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LPM

*Good News
Positive Reminders
Inspirational Messages*

*Makaw Press
April 2003*

LesbianPride Monthly

*Good news, positive reminders
and inspirational messages*

VOLUMN VIII, ISSUE 4, April 2003

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Homosexuals Vs the Bible and the Constitution

by Billy Glover

Almost everyday there is news about religion attacking homosexuals and homosexuality. So it must be repeated why most homosexual citizens ignore such things, but then fail to speak out in their own defense.

Fact: The Bible and the U. S. Constitution allow for slavery so they can *not* be quoted as accurate, since I know of no one who now promotes slavery by quoting either the Bible or the Constitution.

Also they have been used to keep women second-class citizens, and to try to stop citizens from drinking alcoholic beverages, from entering interracial marriages, and even inter-religious marriages, and have been used to justify racial segregation and the stealing of American Indians' land, among other issues they have been used to justify.

Yet these same writings are used to justify attacking homosexual citizens and invading our privacy, as they were used to prevent the use of contraceptives, abortion, etc.

Both writings were compromises, and did a valuable service to humanity by getting us started toward a better world which they aimed at by their words in general — such as "All men are created equal," and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," etc.

The idea was that those founders did what they had to do to get the nation, or the people of faith started, and they fully expected the later generations to build on their efforts,

clearly stated in the Bible and the writings of the nation's founders, discussing slavery, separation of church and state, etc.

Why do we let ignorant people with their own religious agenda keep confusing us with their false "reading" of the bible and Constitution? If we don't speak out, we will end up at this time with a Southern Baptist Taliban, and later we, and the Baptists, might end up with a Muslim Taliban running the nation, quoting *their* Koran to force everyone to follow *their* beliefs.

And following our experience in the field of homosexuality, it is people who actually do not really believe what they are claiming, that are our worst enemies, such as closet queens who attack in us what they fear in themselves. Too many religious fanatics must have less faith in their beliefs than they claim since they protest too much how great they are.

Think on these things, we are told, and homosexual citizens must think and act. We've had 50 years to get ready. Δ

Billy Glover is Vice Chair and Co-Founder of the Homosexual Information Center, Inc., one of the ONE Institute and Archives at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.


All Good Things...

*All good things, as they say, must come to an end. So it is with this little labor of love, — it is with mixed feelings that I'm announcing this will be the last year for **The LesbianPride Newsletter**.*

The good news is that everyone currently on the mailing list will continue to get LPN/LPM through December, regardless of the status of your subscription, but the bad news is that December 2003 will be the last month of publication.

*It's been a great eight years, but it's time now to be on to other things, like the **Little LesbianPride Readers**. Instead of a monthly newsletter, I'll be publishing the positive little booklets, probably once a year. And you will all be invited to submit your work for those little books — watch for more info in the coming months.*

— Mel



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I am a beautiful part of the universe

The Bible says God surveyed all of creation and saw that it was good; that goodness includes me. I know I was created to be exactly as I am and that my sexual orientation is a natural and lovely part of me, despite others' attempts to pronounce me evil or perverted. Now I find affirmation in the very Bible that has been used to condemn my same-sex loving.

As I come to trust myself more and more, I let myself know that I am a good person and that my capacity to love someone of the same sex is an important part of my beauty. The universe was created as it is meant to be. I am who I was intended to be. I feel in harmony with my higher power, and I let that sense of my beauty fill my being.



— Eleanor Ruth Wagner
in *Lavender Reflections*

Reminder:

 To be openly vulnerable

 is an act of power...

 to be openly empowered

 is an act of vulnerability!

 — Robyn Posin

 Rememberings and Celebrations

www.forthelittleonesinside.com

You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.

— Buddha

If you take care of the small things, the big things take care of themselves. You can gain more control over your life by paying closer attention to the little things.

— Emily Dickinson

Chance is always powerful. Let your hook be always cast, in the pool where you least expect it, there will be fish.

— Ovid

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.

— Confucius

On the Level

by Mel White

(leaning to the left sometimes,
leaning to the right other times,
but never tipping over, hence:



on the level!)



A short course in good v evil

I've already alienated a goon number of my well-meaning liberal friends with my writings about the war in Iraq lately, so I might as well go all the way (lesbians are always allowed to think independently and disagree with each other, as I learned long ago when some of my politically correct friends thought *every* lesbian should be a vegetarian and a witch).

