



GLSO NEWS

Vol. 14 **AUGUST 1999** No. 8

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

FAIRNESS ORDINANCE PASSES 12-3

by Jeff Jones

On Thursday, July 8 the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council voted 12 to 3 to approve an amendment to the city-county's human rights ordinance. On July 15 Mayor Pam Miller signed the ordinance into law. This amendment bans discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations (including credit) due to a person's actual or imputed sexual orientation or gender identity.

Although passed largely intact, the ordinance was amended. The primary issue of debate centered on gender identity which was further defined in the amended ordinance as applying to individuals who had undergone a sex change operation or manifested their transgendered identity in a manner other than dress.

The amendments also stipulated that businesses could enforce employee dress codes and gender specific bathrooms for individuals based on their biological sex. Religious organizations and their educational/charitable ventures are exempted except for such businesses receiving a majority of their funds from public monies.

This historic vote followed the May 21st recommendation by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission to adopt

the amendment. The HRC, established in 1963 before the passage of federal civil rights laws, viewed this amendment as the logical proactive extension of its mission.

Although the time period between introduction and passage of the amendment was only 18 days (compared to 14 years for the hard fought Louisville ordinance), interaction between the gay community and the HRC dates back to 1993. In 1993 the HRC began to informally document anti-gay bias cases reported to it.

That same year also saw the birth of Lexington Fairness, a local education and advocacy organization focusing on issues facing lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered (LBGT) individuals. Although pre-dating the formation of the statewide Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA), Lexington Fairness is now the local chapter of KFA.

Fairness spearheaded support for the HRC's recommendation and the ordinance. Fairness was able to form an impressive coalition of supportive religious, business, and civic leaders to speak in favor of the ordinance during a three hour public hearing on July 1.

Opponents from churches, both within and from outside Fayette County,

and organizations like the local Family Research Council spoke against the ordinance. Arguments ranged from fundamentalist Christian interpretations

.CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

HOW COUNCIL VOTED

SUPPORTED

George Brown (1st District)
Scott Crosbie (At Large)
Dick DeCamp (3rd District)
Bill Farmer, Jr. (5th District)
Willy Fogle (7th District)
Linda Gorton (4th District)
Robert Jefferson (2nd District)
Gloria Martin (12th District)
Richard Moloney (11th District)
Jennifer Mossotti (9th District)
David Stevens (At Large)
Isabel Yates (Vice Mayor)

OPPOSED

Fred Brown (8th District)
Al Mitchell (6th District)
Sandy Shafer (10th District)

FAIRNESS CELEBRATION
August 22 See page. 3

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The GLSO News
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*The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
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321 Second St.

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**Mary Crone
Peter Taylor
Davina Warner**

**GLSO Annual Dues
and Newsletter: \$15
Dues and Newsletter for
Couples: \$20**

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FABULOUS PARADE

by Laurie Davison

With the pending vote on the Fairness Ordinance, we prayed for a crowd at the Independence Day parade this year, and you people did NOT disappoint us! There were 187 marchers who signed up, but MANY more made up the contingent of support for Fairness, GLSO, the Imperial Court and Lexington Men's Chorus!

Along the way we were joined by many people, who donned rainbow stickers, grabbed balloons and signs, and joined in the chants:

What do we want? Fairness!

When do we want it? Thursday!

Fairness! No more, no less!

I was honored to be one of the folks right up front with Jeff Jones and Fe Myers (Co-Chairs of Lexington Fairness), Melanie Otis, Davina Warner, Jennifer Crossen, and Joan Callahan! We were carrying two Fairness banners. To each side of us were women carrying full-sized flags: an MCC rainbow flag with a cross in the corner and Old Glory.

Behind us marched old friends and new, predominantly "family", but also straight supporters! A man from my church whose best friend is gay said he wouldn't miss this for the world! As we passed State Rep. Kathy Stein, she joined us proudly up front for the rest of the march. Everyone who was there was incredible!

Prior to the parade as we were all lining up, I said hello to the Parrot-Heads at the Jimmy Buffet float. I complimented them on their good taste in music and asked if any of them were supporters of the Fairness Ordinance. One woman said, "We ALL support you! I'll take as many

stickers as you have!" And all the Parrot-Heads marched wearing rainbow stickers in support.

It was like this throughout the day -- perceptibly straight supporters requested stickers and information, and some even joined us in the march. I had expected more hecklers than usual due to the Ordinance publicity. What I saw instead was nothing short of incredible.

Although many watchers were silent, many more cheered us loudly as we marched by! They cheered from the streets; they cheered from the four-story parking decks, and some cheered from the judges booth in front of the courthouse. We received standing applause on several occasions, thumbs up signs, and encouragement!

And although the crowds in front of the Bar and 141 are always boistrous in their support, this year's cheering was even louder and more enthusiastic than ever (coming from both sides of the street). I teared up when I heard the cheers from the Bar. Thank you!

