



CONNECTING THE BLUEGRASS LGBT COMMUNITY

August 2013
Vol. 35 No. 8



DIVA LILO REVEALED

Her exclusive interview with LinQ introduces our readers to Femme Drag



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DANGEROUS LOVE

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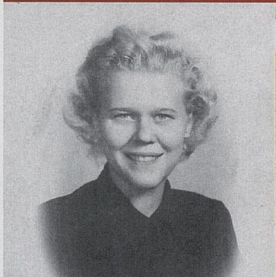
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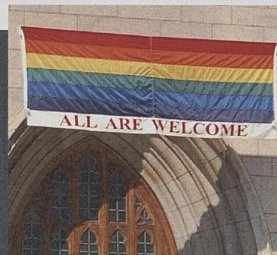


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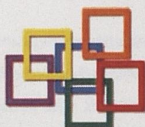
Diva Lilo brings new art form to Bluegrass





EDITOR
Don Lowe

LinQ is published monthly by and for the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization members and community. The mission of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to provide support and services to the GLBTQQA community. The vision of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization is to empower the GLBTQQA community through voice. The Lexington GLSO is founded upon the core values of fun, inclusion, respect, integrity, dignity, service and competence.



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"Views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the GLSO."

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Written by: Helena Handbasket

That's What I'm Talkin' About

That WE see the future – a future where we ALL belong, regardless of and maybe even because of our differences... we all are worthy of love

Someone asked me why we celebrate PRIDE in June every year. I told them that the answer was simple. It is because it is in the Bible. Says right there that “PRIDE cometh before the fall.”

What made Lexington's recent PRIDE Festival so amazing was just observing all of the things going on around me. I love to see people enjoying themselves (does that make me a voyeur?) but I always try to see what might not be so obvious to the eye and try to use my other senses to see and feel what is happening around me.

What struck me most was the mix of people that were there. I saw not only people from the LGBT

community but also straight people; people of all races, people of every gender (transgender included). I heard different accents and languages and I saw twinks and seniors and everything in between. I saw single people and couples. I saw pet lovers. I saw parents and children and toddlers. I saw drunk people and I saw church people. And I even saw some drunk church people. And you know what...? It was all so natural... so “normal”. This, to me, IS the new normal. The ability to mix and gel and play and work and socialize and interconnect with everyone. No longer do we need to try to conform. As a matter of fact, we should encourage

each other to be individuals and not be too quick to judge when someone has a different view or opinion or talent or style. And, as I see it, anyone who isn't on board with that is the oddball these days. I think back to the earliest pride celebrations and you usually only saw gay people, and sometimes not very many. Now PRIDE has become a place for all types of people to unite and celebrate the fact that WE get it. That WE are the new normal. That WE see the future – a future where we ALL belong, regardless of and maybe even because of our differences... we all are worthy of love... we are all here, sharing the same space – breathing the same air. So next

time you criticize someone because they look or believe differently than you do, just remember... THAT is their normal and they are just as entitled to their normal as you are to yours. Until next month...

Send comments or suggestions to HelenaHandbasketKY@gmail.com.



Written by: J. D. Vaughn

IMPERIAL COURT NEWS

The Court provides a social outlet & recognition to the LGBT community and its supporters through frequent events, all while raising funds for local charitable causes.

Greetings from the Imperial Court of Kentucky. For those of you not familiar with the Court, you may wonder "who are those people wearing all that jewelry and always asking for donations?" This edition's article will give you some basic information regarding the Imperial Court of Kentucky and how it is important to our community.

The Imperial Court of Kentucky, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit charity with a special outreach to the LGBT community of Kentucky. Founded in 1982 and based on the savants of manner of English royalty, the Imperial Court of Kentucky is

a charter member of the International Court System and is the oldest court east of the Mississippi River.

The Court provides a social outlet and recognition to the LGBT community and its supporters through frequent events, all while raising funds for local charitable causes. In 2006, The Imperial Court of Kentucky was named International Court of Distinction by the International Court Council.

The International Court System (ICS) was founded in 1965, when Jose Sarria proclaimed herself the Empress of San Francisco, and

IMPERIAL COURT



For more information, visit
The Court's website
www.imperialcourtkentucky.org



The Court meets bi-monthly
at the GLSO Pride Center on
Waller Avenue



Nicole the Great Queen Mother of the Americas plays a vital role in the operations of the Court System

NICOLE THE GREAT

laid the foundation for the formation of the Imperial Court of San Francisco. Today, the ICS has over 65 chapters in the United States, Canada and Mexico, making us the second largest LGBT organization in the world.

In the mid 1990's, Empress Jose named Empress Nicole the Great to be her Heir Apparent, and formed the International Court Council (ICC). The Member Courts are autonomous organizations bound together in shared structure, policies and goals. The Court has played a significant role in many local LGBT communities, spearheading AIDS fundraising

and services, human rights advocacy, and for many, provides a link to the LGBT community.

In February 2007, Empress Nicole the Great was elevated as titular head of the ICS and named Queen Mother of the Americas. She ushered in the Renaissance Era and expanded the Council to create a more diverse organization. The ICS has signed partnership accords with Egale Canada, the Matthew Shepard Foundation, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the International Gay Rodeo Association. Locally, our own Empress 21 and 28 Nicole Diamond, serves as an Heir

J. D. Vaughn recently began a second reign. She is formally known as Her Most Imperial Majesty, Regent Empress 32. She is pictured here at this year's Lexington Pride Festival.



Apparent to Nicole the Great, and represents the Imperial Court of Kentucky and this region on the International Court Council.

So while the International Council provides overarching structure and guidance, the local chapter charts its own course, raising funds and awareness of important issues to the LGBT community. The Imperial Court of Kentucky through its numerous fundraising events (typically around 50 events each year), donate to local and regional charitable organizations, including AIDS Volunteers of Lexington, Moveable Feast Lexington, Lexington Fairness, JustFund KY, the GLSO, the local chapter of PFLAG, and both UK and ECU LGBT student associations. Many of these organizations rely on the direct support from the ICK for its operational and day-to-day expenses.

