# MARCH NEWS

1989



LEXINGTON GAY/LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION, P.O. BOX 11471, LEXINGTON, KY 40575

### CAN YOU RELY ON CONDOMS?

This same headline filled the cover of the March edition of Consumer Reports. The answer to their question is emphatically - YES! The article purports to tell "which brands are most likely to protect you against sexually transmitted disease." It does not!

Consumer Reports checked 37 condom varieties by performing two different tests. Condoms sold in the U.S. are tested by the FDA for leakage. All 37 varieties passed the leakage test. Condoms sold in other countries are tested for "airburst," where a machine blows up the condom until it explodes. The machine calculates both the volume of air and the air pressure when the condom explodes. Since all the condoms passed FDA standards, Consumer Reports used the airburst results to rate the 37 brands.

Top rating went to Gold Circle Coin, a condom familiar in Lexington because it was distributed by both ACT-Lexington and the Health Department. That manufacturer is now out of business.

Lifestyles Extra Strength received second place honors, and other models of Lifestyles scored highly. Lifestyles, manufactured by Ansell, Inc., are distributed locally by AVOL and have been ordered by the Fayette County Health Department.

Despite generally excellent ratings, two Ansell models received the lowest airburst rankings from Consumer Reports. The low ratings are questionable because the article states that last October, Ansell "issued a voluntary recall for defective lots ... including several of the lots we tested." The Consumer Reports article offered no explanation of why recalled products were tested, even though it reported the recall was prompted by oil contamination during manufacture. As you "safer sex" experts know, oil weakens latex condoms. AVOL had received the recall notice, but none of those condoms were shipped to Lexington.

Concerned about the low ratings on two Ansell products, representatives of GLSO, AVOL and the Health Department called the firm. Ansell executives explained the recall

was the first in the firm's 50-year history. Two specific production lots had been identified as containing minute amounts of oil. Nonetheless, all lots produced on that machine during the three month interval between routine maintenance, a total of 35 lots, were voluntarily recalled by Ansell and destroyed.

Ansell's poor airburst ratings are probably biased by testing of damaged lots. As Consumer Reports notes, condoms sold outside the U.S. are subjected to airburst tests. Ansell sells the same condoms in Canada as it markets here. Ansell V.P. Bradley Pugh stated the Canadian condoms are manufactured on the same machines, using the same production procedures, but subjected to the airburst test rather than the leakage test. The company's products comply with both American leakage standards and Canadian airburst standards. Even Consumer Reports noted that Ansell received both the top and bottom rating for the same model condom.

Consumers Union, the publishers of Consumer Reports, refused to explain the testing and statistical methods used, or even discuss the article by phone. Directed at heterosexuals, their report included instructions on what they judge "proper" condom use: "Place the rolled condom over the tip of the erect penis. If the condom has a reservoir tip, squeeze out the air. Otherwise, leave a half-inch space at the end (and squeeze out the air). Unroll the condom down the length of the penis."

Attention all gay men! Do not unroll the condom until you place a dab of water soluble lubricant on the tip of the penis. Obviously Consumer Reports has not read any "safer sex" brochures.

The bottom line is that you have three choices: mutual monogamy, abstinence, or condoms to prevent sharing of "body fluids." The FDA and Surgeon General refuse to rate condom brands, and Consumer Reports apparently erred in its attempt. Condoms remain your best defense against AIDS. Sensationalism designed to sell magazines can be hazardous to your health.

	Please send me a free introductory issue of GLSO News and information on GLSO.				
	I'd like to become a voting Member of GLSO, including home delivery of the GLSO News and discounts at GLSO functions. My Membership fee of \$10/year is enclosed.				
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### NAMES PROJECT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT BEREA COLLEGE

Cleve Jones, Director of the NAMES Project, is scheduled to speak at a Berea College convocation on September 28, 1989. He will speak on the history of the quilt, the people involved, and show some of the panels (via slides) telling something about the persons memorialized and those who made the panels. This program will be at 8:00 p.m. in Phelps-Stokes Auditorium and is open to the public.

### **AVOL RECEIVES NEW GRANT**

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has awarded \$5,000 to AVOL through its Human Services Incentive Program. The grant will partially support 1989 operation of Solomon House, a residence for PWAs who have been financially devastated by the expense of their illness.

Local government allocated \$50,000 for this Incentive Program, and imposed a \$5,000 maximum award per applicant agency. AVOL was one of only three organizations to receive the \$5,000 maximum. A total of 13 to 15 recipient agencies were selected from the 35 applicants who sought total funding exceeding \$175,000

### VICTORY IN NEW YORK YELLOW PAGES SUIT

The New York City Human Rights Commission has determined that NYNEX, publisher of the Yellow Pages for New York and New England, violated City law by refusing to create a Yellow Pages heading for Lesbian and Gay groups. Days later, NYNEX announced it would restructure its directories to include a subheading for Lesbian and Gay organizations.

### **ROCK HUDSON LIVES ON**

A Los Angeles jury awarded Marc Christian almost \$22 million in February. Christian sued both Rock Hudson's estate and manager for failing to reveal Hudson had AIDS. Christian was Hudson's live-in boyfriend and continued to have sex with the actor until the final stages of his illness.

Although he continues to test negative for HIV, Christian was awarded \$14.5 million from the estate as compensation for mental anguish, and \$7.25 million from the manager for punitive damages. An appeal is likely.

### LEXINGTON NEEDS GAY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, PANELISTS SAY by Kevin Nance

If gays and lesbians in Lexington want equal protection under the law, they're going

to have to organize.

That was the consensus of several panelists at a symposium called "A Town Meeting on Equality: Securing the Rights of Lesbians and Gays," held at Lexington's Unitarian Universalist Church on Feb. 19.

