

SEPTEMBER NEWS 1989



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

FOUNDER OF AIDS QUILT TO SPEAK IN BERA

On September 28 at 8 pm, Cleve Jones will speak at a Convocation at Berea College. Jones is founder and director of the NAMES Project Quilt, and was an aide to Harvey Milk during his time in office as a City Supervisor in San Francisco in 1977-1978.

In 1987, Jones created a small, 3' x 5' quilt memorializing a friend who had died of AIDS. The quilt included pieces of cloth and other items meaningful to Jones and his friend who had died, thus signifying a personalized memorial of love and remembrance. This quilt was the first panel of what was eventually to become the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt.

From that starting point, the project rapidly grew as hundreds of those left behind after AIDS had taken a loved one contributed their own memorial panels. The Quilt's first national showing took place at the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. At that time, the Quilt included almost 2000 panels.

After the display at the 1987 March, portions of the Quilt toured the nation, appearing in nearly every major city with thousands of visitors viewing the Quilt at each exhibit. On the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington, the entire Quilt was once again displayed at the Capitol Mall in Washington, just across the street from the White House and the Capitol Building. By this showing, the Quilt had more than quadrupled

in size to include almost 8,000 panels, each a personalized remembrance to a person who died of AIDS and to the pain of loss suffered by survivors.

The Quilt has just completed another year of tours to more than 19 cities across North America. As during its first tours, only portions of the Quilt are displayed in various parts of the country. The entire Quilt is simply too large to transport frequently, since it now weighs more than 600 tons. More than 2,500 volunteers are required to unfold, display, guard and refold the Quilt for a three day exhibit. But more significantly, the Quilt is now so large, no location anywhere in the country is large enough to safely exhibit the Quilt in its entirety.

Less than a thousand panels were displayed in Cincinnati this past March. Less than one thousand. Even less than an eighth of the Quilt was staggeringly overwhelming in the pain, hope and love expressed by the pictures and messages in the panels. Two panels in particular were devastating. One represented a man from Lexington. Even though I knew he had later died of AIDS in Atlanta, seeing a panel with a familiar name was astounding. Then there was a quilt with an unfamiliar name. But it included a T-shirt from Johnny Angel's, the name of "The Bar" (See JONES, page 2)

PRO-CHOICE VOTERS NEEDED by Bluegrass N.O.W.

Bluegrass N.O.W. and other pro-choice organizations are coordinating a newspaper advertisement to be placed in the Lexington Herald-Leader within the next few months. The advertisement will take the form of a petition, with the words "I'm Pro-Choice and I Vote" as the headline, followed by the names of pro-choice voters.

N.O.W. is depending on individual

contributions to pay for the ad, which costs from \$1500 for a half-page to \$3000 for a full-page ad. The name of each person who donates at least a dollar will appear in the ad. For more information call the Bluegrass N.O.W. answering service at 233-4393.

Send your contributions to Bluegrass N.O.W., PO Box 22151, Lexington, KY 40522-2151.

Please send me a free introductory issue of **GLSO News** and information on GLSO.

I'd like to become a voting Member of GLSO, including home delivery of the **GLSO News** and discounts at GLSO functions. My Membership fee of \$10/year is enclosed.

I don't wish to become a Member but please send me the **GLSO News** each month. I enclose the \$5 annual fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Mail to: Newsletter, P.O. Box 11471
Lexington, KY 40575

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Steve Savage, Editor
Craig Clere, Asst Editor, Events Calendar
Esmerelda Ink, Asst Editors for Esmerelda
Aunt Mary, Advice Columnist

Additional Contributors: The Advocate, Debbie, Kenneth, Mischelle, Kevin, Alan, Angela, Teresa, Craig, GLSO, Interweave, NOW, HRCF, ADAM, NGLTF; **Typists:** Craig; **Equipment:** Dave; **Layout:** Gerry; **Mailing:** Bill; **Courier:** Kenneth; **Folding & Stuffing:** Alan, Craig, Bill, Paula, Dave.

Views or opinions expressed in **GLSO News** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors. Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must include the full name and address of the author. Anonymous submissions are not accepted. The editorial staff reserves the right to alter any submissions (including advertising) to meet publishing requirements, as well as the right to reject any submissions it deems may be offensive or discriminatory to others.

Placement of advertising in **GLSO News** does not denote a person's sexual orientation nor a business's customer preference.

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(JONES, continued from page 1)

until a few years ago. AIDS has hit Kentucky hard. Probably more than many of us know.

The Quilt is not just a memorial to AIDS victims. It is also a monument to the love brought to the world by those represented in the panels. But the Quilt is also an active in the fight against the devastation of AIDS. Everywhere the Quilt is displayed, thousands upon thousands of individuals are stunned by its enormity and diversity. This brings home into shocking perspective how devastating this epidemic has already become.

The Quilt also inspires those now living with the disease and inspires action to fight the epidemic. Contributions received at each exhibit have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local and national AIDS organizations.

The entire NAMES Project AIDS Quilt will be on display for the final time this October 6-8, once again at the Capitol Mall in Washington, D.C. An additional display will be included this year, the Faces of AIDS exhibit. This new collection includes thousands of 8" x 10" photographs of people represented in the Quilt, with brief biographies of each. Cleve Jones is stopping at Berea College on his way to the Quilt display in Washington. His presentation, "Journey of Memories ... Journey of Hope," will talk about the history of the Quilt, the people involved, and will show some of the panels via slides telling about the people memorialized and those who made the panels.

HOW MUCH WE PAY TO SUFFER DISCRIMINATION

According to a recent article in *The San Francisco Examiner*, the cost to the taxpayers for training and discharging the lowest grade of soldier in the U.S. military, simply because that soldier is gay or lesbian, is \$15,500. For an officer the cost is \$56,000, for a fighter pilot, \$106,000. Since 1973 the military has spent \$251 million to discharge homosexuals. The cost of discharging all homosexuals presently in service (based on the usual 10% estimate), would be \$2.5 billion.

