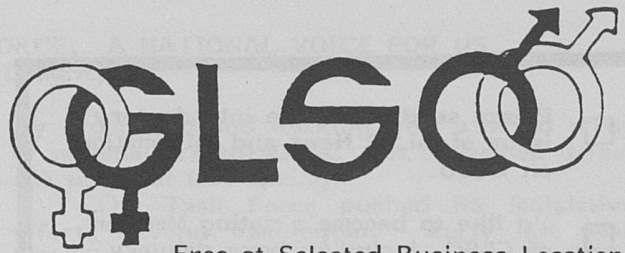


# MARCH NEWS 1988



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LEXINGTON GAY/LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION, P.O. BOX 11471, LEXINGTON, KY 40575

## AVOL BENEFIT A GRAND SUCCESS!

The AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL) held a fund-raising benefit at Scott's home on the evening of January 24th. Five hundred invitations were mailed, over 250 people attended, and \$3,000 was raised for local AIDS education and support activities. The excellent food, beverage and company were the talk of the town during most of February. As AIDS continues to touch the lives of the gay community it's obvious local gays, lesbians and their friends are prepared to take the lead in providing education and support as has been the case in larger cities. The event was so successful that future benefits are expected to draw larger crowds and generate more enthusiasm.

Special thanks are extended to everyone who worked to organize the event, especially Scott who opened his very large home to an overflow crowd. Numerous business owners contributed food and services and their commitment is especially appreciated. A similar benefit is being considered to coincide with Gay Pride Week.

## AIDS WORKPLACE PRINCIPLES

IBM Corporation, the largest private employer in Lexington, has joined other major corporations to endorse the "AIDS Workplace Principles" established by the Citizen's Commission on AIDS. Other prominent endorsers include AT&T, Chemical Bank, Time, Warner-Lambert, Johnson & Johnson, Dow Jones & Co., US News & World Report, and the City of New York.

The principles stress that employees with AIDS are "entitled to the same rights and opportunities as people with other serious or life-threatening illnesses." The principles reject discriminatory employment practices and oppose HIV testing in either pre-employment or routine workplace physical exams. The principles were formulated to "provide leadership" to the many companies which have been groping for a policy to deal with AIDS in the workplace.

The Citizens Commission on AIDS was formed last year by a group of 17 foundations. It is an educational and advocacy organization focusing on AIDS issues.

## PREMARITAL HIV TESTING FLOPS IN ILLINOIS

A new Illinois law requiring HIV antibody testing for couples seeking marriage licenses produced serious problems in the first three weeks of its implementation [New York Times, 1/26/88].

Cook County Hospital, the state's largest hospital, stopped offering the antibody test to engaged couples because the testing center was deluged with requests. Previously the hospital offered the test and counseling on a voluntary basis at no charge.

Some couples simply are driving to other states for marriage without a test. But officials worry that, without a free or low-cost alternative, poorer couples will decide not to get married at all. Average cost for the test is \$70, but some physicians charge up to \$300.

The law doesn't prohibit HIV positive individuals from marrying, but it does require proof of testing and the sharing of results with the prospective spouse. In addition to straining the resources of clinics and hospitals which serve low income people, there has been a drop in marriage license applications. In Cook County (which includes Chicago), where nearly half of all Illinois marriages occur, marriage applications dropped during the first three weeks of January from 1,500 a year ago to 600 this year. Said Dr. Renslow Sherer, acting director of the Cook County Hospital AIDS program: "One of the chief ways to limit AIDS is faithful monogamy, and here we have a system that discourages that very thing."

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## FORWARD IN UNITY CONFERENCE

Nationally known lesbian and gay political and organizational figures will be among the dozens of speakers, workshop facilitators and other resource persons providing leadership for FORWARD IN UNITY, a grassroots gay and lesbian leadership conference. FORWARD IN UNITY will be held May 13-15, 1988 on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis.

More than three hundred people from around the country are expected to attend. Conference leaders will include Karen Clark (lesbian Minnesota legislator), John Bush (Black and White Men Together), Brian Coyle (gay Minneapolis City Council member), Gil Gerald (National AIDS Network), Renee McCoy (National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays), and representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, and the Fairness Fund.

The principal goals of FORWARD IN UNITY are to provide skills, resources and networking opportunities to help participants function as grassroot leaders in their own communities. The organizers hope to build on the momentum generated by the March on Washington, and will offer workshop topics to include addiction, aging, arts, coming out, fundraising, health and AIDS, lesbianism, spiritualism, and violence.

A registration fee of \$100 includes all events and most meals. Reduced registration fees will be available for low income persons. Special rates have been arranged at the Holiday Inn Metrodome, and community housing will also be available. If interested, write for registration information to FORWARD IN UNITY, Box 300171, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

## NGLTF SEEKS VIOLENCE/HARASSMENT DATA

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is preparing its annual audit of anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence. Individuals aware of anti-gay/lesbian episodes which occurred in the area during 1987 are encouraged to contact Kevin Berrill, NGLTF, 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

NGLTF has contacted more than 150 organizations across the U.S. requesting data and information. They published similar reports for 1985 and 1986, and found acts of harassment and violence more than doubled in 1986 from the level documented in 1985. This data is essential to lobbying for the federal "Hate Crime Statistics Act.



## NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE: A NATIONAL VOICE FOR US

By: Roger Doughty

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has closed the books on a year of unprecedented activism and growth. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., NGLTF's full-time staff of ten won several major victories for gay and lesbian rights, initiated local organizing projects across the country, and positioned itself for a stronger future.

"1987 was a benchmark year for the Task Force," says Executive Director Jeffrey Levi. "We were not only able to step up our involvement and success at both national and grassroots levels, but also to put the Task Force on a firm footing for future work."

