

## Express

# Invisible Lesbian NOT invisible to AIDS

### SISTER-FIRSTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Two Chinese lesbians have been allowed to live together as a couple over the objections of their parents after police failed to find a legal reason to stop them. In what may be a precedent-setting case in China, it was reported that the issue had been argued up to the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing but that no legal basis had been found to prevent the relationship. (From Lesbian Connection and VIRAGO)

**First Gay Newspaper Column --** In May The Detroit News became the first major metropolitan daily to include a weekly column "looking at life from a gay perspective." The column is written by Deb Price, the news editor of the paper's Washington bureau. In its debut on May 8, Deb discussed her dilemma over what term to use for her "partner," Joyce Murdoch. (From Lesbian Connection and VIRAGO)

**Small Strides -- The Florida** Board of Governor's recently decided to endorse a change to the rules governing attorneys who practice law in the state of Florida. The anti-discrimination rule as proposed and adopted will now read: "A lawyer shall not engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, including to knowingly, or through callous indifference, disparage, humiliate, or discriminate against litigants, jurors, witnesses, court personnel, or other lawyers on account of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or age." Any member found to have violated the rule may earn a disciplinary sanction. The petition for acceptance of the rule change now goes to the Florida Supreme Court for approval.

◆The first case of female-to-female HIV transmission was recorded in 1984. ◆ It is now 1992 and female-to-female HIV transmission remains virtually overlooked and/or ignored. Lesbians still think they are not at risk.

Disease prevention depends upon two things: first, you have to understand how a disease is transmitted, and second, you must learn how to stop its transmission.

**The Gay Man's Disease -** Over the past few years we have seen an explosion in AIDS coverage and prevention. While medical research, behavioral studies and media attention have been important in fighting this disease, it is sad that this progress has taken place only in recent years. It is also important to note that this attention is directed exclusively at male homosexuals and, more recently, heterosexuals.

In the beginning AIDS was seen as a "Gay Man's Disease;" the medical community and society as a whole seemed content to sit back, ignore, and or condemn persons with AIDS.

At that time, heterosexuals were thought to be "low risk". There was little concern about heterosexual transmission and even less about educating the "straight" community. As a result, heterosexual transmission of HIV is now climbing to epidemic proportions.

**A Lesson Poorly Learned -** You would think that as a society we would learn from such tragic mistakes. Evidently, we have not. Eight full years have passed since the first reported case of female-to-female HIV

transmission and gay women still have no information about the risk (or prevention) of HIV/AIDS as it relates to their lifestyles.

One spokesperson for the Centers for Disease Control trivialized the lack of information available to gay women about HIV/AIDS by claiming lesbians "don't have much sex."

Lesbians have been misguided and misinformed into believing that they are a low risk because they are lesbians. It is what we do, not who we are, that puts us at risk.

**Lesbians at Risk -** A lesbian becomes HIV-infected the way any woman can, for example: ◆ some lesbians engage in oral sex, vaginal, and or anal intercourse with men by choice, force, or necessity, ◆ some use drugs and share needles, ◆ some have received blood transfusions, ◆ some are artificially inseminated, ◆ some exchange blood and vaginal secretions during oral or manual sexual contact with women,\* ◆ some lesbians share dildos and other sex toys,\* ◆ some lesbians who have engaged in none of these activities do have multiple sexual partners and are at risk even if only one to those partners have engaged in one or more of the above activities.

\*HIV is in menstrual blood as well as other blood: it is also found in the vaginal fluid and breast milk of infected women.

*Reprinted from: The Equity League, Lesbian AIDS Project.*

# She Speaks Out

by *Patty Sheehan*

They could be the four most feared words in the lesbian language ... "I'm going to move." And they are always followed by "would you help?" This happens a lot in the community. Moving, that is. And when I multiply the number of friends by the number of lovers and ex-lovers by the number of moves it takes to get them together and apart, I have a lot of moving experience. Come to think of it, now I know why I drove a pickup for so many years. And why I got rid of it.