The Court just ended Reign 31 in June and His Imperial Majesty,

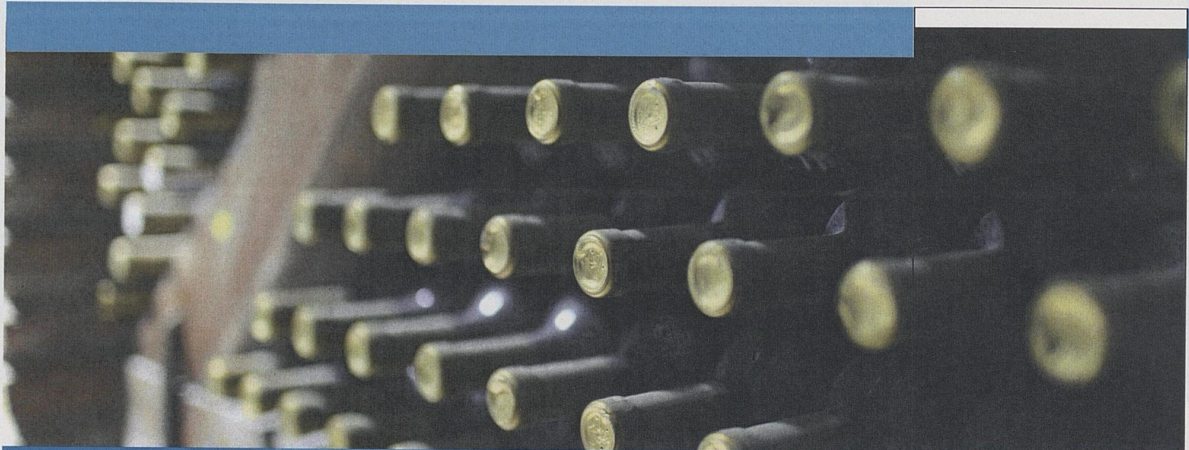
Emperor 31 Emperor Daryl "Big D" Lyons and Her Imperial Majesty, Empress 31 Trinity had the third most successful fundraising total in the 31 years of Kentucky court history. Their reign donated out over \$36,000 to the charities named above. And since reorganization in Reign 15, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has donated over a half million dollars to charitable organizations. THAT'S A LOT OF DRAG!

Reign 32 has started its fundraising and community representation as well. The Reigning Monarchs, His Most Imperial Majesty, Emperor 32 Patrick Thompson, and Her Most Imperial Majesty, Regent Empress 32 J.D. Vaughn, hosted a Pride Day Show at Crossings, and then J.D. performed later to a large crowd at the evening drag show at the very successful Lexington Pride Festival. Patrick and J.D., and members of the Court, also represented the ICK in the July 4th Parade in Lexington.

So after thirty-two years of noble deeds, the Imperial Court of Kentucky has many reasons to be proud and in turn, hopes that Lexington is proud of it as well. It continues to remain a strong, viable and important part of the Lexington LGBT community. After the glitter of the crowns and jewelry fade, the bigger and more important difference is the impact made on many people's lives that will create a lasting legacy in our community.

Look for announcements regarding Reign 32 events here in LinQ, or check out the Imperial Court on Facebook (group name Imperial Court of Kentucky) or online at www.imperialcourtkentucky.org. Membership and/or volunteers are always welcome and encouraged.

Next month's article: Events updates and "how can I become involved in the ICK?"



TASTE OF GRACE

A Taste of Grace will be celebrating its fourth annual event this year on August 24th at the Ballroom House Dance Studio in Brannon Crossing.

The vision for TASTE is to develop grace in the Lexington area through fundraising initiatives. Each year a different non-profit organization is chosen to receive the proceeds from the annual event. This year's non-profit is Moveable Feast Lexington. Moveable Feast Lexington prepares and delivers hot, freshly cooked meals, five days a week, to people living with AIDS/HIV-related illnesses as well as individuals who are patients of Hospice of the Bluegrass. 2010's inaugural event raised over \$10,000 for Grace Orphanage in Haiti, the 2011 event brought in \$15,000 for Mission Lexington, and last year's event brought in \$8,000 for Faith Pharmacy.

This year's event will include appetizers, open bar (beer and wine), live entertainment, silent auction and new this year a "Wall of Wine."

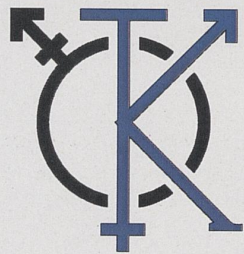
Ways you can help:

- *Donate items for the Silent Auction or a \$25 and up valued bottle of wine for the "Wall of Wine"!*
- *Donate your musical talents!*
- *Purchase tickets to the event for \$40.00 in advance, \$45.00 at the door!*

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TRANSKENTUCKY



TransKentucky will have attorneys present to discuss law and similar topics with regard to transgendered persons at the September 7th meeting at the GLSO Pride center. This should be an excellent meeting if you've ever had legal questions along these lines.

Meeting is Sept 7th 2013. Starts at 7:30pm and runs until about 9:30pm.

Written by: Roy Harrison
Photo: Eric Shock

FAIRNESS AWARDS

"We are working hard, working smart, and having fun. It's an exciting time for Lexington Fairness."



Lexington Fairness awarded four leadership awards to LGBT leaders and activists at the 2013 Fairness Awards Dinner. Stephanie Oghia received the Ally for Fairness award, Fred Worsham and Shotz Witha Z shared the Fairness Leadership Award, Rev. Mar-

sha Charles Moore received the Jennifer Crossen Out for Fairness Award, and Craig Cammack received the Ernesto Scorsonone Political Leadership Award.

Lexington Fairness received 25 nominations for the awards over

a month-long open nomination process. Oghia was recognized for her work with AVOL, Moveable Feast, and the Lexington Gay Sports Commission. In receiving her award, Oghia spoke of her passion to support the gay community. "I do this for you guys," she said.

Fred Worsham and Shotz witha Z were honored for their leadership of the Imperial Court of Kentucky and their collaborative efforts with different Lexington LGBT groups. They noted in their remarks that all people who attend the Imperial Court's and other or-



ganizations events are the reason for the pair's successes.