As I write this, the war with Iraq has just begun; television is covering every minute of it, whether there is anything to cover or not, and things change so fast that I have no idea what will be happening by the time you read this.

But I do know some things that will be true no matter what, especially this: as far as the two leaders of the current conflict are concerned, President Bush is the good one and Saddam Hussein is the bad one. I don't know why that is so hard for some folks to understand.

Over and over I hear people suggest that that Bush is the one who should be deposed, not Hussein. And I've watched more than one Hollywood honcho — along with a good many lesser known liberals — say pretty much the same thing, sometimes, oddly enough, comparing Bush to Adolf Hitler.

What are people are thinking when they say things like that? Of course the obvious answer is that they are not thinking at all, but I'm inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt and assume that they each have at least half a brain. How those half-brains come up with the conclusions they do, however, is a mystery to me.

Maybe the faulty thinking can be blamed on our education system. Maybe when the idiots who compare Bush with Hitler studied World War II, even with the knowledge gained through hindsight, they did not quite get it that Hitler was evil, that his final solution to the problems facing his country was to torture and kill millions of his own citizens along with conquered innocents.

Does it take a rocket scientist to know that that description sounds a lot more like Saddam Hussein than George W.? No; I'm not a rocket scientist but I do have a brain and I do know that Bush does not use chemical agents on US citizens or our neighbors, and I under-

stand that he does not want to conquer or expand his empire. I know that Saddam does all of the above, and that he is not about to stop... until he is stopped.

Maybe the faulty thinking is a partisan issue. For instance, every time the Democratic Party tries to block Bush's economic plans, I think about how it is in their best interest to keep things bad in America — how else will they get more Democrats elected in a couple of years? Maybe the same is true about the war.

Some of those famous Hollywood Democrats (check out www.hollywoodhalfwits.com) would seem to prove this theory. When Clinton rushed in to save Kosovo (coincidentally, just in the nick of time to shift focus away from his uncontrollable libido), Mike Farrell (Honeycutt on the old MASH series) said "...the bottom line is that I think it's appropriate for the international community in situations like this to intervene. I am in favor of intervention. On some level, you have to say that at least somebody is doing something." But today, when it's a Republican who is doing something, Farrell is one of the most vocal critics.

I wonder if a good part of the current anti-war movement is really just anti-Bush. How else can it be explained that some Americans claim they would rather have the evil one remain in power — to keep killing and torturing his own people and to plot the demise of America and a number of other countries — and have the good one (the president who drops flyers to let the Iraqi people know when and where we are bombing and how they can save themselves, and who is sending in supplies to make it easier on the people, and who offers the hope of a democratic, self-ruling government in their country when the dust settles) step down?

I've not always been a big fan of Bush either, but then, I'm not really a fan of most politicians. Once I was a Clinton fan, especially when he was campaigning and promising gays would be accepted in the military as soon as he got to be president. So we-the-GLBT-community elected that good ol' boy, and as soon as he took office he backed down and pretty much abandoned us on that issue (and others). And that was just the beginning of my disappointment in him.

At any rate, the difference between good and evil seems pretty obvious to me, but since some people still seem confused, I'd like to offer a few simple and easy-to-understand rules-of-thumb: freedom and democracy are good, dictatorships (especially sadistic ones) are evil; respecting your citizens' rights to criticize you is good, killing the citizens who disagree with you is evil; stepping up to the plate to protect yourself and to liberate someone else is good, surrounding yourself with your own citizens forming a human shield — or killing them if they won't cooperate — is evil.

That doesn't really seem so hard to understand, does it? ☺

On the Amazon Trail

by Lee Lynch

The Resistance

Eugene, Oregon. Sebastopol, California. Burlington, Vermont. Northampton (aka Lesbianville), Massachusetts. Ann Arbor, Michigan. Denver, Colorado.

All of these cities and by now more, have passed resolutions calling for a full or partial repeal of the so-called Patriot Act. This act allows the U.S. government to detain without showing cause any person who is not a US citizen. It allows the federal government to enter any American's home or office to search property and computers without a warrant, without probable cause, and without notifying the owner. The act declares that the Federal Government can listen in to client/counsel communications through wire taps that require no judge's order, only a belief that someone is connected with foreign terrorists.

