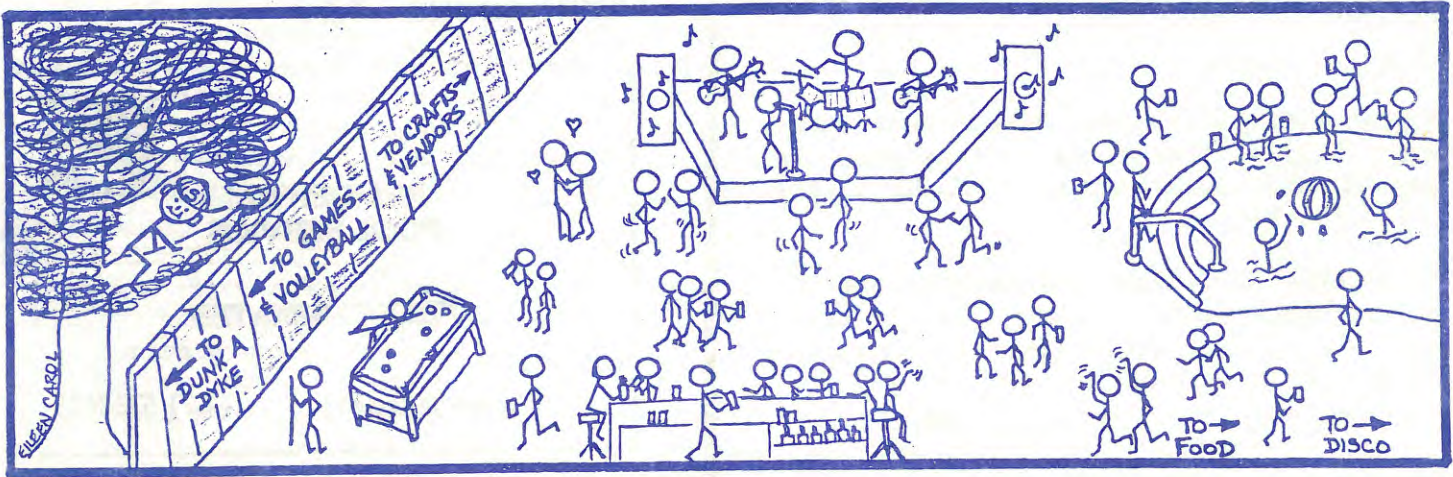
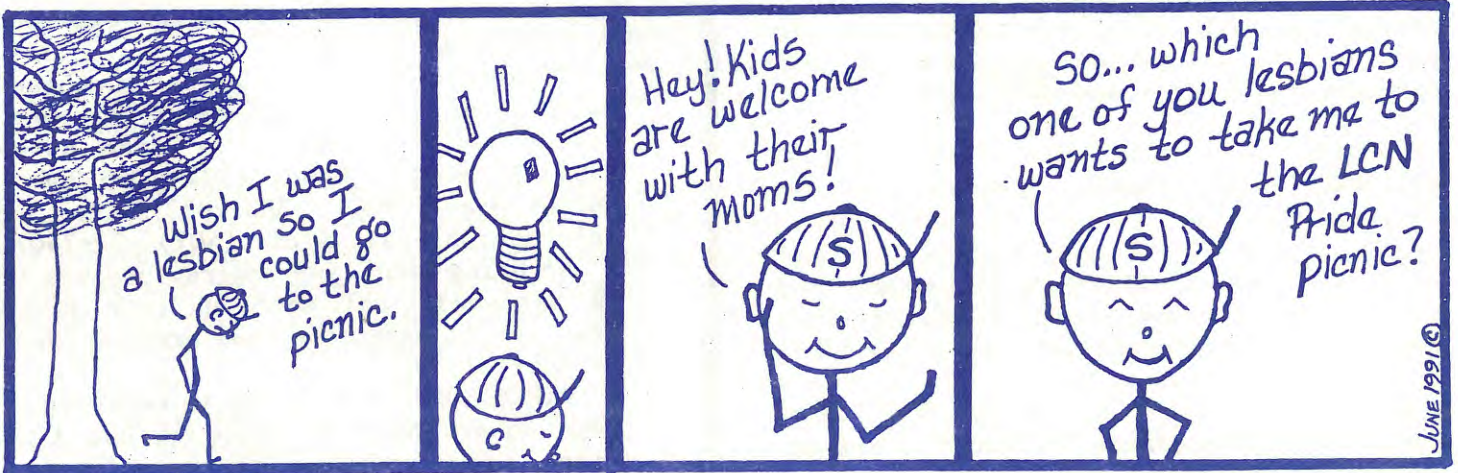


LCN News & Views

Volume 1, Issue 6

June, 1991



ENEDICTION

By Diane Salvatore

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HELP!!

