



GLSO NEWS

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No. 12

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

HOLLY HUGHES PERFORMS

The Next Stage is excited to bring performance artist, Holly Hughes, to the Worsham Theater Saturday, Feb. 6 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$7 for faculty and staff and \$10 for the public. Purchase tickets at the Student Activities Board Ticket Window in the old Student Center or call 257-TICS.

Hughes will present *Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler*. This witty, outlandish comedy offers autobiographical sketches about growing up queer in America.

Hughes was one of four artists (John Fleck, Karen Finley and Tim Miller were the others) who was targeted during the 1990 controversy about National Endowment for the Arts grants. Senator Jesse Helms (D) and the Religious Right considered Hughes' work offensive, because of its homosexual content. Although the controversy has passed, her performances still provoke discomfort for conservatives as well as liberals.

Hughes says she likes to play with language. "When I first came up with the title [*Clit Notes*], I thought people would just think it was funny. And then I thought the people that didn't

continued on page 2

Actor's Guild

How I learned To Drive

Starting on January 14 and continuing until February 14, Actor's Guild is producing *How I learned to Drive*, by lesbian playwright Paula Vogel. Winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, four Obie Awards, and many coveted Best Play Awards, this play has been called the most celebrated play of the '90s.

The story, told by the grown woman Li'l Bit (Carla Nowlin) has become, invites us to look back at the relationship between Li'l Bit, a lonely fatherless young girl and her Uncle Peck (Keith D. Jones), who is at times nurturing and at times sexually abusive. The incest is portrayed with discretion, as the incidents of abuse are staged in abstraction.

Uncle Peck tells Li'l Bit that he wants to give her "a power that no one can take away from you." He succeeds, ultimately, in giving her the strength she needs to leave him and transcend their relationship.

Playwright Paula Vogel says her play is not solely about the damage done by sexual abuse. It concerns "the gifts we receive from people who hurt us." The play also explores how an extremely good man can have a terrible flaw that is beyond his control and ultimately destroys him.

Learned To Drive: continued page 2

One Night Only

On Wednesday, January 20, the Court is presenting three fabulous female impersonators in *One Night Only*. Ashley Kruiz, Miss National 1988, Chelesea Pearl, a former Miss USA At Large, and Cezanne, a former Miss Continental, will entrance you with their style and beauty. They are all previously from Lexington so we expect a big crowd to welcome them back.

The Royal Imperial Sovereign Court invites everyone to this special evening at The Bar Complex. Mika Milano, Empress 17, and Cammie Dietrich will be on hand to host this show which will benefit the Lexington Parkinson Chapter. We expect to get started about 10 pm, drag time.

John Moses, Emperor 17, says these are the best female impersonators in the country, so don't even think about missing this show!

Sponsor of the Month

Sills Inn



The GLSO News
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*The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
Organization*
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Editors:
Mary Crone
Peter Taylor
Davina Warner

Layout Editor:
Charlie Perkins

**GLSO Annual Dues
and Newsletter: \$15**
**Dues and Newsletter for
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Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and become the property of the GLSO. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject any submissions or advertisements.

Hughes continued from page 1 have that response would probably not know what a clit was and think it was a typo."

Hughes states that one reason her work focuses on life as a lesbian is there is no language for lesbian desire. "I came out in the '70s and it was something lesbians didn't talk about. Sex was something that lesbians used to do before they opened food co-ops."

"I want to take the audience someplace they haven't necessarily been before, or look at where they're standing from a slightly different angle."

←—————→
How I learned to Drive cont.

The play is about family, forgiveness, coming of age, desire and reckoning – all things we find in ourselves. "Empathy is the one emotional muscle that every democracy needs. It allows you to see yourself in the other – to take the journey of the other as yourself," Vogel asserts. "I always feel that I'm writing the script and my audience is writing the play. There's a lot of fluidity and flexibility in how we take it in. The fact that people can go in there and come out to have arguments in the car and lobby, and that everyone is always right: that makes it an ideal platform for democracy. Ultimately, the arts form a communal identity that makes us practice empathy instead of sympathy." She contends that "we're hungry now in theatre for direct intimacy between the actors and the audience and that we're tired of writing that doesn't get to the heart of the matter."

