



# GLSO NEWS

Vol. 10      December 1997      No. 12

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

## MUSEUM OF CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

There is a group of citizen volunteers from diverse backgrounds that is working to create an "educational and interactive museum dedicated to understanding human diversity and the effects of intolerance and bigotry." A member of this group has expressed interest in having a representative from the gay community on their board.

The goals for this museum are to foster understanding and appreciation for diverse people and diverse communities; and to increase awareness of how intolerance and bigotry hurt us all. Ideas for programming include fixed exhibits, traveling exhibits, performances, speakers, dialogues and conversations. One of their ideas is to collect oral histories from central Kentucky elders.

In her visit to Lexington several years ago, Urvashi Vaid encouraged lesbigaytrans individuals to become increasingly involved in progressive community groups. This seems like an excellent opportunity to build bridges and have our voice heard. Wouldn't it be great to have an exhibit on the life of Sweet Evening Breeze? To have the history of our civil rights movement recorded?

In their introductory brochure, the group mentions racial and religious diversity. It appears that they are seeking to increase the range diversity they represent and hopefully several members of our community will be interested. Call Mary Crone for more information (266-5904)

## SISTER SOUND ONE WORD

SisterSound, Lexington Women's Chorus, will present *One Word*, their holiday concert, on Saturday, December 6th at 8 pm at the Singletary Center Recital Hall, at the University of Kentucky. This will be their first concert presented on a stage and is sure to be an exciting event.

The music will include some Broadway tunes and folk songs, along with traditional seasonal pieces. SisterSound will be conducted by Nancy Ward and Jan Martin will be the accompanist. For an extra treat, come early and listen to Nancy and Jan play piano duets.

There are now about thirty chorus members and they have been working hard to put on an ambitious concert. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, \$8 for seniors and students. Tickets are available through the Singletary Center box office (257-4929) and from chorus members.

Come and join us, there is nothing like music to lighten your day and to usher in the holiday season.

### GLSO ONLINE

Peter: [pjtayl00@ukcc.uky.edu](mailto:pjtayl00@ukcc.uky.edu)

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## LEXINGTON MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Lexington Men's Chorus, now enjoying its eighth season, presents a holiday concert at the Recital Hall of the University of Kentucky Singletary Center for the Arts. The performances are scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 13th at 8 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 14th at 3 p.m.

The men of the chorus will sing holiday songs from various cultures, including Russian anthems, spirituals and Hanukkah songs. This will be followed by a selection of light-hearted seasonal arrangements including a Hanukkah song by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, and "Estaciones" a Southwestern rendering of the famous text from Ecclesiastes with flute and marimba accompaniment.

The quartet, Fourte, will be performing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town;" and Brian Throckmorton, LMC's *continued on page 4, community news*

Sponsor of the  
Month

Lexington  
Men's Chorus



## The GLSO News

Vol. 10 Issue 12

Published Monthly by the  
Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services  
Organization  
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Lexington, KY 40508

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

Views or opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board of Directors.

Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must indicate full name and address of the author. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and ads to meet publishing requirements, as well as the right to reject any submissions.

## OUT ON VIDEO

by Davina Warner

Now that the holiday season is here, many of us must decide what to give everyone on our gift list. If you're trying to find something for the queers in your life, a lot of lesbian-themed videos are available at affordable prices (suggested retail price of \$19.99 or less).

**Stonewall** -- Who can resist this look at queer history through the eyes of a midwestern farm boy and the drag queen he falls in love with? You'll find your toes tapping to the soundtrack of outstanding sixties songs.

**Bound** -- This story about two lesbians (Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon) who take on the mob, is perfect for tough gals. The violence is a little too much for some, but the ending is a nice change of pace. And, the steamy love scenes ain't bad either.

**The Celluloid Closet** -- Movie buffs will love this outstanding documentary which explores the depiction of gays and lesbians in film.

**The Sum of Us** -- This Australian film about the relationship between a gay man and his father is one of the most gay-affirming I've ever seen. A great gift for those who believe a supportive family is a fairy tale.

**Antonia's Line** -- Feminists will enjoy this foreign film about three generations of women from one family who live their lives the way they want.