As for hecklers -- at one point a man began yelling the usual gutterage about sin and abomination. We were doing our best to ignore him, when several spectators surrounded him and cheered us. Later, another man harassed the woman carrying the MCC flag. She smiled and ignored him as a female spectator gave the flag bearer a high-five and cheered us.

People, it was truly one of the most incredible and empowering experiences of my life! Thank you ALL for being there, for marching and for screaming your lungs out for Lexington Fairness. I am so proud of our community!

Community News

BIG, HUGE, MONSTER CELEBRATION BASH!!!

GREAT, SCREAMIN' GRAVY, people!!! We did it! On July 15th, Mayor Pam Miller signed the long-awaited Fairness Ordinance, and it is official! We are honest-to-gawd citizens at last!

This was the biggest civil rights victory since the 60's! We got sexual orientation AND we got transgender! We got employment, housing, AND public accommodations! And I can't be sure, but I think we even had more ministers on our side than the opposition (Holy Turnabouts, Batman!!!).

Not only that, but the Lexington community came out in a show of such strong support I can still hardly believe it! In short, people -- WE ROCK! If this occasion isn't deserving of a PARTY, I don't know what is!

Compliments of Lexington Fairness, you are all invited to a Celebration of the Fairness Victory at Windy Knoll Farm on **Sunday**,

August 22nd, 4:00 pm until dark!

We'll have all the good stuff you'd expect from a killer backyard cookout: soft drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and even some veggie burgers for the herbivores amongst you! We'll set up the volleyball net and we'll have LIVE music! Heck, people, you EARNED it! (No alcohol, please).

Windy Knoll Farm is the same place we've had the Pride Picnic the last three years, it's just 15 minutes outside of Lexington! To get there, take Winchester Rd (US 60) away from town. After you pass New Circle Rd, drive 5 miles and look for State Road 1973 (Cleveland Rd) on the left after the second blinking light. There will be a white grocery to your right. The farm is a 1/2 mile down Cleveland, on the left (just past Davis Forks Baptist Church). We'll put up signs at the turns. Come celebrate this incredible victory - on us!!! See you all there!!!

SOCIAL CONCEPTS

Social Concepts offers a supportive atmosphere for Lesbian and Bi women to socialize. Recent activities included Shakespeare in the Park, a hot tub party, and a morning hike at Raven Run.

On Wednesday, August 11 we will caravan to Lilith Fair. Plan to leave the Georgetown Walmart parking lot at 11:30 AM. The concert starts at 3PM at the Riverbend Amphitheater, but we'll need to check in at Garfield Suites (2 Garfield

Place; Cincinnati) by 1PM. Shared room accommodations are \$36 each, and lawn seating tickets at the concert are \$28.50. I've never been to a music festival, so I don't know what to expect. Join me and we'll experience it together!

We are also planning a Sunday Brunch at Alfalfas on Aug 15 at 11 am and a pool party on August 21 at 3pm at Shillitos Park. BYO picnic, 2\$ and any kids or friends you can fit in your car. For more information about these or other activities, contact Ginger at gg40504@hotmail.com.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The GLSO Discussion Group meets in the Pride Center (Waller Avenue) every Wednesday at 7:30 PM. LGBT people share their concerns in a supportive and helpful environment. This is not therapy, but genuine support. For more information, contact Jeremy at 269-6658.

SISTERSOUND

SisterSound is a non-auditioned, diverse community women's chorus. SisterSound begins its fifth concert season this fall. Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 12 at 6PM at Park Methodist Church on the corner of High Street and Clay Avenue. New members are welcome!!! For more information, contact Patti, 243-0243 or paowens@excite.com.

MOONSHINE BEARS

The Moonshine Bears wish to thank all of you who were at our Bear Beach Party in July. We had a great time and a total of \$142 was donated to the Lexington Fairness Alliance.

If you missed that event, you have another opportunity at our Aug. Bar Night. Come join us for leather, fur and fun as we present Moonshine Bear's Leather Night on Sat. Aug. 14 at Crossings. A 50/50 Raffle will be offered with the proceeds being donated to the Fayette County AIDS Program.

Mark your calendars now for our Mr. Kentucky Bear Contest on Sept. 11 at Crossings. If you would like a contestant application or more information, please e-mail us at Mshinebrs@aol.com.

....**FAIRNESS** (continued from page 1)

of homosexuality as a sin to complaints that the ordinance vote was moving too quickly without sufficient public comment. Council members received death threats from some individuals opposing the ordinance.

Lexington is the second city in Kentucky this year to pass such an ordinance. Becoming the first municipality in the state to do so, Louisville passed a similar ordinance in January that is limited to employment only.

Henderson, Kentucky also is expected to vote on a non-discrimination ordinance in the fall. Henderson has protected city workers since 1996 via a city government personnel policy.