Actor's Guild will host a post-play panel discussion of *How I Learned to*

Drive on Sun., Feb. 7 following the matinee performance (beginning approximately at 3:45). With support from Project Parent, a panel of scholars, sociologists and psychologists will discuss issues raised in the play such as incest, transcendence of past abuse, imbalances and shifts of power in sexual relationships and cultural constructions of gender. The post-play panel will include: Dr. Joan Callahan, Dr. Susan Bordo, Dr. Geraldine Maschio, Marta Miranda, LCSW, Trish Salerno, Melissa Kemp, Dr. Robert Ferguson, and Dr. Colby Cohen-Archer. Please call 233-0663 if you plan to attend the post-play panel.

Rape Crisis Center

The Lexington Rape Crisis Center of Central Kentucky NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! The 1999 Winter Training will be starting on Friday, Jan. 29 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm and continuing the next day, Sat. Jan. 30 and the following two Saturdays, Feb. 6 and 13, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Upon successful completion of ALL training sessions, volunteers will: answer the 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline, provide support and information for victims and their loved ones, meet victims at local hospitals and police stations, and provide referrals for follow-up services. Volunteers answer the Hotline in their own homes and shift choice is flexible. A six month commitment is required and volunteers must be at least 21. The Training Program is free of charge. To apply for training, call Stephanie at 253-2615 by Jan. 22.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn crisis counseling skills and to be of service to people in need. The Center thanks you for your help and appreciates your continued support.

Community News

SisterSound

SisterSound thrilled its audience with the winter portion of *Leave No Song Unsung*, their theme for this concert season. A spring concert is planned for April and will feature guest artist Margie Adam. If you would like to help with this concert, consider joining the SisterSound Auxiliary. Call Sabrena at 243-0243.

If you would like to sing with SisterSound, and with Margie, rehearsals begin on Jan. 10. New member will be accepted throughout January; there are no auditions. Rehearsals are held each Sunday from 6 to 8 pm at Park Methodist Church, at the corner of Clay Ave. and High St. Call Lee for more information 873-7791.

Discussion/Support Group

Do you ever feel like you are the only gay person out there? Do you enjoys sharing some of your life experiences with other? If you are in the process of coming out, or if you would like to talk about some of the pressure of "living out", we invite you to the GLSO Support/Discussion group on Wednesdays evenings, January 20 and 27, at 7:30. We will be meeting at the downtown Public Library, 4th floor, conference room B. Parking is available and free behind the Library.

We will be discussing coming out and living out at the first meeting and will choose other topics for other meetings. So if you are tired of the bar scene and ready for some great conversation, or if you are just coming out and need to hear others who

share your views, we invite you to come out and join us. If you would like more information prior to the meeting, you can contact Jeremy at 269-6658 or Ciscoboy@webtv.net and Mary Crone at 266-5904 or marycrone@aol.com. If you are a lesbian/transgen person with an open mind we would love to see you there.

PINK PAGES

A GLSO Committee to publish the 1999 edition of the Pink Pages will hold its first meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 pm at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Ave. This is a major fund raiser for the Pride Center and we are looking for new people to become involved. We particularly need graphic artists and people interested in marketing, but we can also use anyone interested in putting some energy into this community effort. Doing volunteer work is a great way to meet people!

Networking & Pride planing

The first Networking potluck and meeting of the new year has been set for Tues. Jan 19 at 6:30 at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Ave. GLSO will provide an entree, everyone else is asked to bring a dish to share.

We plan to start discussing Pride Month so we hope that each community group will send a representative. Individuals interested in learning more about what is going on in the community or wanting to become involved are also encouraged to attend. Good food, great company, give it a try!

Movable Feast

Movable Feast is a volunteer run organization that delivers hot meals to at least 40 people living with AIDS on a daily basis. Michael Thompson is the director of this successful effort. They are located in the basement of the St. Augustine Episcopal Chapel at 472 Rose St. (252-2867)

Movable Feast needs your help. Consider giving them a call to help prepare or deliver food. If you are reading this before the end of December, they are particularly in need of some extra help **NOW**.

Interweave

Join us Sunday, January 10 after the Sunday Service for our next monthly luncheon. For more information call Davina (271-6174)

P-FLAG

Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (corner of Armstrong Mill and Tates Creek Roads). December 8th this month.

P-FLAG is open to anyone who has need of support or is willing to offer support to people, including straight spouses, who have friends or family members, who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered.

