



The GLSO NEWS

MAY 2001

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Vol. 16 No. 5

SisterSound Fifth Anniversary Concert

SisterSound invites everyone to their Fifth Anniversary Concert on Saturday, May 19, 8 pm at the Singletary Center Recital Hall. They will be singing favorite pieces selected from every concert they have performed over the last five years. Tickets are available through the Singletary box office: \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children under 12.

If you have never heard *Big Legged Woman*, you need to attend just to hear this affirmation of the female body. They have chosen *All That Jazz*, and *Puttin' On The Ritz* from their Broadway show. (They have not committed to doing the fun choreography, but perhaps with a little encouragement...)

They will also sing *Let The River Run*, by Carly Simon, *Harriet Tubman*, *Women Cross The River*, *Shanandoah*, and for the young at heart, *The Rainbow Connection*. A special rendition of *Sky Dances* is planned as a tribute to Linda Laportek who produced numerous concerts of Women's music during the 90's.

For the final number, all previous members of the chorus will be invited up on the stage to join in the singing of *Siyahamba*. This will be a fun concert, don't miss it!

Reverend James Lawson Men in Tights IV - Time Warp

The Reverend James Lawson, Jr. will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church (3546 Clays Mill Rd.) on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 pm as part of the Republican Meeting House Series of progressive speakers. A Methodist Minister, Rev. Lawson has been called "the teacher of the civil rights movement." He is also an active member of Soulforce, a group that challenges the anti-gay rhetoric of conservative churches (see page 6).

Rev. Lawson studied Gandhi's techniques of nonviolent resistance in Nagpur, India, and later joined forces with Martin Luther King Jr. to become a principal architect of the African-American civil rights struggle. His reputation as a leader and role model of nonviolent action began with his imprisonment for resisting the draft during the Korean War. In the sixties, his workshops on techniques and strategies of non-violence prepared activists for the civil rights sit-ins and boycotts.

Until recently, Rev. Lawson was pastor of the Holman United
...continued on page 2

PLAY TRY OUTS MAY 1 & 2

Love! Valor! Compassion!

by Terrence McNally See page 3

For the fourth year members of the Lexington Men's Chorus will don wigs, gowns and assorted finery to entertain as well as to raise money for the newly remodeled Pride Center. Join us Wed., May 9, at the Bar Complex. The show, graciously hosted by Latoya Bacall herself, will begin at 9 pm. Admission is \$5, doors open at 8 pm.

All your favorites are returning--including Sundae and Tuesday De La Rouge, as well as some new "beauties" that joined the chorus this year. An elaborately costumed and choreographed finale is planned, recreating "Lets Do the Time Warp Again" from Rocky Horror.

This show stands out; the men of the chorus pick a variety of interesting music, and their presentation is also...interesting. A DVD player with 3 DVD's will be raffled during the show. For info. contact Darrell at 513-0934 or Kenneth at 255-1551.

Sponsor of the Month

SisterSound

Anniversary Concert May 19



The GLSO NEWS

Vol. 16 No. 5

Published Monthly by:

The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
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321 Second St.

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**GLSO Annual dues
and Newsletter: \$15.00
Dues and Newsletter
for couples: \$20.00**

Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and become the property of the GLSO. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject any submissions or advertisements.

GLSO Page 2

GLSO Pride Center Nears Grand Opening

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2nd to drop in for the Grand Opening of the new GLSO Pride Center of the Bluegrass. An open house is being planned to show off our community's new facility. We would especially like to invite the many visionary members of our community who have been involved with the Pride Center over the years, including the Stonewall Network, previous GLSO board members, and those who have made generously contributions.

As part of the Grand Opening we would like to display the art and craft works of local GLBT artists and crafts people. If you would like to exhibit your work please call 253-3233.

The finishing touches are being made to the space itself. Our volunteer carpenters, painters, cleaners and gofers have been working around the many individuals and groups that are already using the space -- and that has not been easy.

In April the Pride Center was used for 26 scheduled events and activities, including a full day workshop on fundraising provided by GLSO and attended by 20 people representing many local GLBT organizations.

We are still in search of a good plumber to convert our restroom to accessible status. If you have ever used the restrooms at the Center, you know just how inaccessible they are.

This is not a small job and the estimates we have received so far run from "frighteningly low" to "amazingly high" which has left us concerned about hiring someone who

can't handle the job or being ripped off. If you know a reliable, reasonably priced plumber, or can provide any advice for choosing a capable person, please give us a call as soon as possible at 253-3233.

In May, we hope to begin having regular daytime office hours at the Pride Center. Having a person at the Center to handle day to day activities, greet visitors, and provide information and assistance has long been a major goal of GLSO. We are already considering ways to provide evening hours including the use of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering there are many ways you can help. You can find information on volunteering, scheduling, and programs on the Pride Center web site at www.bluegrasspride.org.

Our vision of a Pride Center that serves the GLBT community by providing a welcoming, accessible, safe, and useful space, and functions as a reliable and friendly information center is coming to pass. We hope you will begin your Pride Month activities with a visit to your new Pride Center of the Bluegrass on Sat., June 2nd.