During 1987, NGLTF continued to work aggressively at the federal level to protect the rights of gay men and lesbians, and to influence the government to respond to the AIDS crisis. Prominent among NGLTF's legislative achievements was the passage of the "Hate Crimes Statistics Bill" by the House Judiciary Committee. (The measure currently has 91 co-sponsors in the full House). Having documented reports of anti-gay and lesbian violence since 1984, the Task Force pressed hard for the measure, which marks the first time the federal government has acknowledged the existence and seriousness of such crimes. Calling last Fall's vote "very gratifying," Anti-Violence Coordinator Kevin Berrill stated "this is a victory for all those concerned with ending crime motivated by bigotry."

The Task Force also lobbied forcefully against the confirmation of Supreme Court nominees Robert Bork and Anthony Kennedy, underscoring for the Senate their insensitivity to the privacy issues of concern to women, gay men and lesbians.

AIDS-related issues remained a top priority, with lobbying campaigns aimed to dramatically increase federal funding for AIDS research and treatment. The Task Force also set as a top priority the guarantee of access to quality care for all persons with AIDS. NGLTF's Public Information Director notes that "We're absolutely committed to insuring that PWA's have equal access to the best health care facilities available whether they live in Buffalo, San Francisco, Omaha or New York."

Recognizing that AIDS represents a grave threat not only to the health of gay men and lesbians but also to their civil rights, the Task Force initiated a vigorous nationwide campaign to defeat CDC proposed regulations for expanded mandatory HIV-antibody testing.

By organizing and working with a broad array of national organizations, NGLTF helped defeat the proposal last Spring.

The Task Force pushed its legislative efforts beyond Washington. Early last year NGLTF launched "The Privacy Project" to spearhead repeal of sodomy laws remaining across the country. NGLTF concentrated much of its effort on Maryland where the last attempt at sodomy law repeal occurred ten years ago. Coordinated by Sue Hyde, head of Privacy Project, the Task Force worked closely with Maryland organizations. Although the repeal effort failed, the momentum of the effort is carrying over to the 1988 legislative session.

Privacy Project also laid the foundation for NGLTF's first statewide organizing efforts in the South. In Tennessee, Hyde helped form the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Task Force, a coalition of local groups organizing around sodomy law issues. This January the Project helped organize statewide meetings in Virginia and North Carolina, and plans to use the model developed in Tennessee to help launch gay rights organizations in a number of Southern states.

Building on its successes last year, NGLTF approved a record \$1.5 million budget for 1988, and the organization looks toward still greater activism on gay and lesbian issues. "The challenges we face as gays and lesbians are enormous," says Levi. "But we're ready to meet them, and to work toward a time when we can live openly and free from violence and discrimination in all its forms."

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### GAYLA X SCHEDULED

The annual Unitarian/Universalist Gay Men's Conference will be held at Ferry Beach, Saco, Maine, from August 20th through 27th. Celebrating the tenth year of the gathering, gay men will assemble from across the nation to celebrate their gayness, affirm their lives and create a GAYLA community. All gay men are welcome.

For more information contact:  
David Smith  
4101 West Sunnyside Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85029  
(602) 978-3431

## JESSE JACKSON RESPONDS TO SURVEY

Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's response to a survey circulated by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) demonstrates the candidate's strong support for civil rights for lesbians and gay men. The candidate's responses in three key areas are summarized.

### AIDS Policies:

\* Supports National Academy of Sciences \$2 billion funding target but notes this may not be an adequate amount.

\* Supports making catastrophic insurance available as a right; supports federally guaranteed access to treatments and care; supports creation of stop-loss or reinsurance pools.

\* Believes we need to develop a national health care program funded federally and equally accessible to all.

\* Believes the burden of health care coverage should be borne by the federal government, not the states.

\* Supports broad and frank AIDS education; Believes such education should "confront homophobia, irrational and divisive fear, racism, and victim-blaming that impact our efforts to combat this disease."

\* Supports federal legislation banning discrimination against people with AIDS or HIV infection.

\* Opposes the Justice Department's interpretation that federal disability laws do not cover people with AIDs or HIV infection.

\* Supports Federal AIDS Policy Act, H.R. 3071/S.1575.

\* Opposes mandatory testing.

\* Supports creation of an office of Gay/Lesbian Health Concerns in the Public Health Service.

### Civil Rights:

\* Supports passage of a federal gay - lesbian rights bill and supports full civil and legal rights for lesbians and gay men; will fight any restrictions based on sexual orientation.

\* Is committed to issuing an Executive Order banning discrimination in the federal government, including the military; would extend order to cover all government contractors; sees order being supplemented by a Federal Gay - Lesbian Rights Bill.

### Lesbian/Gay Families:

\* Supports lesbian and gay partners being afforded the benefits accorded to heterosexual partners.

\* His campaign platform recognizes diversity within the human family; supports full civil rights for gay people.

\* Supports right of gay people to designate survivors and dependents; supports gay people's right to child custody.

## POLITICAL ACTIVISM AFTER THE MARCH

Images of strength and power which were created last October during the March on Washington are being re-created around the country as gay rights activism increases. The gay community is turning toward this response because years of quiet lobbying for gay rights have yielded more frustrating defeats than victories.

In November, 1986, California voters forcefully rejected Lyndon Larouche-backed Proposition 64 which sought to quarantine AIDS victims. Gay activists rejoiced at their victory. This year, however, has brought many legislative initiatives far more anti-gay. The Larouche initiative is again on the California ballot, and so are two more anti-gay initiatives. In addition, more than 60 related bills are pending in the California legislature.

In Massachusetts, more than 4,000 lesbians, gays, and supporters flooded the statehouse on January 4th. The protesters objected to the state senate's failure to pass a gay rights bill out of committee.

Even in California gay leaders are supporting civil disobedience which would have been unheard of a year ago. A key test of gay activism will occur in Sacramento on May 7th. The LA based Stonewall Democratic Club has called for a massive demonstration for gay rights on the steps of the state Capitol. Organizers predict 50,000 people will turn out, with hundreds of civil disobedients (CDers).

