

# GLSO NEWS SEPTEMBER 1995

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEXINGTON GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

## THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE

The GLSO may not be able to afford future newsletters.
See related article.

At the time this newsletter is going to print, the Herald-Leader plans to print a special on commitment ceremonies, for which Barbara Isaacs has interviewed Tammy S., Elizabeth G., and Mary C. We encourage you to keep responding to the H-L to let them know that their readers do want to see union ceremonies listed.

#### Typesetter update:

Although nothing is settled, and we would still like to hear from you, we have had a couple of responses to our plea for replacement typesetters, and will be attempting to hand over the reins within the next few months.

Again, if you have an interest, contact Mary: 266-5904

## FINANCIAL STATE OF THE GLSO

GLSO has only about \$25.00 in its bank account. We rely on ten to fifteen new or renewed subscriptions per month and in the last two months have received only one.

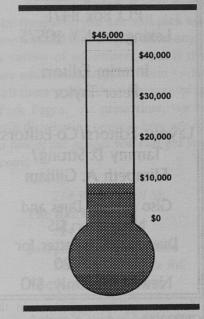
Last January, we published a summary of monthly expenses and income for the last half of 1994 and explained our need for financial support. At that time we considered accepting ads for 1-900 numbers but decided against it. Since then, we have discontinued the phone line, which will cut our monthly expenses by \$140. Ask Us volunteered to have their number listed in the community services section under GayLine Information. They will then refer callers to one or more officers of the GLSO. This seems to be working well.

We have continued to have difficulty covering our expenses, even with some successful fundraising during Pride Month and a donation from the producers of Queer Jeopardy.

The GLSO's main project is this newsletter, one we may not be able to continue if we do not generate more subscribers and advertisers. Here is a summary of our *monthly newsletter*-

continued on page 8

#### Pride Center of the Bluegrass Fund Status August 1995



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GLSO News

Published Monthly by the Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services Organization P.O. Box 11471 Lexington, KY 40575

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Views or opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board of Directors. Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must indicate full name and address of the author. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and ads to meet publishing requirements, as well as the right to reject any submissions. Placement of advertising in GLSO News denotes neither a person's sexual orientation nor a business' customer preference.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear GLSO Constituents and Herald-Leader Community, Lexington, KY:

Upon inspection of The GLSO Newsletter, this July, '95, I find the comment that "...he, Tim Kelly chooses to deny a public service to homosexuals" has been misinterpreted as prejudice towards the listing of the Union Ceremony of the two individuals mentioned above; although I do not interpret this as the legal or justifiable cause of his or the Herald-Leader's rejection: response from the Herald-Leader really ought to suffice for all, i.e., the Herald-Leader carries announcements of legal unions recognized under state law. I cannot emphasize the importance and its meaning to all of us; i.e., marriages from which we are born are legal and recognized under state law; otherwise, illegitimacy is the lack of recognition we are born into.

Therefore, this denial is justifiable as it is for common-law

marriages, or committment ceremonies; and if one wants change, one must work to addend the laws to recognize such unions rather than espouse the denial as prejudice, and work towards elliminating prejudice, not justifiably claimed in this denial.

A state in which such union ceremonies are recognized as legal unions under state law have newspapers permitted and willing to list such announcement.

So, to all of us: do not despair the denial, rather be grateful for a law being legally upheld which supports this country's capitalist democracy; and agree to work for a legal change in legal or some other fom of status or recognition for such holy or spiritual unions' ceremonies in Kentucky.

And for that, truly..."We the people..." can be thankful for every day.

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Priscilla S. Hazelett, "The Proet", July 17, '95.

As a short note, the above letter was sent to the Herald-Leader on July 18, and has - as of this writing - not yet been printed.

As a comment, one factor that Ms. Hazelett may have overlooked is that Mary Crone's argument that the refusal to print the announcement was prejudiced, based on the fact that the Herald-Leader does, in fact, print notices of anniversary announcements and of "2nd marriage" announcements, in the same section

as legal wedding announcements. These two items are not legal ceremonies. In addition, "wedding announcements" are not "legal notices" - merely a note of interest for the community that two people plan to wed, when they may actually back out before the ceremony. In its "For the Record" section on Wednesdays, the Herald-Leader prints legal notices, such as a legal wedding union that occured and was filed as such with the city.