With proper leadership and strategy, gays could lobby for a local anti-discrimination ordinance, the panelists told about 100 people

who attended the symposium.

The panelists focused on discrimination issues and the need to repeal Kentucky's sodomy statute, which private sexual behavior between consenting adults a crime.

But given the absence of a local gay

political organization, they said, reaching those goals will be an uphill battle.

"The struggle for gay and lesbian rights is only as strong and vigorous as the gay and lesbian movement locally," said Sue Hyde, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Privacy Project. "Lexington's gay Force's Privacy Project. community is without a political voice," she said, " It must find one. Otherwise it will never be able to capitalize on the political support we know is there."

Keith Elston, a local gay activist and a former GLSO president, said several attempts to start a gay political organization in Lexington were stalled by fear and apathy.

"Things are pretty quiet right now," he "People have their careers, they've found their comfortable niche, and they don't want to risk losing it."

But many gay men and lesbians in Lexington are not so comfortable.

The UU Church's Dennis Stutsman, the panel's moderator, said the Lexington-Fayette Human Rights Commission receives five to 10 discrimination complaints from gays a month, most dealing with employment.

there's currently "Unfortunately, nothing that can be done for them - there's no equal protection under the law," Stutsman said. "Although many don't realize it, people can legally be fired from their jobs - and many are - simply because they're gay."

Carl Enoch, of the Greater Louisville
Human rights Coalition, said he was
"astonished" by the number of discrimination

complaints by Lexington gays. In Louisville, a larger city with a more publicized grievance procedure, the number of complaints is lower, he said.

For about three years, Enoch's group has lobbied for an amendment to Louisville's anti-discrimination ordinance that would include sexual orientation. He said he expects the city's Board of Aldermen to pass the measure quietly sometime after the May election.

"Our source on the Board has been counting noses," Enoch said, "and we've got

the votes."

Gays in Lexington plan to watch that situation closely, Elston said. If the law is passed in Louisville, Lexington may be encouraged to follow suit.

Gay political organizations in Lexington and Louisville could then join together in a statewide effort to repeal the sodomy statute,

Hyde said.

That will be difficult, said Lexington attorney Pam Goldman, who served as co-counsel on a successful challenge to the

statute in 1986.

"I'm pretty pessimistic," she said of the chances of a federal court challenge to the statute, noting the Supreme Court's decision three years ago to uphold the Georgia sodomy law. "Federal judges simply feel that the public sees homosexuality as immoral. Therefore, perfectly good legal arguments just don't work."

The Rev. David Blanchard, minister of the hosting UU Church, said those who condemn gay men and lesbians - often for theological reasons - lack both compassion and

historical understanding.

"The Bible, while a significant religious document, suffers from its historical and cultural placement in a society far removed from today's pluralistic reality," he said. "We shouldn't impose the morality of a culture of 2,000 years ago on people today."

The central issue, Hyde said, is not equality or civil rights, but freedom - "the freedom to be gays and lesbians, the freedom

to be who we are."

The problem is that the gay and lesbian movement "flies in the face of traditional American culture," she said, in which "father dominates, mother procreates and the kids vegetate in front of the TV."

### ACTIVISTS URGED TO MARK THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF HARDWICK DECISION from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

On June 30, 1986, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Bowers v. Hardwick that lesbians and gay men have no constitutional right to engage in private, adult, consensual sexual behavior. In a 5-4 vote the Supreme Court upheld the right of states to criminalize

lesbian and gay sexuality.

Currently 25 states and the District of Columbia retain laws that prohibit private, adult, consensual sexuality between members of the the same sex. Following the Hardwick decision, the U.S. lesbian and gay community reacted with outrage, demonstrating in dozens of cities to demand repeal of all sodomy laws. From that sense of outrage, an ongoing organizing project to support the repeal work of activists in states around the country was created by the National Gay & Lesbian Task

CRY OUT! Pittsburgh's lesbian/gay action group, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, are collaborating on a project to mobilize the U.S. gay and lesbian community to further the fight for appeal by promoting a NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY -- JUNE 30, 1989. Proposed activities include:

- \* press conferences in front of capitol buildings in "unfree states" -- Kentucky is one of the 25 "unfree" states;
- \* demonstrations and visibility actions;
- \* the wearing of black armbands in "free" and "unfree" states;
- \* a demonstration in front of the U.S. Supreme Court;
- \* discussions with potential sodomy repeal bill sponsors in "unfree" states;
- \* submitting op-ed pieces to local newspapers supporting sodomy law repeal.

The NGLTF Privacy Project and CRY OUT! will be distributing packets of organizing materials in Spring 1989 to gay and lesbian organizations and will document and maintain an archive of third anniversary activities around the country.

### FEDERAL GAY CIVIL RIGHTS BILL RE-INTRODUCED from Stonewall Union News

The Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989 (the Gay Civil Rights Bill) was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 25 by Congressmen Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-CA). 63 additional Representatives had co-sponsored the bill by January 25. H.R. 655 would amend existing federal civil rights statutes to include "affectional or sexual orientation" among the classes protected from discrimination in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, and government-assisted programs.

Senator Cranston (D-CA) re-introduced the bill in the U.S. Senate, where eight co-sponsors had signed on as of January 25.

### CHICAGO PASSES GAY RIGHTS BILL

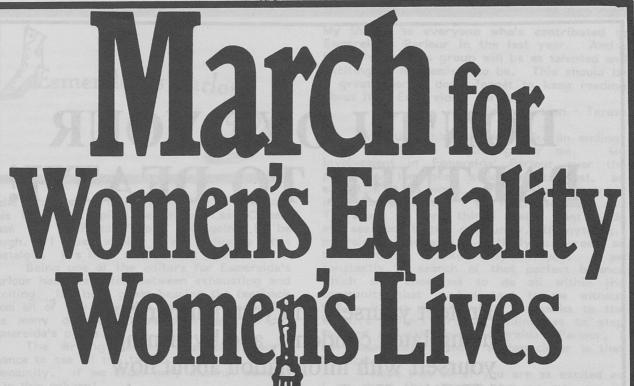
In the midst of a fiery mayoral campaign, the Chicago City Council voted 28-17 on December 21 to approve a gay rights ordinance. The Bill had been defeated for the previous 14 consecutive years.