The last move I helped with was a happy move. Happy moves are the type that involve moving in together when a couple are in love, and every other word is sweetheart, baby, or honey.

We were supposed to start early Saturday morning. Everyone was fashionably late, of course, so we began around eleven. Another couple and myself showed up. We started loading up the truck and a trailer. I grabbed one stereo speaker, and someone yelled, "Hey, they come in pairs." I set it down and explained that being single, I could not relate to the pair concept at present, that I was seriously into mono. To which someone retorted, "Fine, there's a single chair in the living room."

When it came time to move the really heavy stuff, the butches snapped

their ace bandages, and complained of old softball injuries and car accidents. With that, the femmy types adjusted their hairbands, and heaved the sofa out the front door. So much for roles. Of course, the butchy types ran around nervously supervising and asked if they could handle it. At one point, a chair leg came dangerously close to a crystal vase. One of the butches let out a shriek and grabbed it before it broke. We were now past role playing into role reversal.

The heaviest item, a 250 pound recliner, was the only item to go upstairs once we reached our destination. Again, our heroes of the nail polish set did the heavy lifting. But half way up the flight of stairs they needed help. There was no way around, so I straddled the banister and eased myself up. This elicited rude comments from the softball and car wreck queens, who were quelled when I asked them to try and do the same. I guess it might have aggravated their injuries.

All went well, and we left the love birds happily making goo-goo eyes at one another over a box of old records. As the three of us walked back to the cars, we called one another honey and sweetie and laughed about our lovebird friends. But was it because we were annoyed, or just envious? I'd bet my backache on the latter.

## Other Publications

### WOMEN EXPRESS, INC.

Allow me to introduce you to Teen Voices magazine, published by Women Express, Inc. This innovative and creative periodical is designed to help address the needs of teenage women, particularly those in high risk populations. The letters, articles, fiction and poems are written by and for teens. I think you will agree that the energy and passion exhibited in these voices deserve attention. Teen Voices is a nationally distributed 16-page color tabloid with a 15,000 circulation. Teen submissions are eagerly accepted with adult and teen internships available. Send \$2.00 for a sample copy to: Women Express, Inc., P.O. Box 6009 JFK, Boston, MA 02114 (617) 227-4557.

### ON OUR BACKS

Although lesbian battering has recently begun to receive attention from the media, and a great deal has been written about battering among heterosexuals, no one, to our knowledge, has addressed the links between battering and sexuality. The dark heart of violence and sexuality isn't an easy territory to enter, but repressed, unexpressed sexual feelings are often the subconscious force that fuels a battering relationship.

In the July/August issue of *On Our Backs*, the premiere lesbian sex magazine, author Wickie Stamps dares to address this very controversial topic. "Lesbians in battering relationships," writes Stamps, "have seldom spoken about what it is like to touch, be touched by, kiss, caress, and have sex with their abusive lovers."

"Betrayal of Passion" is a groundbreaking article that finally gives readers that opportunity. Wickie Stamps is available to speak on the topic of lesbian battering. To schedule an interview, or for further information, call (415) 861-4723. *On Our Backs* is \$34.95/6 issues per year. To order, call 1-800-845-4617.

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Delta Youth Alliance	425-4527
GLCS Hotline & Info Line	THE-GAYS
GLADD	236-9499
GLPCI (Parents' Group)	420-2191
Gay & Lesbian Center	425-4527
Joy MCC (Orlando)	894-1081
<b>LCN Express Information</b>	<b>648-4154</b>
Orlando PRIDE	236-9480
PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays)	236-9177
Rape Crisis Center	648-3028
Runaway Switchboard	1 (800) 621-4000
Spouse Abuse Hotline	886-2856
WILLOW (Women in Lake County)	(904) 383-2883
WIT (Women in Brevard County)	1-727-1336
Women's Health Center	896-2022
Women's Resource Center	898-1599

## Aids Resources:

AIDS Hotline/English	1(800)FLA-AIDS
AIDS Hotline/Haitian/Creole	1(800)AIDS 101
AIDS Hotline/Spanish	1(800)545-SIDA
AIDS Resource Alliance	425-2233
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## LCN Express

### Publication Information

LCN Express is a monthly publication for and by the Central Florida Lesbian community. We invite readers to submit articles, letters, announcements, poems, short stories, and other items of interest.