The Pride Center Wish List in on page 4 this month. To Schedule events at the Center, call 253-3233

Lawson at UU Ch...continued

Methodist Church in Los Angeles He has spoken out for GLBT people's right to be welcomed in his denomination and in other churches as part of his work with Soulforce. He has been to jail for demonstrating against the "spiritual violence" of anti-gay rhetoric. This is a man we need to honor with our presence. Join us on May 10.

Community News

ACT OUT

Act Out is excited to be producing *Love! Valor! Compassion!* by Terrence McNally for Pride Month. Try Outs will be May 1 and 2 at the Pride Center at 7 pm. There are seven roles for men, ages 20 to 60. This will be fun, come out and see. The play will be performed the last two weekends of June. Call Terry or Mike at Movable Feast for more information 252-2867.

Miss Derby Pride

May is Derby time, and this year's Miss Derby Pride pageant will be held Derby week. It has been suggested that since this pageant has often been held after derby it should be called "Missed" derby pride. Not this year. Join the Court May 2nd at Club 141 at 9:30. Admission price is \$5.

Scheduled performers include Ms. National-At-Large: Chelsea Pearl, Empress 19: Tracy Taylor, Empress 18: Eden Towers, Empress 15: Natalie Gaye, Miss Lexington Supreme: Ginger Grant, and Miss Derby Pride 2000: Cassis Carsyle. Tiffany Andrews, Rayna Star and special guest Reva Deveroux will also be present. Join us for this perennial little gem.

Pride Month

The next Pride Month meeting is Tuesday, May 1 at 7 pm at the Pride Center. The calendar is filling up; if your organization is planning an event, you need to contact Terry Mullins. (days- 252-2867). Deadline to get your event listed in the Pride

trifold is May 5 and for the GLSO News is May 19.

In addition to planning Pride events, members of this group will be voting for the Wasson Volunteer of the Year Award for an Individual and the Rainbow Community Award for the group that has contributed to our community through volunteerism. Representatives of every group can join us on Thurs. May 31 for voting. A nomination form is included in this newsletter. Use the form or just send us your nominee through email or snail mail.

An early Pride Month event will actually be on one of the last day of May. Read on...

Miss Odyssey

Some people believe that the millennium started in 2000, while others will say the 21st century and the 3rd millennium started in 2001. Not wanting to take sides in this issue, we are having Miss Odyssey this year to honor 2001. Last year's "one time title", Miss Millennium, produced some spectacular displays and talent, we can expect as much interest in this years as well. Miss Odyssey will take place May 30th, just as pride month gets under way. For more information contact Tracy Taylor, Empress 19.

Working Class Kitchen Pride Reading

The 4th Annual Working Class Kitchen Gay Pride Reading will be held on Sunday, June 3rd at the Pride Center from 7pm to 9pm. If you write and want to read it, if you

create and want to show or sell it—or if you just want to listen and look, this is a good place for you.

Call Kelly at 225-6269 to schedule mic/floor space. We would like to put up art work by May 1 for the Grand Opening of the Center. The Reading will be a snack pot luck, so bring something to share. Donations to Pride Center are encouraged. Drinks and musical entertainment will be provided.

Interweave

Interweave, the lesbigaytrans and friends social action group at the Church, will go out to lunch after church on Sunday, May 13.. If you would like more information about Interweave or the church, call Davina at 271-6174.

GLBT Library Soon to be a Reality

The library planned for the GLSO Pride Center got a big boost last month with five large donations of books. These along with many donations made over the years have given us a great start with over 200 books, and a few video and audio recordings. We also received a great donation of two large bookshelves. A small group of volunteers will be working to get the books on the shelves by the Grand Opening of the Pride Center on June 2nd.

Please continue to bring your donations of books, videos, CDs and cassettes to the Pride Center. We will take one book or fifty. No donation is too large or too small. We are looking for materials in good
Community News continued page 4 & 6

Community News Continued

condition, fiction and non-fiction on GLBT subjects. So stop dusting all the books you haven't read in years, clean out those videos you've already watched and lent to all your friends, and let the rest of us enjoy them. To arrange drop off call the Pride Center 859-253-3233.

Along with Joseph-Beth Booksellers, you are going to have another great opportunity to support the Library during Pride Month in June. You will be able to buy a GLBT book at a discount, and Joseph-Beth will collect them all and donate them to the Library. Think about your favorite GLBT books and recordings, and plan to visit Joseph-Beth during Pride Month to make sure the Pride Center Library has them. Watch for more details in the June newsletter.

GLSO YOUTH GROUP

The Gay Straight Alliance for youth in Lexington is up and running. Twelve young people have attended one or more of our meetings. We are having a great time! We are meeting twice a month and are focusing on high school age youth, ages 15 through 18. We will consider including 14 and 19 year olds who seem appropriate to the group. Youth interested in attending can call Mary Crone for information (266-5904) marycrone@aol.com.