Our mailing list has GROWN! We are now sending out over 1,200 newsletters on a monthly basis - and it ain't cheap. Even though Carol and Dottie at Pronto Pre donate a good portion of the cost of the printing, we still have to spend over \$250.00 to mail it, plus we have the cost of envelopes - and they ain't cheap either.

For a long time, we had a "Supporting Sisters" application in the LCN Express and it provided us with some additional monies to help defray the cost of the publication. Since January of this year, we haven't run the "Supporting Sisters" and our contributions have significantly dropped off. Our advertisement rates are incredibly cheap, so we really can't depend on the ads to consistently support the News & Views.

At the last Think Tank we decided to develop a subscription method which would help defray the costs associated with the publication. We don't want to have to decrease the size of the mailing list and if you would like to help us with our efforts, please complete the following and send it to us at P.O. Box 149512, Orlando, FL 32814-9512. Thanks for all your support.

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ONE TWISTED SISTER'S VIEWPOINT

Warning: Unless you have your humor channel tuned-in, don't read this article. The information contained in this article is simply the viewpoint of a twisted sister and is not representative of the views of LCN. The opinions contained in the following is not designed to offend or aggravate anyone.

Have you ever noticed how women seem to have this compelling NEED to talk about 'The Curse'? Maybe I am just too caustic and unforgiving, but it certainly seems to me that women do go on and on about PMS, cramps, clots, the itch and pluggers - giving VIVID and colorful descriptions or explanations about every last detail. Why is that?

Maybe my age is catching up to me. Maybe my tolerance level is even lower than normal. Maybe I just have no understanding of the NEED to discuss this function. Maybe it is a combination of all three.

I am convinced that at least the age factor is key to my tolerance level being low, which of course impacts on my understanding of anything. (I discovered that after venturing out to Key Largo on a Saturday night.) I thought for sure the legal age limit had been changed, and was absolutely positive of that after I wandered into the disco area and promptly had my ear drums blown out by the music (is that really music, or is it just my age showing?). But you know what? Even in the din created by the 'music', I actually overheard two youngsters discussing their cramps! See what I mean about NEED?

Are we destined to go dancing through history hearing stories about the clot that wouldn't flush? (That brings to mind stories of other bodily functions that couldn't be flushed, but that can wait.)

And let's talk about T. I suppose for some adolescent who doesn't have the benefit of a mother or a female friend, the commercials serve a good purpose, but please! Must we talk about hosing it out, medicating it and plugging it up? The Whipper-Snapper Generation is being influenced by television touting commercials that show mothers and daughters talking about what they can do when they don't feel "fresh". Is this something we really need to see during prime time viewing?

Why don't we ever see commercials about jock itch or that surgical procedure that helps them get it up and keep it up? Can't you just envision two rough and tumble-type men walking down the pier discussing the itch, or how well they're doing after the surgery? The closest we get to exploitation of men is when Boomer or one of the other jocks struts his stuff in his Fruit of the Looms. Doesn't seem fair, does it?

Let's start a campaign. Let's stop the exploitation of women on TV by stopping those hosing, plugging and medicating commercials. Let's take the time to write a letter to Summers Eve, Massengil, Tampax, Kotex, Monistat VII, and all the others and get them to confine their ads to some other medium. The next time you pig and perch to watch the idiot box, take the time to count the number of commercials that tell us about how fresh our kooders can be. (The other night, I counted three per hour between the hours of 8 and 11pm.!)

Think about it. If just one commercial could be removed, it would be one less example of our exploitation - wouldn't it? It didn't hurt R.J. Reynolds or Marlboro, did it?

Kelly

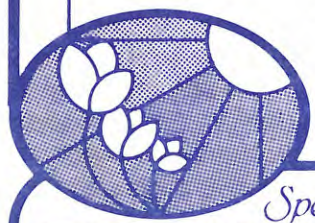
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ORLANDO PRIDE

FUNDRAISING PICNIC

Orlando's Pride is Showing! Orlando Pride Inc. is pleased to present a portion of the growing list of 1991 Pride Week activities. As the umbrella organization covering Pride Week, we will continue to provide the community with the most complete and updated information concerning any and all pride functions.