**Deadline for articles & ads: 15th of each month**

**Length: 300 words**

**By-Line: Anonymity guaranteed if desired (please specify) but telephone number required**

Editorial policy is as follows: The views expressed in the LCN Express are not necessarily those of the LCN or the newsletter editors. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity, conciseness and length. It is strongly recommended that caution be exercised to address an opinion, not to assault the author of an article, letter (or anyone else for that matter). *Thanks!*

*The LCN Express Editorial Staff:*

*Barb Fallon, Cathy McElhiney, Rita Krossber, Sue York, Stacey St. James, Madeliene Abling, Patty Sheehan, Becky Acuna, & Rachel Gardiner.*

### ADVERTISEMENT SIZES AND RATES

Ad Type	Dimensions	Price
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Small Banner	3½" tall x 7½" wide	\$30
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<u>1 Column Ads</u>		
Single Medium	5¼" tall x 2¼" wide	\$15
Business Card	2" tall x 3½" wide	\$5
(or vertical)	3½" tall x 2" wide	\$5
<u>Classified Ads</u>	Maximum 35 words	\$2

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

### Subscriptions

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

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**P.S. Don't forget, Key Largo's last night will be September 7th, 1992.**

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**Boat for Sale, 12ft Sears Game fisher** with 9.9 Suzuki motor and tank with less than 20 hours of use. Console aluminum boat and trailer. \$1600.00. Call Nancy at 679-4097.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear LCN,

As I wrote you last month about my girlfriend, Debbie, it seems she was as sad with our distance as I was. My "small town gyrl" has returned to me. It seems that the relationship with me takes precedence over the love of her hometown. (Yes!!!) My heart feels whole again and sharing my life with her is truly the most important task I expect to joyfully fulfill... I only wish all the people in the world are as lucky as I am to have a such wonderful partner.

*Signed, Hope*

P.S. I'll keep you posted with each step of shared accomplishments. Thanks for letting me be a part of you.



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**Attention Lesbians:** Are you now, or have you ever been, in a relationship with a woman 15 years or more younger or older than yourself? Personal narratives and photographs sought for anthology on intergenerational relationships between lesbians. Send us submissions by 12/30/92 and SASE for guidelines to Pat Rutherford/Stacy Seatta, 3060 Porter Street #31, Soquel, CA 95073.

## LCN Express Production Schedule

Call Barb, 648-4154, for more info

**Sept 15:** Production Meeting

**Sept 15-17:** Type articles

**Sept 28:** Need Good Dependable Dyke to pick up the newsletter at Pronto Press once a month and drop it at FACES.

**Sept 28:** 7:00pm Folding Party at FACES! Topic for discussion: Are we over being PC every waking moment yet?

## MAILING LIST COORDINATOR NEEDED

If you have 5-7 extra hours a MONTH, wanna have fun with a great staff, are RESPONSIBLE, would you like to get involved with LCN--our organization is looking for someone to edit, print, and sort the monthly mailing LABELS for the newsletter. Computer knowledge very helpful. Cathy is going back to school full time in January and would like to train someone over the next few months. If interested, please call Cathy, 291-3791 after 5:00 pm.



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# Local Events and Projects

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Let it be told that the LCN is calling a general meeting in September. All interested parties should draw near! We the Editorial staff have a few items we would like to discuss with those who care about the future of LCN. This is not a crisis! It's a meeting! We simply have some decisions that need to be made. We welcome your attendance and your input on Wednesday Sept. 9th, 7:30pm at the GLCS Center. This meeting is open to all womyn with or without an opinion to share. Call Barb at 648-4154 if you need more info.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEART

Happy Anniversary to  
Cherie and Cheryl!  
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least 7 more!