Rev. Charles was honored for her work to reconcile discussions of faith and sexuality. In prepared remarks, a representative was joined onstage by Rev. Charles mother, and spoke of the importance of building bridges. The remarks also noted the irony of her mother sharing the stage with a drag performer despite her initial misunderstanding of the LGBT community.

Craig Cammack's award was based on his work as a former chairman of Lexington Fairness and his successful leadership in opposing anti-gay adoption laws in Frankfort.

The Fairness Awards also highlighted the work of Lexington Fairness, including its anti-bullying initiative, Project Speak Out. The group presented a video that chronicled an initial training of

the trainers as well as early Project Speak Out trainings. A Project Speak Out trainer, Marshall Fields, also addressed the sold out crowd of nearly 300 to speak of his experience as a Project Speak Out Trainer. Chairman Roy Harrison also introduced two new Lexington Fairness activities: Pride Poster campaign, and an art and advocacy program named 'FAIRNESS, personified.' "We are working hard, working smart, and having fun. It's an exciting time for Lexington Fairness," said Harrison.

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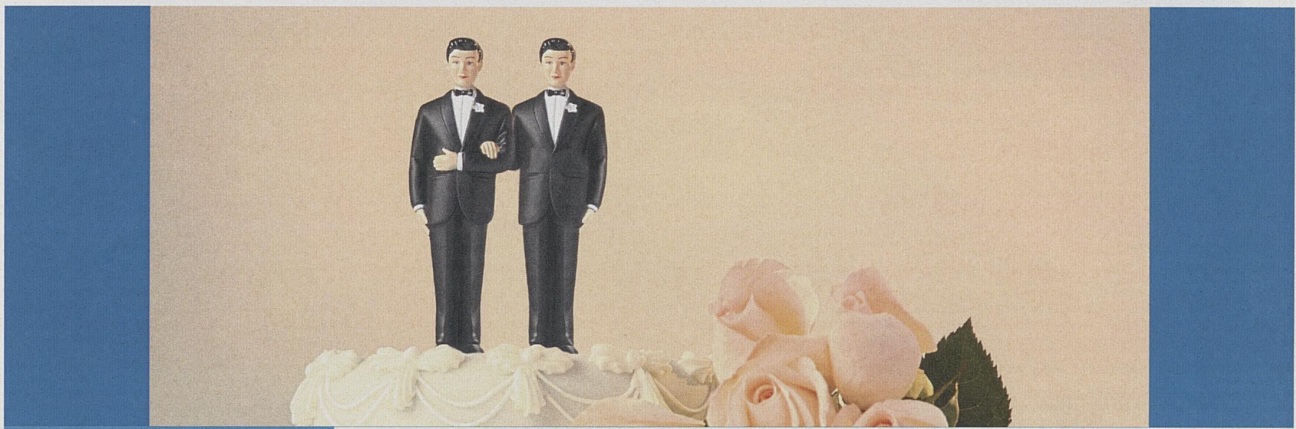
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Written by: Zak Pence

DOMA + LEXINGTON



“America’s extraordinary history of advancing freedom and liberty and justice for all took another remarkable step forward when the Defense of Marriage Act was overturned.”

- Mayor Jim Gray

Heather Bosworth and Kristi Nev-els have been married since 2009. The beachside ceremony was held in Provincetown, Massachusetts, surrounded by friends and family from Kentucky and beyond. For Bosworth and Nev-els, marriage was the logical and necessary step to finalize their commitment to one another, and if they had to travel 1,000 miles to do it—so be it.

Bosworth, who works for UK, was at work when she heard the news about DOMA. “I had every social

media site and news outlet open that I could think of,” she says.

“I was on pins and needles waiting to see what the decision was going to be. I didn’t know what to expect or how to react, but when I found out what it was, I just felt this overwhelming flood of emotion.”

Bosworth believes that many people in the LGBT community, including their supporters, sometimes have a tendency to distance themselves emotionally from po-

litical and judicial events, thinking they don’t really affect them. However, according to her, this is too big to ignore.

Nev-els, a massage therapist, was performing a massage while the ruling was taking place. She didn’t have access to any form of media, so she relied on Bosworth to tell her the outcome.

“I knew Heather would know to text me. I just happened to look at my phone and read, ‘DOMA was struck down.’ I wanted to cry, but



UPDATE: A federal lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Greg Bourke and Michael DeLeon challenging Kentucky's constitutional ban on same sex marriage. At press time, the case was still pending.

I couldn't because I was with a client. I was just so happy. I didn't think in my lifetime that I would see this."

Over the years they have contemplated moving to a state that allows same-sex marriage. Bosworth feels that they are more attracted to the more liberal states that legalized same-sex marriage early on. However, she thinks that this sends a strong message to more conservative states, such as Kentucky, that they are "falling behind." She feels like the tide has shifted and that the Supreme Court's decision would create the momentum necessary to affect nationwide change.

Both Nevels and Bosworth think Kentucky will be one of the last states to recognize same-sex marriage. However, the overturning of DOMA will make it easier

for Kentucky leaders who are pro gay marriage to speak their mind on the subject.

Ronald Williams and Brian Flynn, owners of several shops in Victorian Square, have been in a domestic partnership for years. While they have no immediate plans to get married, they think the DOMA decisions are a positive move for the nation as a whole.

"It's a great step forward," says Flynn, who equates the DOMA ruling with *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, which was the landmark Supreme Court case in which state laws requiring separate public schools for white and black students were deemed unconstitutional.

"I think we should celebrate this, I think it's a victory. That said, we're not there yet. There's plen-

ty of work to be done," says Flynn.

Williams thinks the hardest part about not being a legally recognized couple is the lack of protections in the case of medical emergencies. He was recently admitted to the hospital for about one week. "I hate to think about Brian not being able to visit me in the hospital when I needed him most, or vice versa."

Williams described a situation concerning another couple they know, in which one partner died and the deceased partner's family took possession of the couple's property, leaving the living partner with nothing. "It's scary to think about," says Williams.

Still, while they are optimistic concerning the cultural significance of the ruling, he and Flynn don't have plans on traveling to

another state to get hitched anytime soon. "Theoretically we've been engaged for six years now," jokes Flynn. And, they plan to stay "engaged" until Kentucky legalizes same-sex marriages.

