

The LCN

Vol. 10, Issue 5

May, 1993

A LOVING COMMITTED NETWORK

Express

Florida Ban on Homosexuals Imminent

by Kerry

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual society of the state of Florida is in TROUBLE! What happened in Colorado is starting to happen to us. There is a referendum, that if put on the ballot in November 1994, would deny EQUAL RIGHTS to Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals. This "Colorado" type amendment would give permission to employers to terminate you because you're GAY. You can also be denied housing, service in a restaurant, hotel rooms, children, or can be attacked walking down the street because you're GAY.

Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals want the same rights guaranteed to ALL Americans. Besides our rights being in jeopardy, our state would suffer major financial losses. Denver alone has lost \$33.8 million as of March 1993, and over \$80 million more is at risk. Our state can not afford such a loss, especially since our economy thrives on tourism. Hate crimes would also dramatically increase.

This needs to STOP right now! We need to join forces; Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual groups of all kinds, local businesses that could be hurt, sympathetic organizations, and yes YOU!

Our first goal should be to form ONE local group in Central Florida comprised of all the above mentioned organizations. We need to pull together and put all of our personal animosity aside. We can fight this dreadful disease known as HOMOPHOBIA!

This is not a typical attack on the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual lifestyle, it is a threat to human rights. We, as citizens of this country, deserve the same rights as everyone else. It is my

opinion that such amendments are unconstitutional and need to be proven so.

I always thought that someone else can do it or we'll cross that bridge when it's time. Well it's time to cross and there is NO bridge. Part of that bridge is YOU and me. The rest of it is everyone else in the state. Linking together can help us get to the other side.

I am an average LESBIAN, leading an average LESBIAN life and I wish it to remain that way. Anyone else who has the same feelings MUST respond to this cause immediately.

We need to raise money and volunteer our services. Unfortunately everything has a price on it, even FREEDOM. The money would go towards advertisements to let people know **not** to sign any petitions or to vote for any referendum regarding "Civil/Human rights."

A group called Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality (FREE) is trying to do what I have talked about in the article. They need help in the form of volunteers and money. I am hoping an office will be open in Orlando soon. You can be sure I will be one of the first ones to volunteer and pay my share.

Please don't let our state fall victim to the same amendment that Colorado is now fighting. They waited until it was too late! It is not too late for us! **Help fight the ban against Gay Rights!**

If you want more information, write: FREE, 317 1/2 E. Park Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Or call Jeff Peters, (904) 488-1891. If you wish to contact me, Kerry, call LCN and ask Rachel for my number.

Road Rally For Pride

Grab your lover, grab a friend, burn rubber and head to *Southern Nights* for the most fun you'll have all year! We've managed to coax Shannon out of retirement to arrange one of her mind-boggling jaunts through Orlando. Meet at *Southern Nights*, at the intersection of Bumby and the East-West Expressway on Saturday, **May 15, 1993 at 3:00 pm**. The cost is \$10.00, and all proceeds will be used for the 1993 Orlando Regional Pride Parade.

We are also asking for everyone to bring a canned good for the local AIDS food bank. We suggest pre-registration, since the event will be limited to 50 cars. Call the Orlando Prideline at (407) 236-9480 to register. Road Rally Rules are as follows: Only 2 people per car, which will be a driver and navigator. Bring a clipboard, pen, and most important, a sense of humor.

For more information: contact Patty Sheehan at (407) 860-1565.

LCN is bringing
Lea Delaria
(funny, funny woman)
to Orlando for
our PRIDE celebration.
Mark your calendars
now:

Friday, June 25!

See page 9 and watch for
more news next month!

Classifieds

Bahamas vacation cruise: Luxury cruise for two, along with accommodations for four nights on the Grand Bahama Island. Choose preferred travel dates. Must use before August 1. \$250. Call Dawn 677-8002.

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Toy train tracks on ping-pong table: For sale *cheap!* Call Becky, 894-9333.

NEWS OF JOY

by D.

Ever heard of a TLC Group? Do you know what it is? Well, TLC stands for Tender Loving Care. "Well," you say, "I knew that." But did you know that Joy MCC has several TLC Groups and do you know what they are?

Our TLC Groups gather in Christ's name and really care for one another. It's belonging and being loved by others. It's being accepted where you are and giving acceptance to other people who join the group. It is where heart to heart fellowship takes place. And there's always room for one more.