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**THE FLORIDA KEYS  
& KEY WEST**

**LCN General Meeting**, Wednesday, Sept. 9th at 7:30pm. Decisions on budget, concert schedule, and computer upgrade etc. Call Barb for more info. 648-4154.

**WIT - September Gathering**, Saturday Sept. 19, 1992, 5:00pm at Marilyn and Angie's, 5505 Citrus Blvd., Call 631-5011 for directions and info.

**Lucky Ladies bowling league** will resume on Thursday, September 10, 1992 at 6:15 p.m. (league meeting at 6:15 and then bowling). Several changes should be noted. The new site for the league is at FAIR LANES INDIAN HILLS which is located off HWY 436 in Fern Park. Indian Hills is a very nice facility with automatic scoring, snack bar, alcohol bar, pool tables and dart machines, as well as all the other amenities.

The officers of Lucky Ladies have voted to have a mixed league. The only thing this means in terms of teams is that there is one member of the opposite sex in the league. Teams do not have to be mixed, any combination of sexes is acceptable.

Lucky Ladies (the name might change) is a handicapped league with the stated objective of being a "fun" league. Handicapping evens out the averages and allows for equal competition between all bowlers. We will again be bowling a split season with the first half ending in January. For information call 293-8849.

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**Gay-Rage Sale at the Center**, Saturday, Sept. 12th 9-5 p.m. Donations accepted until the 11th just in time for the Big Sale! So it's time to clean out your closets to make room for everything else you'll bring home on the 12th.

**Brevard Old Lesbians 60 & Over Pot Luck Meeting**, Sat. Aug. 29th, 290 Paradise Blvd. #79, Indialantic, Call 779-4874

**March on Washington** local organizing meeting for fundraising, transportation arrangements etc. on Sept 21 at 7:00pm Call Barb, 648-4154 for location and info. Open to Womyn and Men.

**Gay & Lesbian Community Services (GLCS): Womyn of GLCS** meet every Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Signing Classes open to everyone. Call 425-4527 for times and dates. Support and Social Group for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual community. Meets 3rd Friday each month at 7:30. Delta Youth Alliance Rap Group: Every Monday 6 p.m.

**WIT - Women's Beach Weekend** on October 16-18, 1992 (tentative) on South Brevard Beach; Cost is varied. Tickets will be offered Two night pass (there will be overnight accommodations in a motel) for a limited number of women. Get your reservations in early if you plan to stay overnight. Tickets can be purchased beginning September 15. For more info call WIT or write P.O. Box 500670, Malabar, FL 32950.

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# More Openly Gay Women Are Starting Own Business

## LESBIAN ORIENTED CONCERNS ARE TARGETING AN INCREASINGLY VISIBLE MARKET.

By Barbara Marsh

When Lesley Kushner and Deborah Crossberg started their San Francisco clothing business in December, they decided on one unconventional offering - a line of T-shirts emblazoned with lesbian slogans.

"We're tired of being invisible," says Ms. Kushner, a co-owner of Bilcat Co. The T-shirts are catching on. One local retailer alone, Petyr Kane, says he has been selling about two dozen a day to local women and tourists.

These days, many openly lesbian women, such as the two San Franciscans, are rushing to start their own businesses. With a broad array of products and services, they are targeting an increasingly visible market of women like themselves. As in the general market, men have long dominated the gay business community. But women are narrowing the gap.

In Chicago, businesses owned by openly gay women have quintupled to more than 500 in the last five years, says Tracy Baim, who published a guide to local lesbian-owned and gay-owned businesses. The enterprises represent a wide range of businesses, including electronics stores, jewelers, florists, general retailers, printers, T-shirt shops, interior designers, event planners and hair salons.

Lesbian Connection, an 18-year-old national magazine favored by older women, credits new lesbian-owned businesses for much of its 52% growth

in advertising in the past five years. The magazine's publisher, a collective in East Lansing, Mich., called Ambitious Amazons, reports that listings for bed and breakfasts and guesthouses - its fastest-growing classified advertising category - more than tripled to 72. Display ads for travel cruises and safaris - a category that didn't exist in the magazine five years ago - are plentiful, too.