Adult Advisors are meeting on Thursday, May 3 to look over training materials from the Louisville Youth Group and elsewhere. We will set up requirements and policies. We welcome anyone interested in becoming an advisor. We will also be establishing an advisory

board. Call Mary for more information.

GLSO BOARD ELECTIONS

We need fresh minds and bodies for the GLSO Board. Elections will be in June; come to the May meeting to see if you might be interested. Call Terry 255-5469 or days at Moveable Feast 252-2867. We are also developing a list of volunteer opportunities for those of you who may have a few hours to share with us.

Single and Lesbian?

There is a new yahoo group for single lesbians in central Kentucky. We have been up and running for a few weeks and already have 23 members. Check out this link if you are interested: groups.yahoo.com/group/KYsinglhez

Pride Center Wish List

Donations of cash, furnishings, and supplies continued to come in during April. Bookcases, a file cabinet, an easel, a coffee pot, and a VCR were donated, and we were able to purchase a TV, fire extinguishers, and tables with cash donations. This month we are wishing for...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Office Chair | \$99 |
| Wall Clocks (3) | \$15 each |
| Standing Lamp | \$80 |
| Waste Baskets (3) | \$10 each |
| Telephone | \$30 |
| Copier | \$400 |
| End table | \$100 |
| Stacking Chairs (16) | \$25 each |
| Compact Stereo | \$300 |
| TV/VCR Cart | \$200 |

All donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to GLSO and be sure to note which item you would like the money to go

towards. Send donations to GLSO, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY, 40575. If you have lightly used items you would like to donate call 253-3233.

Sistahs in the Life

Join Sistahs in the Life for a provocative discussion about experiences related to the lives of Lesbians and Bi-sexual women of African Descent. We chat at 7 pm every 4th Wed. at the Pride Center. We are also helping to plan a dance to be held at the end of June. See below...

Dance to the Rock Stars of Soul

On June 30, GLSO, Sistah's In The Life and Ebony Male will be sponsoring a dance featuring the Rock Stars of Soul. This is a great band and they will insure a fun-evening. Look for more information in the Pride Flyer due out mid May.



Howard Stovall

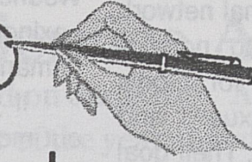
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(859) 252-1200
(859) 252-1300 Fax
Cell: (859) 321-8972

E-mail: signsnow366@signsnow.com

...News continued on page 6

Just A Reminder



IMPERIAL COURT of KENTUCKY
FUNDRAISERS

Miss Derby Pride

Club 141

MAY 2ND

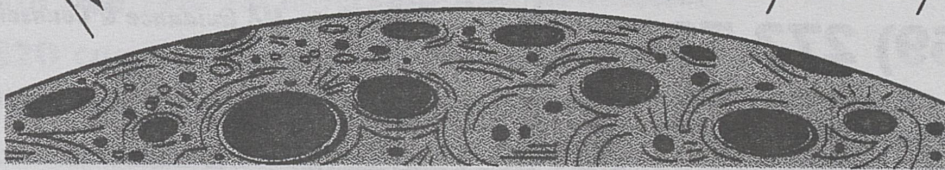
MISS DERBY PRIDE

MISS ODYSSEY - 2001

Club 141

MAY 30TH

Miss ODYSSEY



Community News Cont.

Soulforce

Soulforce is a national network of people committed to nonviolence, seeking justice for God's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Children. Their goal is to help change the minds and hearts of religious leaders whose anti-homosexual campaigns lead directly and indirectly to suffering. They work to bring hope and healing to our society and to find redirection and renewal for our minds and spirits.

Soulforce plans actions that are intended to be confrontational and simultaneously to be guided by the principles of relentless nonviolent resistance. They base their work on the teachings and lives of nonviolent practitioners such as M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.. James Lawson, Methodist Minister and teacher of non-violence, is a current activist with Soulforce. He will be speaking at the UU Church on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30.

Soulforce is planning several demonstrations; on June 10-13 they will be in New Orleans for a non-violent direct action at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Local Soulforce groups around the country are planning to have simultaneous silent prayer vigil on Wednesday, June 13. The one in Lexington will most likely be outside Immanuel Baptist Church.

If you are interested in finding out more about Soulforce, you can go to the website www.soulforce.org. If you are interested in being a part of our local action in Lexington, please email Dotti at the SoulforceLexington@yahoo.com.

RAINBOW VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE!

Practices continue for the Volleyball Tournament coming up on June 24. Join us on Sundays May 6 and May 20 at the YMCA North, 381 W. Loudon Ave., from 3 to 5.

For More Information Contact: Larry Collins or Charlie Mullins, at 222-1918 or 20, Steve Medley, Fayette City Health Dept. at 288-2456, or Mark Johnson at Volunteers of America 254-3469.

OPEN GROUND

Open Ground is an arts, education and retreat center on the Caplin River in Central Kentucky. They offer residential workshops in cultural, expressive and environmental arts -- for adults, families, young adults and special groups.

Programs planned for this summer include dance, storytelling, folkart, and more from many world cultures. For info contact openground@kyol.net or call 859-375-2411.

