminist themes.

Like the Virginia Woolf novel on which it is based, this film is the all time great gender bending film. Everyone knows that Woolf wrote the book as a kind of love offering to Vita Sackvillle-West, no mean gender bender in life herself, and that Orlando and his family estate, the gift of Queen Elizabeth I (played to subtle

comic perfection in the film by Quentin Crisp) are Vita Sackville-West and Knole, her beloved family estate in Kent. When she gives the bequest, the Queen makes one request of the handsome if (as was the custom of the time) somewhat effeminate young courtier Orlando: he must never grow old. And he doesn't, though the centuries bring other changes most notably the change from being a "he" to a "she" somewhere along about the 18th Century when he finds he cannot do the warlike things males are required to do. Orlando announces this change in a full frontal nude shot in a mirror and an aside to the audience: "Same person, no difference at all. Just a different sex." Yeah, sure. But that's not the only gender bending in the film--it's virtually everywhere from the lovely soprano voice on the soundtrack that's revealed to be a counter tenor, to Crisp cast as a real Queen, to Orlando's androgynous 20th century child and more.

I think that Potter has done a perfectly wonderful job of bringing Woolf's novel to the screen. Aside from one or two minor points that are unclear unless you're familiar with the novel, it's practically perfect. Among the perfections is Tilda Swinton's performance as Orlando. It takes a special kind of an actor to carry off this

multiply gendered and socialized role and she does it wonderfully as the camera caresses her handsome bovishness and her handsome womanliness in turn. I loved, too, the skill with which Potter and her production designers evoked the spirit of the different centuries Orlando passes through, from the 18th century's elaborate foppishness and orientalism to the 19th century evocation of Bronte novels and romantic heros on the moors. where it turns out to no one's surprise that what sex one is makes a great deal of difference (and Orlando loses her beloved estate for want of a penis or a male heir).

For me, almost the best thing about the film is the concluding sequences in which Potter departs from the letter of Woolf's novel, but certainly not from the spirit, by bringing Orlando right up to the 1990s instead of ending in 1928 as the novel did. Of course it really had to be done that way since throughout the film Orlando, from whatever century she's in, carries on a running conversation with her 1990s audience everytime she looks directly into the camera and makes a comment or gives us a knowing look or a raised eyebrow. It stands to reason that eventually she's going to meet up with us and she does, right in the same spot where we first met, a strong, androgynous woman and mother who strides through London in jhodpurs and boots and rides a motorcycle, looking forward to the future and that of her daughter who's already learning to construct her own world through the lens of a video camera.

However long you have to wait or wherever you have to travel to see *Orlando*, I'd say don't miss it. Meanwhile, while you're waiting, you may want to pick up the book if you haven't read it recently.

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From The Womyn's Show on WMNF Community Radio in Tampa (88.5-FM) and reprinted from Women's Words. Thanks to Linda for the use of her work.

#### Lorraine Winkler LCSW

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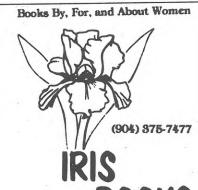
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Delta Youth Alliance	425-4527	
FLOLAC (Older Lesbians)	407-779-4874	
FREE	904-561-6336	
FUAD	236-0121	
GLCS Hotline & Info Line	THE-GAYS	
GLADD	236-9499	
GLPCI (Parents' Group)	420-2191	
Gay & Lesbian Center	425-4527	
Joy MCC (Orlando)	894-1081	
LCN Express: Information	831-2971	
LCN Express: Subscriptions	291-3791	
LCN Express: Advertising	648-4154	
Orlando PRIDE	236-9480	
PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians	/Gays) 236-9177	
Primetimers Travel Club	895-1965	
Rape Crisis Center	648-3028	
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	
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	
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#### **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, Lucy Ford, Sue York, Stacey Christine, St. James, Madeliene Abling, Marianne Wittels, Lori Grice, Becky Acuna, & Rachel Gardiner.