DID YOU KNOW?????

According to an "inside" source quoted in *Out/Look: the National Lesbian and Gay Magazine*, five out of the last six Presidents of the United States have had a lesbian daughter and/or a gay son. The "inside" source is the gay son of a contemporary federal politician.

GLSO ACTIVITIES

JULY BOARD MEETING HAS VARIED AGENDA

by Teresa Reynolds and Craig Clere

The GLSO Board of Directors met on July 26, 1989 for their monthly meeting. Several items of old business were discussed. A By-Law revision which shortens the term for appointed board members was approved by the Board and will be voted upon at the September Forum Meeting. After several months discussion, a policy concerning newsletter submissions was approved stating the newsletter staff has the right to "reject any submissions it deems may be considered offensive or discriminatory by others." This policy will apply to any and all submissions, including classified advertisements.

Bill Loggins reported the remainder of the Chicago Grant monies has been spent to support GLSO advertising and promotions. Craig Clere, for the Phoneline Committee, reported the new referral guide for the Phoneline staff, compiled by Melanie Otis, has been distributed and the Phoneline expansion to Sunday night has been completed.

Debbie Currie, of the Dance Committee, reported the Coffeehouses & Dances will resume in September with live entertainment. The Board also discussed ways of better promoting the dances, such as placing ads in various newsletters.

A lengthy discussion about the GLSO Forum followed. Craig Clere suggested the year's remaining Forum's be slated with speakers and publicized in the newsletter. Topics were chosen for meetings through December.

Bill Loggins spoke to the need to organize a group to write an information pamphlet about GLSO and its components for informational and publicity purposes. Each member of the Board will write a section of the pamphlet on one of the following topics: Newsletter, Esmerelda and Adam, History/Overview/Goals, Speaker's Bureau, and Social Activities. These sections are to be completed by the August meeting.

Steve Savage brought to the attention of the Board the Community Coalition for Cultural Diversity. The Coalition trains people as workshop leaders and then sends them out for presentations (along the lines of our Speaker's Bureau). These workshops include teaching people about racial, religious, ethnic, age, and handicap discrimination. With the assistance of GLSO members Edwin Hackney, Alan Ellis and Steve Savage, homophobia and

gay/lesbian issues will be more actively covered during future workshops. Additional members to the Coalition are welcome. Presently, a need exists particularly for gay women who will appear openly as lesbians.

Steve Savage also announced that after two and a half years as editor of *GLSO News*, he is resigning effective November 1. He will be returning to school to complete a doctoral degree in music.

GLSO Board Meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend a board meeting should contact either Craig Clere (266-8887) or Debbie Currie and let them know of her/his wish to attend. Board meeting dates are listed in the "Calendar" section.

GLSO COFFEEHOUSES RETURN

by Debbie Currie

After a glorious summer of R & R, the GLSO Coffeehouse and Dance Committee is back at it, making plans for the year to come. Although we plan on having fewer dates this year (probably just six), we're very excited because we are trying to line up live entertainment for nearly every one of them. In the planning stages are Coffeehouses for the following months: September and October of 1989, and January, February, March, and April of 1990.

We hope to bring back "Yer Girlfriend", "Tendre", and "The Grinders" for return engagements, and also hope to feature a group or two who are new to the Coffeehouses, if not to Lexington. You can also look forward to a combination Halloween Party and Talent Show in October, and the GLSO Valentine's Day Dance next February. Our goal is to provide you with quality live entertainment, while still allowing you plenty of opportunity to socialize and dance. Whenever possible, we will make room for you to DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, to live music. That has worked well in the past, and you've said that you want more of the same. Although most of the Coffeehouses will still be on the third Friday of the month (notable exceptions being in September and October, when they will be on the fourth Friday), watch for flyers announcing the important details regarding each Coffeehouse, so you'll be sure not to miss any of them.

Join us for our first Coffeehouse & Dance, September 22, 8:30 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church. We want to see YOU there!

GLSO ACTIVITIES

GLSO TO HOLD YARD SALE

by Craig Clere

GLSO will benefit from a yard sale on Saturday, September 2, from 9 am to 5 pm at 702 Central Avenue (the corner of Central and Clay). The Women's Softball Team, sponsored by GLSO, is organizing the sale as a fundraiser for the organization. Donations are welcome and appreciated. Call 233-9620 or 255-3851 to donate items for the sale.

GLSO BOARD TO HOLD PLANNING RETREAT

by Craig Clere

GLSO's Board of Directors will hold a one-day planning retreat on September 9 for the purpose of setting both short-term and long-term goals for the organization. A local adult educator with experience in conducting non-profit organizational retreats will conduct the session. The Board is excited about the upcoming year and looking forward to serving the lesbian and gay community of Lexington. A full report on the retreat will be featured in the October issue of **GLSO News**.

SPEAKER PLANNED FOR FORUM

Jan Harmon will be the speaker at September's GLSO Forum. Ms. Harmon is director of the Lexington office of Planned Parenthood and an active supporter of women's rights and reproductive freedom. She will discuss the present fight to maintain reproductive freedom and the opposition to those rights from the so-called Pro-Life movement. Similarities between the Women's Movement and the Lesbian and Gay Rights Movement will be explored.

GLSO Forums are held the second Monday of each month at Comprehensive Care Center, 201 Mechanic Street in Lexington. Meetings take place in the large meeting room at the end of the first floor hallway. Because our meetings are scheduled during evening hours, the doors to the building are locked. To gain access, push the doorbell button at the "ramp" entrance on Mechanic Street. The Comp Care employee on duty will open the lock for you electronically.

RAINBOW LEAGUE!!

It's that time again, tis the end of Summer and with the beginning of Fall we head back to the alleys. No, not the alleys running behind the bars but those of Joyland Bowl in north Lexington.