Judy Dlugacz, owner of Olivia Records, Inc., an Oakland, Calif., producer of women's music, started chartering cruises three years ago. She says her company's revenue has grown to \$4 million annually. A growing array of lesbian publications enables her to advertise widely, she adds. To attract customers she offers videos showing ships packed with women - mostly middle-aged - enjoying past cruises.

Gay Women Organize Other entrepreneurs also say the lesbian market has become more identifiable and accessible as gay women have formed social, political and business networks, as well as independent publications, in towns across the nation. In San Francisco, for instance, an organization of lesbian professionals and business owners, called Bay Area Career Women, has tripled in membership to 1,500 in nine years. Its newsletter gives advertisers access to the market. Maureen O'Leary, the group's president, says, "Membership

in this organization is growing, so the access to advertising is growing."

In addition, a younger generation of lesbians feel less guarded about their sexuality than their predecessors. "I've never felt bad being a lesbian," says Ms. Bain, the publisher, who is 29. "I know that people 10 to 20 years older than me had to go through a lot before they could come to that point."

Deborah Justice, a young artist in Denver, adds: "A lot of women who work in corporations and the business sector are coming out and feeling freer" about owning lesbian-oriented art. She says she and her companion, also an artist, sell many of their works at women's music festivals.

Many of the new entrepreneurs are middle-aged women who have struck out on their own after leaving failed marriages. Others, including younger women, have bolted from careers stunted by discrimination, which affects many lesbians. In a recent survey of 7,500 lesbians and gay men, 11% of the women and 8% of men say they were denied promotions, harassed or fired in the prior six months, says Jeffrey Vitale, owner of Overlooked Opinions Inc., a Chicago firm which did the survey. Now, these disaffected women find they can make a buck, serving their own.

from "The Wall Street Journal" July 1st, 1992

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# Theatre without a Home...

by Barb Fallon

Act Out, Orlando's only Lesbian and Gay theater company is homeless. Unfortunately, it is being forced to move from its lovely but homophobic, just off Park Ave. location. All very legit mind you, and I'm sure the city officials had what they thought were our best interest at heart. But reality is that Act Out couldn't come up with the steep ransom for upgrades and renovations in order to pass inspection. As a result, Act Out is in search for a new home. (again) Timing is critical since they are already in rehearsal for two lesbian plays. Actual rehearsals are being held in a dining room.

As a community, this is one of the many projects I would like to see us foster and nurture to its maturity. Orlando is a wonderful place to live and it is companies and organizations like Act Out that put us on the Lesbian and Gay map.

Don't despair though, Lewis assures me that the play will go on. Act Out announced the September production of Terry Baum's ONE FOOL and IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

Each one act in this double bill deals with lesbian themes. The first act, One Fool, is a marvelous comedy aimed directly at the lesbian experience. A one - character tour de force, One Fool sends its title character on a quest for true love which ultimately takes her to Europe and into the arms of an Amsterdam woman. It is pure Baum comedy styling, raucous and sharp-edged with a broad, vaudeville flair. Act two, Immediate Family, brings a sobering look at the relationship of two women who've been together for 27 years. Virginia is visiting Rose in the hospital. The hospital staff will not let Virginia visit "after hours", this privilege is reserved for "Immediate Family". Immediate Family is another one-character, one-act; Rose is not represented on stage. It's a compelling drama, telling its heart-breaking story simply and without apology. One Fool features Catherine Goodison as the Fool; Immediate Family features Debbie Dean as Virginia.

The only catch is...where? Call 677-5407 for location and dates.