A bill prefiled by Representative Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) for the 2000 Kentucky General Assembly seeks to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations due to a person's sexual orientation.

HOLDING ON

by *Reinette F. Jones*

"Come on in, don't just stand there. Jane Sarah will be down in a minute. You ain't still trying to mate with girls, are you? Honey, that's so nasty. I hope you doing whatever people like you do so you don't get none of them potty diseases. Keep it rinsed with vinegar water and I reckon you'll be alright.

You know she divorced Clell Jr. Been going to some she-quack shrink every since she came back home. She won't tell us what they talk about. You were the last person we were expecting to get her to go out and have some fun. Been years since we banned you from the house. But that's all over with, ain't it Honey? Have a seat."

Nothing's changed, the same one-sided conversation. Only Jane

Sarah's letter could have tempted a banished childhood sweetheart back to this bazaar house. Concrete animals keep watch with their red fingernail polish eyes. Five-foot plastic deer don fresh coats of green house paint.

Quilt covered front porch gliders are bolted to the floor. More than 100 trees, bushes, and plants catch the sun from the second story skylight. Bird squawks and animal squeals erupt from hidden speakers. Forever blinking Christmas lights are over the chifforobe that is laden with colored water filled liquor bottles. They call it a bar. Fifteen years, and nothing has changed.

Jane Sarah's ex-husband must have been a bad son of a biscuit eater to make a woman come back to this place. Most people hit the gas when they round the corner and see

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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the large fluorescent orange and olive green country house.

Jane Sarah always said the site was half the reason she could never get a date. Clell Jr. had to have been a different breed. Only one other suitor ever made it over the green threshold and past the stony creatures. And here she sits once again watching the waterfall that sits smack dab in the middle of the floor. The water is for the animals, should they ever need a drink.

The constant splashing works the bladder of humans. There's no way to avoid having to use the water closet (bathroom). The accordion door leads to a sink and a toilet in a 4' X 4' stall. The ever present voice outside the door provides instructions.

"The light switch is behind the door. It's the third one, those other two don't go to nothing yet. What you think about that black light? It's suppose to help you go better. I hope you ain't straddling the seat like you used to do when you was a kid and thought you was a boy. Make sure you dry the seat."

To actually straddle the seat would require the amputation of all four limbs; the toilet is wedged in the corner between the wall and the narrow sink cabinet. The black light and black carpet create the effect of a bottomless pit with two fixtures suspended against the wall. Just getting to the seat is a psychedelic challenge.

It takes about five minutes to will the feet to move, and peel pants and drawers down around the ankles, and position the butt under the toilet paper roll and down onto the seat. As soon as flesh touches plastic, the loose-hinged seat glides off toward

the floor. The quick motion causes a loud grating sound.

"Honey, it's suppose to do that. You won't fall. Just scoot it back up."

Both feet are firmly placed on what appears to be nothingness. An opposing force is applied to the lower half of the body, which causes the seat to realign over the bowl. One hand grips the sink as an additional brace to keep the body and the seat at bay.

A flick of the hand activates the toilet paper roll. Continuous sheets of paper jet-spin onto the floor. An attempt to stop the motion causes the roll, the peg, and a large spring to propel across the room.

"Just leave it, we'll fix it back. More john wipe is behind the commode. Don't use too much, it'll clog up the flush."

The needed sheets are measured and ripped from a new roll. Clothes are rearranged on the body. The toilet is flushed. The lazy swirling water slowly creeps toward the brim.

"Sounds like you used too much paper. Jiggle the handle. But don't shake it too hard, we just fixed it. Use the plunger if you have to. Be sure to wash your hands."

The handle is gently jiggled until something inside the tank snaps and the handle is left dangling at an odd angle. The water continues to rise. The plunger is snatched from under the sink and placed in the bowl. The repeated hump-jab motion causes the contents to slowly withdraw.

Peering into the topless tank, there is a shiny colored ball connect to a broken rod. The whole thing is floating in the bottom of the tank. The piece of handy work was probably meant to controlled the stream of

water refilling the tank. Time to wash the hands and leave the bathroom.

The faucet knob turned with ease, but the water doesn't shut off. A memory awakens, the water to the toilet and the sink can be stopped with the shut off valve under the sink. It's done.

"Honey, use the pliers on that knob, the water is hard to cut off. Don't use the shut off, it ain't fixed yet."

With or without Jane Sarah, it is time to leave this house for the last time. Outside the bathroom the eyes readjust to the light. A smiling face merges with the voice.

"Jane Sarah is out on the front porch laughing to herself, but she'll be ok once you two girls get started. I packed you some food for your camping trip. Maybe you'll find a couple of nice boys. See you in a few days, Honey. Bye."

In the back of the pickup truck is a picnic basket and three suitcases. Jane Sarah is laughing and leaning on the open passenger door. The day she ran from Clell Jr.'s house for the ride to the airport, there was a similar laugh. Not again, please.