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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.

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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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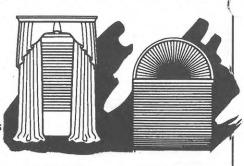
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear LCN,

We have enjoyed your publication for several years and due to some financial interruptions, setbacks-you know-we have been unable to send for a subscription. Now we're happy to report, we're on our feet and doing great and would love to get the LCN on a regular basis. Thank you-we're happy to have you.

Sincerely, Suzie and ? (sorry we couldn't quite make the second name out.)

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#### Classifieds

Carol, We talked a short time during the WILLOW picnic. I ate late and you came over and talked while I finished lunch. You do have the most beautiful eyes I've ever seen. If you have any free time, please give me a call. Jane, (904) 669-1948.

Cleaning: Working and trying to keep up too! Call today and for a nominal fee an appointment can be made for all your general house cleaning needs. Eleven years in the Orlando area. References upon request. Kimberly, 438-0684.

Furniture for Sale: Queen sized bedroom set, washed oak. Headboard, night stand, dresser. King sized mattress and frame, Sealy Posturepedic. Gray sofa and loveseat. Mauve, gray & cream-colored Oriental rug, 8' x 11'. Sissie, 425-2861.

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#### TAKE BACK THE BRA!!!

The local St. Petersburg Chapter of the Lesbian Avengers organized their first annual "Take Back the Bra" party and fundraiser last month.

Participants were invited to bring their own bras; the Avengers supplied "paints, baubles, bangles, and beads to convert the contraptions into works of beauty and art." Prizes were awarded for the sexiest, the most creative and the most humorous bras.

(Ed.note: BRA-VISSIMO, WOMYN!)

WP/Maitland 1 br house for sale, off Park Ave, 250 Orange A Maitland. \$49,000-- corner lot, garage, corner of Ridgewood off Park Ave, next to commercial nice area. Mary Ann, 628-1682.

For sale: Refrigerator, GE Frostproof, 17.2 cu., \$85; Panasonic microwave, rotating turntable, \$75. Becky, 894-9333.

#### Key West Women's Week Features Special Speakers

Professor Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU, and author Phyllis Burke will be featured speakers as part of a special feminist video documentary series, "Women Empowered," during the Key West Business Guild's Women in Paradise celebration Sept. 13-19 Professor Strossen will be speaking on the topic of women in law. Horsentation will focus on how the legal system has evolved regarding women's issue and what can be done to continue women's empowerment from a legal stand point.

Critically acclaimed author Phyllis Burke will be a featured speaker in volume two of the "Women Empowered" series. This volume focuses on women whose lives celebrate the rich diversity essential to the strength of our social fabric.

For more information or to make reservations for either speaker, write to: Women Empowered, 1430 Thompson St., Key West, FL, 33040 or call (305) 296-4546

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## LCN Express Production Schedule

ill Barb, 648-4154, for more info.

**Sept. 15:** Deadline for submission of articles and ads

**Sept. 15:** Editorial and Production Meeting

**Sept. 16-18:** Type articles (You may be able to help do this on your own computer!)

Sept. 27: Need volunteer to pick up newsletter at Pronto Press and bring to Faces

Sept. 27: 7:00pm Folding Party at Faces!!

# Community Service Awards

The GLCS Community Service
Awards for 1993 have been
resented to David Rhinehart,
John Rose, and Barb Fallon in
recognition of outstanding work
and selfless devotion to the
lesbian, gay and bisexual community of Central Florida.

#### Moresal Daveniksvam (Davej eteks

Orlando Gay Chorus Auditions: Sept. 1 and 8. Open in all areas and all abilities. For more info, call 896-9850.

CFUAD Fundraiser: Sept. 5, 8-11pm. Central Floridians United Against Discrimination is hosting this event at the Tropicana Beach Club in Cocoa Beach; features the Hat Box Revue. \$3 cover.