Starting August 29, GLSO's Rainbow League begins it's sixth year as a Gay/Lesbian League. The league bowls every Tuesday night at 9 pm for a full 35 week season. Last year over 40 bowlers enjoyed the fun and excitement of great bowling competition, a lot of laughs, and the making of many new friends. Participation is unlimited, so don't hesitate to join if you're interested. If you don't think you can make it every week, substitutes are always needed. Let us know if you would like your name in the list of subs.

This year the League will be larger and better than ever. Officers are Chuck Dean, President (268-8541), Shelby Reynolds, Vice-President, (231-0090), and Steve Rosenberg, Secretary/Treasurer, (278-2696). Please call one of those people for more information on the League or just join us at the lanes on August 29, 1989 at 9 pm.

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

by Kenneth Sanders

ADAM had a nice turnout at Great Moments on Tuesday, Aug. 8 (thanks Clay and Tom of GM). ADAM ... in touch with man, is a men's group. ADAM will rely on the support of those who want it to happen; it will do what the group wishes to do.

Ideas and suggestions brought up were: potlucks, movie nights, cards and games, support groups (for those who have been out and for those who are coming out) - doing different things that will help others to express themselves to those who will understand. But if you don't get involved - ADAM will not exist. (If you believe in fairies, just clap your hands!) Soooo, we are inviting all of you men who want to "create" man in the image you want - attend ADAM II.

ADAM will meet this time at Crossings (Where Men Meet), at 117 N. Limestone, on Wed. Sept. 6 at 7:30 pm. After the meeting we'll stay to enjoy Crossings for the rest of the evening (it's Wednesday - Movie Night), check it out. If you can't be there, please send your helpful hints to ADAM, c/o GLSO, Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575.

**MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW
TO USE A CONDOM PROPERLY.**

IGNORANCE CAN KILL !

For Information On Safer Sex Practices,

Call:

1-800-342-AIDS

Kentucky Residents Call:

1-800-645-AIDS

**FEDERAL APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS
LOWER COURT; REJECTS ARMY LESBIAN**
by NGLTF

In the latest development in lesbian Miriam Ben-Shalom's 13-year battle to re-enlist in the US Army Reserves, the US Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled on August 7 that the Army is not required to re-enlist Ben-Shalom. Justifying its decision in part on the US Supreme Court's ruling in "Bowers v. Hardwick", in which the Court held that states could regulate the rights of gay people to engage in private, adult, consensual sexual behavior, the court in "Ben-Shalom" upheld the Army's regulation discharging persons who "engage in homosexual conduct, or who by their statements demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct."

The new decision by a three-judge panel in Chicago reverses a lower district court ruling which had declared the Army regulation unconstitutional and ordered the Army to re-enlist Ben-Shalom. Ben-Shalom will appeal to a full panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ben-Shalom began her legal battle in 1976 when she was discharged from the Army Reserves because she acknowledged her lesbianism to reporters writing about her appointment as one of the first two women drill sergeants in the Army Reserves. In earlier victories, lower courts held that Ben-Shalom's First Amendment rights were violated by her discharge; and that the Army regulation denied to gay people equal protection under the law because it penalized person for their status as homosexuals.

Apart from her lesbian identity, Ben-Shalom's qualifications to serve in the Army Reserves had not been questioned, nor had Ben-Shalom been charged with engaging in homosexual conduct. The Army claimed that embracing a homosexual identity indicated a propensity to engage in homosexual behavior, and that since homosexual behavior or a propensity toward it was proscribed by Army regulations, Ben-Shalom's First Amendment rights were not violated when she was dismissed for acknowledging her lesbian identity.

"It is the identity that makes her ineligible for military service, not the speaking of it out loud," wrote Judge Harlington Wood, Jr. in the new "Ben-Shalom" decision. "Thus, if the Army's regulation affects speech, it does so only incidentally, in the course of pursuing other legitimate goals."

The Court held that the legal standard

of review to decide on whether Ben-Shalom, as a lesbian, was denied equal protection under the law by the Army's regulation was a "deferential" one, because "If homosexual conduct may constitutionally be criminalized (under "Hardwick") then homosexuals do not constitute a suspect or quasi-suspect class entitled to greater than rational basis scrutiny for equal protection purposes."

Obviously, the decision is a setback for lesbian and gay activists working to secure the right to serve in the military. Sue Hyde, Director of the Privacy Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and organizer of the Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition, stated "We had hoped to find relief in this decision for servicemembers who face witchhunts and prosecutions simply for being gay or lesbian; instead we find judicial prejudice".

The Gay & Lesbian Military Freedom Project Coalition will continue to pursue a Congressional strategy to overturn the anti-gay/lesbian military policy. Hyde also noted NGLTF's plans to hold a Military Freedom demonstration at the White House on November 10. The Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project is a joint project of NGLTF, the National Organization for Women, Women's Equity Action League, National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, ACLU Gay and Lesbian Rights Project, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Citizen Soldier.

WHERE DO YOU GO TO MEET PEOPLE?

Partners: the newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples has published results of a survey of 663 same-sex couples. Some of the most interesting findings reflect the different means by which gay men and lesbians met their lovers.

26% of the women who responded met their lovers through friends, while only 18% of the male respondents reported the same. 24% of the female couples met at work, as compared to only 3.5% of the male couples. Surprisingly, 4% of the women met at religious events, while 6% of the men met in at similar place. 4% of both women and men met at political events.

24% of the male couples indicated they met at bars, while only 3.5% of the women answered the same. 12% of the men met through ads or dating services, but only 3.5% of the women met in that manner. 12% of the men met at a park or other public space, with 2% of the women meeting in such places. 4% of the men met while cruising or at baths, while less than 1% of the female couples did.

**"OTHER PEOPLE"
SUPPORT
THOSE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES.**

DON'T THEY?