**Man of the Year** -- This comedy about a gay Playgirl centerfold who tries to maintain his relationship with his boyfriend while becoming a women's sex-symbol, is an excellent choice for your closeted friends.

**Hercules and the Amazon Women** -- Fans of the syndicated television series *Xena: Warrior Princess* will appreciate this early Hercules film starring Kevin Sorbo. Lucy Lawless, the warrior princess herself, is featured as an Amazon.

**Priscilla Queen of the Desert, To Wong Foo, and The Birdcage** -- These

comedies, although they often resort to unflattering stereotypes, are still a lot of fun for those campy people in your life.

**Desert Hearts** -- For your girlfriend or that hopeless romantic, this classic lesbian love story is always a perfect choice.

Most of these videos can be ordered from your local video store or Wolfe Video (Contact them at 800-438-9653 or online at [www.wolfevideo.com](http://www.wolfevideo.com)).

So, now that your holiday shopping is done, why don't you visit your local video store and check out these movies for yourself.

## MORE SHOPPING TIPS

Looking for a little something for a friend or loved one? A subscription to the *GLSO News* might be just the thing. We are offering a good deal when you order two or more. Renew your own subscription for a full year at half price when you sign up a new subscriber. (We considering giving away toasters but...). See the flyer in the middle of this newsletter for complete information.

Another possibility, **gay positive t-shirts!** GLSO has a number of t-shirts for sale, some obvious, some subtle. We have reordered two favorites from the Pride Picnic: the rainbow tie-dyed shirt, with bold stripes of horizontal color; and the green shirt with the quotation from Rev. Pat Robertson ("Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.")

There are also shirts with rainbow coffee cups saying "Wake up and smell equality" on the back. There are a few embroidered with the word "Pride" or "Love". Other patterns include cowgirls, three dollar bills, and animals. We also have a few copies of *Guests*, a children's book with a transgendered girl character who does not want to grow up to be a woman. If you are interested in any of these, call Mary Crone and she can tell you sizes and prices (266-5904)

# ♂ COMMUNITY NEWS

## **MEN'S CHORUS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

composer in residence, has arranged a mambo version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The chorus is in its second season under the direction of Loren Tice. Tedrin Blair Lindsay, our accompanist, will play a solo piano arrangement of "Joy to the World."

LMC is a volunteer community chorus, organized to provide an opportunity for gay and gay-supportive men to sing together. It's primary purpose is musical excellence in performance. It also seeks to provide fellowship and a sense of pride and unity within the gay and lesbian community.

Tickets for "*Season's Greetings*" are available at a cost of \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors or students with ID, and \$5 for children under 10 years of age. They are available from chorus members or the Singletary Center Box Office (606 257-4929).

Season tickets are also available at an overall savings of 10 to 15%. Call (606)266-9175 for more information. The 1997-1998 season will also include an On-Broadway Concert and the Annual Pride Concert, both of which will also be held at the Singletary Center. ☪

## **NETWORKING MEETING**

A small crowd gathered at the Pride Center on Nov. 11th for the ongoing bi-monthly community gatherings and potluck sponsored by GLSO. Although advertising appeared in GLSO News and all known organizations were alerted directly, attendance dropped by 50% from the previous month.

I welcome and encourage community members to contact me and share your ideas about publicity and the development

of these meetings. One suggestion is that we meet more regularly, every month on a specific day. Perhaps in January as we begin planning for Pride Month, a joint potluck followed by meetings in different rooms of the Pride Center would be possible.

We continue to encourage attendance by group representatives and by individuals who would like to learn more about what is going on in Lexington and how they can become a part of our LBGT activities. Whether or not we have a large number of people, we always have good food and interesting conversation.

I am looking for a community organization or business to sponsor/provide the entree for our next potluck scheduled for January 20th, 1998. Our previous providers have been Bourbon Street Restaurant (twice) and the GLSO Board. Contact Mike Taylor at 225-1828.



## **P-FLAG**

Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is again scheduling regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet at the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church at the corner of Tates Creek and Armstrong Mill. Contact Perry (502-226-5478) for more information.