"Relax, I'm ok. Water is gushing over the falls. The shut-off causes the pressure to build until the water breaks free from every tap in the house. Remember the last time you were here and that happened?"

We can leave now."

Intercultural Lesbians!

THE OTHER WIZARD OF OZ

Lex. Metropolitan Community Church (LMCC) is in the process of forming a development group to put on a "Panto" or farcical comedy about Lexington and its diverse communities. This event will be a fund raiser for the LMCC and is planned for December 1999. We need talented people who are interested to attend an organizational meeting to help in the development of a script for a play entitled "It's an OZ Thing: The untold story". (The title may be changed.)

In addition to script development, we are looking for individuals to help in a number of capacities. We need a director, a producer, stage managers, prop people, actors, drag specialists, dancers, singers, and

musicians. We particularly need individuals to help us select appropriate songs and write new lyrics. We could also use help in picking topics and jokes about people and places within our community.

Once the script is completed there will be a general audition and dates will be set for rehearsals in November. This is a great opportunity to jump on ship in the early stages and try your hand at new aspects of contemporary theater. If you are a member of an organization or business that might be able to financially sponsor this event, please contact Tomas at the number below

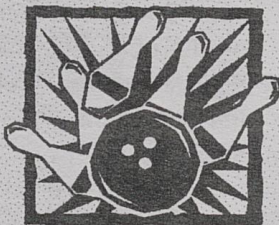
For more information contact Anita Klimaxx or Tomás Wayne Edison at 226-0978 or twedis1@pop.uky.edu. Let me know your area of interest and phone numbers.

Peace With Justice Week

The 8th Annual National Gathering of Peace and Justice Activists will be held in Henderson, Kentucky on October 14-17. The 1999 theme is "Daring to Differ: Meaningful Work, Alternative Wisdom, Inclusive Love." Co-sponsored by 20 national and regional human rights organizations, the event brings together hundreds of progressive activists from around the nation.

Last year, the gathering included more than 300 registrants from 17 states. PWJW includes powerful keynote addresses, storytelling, concerts, exhibits, workshops, community meals, worship, and more. The Rev. Jimmy Creech, Raleigh, of North Carolina will be one of the speakers this year.

RAINBOW BOWLING LEAGUE



*Annual Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, August 17th, 7:30pm
Southland Lanes - 205 Southland Dr*

Join the league for an informational meeting and FREE bowling. The Rainbow League is an amateur league and individuals of all skill (or no skill at all) are encouraged to bowl on this handicapped league. Even if you do not want to commit to a full season, become a substitute or rotating team member. The league is a great social alternative to the bars and we have a great year planned for you! If you cannot attend the meeting you are still welcomed to join the league; just contact Steve or Shawn and let them know you plan to join the league so that we can be prepared for you. Hope to see or hear from you soon!!

Regular season play begins August 24th, 8:45pm

for more information: **Steve R. 276-3058 lexrainbow@aol.com**
Shawn F. 255-7379 igbosmf@earthlink.net

Unitarian News

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington is proud to announce the arrival of our new minister, the Reverend Cynthia Cain. Rev. Cain will begin her tenure at UUCL in mid-August and will be in the pulpit for the last two Sundays of this month. Rev. Cain has a history of commitment to social justice and many of us that met her during her visit in June were impressed with her knowledge of current lesbian/gay/trans issues. Please come to any of our Sunday Services at 10:45, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.

Our first two Sunday services in August may also be of interest. On August 1, join Worship Associates Joan Kast and Vickie Hammel as they explore the concept of reincarnation, using *The Little Soul* and the Sun, a children's parable adapted from *Conversations with God* by Neale Walsh. On August 8, "The Goddess in the Gospels." In her books, *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar* and *The Goddess in the Gospels*, Margaret Starbird proposes that the Holy Grail is not a physical artifact but rather the lost

divine feminine principal in Christianity, and that in accordance with the Grail Legend, its restoration will "heal the wastelands." Join Worship Associates Vickie Hammel and Davina Warner on this heretical quest for the Feminine Divine.

Childcare is available, from 10:30 to 12:30, for infants and toddlers in our Nursery. Older children are invited to attend "Summer Fun" in the downstairs RE space.

The Unitarian Church has a number of groups and events that may be appealing to members of the LGBT Community. Interweave will renew in Sunday lunches in September and is considering showing more gay themed movies this fall. (Davina 271-6174) The Women's Spirituality Group made up of lesbians and straight women will be starting again in Sept. also. (Mary Crone 266-5904)

CUUPS

The Unitarian Universalist Church provides a spiritual home for people of all beliefs, including many Pagans. The local chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) has decided to

increase its meetings from once a month to every Sunday at 12:30 after the church service. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings whether or not you are a member of the church. The group is open to people of all paths, and will have a non-hierarchical structure.