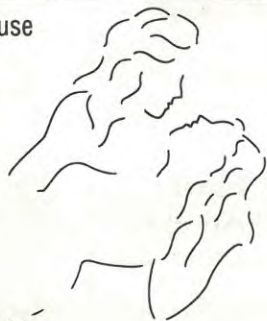
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# The Parent Perspective

by Diane P. Kerkhoff

July's GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) social/support meeting was particularly fun for me. The hosts generously provided pizza and soda and there was a lot of fun conversation about the recent international convention. We had over thirty adults and too many children to count (they weren't still long enough). I took a friend and her two-and-a-half week old baby (yes, ladies, single lesbians can have babies if they want to!) I basked in the reflected glory of coming in with a little baby, and we passed her around to whoever wanted a turn holding her. We should have brought a sign-up list and a timer. During the meeting, it was so neat how

we would be in the middle of some serious topic, the baby would make a noise, and all focus was lost. Everyone's face would soften, they would all look toward the baby, and whoever was talking would just give up. I loved it! (Of course, some people have accused me of being a little weird.) We have a social/support meeting on the third Saturday of every month at the home of one of the members. As a matter of fact, the September meeting is at my house. I'd like to see some new faces (well, actually, I'm partial to another part of the anatomy, but you know what I mean). If you've been meaning to come to a meeting, this is the time - no muss, no fuss, no pretense, no nonsense.

Well, I'll straighten up the house and maybe mow the grass, but that's all. And now a comment on the article by Nan Schultz last month: I also am a highly-educated, city-bred, born-again cowgirl. I've been at the Phoenix once or twice a week all summer dancing, laughing, and arguing (all three at the same time) with my dear friend (let's call her MDF). But summer's over and I'd hate to let the two-step drift away from me the way clogging and square dancing drifted away a few years back while I searched in vain for a babysitter and the money to pay her. This cowgirl would still like a few Saturday nights free. If anyone else is interested in some co-op babysitting, leave a message on our hot line (420-2191). By the way, MDF promises that we argue only with each other, so go ahead and ask her to dance.

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<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Bible Study (TBA)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:15am</b>	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Discussion Group.</b>

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## Book Review

### THE REVOLUTION OF LITTLE GIRLS

by Dee

Do you like books that you read with a little smile on your lips? Do you like books in which the young heroine wants to be "Tarzan" when they play Tarzan and Jane? All the way through this story I asked myself, "Is this fiction or autobiography?" You don't think "This woman has imagination", you think, "This woman writes 'REAL.'"

"The Revolution of Little Girls" was published last year by Al A. Knopf. The photo of the author, Blanche McCrary Boyd, college teacher, on the back cover, presents her "as is" butch haircut, no makeup, and cowboy boots.

With a spare and vivid voice, Ellen conveys the endearing sense of a sturdy, brave and true female's growing-up journey thru tomboy days, marriage, radical years, drugs and programs years, and the fight for her sanity.

The Revolution appears to be in publishing.

# The New Age Is On Our Doorstep

by Janet Wampler

I would like to be in contact with Lesbians familiar with the coming earth changes, and/or the channeled Jean Foster books, and/or the book "Mary's Message to the World" by Anne Kirkwood. This is super information. The new age is on our doorstep. The earth is preparing itself for a growth in consciousness. In the next five to eight years much of life on earth will be chaotic. There will be many earthquakes, violent weather patterns, volcanos, and such. It will culminate as the earth turns on her axis and changes positions in the universe. There is nothing to fear because it is a change for the better. Between now and then it is important for us to return to our spiritual values. Include in your daily routine, prayer, meditation, pure food, and positive thought. As a living and feeling entity whose spirit is propelled by the Goddess, the earth has to rid itself of the parasites and the lies. I am

a Goddess loving spiritualist who wants to live by the laws of nature. I say it is time for Matriarchy! Ask yourself what you don't like about the present system, then supplant those dislikes with positive Truth. This is the time for Lesbians to team up with the power of the Goddess and know that She is your Partner. She wants what is right for you and for the earth. We must set in motion the Tender Truths of Matriarchy. Have no doubt in Her Power and Her strength is alive within you. This is the time to keep unity in our community. Lesbians have always been one step ahead and this is a time for leaders. Trust your Higher Selves and team up with Her love, Her Greatness, and Her Abundance. We can do it! Team Up!