## **Interweave**

Interweave will attend the World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Service Monday, December 1st at 5:30 p.m. in Triangle Park. After this service, we will walk to Vertigo for "Miss Daisy's Toys for Kiddies Party" sponsored by E-Male. Please remember to bring a new toy for admission. We have purchased one toy, a purple rocking dinosaur, to be from Interweave.

The next Interweave luncheon will be Sunday, Dec. 7th immediately following the

church service (approximately 12:30 pm) in the Fellowship House. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Join us for good food and fellowship.

Interweave programs are always open to the larger community. Please call Davina at 271-6174 for more information. ☪

## **MCC CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

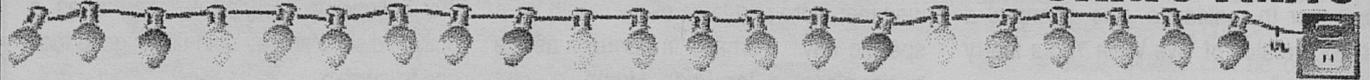
The Metropolitan Community Church is planning a special program of Christmas music, *God's Love Reaching*, for the Dec. 21st service (11:30 am). On that same Sunday, we will meet for caroling at the church at 5 pm. There will also be a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24th at 11:00 pm. All are welcome to any of these events. MCC is located at 387 Waller Ave. Our voice mail phone number is 255-4016 ☪

## **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY**

The Women's Spirituality Group of the Unitarian Church is planning to start a curriculum of study "Rise Up and Call Her Name" in January. This curriculum is a survey of Goddess spirituality around the world. It includes the use of ritual, chants, readings, art projects, dialogue, storytelling, video, meditation and visualization. We will be making plans for this project at our Dec. meeting and will announce the starting date in the next newsletter. This group of straight and lesbian women is open to new members.

Our Dec. 5th meeting will start with potluck at 6:30 and program at 7:15. Besides discussing plans for the curriculum, we will watch a video on women's spirituality. On Dec. 19th we will meet at the home of Mary Crone for a potluck at 6:30 and a Winter Solstice ritual at 7:30. (For an interesting article on Winter Solstice, see page 5.) Call Mary for information and directions to her house. (266-5904) ☪

# TOP FIVE THINGS TO PICK BEFORE CHRISTMAS



**5. PICK A DATE.**

**4. PICK A PLACE.**

**3. PICK A TIME.**

**2. PICK UP A FRIEND.**

**1. PICK A CARD FOR**

## **THE 1997 CHRISTMAS CARD-BOARD.**

The Christmas Card-Board can be found at the following locations .....

Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day, at the Radisson Plaza in Lexington, during AVOL's World AIDS Day Conference from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Dec. 1 - Ebony Male's Fund-Raiser, "Miss Daisy's Toys For Kiddies" which will take place at VERTIGOS' 6:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.

Dec. 6 - Lexington's only Levi Leather Bar CROSSINGS 10:00p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Dec. 7 - Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church & The Pride Center of the Bluegrass 11:00 a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Dec.13- The Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of All Kentuckys' "Nightmare Before Christmas." at VERTIGOS' 9:00p.m. - 1:00a.m.

Dec. 20 -The BAR COMPLEX 10:00pm - 1:00a.m.

Dec. 21- Unitarian Universalist Church 10:45a.m. - 1:00p.m.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT AVOL & HEALTH DEPTS.' AIDS MEDICATION FUND.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD-BOARD WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE PRIDE CENTER OF THE BLUEGRASS, 387 WALLER AVE. FROM DEC. 21 - DEC. 28

Many Thanks to the following organizations who sponsored the Christmas Card-Board this year.  
EBONY MALE, G.L.S.O., LEXINGTON MEN'S CHORUS, LEXINGTON'S METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH and THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN IMPERIAL COURT OF ALL KY. 



# Solstice

BY MARY CRONE

Yes, Christmas is just around the corner, but then so is Chanukka, Solstice, and Kwanzaa. What are all these holidays and why are they all happening at once? Those of us with pagan "tendencies" believe that the many ancient celebrations at the time of solstice continue to express themselves in modern form within all of these holiday celebrations.