Many pagans have concerns about discrimination, persecution, child custody issues, and so forth. As coverage of pagan beliefs increases in the media, misinformation and discrimination is also likely to erupt. Establishing ties to the larger pagan community and to mainstream organizations such as the local Unitarian Church can be helpful in building a personal support network as well as gaining support for the pagan movement in general.

Please consider attending one of our meetings to see for yourself if it would be a good place for you. This fall we will be organizing a variety of rituals and workshops led by participants. Peggy and Bob are the contact persons 887-2503 (a local call from Lex). or email Ruriksson@hotmail.com. Phone is best as they can only check email about once a week.

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1 SUNDAY 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity	2 MONDAY 8:00 pm AA Step Study	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7 SATURDAY 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
8 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC	9 7:00 pm GLSO Board Mig (Pride Center) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	10	11 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	12	13 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	14 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Moonshine Bears (Crossings)
15 10:45 am UU Church 11:30am LMCC	16 8:00 pm AA Step Study	17 GLSO NEWS DEADLINE SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS FOR NEXT CALENDAR 273-9649	18 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm Fairness Steering Committee (Pride Center) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	19	20 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	21 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
22 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC time TBA Fairness Victory Bash (Windy Knoll Farm)	23 8:00 pm AA Step Study	24	25 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	26	27 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	28 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
29 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC	30 8:00 pm AA Step Study	31				

AUGUST 1999

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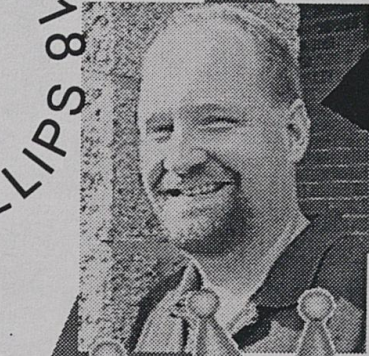
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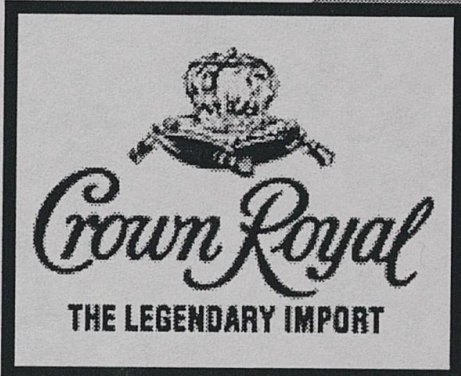
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A JOURNAL OF SEXUAL HEALING

Part 2 of...until therapy ends
by Kelly O'Ferrell

"She explained how each dish was prepared...and tasted first one, and then another, putting her fork down between bites. I'd never seen anything so elegant as Olivia eating. As if she had all the time in the world." --Astrid in *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch

It was one of the most sexual, passionate moments of my life. We detoured to Seaside Beach, FL on our way to the New Orleans Jazz Fest because of an article she'd read in a magazine. We were both loving the books we'd brought on the trip. I'd recently found an interest in Southern women writers and traveling with my friend Sue.

We ate an excellent meal and drank a bottle of Chilean wine as we talked and read. God, we were in heaven, and we knew it. At one point, Sue held out her fork and said, "try this, you'll love it". So, I leaned across the candle lit table and took her fork into my mouth, only to realize that there was egg plant on it and I didn't like it at all and she knew it.

"Why did you want me to try that?" I asked as I washed it out of my mouth.

"I said, 'you don't like this, do you?' and the next thing I know you're taking it off my fork."

We laughed like lovers in bed. The good food, wine, books and laughter were preludes, foreplay, to the rest of our evening at Seaside Beach. We laid in a double chair under a blanket on the beach for hours, smoking a joint, while I read out loud by a pen light.

Intimate. Sexual. Passionate.

That's one of the most non-genital, sexual experiences of my life. I have them every day - except lately, I'm noticing how often I miss them.

It seems that after every meal, I remember that I want to slow down and taste my food. So, finally, after wanting it and speaking about it, I took my first bite and put my fork down. I want to know what something tastes like and if I even like the way it feels in my mouth.

And then I noticed it again while I was reading. I'd start skimming pages when the book was really good and leading up to a climax.

And what do eating and reading fast have to do with sexual healing?

They are one part of my increasing awareness of "Me, as a sexual/passionate being, alone". They are the realization that I rush passion, skim over it. Sex with Tam was different when we were dating - we were still strangers. Now, we are in a loving relationship and I'm skimming over this part of my life because I'm in too much of a hurry. I'm afraid to "feel the food" in my mouth; afraid to notice what I like and don't like regardless of how Tam feels.

Here's another awareness: that the only sexual experiences I have to draw on in this relationship are being shamed for masturbating as a child, taken to the preacher's house for having feelings for another girl, being terrified of getting caught having sex before marriage because it was a 'sin', "performing" for a man I was with for 5 years (porn films do not make good loving relationship examples), and having sexual experiences with other men when I didn't want to.