Beginning on the 22nd of June and running through the 30th, it's a week-plus of pride-packed fun, education, celebration and remembering. Events are as follows:

SATURDAY, June 22nd: The FIRST ORLANDO REGIONAL PRIDE PARADE through downtown Orlando.

SATURDAY, June 22nd: PRIDE PICNIC at Camp Heronwood on Red Bug Road. The Picnic will begin at 11 am. For ticket info: 425-4527.

SUNDAY, June 23rd: AIDS MEMORIAL SERVICE at Joy Metropolitan Community Church, 10:30 am. For info: 894-1081.

SUNDAY, June 23rd: GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE SERVICE at Joy Metropolitan Community Church, 7:15 pm.

MONDAY - SATURDAY, June 24th - June 29th: FILM FESTIVAL. The films will be shown at Joy MCC, 2351 Ferncreek at 7 pm. For ticket info: 236-9175.

THURSDAY, June 27th: AIDS MEMORIAL SERVICE at Lake Eola Bandshell. Service will begin at 7 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please call: 425-4527.

SINGLES:

LET'S DO IT AGAIN

The "singles" who attended the Moonlight Bowling at Bowl America in Winter Park had a sufficient amount of fun - enough fun to want to try it again. It doesn't matter if you can bowl - the alleys are dark so if you gutter one or two, who cares? If you're not into dieting, the burgers are good and the company will most assuredly be good - so come join us at 9:30pm on Saturday, June 15th. Wear a blue shirt and meet inside the building at the end closest to highways 17 & 92.

Volleyball, three-legged races, "dunk-a-dyke", fishing, boating, great food and great fun will be featured at the annual Willow's Fundraising Picnic, Sunday, June 23rd.

The fun starts at 11 a.m. and lasts til 6 p.m., at the Coca Cola Park in Leesburg. We'll have barbecue chicken and all the fixin's, as well as vegetarian fare. Lunch is from noon to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, and may be purchased at Hello Gorgeous Hairstylists on Fairbanks in Winter Park, 647-1002, or from Roseanne (904) 383-8148, Debra (904) 383-8545, or Cornucopia (904) 383-2883. For more information, call Alex, (407) 422-7607.

So bring your lawn chairs, coolers (beer is allowed), and warm up your pitching arm...we'll have some real premium dykes to be dunked!

DIRECTIONS: N on US 441 to Leesburg. Pass Lake Square Mall to route 44 Leg A. Turn Right. Cross route 44 (there will be a stop sign). Go over to Shady Acre Road. The park is located one half mile on the left-hand side. Look for signs!



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PRIDE PICNIC

Thanks to Sammy Stichmann, you already have most of the details for the picnic, but to further entice you to attend, consider the following: 1. You will have the pleasure of being in the midst of (hopefully) FOUR HUNDRED WOMEN! 2. You will have the pleasure of meeting new women. 3. You will be able to visit with old friends. 4. You will be able to indulge yourself with excellent food, spirits, entertainment and amusement. 5. You will be able to exercise your pitching arm and exhibit your skill by dunking a vast assortment of dykes. 6. You will be able to do all this in one day and that is always an accomplishment!

So, come join us at Key Largo on the 23rd of June. The gates will open at 11:00 a.m. and the fun will then begin.

GALLIAUFREY NATIONAL

Legislation that could be used to withhold federal funds from colleges barring Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs and military recruiting on campus has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The legislation, HR 1651, sponsored by Rep. Gerald B. Solomon (R-Glen Falls, NY), would deny funds to programs that do not allow the Secretary of Defense access to students on campuses or to certain student information for recruiting purposes. ROTC programs have been under attack by gay and lesbian students because of anti-gay discriminatory policy within the US military. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force fear the bill may undermine campus pressure on the Department of Defense to rescind the policy. Currently NGLTF is circulating petitions calling on President Bush to issue an executive order rescinding the DOD policy. For petitions, contact Tim Drake at NGLTF, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, DC, 20009; or (202) 332-6483.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Geared Up for 102nd Congress: NGLTF lobbyists will focus their effort on the federal gay rights act, AIDS bills, as well as other initiatives. In regard to AIDS bills, the lobbyists will focus on AIDS prevention, particularly programs that affect gay people of color, immigration for people with HIV, invasive procedures guidelines for health care workers, and lesbian health care. The lobbyists will increase co-sponsorship of the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill and build coalitions to pass the law this decade. Also, NGLTF is working with the FBI to implement data collection as mandated for the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, signed into law by President Bush last year. If you would like to aid NGLTF in their lobbying efforts, contact Peri Jude Radevic or Belinda Rochelle, NGLTF, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009; or (202) 332-6483.