Discussion Group

The GLSO Discussion/Support Group meets every Wednesday at 7 at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Avenue. For info call Jane at 389-7698 (nights from 7-8:30) or email her at ladyjanky@yahoo.com.

Book Discussion Group

Anyone interested in discussing the literature of lesbian and bisexual authors is invited to join a new book discussion group forming this spring. For information, please e-mail Lori at loco@iglou.com.

Moveable Feast,

Movable Feast needs help for delivering meals. If you can drive a car you can change a life. Please give us a call at 252-2867.

GLSEN

The Kentucky Chapter of the Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network (GLSEN) is meeting in Lexington every two months. They would like to establish a chapter here. Contact Gina Cooper at glsen_ky@hotmail.com.

Rainbow Watchers

Member of Pet Sitters International

- Pet Sitting/Exercising/Transportation
- House/Farm Watching - Errand Running



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Robyn Stockwell

rainbowwatchers@hotmail.com

<http://www.petsit.com/members/rainbowwatchers>

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Tina Gale, MA Guidance & Counseling

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NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR THE

Wasson Award and Rainbow Community Service Award

The Tenth Annual Volunteer Awards Banquet will be held on June 10th. At that time, all community organizations are invited to present their volunteer of the year awards to individuals they select. We will also be honoring the individual (Wasson Award) and the community group (Rainbow Award) that through volunteerism has done the most for the Lexington area GLBT Community in the previous year or years. Anyone can nominate a person or group for these awards. Write a paragraph or two giving reasons for your choice, use the space below if you would like, add a page if you need to, and mail it to GLSO P.O. Box 11471, 40575. or email it to lexingtonglso@yahoo.com. We need to receive nominations by May 29. Members of the Pride Committee and representatives of each group will vote on Thursday, May 31st at the Pride Center, 389 Waller at 7 pm. **And while you are at it, subscribe to this newsletter!**

I nominate,

for

because...

The Gay Lesbian Service Organization has a phone number - 253-32332 and 2 web sites: www.angelfire.com/Ky2/bluegrassGLSO and www.bluegrasspride.org for Pride Center information. Your subscription to this newsletter helps support all our work. Thank You!!

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City, St, zip _____

_____ \$15 one year membership and newsletter

_____ \$20 couple membership and newsletter

_____ \$25 two year membership and newsletter

Mail to GLSO News, PO Box 11471, Lex., Ky. 40575

May 2001

For Meeting Places, call numbers in directory on the back of this newsletter unless specified.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 7PM ACT-OUT Try Outs (Pride Center) 7PM Pride Month Committee (Pride Center) 9PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes) | 2 7PM ACT-OUT Try Outs (Pride Center) 7PM Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8PM Gay/Lesbian AA 9PM Miss Derby Pride | 3 | 4 7:30PM Gay/Lesbian AA Pride Month Calendar Deadline | 5 |
| 6 10:30A Faith MCC 10:45A UU Church 3PM Volleyball Practice 5:30PM LMC Rehearsal | 7 8PM AA Step Study 7PM Gay Straight Alliance (Pride Center) | 8 9PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes) | 9 7PM Discussion Group (Pride Center) 9PM LMC Drag Show (Men in Tights) | 10 7PM GLSO Board (Pride Center) 7:30 Rev. James Lawson UU Church | 11 7:30PM Gay/Lesbian AA | 12 |
| 13 10:30A Faith MCC 10:45A UU Church 12:15P Interweave Pot-Luck 6PM Sistersound Rehearsal 6PM DIGNITY 5:30PM LMC Rehearsal | 14 8PM AA Step Study 7PM Fairness Steering Committee (Pride Center) 6PM Court (Pride Center) | 15 9PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes) | 16 7PM Discussion Group (Pride Center) | 17 | 18 7:30PM Gay/Lesbian AA | 19 8PM Sistersound Concert <small>GLSO News Deadline Submit Additions and/or Corrections for next Calendar 253-3233</small> |
| 20 10:30A Faith MCC 10:45A UU Church 3PM Volleyball Practice 5:30PM LMC Rehearsal | 21 8PM AA Step Study 7PM Gay Straight Alliance (Pride Center) | 22 9PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes) | 23 7PM Discussion Group (Pride Center) | 24 7P C.O.L.T.S. (Pride Center) | 25 7:30PM Gay/Lesbian AA | 26 |
| 27 10:30A Faith MCC 10:45A UU Church 6PM Classic Movie Night Pot-Luck (Pride Center) 6PM DIGNITY 5:30PM LMC Rehearsal | 28 8PM AA Step Study 6PM Court (Pride Center) | 29 9PM Rainbow Bowling (Southland Lanes) | 30 7PM Discussion Group (Pride Center) 7PM Sistah's In The Life (Pride Center) | 31 | | |