MCC Games Night

The Metropolitan Community Church is planning Games Nights as a non-alcoholic alternative on cold Winter nights. This month, we will meet on Friday, Jan. 29, from 7 to 11PM in the Pride Center. Bring you

Community News Continued

favorite snack item and game. This will be a fun way to meet new people. If you have questions you can call Tomas Edison at 226-0978 or e-mail me at (twedis1@pop.uky.edu).

WOMAN'S BASKETBALL

We are looking for women basketball players who would like to play recreational basketball on a regular basis. Currently, we are playing on Wednesday nights at 7 pm in the Seaton Center Gym. To get into the gym, you must have a valid UK student/faculty/staff ID or you must purchase passes for \$2 each. For more information (or to suggest an alternative site/time), please call 258-9332.

MLK March

On Monday Jan. 18 the Martin Luther King Day March will be held.

Assemble at Lexington's Heritage Hall (next to Rupp Arena, corner of Broad & High Street) at 9:30 a.m. March begins at 10 a.m.

A program in Heritage Hall will follow the march. The featured speaker will be Rev. James Lawson. Rev Lawson was a colleague of Dr. King, is a proponent of nonviolence, is a retired United Methodist minister, and currently is national chair of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. To register a group, call or write Dave Stockham; UK Dean of Students; 513 Patterson Office Tower; 40536; (606) 257-3654.

Survey of Lesbian Couples

Barbara Jordan-Knox, a PhD candidate at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco is conducting

research with women who are or have been in a same-sex relationship for 10 or more years. Participation requires the completion of two questionnaires. For more information visit the website at <http://www.gulfislands.com/jordan-knox/>.

Two Important Events

at

The Pride Center
387 Waller Ave.

Network Potluck

And Pride Planning

Tues. Jan. 19, 6:30
and

Pink Pages Meeting

Thrus. Jan 21, 7:00



Scott Ackerman

Office: 606-269-7331

Voice mail: 606-294-2055

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An Everyday Spiritual Experience

by Kelly O'Ferrell

"Opinion, n., a belief or judgement based on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty.

Experience, n., something personal - ly lived through.

Self-righteous, adj., smugly moralis - tic and intolerant [see Kelly]."

Webster's Dictionary

It amazes me how quickly these things happen. One minute I'm standing in the kitchen enjoying the moment and the next I'm hearing Tammy, my partner, tell me something she's just done and I'm feeling - what?

I'd could say I felt angry, but there's a good chance that, in this case, the anger was just a by-product of fear. Tam was making me look bad.

I come from a long line of this type of "out-of-body" experience. I learned that if somebody was doing something "unacceptable," then everybody was looking at me.

Tam had just gotten off the phone and was telling me about her conversation, and in a split second I went from content to self-righteous. I had to keep saying "it's none of my business" because I couldn't talk without telling her what to do.

"I guess what I'm wanting from you," she said as she came and stood beside me, "is to know if you've ever had an experience like this or if you've ever felt this way before?"

Ow! Good Lord it was a difficult transition from that self-righteous pedestal to a place of equality - a place of compassion.

"Yes I have," I told her even as my feet were trying to find some steady ground off that pedestal. "It's

something I used to do on a regular basis so I'd look good. Now when I do that, I'm very aware of it. So I know how you're feeling."

Just as suddenly as it had left, it returned - I was content. And I knew that whatever decision Tam made about how to deal with her feelings and the situation was up to her.

As you know, we started a tradition last year. Before we go to sleep, we tell one another something we're grateful for that the other said or did that day. I told Tam I was grateful that she asked if I'd had an experience like hers or felt that way instead of asking for my opinion.

She'd given me the opportunity to have a spiritual experience right there in our kitchen. I'd rather have a spiritual experience over a spiritual opinion any day. I had enough of those as a fundamentalist.

New Year's Resolution

At UK Lambda's candlelight vigil in honor of Matthew Shepard, the Reverend Rex Van Alstein read an Act of Dedication with the gathered crowd. We are publishing it now, slightly revised, in hopes that it can be a powerful New Year's Resolution for our community. We invite you to read it out loud, put it on your refrigerator, rewrite it with your personal emphasis, or in any way you wish make it part of 1999.

We will not be silenced by hatred and fear. We will not go away because of intolerance and injustice. Rather, we stand today, united, strong, courageous, to commit ourselves to creating a world that is filled not with violence, but with peace, not with hatred, but with love.