For more information or just to connect about all this, contact me, Janet A. Wampler, P.O. Box 22798, Melbourne, FL 32902.

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**Mary's Message to the World** by Anne Kirkwood. Paperback \$12.95 ISBN 0-931892-66-X. Mary the mother of Jesus channels her words about the future and the coming earth changes.

**Team Up, Box 1115, Warrensburg, MO 64093.** 1-816-747-3569. Jean Foster's channeled trilogies. The source is the Holy Spirit which supplies much information on empowering your life now and in the new age.

**Matrix Institute, RR 1 Box 391, Westmoreland, NH 03467.** 1-800-628-7493. A monthly newsletter documenting the earth's changing activities including information channeled from higher sources about coming events.



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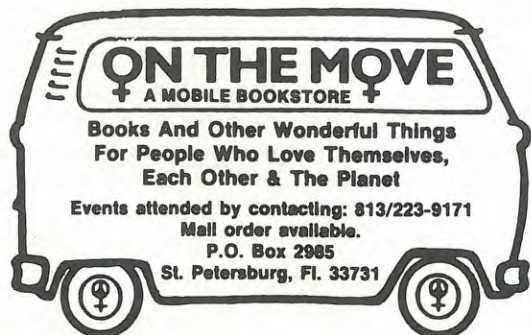
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# Yo! Lover .....

by Sue C. York

Sitting in the student cafeteria, talking with my friends when my Best Gal comes up behind me and puts a hand on my shoulder, and I turn and look up, as always -- even after two years of endless "Growth Cycles" (conflicts) -- I get weak in the knees at the sight of her and a warm flash (not to be confused with a hot flash) pierces my solar plexus and I start to give her a Florida hello right on the lips, when she, sensing my intent and more aware of (and concerned about) our surroundings, quickly holds me down by my shoulders and leans over and plants a kiss on my forehead and runs her hand down my arm and squeezes my hand, and says she will see me later at our apartment, and leaves...

I turn back to my friends, who seem a bit distant and polite, rather than raucous and gossipy, but I don't mind because I know they are trying not to be shocked since my Gal and I are the same sex, and while they are quite aware that I am Gay--and whom I am gay with -- they still have trouble witnessing gay affection in public (or anywhere) ... and, so obviously, they need to see it, I mean, how else are we going to move our love from the "Shock" zone to the "Comfort" zone, except by loving each other everyday, in an out-'n-open sort of way?

Those of us who can be, are out now with glee. And I say "can be" because there are thousands of Gays who want to be out but feel the price would be devastating, financially, emotionally and physically (as targets). So, for those still trapped--and for ourselves--we are Out. Aware of dangers, but not hiding anymore. Down from the attics, Up from the cellars, Out of the closets, ... Out everywhere! And, being Out is liberating in many ways.

Now, I am not saying we should throw our lovers passionately on top of college and business cafeteria tables across the country, though it sounds like fun. A little reserve is appropriate. Fortunately -- or unfortunately, as the case may be -- lusty Gay wenches (and you know who your are) usually couple up with more conservative Dyke-types, so we seldom digress into pure public raunchiness (and, there are those who say "more's the pity").

I, for one, feel I am intruding if I see people of any sex being, shall we say, actively in lust in public. I even have trouble at zoos, for heaven's sake, so it could be a personal problem. Whatever. I think people who are seriously fondling, really want to be ALONE, in the true Garbo sense, and if they act on their senses will quickly find a private place and get on with it -- and Bless 'um.

But this is not the same as Hello and Good-bye kisses, as fond embraces, warm hugs and hand squeezes, or a long "I'm so glad you're here" kiss. It's not the same as walking hand in hand or with our arms around each other, on the beach or in the Mall, or at the movies. Such affection is pleasant to see, uplifting in fact, though, of course what's acceptable as affection (by peers) at a watering hole may be a bit too much at the Mall. But, the bottom line, is it shouldn't matter whether affectionate couples are of the same, or mixed, sex.