GLSO News 2001 Sponsors

- J. Mark Chambers, CPA**.....266-8877
For all your Financial Needs
- Bluegrass Fairness**.....296-7812
Keeping our eyes on the Ky. Legislature
- Richardson Vision Center**278-4201
1757 Alexandria Dr., Gardenside
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(mobile phone)....338-8483 Paul Semonin Realtors
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- Turner Counseling**269-6497
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- Windy Knoll Farm**.....299-7410
Riding Lessons, Trail Riding, Boarding
- Lexington Men's Chorus**.....231-0090
Rehearsals start again in March
- Pegasus Travel**253-1644
Donating 1% of your ticket cost to GLSO

April Happenings with the Imperial Court

On April 11, the Queens of Hazzard invaded Club 141. Locals put on their trashy big hair best to perform classic honky-tonk favorites. There was a home cookin' buffet where guests could sample such fine meat products as potted meat, arisol spam, and Vienna sausages, along with Bugles filled with cheese, Goo-Goos and Moon pies. This reporter even saw a 3 liter of Bubba Cola. Great fun was had by all.

Easter at Mia's was celebrated with an Easter Bonnet Parade. The selection was from elegant traditional, to avant garde. There was fringe, glow sticks, electric easter eggs - you name it. Grand prize went to Miss Ruth and her traditional elegant bonnet. Winner was chosen by audience applause.

The Court raised \$1500 for Moveable Feast in April. We would like to thank all who donated items and attended events. It is through your kindness and generosity that we are able to raise money for our charities each year.

In addition to the in-town events, Emperor EV attended the Night of A Thousand Gowns, the Imperial Court of NY Coronation. NOTG is one of the premier Coronation events on the court circuit, and the lavish event was attended by over 1600 people including soap opera star Eileen Fulton, Michelle Lee, who is currently doing a Broadway production, and Linda Dano, representing ABC. Donnie and Kevin Phillips, Emperor XVIII, received awards from Victoria Westin.

...continued on page 13

The Imperial Court Falsie Awards

On the evening of April 24, the Imperial Court awarded the Falsies at the Ky Theater. All the 2001 Nominees are listed below; the winners selected by the academy of drag arts and science are marked with an *. The 2001 Falsie for Outstanding Achievement are:

Costume

Eden Towers - Garden of Eden Orchid
Jenna Jive - Queen of Hearts
Chelsea Pearl - Madonna s Music
Cheetah Chandler - Diva of Darkness
LaToya Bacall - Orange Dance Outfit

Hair

Natalie Gays
Chelsea Pearl Shae d. Luv
Samantha Storm J. D. Vaughn

Makeup

** Eden Towers **
Ginger Grant Shae d. Luv
Rayna Starr Jordan Taylor

Dance Performance

** Cammie Dietrich **
Cassie Carlisle Tuesday De La rouge
Clarissa Cumberl Lauren Wells

Character Impersonation

** Rayna Starr - Whitney Houston **
Tiffany Andrews - Dolly Patron
Roxanne Cole - Cher

Comedy Performance: Tie

** Cammie Dietrich - Fairy Tales **
** Sundae de LaRouge - Reportoir **
Karen Collette - I'm Not Bitter
Rayna Starr - Wanda Woofers
Cheyenne - Hell on Wheels

Newcomer

** Jenna Jive **
J. D. Vaughn Sapphire
Cheetah Chandler Carmen Electra
Sioux-Anna Dannielle

Disk Jockeying

** DJ Gregor **
DJ Shane DJ Brady
DJ Motivator (Stephen Hill)

In a Dramatic Role: Tie

** Chelsea Pearl** **Natalie Gays**
Jordan Taylor Eden Towers
Mika Milano

In a Special Performance

** Ginger Grant - And I m Telling You**
Jordan Taylor - Rent
Janelle Clayborne - Still I Rise
Nicole Diamond - Spooktacular Talent

In a Supporting Role

** Kip Kelly **
Suzanne Postlewaite Melissa
Chris Rhorer Orvis & Jamie Kee

In a Butch Persona

** Brett Chevront **
Thomas Smith Roy Grubb
Joshua Smith Jamie Keen

Bartending

** Annie Cummins The Bar **
Phillip - The Bar
Bob - Crossings
Eric - Club 141 Levi - The Bar
Ginny Bates - Mia s

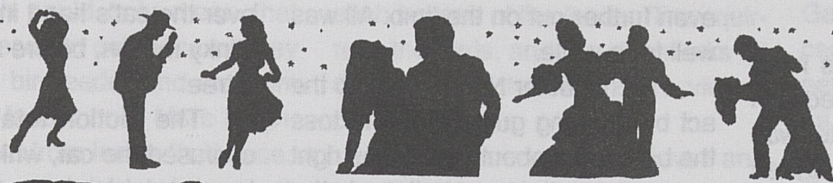
Off-Stage Performance

Chelsea Pearl - "I ll Get My OWN Taxi"
Cammie Dietrich - "This is MY Taxi"
Rayna Starr - "It s All About Tracy"
Clarissa Cumberland - "Shut The Damn
Door - I m not the Show Director"