Further efforts in support of the Massachusetts bill are expected. However, during this election year, it is not clear whether it will pass through the legislature. What is clear, however, is an emerging national consensus among gays and lesbians that gay rights simply are not being promoted, and that the prospect of militant gays and lesbians in their neighborhood streets might induce more homophobic legislators to be responsive.



## US COURT OF APPEALS AFFIRMS RIGHT OF GAYS TO SERVE IN THE ARMY

A panel of the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in a 2-1 decision that the Army's blanket ban against having gays or lesbians in its ranks violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The decision prohibits the armed forces from discriminating against homosexuals as a class of people. The Court carefully distinguished its holding from the US Supreme Court's 1986 decision in the Hardwick sodomy law challenge, saying the Army's regulation discriminated not against historically prohibited sexual activity, but against the status of being homosexual. Presumably the Army might still discharge people whom it can prove have committed sodomy, but it cannot do so simply because they are homosexual.

In its analysis, the court for the first time recognized homosexuals as a minority entitled to the same status under "equal protection" analysis as racial and ethnic minorities, and aliens. It therefore applied "strict scrutiny" to determine whether the rule against gays was the only means of protecting a compelling governmental interest (presumably a sodomy-free Army). In the absence of "suspect class" status, the court would only have to find a "rational basis" for the Army's rule.

The determination of whether a group constitutes a "suspect class" is critical to a challenge of state action on federal constitutional grounds. Where a suspect class is affected and "strict scrutiny" given, the rule is nearly always found to be unconstitutional. Where no suspect class (or fundamental right) is affected, courts nearly always find a rational basis for the rule. [Women have been determined through the wisdom of the US Supreme Court to possess "semi-suspect class" status, thus entitled to less protection than Hispanics or aliens, but more than grocers or stockbrokers. Under the Ninth Circuit's reasoning lesbians would be entitled to greater protection.]

While the Ninth Circuit decision is a great victory for gay rights, there are still several hurdles ahead. First, the entire Ninth Circuit (as opposed to the three judge panel) might vote to revise or overrule the panel decision. Second, the US Supreme Court might grant discretionary review. In the Supreme Court, the decision could be a 4-4 tie, with new Justice William Kennedy casting the deciding vote.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUP FORMING

A nondenominational Bible study and prayer group is being formed. A fundamental approach will be taken and the study will be guided by the individual needs of each member. Meetings are planned for Monday nights at 8 pm at Ted's home. For details call Ted at 277-4684, Mon-Fri. 1-4 pm.

## AIDS LAWS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN FRANKFORT

HB-46. Sponsored by Rep. Maggard, presently before the Judicial Criminal Committee, would create a class D felony for persons with AIDS to sell or donate blood.

HB-50. Sponsored by Reps. Mason and P. Richardson, being considered by the Health and Welfare Committee, proposes prohibiting persons exposed to or testing positive for HIV and other specified health conditions from donating blood, and prohibit transfusion of blood or body parts from such people.

HB-193. Rep. Burch presented this bill which is now before the Banking and Insurance Committee. It would prohibit health insurers from canceling insurance because the insured is diagnosed as having been exposed, or has been exposed, to the AIDS virus.

HB-522. Rep. Scorsone is sponsoring this legislation to require state and local health departments to develop plans to prevent the spread of AIDS. The House recently passed this bill.

SB-83. Reps. Travis, Stuart and Trevy co-sponsored this bill requiring all marriage license applicants to undergo the HIV test, distribution of results to both the applicant and the intended spouse (the results will not appear on the marriage certificate, however), prohibit granting of the license without the HIV test, and provide for confidentiality.

## GAY LEGAL SERVICES PRESIDENT DIES

On January 8, Dan Bradley, 47, former head of the Legal Services Corporation, died of AIDS. He had headed the organization which provides legal representation to the poor in civil cases, and had served in both the Carter and Reagan administrations.

Closeted until he left government service in 1982, Bradley became active as a gay attorney in Miami. He served on the Human Rights Campaign Fund, participated in civil disobedience in Washington in June, 1987 and spoke at the March on Washington in October.

# dignity

DIGNITY/LEXINGTON  
P.O. Box 1984 • Lexington, KY 40593

269-8417

## FROM DIGNITY'S PRESIDENT

Well, we're five years old. It seems incredible and I'm amazed that five years have passed.

Will the next 5 years pass so quickly? A lot has happened to us, but what's next? We have a new bishop and it's nice to have our own diocese, but we'll miss Bishop Hughes in Covington. Maybe in another 5 years we will have surpassed 25 members. (We have a long way to go!) Maybe we'll have hosted a regional meeting. (That's more likely - how do you feel about August?) Maybe someone else will want to be president. (Please, please, please!) And maybe we'll continue to be a supportive organization for lesbians and gays in Lexington. I'd like that. Hope to see you at Dignity soon.

In Peace,  
Keith

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE!

Dignity is combining its program meeting with the GLSO monthly forum. Still located at Comp Care on the 2nd Monday of the month, these forums will be of general interest. Dignity may still do other program meetings independently. If you're interested in helping prepare the discussions, call Keith, 269-8417.

## 5TH ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH PLANNED

Gather with us to celebrate our 5th Anniversary Sunday, March 13th, 1:30 pm, at Great Moments for Brunch. Jack Dezek, our regional director, will be here. Kris and Shirley (formerly of Lexington) will also be our honored guests. It should be fun, fun, fun. Join us!