Scientifically, the Winter Solstice is one of two times each year when the earth reaches its greatest distance from the sun and begins its return. The longest night of the year, Dec 21st or so, passes and the days begin to grow longer once again. As you can imagine, ancient peoples throughout our world anticipated and celebrated this event with great joy. We have vestiges of their celebrations within our traditions today.

One of the most common sacred myths at Winter Solstice is the birth or rebirth of the sacred sun child by the Virgin Mother Goddess. Mother Earth gives birth to Dionysus; Demeter gives birth to her sacred daughter, Persephone. In Egypt, Isis is rebirthing Horus. Rhiannon brings forth her sacred son Pryderi, and Mary gives birth to Jesus. The Queen of Heaven in all her incarnations, within many cultures and over the span of human history, returns the light of the world to Her peoples. Bonfires are built, candles are lit, songs are sung and homes are decorated

Modern day pagans will celebrate the solstice in many different ways. Honoring the stories of rebirth, some of us will invoke a Goddess who has meaning for us and ask Her assistance in our personal rebirth. We will meditate on new possibilities for ourselves, consider the gifts that we have not yet expressed within our lives. We will dream the dream forward and make plans for the new year, as the Wheel of Life turns again.

We may decorate with holly and ivy, the plant that represents the British Cone

Goddess Holle, who's sacred blood is said to be within the holly berry. This is the blood shed in giving birth, the blood of life that is honored in the color red used at this solstice season.

We may also decorate evergreen trees, another tradition that is found in many cultures. Worship within sacred groves of trees or of particular trees is testified to by hundreds of stories, myths, and customs. At solstice the Druids tied apples to the branches of oaks and firs to thank the god Odin for blessing them with fruitfulness. Lighted candles, honoring the sun god Balder, were placed in the boughs.

In China, sacred trees were decorated with red banners with words of praise printed in black ink. The Mayans adorned the cypress with teeth and locks of hair. In Finland, the Lapps collected samples of all the food at their solstice feast and filled tiny birch bark boats that were hung from pine trees.

There are references to a "Tree of Life" in Judaism, Hinduism, Syrian myth, Persian literature, Aztec creation myth, and on and on. During the Middle Ages, Jesus was frequently pictured as crucified within a tree, and a popular legend of the time said that the cross was carved from the Tree of Life.

The first Christmas tree was probably the Yule tree of Germany, another pagan tradition that was slowly woven into the Christian celebration of Christ's birth. The Christmas tree spread through Europe and was brought to America by a Unitarian minister, John Sears.

Some people have told me that they regret not having a Christmas tree to decorate as they have changed their religious beliefs. I suggest you consider reclaiming a decorated tree as part of **all** our heritages. A tree, dressed in whatever finery you favor, is a wonderful symbol for the human connection to the great, exuberant cycle of life.

Weather or not you have a tree this December, you will probably light candles,

switch on holiday lights, or perhaps light a roaring fire. As you do so, I invite you to think for a moment of the symbolic act you are performing. Bringing forth light at this time of year is an ancient part of all our spiritual histories with great power to stir us deeply. Winter Solstice, a time of joyous celebration of the return of the sun, and a reaffirmation of humankind's connection to the universe and to each other. Blessed Be.

JEFF JONES

VS

HATE CRIMES

By: *Charlie Perkins*

Jeff Jones, head of the *GLSO Discrimination Project* was interviewed in the November 25, 1997 issue of *ADVOCATE* magazine --- photo and all. The article, written by Lee Condon, also featured simultaneous answers to the interview questions from Sharon Shaw Johnson, Executive Director of Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence--- a Washington based advocacy group, as well as from Richard Socarides, Special Assistant to the President of the United States and Director of the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. The article is well worth your time.

If YOU or someone you care for and love is a hate crime victim, PLEASE call Jeff Jones at (606) 296-4170.---GLSO Discrimination Project. Your conversation with Jeff will be held in the strictest confidence. For far too long, hate crimes have gone unreported and therefore unnoticed by the members of the gay community and society at-large. The pain and suffering of gay lesbian and transgendered people MUST be reported and addressed.