I will speak out for justice and freedom, for my life and for the lives of others. I will call upon my government to equally protect

each of its citizens. I will act when I see injustice around me,

I will seek peace in my life and in all my actions. I will value my own journey and my uniqueness. I will value the journey and lives of those who are different from me.

I will remember Matthew and all whom we have lost to violence. I will live my life with courage, with love and with hope as a tribute to their lives.

I will stand and speak out with those who express compassion and create justice in the daily living of their lives. I will seek ways to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds, to increase our mutual understanding of difference and to decrease fear. Together we will transform the world.

So May It Be,

Amen,

Shalom,

Go in Peace and Make Peace

GLSO 1998 Financial Report

Once a year we publish an overview of our financial situation to let our sponsors, subscribers and contributors know where their money goes. GLSO actually has three accounts that cover three different aspects of our work: Pride Month, The Pride Center, and the general GLSO account.

The box covers our basic monthly expenses. Many of our costs have gone up, printing and postal rates have risen and we have already been informed of a higher rate for our bulk mail permit next

year. We have also chosen to increase the number of pages in the newsletter, to print the cover in color on a regular basis, and to have a greater number printed each month.

Luckily, our income has also increased, particularly due to sponsorships, consistent advertising and profits from t-shirt sales. The one area of income that has fallen is memberships and subscriptions. Although we have made up for this in other ways, we are in great need of having enough subscriptions within fayette country to insure that we can

use bulk mail rates. We often mail sample copies to friends of whoever is folding that month, hoping that they will subscribe. If you have received this without a subscription, please consider sending in the form on the next page. If \$15 for a year is more than you can afford, give Mary a call about reduced rates.

We anticipate that our expenses will continue to rise and we are particularly concerned about the cost of running the Pride Center. The Metropolitan Community Church has been paying more than half the rent for the building that houses both MCC and the Pride Center. We will be renegotiating the lease with them early in 1999. We are now paying about \$5,000 a year in rent and utilities. Although we still have a certificate of deposit for \$7,000, the Center account we pay our rent out of is down to \$1,865.

We are looking for ways to bring financial benefit to the Pride Center. The Pink Pages is the major fund raiser coordinated by GLSO. Please consider joining this effort by attending the meeting on Jan. 21 or by taking out an advertisement. GLSO also produces community events that profit the Center such as Act Out's plays (*Elegies*), Wishing Chair concerts, and dances. If your organization could help us with a fund raiser, it would be appreciated.

A number of community groups have done fund raisers for us or use the Pride Center on a regular basis and donate money for its upkeep. We thank The Lexington Men's Chorus, Fairness, RSIC, AVOL, Ebony Male, and individual benefactors for their financial contributions. Having a Pride Center is wonderful for our community; we need everyone's support to keep it open.

Average Monthly Expenses

Newsletter	
Printing (4 pages, color on front, 600 copies)	\$240.00
Envelopes (215 a mo @.04)	\$8.60
Bulk Mailing (rates going up in Jan.)	\$23.00
Annual Bulk Mail Fee (\$80, will be \$100 in '99)	\$6.70
Mailing Labels	\$5.00
Post Office Box Rental (\$40 yr.)	\$3.00
Ink Cartridge, paper for printer, etc	\$2.00

Monthly Newsletter Total **\$288.30**

Other Monthly Expenses

Donation to MCC	\$25.00
Advertising in other community publications	\$30.00
Office supplies, copying, postage, etc	\$12.00
Donation to other progressive projects	\$15.00

Total Monthly Expenses **\$370**

Average Monthly Income

	98	99
Sponsorships	\$175	\$200
Memberships	\$95	\$140
Advertising	\$75	\$80
Donations	\$55	\$60
Fund Raisers, T-shirt sales, etc	\$50	\$50

Total Monthly Income **\$450** **\$530**

Do you believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person?



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World News

Tutu: "Homophobia Unjust"

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu danced in the streets of Denver last month. The ebullient 67-year-old Nobel laureate grinned and swayed with nearly 300 high school students at a street party that was part of the PeaceJam Youth Conference at Regis University. This conference was to encourage youth to dream of a world without war and to make peace in their own communities. Archbishop Tutu spoke to the youth saying "Your dreams are really

God's dreams. Do what you can now,"

When a student asked Tutu what injustice he would most want to reverse, he gave a surprising answer. "Will you give me two?" he said with a grin. First, Tutu called on world leaders to forgive the mounting debts owed by developing nations. Then he said the persecution of homosexuals is as unjust as apartheid. Sexual orientation is just like race... People do not decide to be gay any more than they decide to be black or white, he said.