Ernesto Scorsone, Fayette Circuit Court Judge (who as of now is the only openly gay member of the Kentucky General Assembly) thinks the Edith Windsor case will be remembered for years to come as a "groundbreaking ruling" in LGBT history.

"The recognition that basic due process and equal protection principles serve to protect LGBT Americans when it comes to marriage will pave the way for fair treatment on many fronts. 2013 has become a watershed year in all of our lives."

Written by: Sandy Spaulding



JOAN AND PAT: WHAT "HAPPILY EVER AFTER" LOOKS LIKE ON THE GROUND.

OUR YEARS OF LOVING DANGEROUSLY



It began with a faded clipping dated August, 1948, in the Newark Ohio Advocate.

"Miss Joan Dixon, 18 has been sentenced to 1 year in Marysville Reformatory for carrying on immoral relations with someone of her own sex."

Now Joan is 83, lies in a hospital bed, post-op hip surgery. Her partner, Pat, 73, ever present by her side.

I had gone to see them to write about Joan's experience of being jailed for being gay. It was like her to move past the trauma and shame to happier memories of what it was like to work all day in the factory and hit the women's bars, dance hard, throw back some beers and lay down the femmes. Her favorite times were the dancing— blonde, white shirt, and all butch. I laughed. "Dance with me." Pat put some music on, but instead of a slow dance it was a jitterbug! Moments later she went down on the carpet when we missed a twirl.

Later after Pat goes home to shower, Joan tells me what happened in 1948 in Newark. Two years earlier she had befriended a woman named Maxine. One day she kissed Joan who didn't know words like "lesbian" or "homosexual," only that it felt good and she fell in love. With a picture of Maxine on the family piano, and calling her "my sweetheart", she spent most of her time at Maxine's. But an uncle was attracted to Maxine and convinced Joan's mother her child was in grave moral danger and she should be committed to an institution where shock treatments were the common gay protocol. Fortunately, they had no money for that option, but she did go to the police, swearing out a warrant for her daughter's arrest.

Joan knew there was something afoot; she tried to stay out of sight by walking in back alleys, but police officers in a patrol car caught and handcuffed her. The judge tried to put her in juvenile facilities, but she was 18 and too old. The Marysville Reformatory



would not take her because her charge of "deliberate disobedience" was not a crime. Not knowing what to do with her they held her for thirty days in the local jail. When the time was up she walked out the door. Uncertain where she belonged, an officer offered to drive her back to Maxine's. Together they moved to Cleveland looking for more tolerance. Joan supported them both but soon realized Maxine was an alcoholic, and the abusive episodes left her walking the streets with a butcher knife in suicidal despair. Leaving the woman, and crippled by shame and secrecy, she had a series of short monogamous relationships—each one a little better than the last.

In the 40s, 50s, 60s, into the 70s gay bars were raided, but she hid, avoiding arrest. The churches proclaimed gays were going to hell; psychology called homosexuality a disease, and families disowned their own. In the sixties, certain she was a reject, a criminal, a sinner and mentally ill, she and her partner found a psychia-

trist to "cure" them. Joan married and had two children, staying 8 years before the fragile fix gave way under the weight of truth.

The 70s awakened her spiritually. She met Pat while in seminary, earning her Master of Divinity, and planning to be ordained in the Methodist church until their new policy said "celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage." Later, the UCC church, inclusive and proactive in LGBT justice, welcomed and ordained her where she served in churches in Ohio and Florida until three years ago.

Last week they watched in Joan's room, cheering as the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality. What that means to couples in Kentucky is not yet clear but the decision does shout, "Listen up, country, human rights have nothing to do with the plumbing of our beloveds." I watch as Pat patiently feeds Joan, and negotiates for her needs with staff. For awhile they said they were "sisters". I thought it brave of her to

Not knowing what to do with her they held her for thirty days in the local jail. When the time was up she walked out the door. Uncertain where she belonged, an officer offered to drive her back to Maxine's.

come out to them, fearing it would mean lesser care if they were known to be gay. Instead, it has been an important step in their journey to respect and equality. I hear Joan call Pat's name for certainty and clarity; now and then the secret language of lovers murmured, calling her back when the meds cloud and confuse.

I leave them and move out under the evening sky toward my car. From being locked up for being gay, to a love witnessed and writ-

ten here, Joan and Pat have been together for 38 years, defining the word commitment we all say we long for. Most of us think of it in terms of moving in and not sleeping around, unaware that the true essence of "happily ever after" is back there in that rehab center room where one somewhat weary old woman gently soothes the other to sleep. Old friends nearby in the hall, distantly aware their turn in the bed is coming, know without saying this same circle of committed buddies mean that

their lawn will be mowed, animals tended, long nights in the hospital with their own taking turns keeping watch, a safe floor laid in a place they will be coming home to, a call with a laugh on board, a child reassured, a cold beer together when it's over.

Pat and Joan show us love is bigger than all the "gay" craziness—the immaturities of our cultures, religions, laws, our ignorance and cruelty—These come, and they will fall away around us; but

people who love each other to the bone will still be here, seeing to one another, surrounded by friends with rides, covered dishes and weed whackers. DOMA's better, but in the end it probably doesn't matter to love.

If you want to comment, or are thinking you would like your story considered for this column, email me at sandy@glso.org, or text 859-475-3272.

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NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHARITIES OF THE IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY

Written by: Sandy Linville

FROM ONE PARENT TO ANOTHER

I have dedicated myself to growing a support group that accepts and loves parents through what may very well be one of the loneliest, most challenging chapters in their lives



When Audrey came out in 7th grade to her father and me, we had no one, not even a support group that we could turn to. We wanted and needed parents who could sincerely understand how our world had changed. My personal lonely experience is the mo-

tivation that drives me to be part of our local PFLAG chapter.

Because I never want any family, mother, or father to feel the isolation that I felt, I have dedicated myself to growing a support group that accepts and loves

parents through what may very well be one of the loneliest, most challenging chapters in their lives – when their loved one identifies and comes out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. As more and more youth are coming out and at younger ages than

ever before, it is only natural that more and more families are being impacted. That's why it is vital that we have the opportunity to educate parents about the risks their LGBT child faces particularly when sons and daughters are not accepted by their inner circle of

family and friends. Unaccepted LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their peers and are more likely to drop out of high school, get involved in drugs, and participate in unhealthy promiscuous sexual relationships. Certainly, no parent wants that for their child.

