

GAYZETTE

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC. AUGUST 1979

A LITTLE INFORMATION ON "GAZETTE" AND THE LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

The Lexington Gay Services Organization is open to both gay and non-gay men and women who wish to be of service to the gay community of Lexington. GSO attempts to provide a variety of services as well as social outlets for gay Lexingtonians through such events as picnics and dances. We need more people to carry off our current activities and planned ventures.

GSO meetings are held on the first Monday of every month starting at 8:00 p.m. Because Labor Day is the first Monday in September, the September meeting will be held on the 10th. The meeting atmosphere is informal (we hope!) and new members are definitely encouraged. No dues are charged. The meetings are held at the Walton Avenue Center at 183 Walton Ave.

This newsletter represents an attempt to reach persons who up to this time have not heard of or taken part in GSO. We welcome your suggestions - both on how GSO can better serve the Lexington Gay Community and how this newsletter can be improved. We can be contacted by writing P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, 40511.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 2 - Rap Group at Southland Branch of the Lexington Public Library (521 Southland Drive): The group begins at 1 p.m. and runs to 3 p.m.
- September 9 - Picnic at Woodland park. Starts at noon. Bring a dish.
- September 10 - Regular monthly GSO business and planning meeting at Walton Ave. Center, 183 Walton Ave. at 8 p.m.
- September 16 - Rap Group (same time and place as above).
- October 14 - March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

If you would like to have your name on a mailing list to receive copies of GAYZETTE or other GSO items, fill out the box below and send to: GSO, P.O. Box 11471, Lex. 40511.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

GAY RIGHTS BILL PENDING IN CONGRESS

A bill which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation has been entered in Congress. The bill - H.R. 2074 - was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Theodore Weiss of New York City. As of last count there were 46 co-sponsors (out of a total House membership of 435). While such numbers are a good start, it is still unlikely that such legislation will pass Congress in the near future. But if the bill gets to the stage where committee hearings are held, it could be an opportunity for 1) many up to now uninformed Congresspeople to become more aware of the issues involved, and 2) gay spokespeople to have a national forum to argue in favor of gay rights.

H.R. 2074 would amend the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the following areas: housing, employment, public accommodations, and any federally-assisted opportunity. Passage of H.R. 2074 would amount to a great symbolic as well as practical victory for gay people.

Lexington's representative in Congress, Larry Hopkins, has not shown himself to be in favor of gay rights. At the same time, he is apparently unaware of the issues involved. (It seems the two conditions go hand in hand.) Thus, while it is unlikely that Hopkins will become a champion of our cause, it is not impossible that he might - given some reflection on his part and some adequate prodding from concerned constituents - eventually see the necessity for legislation such as H.R. 2074. If nothing else it is worthwhile to let him know he does have gay (as well as sympathetic straight) constituents and to educate him as to our concerns and needs. If we don't bother to let him know we exist, are politically aware and do vote, then he has an excuse to ignore us and our problems.

(Con't. on page two)

H.R. 2074 con't.

GSO 1979

The Lexington Gay Services Organization and several individuals have sent letters to Hopkins explaining the provisions of and asking him to support H.R. 2074. If every person reading this news letter could do likewise and convince at least one friend to write as well, it might make a difference. And you don't necessarily have to identify yourself as gay; just write whatever letter you feel comfortable signing in support of this legislation. Send any letters to:

Representative Larry Hopkins
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

VOCAL SUPPORT:

GSO Phone Line & Rap Group

GSO operates a couple of services on a continuing basis to assist the gay community here in Lexington.

GAYLINE: provides answers to questions ranging from "What gay activities are available in Lexington?" to "Where do I go for counseling?" Volunteer listeners staff the line and attempt to provide useful and nonjudgemental information to callers. Given legal constraints and the relative paucity of gay resources in Lexington, the help provided by the phone line is of a limited nature. But, we try and, if nothing else, are there to listen. The line currently operates Thursday and Friday evenings from seven to ten. Once summer is over, we hope to get more people willing to volunteer. If this is the sort of service you would like to see expanded, let us know. The Gayline number is 254-6592.

RAP GROUP: Often subjects will be broached in GSO meetings that can't be fully discussed or resolved in a short period of time. And there are as many concerns and perspectives about being gay as there are gay people. As a result, several members of GSO began a rap group which meets on the first and third Sunday of each month from one til three at the Southland Branch of the Public Library at 521 Southland Dr. Nonmembers of GSO are welcome.

Articles, reviews (books, films, records), poems, short stories, etc. to be considered for next month's newsletter may be sent to GSO, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, 40511.

Some of the activities of GSO so far this year:

- The Gayline has continued to operate. Efforts have been made to build up our referral sources.
- In-service training sessions with the Yesline staff and the Urban County Government Juvenile Probation Officers were held.
- The Speakers Bureau was very busy with engagements at UK, Eastern, Kentucky Business College, Fugazzi Business College and Good Samaritan Hospital.
- The GSO Rap Group began in June.
- A series of summer picnics at Jacobson and Woodland parks began.
- GSO submitted a grant proposal for a "Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Program" for gay men and lesbians to the Kentucky Department for Human Resources. (The grant proposal was not funded.)
- In February GSO presented a workshop on "Gay People and Drug Abuse" at the Kentucky Drug Conference in Louisville.
- In April we presented two days of workshops on "Gay People" at the annual conference of The Kentucky Coalition of Student Social Workers.
- GSO gave support (financially and with participants) events celebrating Gay Pride Week in Cincinnati.
- We solicited responses from candidates for Governor in the May primary concerning policy issues and gay people.
- In June we gave testimony to the International Year of the Child National Committee on "The Needs and Problems of Gay Youth".

It's been a productive year so far as we have directed most of our efforts into community education. Hopefully, this focus will result in more effective community services for gay people. We will also continue trying to bring gay people together in mutually supportive ways.