There are three parts of TLC Group that is practiced each week. They are: *Bible Study and Application* - applied to our daily life today such as "what promise does God have here for me?" What truth is here that God wants me to apply in my life/what principle does God want me to learn in this lesson?"

Shaping of Life Together - using an example from our own lives to illustrate what is being taught. The goal is to participate in each other's spiritual lives and to become a real family member.

Conversational Prayer - We will teach people to participate in prayer by having a conversation together with God.

Joy MCC has a number of TLC Groups. Each offers a sense of belonging, acceptance and love, as the group shares in God's love. Some meet at the Church Hall and others in people's homes...from Sorrento, Winter Springs, West Orange County, Clarcona-Ocoee, Apopka, Altamonte Springs, Goldenrod, etc. They meet at different times and on different days. There are specialized groups like the AA group and the HIV+ and Care Givers Groups.

Don't say that you can't come because you don't know the Bible! We all have to start somewhere. In a small group is a great way to start. Call Joy MCC for more information, 894-1081.

❖ Announcements ❖ from the Heart

Laurel: I want to be your partner in life. I want to share with you and care with you. I want to work with you and trust in you for you are the love of my life. I commit myself to us and our relationship. Happy are those who give for they are the ones who are given to. Happy Anniversary. Love, Christine



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LCN Express Production Schedule

Creative writers, typists, and proof readers needed. Call Rachel, 831-2971, for more information.

May 18: Production Meeting

June 1: 7:00pm Folding Party at Faces!!! (Also need volunteer to pick up newsletter at Pronto and bring to Faces.)

ARLO GUTHRIE'S GREAT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Formally called the Indian River Festival held in Vero Beach, Arlo Guthrie has moved his sixth annual festival to the campus of Brevard Community College in Melbourne on May 15. The festival's purpose is to "benefit the earth and its people," says Guthrie.

Money raised from the festival will benefit the natural environment as well as the human environment. It will go to the Pelican Island Audubon Society, Marine Resource Council, and

other selected environmental programs. Money will also go to Project Response, dedicated to AIDS awareness, Serenity House, a home for babies with AIDS, Connor's Nursery, a home for babies with AIDS, substance addicted babies and abused children

Performers in the past have been Arlo himself, Michael McDonald, Woody Harrelson and Don Henley. Stay tuned to your pop radio stations to get the line-up. See you there.

Local Events and Projects

LCN General meeting, May 10 at Out and About Books, at 7:00pm. Agenda to include Pride week, Lea Delaria concert, charitable donations, etc. Meeting is open to everyone. Call Rachel for more info, 831-2971.

May 8, a statewide FL Task Force to defeat the anti-Gay legislation. meeting will be held at Joy MCC on Ferncreek in Orlando. Call MCC or GLCS.

Pride Seeks Participants: Gay and Lesbian Community Services of Central Florida, Inc. is pleased to announce our 10th Annual 1993 Pride Festival (formerly the Pride Picnic), which will be held on Saturday, June 12, 1993 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, West Colonial Drive, Orlando, from 10 am until 8 pm.

Plans are currently being developed to make this one of the largest gatherings of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Central Florida and will offer a great opportunity to showcase your business or organization to our community. Our new location offers

attendees parking for thousands of cars and room for over 100 exhibitors. We are expecting over 2500 participants to attend. If you desire to participate, contact GLCS at 407-425-4527.

Gay Dinner Cruise at Gatsby's, May 30, 1-5pm, \$10. Sponsored by WIT. For more information, call Jan, 727-1336.

GLPCI (Gay/Lesbian Parents Coalition): May 14, 7:30pm, Parents Rap Group adults only) at GLCS, 714 E. Colonial Drive. May 15, Noon, Social/support meeting at the beach. Bring a picnic lunch. Children welcome! Call for details: (407) 420-2191.

Alert: The American Family Association is currently trying to gain 429,000 signatures to place an anti-gay initiative on the 1994 FL General Ballot. The wording of the measure is deceptive because it states limiting discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Be aware of this if you are asked to sign such a petition!

LCN's doing a float for the PRIDE Parade. Wanna help? Call Barb, 648-4154.



**Key West
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MAY EVENTS IN TAMPA BAY

7-8 **WMNF Heatwave** with the Flirtations, Fallopian Tubes and more; 813/238-8001.