IFGE CONFERENCE

The annual IFGE conference, Standing United, will be held March 17 - 21 in Louisville, KY. The Bluegrass Belles, Kentuckiana's transgendered support and social group, will host this event. Registration for the full conference is \$180. Some scholarships and lesser-priced options are available. For registration information, contact IFGE "Standing United" Convention '99; PO Box 61; Easton, PA 8044-0061 or call (610)759-2347.

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JANUARY 1999 - GLSO CALENDAR

please use Directory on last page to confirm

				1 FRIDAY	2 SATURDAY	
				7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	
3 SUNDAY 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity	4 MONDAY 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	5 TUESDAY 7:30 pm PFLAG Chapel (Hill Presbyterian Church)	6 WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7 THURSDAY 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center)	8 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
10 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm SisterSound rehearsal 12:15 pm Interweave Lunch	11 7:00 pm GLSO Board Mtg (Pride Center) 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	12	13 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness Lexington (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	14 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center)	15 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	16 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
17 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity 6:00 pm SisterSound rehearsal	18 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	19 6:30 pm Networking Potluck (Pride Center) GLSO NEWS DEADLINE SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS FOR NEXT CALENDAR 273-9649	20 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Support Group (Library Room B) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 10:00 pm One Night Only Drug Show (The Bar)	21 7:00 pm Pink Pages ad hoc Committee Meeting (Pride Center) 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center)	22 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	23 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
24 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm SisterSound rehearsal	25 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	26	27 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Support Group (Library Room B) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	28 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center)	29 7:00 pm LMCC Games Night 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	30 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
31 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm SisterSound rehearsal						

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First Day of School, Wild Love

By Reinetta F. Jones

First day of first grade, no one told me that I would be staying at school all day. I had never been to school before and I thought I was going to first grade for a short visit. I followed my brother into the classroom and when he turned to leave, I followed him out the door. The teacher caught me by the shoulders and said that I would have to stay. I stood in the doorway and cried as my brother walked away. I begged him to please come back and get me. He said he would be back after school. I had no idea if after school would be in a little while or tomorrow or next week.

I clung to the door frame and screamed as the teacher tried to steer me into the room. She got winded and decided that it was OK for me to stand in the doorway. There was no one else in the room; my brother had dropped me off early because he had things to do. I wished that I had never said that I wanted to go to school. The teacher was mean and she smelled funny. Her teeth looked funny and her brown Santa Clause cheeks made her look like the devil when she talked. She was not the person my nine older siblings had described. They told me that I would like the teacher because she had taught all colored children in the first grade since the Negro school opened at the turn of the century. Somebody had lied because that woman was mean and she was 2000 years old. I wanted to go home.

Before I could dash down the hallway, the teacher caught her sec-

ond wind. She stepped in front of me and told me that I had to be a big girl. I was to stop crying and sit down in my assigned seat. As the teacher spoke she put her hands on her high-pocket hips. She looked to be nine feet tall. I knew I was outmatched, I declined another round of wrestling and took my seat.

The teacher told me to work on my ABCs until the other children arrived. Instead of writing, I stared at the teacher's teeth. Her teeth looked just like the candy flavored paraffin teeth that were sold at the neighborhood grocery store. Her gums looked like deep dark blood and the whole contraption moved around in her mouth when she talked. Her breath smelled like Mercurchrome and scrubbing powder. I sat at my desk waiting for the teacher to eat her candy paraffin teeth before they went soft and crumbled in her mouth. The teacher told me to quit staring at her and write my ABCs. I didn't know how to write my ABCs so I kept staring at her teeth.

Forty-five minutes later all the other children had arrived. The class had about 33 newcomers and 2 who were repeating the first grade. Four of the students were a little more unique than the rest of us. There was the potato-head boy who stuttered and kept asking to go to the bathroom. He had been a first grader the previous year. The teacher said that he should know the rules, but that didn't keep him from asking to go to the bathroom every ten minutes.