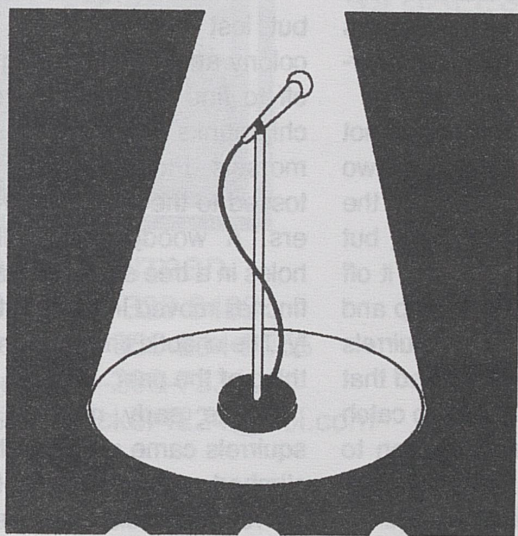
Niagara Falls

Community Achievement Award
** Kevin Phillips **
John Ridner Mary Crone
Ginger Moore Terry Mullins

2001 Falsies Lifetime Achievement Award
** Harold Hamilton Cheyenne **



Bluegrass Entertainer of the Year



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June 17th

for more
information
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Productions
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Gray Girl Squirrels

By ReINETTE F. JONES

Two crafty gray squirrels have declared war over the birdfeeder in the backyard. The whole matter was not an issue when they first started to eat from the feeder; the birds would scurry away and wait for the squirrels to have their fill, then the birds would resume their feeding.

But the whole arrangement changed when the squirrels started removing the plastic portals and letting the seed spill to the ground. After that, a couple of chipmunks took up residence in the easement and the neighbor's calico prison cat started coming around to keep an eye on all of the above and to scratch the bark off the base of the young trees. (The cat was born in the prison on the hill and later was custody-paroled to the next door neighbor.) The backyard has become the stage for some very peculiar acting animals and the girl squirrels seem to be the ringleaders.

Given that animals will be animals, removing the birdfeeder in order to disrupt the chain of events would have been a selfish human act, so the portals were replaced and the birdfeeder was moved further out on the tree limb. The squirrels took offense to the maneuver and those two darlings managed to pull the birdfeeder back to its original place and pull the portals out and let the seed spill to the ground again. The prison cat crouched down in the grass and watched the turn of events. Every so often, it would scratch at the trees, then return to its post.

Plastic mesh was wrapped around the base of the trees to dis-

courage the cat. The portals were replaced and the feeder was moved even further out on the limb. All was well for a while.

Then Mother Nature got into the act by bringing gusty winds to toss the birdfeeder about until it was right back where it started. It took the squirrels a day to remember how to get the portals out, and this time they made a point to chew the tabs off the portals, which made it impossible to snap them back into place. The prison cat watched the whole thing and never moved. Seed spilled to the ground, and the chipmunks and birds had a party while the two girl squirrels made taunting and laughing sounds as they chased and courted each other to the highest branches of the trees.

No harm, no foul. Animals are not vindictive and humans should never attribute their own behavior to squirrels. Any assumed sounds of laughter and teasing were probably nothing more than a human imaginative moment fueled by a short and temporary bout of insanity. Maybe the squirrels simply needed their own feeder. The birdfeeder was repaired and a second feeder was placed in a distant tree for the squirrels.

Having their own feeder was not challenging enough for the two squirrels, they not only released the seed from the birdfeeder again, but they also had the nerve to eat it off the ground in front of the plump and not so swift prison cat. The squirrels seemed to have quickly learned that the cat was not fast enough to catch them and there was no reason to bother with running too far or too fast. But one day the cat had a junior moment and actually managed to sneak upon one of the squirrels. The

surprise attack scared the squirrel so bad that it leaped back and forth over the cat's head in a super-quick slinky motion, before scampering up a tree.

The motion totally dazed and confused the cat, which caused it to have a delayed reaction of leaping back and forth in the air, mimicking the pattern that the squirrel had just made. The cat owner, who had come out the door on the tail-end of things, thought the cat was having some sort of a seizure, so she started clapping her hands to get the cat's attention. The noise scared the cat and it went racing across the open field, chasing absolutely nothing toward the prison on the hill. Again, it sounded like laughter in the tree-tops.

Things were getting out of hand. Those squirrels needed to be taught a lesson. The portals were wired into place and the birdfeeder was moved to the very end of the tree limb. The two girl squirrels tried to reach the birdfeeder, but without success. Laughter could be heard inside the house.

The cat returned from prison, but lost interest in the backyard colony and each morning it wanders off to find other things to do. The chipmunks settled for whatever morsels the birds and squirrels tossed to the ground from the feeders. A woodpecker drilled some holes in a tree stump and a couple of finches moved in and started a family. The chaotic times seemed to be a thing of the past.

One early morning, the two squirrels came up to the house and climbed onto the trash Herbie and the recycle Rosie. They were looking inside the patio window and they

...continued on page 13

were both grinning. Yes, squirrels do grin. They were showing their front teeth, which could only mean that they were ready to call a truce. They ignored the birdfeeder and ate from the squirrel feeder only. More laughter was heard from inside the house.

