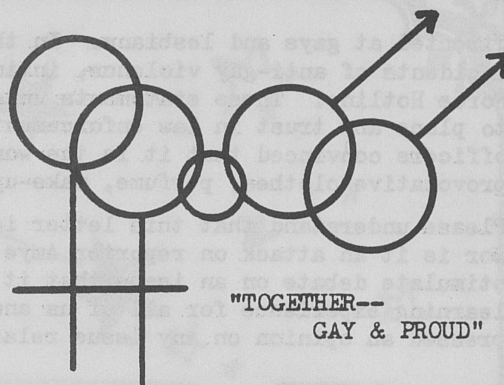


GSO NEWSLETTER

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

POST OFFICE BOX 11471

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

DECEMBER 1983

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

The following letter was drafted as a group project and sent to the Lexington Herald-Leader and WLEX-TV.

"This letter concerns the recent series "Cruisin' the Wall", WLEX-TV's investigative report on juvenile male prostitution which has created quite a controversy in both the gay and the non-gay communities. Let us preface the remarks by saying that because of the highly sensitive nature of this issue, there can never be a clear consensus of opinion.

Overall, the Board of Directors of GSO feel that it was accurate and well done. We recognize that the problem exists and are deeply concerned about it. We understand that there was no deliberate attempt by WLEX to malign the gay community, but through several inaccurate statements and opinions, they succeeded in painting the gay community in a rather bad light.

First, their statement that there was no attempt to sensationalize this problem is not quite true. Juvenile male prostitution is only one facet of a much larger problem--child exploitation. This includes juvenile female prostitution, sexual abuse in the home, child pornography, etc. By focusing so heavily on this part of the child exploitation issue they have trivialized other equally important aspects and spectacularized this one. Also, we all know that it is sweeps month and this is a good way of drawing a large audience.

Secondly, as someone who works very closely with the helping professions, I was rather disappointed that they made no attempt to explain why these kids were really out hustling. Sure, they need money, they do it to survive, but why hustling? Could it be that many of these children are rebelling against what they perceive to be unduly strict home environments or against parents they view as uncaring? Could this be a way of life--doing this to get a sense of being needed and thought of as a valued and valuable individual? Possibly some just want a little affection.

Third, their series left viewers with the impression that diseases such as herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis, et. al. originated in and were spread to heterosexuals by the gay population. No responsible health care professional would make such statements because these diseases have been around for centuries and have always been found in both gay and non-gay society.

Let me also say that the number of cases where a man contracted AIDS from a male prostitute and passed it along to his wife, who in turn, gave it to her unborn child has never been determined and is totally conjecture on Channel 18's part. In addition, less than 1% of all cases of AIDS are a result of blood or blood products transfusion. These facts have been passed along to me by Dr. James Curran, the head of the task force on AIDS research at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Lastly, Det. James Castano's remarks showed a clear ignorance and prejudice toward all gay people. His comment about the victimization of these children being the result of "a homosexual society that preys on young people" is just reinforcing the misconception that all gay people are child molesters. He went on to say that "if you eliminate the adult (clearly he means the adult gay) male, there wouldn't be a problem." This is an extremely dangerous and irresponsible thing for him to say. These statements condone and even encourage violence that is discriminately

directed at gays and lesbians. In the first eight months of this year, there were nearly 100 incidents of anti-gay violence, intimidation and harrassment reported to the National Gay Task Force Hotline. These statements underscore a grave reluctance on the part of the gay community to place any trust in law enforcement agencies. This is the same mindset that had many law officers convinced that it is the woman who is at fault for "encouraging" a rape by wearing provocative clothes, perfume, make-up, etc.

Please understand that this letter is not intended to berate or belittle the series as a whole. Nor is it an attack on reporter Amye Brandli or WLEX-TV. It was very good in that it served to stimulate debate on an issue that it all too often "swept under the carpet." It has been a learning experience for all of us and a rallying point for many gay people who have never expressed an opinion on any issue related to the gay community.

News From The National Gay Task Force

NGTF Urges People With AIDS To Apply For Social Security Benefits

People with AIDS may qualify for a variety of government benefits, according to a recent announcement by the Social Security Administration.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a needs-based grant program available to people with limited income and resources. Title II "early retirement income" grants, on the other hand, are available to FICA contributors who are no longer able to work because they have AIDS.

Because the great majority of people with AIDS who are no longer employed are eligible for SSI or Title II grants, NGTF urges people with AIDS to apply for benefits. To find out if they qualify financially, people with AIDS should contact the nearest Social Security Adminis-

tration office. Applicants who meet the SSA's economic criteria must then contact a state Disability Determination Office, where they or their health care provider will be asked to provide objective medical verification of an AIDS-related opportunistic infection (including, but not limited to, Kaposi Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia) before they can receive benefits.