-EG

## CÓMMUNITY NEWS

#### TAKE BACK THE NIGHT RALLY TO BE HELD

This year's Take Back the Night Rally will be held on Sunday, September 17, from 6 to 9 pm at Triangle Park. Support your sisters (even if you're male!) ◆▼

#### COMING OUT SUPPORT GROUPS TO START

We have had a few calls expressing interest in a coming out support group. We are looking into the possibility of having one start in September. It would be open to any adult in any phase of coming out. We are also considering a teen support group, which would start in October. If you are interested, call Mary (266-5904) or Mike (225-1828). ▼

## FRONT RUNNERS' MIDSUMMER RUN HELD

The Lexington Front Runners held its second "Midsummer's Run Extravaganza" on the weekend of August 19. Runners (and walkers) from several surrounding states enjoyed food and fellowship with the Front Runners.

The event-filled weekend included a pasta "carbo-load" dinner on Friday night, brunches on Saturday and Sunday and the race on Saturday, followed by a pot-luck dinner. The Lexington team beat the Cincinnati Front Runners in a very close race.

Many thanks to the prize committee and Crossings for all the prizes. ▼

### M.C.C. Announces Major Changes

Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church is moving, changing its Sunday worship times, and expanding its programs. Effective September 3, 1995, all programs and services will be offered at 134 Church street.

Members have spent the month of August converting space on the ground floor of the Actor's Guild Building into a chapel and a meeting room. Appropriately enough, the entrance is on the Church Street end of the building. Parking is free on evenings and weekends.

Sunday worship will begin at 11:30 am. The last 6:00 pm evening service will be August 27th.

Beginning September the 20th, and continuing every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, there will be an alternating series of study and worship programs. ▼

#### Lexington Men's Chorus Begins Sixth Season

Beginning rehearsal for the Lexington Men's Chorus' 6th Season will be held on September 7, at 7 pm.

The rehearsal will be at Park Methodist Church on High Street and Lexington.

There are no auditions, everyone is welcome to join. Call 231-0090 for more information. ▼

#### LATEST PINK PAGES READY

contributed by Judy Goldsmith

The Pink Pages are out! The Pink Pages are out! And they look

great!! For those of you not familiar with this fabulous resource, the Pink Pages are Central Kentucky's business directory and resource guide for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community.

If you didn't make it to the Pink Pages reception, you missed a great event. It was held at Arts' Place, with thanks going to Actors' Guild, for co-sponsoring the event, Imperial Flowers for the flowers, and Carol & Company for the catering.

As I was saying, if you missed the reception, you can still pick up a copy of the Pink Pages, from any of a variety of advertisers. And if they are advertisers, support them — and tell them you're there because of the Pink Pages. At press time, we are still distributing copies; here are just a few of the places you can get your copy:

AVOL

214 W. Maxwell St.

The Bar Complex 224 E. Main St.

Joseph-Beth Booksellers
3199 Nicholasville Rd.

The Kentucky Theater 214 E. Main St.

Actors' Guild of Lexington 139 W. Short St.

The Pink Pages was a fundraiser for the Pride Center of the Blue Grass. Thanks to everyone who has helped with all the recent fund-raisers! You've all been wonderful! Let's keep up the good work. ▼

#### MAKING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS POSSIBLE

Are you between relationships and wondering why? In an increasingly difficult relationship and wondering how to improve it?

Or perhaps your just interested in learning how to build a relationship when that Ms. Or Mr. Right comes along?

If so, then you may want to check out Lexington M.C.C.'s Wednesday night video course on Gay and Lesbian Relationships beginning September 20th at 7:00 pm.

With lesson titles like "All My Exs Live in Texas", "Fit to Be Tied" and "Love Busters" the seven-session program promises to be as entertaining as it is informative.

Classes will be held at L.M.C.C.'s new location, 134 Church Street (the back entrance to Actor's Guild) and are free. ▼

#### American Sign Language Class to be held

September 12th
6pm to 8pm
at

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church at UK

472 Rose Lane Lexington, KY

The only charge is that interested persons buy their own books.

contact: Ron Morrow c/o GLSO P.O. Box 11471 Lexington, KY 40517

## NATIONAL NEWS

#### GAY PUBLICATIONS BENEFIT FROM INCREASED AD SPENDING

NEW YORK - July 24, 1995

Advertising spending in gay print publications reached \$61.6 million this year - a 16.2% increase over last year's total of \$53 million - according to a nationwide study of 128 gay-oriented magazines and newspapers.