We're not just talking suspected terrorists, we're talking about any one of us who steps over a line drawn by the hands of unfettered power, something gay people do every time we fall love. The Bill of Rights and the Constitution have been found irrelevant in the current climate of fear and belligerence. We may not have struck against Iraq yet, but we're deep into a war on freedom. And gay people have more to lose than most when our government tells loses sight of protected rights because we are being attacked.

And yes, the U.S. is being attacked, of course we're being attacked, and like any other scared animal I want to be protected, to run and hide in my burrow until it's over, until I feel safe. I had a physical problem a few weeks ago which caused me more pain than I've ever felt before. Although I have no love for the medical establishment or the pharmaceutical industry, nothing would have kept me from that emergency room and from test results that calmed my fears. I was grateful to the point of tears when they jabbed that intravenous morphine into my hand and increased the amount until the pain stopped. \So I understand the impulse of a nation suddenly in a world of pain, surprised by its vulnerability and at last convinced of its own mortality. A virtual emergency room was set up in Washington, D.C. on 9/11/01 while most of the nation was focused on the recovery efforts in New York. For some months after, we Americans were in great pain, stunned to acquiescence by our wounds. We gave ourselves over to the supposed professionals who ran with our permission and created not sane policies, but a reign of paranoia marketed as the highest

patriotism.

Goodness knows I'm glad to be an American and glad to be living in a country created as a democracy. What I can't understand is how the enemy without formed a twisted enemy within. Did the initial urge toward protection somehow sour with a desire for revenge? Did the power we gave the administration in our helplessness burgeon into madness? I've received the passage below from more than one e-correspondent since the passage of the Patriot Act and the escalation of the "War on Terrorism."

"Why of course the people don't want war. But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger."

This quotation is attributed to Hermann Goering, Hitler's designated successor. I've read that after World War I, he was admitted to a mental hospital and, in September 1925, to an asylum for dangerous inmates, becoming a morphine addict in the course of his extended recovery. At the Nuremberg Trials he was found guilty of conspiracy to wage war, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We've seen the result of his particular combination of madness and power.

The pain of the Patriot Act is not as immediate as the pain that put me in the hospital, but it's bearing down fast. When will the stalwart groups of pacifists be deemed too dangerous to be allowed our dissent? When will the entertainment mega-corporations be enlisted to flood airwaves with propaganda? Can public radio survive more cuts? When will the alterative press find our howls of objection censored? And when the right wing bulldozer rolls over our inalienable rights, who will lie among the crushed, patriot or not, Republican or Democrat, Muslim or Jew, but the time-honored scapegoats, gay Americans.

We have a major stake in prodding our municipalities to pass more resolutions calling for full or partial repeals of the so-called Patriot Act. I suspect it's no fluke that Lesbianville already has. This mostly symbolic campaign echoes the outraged cries that turned the country against the war in Viet Nam and against segregation. Whenever leaders abuse power it is only the voice of the people refusing to do their bidding that can stop their madness.

©Lee Lynch

Editor's Note: This column was postponed from an earlier date, printed this month because we haven't heard from Lee lately — if you know what happened to Lee, let me know. Lee, if you're reading this, email me! — Mel <Morningland@msn.com>

On sacred ground

by Joy Parks



The end of butch?

Recently, while interviewing a writer who identifies as transgendered, I was asked if I thought she looked like a man. I struggled to avoid answering. Granted, I could see how she might be mistaken for a teenage boy by the straight women in the airport ladies' rooms who screamed and swung their purses at her. Or even to her aging male neighbor who sees the world in binary "hims" and "hers." But as a femme lesbian who can, with laser-like precision, seek out the subtlest aspects of female masculinity, I thought she looked butch. But I was afraid saying so would offend her.

This exchange made me think about the writings on transgendered individuals and transsexuals that appear in my mailbox with great frequency. And how and why these issues relate to lesbianism. So I finally worked up the courage to approach *The Phallus Palace* by Dean Kotula, (contributing editor William E. Parker), a book that I'd been avoiding for months out of the fear of writing something that's bound to make someone angry.

The Phallus Palace is a collection of writings about FTM (female to male) transsexuals. And it's unusual in that it offers up accounts of personal experiences of FTMs and their journeys from birth as female to the male bodies and lives they now possess, alongside academic studies and rather clinical material on reassignment surgery.