In the words of Janet Reno, Attorney General of the United States: **"Every person is diminished when any one of us experiences anything less than the full measure of his or her dignity as a human being."**

7 SUNDAY	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 12:15 p.m. Interweave Pot Luck (UU Church) 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Pride Center)	7:00 p.m. GLSO Board Meeting (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study  <i>GLSO NEWS DEADLINE ALSO SUBMIT ADDITIONS, UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER 273-9649</i>	7:30 p.m. P-Flag 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. MCC Study Group 8:00 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. 2 Step & Swing Dancing (Club 141)	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 7:00 p.m. Film - (UU Church) 7:30 p.m. UK Lambda (Room 231 Student Center)	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. SisterSound Concert (Singletary Center)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:45 a.m. U.U. Church Service 11:30 a.m. LMCC Church Service 3:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Concert (Singletary Center)	8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	Pride Center Board Mtg. 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Frontrunners (W. Park) 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. MCC Study Group 7:30 p.m. Fairness (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. Line & Partner Dancing (Club 141)	6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 8:00 p.m. Bluegrass Colts members 9:00 p.m. Colts non-members	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
21 SOLSTICE	22	23 HANUKKAH	24 CHRISTMAS	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27
10:45 a.m. UU Church Service 5:00 p.m. Caroling 11:30 a.m. LMCC Church Service 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Pride Center)	8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	BEGINS AT SUNDOWN 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	EVE 5:00 p.m. Christmas Service (UU Church) 11:00 p.m. Christmas Service (LMCC Church)	DAY 7:00 p.m. MCC Game Night 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	7:00 p.m. MCC Game Night 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
28	29	30	31	<b>DECEMBER 1997</b> <b>CALENDAR</b> USE DIRECTORY ON LAST PAGE TO CONFIRM		
10:45 a.m. UU Church Service 11:30 a.m. LMCC Church Service	8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	NEW YEARS EVE			

# ALFALEA



**RESTAURANT**  
**557 S. Limestone**  
**Lexington, KY**  
**253-0014**

featuring the  
**Famous Alfalfa**  
**Weekend Brunch:**  
 serving blueberry  
 buckwheat pancakes,  
 eggs benedict arnold,  
 spanish omelettes,  
 gourmet desserts,  
 and much more...

**All of our breads and  
 desserts are baked daily  
 in our kitchen.**

**FREE EVENING  
 PARKING.**

The following quotation of the month is a good deal longer than our usual selection. It was spoken by President Bill Clinton in response to a question concerning his historic appearance at the Human Rights Campaign Fund's gala celebration in Washington D.C. last month. We believe that all of us in the lesbigay community should read and applaud these words. Keep in mind, however, that they were spoken by the same man who signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law when he could have let it pass without his signature or even vetoed it.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**THE PRESIDENT:** WELL, TIM, YOU KNOW, I GREW UP IN THE SEGREGATED SOUTH IN THE '40S AND '50S. AND ALL MY LIFE, FROM THE TIME I WAS A CHILD, I WAS TAUGHT AND I HAVE BELIEVED THAT EVERY PERSON IN THIS COUNTRY -- NO MATTER WHAT THEIR DIFFERENCES ARE, IN THEIR LIFESTYLE OR THEIR RACE OR THEIR RELIGION, IF THEY OBEY THE LAW, SHOW UP FOR WORK EVERY DAY OR SHOW UP FOR SCHOOL, IF THEY'RE GOOD CITIZENS, THEY OUGHT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND EQUALITY. AND THEY SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO NO DISCRIMINATION IN THE THINGS THAT WE ALL HAVE TO HAVE ACCESS TO, LIKE EDUCATION AND A JOB AND HEALTH CARE. WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO IS TO CONTINUE TO MOVE THAT FORWARD.