The study, entitled "Advertising Spending in the Gay Press" was performed for the second consecutive year by Mulryan/Nash, a New York-based advertising agency that specializes in reaching gay consumers.

"Gay publications now represent the fastest growing print market in the United States," said Dave Mulryan. He noted that, in comparison to the 16.2 % increase in gay-press ad spending, advertising revenues in the Hispanic print market grew 6% over the past year.

Meanwhile, according to the latest numbers available for the mainstream print market, newspapers experienced 6.77% increase in advertising revenues over the past year, as reported by the Newspaper Association of America, and magazine ad revenues rose 13.3%, according to the Publishers Information Bureau.

Mulryan stated that both the size and reach of the gay print market is growing as well. This year's study was able to track 52 additional publications, 13 of which are new. Also, within the core group of magazines and newspapers studied over the past two years, circulation has gone up 9.1%, suggesting a further stretch for each advertising dollar.

"The gay press is clearly burgeoning," said Mulryan. "What's more, we're witnessing some surprising growth in secondary markets such as Indianapolis and Orlando. When you consider the enormous room for growth still available nationwide," he continued, "this represents a prime opportunity for companies to get in early, establish brand loyalty, and expand with the market."

This year, for the first time, major automotive companies Saturn and Saab purchased ads in the gay press. Mulryan predicted that this may cause other auto companies to enter the gay market in a defensive move. "We've seen it happen in the liquor category," he explained. "Since Absolut (the number-one selling clear liquor among gay and mainstream consumers alike) first courted the gay and lesbian market in 1979, other clear-liquour companies such as Tanqueray, Stoli, and Skyy, have had to allocate budgets for the gay press in order to counter the impact of Absolut.

Another new entry into the gay press this year was Dial-A-Mattress, which targeted the affluent gay and lesbian market with a series of stylish ads featuring the headline "Who you sleep with is your

## NATIONAL NEWS

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business. How you sleep is ours."

The ads garnered such a powerful response that Dial-A-Mattress decided to mainstream the ads into the general print market.

### Leading Advertising Categories - and Opportunities

As was the case last year, the two largest advertising categories in the gay press are: bars and clubs at 15.7%; 800 and 900 phone services at 14.2%. Classified ads, which were tracked for the first time this year, rank third, accounting for 11.8%. Movie advertising - in correspondence with the release of such gayand-lesbian-oriented hits Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Priest, and Bar Girls - climbed from the number 24 spot last year (at .7%) to the number 13 spot this year (at 2.2%).

Meanwhile, church advertising (all denominations run ads in the gay press) more than doubled, rising from the 25 spot (.6 %) to the 16 spot (1.4%).

According to Mulryan, various studies have shown that gay and lesbian consumers both read their local gay media and intentionally purchase products advertised therein.

Still, many advertising categories are absent from or only slightly represented in the gay press, creating tremendous opportunities for those who target gays and leshians

Home furnishings, for instance, accounts for only .7% of advertising, while record ads account for a mere .3%t, and credit cards just .1%.

Meanwhile, only two airline ads were tracked by the survey. ▼

#### RYAN WHITE CARE ACT PASSES SENATE BY STRONG BIPARTISAN VOTE

Helms' Anti-Gay Efforts Thwarted by Kassebaum & Kennedy

The Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization of 1995 - providing essential, life-sustaining medical and support services to women, men, and children living with HIV and AIDS - passed the U.S. Senate today by a vote of 97 to 3.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) offered several amendments designed to gut the bill and keep gay people from receiving medical care. Helms' anti-gay attack was reversed by an amendment offered by Sens. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

"The vote on Senator Kassebaum's amendment was a victory over Jesse Helms' efforts to gut the Ryan White CARE Act," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "Helms was stopped in his tracks. The Senate made a clear choice by adopting language that does not single out anybody for discrimination or exclude gay Americans from much needed medical care."