## MARCH DIGNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday 8nd	7:30	Liturgy at Don's, 299-4458
Sunday 13th	1:30	Anniversary Brunch at Great Moments, call Keith, 269-8417
Thursday 24th	7:30	Rap Session at Debbie's, 266-0757

## SODOMY RECRIMINALIZATION BILL DEFEATED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire state Senate dismissed by voice vote a proposal to recriminalize "unnatural and lascivious acts" in mid-January. Had it passed, the bill would have created a class B felony crime, but did not define what was meant by "unnatural and lascivious acts." No debate on the bill took place. New Hampshire decriminalized private, adult, consensual sexual behavior in 1973.

Marcus Hurn testified against the bill on behalf of the New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR). He said, "This bill is doomed to failure in its announced purpose because same sex relationships are not unnatural, only less common.... You can't wipe us out."

Unlike last year's bill to prohibit foster care placements with lesbians and gay men, the recriminalization bill attracted little attention from members of the state Senate or the New Hampshire news media. Susan Bruce, moderator of CAGLR's steering committee, noted the "bill had so little support that it was defeated as part of a package of several other bills. We're pleased this bill died a natural and uncomplicated death. We feel confident it won't be resurrected in the future."

Defeat of this bill is a hopeful sign for the continued repeal of sodomy laws in other states.

"The unpopularity of the recriminalization bill demonstrates disapproval for the Supreme Court's 1986 decision in Bowers v. Hardwick," said Sue Hyde, director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Privacy Project. "These laws will be repealed and will not be reinstated. Defeat of SB 240 is a victory for all the people of New Hampshire."



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## Esmerelda's Parlour



Well, here it is - my last month penning Esmerelda's Parlour's opening lines. The house is up for sale, job interviews begin for me and already the boxes are piling up.

It's been quite a year. March 1987 found me isolated, beginning a long and painful breakup with my lover and her children, stagnated in a nursing position that no longer challenged me and too frightened to take the risk of change. In April, at the advice of my therapist (actually a gentle shove) I began to attend GLSO C & D organizational meetings. I began to meet people - real human beings who didn't disappear after last call. I was accepted and encouraged. We were all challenged as we began to organize monthly dances and take responsibility for the women's section of this newsletter - a section that Steve had kept filled with items of interest to women.

Now after this long year I'll join Ann in Atlanta and we'll try the relationship stuff from the top. I guess I've learned that you never know what the future holds but its rarely as bleak as it might seem. A new home, a new position in a larger hospital, a marvelous girlfriend, and the Atlanta Gay Community! (Five women's bars - count 'em five!)

Several women involved with Esmerelda will continue this column and will appreciate your contributions, feedback, and energy. Become involved with this fabulous collection of women - it could change your life!

Laura Joans

This month's topic is lesbian separatism. Ironically enough, on February 9th, Oprah Winfrey's talk show highlighted this very subject. It was a frustrating show. The 2nd group of guests were three women introduced as radical lesbian separatists who "hated men."

Though each of these women clearly and repeatedly stated that their love for women did not make them "man haters" but rather women who focused their energy on women, they could not make the audience alter their initial impression. I think this is such an explicit example of why labels are so dangerous. How many TV viewers now believe that all lesbians are "man haters" and how much damage has this done to public acceptance of the gay community?

Separatism . . . the idea seems to be as difficult to define as any you'll find. Try to discuss separatism with a group of women, or men, or (gasp) women and men and just watch the fur fly. Everybody seems to have their own idea as to what it means to be separatist and whether separatism is good (for whom?), bad (for whom?), or indifferent. Simply stated, separatism advocates independence or autonomy for a particular group from some dominant group. To humor the academic in me I need to at least mention the fact that separatism isn't a particularly new idea nor are lesbians the only group to currently hold a separatist ideology. Historically, various ethnic and religious groups have sought to establish independent communities. Examples are the Mormons, French-Canadians and closer to home, the Shakers.

Rather than attempting any "definitive" discussion of lesbian separatism, what I would like to accomplish here is an overview of some basic sources of lesbian separatist ideology, to offer some personal observations and experiences on lesbian separatism, and finally, to comment on the implications of lesbian separatism for the gay/lesbian movement at large.

Lesbian separatist ideology stems largely from women's experiences in various political/social movements of the 60's and 70's. Deeply involved in both the anti-war and civil-rights movements, women soon recognized that they were relegated to second class status within these organizations. With few exceptions, women were denied leadership roles and were instead charge with stuffing envelopes, cleaning the office and generally providing support for the "real" movement leaders - men.

Such experiences are credited with the re-emergence of the feminist movement as women choose to fight for their own rights rather than accept second-class status. Yet within this new feminist movement dedicated to voicing women's issues, lesbians often found



little support or tolerance for their life-choices and related political issues. Too often straight feminists feared that public awareness of the presence of lesbians would undermine the overall movement. By making all feminists appear as "man haters" or "radical dykes." Many lesbians had a difficulty with their straight feminist sisters returning each night to the beds of the "oppressors." Once again, lesbians found themselves relegated to the back room (or closet?), denied leadership roles and often bluntly denied membership in feminist organizations.

From here, many lesbians moved into the newly emerging gay rights movement. Once again, lesbians most often found that they were denied meaningful roles in these male dominated groups. Lesbians were often seen as "invisible". Women's friendships were readily accepted by society if the sexuality aspect remained hidden and lesbians were still women-trained to be less aggressive with defining these needs. Lesbians began to see their issues to be very different from those championed by gay men but once more felt themselves to be putting energy into someone else's needs.

As more "radical" lesbians began to speak out about their experiences in various groups supposedly dedicated to "Liberation," lesbians realized that they were discriminated against and their issues were largely ignored or trivialized. These real (as opposed to imagine) experiences in fighting for their own rights, and more often the rights of others, led many lesbians to choose their own path - to separate from a male-identified world and to instead organized around their own beliefs and issues.