So, here I am, being truly known more than I ever have before in my whole life by me and Tam, wondering how to have sex based on my previ-

ous experiences.

My first step toward creating a new sexual experience is to start with myself, inward. There are two areas I am focusing on: first, exploring my own body and second, focusing on what I do enjoy doing, already, with Tam, instead of focusing on what I don't want to do but she likes and, therefore, beating myself up for not doing it.

The first part involves using *Lesbian Sex* to learn about my vagina. As a result, pictures have become a part of the process. Tam and I had fun as she took pictures for me - for some reason I kept thinking I had to smile! I tried a Polaroid (because I was afraid to get 35mm developed) but the pictures were blurry, so I used a 35mm (taken while the "Pulitzer Prize Winning Photograph" TV show was airing on Discovery) and had the pictures developed. I decided it was just my vagina, no different than my hand! Pictures of my vagina are now available - a veritable smorgesborg for me to look at whenever I want to. I want to know my vagina like I know my hand.

The second area of focus is a result of doing an exercise in therapy that allowed me to notice two parts of myself simultaneously.

After I had talked from those two places for a while, (holding random items to help feel the experience) the question "How do you feel about sex" was asked by my therapist. One part of me, sitting there holding a scrub brush and a ruler, felt withdrawn because I didn't like the thought of doing things I didn't want to do.

Then, the older, creative side of me, sitting there holding dangly earrings, a lime green scarf and purple

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

finger nail polish, said to answer that question from a place of what I already do enjoy. That night, I told Tam about the things I really enjoy, really look forward to doing with her.

Next thing I hear in my head is: "But what if 'everyone' else is having that perfect kind of sex?" If I could just feel like those other couples, and enjoy sex like they do, then... And I knew that I had returned once more to self-acceptance, and I felt hopeless. How could I accept myself in this area when there was obviously a "right" way to do sex (TV, magazines, films, books tell me it's true).

While I sat one evening with some friends, wanting to experience as I have before, self-acceptance, I heard a woman read: "My healing started when I quit fighting the God of other people's understanding and found a God who honored the long-

forgotten spirit in me." (Courage To Change)

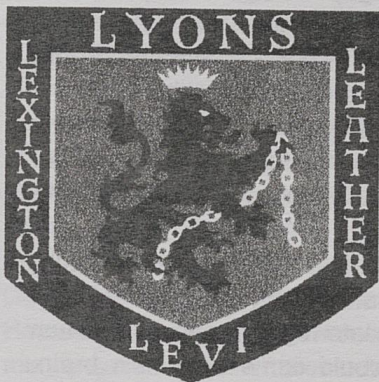
Those words penetrated my body as I translated "the God of other people's understanding" to "the sex other people may be having". I have found my own Spiritual life, regardless of what others believe. If I can feel this way about spirituality (and money and housework and jobs), then I can feel this way about my own sex life.

I know that Tammy has choices. I am grateful that, for today, she is choosing her own counseling and enjoying the book *How to Make Love to The Same Person For The Rest of Your Life - and Still Love It* by Dagmar O'Connor.

She asked if we could turn the TV off the nights she's home (she works 2nd shift) and do one of the exercises in her book. I went into TV

detox just thinking about it. (I almost omitted this paragraph because I don't want you to know that I watch a lot of TV - but I'm willing to share my sex life with you. HA!) And yes, I'm willing to turn off the TV, put down my fork, and enjoy all the parts of a good book and my vagina. I am willing, through my doubt and fear, to create my own sex life with myself and Tammy.

"Life should always be like this." She sighed. "Don't you agree? Like lingering over a good meal. Unfortunately, most people have no talent for it..." "As soon as they start one thing, they want it to be over with so they can start on the next." -- Olivia in *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch



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Rediscovering Our History Harvey Milk

by *Wayne Friday*

Harvey Milk was murdered by Dan White over twenty years ago. His friend, Wayne Friday, wrote this memory of him last fall.

A reporter asked me last week what I thought former supervisor Harvey Milk would be like if he hadn't been murdered with Mayor George Moscone during the double assassination in San Francisco's City Hall of November 27, 1978. While it is really impossible to know for sure, I do know it's likely that he would be pleased – but not satisfied – with the progress the gay rights movement has made in the 20 years since his death.

Harvey would be 68 years old if he were alive, and while it is difficult for me to picture him as a man nearing 70, it is not hard to imagine him still being a firebrand activist, albeit a senior firebrand activist. In fact, if he had lived, I believe Harvey Milk would have served a couple of terms as this city's first openly gay mayor – and a hell of a good mayor he would have been.