The Bill adds sexual orientation to the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance which prohibits discriminations on the basis of race, religion, and ethnicity. The Bill provides penalties of \$100 to \$500 a day for violating the anti-discrimination provisions.

Although opponents of the bill claimed the bill would foster the spread of AIDS, Rick Garcia, co-chair of the Town Meeting, a network of lesbian and gay groups working for the ordinance in Chicago, said the issue actually hastened the bill's passage. He said many aldermen who were likely to delay the bill for another year were swayed by the argument that AIDS-related discrimination would make life more difficult for lesbians and gay men in Chicago.

An article in Gay Community News said that Chicago activists had feared they could not overcome the setback suffered when Mayor Harold Washington - a strong supporter of the bill and the community - died in December 1987. But before his death, activists said, he laid the groundwork for the eventual passage

of the bill.



KEEP ABORTION SAFE AND LEGAL

> PASS THE ERA

April 9, 1989 Washington, DC

Assemble: 10 a.m. on the Mall

March: 12 noon Step Off

Rally: 1:30 Capitol West Side

Participants are urged to wear white. Coordinated by the National Organization for Women

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

BLUEGRASS CHAPTER, NOW

(606) 233-4393

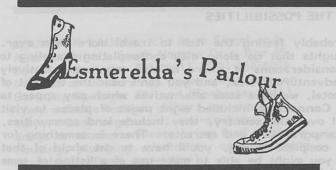
# DON'T LOVE YOUR PARTNER TO DEATH!

Protect yourself and your partner by using latex condoms, and by arming yourself with information about how AIDS is affecting the gay community.

For More Information About AIDS, call:

1-800-654-AIDS

Kentucky AIDS Education Program
Cabinet for Human Resources
Department of Health Services



Hello Readers: I'm going to try to not have this be your typical nostalgic "Last Column from the Co-Editor," but it's going to be tough. I must admit, I am feeling a little nostalgia. It's been a heck of a year.

Being one of the editors for Esmerelda's Parlour has alternated between exhausting and exciting. It's been great hearing the feedback from all of you over the past year regarding the many different items that have graced Esmerelda's pages.

The Writing Contest has given me a chance to see all the talent that exists in this community. If we could only channel more of it to this column!

But most of all, writing these letters with Debbie has given me the chance to share my thoughts and concerns with a very warm and receptive audience. Being the type of person who finds it much easier being a 'reporter' rather than an editorial writer, these letters intimidated me at first. However, after some gentle nudges from Debbie, I discovered it really wasn't so hard. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed it more and more each time I wrote the letter. So, naturally, I'm feeling a bit sentimental this month.

I am looking forward though to working with the Womyn Writer's Group. They're an exciting group of womyn with a lot of ideas.

I do hope that some of you womyn out there become more active with this column. I feel that the more people who become involved will make Esmerelda's Parlour more diverse and exciting than she already is. It certainly has helped me tremendously - not only talent and experience-wise, but by making me more aware of and active in our community, and I've realized just how important that is for me. I like the feeling that I'm a part of something that other people find enjoyment in. It's a great feeling. You should try it sometime! Not just for what it'll give the rest of us, but for what it'll give you.

for what it'll give you.

O.K., O.K. I'll get off my soap box

now. I couldn't resist one last little sermon.

My thanks to everyone who's contributed to Esmerelda's Parlour in the last year. And I hope the writer's group will be as talented and exciting as it promises to be. This should be a great year - don't forget to keep reading about it in Esmerelda's Parlour.

See you soon - Teresa

Although this may seem like an ending, it is actually a beginning for me. My involvement in Esmerelda' Parlour over the past year has been a joy at its best, an education at its worst. While I wouldn't trade it in for anything, I am ready to move on. There are so many things that I want to do and see done in this community. If anything, my role in Esmerelda is as likely to increase as to diminish. Like many of you, I am constantly in search of that perfect balance which will allow me to do all within the community that is important to me without totally losing myself in it. Thanks to the Womyn's Writers Group's willingness to step forward and take over Esmerelda's Parlour, I have been able to move a step closer to that balance.

I hope that all of you are as excited as I am about the changes that we may see in Esmerelda's Parlour. There are so many directions that it could take, and, for once, I am not in a position to know what direction that will be. I am grateful to the Womyn's Writers Group for carrying on, and I look forward with great anticipation to the months to come. Goodbye, and best wishes --

Debbie

# CLINIC ESCORTING from the Bluegrass Chapter of NOW

The Physicians Mall on Harrodsburg Road has been the target of Saturday anti-abortion picketers for several weeks. Sign carriers stand on Harrodsburg Road while a group stays in the parking lot harassing clients that are going into the clinic. Jan Harmon, Director of Planned Parenthood, has organized escorts who help patients safely reach the clinic office from their cars. The volunteer escorting requires only a few hours of work early on Saturday afternoons. Please contact Jan if you can help out, or would like to participate in pro-choice activities, by calling 252-0448.

The decision to have an abortion is difficult enough without being harassed on the way to the clinic. The patients are very appreciative of the support, and this service helps clinic staff keep track of what is going on in the parking lot.

### CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITIES

Now that spring is upon us, you're probably feeling the itch to travel more than ever. And in comparison with all the delightful thoughts that go along with contemplating traveling to new and exciting places, the more practical considerations of where to stay may seem relatively mundane. However, if you're a little on the adventurous side, and you can't bear the thought of spending one more night in a run-of-the-mill motel, we have some alternatives which may appeal to you. The July/August 1988 issue of Lesbian Connection included eight pages of places to visit and or stay during your travels. Located all over the country, they include land communities, guesthouses, B & B's (bed and breakfasts), campgrounds, and retreats. There is something for just about everybody. In order to see the complete listing, you'll have to get ahold of that particular issue of LC. However, we thought you might be able to make use of a listing of some of the places to go that are within a day's drive of Lexington. All are womyn and/or lesbian oriented and sound like wonderful places to visit. Space dictates that we only provide the sketchiest of details, so if you find something that interests you, be sure and write or call first. Some of these places are booked up months in advance (one is already booked up into 1990!), so it won't do much good to drop in unannounced. Happy travels!!

RIVER SPIRIT RETREAT B&B RESERVATIONS SERVICE, 187 W 19th St., Alton, IL 62002 (618) 462-4051.

HONEY'S SMOKY MT. WOMEN'S GUESTHOUSE, P.O. Box 1367, Franklin, NC 28734 (704) 369-5162 (one hour from Asheville, NC; two hours from Atlanta). Bed and breakfast on a mountaintop. Spend a weekend or a vacation on eight acres of privacy. Enjoy the view overlooking seven mountain ranges. Nearby gem mining, hiking trails, horseback riding, white water rafting.

VANGUARD ENTERPRISES, P.O. Box 1082, Franklin, NC 28734 (704) 524-4553. A private home nestled in a rural setting, close to a beautiful, trout stocked stream, and ruby gem mines. Accommodations include private room and bath, full kitchen privileges, shared common areas. Warm, relaxed, friendly atmosphere where everyone is free to be themselves. Rates: \$35 per night. Also, private, women-owned vacation cottages and homes in this area are available, with rates ranging from \$200-\$300 per week.

DEGREES OF FREEDOM, 10055 Kline Rd, RD #2, W. Salem, OH 44287 (just off 1-71, 50 miles south of Cleveland, 90 miles north of Columbus). Two guest rooms with baths, 2 platform tents, a cabin that sleeps four, picnic shelter with fireplace, gardens, a pond for swimming, fishing, boating, skating, etc.

Near Amish country. You can cook out, go to town to eat (1 mile), cook in, or take potluck with the household. Donations appreciated for overnight stays (guest room \$11, cabin \$7, platform tent \$4, camping \$2/person). Work exchange available.

LABRYS WILDERNESS RESORT, Rt. 1, Box 257, Honor, MI 49640 (616) 882-5994. Labrys is a small resort with 3 housekeeping cabins on a small secluded lake one mile from Lake Michigan. Swimming, hiking, canoeing, skiing, bird watching and beachcombing.

BEAR'S CABIN, c/o Ruth Bone, 70 St. Dunstans Circle, Asheville, NC 28803 (704) 254-0024 (after 5:30 pm). Cozy and magical cabin in Pisgah National Forest. Exquisite. Private. Safe. Totally and tastefully furnished with antiques, women's artwork, women's books, waterbed, fireplace. Year round. \$45/day. Asheville is a resort area with a large lesbian population.

SWIFTWATERS CAMPGROUND FOR WOMEN, Box 2068, Dahlonga, GA 30533 (404) 684-3229. Swiftwaters is a quiet place to camp on the headwaters of the Etowah River, deep in the woods. Plenty of tables, fire rings, and primitive river front campsites. Dogs welcome (if friendly). Outhouse, camping space.

SILVER CIRCLE SANCTUARY, Rte 5, Box 100 Holly Springs, MS 38635. Located in northern Mississippi, it is a beautiful part of the Mother being reclaimed from the patriarchy. Visitors are welcome. They are organic, nonsmoking, sober, nonchemical, over forty. 40 acres. Housing, limited plumbing and electricity, camping space available. (Land community).

CRICKET SONG FARM, 8677 Boyer Road, Bradford, OH 45308 (513) 448-2414 (call before 9 am). 20 acres with dairy goats, chickens, and large garden. Primitive camping available. (Land community).

MOUNTAIN LAUREL, c/o Ruth Siegel and Andrea Weiner, South Morgan Dr., Box 65, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (304) 258-5079 (located on 20 acres in Unger, WV, between Berkeley Springs, WV and Winchester, VA). They welcome lesbian visitors for short stays. Semi-vegetarian; non-smoking; no drugs or alcohol. Please bring food to share. Housing, plumbing, electricity, camping space available. (Land community).

BOLD MOON FARM, 5780 Plowfield Rd., McLeansville, NC 27301 (919) 375-3764. The land is beautiful, mostly wooded, secluded, yet just 12 miles from town. 21.14 acres. Lesbians are welcome to help help with the chores and share the land. Housing, plumbing, electricity, camping space available. (Land community).

### NOW IS THE TIME TO WRITE TO CONGRESS

Reports have come stating the anti-abortion forces are, and have been, flooding the U.S. Supreme Court with mail demanding the overturn of Roe v. Wade. Not surprising, reports are that Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is the main target of the mail campaign from the organized Right. Frankly, this is indirect confirmation of what many have always believed: If there is a "swing" vote on the High Court on the issue of Roe v. Wade, it is O'Connor and not Justice Anthony Kennedy, the newest member of the Court and successor to the former "swing" vote, retired Justice Powell.

Anyone interested in supporting free abortion rights should write immediately to: Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court, One 1st Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20543.

### OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS IN LEXINGTON

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) is a self-help group based on the 12-Step Program used by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Adult Children of Alcoholics groups.