14-15 **One-Woman Performances** of Willa Cather, Zora Neale Hurston, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings; 813/822-8814.

22 **FERRON** in concert for WMNF; 813/238-8001.

27 **Kate Clinton** at The Lighted Tree, Pass-A-Grille Beach; 813/360-0373.

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Key West Arts Fest In June

A mixture of visual art, theater, music and literature will all be part of the Key West Business Guild's Second Annual Gay Arts Festival, June 21-26. Nearly 25% of the island's 23,000 population and a large part of the 1.5 million tourists (up to an estimated 400,000) are gay or lesbian.

A special exhibit of gay and lesbian art will be held Monday evening along with a reception. The art will be featured at a dozen Key West galleries throughout the week. Persons or groups seeking more information can write the KWBG at PO 1208, Key West, FL 33041 or call 1-800-535-7797.

Women's Guesthouse in Orlando

Leora B's Bed and Breakfast, in Orlando's historic district, is now open. Deb Lippens and Cathy Rose offer a private, relaxed atmosphere with personalized service for couples and traveling business women. A choice of 4 rooms range from \$40 - \$65 @night for 2. Breakfast includes fruits, homemade bread & pastries. Special diets can be accommodated with notice. The guesthouse is located at 420 E. Hillcrest; call 649-0009 for reservations.

LES BOOKS BY DEE

A Stone Gone Mad by Jacquelyn Holt Park from Random House

A tornado that literally tears families apart and wrecks lives rips thru this story. The tornado is self-righteous bigotry. The tempest starts as juvenile passion erupts on the lawn and has its way with two teen girls in the throws of first love. They are interrupted by a sister, who promptly becomes hysterical, and the chaotic damage starts.

A Stone Gone Mad is history in living color. Young ones, if you are at all curious about "how it was" in years (only recently) gone by...here it is. Jacquelyn Park's sometimes fine and sometimes poetic writing yanks you from page to page. Amid abundant similes and metaphors the chronicle of a tormented woman-soul unfolds with insight, emotion and power thru the rooms of private schools, psychiatrists and Greenwich Village. Is this portrait life-like? Probably. In those days when lesbians were condemned and degraded and vilified the effect was torment. But the book is not without humor, and the Protagonist is not a quitter.

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A DIFFERENT OPINION ABOUT ALIX

by Lucy Ford

When I heard that Alix Dobkin was performing here in Orlando, I made a conscious decision not to go. I saw Alix Dobkin in concert at the National Lesbian Conference two years ago and there, too, she stated that she hates men. I believe, based on what I've heard, that her message was much stronger in Atlanta that it was last month in Orlando. Nonetheless, it is a message that I oppose.

I was deeply affected by her words in Atlanta. So much, that I sat in the audience and cried. Since that time, I have realized that I "took on" her message that night and allowed it to have an effect on me instead of simply accepting those words as her opinion.

I am one of those people who cannot "hate" anyone. Maybe it has to do with my upbringing but I believe it goes beyond that. It is my belief that nothing good ever comes out of hatred. I believe it is an emotion that drives negative thoughts and behaviors and for me, personally, is not healthy.

I do recognize the imbalance of power; the fact that men are dominant in this society and womyn are subordinate. I also believe that one

day, perhaps not in my lifetime, womyn will change the imbalance that exists today and we will no longer be in a subordinate role.

I believe this cannot and will not be achieved out of hatred but rather from womyn joining together and all working towards a common goal. It will come thru teaching our male children about the inequalities of male dominance and the horrors of male violence and one by one, they too will make a difference. It will not come by teaching them about hatred.

I do have a problem agreeing with Alix. I feel sad that she carries so much hatred within her that she feels the need to convey this at every public appearance. I've decided that instead of spending my money on an Alix Dobkin concert and be subjected to a message I oppose, I'll make a contribution to Spouse Abuse.

NEW LOCATION FOR RHYTHMFEST '93

Look for RhythmFest in Black Mountain, NC this upcoming Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-6. Info available now: 404/873-1551.

AIDS Memorial Forest

AIDS is affecting people across all lines of generation, ethnicity and profession. Trees are a symbol of life, and this forest will be the first living monument to those who have died of AIDS. Contributing to the forest also enables you to improve the quality of life in Isreal.