Every single personal story in this collection is moving; so many of them deal honestly with the pain of being trapped in a body or a gender that felt *wrong* from childhood. It's impossible not to feel for Jerry, who tried "his damndest" to live as a butch lesbian, only to be criticized for being overly masculine, and confesses that the one thing that kept him from suicide was his high testosterone levels. Or Max, who sees changing sex as a crime of passion. Or Ken, who talks of how right it feels to have made the leap from "bull dyke" to "straight man." Still, I couldn't help reading these stories with some discomfort. Looking at the "before" photos of the authors while they still inhabited women's bodies, I had to admit that I could have been attracted to several of these "men." But what really disturbed me was when I read "Alan Hart" by Margaret Deader O'Hartigan and learned of an argument that severely divided the Portland GLTB community. The struggle was as to whether Dr. Hart, who was born Alberta Lucille Hart and died Dr. Alan L. Hart, was a lesbian or a transsex-

ual. It was an extremely ugly battle, and neither side appeared particularly victorious.

It made me think about the many lesbians of the past who wore men's clothes and adopted male roles so they could secure a measure of freedom to live and love as they wished. I thought of the butch heroines of lesbian herstory, revered for their rebellion, not from their birth sex, but from the expectations and dictates of straight society. I thought about my own femme identity and my love and respect of butches for their courage to be part of a proud tradition of "otherness," a tradition I understand as uniquely female, a celebration of queerness and rules broken, not the aping of "maleness" as heterosexuals have misunderstood it. I wondered how many of my lesbian foremothers would have changed their sex had they had access to drugs and surgical techniques. What does it mean if even a small fragment of the lesbian culture I take such pride in is based on a lie? Add to this, larger issues of self-inflicted homophobia or the way in which the dominant straight culture continues to reinforce the superiority of "maleness" at every turn, and for me, the decisions of the FTMs in *The Phallus Palace* to live as "normal men" rather than "queer women," is very much a lesbian issue.

My reaction isn't born out of fear, prejudice or "transphobia," a term coined by transsexual activist Patrick Califia. *The Phallus Palace* reinforces the right of everyone to define their identity on their own terms, and to live and love as they choose, with dignity. As a lesbian, how could I ever deny the necessity of this to anyone? And I don't know the answers to my questions. But I do know that *The Phallus Palace* is a disturbing and courageous book that shook me to the core. It proves that we need more discussion and more openness, less fear and a refusal to weaken our community with in-fighting. And too, more books like this one to help us figure it out. [*The Phallus Palace* by Dean Kotula, (contributing editor William E. Parker), Alyson Books, \$19.95]

Sacred Classic: *Orlando* Virginia Woolf instinctively understood the gender was a powerful issue and dealt with it satirically in the wonderfully comic *Orlando*. This "biography" has been long viewed as a novel-length love letter to Vita Sackville-West and a celebration of Vita's skill in undermining the expectations of her female role. Orlando jumps both time and gender, beginning the book as an Elizabethan nobleman and exiting as a self-assured woman of the 1920's. This novel demonstrates a delicious sense of humor that one hopes was a by-product of the passion that inspired its creation. *Orlando* is not only a true lesbian classic, but also one of the most beloved books of 20th century British literature. (*Orlando: A Biography*, by Virginia Woolf, Oxford University Paperback, \$3.99)

© Joy Parks

Ask for these books at your local
feminist or alternative bookstore.



Savvy Sappho's Solutions for Successful Living

by and © Stacy Chandler

Dear Savvy Sappho, I've fallen out of love with my girlfriend. What should I do? — Cold Shoulder

Dear Shoulder, Tell her NOW! No matter the result, you've both only got one lifetime to live — don't string her along and waste her time and love. — SS

Dear Savvy Sappho, My workplace is full of whiny nay-sayers. I've got to spend 45 hours a week there. Any advice? — Smiley

Dear Smiley, Either say positive things and never whine, or be quiet and don't make things worse. Look for a new job. In most situations, we are either part of the solution or part of the problem. — SS



Astrology
by and © Stacy Chandler

ARIES
March 21 — April 19

**Set your sights, go to greater heights!
Move away from here — try the atmosphere!
Fight off lethargy, court boundless energies;
You can transcend gravity!
You will never have to scam,
because you are the MEGA RAM!***

*BE WARNED — THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE DO NOT
NECESSARILY REFLECT THE AURA OF THE COSMOS!