Anti-Gay and Lesbian Violence Increases in Key US Cities: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force presented a national report in March revealing that a total of 1,588 incidents were reported in the six cities featured. The incidents, including harassment, intimidation, physical assault, vandalism, arson, police abuse and murder. The six cities surveyed were: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Minneapolis/St. Paul. NGLTF has launched a Campaign to Count and Counter Hate Crimes to urge organizations to document hate crimes, educate gays on resisting violence, and advocate for strong public response to the problem.

Cracker Barrel Restaurants, a major chain of family-style eateries, has fired gay employees after announcing a corporate policy to ban workers "whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values." In response, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, Queer National/Atlanta and the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance have established a mailgram hotline to protest the policy and have launched demonstrations and other actions against the company. Gays, lesbians and their supporters are urged to call 1-800-325-6000, Hotline ID#9823, to send a prepared message to Dan Evins, president of Cracker Barrel Company. The cost of the Western Union message is \$7, charged to the caller's telephone bill. Mastercard, Visa and American Express are also accepted. The hotline is open around the clock.

Artists Wanted to exhibit in an Artists' Market in Atlanta's Piedmont Park scheduled to coincide with the 2-day 1991 Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival. The market will be open from 10 am until 9 pm on Saturday, June 22nd and from 1:30 pm until 9 pm on Sunday, June 23rd. Artisans interested in exhibiting in the market should call (404) 662-4533. Booths are priced at \$30 a day or \$50 for both days. A limited number of tents are also available for \$20 each day.

LOCALLY: A BENEFIT FOR KATHY MULHEIRN

A Benefit Yard Sale will take place on June 22nd & June 23rd from 10am - 5pm on the corner of Summerlin and Harwood. The proceeds from this sale will go to help defray the costs of the on-going chemotherapy and medications. Kathy and her partner, Margaret Davis have long been supporters of LCN, The Center, GLCS and many other gay and lesbian organizations. As owners of Unique Homes & Investments, they have shown their support of the community by advertising and by donating their time and talents in numerous ways. Now it is our turn to be supportive of Kathy and Margaret. If you have an item to donate, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please call Sandy at 898-2812. Small articles for the sale may be dropped off at either: Wood Originals, 2000 Alden Road or Pronto Press, 742 N. Mills.

GATHERING FOR FREEDOM

The National Lesbian Conference held in Atlanta last month proved to be a great success. The conference brought together lesbians from all over the country, for the first time in our nation's history, to organize a continuing fight for the rights of gay Americans in hopes that one day we will not be considered criminals in the eyes of the law, and have the same freedom heterosexuals have.

The convention got a good deal of attention from the press, but unfortunately, it frequently focused on, and misconstrued certain aspects of our culture instead of political issues. The press mentioned the wing of the Radisson that was reserved for those women with "hairy legs and armpits". My father smugly asked me if these women were from France. The press described these lesbian separatists as "man-haters".

The convention engineers purposely made sure that all women of our sub-culture were represented. They set up a rule where no one could speak to the press without representation from a certain percentage of lesbians from additional minority groups; lesbians with handicaps, caucasian lesbians, etc. My question was - who will speak first? Was it supposed to be the black lesbian, the lesbian with a handicap or the caucasian lesbian? The press, of course, had fun with these quorums as opposed to focusing on the attempt to represent all lesbians equally.

I like the idea of attempting to show the world that lesbains come in all shapes, sizes and colors. I think many mainstream heterosexuals have very narrow ideas about our lifestyle. Some believe all lesbains are like the "Dykes on Bikes" that annually open up our National Gay Pride Parade. I've always wondered why we did not open up our parade with a group of gay doctors, lawyers, professors and other professionals within our vast community. At the same time we are working to gain equal representation for our diverse gay popuylation, we are throwing our more extreme stereotypical members of our subculture into the limelight.