About a week later, at the crack of dawn, there was more chatter than ever in the backyard. It sounded like the animals were having a pep rally. Monday mornings should be so joyous for everyone. The racket called for immediate attention; the feeders were probably empty. As the patio curtains were being drawn back, one of the squirrels leaped from the tree branch onto the birdfeeder and set the whole contraption into a spinning and twisting motion. The squirrel had that buck-toothed grin on her face as the feeder spun one last time, then crashed to the ground. The squirrel

managed to leap away before seed was splashed over the ground with each bounce of the feeder. The squirrels, the birds, and the chipmunks all did the wave followed by a victory dance.

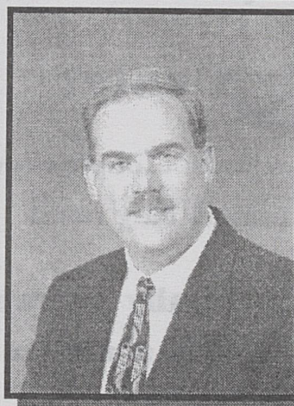
The prison cat came over and crouched down in the grass to watch the fiasco, then glanced toward the patio window, and continued to turn his head back and forth in each direction. It seemed as if the cat was saying, "They really got you that time. Didn't they?"

Those gray girl squirrels really know how to play dirty. Their bad habits are being researched in the Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Girl Squirrels. Also, the banged up birdfeeder is being repaired and it will be returned to the tree limb. The war is not over!

Court News continued from page 10
 Congratulations to Victoria and Gabriel de la Notte on a very successful year and good luck to the new monarchs, Damian and Fiona as they begin their reign.

Emperor EV also attended the Imperial Court of Rhode Island's Coronation, A Return to Versailles, (that is VER SAI, not VER sales!!) on the weekend of April 20 where he did a Command Performance at the request of H.M.I.M, Michael Duarte Sousa. Congratulations to Emperor VIII Michael and Empress VIII Candy Wills Dubarry on a great year and good luck to their new monarchs as well.

In May, several members of the KY court will be attending the Coronation in Buffalo. Watch for more news of that next month.



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MCC INVITES YOU TO NEW BEGINNINGS

By Rev. Mel Bailey

Each day the sun rises, and symbolically, we have a new beginning. Each new year is like that for many of us. The human condition seems to cherish a fresh start. As an old year passes away, there may be a time of reflection. 2001 will be no different. Some of us, though, look to spring for this journey. And spring has arrived.

And so it was recently that I took a drive to Carlisle, a farm I grew up on, and our house that sat at the top of a steep hill. It's funny, though, the house didn't draw me this bright spring day. While our family house still sat there my memories were drawn to the bottom of the hill. And the creek that held so many memories. I suppose I remember that creek best for the wonderful adventures of spring that appeared every year after enduring the icy winter. The challenge each spring was to build a mighty vessel (a.k.a. raft) that we might float down the stream. There were glorious fishing trips, no doubt much grander in my mind today than they were 40 years ago.

That bright spring day, I gave thought to how my life was much like the creek I had loved as a child. Each year, in the fall, a bend in "my" creek gathered leaves, branches, and trash that eventually clogged up the creek. The leaves had fallen off trees upstream, much like the careless words that may flow from the human mouth. And during the drab winter months, tree branches became brittle and fell into the creek. Oh, how human relationships may be just much like that. Once in a great while, a passing car would throw out trash that compounded the blockage in the creek. What has been thrown away in life without a thought? That creek was my life. Perhaps that creek has been like your life.

Each fall, I watched as my creek dried up, strangled by leaves, branches, and trash. Spring became a cleansing ritual as I worked to free the creek of all debris. Without that spring cleaning, "my" creek would suffocate. As memories resurfaced of the creek spewing forth, in new life, it reminded me of the dead and useless clutter that can so often suffocate any life. But surely, just as the creek came to life again, can't our lives do so also? New beginnings can be wonderful.

I've spent some time thinking about that creek lately. I've marveled at its resilience, much as life renews itself. Reflecting back on the years, the times when the mark has been missed are too many occasions to even remember. There were times life becomes clogged with

regrets, failed relationships, and a cold heart. But symbolically, the spring is a time for renewal and cleansing.

Before this can happen, though, we have to learn to forgive ourself and others. Trusting in our Creator's faithfulness, we can clean out much of the clutter in our own stream. Sharing a faith, which embraces who we are, there is a church family who embraces all people (faults and all!). Looking to God, we can literally "clean up" our act and experience renewal. With the birth of a new spring I can almost hear that ol' creek calling, calling me to new life. It's the promise of new beginnings. Aren't they wonderful?

Faith MCC celebrates Christian worship each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. at 145 Burt Road, in Zandale (just off Nicholasville Road across from O'Charley's). For further information, call LEX-FMCC. Web page- hometown.aol.com/lmccrevmel/myhomepage/business.html

GLSO ONLINE

Mary: marycrone@aol.com

Terry_Mullins@msn.com

Ginger: gg40504@hotmail.com

GLSO: lexingtonlso@yahoo.com.