**CFUAD Meeting:** Sat., Sept. 11, 10:00am. (For info, 236-0121.)

New official March on Washington Video, showing at GLCS: Sept. 16 at 7:30pm and Sept. 18 at 1:00pm. Free. Bring a snack. Also showing the "comedy Highlights" from the first season of "In the Life."

Fund-Raiser at Faces, Sunday September 26th.

Join in the fun September 26th at Faces and help a fellow sister in her battle against cancer. This gayla event will start at 4:00 and there will be games, an auction, a raffle, food and a show that you will never forget. (For those of you who have heard the rumors of the great shows given by the cast of the House of Maddo, you will not be disappointed by this 'best of review.) For more info watch for the posters at the bar or call Cathy at 291-3791 or Faces at 291-7571.

MBA Meeting: Sept 2, Radisson Hotel, 6:30pm. Program features Orange and Seminole County law enforcement officials.

#### Try Some Radical Art!

Guerrilla Girls, an anonymous group of women in gorilla masks who fight sexism, racism, and homophobia in the art world, have published the premier issue of their newsletter, *Hot Flashes*.

Subscriptions are: \$9/women and people of color, \$12/ for white men. Order from The Guerrilla Girls, 532 LaGuardia Place, #237, New York, NY 10012.



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#### The Bridge, continued from page 1

The most important part of school is, of course, education. Your teachers probably won't give you a gay-friendly curriculum. In fact, school can get downright gay-unfriendly! This means you've got a challenge on your hands - locating gay culture materials by yourself. James Baldwin, Truman Capote, Vita Sckville-West, Gertrude Stein, Tennessee Williams, and Virginia Woolf are all good classic queer writers. Read their books, then drop their names to that hateful English teacher who thinks you're stupid.

Learn your history, too. There are several good books on gay/bi history. Get them at your public library and read them all!

Speaking of which ..... how do you cope with dumb homophobic jerks? One option is to quietly say, "I'm one of them. Shut up." This really sets you up, as you can imagine. You could laugh at homophobic jokes, but then you'd be a sellout. The best option if you're not completely out? Without mentioning your sexuality, tell them what they can do with themselves. This way you defend yourself with minimum risk. I recommend that you find a gay or gay-supportive adult to

come out to, one whom you like, trust, and respect. After all, teachers and counselors are there to support students.

Yeah, school can be hell for gays and bisexuals. I know - I survived four years of high school. I lived two of them as a somewhat open bisexual. I'm completely out now. The big thing to remember is that you're not alone, you're not strange, and you're not gonna be in school forever. Gays and bisexuals drop out more often than straights due to homophobia. Please, please, please don't. We'll get a lot of nasty labels within our lifetimes. Why add "stupid," "poor," and "unemployed" to the list?

If school gets really horrendous, you could try a youth group like our local Delta Youth Alliance. I'll admit it, I don't go. I prefer my own network of friends. I also like going to house parties. This is an excellent option for queers who are too young to drink and unable to get away with a fake ID. It's simple to have all-queer house parties if your parents are supportive and/or absent. Just tell your friends and let word-of-mouth do the rest.

P.S. - I'm a bi woman, he's a gay

man. But I'd still like to kiss Donald Suggs! He's the public affairs director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Surely you' heard of homophobic comments by sucartists as Shabba Ranks, as well as the charming lyrics of several other hiphop/ reggae groups. Buju Banton is beyond repugnant. In "Boom Bye-Bye" he sang "Two men necking/lying in a bed ...Get an automatic or an Uzi instead/ Shoot them now." Suggs isn't lying As a black gay man, he is back. conducting media zaps against homophobic artists. Not only that, but he's planning a contest for young gay and lesbian rappers. Gay and bi hiphop lovers everywhere should be grateful. Contact GLAAD at 150 West 26th St., Suite 503 New York, NY 10001, (212)807-1700.

#### International Notes

A group calling itself Lesbians and Gay Men in Action was recently founded in Zagreb, Croatia; an open group for gays was recently estalished in Beijing, China; gays in Hong Kong began publishing a newsletter called "The Hong Kong Connection" in March.