I believe the only way we can overcome negative social stigmas about lesbians is to let society see the women who are just like heterosexual women - the difference being that these women choose women as their sexual partners. The majority of us fit into this category. Most lesbians work, pay taxes and are respectable law-abiding-citizens (with the exception of being a lesbian). The negative connotation that all gay women are hairy-arm pitted, men-hating dykes on bikes

certainly keeps us from gaining any conservative votes. Even gay men could question supporting lesbian-separatists when they openly oppress men.

If we are to spend the necessary time and energy to form conventions and committees to fight for our rights as gay American citizens, perhaps we should spend some more time looking at how we attempt to get our votes from the public, and how we advertise our "gayness". I stand for personal freedom and the right of an individuals to be any way they want to be. But, let's face it. Society's contingencies are a hell of a lot more stringent.

It has taken quite a while for blacks, jews and women (any one other than a white, anglo-saxon male) to gain political power in our country and there are many individuals in each of these categories who would not vote for gay rights. We need to put people in the limelight who can gain acceptance from the public and move our cause forward - perhaps then the press will pay more attention to our political issues instead of individual idiosyncrasies.

Lauri Carlson

NLC UPDATE FROM ATLANTA

I've been listening to talk radio the last couple days and listening, as well, to co-workers who've chanced to ogle a gaggle of 'beans' in town for the conference. I'd estimate, not that it matters, that about 89% of the metro-ites are perfectly accepting and supportive of the conference and the attendees and at least tolerant of the lifestyle. I don't expect it would change anything if the attitude was adamantly anti, but I was pleasantly surprised that, aside from the red-necks who spend most of their time on the farm and not in the city, this area appears to be admirably open-minded and liberal. For the record, the only "negative" I've heard discussed concerned the politics of the conference. The media thinks it's a little overboard that an attendee apparently can't speak to the press but rather must form a coalition, if you will, consisting of a certain percentage of women of color/women with handicaps/women over a certain age, to handle any type of interview. Other than that, and the expected good ole boy comments concerning "she just ain't had a real man yet, Billy Bob," the comments have not been overtly sarcastic or negative at all. Just thought I'd pass that along.

Lynn Vining

Dancing leaves come to rest
on glistening, sun speckled water
and turtles on R&R from searching
for food, bask in the sunlight
another day.

Silently I breathe in the
beauty about me. It must sustain
me until the next time I run
away.

As I lay the oars gently into
the water, I watch the ripples
swirl and circle and while I
daydream, an emerald colored
dragonfly lights on my shoe.

Careful footsteps break the
silence and on the bank curious
doe eyes look back at me as if
to say, "Oh, it's only you!"

Somewhere in the forest an
owl laughs out loud at who knows
what and so do I.

An indignant egret takes
flight in protest of my intrusion
and an ancient cypress tree seems
to breathe a tolerant sigh.

When the river makes a turn
I have no choice but to be drawn
around the bend.

Maybe if I stop here and play
in the cool sparkling water for
while I can pretend this day
will never end.

All too soon I must return
to the demands of a reeling
society but for now I'll keep
these mind pictures in my heart
to soothe me.

Looking back over my shoulder
I see the water and grasses
undisturbed as if I'd never been
there and I smile, for that's
the way it should be.

BJD

ANNOUNCING:

Readings of original poetry
on love, relationships,
spirituality and healing
by
Penny Jo Chessman

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On April 12, 1991 it was announced in the Orlando Sentinel that the Central Florida chapter of GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) was awarded a stretch of Colonial Drive in the state-run Adopt-A-Highway program. GLPCI hopes that this program gives the group some visibility and recognition as caring citizens. According to the contract signed by GLPCI, the group has pledged to pick up roadside litter at least four times a year on the stretch of Highway 50 between Orange Blossom Trail and Palm Drive.

The LATCH (Lesbians and Their Children) gathering for May coincided with GLPCI's first clean-up day. Members of LATCH and other interested persons met at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Saturday May 11, 1991. Trash bags and safety vests were provided as well as care for children under age 12. After the work was done the participants intended to picnic at Lake Eola Park.

LATCH is open to all lesbians (single and couples) with children and emphasizes family activities. Call Chris (281-7956) or Diane (293-7964) for details.

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your heart beats with a cautious murmur
as an estuary--
accepting the tides flow....
you long to outreach yet
further
but the vagueness that
cannot be embodied like
all else you are able to picture
keeps your mind meandering....
while your sensitivity flutters
your eyes gently echo mine
with a certain language of soundlessness,
and it is then that i become aware
for the emotions you wish to eclipse
orchestrate from two azul moons....
i grasp the tiny sparkles they send
because it is enough for me
star shine

CONGRATULATIONS!