A rising political star of the growing national gay rights movement when he was killed, Milk knew full well what responsibility that role carried with it. He was a darling of the media, which he knew only too well how to handle, and although some who knew him have described him as both an idealist and an opportunist – which he indeed was – he took himself seriously (sometimes more than others did) and knew full well what he wanted for the gay rights movement.

I remember the last time I saw

Harvey alive. He was at my house for my birthday dinner November 26, the night before he died. My longtime friend and roommate Mick Ridolfi wondered when Harvey had last enjoyed a home-cooked meal, and suggested we invite him over for dinner. Harvey's last dinner consisted of a huge steak, and we even convinced him to enjoy a bit of wine in a birthday toast.

Milk, never having much money, was concerned that he hadn't brought a gift, and asked "What can I give you for your birthday, Wayne?" Knowing that supervisors were given free tickets to all 49er's home games, I said I'd love his tickets to the Steelers-Niners game that was to be played the next night.

Harvey said, "You got 'em." (Had they been ballet or opera tickets, incidentally, he wouldn't have been as eager to give them up, but he could have cared less about seeing a pro football game.)

As Harvey left my house later that evening, the last time I ever saw him, he invited me to City Hall the next morning to attend the noon swearing-in ceremony of Don Horanzy. Horanzy was the man that Mayor Moscone had picked to replace Supervisor Dan White, who had quit. While taking a shower before heading to City Hall the morning of November 27, I received a phone call from Richard (Sweetlips) Walters, telling me he had just heard on the radio that the mayor had been shot; five minutes later, then-supervisor Carol Ruth Silver called.

I remember her exact words: "Wayne, please sit down before I tell you this. Harvey is gone, Dan White just shot him to death."

Harvey had lived on Henry Street, only a few blocks from my

home. I immediately took the set of keys I had to his apartment, went to his home, woke his roommate at the time to tell him what happened, and spent the rest of the day helping to keep the media and the curious from his apartment, and welcoming those close to him who had no place else to go, but who wanted to be there where Harvey lived.

Within three hours of Harvey's death, the steps to his apartment were covered with flowers, burning candles, and notes of sorrow. The rest, obviously, is now history.

A lot of people knew Harvey Milk; some were closer to him both personally and politically than was I, but we spent countless nights talking, thinking, planning – yes, even plotting – what Harvey felt was the future of the gay rights movement. Milk not only cared about gays and lesbians and those now-famous young gay teenagers he spoke of in the unfriendly small towns of the middle west, but he was, first and always, a coalition builder. He knew well that gays and lesbians couldn't gain their rightful place alone, without the help and support of other minorities.

Do I miss the guy? Certainly. Even after 20 years, I still think of those late-night phone calls when Milk would come up with a brainstorm idea that couldn't wait until morning; the many nights when he would come by the N'Touch, a Polk Street bar where I worked during those days, and wait for me to get off work so that we could go to the Grubsteak, a popular after-hours restaurant on Pine Street where gays would go for breakfast after the bars closed. Harvey often held court there, talking about politics and the gay rights movement, sometimes

until daylight. Always the center of attention, usually controlling the topic of conversation, the guy could draw people to him like moths to a light bulb.

Harvey was stubborn to a fault, self-centered, and even rude at times, but always with the vision of what he thought was best for the gay rights movement – and, he was usually right. I honestly haven't seen the likes of the guy since, and while I know it sounds like an over-used cliché, there isn't likely to be another Harvey for a hell of a long time.

There are so many truly interesting Milk stories, but there isn't time or space to share them. Incidentally, a couple of weeks after Harvey was killed, and the furor over his murder had subsided somewhat, I received a phone call from Milk's City Hall aide, Dick Pabich, telling me he had found an envelope on Harvey's cluttered desk with two 49er tickets in it for the night of November 27 with my name on the outside of the envelope; needless to say, I still have them.

Perhaps the most telling legacy of Harvey Milk is the explosion of cultural initiatives set up in his name. There is an elementary school named after him in the Castro, a Democratic Club, a City Parks and Recreation Center, and now a community based queer studies education facility, the Harvey Milk Institute. I'm moved by the sweep and scope of these tributes, touching on kids, politics, quality of life, and education

– all issues Harvey himself held dear. But the real measure of these tributes is that they all imply a vision of a San Francisco in which queer presence is woven throughout the life of this city. Following Harvey's murder, queerness could finally break through. We were, of course, always there, but now we could be named, and our name became Harvey Milk.

Nationally, the murders ushered queers into the select club of victims of political assassination. It was a paradoxical tribute to our rising power and influence, and Milk gave us the moral authority to speak with the same visceral emotional and rhetorical force as others engaged in the battle for civil rights. We always said ours was a civil rights struggle; now we could prove it. We had our own King.

The Life and Times of Harvey Milk

For those wanting to know more about Harvey Milk, you should seek out the academy award winning documentary *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*. This excellent film tells Harvey's story from his days as a businessman to gay activist and city Supervisor.