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GLSO Directory

The GLSO

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| GLSO Board (Terry)..... | 255-5469 |
| GLSO Discussion Group (Jane)..... | 389-7698 |
| GLSO News: (Mary)..... | 266-5904 |
| Subscriptions (Ginger)..... | 389-7698 |
| GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)..... | 266-5904 |
| Pride Center..... | 253-3233 |
| Pride Center Committee (Jane)..... | 389-7698 |
| Pride Month (Terry)..... | 255-5469 |
| Pink Pages (Jordon)..... | 269-2094 |
| Youth Gay Straight Alliance (Mary)..... | 266-5904 |
| GLSO on line..... | lexingtonglso@yahoo.com |

STUDENT GROUPS

Please call Mary with new information.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| ACE League: Berea (Rich)..... | 859-986-0323 |
| email: Keenan94@hotmail.com | |
| AGLF: NKU (Pat)..... | 572-5604 |
| B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol)..... | 238-5332 |
| Pride Alliance EKU (Josh)..... | (606)622-5297 |
| Morehead State Univ. (Ned-Advisor)..... | 606 783-2294 |
| Transylvania University (Jessica)..... | 255-2122 |
| UK Lambda (James)..... | 254-6021 |

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Jessamine County..... | (859) 885-4149 |
| Lexington-Fayette County..... | 288-2437 |
| Madison County..... | (606)723-7312 |
| Woodford County..... | (859)873-4541 |

AIDS INFO / SERVICES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| AIDS Volunteers Inc..... | 225-3000 |
| Health Dept. HIV Support (Patty)..... | 288-2377 |
| HIV/AIDS Legal Project..... | (502) 584-1254 |
| HIV Education YOUTH GROUP..... | 278-7494 |
| HIV Support (Somerset)..... | 679-7578 or 678-5814 |
| Moveable Feast..... | 252-2867 |

COMMUNITY

| | |
|--|----------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian)..... | 245-7471 |
| (office)..... | 276-2917 |
| AL-Anon (office)..... | 277-1877 |
| Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie)..... | 278-2608 |
| (Dawn) ???..... (Ann)(502)672-8673 | |
| Bluegrass COLTS (Morris)..... | 225-9169 |
| Bluegrass Fairness..... | 296-7812 |
| Council for Peace and Justice (Richard)..... | 277-6101 |

| | |
|--|---|
| DOJ Pride(Robin)..... | 231-8526 |
| E-MALE (Bill)..... | 255-5469 |
| Fairness of Louisville..... | (502) 893-0788 |
| First Link (was Ask Us)..... | 313-5465 |
| GLSEN-Ky (Gina)..... | (606) 676-9412 |
| G/L Defense Fund..... | (502) 589-2896 |
| IGBO (Int. Gay Bowling Org.) (Steve)..... | 276-3058 |
| Imperial Court of KY. | bluegrassembire@hotmail.com |
| Ky Leather Productions (Larry)..... | 253-0185 |
| Kentucky Fairness Alliance-Lexington..... | 296-7812 |
| Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club (George).... | 885-7777 |
| (Greggers)..... | 792-6117 |
| Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance..... | roger@hyperaction.net |
| Lex. Human Rights Commission..... | 252-4931 |
| Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby)..... | 231-0090 |
| Louisville Youth Group..... | (502) 894-9787 |
| Moonshine Bears of Ky (James)..... | 254-9567 |
| (Jim)..... | 299-2047 |
| Pride Alliance of Cent. Ky. (Gary)..... | (859) 236-4547 |
| (Shane)..... | 859-854-0596 or pridealliance@yahoo.com |
| P-FLAG (Jim)..... | 266-3934 |
| Pegasus Travel..... | 253-1644 |
| Rainbow Bowling League (Steve)..... | 276-3058 |
| SisterSound (Patti)..... | 243-0243 |
| Sistahs in the Life (Joan)..... | 252-2657 |
| (LaTonia)..... | 233-3751 |
| Social Concepts (Ginger)..... | 389-7698 |
| | gg40504@hotmail.com |

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Dignity [Catholic](Richard)..... | 268-1351; |
| Interweave [Unitarian](Davina)..... | 271-6174 |
| MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy)..... | (800)484-8498 |
| MCC-Lexington (Rev. Mel)..... | 539-3622 |
| MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)..... | (502)775-6636 |
| MCC-Paducah (Rev. Donna)..... | (270)441-2307 |
| Norse Pagan Community: (Rev. Pat)..... | 268-1640 |
| KY Pagan Forum..... | http://go.to/kypaganforum/ |
| Path of the Personal Divine(Chris)..... | 268-1640 |
| RainbowWind [Pagan] (Sarah)..... | 273-2455 |
| | Rainbowwind@aol.com |
| St Augustine's Chapel [Episcopal](Rev. Chris).. | 254-3726 |

GLSO Web Pages

www.angelfire.com/Ky2/bluegrassGLSO
Pride Center: www.bluegrasspride.org