The staff of the News & Views would like to congratulate Diane on her prize-winning short story about an embarrassing first date. Diane received a \$10.00 gift certificate to Pizzeria Uno for her efforts.

AN EMBARRASSING FIRST DATE

This wasn't funny at the time. I tried to cover up how embarrassed I felt. It was a long time ago so now I can laugh about the fact that on my first date with a certain person, she brought a date.

We were introduced by a mutual acquaintance (the president of the local NOW chapter - let's lay the blame where it belongs). We chatted for a long time that evening and then she invited me to meet her the next Saturday at the Cactus (I told you it was a long time ago). Now I took that to be a date, but when I arrived there was my date - with a date. I tried to act cool, but I blushed bright red and my date knew instantly that there had been a misunderstanding. I joined the crowd at her table and she spent the entire time sitting on her date's lap talking with me. I couldn't wait for the evening to end so I could get out of there. She called the next day to apologize, but I didn't get over feeling embarrassed for a long time.

By the way, it worked out okay - we spent the next fourteen years together.

Diane



HUMOR-US

This month's situation is: "I knew I was in trouble when I heard the sirens and saw the blue lights behind me...." Remember, your "story" must be 250 words, or less. The submission date will be no later than the 20th of July.

Don't forget, you'll receive a \$10.00 gift certificate if your story is judged the best. Special note: If you are an out-of-town reader, don't let the distance stop you, the gift certificate is good for anywhere in the U.S.

If you want your story returned, please enclose a S.A.S.E.

Until now I have never before felt compelled to voice my opinion due to any articles and/or letters to the editor. I do in this case feel I may have some beneficial thoughts concerning the letter to the editor in the May issue and the "Attitude Sisters" article.

As of yet, I have not had the opportunity to peruse the "Attitude Sisters" article. However, after reading the letter to the editor a few thoughts (resulting from the learning and growing process I have chosen to practice) have come to mind.

When we expect other people to be who we want them to be and are not accepting them for who they are we feel anger, bitterness, jealousy, vengeful, etc. The person we are judging isn't the one feeling these things (as much as we would like them to) - we are!

Wouldn't it be nice if we were all a little more kind to ourselves? Wouldn't it be nice to lay aside all of these prejudices we learned growing up? And, thereby, release all of that anger and fear.

"...acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation - some fact of my life - unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment." "Shakespeare said, 'All the world's a stage, all the men and women merely players.' He forgot to mention I was the chief critic. I was always able to see the flaw in every person, every situation. And I was always glad to point it out, because I knew you wanted perfection, just as I did."

These are tough ideas to incorporate into one's life, but words worth considering. I would like to suggest that instead of focusing on traits in others we find unacceptable to us, we concentrate on persons who have favorable attitudes and actions. Ask them how they live and what their morals are, and do as they do. Soon we will notice that our feelings of anger, bitterness, resentment, jealousy and so on will be pushed out for feelings and actions of love and tolerance. We must transmit these to receive them.

I have found that this is not an easy task and that it does require action on my part; but, action well worth taking because the reward is true serenity, hope, and trust.

*Quote taken from Alcoholics Anonymous text book.

Name Withheld by Request

NEW & VIEWS
Publication Information

LCN News & Views is a monthly publication for and by the lesbian community of Orlando and the Central Florida area. We invite readers to submit articles, items of interest and announcements about women's groups and organizations. We welcome poems, political articles, social concerns, short short stories, community questions and notices for the calendar of events. These items are printed free of charge. Some of the views expressed in the News & Views are not necessarily those of LCN, the newsletter or its editors. The newsletter reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity, conciseness and length. Editorial length will be limited to 250 words and a phone number must accompany any editorial. Anonymity is acceptable, but a phone number is mandatory. Articles should be submitted in either a typed or neatly written, double-spaced format.

NEWS & VIEWS STAFF

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

Ad Rates:

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THANKS

Barb, Carol, Cathy, Christine, Dottie, Jayne, Karen, Laurel, Liz, Lucy, Maddo, Melissa, Pam, Rachel, Rita and Suzanne. Thanks for helping at The Folding Party.