When the Ryan White CARE Act passes the House, the legislation will go before a House-Senate conference committee, which will reconcile the House and Senate versions. The conference committee will be in a strong position to deliver a bill solidly focused on providing treatment to men, women, and children living with HIV and AIDS.

"Jesse Helms' amendments

were extreme and born of supreme ignorance. They were based on faulty and nonsensical information. The programs Helms was attacking are not in the business of promoting sexuality - they are in the business of saving lives," Birch said.

The Ryan White CARE Act is the federal government's leading program for providing care and treatment to more than 350,000 women, men and children living with HIV and AIDS. AIDS is the leading cause of death among all Americans aged 25 to 44. A bipartisan poll of American voters commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign Fund found that 78 percent of voters support maintaining or increasing federal funding for the care of people with HIV and AIDS. The poll was cited during Senate debate on the bill. HRCF lobbyists worked closely with other HIV/AIDS advocates to gather bipartisan support for the bill and to turn back Helms' amendments. v

#### CINCINNATI ANTI-GAY ISSUE APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT

Today, Equality Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, and five individual lesbian and gay people filed a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Supreme Court of the United States, asking the Court to accept their case and to overturn the Sixth Circuit's May 12, 1995 decision reversing their landmark victory.

In May, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed, on every basis, the August 9, 1994 decision of U.S. District



#### September 1995

**GLSO** Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 3 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		October  S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	constant and the second	7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	2 1st Quarter 9:00 AM Frontrunners
test brougt bases	agiogija ) jeres lande		Activities againsto		Rhythmfest (S	outh Carolina)
3 6:00 PM MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00 PM Dignity 7:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	4 <u>Labor Day</u> 7:00 PM GUESS (EKU) 7:30 PM Pride Ctr. Taskforce	5 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45 PM Rainbow Bowl- ing (Southland Lanes)	6 AIDS/HIV Sppt.Grp. 6:00 PM Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 8:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	7 7:00 PM Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 PM UK Lambda 8:00 PM HIV/AIDS Sppt.	8 Full Moon 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian AA 10:30 PM "Naked Breath" (Actors Theater Louisville)	9 "Naked Breath" (Actors Theater Louisville) 5pm/10:30pm 9:00 AM Frontrunners
Rhythmfest (S	outh Carolina)	alolises land grown	AA	Grp.	Roots & Heritage Fo	estival (Rose St. Ext.)
10 Imperial Ct. (ICK) Mtg. 6:00 PM MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	11 7:00 PM GUESS (EKU)	7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45 PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes)	13 AIDS/HIV Sppt.Grp. 6:00 PM Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 8:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	7:00 PM Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 PM UK Lambda 8:00 PM HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp.	15 Integrity (St. Augustine's) 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	Last Quarter "101 Humiliating Stories" (Actors Theater Louisville) 2:30pm/ 7:30pm 9:00 AM Frontrunners 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM AVOL
izneto P Thechonio I	September for Editions	7:30 PM	M "101 Humiliating St	ories" (Actors Theater Lo	uisville)	Match Training 10:00 AM Men's Network
17 101 Humiliating Stories* (Actors Theater Louisville) 2:30pm/ 21320pm/ 21320 News Deadline 21:00 PM Lesbian Potluck 500 PM MCC-Greenleaf Motel 700 PM Digniy) 2:00 PM Gray/Lesbian AA	18 7:00 PM GUESS (EKU) 7:30 PM Fairness Meeting (Alfalfa's)	7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45 PM Rainbow Bowl- ing (Southland Lanes)	AIDS/HIV Sppt.Grp. 6:00 PM Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 8:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	7:00 PM Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 PM P-FLAG 7:30 PM UK Lambda 8:00 PM HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp.	22 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	23 <u>Autumn begins</u> 9:00 AM Frontrunners
24  Vew Moon Imperial Ct. (ICK) Mtg. 2:00 PM GLSO News Folding 5:00 PM MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	25 <u>Rosh Hashanah</u> 7:00 PM GUESS (EKU)	7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45 PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes)	27 AIDS/HIV Sppt.Grp. 6:00 PM Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 8:00 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	7:00 PM Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30 PM UK Lambda 8:00 PM HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 8:00 PM COLTS Mtg.	29 7:30 PM Gay/Lesbian AA	30 9:00 AM Frontrunners 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM AVOL Hotline Training
				P-FLAG1	National Conference (Inc	lianapolis)



#### RESTAURANT

557 S. Limestone Lexington, KY 253-0014

Renowned Weekend Brunch: serving blueberry buckwheat pancakes, eggs benedict arnold, spanish omelettes, and much more...