A yes answer to the following questions could indicate a potential problem with compulsive overeating:

1. Do you eat when you're not hungry?

2. Do you have feelings of guilt or remorse after overeating?

3. Do you eat sensibly before others and make up for it alone?

4. Do you eat to escape from worries or trouble?

5. Do you go on eating binges for no apparent reason?

Controlling compulsive eating can be particularly difficult, since unlike alcohol, food must be eaten daily. Several times a day we must make sensible, healthy decisions about what and how much we will eat. OA, through meetings, phone calls, literature and group support, helps us control our binges and make

wise food choices. By examining why we eat and our feelings of why we want to binge, we begin to address the issues which led us into Compulsive Overeating.

OA in Lexington has several weekly meetings. The OA Discussion Meeting on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at the Chemical Dependency Unit of St. Joseph Office Park focuses on lesbian issues. I have attended OA meetings for 2 years yet wanted a meeting with a lesbian focus. Sometimes in a meeting with up to 30 people - mostly straight - I hesitated to talk about feelings related to being a lesbian. Although anyone can attend the Sunday OA meeting, with an announced lesbian focus, those attending are open to lesbian lifestyles and sexuality.

If you are concerned with your eating behaviors you are welcome at OA. Bingers, purgers, and fasters attend OA. The only requirement is a desire to change compulsive eating behaviors. For more information on OA or the lesbian focus meeting call Esmerelda at 252-7837.

### ANNUAL U.K. WRITERS CONFERENCE

The University of Kentucky Women Writers Conference will be April 5-8. Published authors will read from their works, discuss the creative process and conduct workshops with aspiring authors. For more information or registration contact: Betty Gabehart, 106 Frazee Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40606 or call (606) 257-3295.

### MARCH FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY/ WOMEN'S LIVES

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is planning a March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives on Sunday, April 9, in Washington, DC. With the new challenges to Roe v. Wade it is imperative that this be the largest march for women's rights ever.
Bluegrass NOW members will be joining
Jefferson NOW and other Kentucky NOW
members to go to Washington. The March will start at 10 am and conclude by 5 pm, April 9. Current plans include buses leaving Louisville, stopping in Lexington, and continuing to pick up participants along the route to Washington. Buses will probably leave Louisville at 6 pm Saturday, April 8 and return by early Monday morning, April 10. There are no plans for overnight lodging for bus travelers, which will keep expenses within reasonable limits, about \$55 per person. Jefferson NOW has arranged for three buses and already has about 30 people signed up. Let's make the Bluegrass NOW delegation the largest in the state! If you know someone who is not a NOW member but would like to come, please call 233-4393. Also, don't let a lack of money stop you - the Bluegrass Chapter of NOW will pay expenses for those who cannot go otherwise.

# **ASK AUNT MARY**

Dear Aunt Mary,

I've seen news reports on a new Kinsey study which say gays and lesbians are only 3% of the population. Is it true?

Disbeliever

Dear Disbeliever,

What a shocking thought! As soon as I opened your letter I ran to the phone to consult with my dear friend, Ann Landers. Ann had seen something like that too, so she called Jerry Falwell for advice. She says he's an expert on those kinds of things.

Well, Rev. Falwell claims the press got the numbers reversed. The 3% is the number of his followers. Everyone else is suspect to some kind of sexual immorality, especially the "g" and "I" type. He mentioned Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggert to prove his point. I'm glad we could lay that vicious rumor to rest.

Aunt Mary

# AIDS UPDATE

### THE AIDS QUARTERLY ON PBS

Medical miracles have been commonplace in 20th-century science. AIDS has changed all that. Nine years into the pandemic, still

no cures or vaccines are in sight.

The media have been inconsistent at best in dealing with the crisis, and at times have been irresponsible; alternating between apathy and alarm. In an effort to remedy the lack of detailed, current, and accurate information, WGBH Boston inaugurated The AIDS Quarterly, a nationally broadcast continuing series for public television. Premiered February 28 at 9:00 p.m. on PBS, The AIDS Quarterly's magazine format will feature documentary segments, news updates, interviews, commentary and analysis. Single-subject documentary hours will also be produced and broadcast as Special Editions.

### NAMES PROJECT QUILT TO BE DISPLAYED

The NAMES Project Quilt, the international memorial to those killed by AIDS, will begin its second tour of the United States this spring. The five month, 19 city tour, begins in Salt Lake City on March 17th, and travels to Ohio, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New York, and Maine. In June, the Quilt begins its first tour through Canada.

In the fifteen months since the October 1987 March on Washington, over 45,000 persons in the U.S. have been lost to AIDS. The NAMES Project quilt is now over five times larger, memorializing over 10,000 people. The quilt illustrates the impact of the AIDS crisis by revealing the names and lives behind the statistics. It is a poignant visual symbol of the epidemic that continues to take its toll on our immediate and global communities.

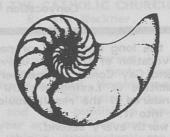
During late March and early April the Quilt will be in Cincinnati and Columbus. On March 24-26, the Quilt will be on display at the Cincinnati Convention Center, 525 Elm Street, Cincinnati. Public display of the quilt will be on March 24, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.; March 25, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and March 26, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For information, call (513) 681-5152 or (513) 421-AIDS.

The NAMES Project Quilt will be on

display at Ohio State University's Woody Hayes Athletic Center, 2490 Fyffe Road, Columbus, March 30 to April 2. For information, contact Lynette Molnar of the University Gallery at

(614) 292-0330.





# A JOURNALKEEPING WORKSHOP WITH KAY LEIGH HAGAN

Internal Affairs is a workshop that takes the many aspects of sharing we do with other people and explores how to share intimately with the self through journalkeeping. In doing so, we can create an internal relationship of acceptance, trust, nurture, healing, and magic. The journal provides a unique space or this sharing, a safe place for the mind and heart to communicate with each other. This workshop covers the expanded uses of journalkeeping: from emotional release and self-examination, to career planning, pattern detection, and spiritual enrichment.