The degree of separation chosen varies widely. Some lesbians have established self-sufficient farming collectives which allow only lesbians and their female children, consumption of only woman produced products and social contact exclusively with other lesbians. Other lesbians work in the "real world" from 9 to 5 and limit the rest of their time to other lesbians. Still others maintain a wide variety of social contacts which at times includes exclusively lesbian groups. (Before going on let me acknowledge that many lesbians would argue that only the first example given above is truly separatist. In my experience women in the other two examples will often describe themselves as separatist or somewhat separatist and I choose to recognize this broader understanding of separatism.

What is it then, that lesbians who choose a separatist lifestyle gain? For many lesbians, separatism offers a safe and healing space apart from the oppression and injuries of the straight, white, male world. Separatism is not simply the exclusion of men whether gay or straight, but an affirmation and conscious choice of women not only as lovers but as those to whom energy is given and received, and around whom a community is built. This is, I believe, the best that separatism has to offer. Having experienced oppression as women and lesbians in a rather unforgiving and intolerant world, it is no small thing for lesbians to have a place from where they can explore themselves - selves which more often than not have been so battered and obscured in the "outside" world as to seem nonexistent.

When the outcome of separatism is an understanding of oneself and a healing of old wounds it is rather hard to criticize. But too often there is another outcome of separatism, particularly separatism in its extreme form of near isolation from society. From this isolation one often sees injuries and anger maintained rather than being released. Around this anger a bitterness and intolerance for difference sets in which is directed against those who think or live differently regardless of age, gender, or sexual identity.

The conflict produced by these differences in life-choices becomes most evident when planning community events. Each year Wimmis Music Festivals in particular produce new dilemmas in providing wimmis only space. Will male children of lesbians be allowed? how old? how young? can gay men attend? straight women? If a black man and a lesbian get into a fight is the struggle racist or sexist? Rather than affirming the strength and healing possibilities of an alternative culture such anger most often drains the energies of all involved.

This is not to say that the questions raised should not be addressed, or that they are answered simply. It is the nearsighted way these issues are approached which is troubling. Anger directed at male infants, lesbians who choose a life basically within the mainstream, gay men who recognize that there is something to be learned from lesbian culture, is detrimental to any attempt to transform society.

Yes, lesbians and gay men often have very different understandings of the world and very different needs both personally and politically. These differences deserve to be understood and challenged from both sides.

Unfortunately, both lesbians and gay men easily lose sight of the difference between respecting and supporting differing life-choices and needs and forcing divisions within an already splintered community.

History has shown that successful social movements have been built on strong communities. If lesbians and gays want to build a movement which can succeed in producing real social change we must have a strong community. A community cannot be built on anger or on failure to respect differing needs. Communities can and do thrive on diversity. We need not sabotage our own movement.



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### LESBIAN PASSION

Now that I have your attention, I'd like to take a moment to tell you all about the above titled book, written by JoAnn Loulan, which is rapidly becoming the talk of the town. Lesbian Passion, which is subtitled "Loving Ourselves and Each Other," serves as a natural extension of Lesbian Sex, another fine book by the same author. Here the author moves beyond the limitations of a discussion of sex, delving into all realms of passion: self-discovery, self-love, sexuality, recovery, and so much more. Written with sensitivity and wit, this book reaches out to all lesbians and encourages us to get to know ourselves and how to make ourselves happy. Out of respect for the diversity of the subject matter, I will forego any attempt at a summary, and instead, simply list the chapter titles and let them speak for themselves:

- Healing the Child Within
- Lesbian Self-Esteem
- When Will We Love Our Bodies?
- Celibacy: Having a Love Affair With Yourself
- Passionate Friendships
- The Lesbian Date
- Sex Toys and Other Hot Ideas
- Fanning the Flames:
  - How Couples Can Keep Their Sex Lives Exciting
- What Do Lesbians Need to Know About AIDS?
- Intimacy and Passion in Recovery
- After Incest: The Road to Recovery
- Partners of Incest Survivors
- Research on the Lives and Sex Practices of Some Lesbians

This is not the sort of book that you read once and then set aside. It should be kept within reach, to be referred to time and time again. With such an array of topics, it will always be of some use in your life. Be forewarned, however: You may not like everything the author has to say, or even how she says it, but you'll have to give her credit for her occasional not-so-gentle nudges to think about some things that we would just as soon not think about. Her approach to her subject matter is as varied as one would imagine her personality to be: alternately frank and outspoken, and sensitive and supportive. And at times she is downright entertaining. When I saw her first choice for the book's subtitle, I had to laugh: "Opening Our Hearts and Our Legs" sums it up perfectly as far as she's concerned. At the risk of starting a stampede, I hope you all will run, not walk, to your nearest friendly bookstore and pick up a copy of this book (if they're all out, then special order it --it's worth the wait!) Happy reading!

Debbie

Note: I would love to start up a discussion group based upon Lesbian Passion. If you have any interest, call Esmerelda at 266-0757 and let us know.

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY  
MARCH 8th**

**VOTE!**



## UULGC CONVOCATION CHOOSES LEXINGTON IN 1989

The Lexington Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church will host the 1989 Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (UULGC) Convocation. Lexington's Interweave bid for the event at this year's Convocation held in Portland, ME over President's Day Weekend. Three members of the Lexington church braved a sixteen inch snowfall in Portland to attend the 4th Annual Convocation. The UU Ohio Valley District, of which Lexington is a part, donated a \$250 grant for travel expenses to the three Lexington Convo-goers.

Though the inclement weather reduced the 120 preregistered participants, by Saturday afternoon 90 had assembled at the 200 year old First Parish Church of Portland. Three worship services and two series of workshops were held during the weekend. Workshop topics included: Legal Issues, Men's Sexuality, Women's Sexuality, Men's Needs, and Women's Spirituality. Kay Gardner performed in concert Saturday evening as part of the Convocation entertainment. During the Saturday evening business session the Convocation accepted the Lexington church's bid to host the 1989 Convocation.