Unlike some TV preachers, we don't threaten to close our doors every week if you don't send us money. We get by on very little and we do a lot.

- * We publish Lexington's monthly community newsletter.
- * We answer the Phoneline (231-0335), from 8:00-11:00 pm each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, offering community information and referrals, or just someone to listen.
- * We conduct monthly meetings for gays and lesbians.
- * We sponsor the Esmerelda Collective and its various activities.
- * We support Interweave, AIDS Volunteers of Lexington, Dignity/Lexington, and the HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group.
- * We sponsor a Speakers Bureau.
- * We conduct social events for gay men and lesbians, including the Rainbow Bowling League, Cards & Games, Volleyball, Potlucks and other activities.

If we can do all this on a little cash and a lot of volunteer hours, imagine what we could do with your help. Fundraisers of the Religious Right make millions scaring people with how well-financed and tightly organized "those homosexuals" are. We'd like to give them the chance to be correct about something for a change.

**LEXINGTON GAY & LESBIAN
SERVICES ORGANIZATION**

P.O. Box 11471
Lexington, KY 40575

Gayline: (606) 231-0335
(8-11 pm, Wed. thru Fri.)

Yes! I'd like to support the work of
GLSO with a contribution of: (Please
circle one)

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES AND ADVOCACY SINCE 1977

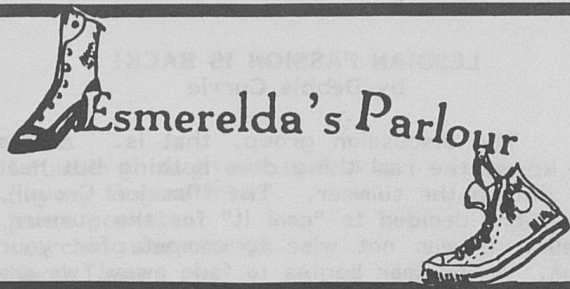
Autographing



Please Join Us in Welcoming
Rita Mae Brown,
author of *Rubyfruit Jungle*,
who will be in our store for
a reading and signing of her
novel, *Bingo*, on Friday evening,
September 15 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Joseph-Beth Booksellers

The Mall at Lexington Green/Nicholasville Rd. at New Circle/(606) 273-2911



ESMERELDA AND RACISM

The review of the book *No Telephone To Heaven* published in last month's *GLSO News*, mentioned the topics of racism and the plight of people of color under European (and American) colonialism. In fact, both reading Mischelle Cliff's brilliant novel and writing that review have led to the questioning of my own values and opinions where racism is concerned, particularly in relation to Afro-Americans. I suppose what first brought my own ignorance to light was a brief conversation with author Mischelle Cliff:

"I have noticed very few black women within the lesbian community in Lexington. Do you think this might relate to what you mentioned earlier about one severely oppressed minority in turn more brutally oppressing another? In other words, do you think the black community more severely oppresses homosexuality?" This was a rehearsed yet nervous speech.

"What do you mean by 'within the lesbian community' is within your own circles? (nod) Perhaps black lesbians feel some racism within your circles and therefore do not feel comfortable or accepted there. They are probably around just not within the community you frequent."

At this point I felt very embarrassed at having asked the question in the first place, because I realized as she spoke that I had not even considered the possibility of racism towards other lesbians within our community, my community. It never occurred to me that any of my friends might be racist (they are all so intelligent/progressive/wonderful). What's worse is I had never considered that I might be racist (ditto last parentheses).

I realize now that ignorance of blacks and their culture, history, current concerns is in itself a form of racism. When you are ignorant of something much of the time it means you have ignored it. I am guilty of this.

Reading "No Telephone To Heaven" was a very eye-opening experience for me.

Although, my own background considered, I do not every expect to really understand or know the toll that many generations of racism can have on one's soul, I do at least feel more sensitive to this area of pain and anguish present within black Americans.

Still my original questions remains unanswered:

WHERE ARE THE BLACK WOMEN!?

If any of you wonderful women out there in Esmerelda Land can enlighten me, please do. Write to "Esmerelda", c/o GLSO, PO Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575.

Yours in anticipation, Angela Martin

Dear Esmerelda's Parlour,

I understand very clearly Angela Martin's desire for a novel that "encourages her to grow". However, I have a problem with her assumption - and society's assumption - that only this kind of book is literature. Ms. Martin calls for a "lesbian epic akin to a classic such as *Wuthering Heights*," but what most people fail to see is that only time has made *Wuthering Heights* a classic. Emily Bronte's novel falls quite conveniently into a category of novels known as gothic romance - a category that was anathematized by the critics of its day. Charles Dicken's "classic" novels such as *David Copperfield* and *The Old Curiosity Shop* first went to press as serialized melodramas published in second-rate newsmagazines like today's *National Enquirer*.

Lesbian Literature (two "big Ls") is still very much in its infancy. Literary genres are both born and made. The Gay Rights Movement has given us the freedom of the press, but only time can give us the freedom of expression that comes with growth. So, be patient Ms. Martin, as we all must be, and write. We all have a story to tell and telling it will "make me question my values, the way I think, the way I live".

Sincerely, E. A. Heston

Dear E.A.,

I really want to thank you for your reply and your comments. We here at the Parlour so rarely hear anything directly aimed at the Women's Page that even a letter stressing disagreement is a treat. It indicates to us that, not only are you reading, but you have a voice and an opinion. And, yes, it is differing opinions that make life interesting.

In reply, I think you make a very good point about the definition of literature. Literature is many things to many people, for you apparently literature classifies as nearly anything written. For me literature is somewhat more narrowly defined. I do not

consider a Harlequin romance literature and I do not consider most lesbian romances literature. Simply because it is written about lesbians is not enough justification to make it more than it is. I require more than this when I ask for literature written by and about lesbians. My point is that I can pick up a romance for \$8.95 and read in two sittings any time the mood hits me, but I don't because I would like a little more for that kind of money than 150 pages of ". . . is Marge straight or does she really want me?"