#### Wednesday is **International Night**

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FREE EVENING PARKING.

GLSO Finances from page 1

related expenses as they now stand...

So, what can we do to continue the newsletter? There is some money due to come in from advertising that will help pay for this issue. We have a committee looking into new ways to finance the newsletter, including expanding our advertising base.

In addition, we have included a request for new or renewed subscribers in the Fairness mailing that many of you have already received. We are asking you to consider becoming a member of GLSO, not just a subscriber to the newsletter. The additional \$5 allows us to provide services to the community in addition to the newsletter.

#### **GLSO Projects**

We have many projects that take some money to keep going. For teen and adult support groups, there are costs for printing flyers, copying relevant articles, mailing information to high school counselors, and so forth.

To support other lesbigay/trans organizations, we place ads in other publications (Pink Pages, Men's Chorus Programs, etc.). We send out welcome pacs to people new in our community and to people struggling to come out in rural Kentucky.

Many of these expenses are

shouldered by the volunteers doing the work. (Thank you to Elizabeth and Tammy for purchasing the paper for the Fairness insert.)

#### Streamlining Efforts

We are also exploring other ways to improve our financial situation, including promoting Excell Long Distance Company.

Item	Per Month
Printing (550 copies)	\$175.00
Envelopes (275/mo @ \$.07)	19.25
Mailing (bulk rate @ \$.12)	33.00
Annual Bulk Mail Fee (\$75)	6.25
Mailing Labels (\$36)	3.00
Printer Ribbon (\$7)	.61
Stamps for renewal notices (\$33)	5.30
Mailing for Fairness newsletter (\$63)	5.25
Post Office Box Rental (\$40)	3.34
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$ \$251.00

We will be making a decision on this at the next board meeting. (If you are interested in volunteering in any of the above-mentioned projects, contact Mary at 266-5904.)

There are other ways to cut expenses; we could shrink the size of the newsletter and discontinue projects. GLSO has been active in Lexington for twenty-one years and we are determined to remain active. In the last twenty years, we have seen out community grow, become more visible, more diverse, and more secure. We hope this trend will continue, but it could be otherwise.

#### Assessing A Need

Dr. Frank Simon is making a name for himself by becoming a Right-Wing organizer in Kentucky. His literature and videos target homosexuals, compare us to pedophiles, and supply misinformation that will encourage our neighbors to hate

and fear us. We need to realize that the relative freedom and security we have achieved can be taken away from us. Our choices can become limited, new laws allowing discrimination may be passed; our lives can be threatened.

#### What You Can Do

If each of us in this community would give a

few dollars a month to a variety of local organizations, it would make a tremendous difference. We could have a vibrant community center, an expanded newsletter, increased political clout, more business opportunities, and even more fun.

There are many of us doing the work involved in moving our community in this direction. We need something for everyone. If each of us gave a little money and/or a little time, we could make the Gay Nineties a time to remember with pride.

--Mary Crone President, GLSO

## NATIONAL NEWS

from page 5

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Judge S. Arthur Spiegel which invalidated Cincinnati's anti-gay Issue 3 as violative of the constitutional rights of gay, lesbian, and bisexual citizens.

Issue 3 is the Cincinnati initiative enacted in 1993 which carved gay, lesbian, and bisexual people out of the City's Human Rights Ordinance and forbid the City from ever again addressing issues of concern to gay citizens.

Already pending in the Court in an appeal of a challenge to Colorado Amendment 2, a similar anti-gay measure.

Civil rights attorneys Alphonse Gerhardstein and Scott Greenwood represent the plaintiffs, along with Pat Logue and Suzanne Goldberg of LAMBDA Legal Defense and Education Fund and Richard Cordray.

"The Sixth Circuit is just wrong, and the Supreme Court should reverse it. Under our Constitution, the civil rights of individuals do not depend upon majority approval, nor can they ever be taken away by majority vote." Gerhardstein said.