Most of Sunday afternoon was occupied by the Common Vision process. Common Vision, sponsored by the UULGC, the denomination, and the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns (OLGC), is an educational, consciousness raising, and outreach program which hopes to involve churches in all UU districts during the coming year. Common Vision is designed to educate UU churches about gay/lesbian issues and bring more lesbians and gays into the denomination.

The UU denomination called for an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians in 1970. In 1973 the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns was established, and in 1984 the UUA became the first national denomination to recognize gay and lesbian services of union. In 1987 the UUA called for full legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships and an end to sodomy laws. Because of Kentucky's status as a sodomy law state, a church resolution mandates an anti-sodomy law protest in Lexington as part of the 1989 Convocation here. The Lexington UU Church meets at 3564 Clays Mill Road (where the C & D's are), Sundays at 10:45 am. Interweave - UULGC meets at the church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

## MARCH COFFEEHOUSE

Dancing will be the star of the March GLSO Coffeehouse and Dance, no matter how you look at it. Whether your preference is watching talented performers do their thing or cutting loose yourself, we'll have something for you this month. Our guest artist - entertainer will be Meriah Kruse, the Associate Artistic Director of Syncopated, Inc. Those of you who were lucky enough to attend that dance company's "Concert of Dance and Music" entitled Taking Action in January already have some idea of the treat we have in store for this month. We hope that the rest of you will come on out and see for yourselves. Following Meriah's program, in which she may even teach us a step or two, there will be, as usual, three hours or so for dancing and visiting.

We hope to add to the artistic flavor of this Coffeehouse by encouraging local artists to bring along their artwork and putting it on display. We did this once before, in August of last year, and there was quite a variety of artwork there for our enjoyment. We hope to see more this time. The doors will open at 8:30 pm and the cost will be \$3.00. See you there!

## RAINBOW BOWLING LEAGUE

Lexington's Rainbow Bowling League sent eleven members to the Valentine's Day Weekend Tournament in Louisville. The Tourney consisted of singles, doubles, and team events as well as all-events competition. The weekend activities were wrapped up with a banquet at the Galt House on the Ohio River.

After the meal, raffles were drawn; David and Tony cashed in. After the raffle, cash prizes were given for the events. Bill and Chuck won 7th place for their doubles bowling. Greg came in 8th out of 186 entrants in the singles tournament, winning \$28.

The Rainbow Bowling League season is drawing to a close. The Spare Me team (Dan, Shelby, Bill and David) has qualified for the finals in May. Another qualifier team will be determined within the next two months. Before the banquet in May one team will be awarded the League championship.

Rainbow Bowling League is a gay/lesbian league open to men and women of any bowling ability. On Tuesday's at 9 pm we take to the lanes at Joyland Bowl. Come out to watch and be thinking about next year! New bowlers are always welcome.

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## ASK AUNT MARY

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Dear Aunt Mary: A man in his thirties that I know is having an affair with a boy in junior high school. I have several concerns upon which I would like your views:

1. This affair is a felony, punishable by up to twenty years in prison.

2. No child of that age is prepared for a serious relationship of any type.

3. The man in question has endangered others' livelihoods by taking the boy to gay bars in this and other cities.

4. By publicly displaying their relationship, they are demonstrating the MYTH about gays recruiting among children is true.

5. By not speaking out about this relationship, other members of the gay community are demonstrating a benign acceptance and approval of certain forms of child abuse.

Please comment as I am obviously,

Very Concerned - Lexington

Dear Very: And wouldn't I just love to know who wrote this little jewel! The phrasing of your questions suggest you would like me to pass a stinging moral judgment on the individual. I will not do that because I don't have all the facts. For instance, has the man you know lured this boy away from a stable, happy family life, or has he rescued him from the streets and a life of drugs and prostitution? With the understanding that I'm not going to be moralizing, lets take a look at the concerns you mention.

1. This man is certainly taking a terrible legal risk if the boy is as young as you indicate. Personally, I can't imagine anyone being willing to take this risk for whatever reason, but then each of us takes a certain amount of risk each time we engage in gay sex in Kentucky due to the state sodomy statute.

2. I agree that a child in junior high school is not prepared for a serious relationship. This will probably present more of a problem to the man than to the boy, since children experience very intense emotions but also get over them very quickly. As this young man grows older he will very likely move on to other relationships before he settles into a permanent one.

3. Every city has bars known to serve those who are underage, and other bars so strict in requiring I.D.'s that no one underage even attempts to get in. Since it is a very simple procedure to post someone at the door to check I.D.'s, I can only assume in bars that serve underage people, the owner has made that decision. In any event, it's the bar owner's business, and it's his livelihood and that of his employees which is at stake.

4. I do not believe any child has ever been recruited into being gay. On occasion a child's curiosity has been exploited and he/she has been persuaded (or coerced) to engage in a sex act, but to change their basic orientation on a long term basis is, in my opinion, not possible. Unfortunately, those people who believe in gay stereotypes will be only too happy to seize these kinds of situations, no matter how rare, to "prove" their point. I sometimes wonder just how effective it is for gays to expend so much energy trying to disprove myths and stereotypes. It seems to me those who believe them will never be dissuaded by mere facts!

5. Is this a form of child abuse? Has this young man been lucky enough to find a relatively safe way to explore his sexuality or has he had the misfortune to fall into the hands of a person who is exploiting him for their own sexual gratification. I don't have enough information to answer this point. Perhaps the other members of the gay community who have not spoken out against this relationship are simply acknowledging they don't know enough about the situation to make a judgment.

Now, I feel certain you are none too pleased with my comments, so let me say I am not in favor of man/boy relationships. I have read accounts of young men, however, who say they were helped tremendously by an older, stable, understanding man at a time when they were confused and vulnerable. This is an extremely gray area and each case must be considered on its own merits. Despite this disclaimer, Aunt Mary feels certain March would be great month for an extended vacation.