CLASSIFIEDS

Roommate Wanted: To share 2BR duplex in Colonialtown. \$200 + 1/2 util. Pets negotiable. Call 897-1109.

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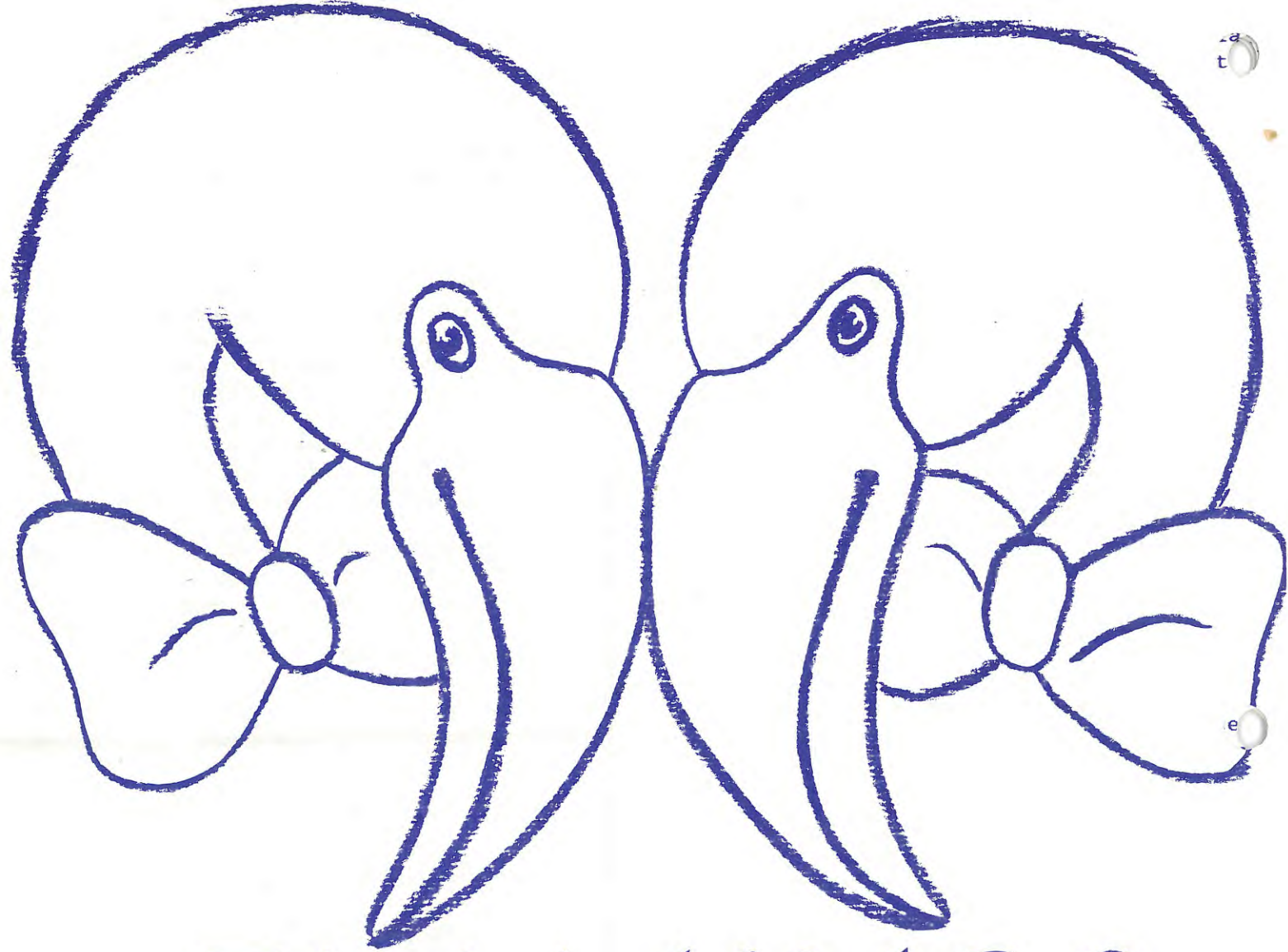
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CONTACTS

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Breaking The Silence MCC (Cocoa)	254-5884
CENTAUR AIDS-Related Services	849-1452
Gay & Lesbian Community Services	THE-GAYS
Hope & Help AIDS-Related Services	628-8542
Joy MCC (Orlando)	894-1081
LCN & News & Views Information	894-9191
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