#### EVA FAJARDO, L.M.H.C., C.A.P.

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#### OUT LOUD

by Nan Schultz

There is a Confucian proverb which says "I live in a very small house, but its window looks out on a very large world." The window of Orlando's gay and lesbian community has been thrown wide open and we are shouting out of it thanks to OUT LOUD, Orlando's first and only "homosexual talk radio show," which went on the air Saturday, August 7, 1993. You could hear the voices of the people who called in to talk, their relief and gratitude at no longer having to try and be heard through thick panes of glass. I'm more than proud to say that I was there to experience the first show, and it was astonishing. People called from all over Orlando to say "I hear you, no, I hear me, no, I hear us! Wow!" Something in their voices told me they were feeling the same elation I was. Hosts Judy Shaw and Chris Alexander should be applauded for taking this step. Judy said she was

tired of "waiting and waiting for someone to DO something." Well folks, something has been done. We're in the network, we're on the air, we've become a part of the electronic village, and with a little luck will never be the same. In today's global village, few attributes validate the legitimacy of a movement, organization, or community more than access to a media outlet. The gay and lesbian community of Orlando took a giant step toward that kind of legitimacy when OUT LOUD went on the air. OUT LOUD is in need of sponsors, advertisers, listeners and talkers. It can be heard every Saturday from 4-7 p.m. on AM 1600 WXTO "The Voice of Free Speech." The number to call to participate is (407) 290-1600. If you would like to sponsor or advertise, please call Judy Shaw at (407) 628-2166. We're here, we're queer, TURN US UP!

# The Parent Perspective

by Diane P. Kerkhoff

When my GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) annual conference was over. I thought I could get back to all those things I had been ignoring in my life - like earning a living (yikes - financial disaster!) and taking care of my son and my home. Well, I've managed to get the lawn under control. We no longer need a machete to get to the front door. And those limbs on the neighbor's tree that had to reach over the fence and across a good ten-foot expanse of grass just to drop berries on my patio have been cut and stacked. But then there are all these bushes and trees that need trimming and green stuff where I want brown stuff and brown stuff where I want green stuff (my more spiritual friends say that I simply want the wrong things - if I would just want the brown

Continued, p.6



# WOMYN "OUT" THERE

There are many avenues available to both "come out" and to "out" our message. Two recent examples come to mind. The first being Cathy's McEllhiney's brave speech at Valencia Community College to her peers. Last semester, for an assignment in her Speech class, Cathy chose the topic of the discriminatory amendment proposed by David Caton and its ramifications. Her eloquent delivery and well chosen words informed and hopefully enlightened her classmates in a non threatening way. Way to go Cathy!

The second was the wonderful set of articles written by Jean Patteson in the Orlando Sentinel in which many sisters (and brothers) stepped "out" to show the Central Florida readers how wonderful and important our commitments to each other are. Whether you were able to use your real name or not, a great big Thank You!

We would love to continue to report the innovative and heroic acts of our community. If you know someone that fits this description, please tell us their story.

Send your news to the LCN box before the 15th of the month.

#### Parent Perspective, Cont'd

stuff where it already is, I'd be much happier). And then there's the house... We'd better not get into that.

Hey, it's August (as I write) and that means - "Meet The Teacher Day"! Time for my annual "I Am A Lesbian" speech. Wish me luck. Hey, Lea fans, remember when Lea made Ron and Dave and the guys stand up and yell "I Am A Lesbian"? That was great!

I predict that years from now a lot of people are going to claim that they were there at the last night of the Phoenix Corral. And since I was really there I'll be able to test them by asking who was the only dancer to make it through the marathon of two Tush Pushes, one Flying Eights, and then two Slap Leathers without stopping. Can you guess?

When I told my dad that I was seeing someone new, his first question, of course, was, "Does she have her own chainsaw?" She does, so Dad was happy.