A Nun's Story

A cab driver picks up a nun. She gets into the cab, and the cab driver won't stop staring at her. She asks him why he is staring and he replies, "I have a question to ask you but I don't want to offend you."

She answers: "My dear son, you cannot offend me. When you're as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get a chance to see and hear just about everything. I'm sure that there's nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive."

"Well, I've always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me."

She responds, "Well, let's see what we can do about that: #1, you have to be single and #2 you must be a Catholic."

The cab driver is very excited and says, "Yes, I am single and I'm Catholic too!"

The nun says, "OK, pull into the next alley." He does and the nun fulfills his fantasy. But when they get back on the road, the cab driver starts crying. "My dear child," said the nun, "Why are you crying?"

"Forgive me sister, but I have sinned, I lied, I must confess, I'm married and I'm a Baptist."

The nun says, "That's OK, I am on the way to a Halloween party, and my name is Kevin." ☺

- Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.*
- Life is beauty, admire it.*
- Life is bliss, taste it.*
- Life is a dream, realize it.*
- Life is a challenge, meet it.*
- Life is a duty, complete it.*
- Life is a game, play it.*
- Life is a promise, fulfill it.*
- Life is sorrow, overcome it.*
- Life is a song, sing it.*
- Life is a struggle, accept it.*
- Life is a tragedy, confront it.*
- Life is an adventure, dare it.*
- Life is luck, make it.*
- Life is too precious, do not destroy it.*
- Life is life, fight for it.*

— Mother Teresa

Local Church Offers Scholarships to GLBT Youth

For the eighth consecutive year, Cathedral of Hope is offering financial awards from the Warren M. Rickwa Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist students in need. The fund, set up by Paul Luckinbill in remembrance of his partner Warren Rickwa, gives priority to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth, although applications are open to everyone.

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Rickwa moved to Dallas in 1985 where he worked for the Marriott Corporation, managing their corporate cafeterias. After being diagnosed with AIDS in 1989, Rickwa worked for four more years before being forced to retire. He passed away, November 30, 1995. Rickwa's one regret in life was that he never had an opportunity to go to college; it is for that reason that Luckinbill established the scholarship fund.

The Warren M. Rickwa Memorial Scholarship Fund gives highest priority to full-time GLBT students under age 25, who are entering college for the first time. However, heterosexual students of the same age, who are members of the Cathedral of Hope congregation, are also given high priority. Financial needs and scholastic performance are important considerations. An interview will be set with the Selection Committee for each applicant who meets the above criteria and whose application is received by the May 6 deadline. Students will be asked to provide a brief explanation of their interest in the scholarship, a copy of their latest grade point average, proof of income and a letter of acceptance to college. Scholarship applications are available at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas or via the website www.catherdralofhope.com

Cathedral of Hope, led by Revs Michael S. Piazza and Dr. Mona West, is the world's largest liberal Christian church with a primary outreach to gay, lesbian and transgendered people. With numerous ministry and volunteer programs, Cathedral of Hope donates over \$1 million in direct financial assistance and volunteer services every year. The current church home sits in the heart of Dallas, and includes the John Thomas Bell Wall A National AIDS Memorial, the Congregational Life Center, and Hope Counseling Center. Δ

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LesbianPride Monthly

(formerly *LesbianPride Newsletter*,
but only the name has changed)

Mel White/MAKAW Press, owner/publisher

Subscriptions: discontinued;

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Unsolicited contributions are welcome but be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your material returned; all rights are returned to creator.

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BE GLAD YOU'RE SO SPECIAL!

To the Cool Women I know:

They smile when they want to scream.

They sing when they want to cry.

They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.

They stand up for injustice.

They don't take "no" for an answer when they believe there is a better solution.

They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.

They love unconditionally.

Their hearts break when a friend dies.

They have sorrow at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart.

Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes. They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show how much they care about you.

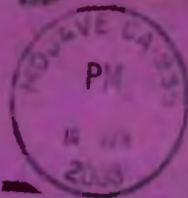
The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin! Women do more than just give birth. They bring joy and hope. They give compassion and ideals. They give moral support to their family and friends.

This is being written by someone who respects women — now you pass it along to your women friends to remind them how amazing they are. *And remember, a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle...*

— Author Unknown

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Address correction requested



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