The AIDS Memorial Forest is located in Lahav, outside Beersheva, the capital of the Negev. With the desert's climate and scarcity of water, the forest has become the "miracle of the desert." It improves Isreal's environment through lowering temperatures, reducing air and noise pollution, and preventing soil erosion.

In the spring of 1993, the forest will be formally dedicated. Planting a tree in the AIDS Memorial Forest is also a meaningful way to memorialize a friend of loved one. To purchase trees in someone's name, please call 1-800-542-TREE or your local JNF region.

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The Parent Perspective *by Diane Kerkhoff*

I am being forced by the cruel editors of LCN to turn in this column by April 15. That means I'm writing it before I go to the March on Washington, and you're reading it afterwards. The editors are keeping me locked up in my den and chained to the computer until this column is finished. It works out easy for them since they already had me locked in here charged with the task of keeping the local "DC in '93" reservations and accounting balanced.

Anyway, I can't talk to you about

the March since I haven't been yet, and you've already gone. That's sort of cool, isn't it? Like a time warp. So, how was it? Did my dear friend (MDF) get carsick and puke all the way to Washington? Did everything go smoothly for our "DC in '93" group or did I get lynched on the way back? Okay, that's enough of that.

My son is angry with me for all the time I've been dedicating to the March. We're not used to the phone ringing constantly at our house. To make up for it a little bit, I took him to Disney for a whole day. I spent quite a bit of time sitting in the grandstand of the Speedway ride, while my son waited in line for a half hour, drove around the track for three minutes, got back in line... It was pleasant sitting there waving to my son as he rounded every bend (in the line) and watching that cute woman who works there - you know, the one with the nice smile and tight pants.

Now, let me ask you this. Why do adults ride this? Adults getting in

with little kids and pressing the gas pedal so the kid can steer, this I understand - I've done it myself, usually to my regret. But why do adults ride this by themselves? If they want to drive a car at seven mph, amidst copious amounts of gas fumes, and in constant danger of being rear-ended at any moment, they can drive on I-4 any day at rush hour. I don't get it - unless they all want to get closer to that cute woman.

Now that the March is over, it's time to get back to work on the GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International) annual conference. If you are a parent and you are not a member of GLPCI, shame on you! We need you to stand up and be counted (even if it's anonymously.)

We currently have about 250 people registered from all over the US and Canada. We'll be having workshops, speakers, entertainment, empowerment and fun, tears and smiles. I heard one long-time member say, "I look forward to this all year. This is my family reunion." Come join our family.

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▼ The NAT Foundation is currently seeking submissions of poetry, letters, prose, etc., written to or for those who have died from AIDS (or are HIV+) for a book to be published called "I Never Said Good-bye To Nat." Profits will go to AIDS organizations. Please send submissions to: Mary R. Sanders, The Nat Foundation, P.O. Box 308, Briarcliff, NY 10510.

The NAT Foundation is a non-profit organization which will administer any profits from the book towards helping AIDS organizations in the fight against AIDS. We hope the book will be a beacon of comfort to the many people who have lost someone to AIDS, and that it will help put an end to AIDS discrimination and bigotry.

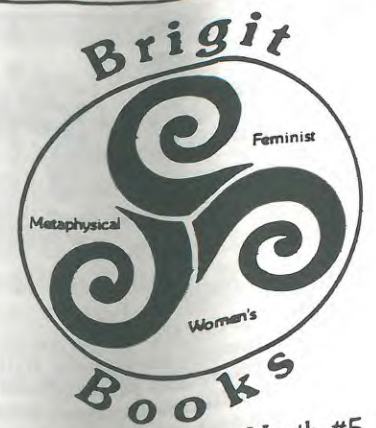
▼ Washington, DC -- Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) will present *Beyond Loss: Art in the Era of AIDS*, an exhibition of recent works by North American visual artists whose lives and work have been deeply affected by the AIDS crisis. It includes

artists who have died of AIDS-related conditions, artists living with HIV/AIDS, and artists who have been otherwise affected by the AIDS crisis, be they male or female, homosexual or heterosexual.

Beyond Loss: Art in the Era of AIDS seeks to discover the universal, permanent marks left on our culture by the AIDS crisis. For information or to purchase tickets, please call 202-347-4813.

▼ On February 2, President Clinton approved San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg as assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Achtenberg becomes the first openly gay or lesbian person to face Senate confirmation hearings. Republican Senators Lauch Faircloth of NC and Phil Gramm of TX are expected to raise objections to her nomination because she is an acknowledged lesbian. If she is confirmed, Achtenberg

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National
Continued from p. 7

will become the highest ranking acknowledged gay or lesbian person ever to serve in the U.S. government.