ACLU attorney Greenwood added, "The Supreme Court has consistently recognized that all people enjoy the equal protection of our Constitution and laws, and that a majority vote cannot take away fundamental rights. The Sixth Circuit's decision runs contrary to our society's cherished notion of individual rights by allowing hatred of a group of people to take away their rights."

#### COMMUNITY OUTRAGE THWARTS CLEMENCY MOVE FOR NAVY GAY-BASHER

On October 27, 1992, in a park restroom about two blocks from Japan's Sasebo U.S. Naval base, Sailor Allen Schindler was beaten to death by a "fellow" navy seaman.

Naval pathologist, Edward Kilbane, is quoted as saying "I did an autopsy on a man stomped to death by a horse once. Those injuries were not as severe as I saw in this case."

The Navy was accused of a cover-up by the friends and family of Schindler because the information about the case was not released for over 8 weeks. Despite this, the perpetrator, Terry Helvey, "a 6'4" tall weightlifter with martial arts expertise," was found guilty and subsequently sentenced.

In 1994 Mrs. Dorothy Hadjys, Allen Schindler's mother, was called regarding a clemency hearing for her son "Terry Helvey." An obvious fowl-up, but a useful one, as she was not Mrs.Helvey. That erroneous notification immediately put Shindler's mother on the offensive and she was able to attend the '94 Kansas clemency hearing.

Her alert reaction helped prevent Helvey's release from Ft.Leavenworth military prison.

On July 7, 1995 two of Florida's AmFedVets officers received an urgent electronic message from the President of the Chicago Gay Veterans, Jim Darby.

He requested help in dealing with another seemingly hushed clemency hearing for the imprisoned Helvey. Schinlder's mother had, according to the transmission, just received a June 26th letter advising her of the intended hearing. Because of the hour, all of her attempts to reach Navy officials and/or officials at Ft.Leavenworth, Kansas, prison, were in vain.

AmFedVets was subsequently advised that the prison office was closed for the weekend and therefore not to react until the information could be officially verified. By Monday evening it was evident that a clemency hearing had been arranged.

Allegedly, the Hadjys June 26th notification letter had mistakenly sat in the prison mail room several days before actually being mailed. It was seemingly misplaced by someone.

On Monday evening July 10th, Jim Darby reconfirmed the scheduled hearing information with the two Florida AmFedVets National directors. A press release was quickly drafted by the AFV Vice President for Internal Affairs and submitted to Karl Clark for approval.

By 8:15 p.m., the volunteers, with the approved press release in hand, began the tedious task of alerting people. Within hours, hundreds of organizational leaders and media reps were notified. The action targeted "gays and non-gays" alike, for this issue of integrity, justice and the right to know was not ours alone.

Again, at 4 AM on Tuesday morning, the operation commenced almost leaving no stone unturned in outreach. Truly a fantastic grassroot, in-the-field call to action that put our community on national alert.

Yet, there were skeptics who believed it was too much of a challenge for so short a time. We

## NATIONAL NEWS

from page 9 now know they were wrong!

Late Tuesday evening, July 11th, Allen's mother notified key volunteers that Terry Helvey's clemency plea was denied and she wanted everyone to know how deeply she, her family and concerned friends appreciate the compassionate interest and outpouring of help.

Her comments were ecstatic. Apparently when Jocelyn Wolf opened the Ft. Leavenworth office doors, tons of faxes laid strewn across the floor. It was as if the machine turned into a shredder and it snowed paper all night.

The replies and comments coming from grass-root communities across the country were astonishing. They are still arriving. Not only were there radio and TV interviews but gay and nongay newspapers throughout the U.S. tapped into the story.

According to German Lopez of New York, the National President of AmFedVets, "'Don't-Ask-don't-tell' appears to be a one way ticket for gay men and women who had been and are serving this great country. Until our national leaders realize the importance of desensitizing the hate, little can ever really change. It is obvious that the Biblical 'Golden Rule' holds vague practical meaning for too many faceless and nameless people who are able to make the needed changes yet don't."

## GRIEVANCE BOARD BACKS GAY AIDE'S DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

contributed by Catherine O'Brien Associated Press Writer

Washington, D.C. - A grievance board for congressional employees has ruled in favor of a homosexual man who complained that he was fired by Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins because she feared he had the AIDS virus.