With the unique experience and unconditional acceptance PFLAG Lexington offers, parents and family members learn ways to avoid the regrettable and sometimes irreparable breakdown in family relationships that are often by-products of the coming out process. PFLAG Lexington provides resources to assist parents as they lead and love their family, and specifically their LGBT child, through this new and often times challenging period in their lives. If you or your family wants support, please join us at our next confidential meeting, Tuesday August 13, 2013 @ 6:30p.



PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

For more information:
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859-338-4393



NEW SONG IN THE BLUEGRASS

New Song in the Bluegrass is a new community chorus for LGBT and LGBT-friendly singers. The new choral group will begin rehearsals Thursday, August 22 at 7:30 at Woodland Christian Church in Lexington.

The group will be directed by Steve Johnson, former director of the men's group Another Note. "I'm really excited about this great opportunity to direct a community group of men and women. I think Lexington really needs a group like this that is inclusive and offers gay and lesbian singers, along with support-

ive others, a place to share music that is meaningful and uplifting," Johnson said.

The group will rehearse weekly and begin working on music for a holiday concert. New Song is open to anyone who wants to sing. There is not a formal audition, however, the director may wish to hear new singers vocalize to check their ability to match pitch and assess their vocal range. The only requirements of singers are to attend rehearsals and contribute a positive attitude. The group plans to do a variety of music rang-

ing from light-hearted pieces to Broadway musicals to more classical pieces.

Each singer will be asked to pay \$20 each semester to cover the cost of purchasing music. Rehearsals will last from 7:30 to 9:15 on Thursday nights. Woodland Christian Church is located at 530 East High Street. Singers should enter the side door located on Kentucky Ave. Rehearsal will be upstairs in the sanctuary. For more information or questions contact Steve Johnson at sjohn5@uky.edu.



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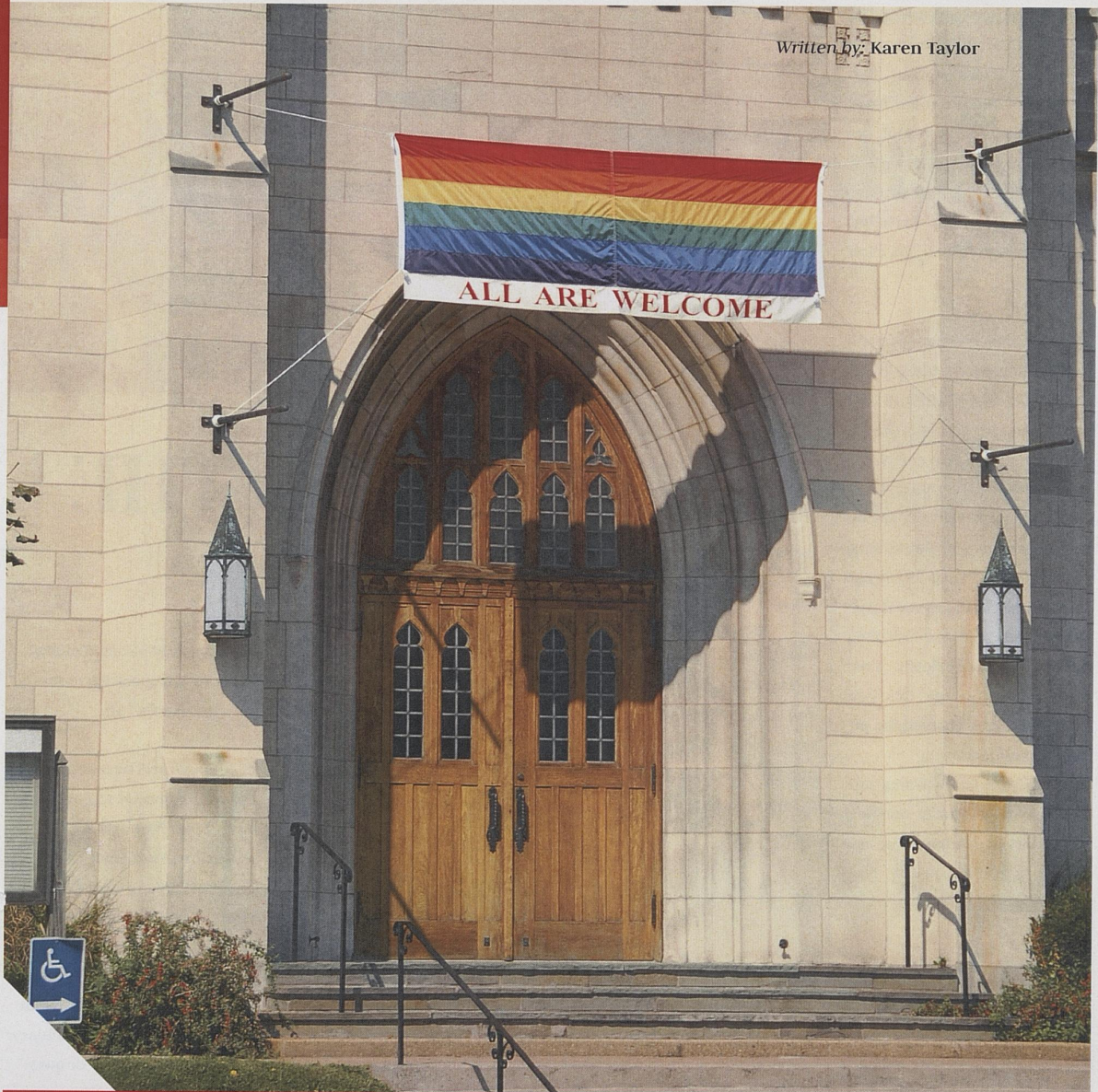
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Written by Karen Taylor



CHRISTIAN +
GAY = OK

We gay Christians are people of value and are blessed by our Father in heaven with a commission to proclaim to all that Jesus Christ died for the sins of ALL.