•Removing Obstacles to Journalkeeping
•Developing Self-Intimacy
•Working with Internal Voices
•Accessing Memory and Intuition
•Discovering Personal Patterns in Completed Journals

Date: Sunday, March 12, 1989
Time: 9:30am-4:30pm
Location: Crazy Ladies Bookstore
4039 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45223
Fee: \$45-\$65 Sliding scale

Registration: To reserve a space, send a deposit of \$15 by March 3rd to Crazy Ladies Bookstore at the above address. Make checks payable to Kay Hagan. This workshop is for women only.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Crazy Ladies Bookstore at 541-4198

KAY LEIGH HAGAN is a writer, theorist, and consultant from Atlanta. She is the author of Internal Affairs: A Journalkeeping Workbook for Self-Intimacy (Escapadia Press, 1988), and has taught journalkeeping workshops in Atlanta and many cities across the country for the past 8 years. She travels widely to speak on issues related to feminism, intimacy, and journalkeeping.

### SPIRITUAL HEALING

Convocation '89 a true 'Ministry of Wholeness' by Kevin Nance

During the long months of preparing for the 1989 Convocation of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, members of the planning committee at Lexington's UU Church sometimes wondered if the result would justify the work put into it.

It was worth every second.

Convo '89 was exciting, exhausting, refreshing, renewing, and deeply moving - in short, a tremendous success. About 150 gay male and lesbian UUs from throughout the U.S. and Canada streamed into Lexington for a weekend of worship, workshops, meeting old and new friends, and sharing ideas, feelings,

hopes and dreams.

the convocation's theme of "A Still, Ministry of Wholeness" was well-deserved. As the Rev. Rose May Denman said in her emotional Friday night worship service, gay people spend so much time trying to justify and adapt themselves to others that they neglect their own needs for self-respect and self-acceptance. As we sang songs and, at one point, remembered aloud our friends and loved ones who have died and are dying, most of them from AIDS, I felt the process of healing begin. And for those of us who don't realize the full extent of our own spiritual wounds - our grief and fear and rage at this bafflingly hostile world we find ourselves in that healing was as surprising as it was welcome and necessary. I found myself wondering: How much pain, how much longing, how much self-loathing do we carry around inside ourselves without even consciously knowing it? That made me all the more grateful for the healing and sharing that took place during the weekend.

That was just the beginning. In quick succession, there were moments I knew

immediately I'd never forget.

On Friday night, the Rev. Tony ("Parson") Larson's "UU Revival" exhorted us to recognize "the light inside," and a naughty torch song ("Repent!") reminded us that, no matter how good we are, nobody's perfect. Amen!

On Saturday morning during one of my workshops, a man calmly produced a cache of pills when his wristwatch alarm went off. The pills turned out to be AZT. Later he told how his Unitarian Universalist congregation in Dallas has supported him in his struggle of living with AIDS. His calm and courage were inspiring. But, as he explained, he couldn't

have done it without the loving care of his religious community. (This made me think of a man in our own Lexington congregation who died of AIDS complications a year ago; thankfully, he died knowing that, although many of the fundamentalist "Christians" of this city would have welcomed his death as one less degenerate to contend with, there was a religious community here that would mourn him for the kind, funny, decent human being he was.)

On Saturday night, I was deeply gratified that two of Lexington's most prominent political figures accepted invitations to the banquet. It was a somewhat risky, and therefore courageous and generous, thing to do. Perhaps this was the beginning of an ongoing dialogue between Lexington's gay and lesbian community and the city government. And perhaps there will come a time when, having laid the groundwork of trust and respect, we will be able to call upon these leaders to bring their supportive convictions into the realm of public policy. In the meantime, thanks. You know who you are.

The banquet itself was another high

The banquet itself was another high point, with a rousing, beautifully written speech by Carol Straus, chairperson of the local UU Church board, followed by the keynote address by the Rev. Peter Webster. Peter's painfully honest, sometimes sobering, often hilarious talk, "When I knit, I knit," was just right. A concert (complete with square dancing) by the Reel World String Band was the perfect nightcap and provided a

bit of Kentucky culture to our guests.

On Sunday morning, the Rev. David Blanchard, our minister, gave one of his typically brilliant sermons - reminding us that, like all oppressed people, gay men and lesbians must tap hidden reserves of courage just to survive. During that service, singing Holly Near's "Singing for Our Lives" for the umpteenth time, the words of the song suddenly seemed more meaningful to me than ever. A lump clogged my throat, and I found myself blinking back tears. Later in the service, I was honored to be asked to read Cavafy's "The Barbarians Are Coming," which seemed mysteriously, ominously appropriate.

At the closing Sunday afternoon, we stood in a circle in the church's Great Hall and shared memories of Convo '89 - refreshed,

renewed, beginning to heal.



DIGNITY/LEXINGTON
P.O. Box 1984 • Lexington, KY 40593

269-6417

### FROM DIGNITY'S PRESIDENT

We turn six this month. I am impressed. If a gay and lesbian group associated with the Catholic Church for six years can survive here, even prosper,

anything is possible.

After six years, I'd like to thank those of the past and present who've made it possible, Here's to Mary, Philm Bill, Larry, Stebe, Joe, Bill, Elizabeth, Judy, Kris, Shirley, and Leslie - people from our past who got us going. Here's to Gerry, John, Bill, Don, Jim, Judy, Debbie, Jerrilyn, Robbie, Laura, Jeanette, Larry, Ben, Brian, Alix, Ann and Todd who keep us going now.

We've come a long way. I'm proud of a lot of things. I'm proud we hosted a great regional last December. I'm proud we've been active in past Pride Weeks. I'm proud of how we've changed to meet the needs of our people. I'm particularly proud of our outreach to women and our feminist spirit, but I guess I'm most proud of those names I mentioned above. Those are the reasons Dignity exists. They're what Dignity is about. They're people I'm proud to call my friends.