Despite the widespread availability for social security benefits, the number of people with AIDS who have applied to date is surprisingly low. Although approximately 2,000 cases of AIDS have been confirmed by the Center for Disease Control, the Social Security Administra-

tion reports only 230 applications for benefits as of August 5. SSA officials add that fully 96 percent of these applications have been accepted.

"We are extremely concerned that so few people with AIDS are applying for benefits to which they are clearly entitled," stresses NGTF Executive Director Virginia Apuzzo. "Once again we see a critical need for a government-funded public education campaign about AIDS." NGTF encourages people with AIDS who have questions about benefits to call its crisis-line at 1-800-221-7044, and further urges AIDS service organizations and the gay media to continue their efforts to inform people with AIDS about available benefits.

LADY
DIANA
HAIR DESIGN

508 East Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40508

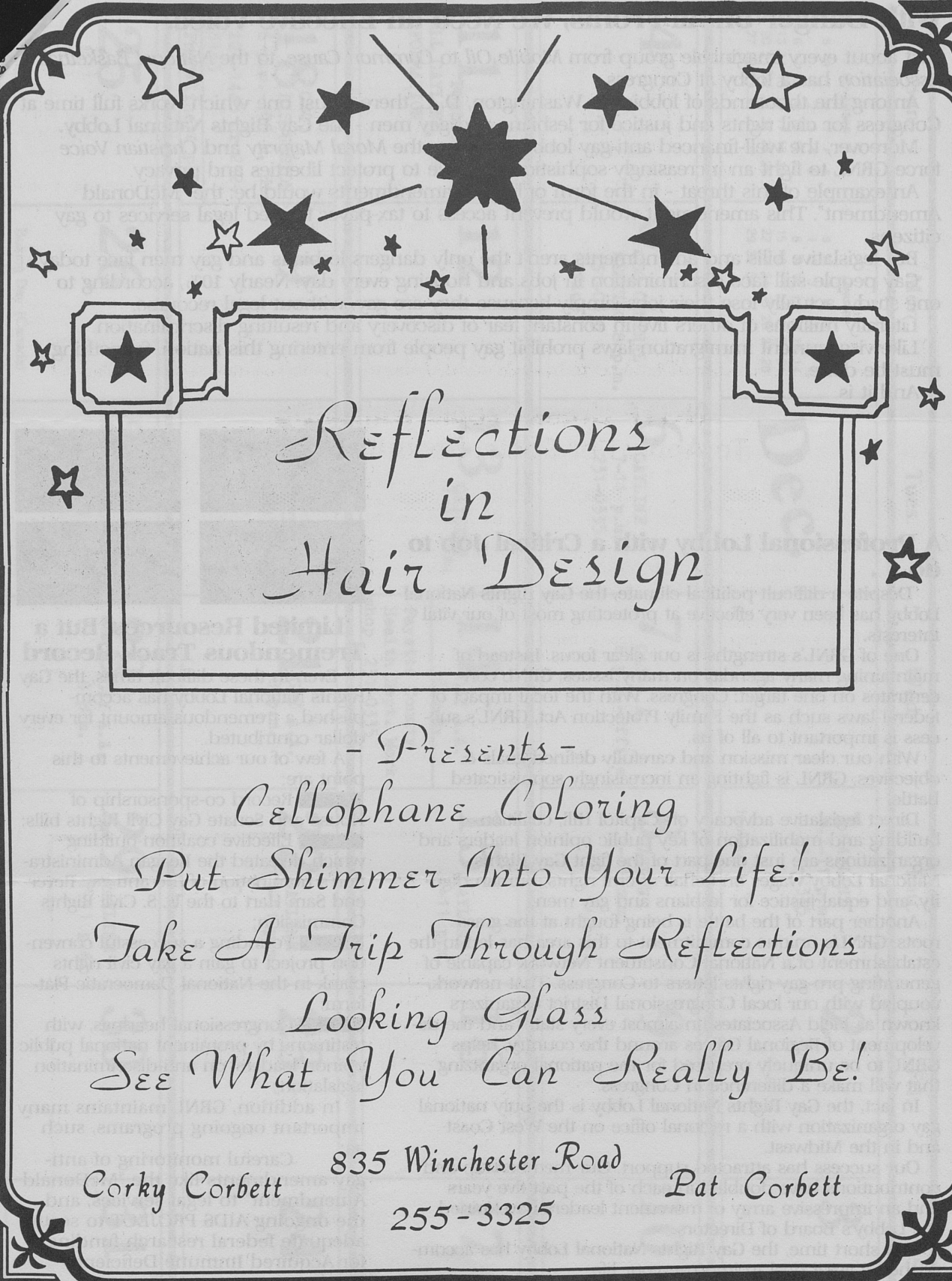
Tuesday - Saturday
By Appointment Only

252-4595

Happy Holidays

KEITH
BUCHANAN

STYLIST



Reflections
in
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- Presents -
Cellophane Coloring
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Take A Trip Through Reflections
Looking Glass
See What You Can Really Be!