I attended a Christian Conference over the July 4th weekend that changed my life. The Evangelical Network Conference held in Louisville had 100+ attendees from the LGBT community as well as a few straight allies. TEN is stationed in California and serves to network gay Christians from around the world. They also work tirelessly as our voice in arenas we could never find ourselves such as Exodus and various mainline denomination pastors/leaders. The title of this article comes from a church in California that was at the conference and simply states a very basic truth that I am more determined than ever to proclaim loudly and proudly.

Before the event, I prayed God would not only revive me but that He would speak to me personally, directing me to what's next in my life. With the closing of Open Arms of God Ministry I've been wondering around with no direction just filling up my life with stuff to keep me busy. It's been good stuff but not what I believe God has called me to. I came away from the conference with what I asked for. I knew God had called me to heal the broken hearted, set the captive free, proclaim Jesus as Lord, and make disciples. It's not that anything I came away with was

actually new to me, but it became more deeply established in me. There was that underlying belief that I wasn't capable of carrying out the mission. I wasn't smart enough. The good news is God is and He is in me and it's His work He is doing through a willing vessel. I have the deep desire to serve God, to be used by Him, to allow the wounding of my past be used to help others. Because of that willingness and desire, God can and will do just that. There is nothing special about me except Jesus who lives in me. That's the good news!

We gay Christians are people of value and are blessed by our Fa-

ther in heaven with a commission to proclaim to all that Jesus Christ died for the sins of ALL. If we proclaim Him as our personal Lord and Savior we can walk in Him with confidence, love, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." As followers of Jesus He builds us up and gives us an inheritance of Royalty. Lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered is not who we are, we are children of the most high God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. We are children of the King of Kings. A straight pas-



HEY LGBTQ YOUTH!
SPEAK OUT: glsen.org/2013survey

tor from Colorado preached on Saturday morning that helped me to see this. I was telling people that it's like when I first admitted to myself I was gay. I had allowed my mind to accept that but it wasn't until I embraced it (living it out) that I became free. Free to believe and be proud of who I am, not walk around in shame or hiding from the truth. It's a wonderful feeling, to be free to hold my head up knowing in my heart of hearts God loves me just as I am. I'm sure many of you can relate to the days when you walked around not quite feeling apart of the gay community (because you were Christian) and not feeling apart of the heterosexual Christian community. During those days I was a person without a "home". Because of TEN I have found my "home" among the greater Christian community across the country. With that comes a freedom and a strength to walk out my calling in Christ.

Are you like I have been, not feeling worthy of God's calling or not feeling at "home" with the freedom to walk in your calling? 1 Corinthians 1:26 - 29 will help us see that in our flesh we may feel weak, not smart enough, or not accepted but that's what makes us useable to God. It is Him who makes us strong. We get our wisdom and acceptance from God. You felt you once had a calling? God's calling is never evoked. He knew before you did that you were gay, transgendered, lesbian, straight, and He knew before you were born that He had plans for you. Embrace your calling as you have your sexuality.

In Psalms we read that God knew us in the womb, He formed us so our gayness was no surprise to Him. We have been called, justified, and glorified to do His work.

EMPATHY FOUND HERE

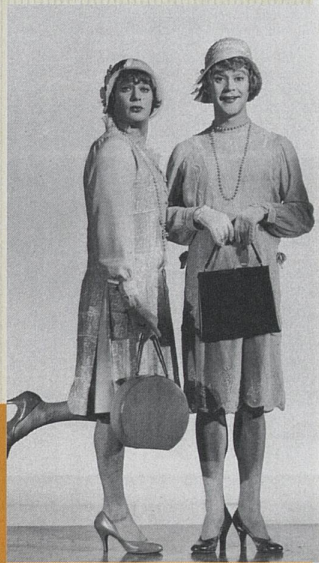
GLSO Offers Weekly Discussion Group

Over the years, literally hundreds of people have sat around a table at the Pride Center on Wednesday nights and talked about what is going on in their lives and what is important to them. They have found acceptance, community, camaraderie, comfort, family, and some find, for the first time, that there is joy in being gay.

The group exists today because of empathy. Because a group of people, strangers really, can sit around a table, listen to each other and nod in recognition that "we too have been where you are, and we are okay."

The Wednesday Night Discussion Group is open to adults of every stripe; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, intersexed, even straight. (We do not discriminate.) If you could use a little empathy or have some to share we hope you will join us around the table. There is always enough laughter to be shared and tears to be understood. We start around 7pm every Wednesday at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100. Come as you are... we do.

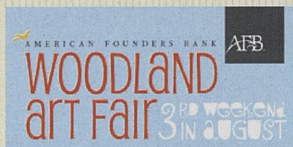
THINGS WE LIVE FOR



4

“Some Like It Hot at the Kentucky Theater”

Classic film in a classic theater setting. We love black and white comedies and this is one of the best ever. Drag, deception, major stars and gay icons Curtis and Kane and oh yeah, Marilyn Monroe shows start August 28.”



Woodland Art Festival

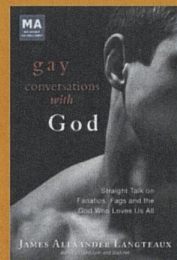
Good art is never as easy to find as in this yearly setting. The hot August weekend brings large crowds eager to mingle with artists and art lovers August 17 & 18 in Woodland Park.

3

2

Gay Conversations with God

Unfortunately, most members of our community have negative experiences when it comes to church and religion. This book by James Langetaux takes on this issue in a real, raw and often raunchy way We cannot put this book down and neither will you www.jameslangteaux.com.



Gay Nashville Star

Steve Grand is everything. He is good looking He is talented. He is a trail blazer. He just may be the first openly gay male artist in Nashville's long history. His video All American Boy speaks to the heart of a right of passage for so many young gay men... unrequited love of a straight friend. tinyurl.com/ktlmedh.

1

nutrition • wellness • breastfeeding education
 diabetes management • weight loss • exercise
 quitting smoking • healthy heart • child care staff training
 HIV & STI testing • tuberculosis control • bed bugs, rabies
 & mosquito control • foodservice training & certification
 restaurant inspections • food-borne illness investigation
 well-child checkups • cultural diversity • WIC nutrition
 first-time mom & dad support • school nursing
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Written by: Don Lowe
Photo: Stu Tucker

FEMME DRAG ARRIVES...