As we turn six, I realize we have a lot of people to be proud of. I thank each of them. I hope to see you at Dignity soon.

In Peace and Love, Keith

### 6th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, March 11th, we'll gather at Scores in Festival Market at 6 pm for dinner. (Scores is reasonably priced and hosted Sunday dinner for the UU Convocation). Afterwards, we'll go to Keith's for a video and good conversation. Call Keith at 269-8417 for more information and reservations.

### MARCH DIGNITY SCHEDULE

Sat. Mar. 11 6th Anniversary Celebration Mon. Mar. 13 Forum with GLSO

Tue. Mar. 14 Liturgy at Don's

Thu. Mar. 23 Rap Session at Keith's

# DO ANCIENT GAY UNION RITES EXIST IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

By Rex Wockner, for Bay Windows

Yale University historian John Boswell, best known for his 1980 book Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality, has discovered ancient Christian rites for 'gay marriages' and will publish a book on the matter "a year or more from now." The rites - Boswell thinks inadvertently - are still authorized for use in the Roman Catholic Church.

Speaking at the University of Chicago, Boswell said he stumbled upon the rites after a 'tip' from a Melkite rite monk [Melkites are Arabic-speaking Christians in union with Rome] who became suspicious when a Jesuit with whom he was studying refused to translate six pages of Greek in an old

liturgical manual.

Boswell spent three summers in Europe researching the gay marriage rites and almost gave up before discovering documentation that made it clear in his mind that the rites definitely anticipated an erotic dimension to the couple's relationship. He still thinks the Roman Catholic Church may try to assert that the rites - which date back to the fourth century - only relate to very special, but

celibate, same-sex relationships.

"I'm sure these couplings were erotic," Boswell told an overflow crowd in Chicago. "The language is heavily erotic [in the original Greek]... There are also a lot of independent references to the ceremony and the kind of relationship it creates, from Medieval times on up into the 1940s where anthropologists or people from other cultures went and saw this ceremony being performed and asked locals 'What is this?' and the locals said, 'It's the marriage of two men. It's just like the marriage between a man and a woman. It wouldn't be right for them to have sex unless they were married. Once they're married in the church, it's alright.'

Boswell says anthropologists have observed the gay marriage rites in this century in Albania and in rural areas of Greek

and Slavic speaking Countries.

It's Boswell's hope that this discovery, when published, will provide a starting point for further research by other scholars. He also anticipates that his findings will benefit the modern gay rights movement. "To find out that gay people were involved for thousands of years in this kind of solemn union will help to create a bridge [with the heterosexual population]."

# **GAY AMERICA**

#### MICHIGAN

Two days before the end of the legislative session the state senate deleted a provision in a hate-crimes bill that would have increased penalties for crimes based on sexual orientation. The measure - excluding protection for gay men and lesbians - was then accepted by the state House of Representatives and signed by the governor.

Federal officials ended a grant that had funded a confidential lesbian and gay male hot line in East Lansing for five years, on grounds that the phone line could not prove most of the people it was serving had low or moderate incomes, as was required by terms of the grant. The East Lansing City Council is expected to approve a request for city funding, but observers said they remained troubled by allegations that the federal funding was cut due to antigay prejudice.

### SAN FRANCISCO, CA

A federal appeals court ruled there is evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) routinely refuses to issue security clearances to gay men and lesbians, in violation of the law.

The court rules 3-0 to allow a claim filed by Julie Dubbs, a Santa Clara, CA, technical illustrator for a defense contractor, to go to trial in district court. Dubbs charged that the CIA refused to upgrade her security clearance because she is a lesbian, thus blocking her career advancement.

### NEW YORK CITY, NY

Only a few months before the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the New York City police department agreed under court order to turn over files sought by a man who is writing a book about the 1969 gay riots. The development could shed new light on the riots, which some historians believe sparked the gay rights movement of the 1970s.

A record number of 609 violent attacks against lesbians and gay men were reported in New York City during 1988, an increase of 18% over the prior year.

### DALLAS, TX

State district Judge Tom Thorpe sentenced three men who plead guilty to clubbing and beating two gay men in the Oak Lawn section of Dallas. The men were given sentences ranging from three to five years in prison and were ordered to pay \$17,100 in restitution for medical bills and lost wages.

### CHAMPAIGN, IL

The University of Illinois Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association is looking for alumni/ae from both the Champaign-Urbana and Chicago campuses. The group offers social and professional networking, as well as information and support to current Lesbian and Gay students. Contact Larry Cohen at U of I GALA, Box 53336, Washington, DC 20009 or call (202) 328-6227.

### TAMPA, FL

A circuit judge invalidated a Tampa law that police have used in city parks to arrest men who they suspect are gay. Judge Walter Komanski declared that the ordinance, which prohibits anyone from walking through city parks except on approved sidewalks and pathways, is unconstitutional.

### CONNECTICUT

A statewide gay rights bill was introduced by state senator Margaret Morton, and gay activists said they were confident the bill will pass. In 1987, a similar bill almost passed, but was killed by a tie vote in the state house of representatives.

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

Helium filled mylar balloons for St. Patrick's Day and Easter, \$2 each, at Flowers by Don. 200 Southland Dr., 278-0555. Order now!

GAY MALE seeking roommate 18-25 years old. Call 255 -0664 between midnight and 11 am.

Any women interested in playing Class B softball, call Candy at 276-1706.

# INTO THE FUTURE

Due to space limitations, events listed here are only a small portion of gay and lesbian oriented cultural, political and social activities taking place around the country.

March 3-5, 1989. Presbyterians for					
Lesbian/Gay Concerns, Eastern Regional					
Conference. New York City, NY.					
March 17-19 1989 Dignity Regional House of					

March 17-19, 1989. Dignity Regional House of Delegates. Cincinnati, OH.