Milk stands out in our history because he was the first openly gay politician in America. He did not win his first election, but he reached out to his straight as well as gay neighbors, learning and speaking out about all their concerns.

Fairness Victory Celebration

Sunday, Aug. 22

4 pm until dark

**Windy Knoll Farm
Come Join the Party!**

**Directions & Details
on page 3**

OHIO LESBIAN FEST

The Ohio Lesbian Festival is celebrating its 11th year Saturday, September 11. This affordable festival takes place from 11AM to 11PM in nearby Columbus, OH. If you have not been to a women's music festival, this is a great one to attend; its great fun but does not require a commitment of much time or money.

Performers this year include Kate Clinton, Melanie DeMore, Alix Dobkin, The Butchies and Voices of Africa. The festival also includes workshops, merchant booths, sports and food sales.

Tickets are available locally at Alfalfa restaurant for \$24, or you can purchase tickets at the gate for \$30. For more information, call the Lesbian Business Association in Columbus at 614-267-3953.

Are you OUT and PROUD?

Contribute \$3.00 or more to GLSO's **Queer as a Three Dollar Bill Campaign** before Sept. 22, and we'll print your name along with other supporters in the October GLSO News as an **Out and Proud** member of our community. If you already contributed in the last year (Oct '98-Sept '99) you may want to check with Mary (266-5904) to be sure your name is on the list.

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The GLSO

GLSO Board (Terry).....	255-5469
GLSO Discussion Group (Jeremy).....	269-6658
GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff).....	296-4170
GLSO: News Calendar (Peter).....	273-9649
Advertisements (Terry).....	255-5469
Community News (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO Pink Pages (John).....	269-6989

STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League: Berea(Nelson).....	(606)986-9341
AGLF: NKU (Pat).....	572-5604
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol).....	238-5332
Pride Alliance EKU (Josh).....	(606)622-5297
(Jessica).....	(606)622-5321
Lex. Youth Support Group (Kenneth).....	222-1919
Morehead State University (Angela).....	783-2950
Transylvania University (Jessica).....	255-2122
(Dion).....	233-8586
UK Lambda (James).....	254-6021
(Nat).....	323-4571

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

Jessamine County.....	885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County.....	288-2437
Madison County.....	723-7312
Woodford County.....	873-4541

AIDS INFO / SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE.....	(800) 840-2865
AIDS Volunteers Inc.....	278-7494
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program.....	278-7494
Health Dept. HIV Support (Patty).....	288-2377
(Amanda).....	288-2374
HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....	(502) 584-1254
HIV Education YOUTH GROUP.....	278-7494
HIV Support (Somerset).....	679-7578 or 678-5814
Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE.....	(800) 840-2865
HIV+ / AIDS Support Group.....	255-2945
Movable Feast.....	252-2867

GLSO ONLINE

Peter: peter@QX.net Marycrone@aol.com
Terry: misterb@gte.net

COMMUNITY

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian).....	273-6111
(office).....	276-2917
AL-Anon (office).....	277-1877
Ask Us, Inc.....	255-2374
Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie).....	278-2608
(Dawn) ..dwilsoo@ukcc.uky.edu.....	(Ann)(502)672-8673
Bluegrass COLTS (Morris).....	225-9169
Council for Peace and Justice (Richard).....	277-6101
DOJ Pride(Robin).....	231-8526
E-MALE (Bill).....	255-5469
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE.....	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville.....	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith)	254-6850
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2896
IGBO (Int. Gay Bowling Org.) (Steve).....	276-3058
Ky Leather Productions (Larry).....	253-0185
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club (George)....	885-7777
(Greggers).....	792-6117
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance(Roger)..	(606) 561-9898
.....	roger@hyperaction.net
Lexington Men's Chorus (Bill).....	266-9175
Louisville Youth Group.....	(502) 894-9787
Moonshine Bears of Ky (James).....	254-9567
(Jim).....	299-2047
Names Project, Lex. (Katie).....	272-2588
Pride Center (voice mail).....	255-4016
P-FLAG (Perry).....	(502) 226-5478
Pegasus Travel.....	253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Steve).....	276-3058
RSIC of KY. (Chance).....	269-9465
SisterSound (Lee).....	873-7791

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Interweave [Unitarian](Davina).....	271-6174
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy).....	(800)484-8498
MCC-Lexington (voice mail).....	255-4016
(Rev. Rex).....	imccbrv@juno.com
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee).....	(502)775-6636
MCC-Paducah (Rev. Donna).....	(502)441-2307
Path of the Personal Divine(Chris).....	268-1640
Pagan Forum (Rev. Pat).....	268-1640
RainbowWind [Pagan] (Sarah).....	252-7673
St Augustine's Chapel [Episcopal](Rev. Chris)..	254-3726

YIG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE

800-347-TEEN 7pm-12pm Thurs. & Fri.