That night a fire was light under me. I know that that kind of treatment is not what I feel God taught us about love.

Born from bullying and named after a children's cartoon character, Diva Lilo, is blazing trails. Why? She's not your ordinary drag queen. In fact, she's not really a drag queen at all. The recently crowned Miss Lexington Pride 2013, real name Jeanne Jessop, is a biological woman—a straight, biological woman. Confused? So we were, so we set out to meet this enigma originally from Roanoke, Virginia, and get to the bottom of this mystery. The following are excerpts from our one on one interview with this strong, beautiful, brave ally.

LinQ: How did you get your stage name?

Diva Lilo: It's from Lilo and Stitch. My drag mother Arione Decar-deza gave it to me because she couldn't remember my real name and she thought I looked like the little Hawaiian girl in the cartoon movie.

LinQ: What is it called when a straight woman does drag?

Diva Lilo: Femme Drag

LinQ: How did you get started doing it?

Diva Lilo: Diva Lilo was born 4 years ago because I wanted to feel what it felt like to be in the spotlight to be like the drag queens. I was always behind the scenes buckling shoes, making sure hair was perfect and dresses were zipped. I just said for my birthday

I wanna do drag one time and then the drag bug just bit me, it's addictive. I had such a good response and after that I heard that there was such a thing as females impersonating female impersonator, I wanted to run in femme pageants. I was appointed Miss Kentucky United States Femme Fatale in January 2013 and then in March I went off to my first national pageant and I won first runner up and most beautiful.

LinQ: You told us you have a history with drag performers that had an unusual beginning?

Diva Lilo: I went to a private Christian college that's how I met all the gay friendly people, a lesbian, gay guy and a conservative Chris-

tian were in immediate group of friends. We were all bullied because of pure hatred. Our dorms were broken into, they said terrible stuff to us in the cafeteria. We reported this and the RA (resident assistants) did nothing, the Dean did nothing. We were ridiculed and mocked and at the spring dance someone called the police and one of our group was arrested for trespassing because he was the boyfriend and not a student there. That night a fire was light under me. I know that that kind of treatment is not what I feel God taught us about love. I believe that God wants us to help each other. I wholeheartedly believe in true love and equality for every-



Diva Lilo is the reigning Miss Lexington Pride

DIVE LILO IS BLAZING TRAILS

one. After we left college, I moved to Lexington with my best friend at the time, India Ferrah (Ferrah was a contestant of RuPaul's Drag Race Season 2 and now headlines in Las Vegas).

LinQ: What does your family think about your drag persona?

Diva Lilo: My parents support me, my mom drove 4 hours to my national pageant to watch me compete and my dad told me I have a big heart and that he is proud of me.

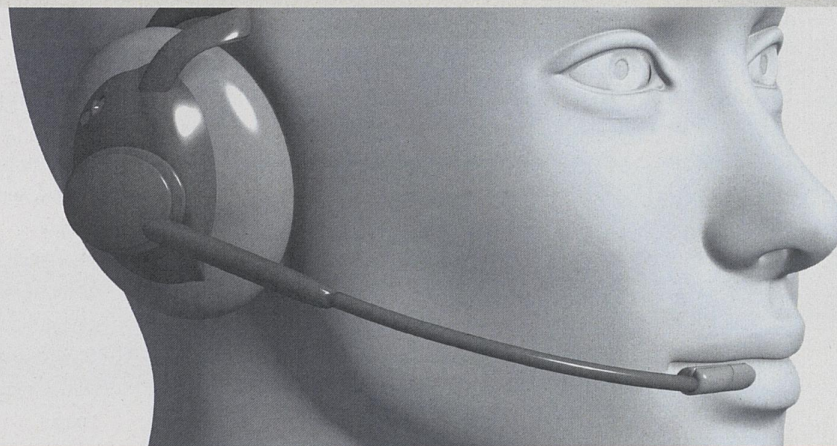
LinQ: Why do you do it?

Diva Lilo: I do drag because I know what its like to be pushed aside and put in the back. I do it to empower big girls and straight girls

to have confidence and self love—to help others. If I can touch just one person I am doing my job.

As Miss Lexington Pride, Diva Lilo has appeared at the Kentuckiana Pride Festival in Louisville, Lexington's Pride Festival along side Mr. Gay Lexington Tristan Rider, and Lexington's Fourth of July parade. She appears regularly at area nightclubs alongside "regular" drag queens (among them Adriana Fuentes her Lexington drag mother, Georgia Peach her "fairy godmother" and Mya St James one of her best friends) She says they have accepted her and welcomed her with open arms.

LinQ TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



HIV/STS Testing, Services and Information

AIDS Volunteers of Lexington (AVOL)	859 225 3000
Health Department, Fayette County	859 288 2437
Health Department, Woodford County	859 873 4541
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	502 584 1254
Moveable Feast	859 252 2867
Northern Ky Region	859 341 4264
UK Adolescent Medicine	859 323 5643

Community and Social Groups

24-Hour Crisis Line	800 929 8000
24-Hour Teen Crisis Line	800 999 9999
Alcoholics Anonymous	859 967 9960
AA/Alcoholic Teens	859 277 1877
Council for Peace and Justice	859 488 1448
Discussion Group	859 253 3233
Fairness of Louisville	502 893 0788
Gay Straight Alliance, Teens	859 266 5904
GLSO Pride Center	859 253 3233
Imperial Court of Kentucky	859 619 7521
International Gay Bowling	859 539 3058
Kentucky Fairness	502 836 5085
Lexington Fairness	859 951 8565

Lexington Human Rights	859 252 4931
Lexington Pride Festival	859 253 3233
PFLAG Lexington	859 338 4393
PFLAG Louisville	502 223 1323
Sister Sound	859 806 0243
Social Services, Lexington	211
Speaker's Bureau	859 266 5904
TransKentucky	cassiemt@yahoo.com
United Way	859 313 5465