For Gays, this openness can be chancy; we lose so-called friends, enrage strangers, and are discriminated against (often, indirectly). But we gain self respect and pride, make new friends, and fight discrimination by our actions. For those Gays not yet out, we are, perhaps, a hope of what can be; and when Gays who have been thinking deep, dark, negative thoughts about themselves are suddenly confronted in public with happy healthy expressive Gay couples, perhaps life looks a little brighter, and alternative lifestyles seem a bit more natural.

'Cause I'm here to tell you that, contrary to mass-ass patriarchal myths, homosexuality is not a problem; it is a healthy lifestyle. Homophobia, now that's a problem. And, the only way I know to fight it is to be outwardly, openly, and quite naturally, myself.

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# Democrat VS Republican

Democrat-- In a new twist on the concept of "family values" that undoubtedly made Vice President Dan Quayle cringe, Los Angeles resident Bob Hattoy told delegates in a speech he made at the Democratic National Convention in New York City July 14 that "President Bush's family--the American family--has AIDS," and Bush is allowing its members to die by not doing anything about it.

Hattoy, the senior environmental adviser for Gov. Bill Clinton's presidential campaign, was diagnosed with AIDS shortly before Clinton locked up the Democratic presidential nomination June 2 in California. Upon learning of Hattoy's diagnosis, Clinton personally asked him to address the convention as a person with AIDS.

"When he heard that I had been diagnosed, Bill called me three times at home to see how I was doing," says Hattoy, who has become friends with Clinton and his wife, Hillary, during the campaign. "I went to see him when he was in Los Angeles, and we got all weepy together. During a limo ride to his MTV taping, we talked about how insane America is, how people can't deal with AIDS, and what could be done. I told him I just didn't want to be treated as dead-by Bill Clinton or by anyone else." from *The Advocate*, August 1992

Republican Tyler Franz, an openly gay man who worked in the Bush-Quayle re-election campaign headquarters, filed a complaint July 21 with the District of Columbia Human Rights Commission against the campaign for discrimination based on sexual orientation. Franz, who held a job in the campaign's information center, was demoted and transferred to an unoccupied area in the campaign in early July. According to Franz, a personnel director said the demotion was due to "ideological differences with the religious Right," a comment that Franz believes refers to his being openly gay. Following the demotion, Franz resigned.

Since filing his complaint, Franz has been the center of media attention focused on the debate within the Republican party between moderates and far Right Christians.

# Fluffy ON Style

by Lori the Fluff

Gyrlfriends, my worst nightmare has come true! My seven-year old niece and I have an annual ritual of attending my company sponsored event at a local water park (aren't I discreet). Anyway, you all know how Fluffy is; well just image a seven-year old version. Little dresses with sashes, ribbons in the hair, lace ankle socks, and don't forget the accessories! This is my niece. She always has the total look; the perfect ensemble for the happening (any happening-- she's always together).

We picked her up on Friday and did the dinner thing, which was great fun, On Saturday morning we took our time getting ready for the big day. We packed our lunches, our change of clothes, our hair ties and pink flip-flops. After all of that was completed we begin to get ourselves ready. Fluffy donned the gold and black suit, complete with cover-up. Miss Niece put on her new two piece fashion suit and added a precious little romper cover-up. We were ready.



As we started out the door, we both ran back to our rooms for our footwear. I finished first and waited in the living room with Nancy for Miss Niece. Gyrls! I could die! My niece, niece of Fluffy, came out it BIRKENSTOCKS!!!!!! White ones! Nancy fell out of her chair laughing. I fell to the floor in shock. It took me more than thirty minutes to recover. I'm not sure that I will ever totally recover.

Is my niece destined to be an earth dyke or is this an up and coming fashion that Fluffy has missed? Even if this is simply a missed fashion statement, I can assure you that Fluffy will not be purchasing a pair for wear. However, my niece does assure me that although the bottoms of her feet turn orange, they are the most comfortable shoes going.

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