There was the other boy who was wearing his daddy's glasses. His moma had had to carry him into the classroom like a sack of potatoes because he refused to walk and fell out in the floor kicking and scream-

ing when the teacher got close to him. His moma put him in the chair where he was having a fit, snatching, and jerking, and kicking, and crying with snot running down his face.

There was the silent girl with the big, big eyes. She peed in her chair, but no one told the teacher. She never talked, not even when the teacher asked her what her name was. Her friend, D.A., told the teacher the girl's name and where she lived.

D.A. was the most unique person in the whole world, she was pretty and wild. She kept pointing her finger and making faces at those who were crying. For no reason at all, she would laugh out loud. The teacher told D.A. to settle down, but D.A. ignored the teacher and started barking like a dog. That mean teacher shook D.A. and made her get quiet.

D.A. didn't stay quiet for long. When the teacher went down the hall D.A. jumped up on her desk and did a belly dance. She pulled her dress up over her head and did the Huck-a-Buck dance too. The whole class was squealing and laughing and some covered their eyes. The teacher ran back into the room and asked D.A. what in God's name was she doing. D.A. jumped down from the desk and got the holy spirit in her. She kept flailing about in her chair and speaking in tongues like the women in church.

Before the teacher got half way across the room, D.A. was out of her chair and racing around making car sounds with her mouth. I was in love. I shouted with the rest of the class for D.A. to run faster so that the teacher couldn't catch her. Some of the boys started to race around the room with D.A. and they were making car sounds too. We were really hav-

ng fun! Then the teacher screamed for everyone to get back in their seats and get quiet. She was such a mean teacher. I said 'damnit' to myself.

Everyone sat down, except D.A. who made a sound like a motorcycle peeling off, then she ran through the doorway, down the hall, and out of the school building. We all screamed for D.A. to run, run fast. The principal came into the room to see what was going on. He said that he would go find D.A. and bring her back. But I think D.A. was too fast for him because we didn't see D.A. for the rest of the day.

The teacher said that we should all put our heads down and take a break because she needed to talk to God. But God was a no show, the teacher just sat at her desk with her hands over her face. She was ignoring the potato-head boy's request to go to the bathroom. The big, big eyed girl had peed in her chair again, but we didn't tell the teacher.

Everybody raised their heads when the potato-head boy shouted "uh-oh,uh-oh!" He was standing beside his chair looking at the wet spot that was growing down the front of his pants into his socks and shoes, and onto the floor.

The potato-head boy started to cry. The boy with his daddy's glasses started to cry out loud again. The teacher said that she was going to give them something to cry about. But she didn't get a chance to give them anything because the boy with the glasses jumped up out of his seat and ran toward the door. He flung the door open, ran down the hallway and out of the school building.

The teacher slammed the door shut and announced that no one else

was allowed to leave the room. It was time for us to learn how to spell our names. She gave the two wetters some paper towels to clean up their messes while she got paper and pencils from behind the white box. I had heard stories about the huge white box with the back cut out, that was where the spankings took place. The teacher would take a child behind the box, pull your drawers down, lay you across her lap, and spank your naked butt. I didn't like the looks of that white box and I didn't like the teacher being behind it. That woman was a devil. When she went behind the box I called her a crazy-ass heffa' in my head. I was not supposed to cuss in school, so I said it to myself.

I was scared the teacher would come out from behind the box with horns and fangs. Maybe I could escape. Suddenly the classroom door swung open and banged against the wall. The boy wearing his daddy's glasses was back with his moma. He was kicking and crying and wiggling all over the place. He almost got away when he slid down his moma's legs, but his moma caught him by his arms and lifted him off the floor. His feet kept running in place, but he never touched the floor. His moma put him in his chair. The teacher came from behind the white box without horns and fangs. She grabbed the boy's arms and told the boy's moma to leave! His moma looked at the teacher like she was going to smack the cowboy shit out of the teacher. In my head I told the boy's moma to go ahead and do it.

The teacher changed her tune and politely begged the boy's mother to leave. She even said 'PLEASE' and flashed her paraffin teeth. The

boy's moma, who was even taller than the teacher, took her time leaving the room. She had never said a word during the entire commotion.

When the boy's moma was gone, the teacher put her nose on the boy's snotty nose and told him if he got out of his seat again it was going to be the end of him. The boy had another fit, jerking, and snatching, and kicking. He never got out of his chair. And with that the class went on learning to spell our names.