Religious Groups

Lex Friends, Quakers	859 254 3319
Unitarian Universalist Church	859 223 1448

Student Groups

Berea College ACE	859 958 3633
Centre College BGLA	859 238 5332
EKU Alphabet Center	dan_hendrickson13@mymail.eku.edu
Morehead State University	606 783 2294
UK OutSource	859 323 3312

LinQ CALENDAR AUGUST

Thursday, August 1

6:30pm

GLSO Board Meeting

Friday, August 2

3:00pm

Outloud! Radio Show

Saturday, August 3

6:30pm

TransKentucky Meeting

Sunday, August 4

2:00pm

Bible Study

Wednesday, August 7

7:00pm

LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, August 9

3:00pm

Outloud! Radio Show

6:30pm

Lexington Gay Geeks Sci-Fi Club

Saturday, August 10

Editorial Deadline for LINQ Newspaper

9:00pm

Kentucky Bourbon Bears Board Meeting

Sunday, August 11

6:00pm

Imperial Court Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

7:00pm

LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, August 16

3:00pm

Outloud! Radio Show

7:00pm

Senior's Social Group Potluck

Saturday, August 17

7:00pm

LGBT Movie Night

Sunday, August 18

2:00pm

Bible Study

Wednesday, August 21

7:00pm

LGBT Discussion Group

Friday, August 23

3:00pm

Outloud! Radio Show

6:30pm

Lexington Gay Geeks Sci-Fi Club

6:30pm - 9:00pm

GLSO Pride Center

For more information lexgaygeeks.com

Sunday, August 25

6:00pm

Imperial Court Meeting

Wednesday, August 28

7:00pm

LGBT Discussion Group

Thursday, August 29

7:00pm

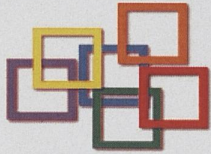
2014 LexPride Election & Welcome Meeting

Friday, August 30

3:00pm

Outloud! Radio Show

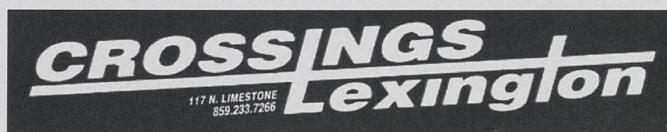
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GLSO

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AKF Lexington Martial Arts

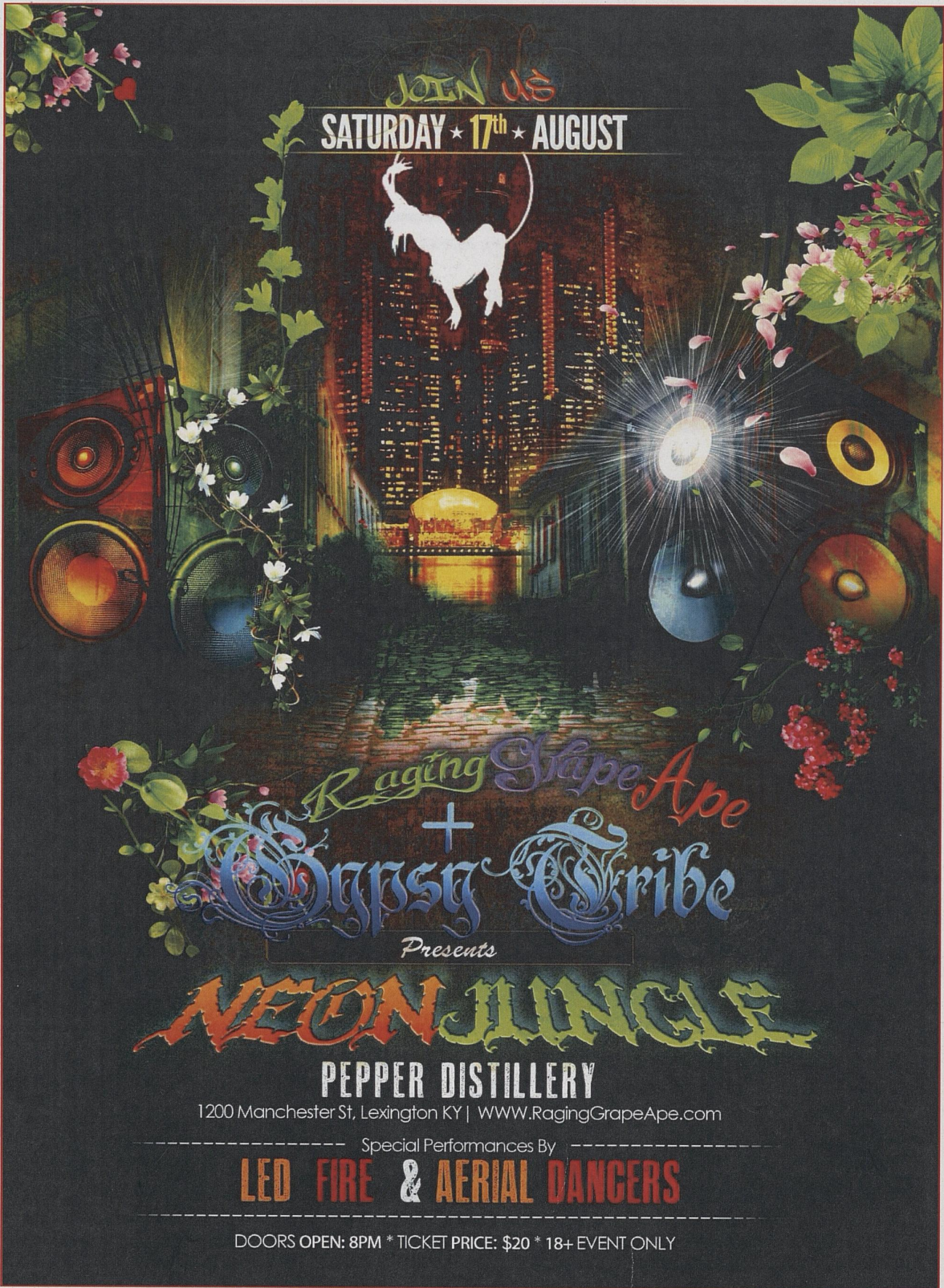


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