Have you heard about our lesbian and gay talk radio? It's on Saturdays at 4-7 PM on 1600 AM radio. The hosts are Judy Shaw and Chris Alexander, both parents and members of GLPCI. I'm looking forward to some lively discussions of gay and lesbian parenting.

Of course, they'll be discussing all kinds of issues, so listen to the program and call in.

As a matter of fact, for our August GLPCI meeting (on August 21 - which I realize is the future as I write but the past as you read.) we're getting together at GLCS to listen to the show and then Judy and Kim and Chris and Tommy will join us as soon as they finish up. September's GLPCI meeting will be a potluck at a member's home and will feature the election of new chapter officers for the coming year. So, if you want some say in the direction and policies of our local chapter, plan on coming to this meeting. I'm planning on running for president because I don't have enough stress in my life right now.

Country song title of the month: "I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Almost Like Having You Here."

My Dear Friend (MDF) had a birthday recently (she turned 105). I hadn't baked anything for her for a while since I usually only bake when have an Achy Baky Heart. (Did I mention I'm in love?) Anyway, I baked her something real special - a death-by-chocolate sort of thing. So if she looks a little bloated, that's why.



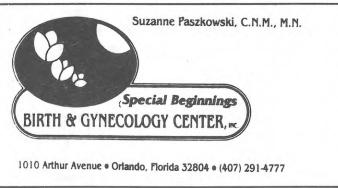
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#### To Boycoπ or Not To Boycoπ?

by Barb Fallon

was confused. I heard rumors about various companies concerning various issues and I never knew if they were true. The most notable and oldest (I was aware of) being the Coors beer boycott. Is it still on or not? This is important to me for a few reasons. The first being, that I like to drink Coors. But more importantly, because I believe in boycotts. I believe it is a good way to hold corporate America accountable for their actions. With very little effort on my part, I can prevent my hard earned dollars from enriching some of the Big-time bigots around. Even if I was thirsty.

Well, I did a little research. After a trip to the library, the GLCS Center, and the ECO Store's resource room, I found what I was looking for. The information below has been taken from the "National Boycott News" and the "Boycott Quarterly" both found at the ECO Store. Overall it is just a partial

list, but it is conclusive of the current boycotts concerning Gay/Lesbian issues.

Boy Scouts of America/United Way of America: The Boy Scouts for maintaining a formal policy banning homosexuals. The United Way is the single largest funder of the BSA. Called for by Queer Nation.

Colorado (the state): The residents of Colorado passed an amendment to CO's constitution in Nov/92 that bans legal protection for individuals based on their sexual orientation. Called for by Boycott Colorado, Denver, CO.

Coors Beer (Aldolph Coors Co.): It was "officially" called off in 1992. Originally based on discrimination of same sex couples wanting to take part in a series of Coors sponsored Sweetheart foot races and also for their financial contributions to openly antigay (or anti left winged anything for that matter) political campaigns. It's over but they are based in Colorado, so you decide.

Cracker Barrel Restaurants: Cracker Barrel fired a number of gay and lesbian employees after issuing a statement in early 1991 which stated the the company would no longer hire people ..."whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values"... Called for by the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance and Queer Nation.

Well, I'm sure I'll go back to drinking Coors again, but I certainly will not contribute to the next annual United Way campaign.

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#### Too Sense Worth

by Kathryn Harmon

Too Hard Facts: Over 60,000 Americans will die from AIDS this year, one every seven seconds. Another 48,000 American women (one every 8.8 seconds) will die from breast cancer this year.

Too Faced: Sports Illustrated



P.O. Box 1367 Franklin, NC 28734-1367 **704/369-5162**  recently refused to run an ad that featured the entire National Canadian soccer team clad only in NIKEs. While the ad was suggestive, in reality all genitals were covered with sporting equipment. Still Sports Illustrated refused to run this ad because it was deemed "too risque". Isn't this the same magazine that puts out a swimsuit issue every year?