When the teacher got to me I pronounced my entire name, spelled my first name, made up the spelling of my middle name, and misspelled my last name. The teacher informed me that I had spelled the whole thing wrong. She changed the spelling of my first name to R-a-y-n-e-t. She correctly spelled my middle name. And because she knew all about who my daddy was, she gave me a new last name.

My feelings were hurt and I was embarrassed. I was only five, my piss and vinegar attitude had not yet fermented, so I said nothing. I sat completely still as the teacher wrote my new name on a slip of paper and pinned it to the shoulder of my dress. In my head I called her stinky do-do as the tears ran down my face.

When everyone had their assigned names, it was time for lunch. The silent girl with the big big eyes would not eat. After lunch we went out to the playground behind the school. The silent girl stood by the fence crying with one finger in her mouth and whispered her first words, she wanted to go home. The teacher told her to go sat down somewhere and pull herself together. The silent girl must have thought that the only place for her to sat down and pull

herself together was at home, because she was no where to be found when we got back to the classroom.

The teacher sent a note to the principal's office about the silent girl's absence. Then the teacher posted her chair in front of the classroom door and told us that she was going to read us stories while we napped at our desks. She read a story about Dick and Jane and a dog named Spot. I asked the teacher where the children in the story lived. She said they didn't

live anywhere, they were make-believe. I knew she had been lying all the time, wasn't nobody in the class with names like that. That's why everybody started laughing when she said that dirty word was that boy's name. Who ever heard of

a boy named Dick!

I was tired of make-believe stories. I asked the teacher where was D.A. She said that D.A. would be back tomorrow and now *Little Red Riding Hood*. She said it just like D.A. and Red Riding Hood was the same person. As the teacher read the story, I envisioned D.A. dancing and laughing her way through the forest as the hunters chopped the wolf into steaks and sausage so that D.A. and her grandmother could live happily ever after.

When the teacher finished reading it was time for us to go home, and I was glad. My older brothers and sisters were waiting for me at the door. I couldn't wait to tell them about my new girlfriend named D.A. One of my brothers said that I had it all wrong, boys have girlfriends and

girls have boyfriends and girls can be girlfriends, but they were really friends. Boys could be friends, but not boyfriends. And by the time he finished explaining, I knew that he was confused. So, I told all of them again that D.A. was my girlfriend. Another brother and sister tried to explain the girlfriend and boyfriend stuff, but they didn't make any sense either. I refused to repeat myself again. They were just being stupid.

Tomorrow I would ask D.A. to marry me and we would run away to the forest so D.A. could dance. And we wouldn't have to see that stinky teacher again. And we would live with her grandmother and eat wolf steaks and wolf sausage and live happily ever after. Humph! I would show them who could have a girlfriend. Intercultural Lesbians!

Homophobia and Sexual Abuse of Boys

by Mary Crone

Recently, it has been reported that the sexual abuse of children includes a greater number of male children than was previously believed, perhaps one out of five boys are victimized. For years research has shown that one out of four girls experience some form of sexual abuse, and some studies say one out of three. Up to this time, the most commonly repeated statistics for boys was one out of eight.

The increase in the number of boys believed affected does not surprise many of us that have worked in the field of child and or family abuse. It seems that girls and women find it easier to acknowledge to themselves that they have been abused, more frequently tell someone as a child, and are more likely to seek help as adults. Over the past two decades,

more and more women have talked about sexual victimization and have worked to heal themselves. There are now several hundred books, numerous research results, and training for police, social workers, and therapists in how to help women.

The research, literature, and knowledge about what happens to boys has been slower in coming to the surface. There are a number of reasons for this. In our culture, boys and men learn that they are not "suppose" to be victims, particularly sexual victims. Homophobia is one reason boys are reluctant to see themselves a victims--it might mean that they are gay. Or, if they tell, other people might think that they are gay. The homophobia in our culture thus helps to keep boys in denial about what has happened to them, and if not in denial, it tells them to definitely keep quiet about it.

Offenders have been known to

use this fear to help keep their victims quiet. This is one way in which homophobia is harmful to straight as well as gay people. A victim who is not able to tell, enables an offender to continue abusing, and keeps the survivor from healing.

Sexual abuse of boys has therefore been an under reported crime and male survivors of abuse often bury their memories. Men who do remember, do not seek help nearly as frequently as women. The recovery books for men are limited, and professionals are not trained in specific issues to consider in diagnosing or working with male survivors. As men come forward and share their experiences of abuse, these patterns are changing. The change in statistics of the number of boys believed victimized is one of the changes.