Bruce Taylor, 31, a former aide and press secretary to Collins, D-Mich., was earning \$40,000 when he was fired Dec. 9, 1994, two days after his partner died of AIDS.

In a confidential decision, the Office of Fair Employment Practice ruled Tuesday that Taylor was fired because Collins and her chief of staff, Meredith Cooper, thought he was HIV positive.

"The Office of Fair

Employment Practices finds that (Taylor) was terminated because he was perceived to be HIV positive or to have AIDS and would require time off for health reasons," wrote hearing officer Edward Hosken Jr.

"There has been a favorable decision," Taylor said Wednesday. He declined to comment further, citing ongoing discussions with the Office of Fair Unemployment Practice. Taylor's attorney, Martha Wolfort, did not return telephone messages seeking comment.

Collins' press secretary, Lillian German, said Collins was appealing the decision.

Taylor was seeking back pay, legal fees and \$50,000 in damages under the Americans With Disabilities Act. The office ruled that he should get back pay and pay up until July 31, unless he finds another job before that date, along with reimbursement for legal fees.

Collins has denied discriminating against Taylor, calling the accusation "totally ludicrous."

Collins testified at a closed-door hearing of the Office of Fair Employment Practice in June that she never thought Taylor was ill with AIDS or HIV

## SUE STRONG, Ph.D.

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positive, according to the official minutes of the proceedings obtained by The Associated Press.

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The Democratic congresswoman said Taylor was fired because the office was downsizing by six positions after the Republican election victory, and a decision was made that a press secretary was not needed.

Taylor said Collins and chief of staff Cooper were aware his partner was dying of AIDS. He said Collins had asked him if he had AIDS, and he said no. ▼

## WQRLD NEWS

#### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH MAKES PROGRESS FOR GAY RIGHTS

contributed by Rex Wockner
The British Queen's representative in Australia, Governor General
Bill Hayden, came out in favor of
gay marriage June 21.

"Because we do not discriminate against same-sex partnerships, it is difficult to see how there can be a sustainable objection to partnership contracts similar to marriage," he told a doctors' conference.

Hayden also said: "The adoption

test for them should be the same as for other members of the community. If we dispute this we are trying to roll contemporary mores back, denying equal rights to same-sex partners."

Australia, like Canada, is a member of the British Commonwealth. The Governor General is a largely ceremonial position and the office-holder rarely addresses controversial issues publicly.

In Canada, Toronto's Globe & Mail reports that British Columbia is on its way to becoming the third Canadian province to officially let gay and lesbian couples adopt children. An overhaul of the adoption laws passed first reading in the legislature June 21. Saskatchewan and Quebec already let gays adopt. ▼

#### NEO-NAZI GETS LIGHT SENTENCE IN GAY MURDER

A 19-year-old skinhead who killed Swedish hockey star Peter Karlsson following what he complained was a sexual advance was sentenced to only eight years in prison for manslaughter said *The Reporter*, Stockholm's gay newspaper.

The unnamed skinhead, a

professed neo-Nazi claims that Karlsson cruised him when their paths crossed late one night, so he stabbed Karlsson to "protect" himself.

The murderer told police that he thinks gays harm society and should be placed on a desert island to infect each other with HIV and then die. 

DANGER FOR RUSSIAN GAYS

contributed by Rex Wockner

Despite formation of numerous clubs, publications and activist groups, life for Russian gays is as dangerous as ever, says Vladislav Ortanov, chair of Moscow's Triangle (Treugolnik) group, an umbrella organization for gay associations.

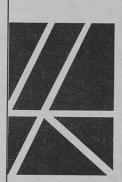
"If you think it's safe to be a homosexual in Moscow now, you're very much mistaken," Ortanov told London's The Guardian.

"Homosexuals are a prime target for continuous attacks, killings, theft, blackmail and extortion, because they are still more afraid of the police than they are of the bandits."

#### FINLAND PROTECTS GAYS

contributed by Rex Wockner

Finland has banned discrimination based on sexual orientation nationwide, reported London's The Guardian. The law takes effect on September 1.



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HIV/AIDS ■ Personal Growth Relationships ■ Women's Issues

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