Aunt Mary

If you would like to write to Aunt Mary, send your letters to: Aunt Mary, c/o GLSO, PO Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575. For a personal reply, include a stamped, self addressed envelope. All Names are strictly confidential.



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## NAMES PROJECT QUILT

During 1988 the human dimension of the AIDS crisis will be dramatically displayed to much of America as the Names Project Quilt goes on national tour. Scheduled to begin in early April and conclude in late July, the tour will include over 20 of the country's largest metropolitan areas. The Quilt covers an area larger than three football fields, and each panel commemorates an individual who died of AIDS.

The Quilt was originally expected in Cincinnati, but Atlanta, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh now appear to be the closest cities scheduled to host the display. The tentative schedule places the Quilt in Atlanta the end of May, and in Cleveland followed by Pittsburgh, early in June. GLSO News will publish the exact dates for those cities as the details are finalized.

Organizers estimate the Quilt will include over 4,000 panels, and panels are still sought. AVOL is preparing panels commemorating some of our local AIDS victims and welcomes participation. If you have family or friends you would like to memorialize, or are just willing to sew, call Chuck at 233-0492.

## CONDOM SENSE HITS LEXINGTON

As part of the National Condom Week promotion (February 14th - 21st), AVOL began distributing "Condom Sense," a twelve page tabloid which covers "everything you always wanted to know about condoms but were afraid to ask." As boring as that may sound, the newspaper-style publication contained articles which were both fun and factual. The style of the advice columnist seemed so familiar we suspect our own Aunt Mary may have been a silent contributor to those two pages. Free issues of "Condom Sense" were distributed at The Bar and the GLSO Valentine's Day Dance. If you missed it there may still be a few left at the AIDS information table at The Bar on Saturday nights.

The brochure "Lesbians and AIDS" was also available at the Valentine's Day Dance because GLSO has received many requests for information specific to women. Since AIDS is so common in gay men, "Lesbians and AIDS" is one of the few commercially available brochures specifically targeted at lesbian concerns.

## LOCAL AIDS PHONE NUMBERS REVISED

AVOL has installed a new phonenumber for information on AIDS, service referrals, and information on the latest AVOL events and activities. Although coverage may vary, the phone is frequently manned evenings and weekends. If no one is on duty, callers will hear a recorded message. The AVOL number is (606) 252-2447, and it will be listed in the **Directory** section of each month's **GLSO News**. The ACT-Lexington phonenumber has been moved to the Red Cross where it is manned by their volunteers during regular business hours.

## STATE FUNDING SOUGHT

GLSO has submitted a \$3,700 request to the state for an AIDS Health Education - Risk Reduction Grant. If funded, the money will be used by AVOL for pamphlets, condoms, and other AIDS-related expenses. Such grant proposals are totaled by the state and serve as the basis for the state's request for federal funds. As a result it may be several months before funds are awarded or declined.

## REAGAN PROPOSES MORE AIDS FUNDING

President Reagan has submitted his administration's final budget proposal to Congress. The proposed budget for the fiscal year which begins October 1st seeks \$2 billion to fight AIDS, a 40% increase over the current year. The budget request allocates \$900 million for research, \$600 million for Medicaid services, \$400 million for education, and \$100 million for income support to those disabled by the disease.

## U.K. ACTIVE IN FEDERAL AIDS PROJECT

Last fall the East Central AIDS Education and Training Center was established at U.K. with funding from the federal government. It is one of the first four regional centers in the U.S. designed to provide AIDS education and training for health professionals. A joint effort between participants in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, the project will develop AIDS training techniques appropriate for practicing health professionals in "middle America."

# GAY AMERICA

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## ARLINGTON, TX

For the second year in a row, the Gay and Lesbian Association (GLA) at University of Texas - Arlington won the President's Trophy for its homecoming float. Due to vandalism in 1986, the group posted 24-hour guards to protect the float this year.

## WASHINGTON, DC

A Reagan task force studying ways to increase the number of people available to adopt children has recommended adoptions by gays "should not be supported."

Gay men and women are "probably the most frequent victims" of hate crimes, according to a study by the US Department of Justice. Having focused on race, religion and ethnicity as well as sexual orientation, the study concluded that hate crimes in general are "widespread" and appear to be increasing.

## PORTLAND, ME

The state attorney general who opposed gay rights legislation has changed his position because of the AIDS epidemic. He feels that AIDS has been grafted onto the concept of sexual orientation, and gay men and women now suffer more intolerance and discrimination.

## CAMBRIDGE, MA

A gay public school teacher has filed a complaint with the state Teachers' Association ethics committee claiming harassment by another teacher. In one incident, the offending teacher told a student who slipped off sweatpants worn over his shorts, "If you do that for Mr. Lipkin, he'll give you an A."

## CALIFORNIA

The California Democratic party has referred several pro-gay planks to the Democratic National Platform Committee. Included are equal protection in housing and employment, domestic partner benefits, non-discrimination against PWA's, and support for AIDS funding.

## ALEXANDRIA, VA

The Alexandria Gay Community Association has purchased three 1/4-page ads in the Washington Post promoting acceptance of gays. One equates teaching children homophobic views with child abuse, a second criticizes sodomy laws, and a third speculates upon the discrimination Walt Whitman might face today.

## ATLANTA, GA

The CDC announced the total number of AIDS cases in the US had reached 50,000 with 400 new cases reported each week. In 1987 the rate of increase through heterosexual contact (136%) was larger than that for homosexual contact (82%).

## PORTLAND, OR

The majority of Oregonians favor a state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to a new poll done for a Portland daily newspaper. A full 60% of those surveyed said they would support a statewide ban on private sector discrimination against gays. Gov. Neil Goldschmidt recently issued an executive order extending job protection to gays in the public sector.