It is true that many classic novels only develop with time, but I feel that I can safely say that the material about which I am speaking are not 'classics' awaiting proper recognition. They have their place and their use and their own, separate value, but they clog the tiny lesbian press market and make it difficult for those of us who are seeking more to find it. As I mentioned last month, even when I am looking for a lesbian romance, I have a hard time locating one that reflects more than the coming out process (which is far behind me) or the conquest of basically straight women. I look for something that reflects a more mature lesbian experience.

In closing, I commend any woman, lesbian or not, who has the sticktuitiveness to complete any work of novel length, but I do not agree that it is enough to simply write. Write about what disturbs you, write about growth, write with meaning, and more powerful material will be revealed. You may not attain the popularity of Katherine Forrest, but you will have said something that made someone take the time to think.

Angela Martin

THE PROMISED LAND

by Mischelle Myers

Father, when I pass
let me be in her arms.
For I have never known
A warmer place
to keep me safe
from death's cold embrace
Secure.
And lip to lip
eyes entangled
Heaven in my hand
with hearts beating together
then let me enter
The Promised Land.
There to, Love
slow and long
Her name on my lips
forever in harmony
forever in song.

LESBIAN PASSION IS BACK!

by Debbie Currie

The discussion group, that is. As we all know, the real thing does nothing but heat up during the summer. The "Passion Group", however, decided to "cool it" for the summer, feeling it was not wise to compete for your time. As summer begins to fade away, we are hoping that the idea of getting together once or twice a month to discuss all the nuances and mysteries of lesbian passion will begin to appeal to you. We must warn you, however, that we may not necessarily pick up where we left off. We'll begin this year as a new group, and it can take us wherever we want to go. Last year we used JoAnn Loulan's *Lesbian Passion* as a guideline for our discussions, ending up last April with a thoroughly enjoyable discussion of Sex Toys (you should have been there!). Now, though, we have all kinds of options, and when we meet in September (on Thursday, the 21st at 7:30 pm), we can head in any direction we'd like. Lesbian passion offers us so many possibilities--however shall we decide? And won't we have fun trying? Call Esmerelda at 255-3851 for more information.

DHHS REPORT CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY YOUTH SUICIDE from NGLTF

A report just released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Task Force on Youth Suicide acknowledges that lesbian and gay youth are at increased risk for suicide and call for "an end [to] discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation, and financial status." The four volume document identifies risk factors for youth suicide, reviews prevention and intervention activities, and defines strategies for the future.

"According to research discussed in the DHHS report, suicide is the leading cause of death among lesbian, gay and other sexual minority youth," said Kevin Berrill, Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Anti-Violence Project.

Copies of the four volume report of the DHHS Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide cost \$45 and can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. One copy of the report should be available soon at the Government Publications Department of M.I. King Library on the University of Kentucky campus.

BLIND
By Teresa

Blind
I fumble through old purses
dig my fingers into
pants pockets
searching for change.
Hard Times
I think.
Complaining
I grudgingly eat
tuna-fish or turkey franks
for a week--
forget going out to dinner
or to a movie.
I shut my eyes
and feel sorry for myself.
Turning a deaf ear to my lover
who swears things will get better.
When, I mutter,
When

Floating through days of worry
and self-pity,
I shut my eyes, and close my ears
to the world around me.
I barely hear the anecdote
a co-worker of mine tells me
She chatters away,
oblivious to my indifference.

(I try to listen politely as she talks. . .)
She runs a therapy group at night for boys,
at snack-time
she made Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches
(with Cost-Cutter Peanut Butter).
The rule is you eat yours
and if there's left-overs
you Share.
There was one left, and he ate it,
this kid in her group
named Thomas, ate it
without asking.
A clear violation of rules.
She chided him, and asked why
"Why did you do that Thomas,
when you know we're supposed to share?"

"I was hungry"
he said.

INTERWEAVE TO HOLD SALE AT UU CHURCH

Every year Lexington's Unitarian
Universalist Church holds a huge "garage"
sale as its major fundraising project.
Interweave, the church's lesbian and gay
group, is coordinating this year's sale. The

He was hungry.
Hungry enough to snatch a Kroger's PB & J
off the plate.
And when called on it,
and told..
"Now there's none left for the others."
He volunteered "I'm sorry, I'll go
upstairs and make 'em
another, I was hungry."

I'm back in the world now.
There's money in my pocket,
and I have hope again.
But there's a nagging curiosity
that I can't shake.

I wonder--
What did Thomas have to eat that day,
or that week?
How many movies has he seen in his 11 years?
How many times has he gone out to dinner?

Tuna or hot dogs would probably
sound good to him.
They sound good to me too.

COMING OUT TO PARENTS
by BHRA

The Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates
(BHRA) will sponsor a presentation by Louise
Rafkin, author of **Different Daughters**.
Rafkin's book is a series of interviews with
the mothers of lesbians. Her presentation in
Lexington will include a video of some of those
interviews and a discussion of coming out to
parents. Although the book and videos only
deal with lesbians and their mothers, her talk
will be directed at both women and men.

The presentation is scheduled for
Friday, September 22 at 7:30 pm. The
location had not been confirmed at press time,
so those interested should call BHRA member
Robin Luger at 233-9223. Both women and
men are welcome. There will be a \$5
admission charge.

sale begins on Saturday, Sept. 2 and ends
Monday, Sept. 4. The Great Hall (where the
GLSO Coffeehouses are held) will be filled with
items for sale. The church is located at 3564
Clays Mill Road, Lexington.

dignity

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

269-6417

FROM DIGNITY'S PRESIDENT

Yes, we're back. After taking the summer off, Dignity is resuming its normal schedule. Taking the summer to travel and relax was renewing.

I hear talk now about when is the next Rap Session, the next Forum, the next Liturgy? As president, I am pleased at the anticipation and excitement.