Too by Too: The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church recently voted to uphold its ban on gay clergy. This same assembly voted simultaneously to support Clinton's efforts to lift the ban on gays in the military. Apparently they feel we are better equipped to serve our country than we are God. How Christian?

My Too Sense: The Rainbow Democratic Club, chartered by the Democratic Executive Committee on May 27, 1993 has proved itself to be a positive vehicle of change for the local gay community. It has experienced none of the self-destructive political melee that other newly forming organizations inevitably experience. The elections were a smooth successful process. The committees formed efficiently

and little has diverted this organization from its task at hand. This organization will likely serve as the link between the gay community and th local government well into the 21st century. While our representatives are highly qualified and dedicated individuals, it is essential that the club's strength emerge from the grass roots level. Hold your representatives as responsible, let them know how you really feel. Get involved! POBox 532041 Orlando, FL 32853 (407) 236-9476.

**Too For the Show:** Top 5 industries for lesbians and gays.

Education 8.4%; Publishing 6.9%; Social Services 6.8%; Finance/ Insurance 6.5%; Medicine 5.6%; (From various sources including the US Census Bureau and the San Francisco Chronicle.)

Timely Quote: "...we learn that we did not cause and our children did not choose, like warts or perfect pitch, it is a matter of biological roulette...that the much maligned "lifestyle" of the average gay is about as lurid as our own, centered in mundane matters as jobs, friends, hobbies, and church. Th gay community it turns out contains about the same proportion of saints to rascals as any other." (Roger Bernstein) NY Times, "MY daughter is a lesbian."

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#### **Lesbian Adoptions**

Newark, New Jersey (UPI)-- A New Jersey judge, calling it "a matter of common sense," has ruled that a lesbian should be allowed to adopt her partner's daughter. Superior Court Judge Philip Freedman's ruling is believed to be the first of its kind in the state and was hailed as having national significance by supporters of gay and lesbian rights.

In a 16 page opinion, Freedman said the child's court-appointed guardian and an investigative agency agreed that the adoption would be in the child's best interest. "The Court's recognition of this family unit through adoption can serve as a step in the path toward the respect which strong, loving families of all varieties deserve." Freedman said. The two women, identified only by their initials, JMG and EO, have had a relationship for about 10 years. EO became pregnant through artificial insemination, after the two women decided they wanted a child, and a daughter was born in 1989. Freedman said the two women have a

stable relationship, a good combined income and supportive families. The judge also found that JMG, who works part time for a cable television network, functions as the child's "stepparent," being more involved with the child than EO, who works full time. "The court feels constrained by the state of the law from proclaiming JMG an actual 'stepparent', given that same-sex marriages are not legal in this state," Freedman wrote. "However, I am convinced that in this adoption, JMG should be treated as a stepparent as a matter of common sense."

Paula Ettelbrick of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who served as co-counsel on the case, said Freedman's decision is "incredibly important nationally." "It is one of the few written decisions on this topic where the judge in great detail has walked through the facts and legal rulings in a case," she said.

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7:30pm

Discussion Group

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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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#### New York City Gay Pride Parade

by Christine Smith

I call this one a parade because it has all the earmarks of one. The bands, baton twirlers and, of course, lots of floats. All walks of life were prouder than proud and they all marched to flaunt it. I say all walks because the parade lasted roughly five and a half hours (St. Patty's Day is two hours). We had the politicos (it is a mayoral election year) to the student groups with a phenomenal mix of entertainers as Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (red ribbon-remember) and, of course, super model of the world, Ru Paul.

It's been a few years since I was in N.Y.C. for Pride Day, before they were allowed to paint the lavendar line down 5th Ave. and when the city would only report one-fifth of the actual crowd. This year they reported 500,000 - I somehow wonder why the whole 1 percent of us would all go to New York on my vacation (ha-ha).

If you don't get the 1 percent joke ask anyone who was in Washington D.C. this past April. My hope for next year is Pride here and then N.Y.C. for Stonewall 25. May God Bless and keep you until then.