▼ Three high school teachers in Meridian, Idaho, were suspended because they had invited several lesbian mothers to come in and speak to their classes as part of a project on parenting. The teachers were suspended on November 15 only hours after the speakers had finished. They were also ordered to apologize to the students and parents, and letters of reprimand were placed in their files.

On November 16, about 500 students staged a lunch-time rally in support of the teachers. Within two weeks, the school board reversed its decision-the teachers were reinstated without any reprimand and the board said it would establish a clear policy on future guest speakers.

▼ The week of President Clinton's inauguration brought many firsts to the gay and lesbian community, which together added up to a sense of inclusion and participation that gays and lesbians have never before experienced in any administration: Triangle Ball-The first lesbian/gay inaugural ball. Lesbian & Gay Bands of America-the first gay-identified group to march in an inaugural parade. Barely 10 minutes into his inaugural speech, Clinton became the first American president to speak of AIDS: "the world AIDS crisis..affect(s) us all." Author-poet Maya

Angelou, the first African-American and the first woman to deliver a presidential poem, became the first person to note the existence of gays during an official inaugural ceremony. An openly gay couple, Dennis Layton and Joshua Rodin, were seen on C-SPAN and CNN News by millions getting a presidential greeting. After shaking hands with Clinton, Dennis turned to Joshua and introduced him to the president as "my husband." Dennis later said Clinton "didn't blink an eyelash. He was hip." Colonel Margaret Cammermeyer, discharged last year by the Army National Guard after coming out, received an invitation from Clinton to attend the Inaugural Ball.

Michigan Music Festival

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will hold its 18th annual celebration August 10-15, 1993. This 6-day all-womyn camping event is the oldest and largest of the womyn's music festivals held in the US, attended by 7-8,000. The event offers over 300 workshops, a womyn's crafts fair with 14/ artisan booths, sports, dances, nature walks, and over 40 performances held on 3 stages For information, write to WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458, 616-757-4766.

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LEA DELARIA - DYKE COMIC

by maw

For those of you who can't make it up past the 10 o'clock hour on a weekday, you missed out. Leave it to Arsenio Hall to further break ground on lesbian and gay culture. A couple of weeks ago, Hall featured Dyke comic Lea DeLaria on his show. Introduced as a "Lesbian Comedian," Hall said, "I care what she does on the stage, not in the bed." Enter DeLaria, with a no holds barred stand up routine about being a lesbian. DeLaria is an openly

lesbian comic who doesn't believe in pulling any punches for the sake of success. She has been called "The Lesbian Lenny Bruce." Her music and comedy album called *Bull Dyke in a China Shop* is a best seller on the Ladyslipper catalogue. DeLaria has made numerous appearances at various festivals thru-out the country, and will grace us with her presence during Pride Week in June. (Her performance will be June 25 at Rollins College.)

THE ECO CORNER

by Becky Acuna

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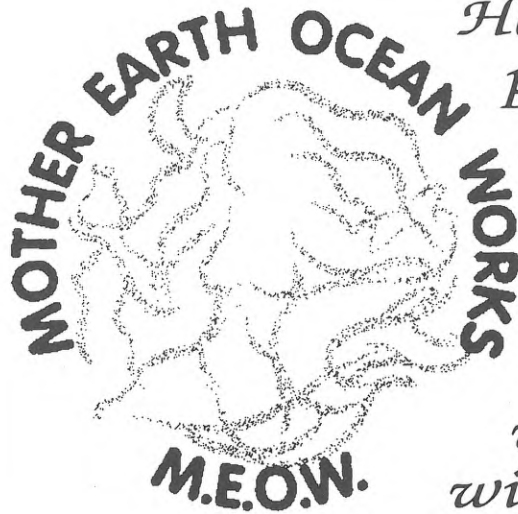
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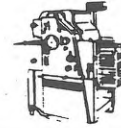
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HatBox Review - *Comedy Vaudeville Performances* / 3-6 pm

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Mon. - Sat.: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun.: 1 - 6 p.m.

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- WIT (Women in Brevard County) 1-727-1336
- Women's Health Center 896-2022
- Women's Resource Center 898-1599

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.

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