For our "regulars" we can look forward to checking in with each other and catching up. For those interested in Dignity but have not yet been to a meeting, now is a good time to find out why our small but healthy chapter is one of the most exciting and impressive chapters in the nation (see the article on the regional).

I hope your summer has been full of growth and renewal. Come join or rejoin us. At our September meeting we will be discussing the possibilities of being the first chapter to switch to a sliding scale for membership based on income. We look forward to seeing you. I hope to see you at Dignity soon.

Peace, Keith

DIGNITY REGIONAL WRAP-UP by Keith

The Regional House of Delegates was held at the end of July in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Elections, histories, and the upcoming convention (celebrating our 20th year) were the key topics. Over 40 delegates and our national vice-president Beth Gorman were in attendance.

Jack Dezek of Grand Rapids, Michigan was reelected as the region's executive director. Ben Boerkel, also of Grand Rapids, was reelected as secretary, and Ralph Bedell of Flint, Michigan was elected treasurer.

The Labor Day convention in San Francisco was discussed. Two Dignity/Lexington members will attend the convention.

12 Sept GLSO

Each chapter also read or talked about its history. Across the nation, Lexington is known for its strong representation of women. We are the only chapter where there is greater attendance by women than by men. National Vice-President Beth Gorman was particularly impressed by our ability and commitment to be so strong in meeting the needs of women and men. All chapters shared their information and history too.

The regional was a success and future regionals will be in Detroit, Fort Wayne, Lansing (our newest chapter), and Lafayette.

JOIN DIGNITY TODAY

Yes, you can be a member of Dignity/Lexington. For \$25 you can be a paid supportive part of this great chapter, (\$20 for students, \$45 for couples). Send your check to Dignity, PO Box 1984, Lexington, Kentucky, 40593.

HOMOPHOBIA IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR LEXINGTON

by Craig Clere

The Center for Homophobia Education will conduct a seminar entitled "Homophobia in Religion and Society" on October 26, 1989 at the Newman Center, 320 Rose Lane. The seminar is designed "to promote sound education and discussion of issues based on current scientific information and contemporary church teachings."

Presentations included in the seminar are: "Homophobia, Homonegativity and Heterosexism" and "Homophobia: Research and Responses". The facilitators for the seminar are Robert Nugent, SDS, editor of **A Challenge to Love: Gay and Lesbian Catholics in the Church**; and Jeannine Gramick, SSND, author of **Homosexuality in the Priesthood and Religious Life**. Nugent and Gramick in 1977 co-founded New Ways Ministry, a national reconciliation ministry for the Church (Roman Catholic) and lesbian and gay people. In 1988, they co-edited **The Vatican and Homosexuality** and recently co-authored "Homosexuality: Protestant, Catholic and Jewish Perspectives" for **The Journal of Homosexuality**.

Preregistration fees for the seminar are \$25, mailed to: Center For Homophobia Education, PO Box 1985, New York, NY, 10159. You may also register at the door for a \$30 fee. Fees include tuition and materials; please bring a brown bag lunch.

**HENSLEY, SCORSONE
TO MEET WITH
BLUEGRASS HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES**

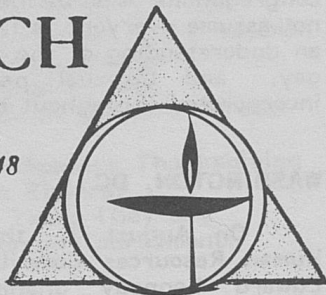
Debra Hensley and Ernesto Scorsone will be special guests at the September meeting of Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates. They will answer questions and discuss possible approaches to the Advocates' political agenda of adding sexual orientation as a protected category under the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's antidiscrimination ordinance.

The Advocates are a new political group dealing with gay and lesbian issues. The meeting, on Sunday, September 10 at 6:30 pm, is open to all interested in supporting the groups' goals of human rights for gay men and lesbians. We'll start with a potluck dinner (bring a dish) and then get started with the meeting about 7:30. The meeting will be held in a member's home, allowing for a comfortable setting. For the address and directions to the meeting, or simply for more information, call Alan Ellis at 253-2414 or Kate Rorrer or Amy Steele at 231-0350.

**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH**

**3564 CLAYS MILL
LEXINGTON, KY.
Phone: 606/223-1448**

Sunday Services
10:45 a.m.



Unitarian Universalism does not just tolerate gays and lesbians, it affirms each person's sexual truth. Since 1975 the denomination has been committed to working toward equal human rights for sexual minorities. Its ministers are encouraged to officiate at gay and lesbian Services of Union.

ASK AUNT MARY

Dear Aunt Mary: My parents are coming to visit from out of town and they think of Chris as my roommate. We generally fix up the other bedroom as Chris' room during their visits. However, after three years of "straightening up," I'm inclined to leave things as they are and just let it become apparent that Chris is more than a roommate. Is this a good idea?

Nervously,
Stressed Out

Dear Stressed Out: As far as Aunt Mary is concerned, it's an excellent idea. After three years of being together, won't it be nice to acknowledge the legitimacy of same-sex couplehood by not attempting to cover it up? However, you may want to reduce the likelihood of extreme discomfort on your and your parents' parts by dropping a few pre-visit comments such as, "Mom and Dad, there's something important that I want to share with you when you get here. It may, however, make both of us a little uncomfortable at first. I want you to be a part of my life and what I will be telling you will allow for that." Or, "Mom and Dad, you might want to see Torch Song Trilogy before you come." Or, best of all, "Don't you guys think Matthew Broderick is just the cutest little thing?"

In any case, Aunt Mary thinks that letting your parents know about your sexuality is important for your self-image and self-esteem. But, Aunt Mary also thinks you should acknowledge that it may be difficult for your parents, at least initially, to accept your sexuality. So attempt to do a few things to gradually clue them in so that when faced with an unequivocal declaration of homosexuality, they don't have to start at point zero. Good Luck!