## NATIONAL

Although college freshmen are liberal about many social issues, the percentage who favor laws banning gay sex rose in the past year according to an annual poll conducted by the American Council on Education and UCLA. The New York Times reported 53% of freshmen favor laws prohibiting homosexual relations, compared with 52% last year.

## INTERNATIONAL - UNITED KINGDOM

Recent analysis of AIDS cases in the United Kingdom shows the rate of increase of new cases is doubling every 11 months with no sign of slowing down. The government continues its mass media campaign, and recently added six tape recorded minority languages to the national hot line.



# INTO THE FUTURE

- March 4-6, 1988. Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns Regional Conference. Louisville, KY.
- March 25-27, 1988. Dignity Region V House of Delegates. Lafayette, IN.
- April 14-17, 1988. Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men. Atlanta, GA
- April 24, 1988. Lexington ICBE Coronation. Lexington, KY.
- April 26, 1988. AVOL Benefit, Lexington. "Tina Turner" from NY.
- May 20-22, 1988. National Organization for Changing Men's National Conference on Homophobia. Washington, DC.
- May 27-30, 1988. Gay Lesbian Press Association Convention. Chicago, IL.
- May 27-30, 1988. International Mr. Leather Contest. Chicago, IL.
- June 3-5, 1988. 9th Annual World Conference of Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. Columbus, OH.
- June 18-19, 1988. Pride Week Family Festival. Cincinnati, OH.
- June 25-26, 1988. New York City's Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride March, Rally and Dance. New York City, NY.
- July 2-4 1988. Dignity Region V Convention. Grand Rapids, MI.
- July 21-24, 1988. 6th Bi-Ennial International Assembly of Lutheran Concerned/North America. Toronto, Canada.
- August 20-27, 1988. GAYLA X - Gay Men's Conference at Ferry Beach. Saco, ME.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**REAL ESTATE:** Historic cottage for sale. In Lexington's Western Suburb. 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, private courtyard, fenced-in backyard, cathedral ceilings, sky light and more. Call 231-7985.

**PERSONALS:** GWM, 32, 5'9", 150lbs, dark brown hair/eyes, clean shaven. Looking for that "someone special," 18-29, ave wgt, clean shaven w/smooth chest, for friendship and possible relationship. Serious inquiries only. Reply to: J.C., P.O. Box 12225, Lexington, KY 40581.

## DIRECTORY

- GLSO Gayline..... 231-0335
- GLSO Board.....call Jim, 299-0352
- GLSO Newsletter.....  
...call Craig/Steve, 266-8887
- GLSO Speaker's Bureau.....  
.....call Barry, 268-3935
- GLSO Coffeehouse &  
Dance.....  
.....call Esmerelda, 231-7985
- GLSO Cards & Games.....  
.....call Karen, 259-3292
- Lesbian Potluck.....  
.....call Esmerelda, 231-7985
- Gay/Lesbian AA.....  
.....call Craig, 266-8887
- Imperial Court of the  
Bluegrass Empire.....  
.....call Mark, 266-1779  
.....or Jerry, 272-7381
- Dignity/Lexington.....  
.....call Keith, 269-8417
- Liturgy.....call Don, 299-4458
- (Lexington's chapter of the national Catholic gay and lesbian support organization. See the Dignity page included in this newsletter.)
- Interweave.....call Craig, 266-8887  
(A group within Lexington's Unitarian Universalist Church composed of gay men and lesbians and their non-gay friends.)
- AVOL..... 252-2447  
(AIDS support and education)
- ACT-Lexington..... 281-5151  
(AIDS education and speakers)
- HIV Positive Support Group  
.....call Edwin, 233-0444
- Lexington-Fayette County  
Health Department  
AIDS Testing..... 252-2371  
(For anonymous AIDS counseling and testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)
- Madison County Health Department  
AIDS Testing..... 623-7312  
(For anonymous AIDS counseling and testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)
- Louisville Crisis Hotline.  
..... (502) 637-4342
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
Crisis Line and AIDS Crisis  
Line..... (800) 221-7044

# MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Contact names and numbers for all events listed can be found in the Directory on the previous page. The Comp Care Center is located at 201 Mechanic Street, Lexington.

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|--------|---|--------|--|
| TUE 1  | Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes; HIV Positive Support Group   | SUN 13 | Dignity 5th Anniversary Brunch, 1:30 pm, Great Moments; Lesbian Potluck, 2 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; AVOL, 5:30 pm, Comp Care Center; ICBE Show, 9 pm, Great Moments |
| WED 2  | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm   | MON 14 | GLSO Forum, 8 pm, Comp Care  |
| THU 3  | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm  | TUE 15 | GLSO Speaker's Bureau, 7 pm; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes; HIV Positive Support Group   |
| FRI 4  | GLSO Cards & Games, 7 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm                                | WED 16 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Interweave, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church   |
| SUN 6  | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center  | THU 17 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm   |
| TUE 8  | Dignity Liturgy, 7:30 pm; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes; HIV Positive Support Group                             | FRI 18 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance, 8:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church   |
| WED 9  | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance Committee, 8 pm | SUN 20 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center   |
| THU 10 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO News, Deadline for Submissions   | TUE 22 | Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes; HIV Positive Support Group  |
| FRI 11 | GLSO Cards & Games, 7 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm                                | WED 23 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance Committee, 8 pm  |
|        |   | THU 24 | GLSO News Layout, 7:30 pm; Dignity Rap Session 7:30 pm; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm   |
|        |   | FRI 25 | GLSO Cards & Games, 7 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm   |
|        |   | SUN 27 | Gayline Training Session, 1 pm, Comp Care Center; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; ICBE Show, 9 pm, Great Moments   |
|        |   | MON 28 | GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30 pm  |
|        |   | TUE 29 | Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes  |
|        |   | WED 30 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm  |
|        |   | THU 31 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm   |