March 24-26, 1989. American Gay Atheists Conference. San Diego, CA.

March 24-26, 1989. NAMES Project Quilt Display at Cincinnati Convention Center. Cincinnati, OH.

Cincinnati, OH.
April 7-9, 1989. Lesbian and Gay Bands of
America, 14th National Conference. Fort
Lauderdale, FL.

April 9, 1989. March for Women's Equality Women's Lives. Washington, DC.

April 13-16, 1989. 14th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. Dallas, TX.

May, 1989. Date pending. Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. San Francisco, CA.

May, 1989. Date pending. Campfest Women's Music Festival. New Jersey.

May 25-29, 1989. Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival. Athens, Ga.

May 25-29, 1989. International Gay Bowling Organization, National Tournament. Cincinnati, OH. May 26-29, 1989. Wiminfest '89.

May 26-29, 1989. Wiminfest '89. Albuquerque, NM.

May 26-29, 1989. National Women's Music Festival. Bloomington, IN.

May 26-29, 1989. Gay and Lesbian Parent's Coalition International 10th Conference. Boston, MA.

June, 1989. 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots!

June 30, 1989. National Day of Mourning for the Right to Privacy. Third Anniversary of the Hardwick v. Bowers Decision.

July 4, 1989. Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival. Seattle, WA.

August 4-11, 1990. Celebration '90, Gay Games
III and Cultural Festival. Vancouver,
Canada.

September 2-4, 1989. Dignity Convention. San Francisco, CA.

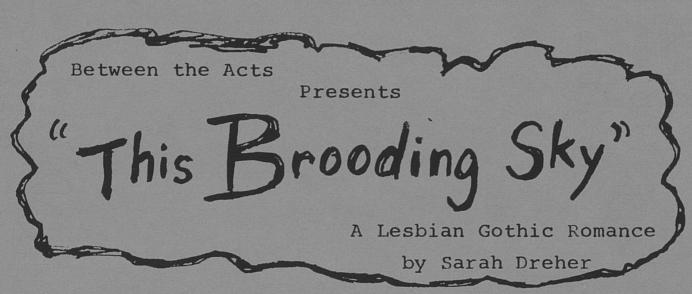
November 11-13, 1989. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference. Washington, DC.

### DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline	231-0335				
GLSO Board call Steve,	266-8887				
GLSO Newsletter					
call Craig/Steve	266-8887				
GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance call Esmerelda,	255 2054				
GLSO Cards & Games	255-3851				
call Karen,	259-3292				
GLSO Rainbow Bowling League	233 3232				
call Keith,	269-8417				
or, Chuck,	268-8514				
Lesbian Potluck					
call Esmerelda,	252-7837				
Lesbian Passion Discussion Group					
call Esmerelda, Women's Writers Collective,	255-3851				
Women's Writers Collective,	272-3776				
Gay/Lesbian AA	271 4220				
Overeaters Anonymous	271-4320				
call Esmerelda,	252-7837				
Dignity/Lexington	232 7037				
Dignity/Lexington call Keith,	269-8417				
Liturgy call Don,	299-4458				
(Lexington's chapter of the national					
Catholic gay and lesbian support					
organization. See the Dignity page included in this newsletter.)					
Included in this newsletter.) Interweave call Craig,	255 0007				
(A group within Lexington's Unitarian	266-8887				
Universalist Church composed of gay men					
and lesbians and their non-gay friends	5.)				
AVOL	54-AVOL				
(AIDS support and education)					
ACT-Lexington	281-5151				
(AIDS education and speakers)					
HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group					
call Edwin,	233-0444				
Lexington-Fayette County Health Department					
AIDS Testing	252-2371				
(For anonymous AIDS counseling and	232-2311				
testing, call the above number and					
ask for an AIDS Counselor.)					
Madison County Health Department					
AIDS Testing	623-7312				
thor anonymous AIDS counseling and					
testing, call the above number and					
ask for an AIDS Counselor.) Louisville Crisis					
	627_1:21:2				
Hotline (502) National Gay and Lesbian Task Force	037-4342				
Crisis Line and AIDS Crisis					
Line (800)	221-7044				
(000)					

# MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

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abil (t. bit. il dutaliani)	MARCH  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	WED	15	Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Interweave, Topic: After ConvoNow What?, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church
Contact	names and numbers for all events	THU	16	HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120
listed c previous located	an be found in the Directory on the spage. The Comp Care Center is at 201 Mechanic Street, Lexington.	FRI	17	Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance, 9 pm, Unitarian
WED 1	GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm	SAT	18	Universalist Church Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120; "This Brooding Sky"play by
THU 2 FRI 3	Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm	SUN	19	Between the Acts Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St.
SAT 4 SUN 5	Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp	TUE	21	Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120 Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm,
VIISE HOL	Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120	• WED	22	Joyland Lanes Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
TUE 7 WED 8	Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance Committee, 8 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm	ТНИ	23	HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; GLSO News Layout, 7:30 pm; Lesbian Passion Discussion Group, 7:30 pm; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120
THU 9	HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph	FRI	24	Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
FRI 10	Office Park, Rm. 120 Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO News Deadline for Submissions	SAT	25	Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 GLSO Phoneline Meeing, 1 pm, Comp Care Center; Gay/Lesbian
SAT 11	- 1: 1:			AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120
SUN 12	Lesbian Potluck, 2 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm,	TUE		Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes
	Comp Care Center; AVOL, 5:30 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian OA, 5:30 pm, St.	WED	29	Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
MON 13		THU	30	HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
TUE 14	Center Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes	FRI	31	Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm



Saturday, March 18: 8 p.m.

St Augustine's Episcopal Church, 472 Rose Street \$5, \$6, \$7 - sliding scale

Party following performance;

Refreshments available

Loose Item