Sincerely,
Aunt "Coming-On-Out!" 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.

GAY AMERICA

NATIONAL

AIDS activists praised President Bush for his two recent appointments, one of whom has AIDS, to a new national AIDS commission. Belinda Ann Mason, a Kentucky native, is president of the National Association of People with AIDS, an AIDS advocacy group. The other appointment is Dr. David Rogers, a professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays published a new 16-page booklet for gays and lesbians who are considering disclosing their sexual orientation to their parents. The booklet, **Coming Out to Your Parents**, identifies six stages most parents go through when they learn of their gay children's sexual orientation. The booklet can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, 45-cent stamped envelope to PFLAG, PO Box 15711, Philadelphia, PA, 19103.

LOS ANGELES, CA

The *Advocate*, a national gay newsmagazine, returned publishing its popular "Classified" section to a pull-out section. The *Advocate* has received numerous criticisms from readers who complained about the "sexual nature" of the section.

MILWAUKEE, WI

The Milwaukee county board voted 14-11 to reaffirm its proclamation supporting the city's lesbian-gay pride week last June. The board rejected a resolution stating that the board was not advocating a gay lifestyle when it issued the proclamation. Wisconsin has the country's only state gay-rights law.

SAN DIEGO, CA

Robert Walsh, Jr., a San Diegan who sued a chiropractor for allegedly refusing to treat him because he had AIDS, settled his lawsuit out of court for \$5,000, ending the first case that arose under a city ordinance that forbids discrimination against people with AIDS. The settlement prohibits the chiropractor from refusing to treat people with AIDS who seek his professional services.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Organizers who planned a picnic at a private campground as part of gay pride festivities changed the event site after the campground's owner claimed many other campers backed out of reservations when they learned they would be sharing the campground with gays. Picnic organizers moved the event to a private home.

NEWARK, NJ

An Episcopal diocese established, for the first time, an officially sanctioned outreach ministry aimed at making lesbians and gay men feel welcome at church services. The program, called the Oasis, was set up by the diocese of Newark, NJ, which has drawn national publicity because of the pro-gay views of its bishop, John Spong. Oasis is the country's second Episcopal gay outreach program. The Parsonage in San Francisco, which began unofficially but is now recognized by the diocese, is the other.

NEW HAVEN, CT

Delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association's continental assembly voted to authorize the establishment of "welcoming congregations" that would explicitly embrace gay men and lesbians. A welcoming congregation was defined as one that "does not assume everyone is heterosexual and where an understanding of the experience of lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons will be fully incorporated throughout all programs."

WASHINGTON, DC

On August 2, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy unanimously adopted the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because this bill includes under the heading "disability" people with AIDS and HIV and those regarded as infected with HIV, passage of the bill is major step in providing people with AIDS and HIV a better quality of life and full civil rights protections. President Bush's endorsement of the bill appears to be following his campaign commitment to end discrimination against people with AIDS and HIV.

INTO THE FUTURE

Events listed are representative of the many gay and lesbian oriented cultural, political and social activities taking place around the country.

- September 1-4, 1989. Black and White Men Together Midwest/Heartland Regional Conference. Louisville, KY.
- September 2-4, 1989. Dignity Convention. San Francisco, CA.
- September 28, 1989. Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt speaks at Berea College Convocation. Berea, KY.
- October 3-6, 1989. Conference of the National Association of People with AIDS. Washington, DC.
- October 6-8, 1989. NAMES Project AIDS Quilt Returns to Washington, DC.
- October 13-15, 1989. Women's Weekend. Provincetown, MA.
- October 14, 1989. 9th Annual GLSO Campout.
- October 20-22. Eighth Annual Convention of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Detroit, MI.
- October 24-29, 1989. Fantasy Fest Week. Key West, FL.
- October 26, 1989. Homophobia in Religion & Society Conference. Lexington, KY.
- October 27, 1989. Homophobia in Religion & Society Conference. Owensboro, KY.
- November 1, 1989. Homophobia in Religion & Society Conference. Knoxville, TN.
- November 11-13, 1989. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference. Washington, DC.
- November 12, 1989. National Women's March. Washington, DC.
- November 17-24, 1989. Women's Thanksgiving Cruise to Mexican Riviera.
- November 24-26, 1989. Texas (Gay and Lesbian) Open Tennis Tournament. Houston, TX.
- March 8, 1990. Holly Near with John Bucchino, in concert. Berea College, Berea, KY.
- March 22-25, 1990. 15th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men. Raleigh, NC.
- August 4-11, 1990. Celebration '90, Gay Games III and Cultural Festival. Vancouver, Canada.

DIRECTORY

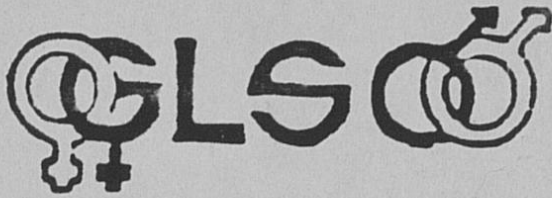
- GLSO Gayline 231-0335
- GLSO Board..... call Craig, 266-8887
- GLSO News..... call Craig/Steve, 266-8887
- GLSO Speakers Bureau call Bobbi, 259-0694
- GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance
.... call Esmerelda, 255-3851
- GLSO Rainbow Bowling League
.... Chuck, 268-8541
- Gay/Lesbian Literature Group
.... call Alan, 253-2414
- Lesbian Potluck.....
.... call Esmerelda, 252-7837
- Lesbian Passion Discussion Group
.... call Esmerelda, 255-3851
- Esmerelda, Ink
.... call Angela, 255-3851
.... or, Vickie, 299-4238
- ADAM's Cards & Games for Men
call Peter, 273-5845
- Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates
.... call Kate/Amy, 231-0350
.... or, Dennis, (606) 383-4478
- Gay/Lesbian AA
.... call Dave, 277-9522
- Imperial Court of the Bluegrass
Empire..... call Terry, 266-8715
- Lesbian Overeaters Anonymous
.... call Esmerelda, 252-7837
- Dignity/Lexington
(Catholic gay men and lesbians)
.... call Keith, 278-5620
Liturgy.... call Don, 299-4458
- Interweave call Craig, 266-8887
(Unitarian Universalist gay men, lesbians, and their non-gay friends.)
- AVOL 276-AVOL
(AIDS support and education)
- ACT-Lexington 281-5151
(AIDS education and speakers)
- HIV+, ARC, AIDS 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
- Gay/Lesbian Crisisline/AIDS
..... (800) 767-4297

SEPTEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR



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.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|----|--|------------|----|---|
| FRI | 1 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | THU | 14 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| SAT | 2 | GLSO Yard Sale, 9 am - 5pm, 702 Central Ave.; Gay/Lesbian ACA, 5 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 | FRI | 15 | Rita Mae Brown Autograph Party, 7 - 9 pm, Joseph-Beth Booksellers; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| SUN | 3 | GLSO Phonenumber Meeting, 1 pm, Comp Care Center; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | SAT | 16 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 5 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 |
| TUE | 5 | GLSO Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes | SUN | 17 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| WED | 6 | ADAM, 7:30 pm, Crossings, 117 N. Limestone, Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | TUE | 18 | GLSO Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes; Pro-Choice Alliance, 7:30 pm, Alfalfa's Restaurant |
| THU | 7 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | WED | 20 | Interweave, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| FRI | 8 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | THU | 21 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; GLSO News Layout, 7:30 pm; Lesbian Passion Discussion Group, 7:30 pm; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| SAT | 9 | GLSO Board Retreat, 9 am; Gay/Lesbian ACA, 5 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 | FRI | 22 | Dignity Liturgy & Potluck, 7 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance, 8:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church |
| SUN | 10 | Lesbian Potluck, 2 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; AVOL, 5:30 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO News Deadline | SAT | 23 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 5 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 |
| MON | 11 | GLSO Forum, Speaker: Jan Harmon of Planned Parenthood, 8 pm, Comp Care Center | SUN | 24 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| TUE | 12 | GLSO Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes | TUE | 26 | GLSO Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes |
| WED | 13 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | WED | 27 | GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| | | | THU | 28 | Cleve Jones, Names Quilt, 8 pm, Berea College, See cover story; HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Dignity Rap Session, 7:30 pm; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| | | | FRI 29-SUN | 1 | Interweave Fall Retreat |
| | | | FRI | 29 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| | | | SAT | 30 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 5 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 |



COFFEE HOUSE
presents

Doors Open
at 8:30 p.m.
Music Starts
at 9:30 p.m.

"Yer Girlfriend"
in concert

Friday, September 22

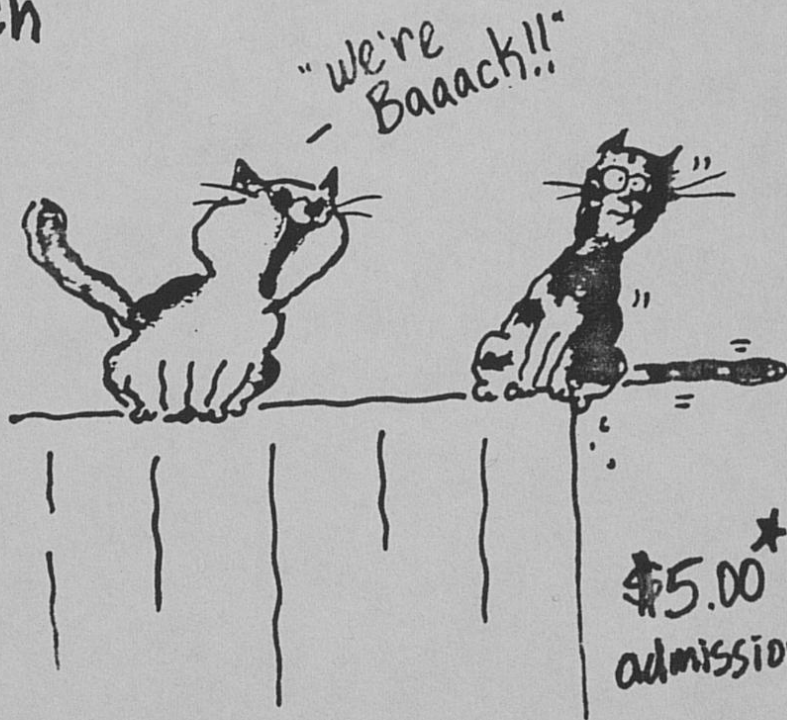
Unitarian Universalist
Church

*Advance 2
tickets on
Sale at Special
Media -
371 S. Lime

3564 Clays
Mill Road
Lex. Ky.

Snacks/Soda
available

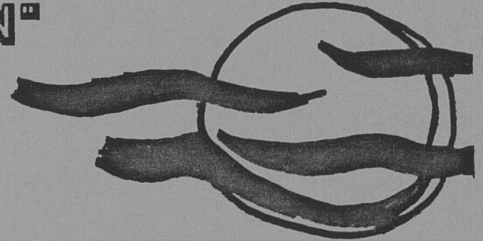
BYOB.



\$5.00*
admission

Loose Item

**BETWEEN THE ACTS
SPONSORS
"CRUISE THE FULL MOON"
SEPT 15**



**Make your reservations NOW by calling 278-4493
Deadline for Reservations Sept 12th
(Reservations are necessary)**

Location: Shakertown- Dixie Belle Dock

Time: Boat leaves dock at 7:00 pm

Price: \$10 per cruiser

BYOB

Softdrinks, candy and snacks sold by Dixie Bell

Loose Item