Corky Corbett

835 Winchester Road

Pat Corbett

255-3325

With Danger on All Fronts, We Need an Effective Voice.

Just about every imaginable group from *Mobile Oil* to *Common Cause*, to the *National Basketball Association* has a lobby at Congress.

Among the thousands of lobbies in Washington, D. C. there is just one which works full time at Congress for civil rights and justice for lesbians and gay men - the **Gay Rights National Lobby**.

Moreover, the well-financed anti-gay lobbies such as the *Moral Majority* and *Christian Voice* force GRNL to fight an increasingly sophisticated battle to protect liberties and privacy.

An example of this threat - in the form of bills or amendments would be: the "McDonald Amendment". This amendment would prevent access to tax-payer funded legal services to gay citizens.

But legislative bills and amendments aren't the only dangers lesbians and gay men face today.

Gay people still face discrimination in jobs and housing every day. Nearly 10%, according to one study, actually lose their jobs simply because they are gay, without legal recourse.

Literally millions of others live in constant fear of discovery and resulting discrimination.

Likewise, current immigration laws prohibit gay people from entering this nation. Something must be done.

And it is.

A Professional Lobby with a Critical Job to do. . .

Despite a difficult political climate, the **Gay Rights National Lobby** has been very effective at protecting most of our vital interests.

One of GRNL's strengths is our clear focus. Instead of maintaining many agendas on many issues, GRNL concentrates on one target: Congress. With the local impact of federal laws such as the Family Protection Act, GRNL's success is important to all of us.

With our clear mission and carefully defined goals & objectives, GRNL is fighting an increasingly sophisticated battle.

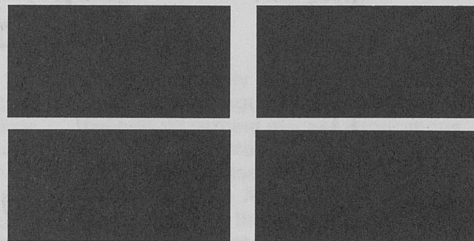
Direct legislative advocacy on Capitol Hill, coalition-building and mobilization of key public opinion leaders and organizations are just one part of the fight **Gay Rights National Lobby** wages on behalf of civil rights, human dignity, and equal justice for lesbians and gay men.

Another part of the battle is being fought at the grass roots. GRNL's unique commitment to this area has led to the establishment of a National Constituent Network capable of generating pro-gay rights letters to Congress. That network, coupled with our local Congressional District Organizers known as Field Associates (in almost every state) and the development of Regional Offices around the country, helps GRNL to be uniquely prepared for the national organizing that will make a difference in Congress.

In fact, the **Gay Rights National Lobby** is the only national gay organization with a regional office on the West Coast and in the Midwest.

Our success has attracted support. Our membership and contributions have doubled in each of the past five years and an impressive array of movement leaders have joined the Lobby's Board of Directors.

In a short time, the **Gay Rights National Lobby** has accomplished a great deal to improve your life.



Limited Resources, But a Tremendous Track Record

Even in these difficult times, the **Gay Rights National Lobby** has accomplished a tremendous amount for every dollar contributed.

A few of our achievements to this point are:

Record co-sponsorship of House and Senate Gay Civil Rights bills;

Effective coalition-building which defeated the Reagan Administration's nomination of the anti-gay Reverend Sam Hart to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission;

Founding a successful convention project to gain a gay civil rights plank in the National Democratic Platform;

Congressional hearings, with testimony by prominent national public opinion leaders, on anti-discrimination legislation;

In addition, GRNL maintains many important ongoing programs, such as:

Careful monitoring of anti-gay amendments like the "McDonald Amendment" to legal services, and the ongoing AIDS PROJECT to secure adequate federal research funding for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<h1>Dec.</h1>		<p>1 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m. 231-0335</p> <p>Hanukah</p>	2	3
4	<p>5 GSO GENERAL MEETING 8 p.m. 231-0335 Office</p>	<p>6 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m. 231-0335</p>	<p>7 GAY A.A. 8 p.m.-Office</p>	<p>8 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	9	10
<p>11 POTLUCK CALL GAYLINE FOR INFORMATION</p>	12	<p>13 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	<p>14 GAY A.A. 8 p.m. Fayette County Health Dept. Work- shop 231-0335</p>	<p>15 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	16	17
<p>18 GSO DISCUSSION 6 p.m.-105 W. High 223-1448 or 252- 8143 Phoneline 4 p.m.</p>	19	<p>20 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	<p>21 GAY A.A. 8 p.m.</p>	<p>22 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	23	24
25	26 Boxing Day (Canada)	<p>27 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	<p>28 GAY A.A. 8 p.m.</p>	<p>29 GAYLINE 7-11 p.m.</p>	30	31

OF MAIL

Christmas