Fear of being thought to be gay can also be a contributing factor in turning victims into offenders. In the continued on next page

early teen years especially, young men struggle to be accepted as "real men". For someone who has been sexually victimized, becoming tough or even abusive is a way to wipe out any hint of victim status. "Real men" can't be victims in our culture, but they can be violent, can pass their hurt on to others.

Many psychologists believe that offenders are often acting out of abuse that happened to them as children. This does not mean that all victims become perpetrators, or that they become offenders for the same reasons. It has been noted, however, that it is often the survivors who can not tell, or who do not receive psychological help in healing that are more likely to become offenders.

Some people still believe that men who abuse boys must be homosexual, or that abuse causes homosexuality in young men. Studies of survivors and of offenders do not support this. Sexual abuse, similar to rape, is a sexual offense that is not motivated by sexual needs but by needs to dominate, control or humiliate. Some offenders develop pseudo intimate relationships with their victims and want to call this "love". These are not "loving" relationships but abusive controlling relationships.

Homosexuality and Heterosexuality are about sexual attraction and even more importantly are about an individual's orientation and ability to love, cherish, and form emotionally intimate relationships with other **adults**. A person's orientation is not determined by who they hurt and abuse. It is therefore incorrect and misleading to call pedophiles homosexuals because their victims are boys or heterosexuals when they abuse girls.

In our community we often see

these beliefs as harmful to gay people but it is also harmful to society as a whole. Believing that offenders are likely to be gay, for example, prevents adults from understanding how to protect their children from abuse and it misinforms children and teens. Children need to know that they can tell a trusted adult any time **any** adult touches them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Telling children to be careful of that "funny" man down the street, or that teacher that is thought to be gay, does not protect them from an abusive Uncle John or from their masculine football coach. Parents should teach their children that they have the right to determine who expresses physical affection to them. This means that parents may have to intercede for their children who don't want hugs or kisses from a well meaning Aunt Sarah.

Some offenders have tried to excuse their behavior by saying they are gay. Again, a person's sexual orientation is not determined by who they take advantage of, hurt or abuse, it is about who they love, cherish and form healthy adult relationships with. This does not mean that gay or lesbian individuals do not ever abuse children, but if they do, it is not because they are gay. The public is beginning to understand this even though right wing groups continue to call us pedophiles. To make our position clear, I believe that the lesbian/gay/trans community needs to reject groups like the "Man Boy Love Society" that sometimes attempts to be aligned with us.

One aspect of abuse of boys that I do not believe has been studied sufficiently is the question of who is abused. Some offenders say that they abuse any child they can get

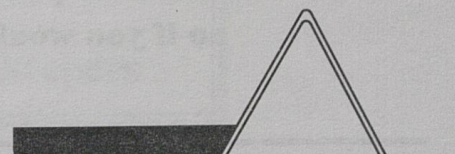
their hands on. Others say they specifically look for loners, children that are more isolated and in need of a "friend." It seems to me that children who are already different from the norm would be particularly vulnerable. Some of us who grew up to be gay fit into that group as children.

Which brings up the question- do gay men as a group have a greater than average amount of sexual abuse in their childhoods? To my knowledge, the few studies that have been done on male survivors have not addressed this question. It does seem that gay men are in the forefront of men willing to tackle this issue, to do the work necessary for recovery. One reason for this leadership by gay men could be because they have recognized and recovered from the homophobia that helped keep sexual abuse a secret or made it more difficult to talk about. I believe that a decrease in homophobia within our culture will help other men and boy survivors find the healing they need.



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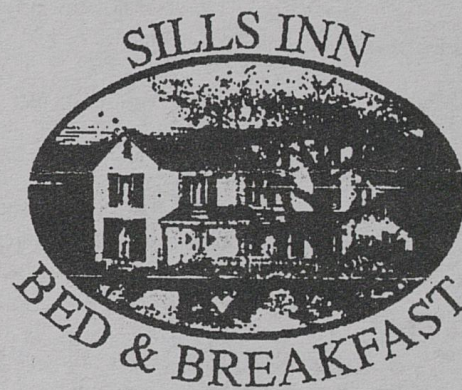
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Mary: Marycrone@aol.com

Terry: misterb@gte.net