I KNOW THIS IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE FOR A LOT OF AMERICANS. I KNOW THAT PARTICULARLY FOR AMERICANS WHO'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE WHO WAS GAY OR LESBIAN PERSONALLY, IT'S AN ISSUE THAT OFTEN AROUSES DISCOMFORT. BUT I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. I THINK WE HAVE TO KEEP WORKING UNTIL WE SAY FOR EVERYBODY, THE ONLY TEST SHOULD BE: ARE YOU A LAW-ABIDING, HARD WORKING CITIZEN; DO YOU DO THE THINGS WE

REQUIRE OF ALL CITIZENS. IF YOU DO, YOU SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO NO DISCRIMINATION AND YOU OUGHT TO BE PART OF THE FAMILY OF AMERICA. THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE. AND IF MY PRESENCE THERE TONIGHT ADVANCES THAT GOAL, THEN THAT'S A GOOD THING.

MY EXPERIENCE IN LIFE -- ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS WHAT MY EXPERIENCE IS -- AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT AS PRESIDENT, I'M TALKING ABOUT AS A CITIZEN, AS A PERSON -- IS THAT MOST PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES ABOUT HOW HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE TREATED REALLY ARE DETERMINED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE BASED ON WHETHER THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN SOMEONE WHO IS HOMOSEXUAL. NOW, WHETHER MOST PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES ABOUT WHETHER THE LIFESTYLE SHOULD BE CONDONED OR CONDEMNED IS A FUNCTION, PERHAPS, OF THEIR RELIGIOUS TRAINING. BUT WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS HERE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC ARENA, AS CITIZENS, SHOULD BE TREATED IN TERMS OF THEIR RIGHT TO EDUCATION, TO JOBS, TO HOUSING, AND TO BE TREATED FREE OF DISCRIMINATION.

**PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON**

from the White House transcript of "Meet the Press"

### We Need You!

*GLSO News needs new and renewing subscribers. This newsletter has to be mailed to 200 people in order to get bulk mail rates! We seem to average about 5 to 10 subscriptions under 200 every month. From past experience we know that January and February are slow months. Please take advantage of the special deal on the flip side; renew your subscription and send a few friends gift subscriptions. Or, order together with friends to get these cheaper rates. Building a stronger community is a gift for all of us.*

*Mail in this page today.*

## HOLLIDAY GIFT OFFER

Are you looking for the perfect Holiday gift for a friend AND yourself?  
Do you know someone who isn't receiving the *GLSO News* at home,  
.....but who should be?

We have a suggestion...

Renew (or begin) your subscription for a full year at  
**HALF PRICE** when you sign up a new subscriber!

Renew or Begin my subscription for \$7.50 (\$10 for couple):

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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And start sending the *GLSO News* to new subscriber:  
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Plus....

Additional new subscriptions are available at the **reduced price** of \$10 for singles, or  
\$15 for couples. List additional names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.

PLEASE make all checks payable to GLSO and mail with this form to:

**GLSO**  
**P.O. Box 11471**  
**Lexington, KY 40575**

**Remember...**

ALL subscribers become VOTING members of the GLSO.  
All Newsletters are sent enclosed in a plain white envelope to insure **privacy**.

# GERTIE MAE NOE

*Dear Gertie Mae,*

It's holiday time again and so time for the usual dilemma. My significant other and myself are not out to our parents. We would like to spend the holidays with each other but we always end up going to our respective parents homes and being miserable. We are both in our mid-thirties and I wonder if there is any solution to this problem short of coming out and causing a scene.

*Chicken to Come Out*

*Dear Chicken,*

Honey, of course there is a solution, besides coming out, lie your asses off. There are a thousand and one lies that can get you out of Christmas with the old folks; I've got to work, the car broke down, I have the flu etc. They will work like a charm at least for one or two years then it becomes rather obvious that you are avoiding their company at a time they most want to see you.

I don't know you or your family situation but of course the best course of action in most cases is to tell them the truth. However there can be a lot of reasons this may not be the best for you at this time. Without knowing more details, far be it from me to give you coming out advice, especially since that is not the advice you asked for.

Better yet, why not opt for a version of the truth. You are an adult now, right? Why not tell them you'll be home the week before

or two weeks after Christmas (don't want to interfere with New Years do we) and tell them you have decided to take a Christmas vacation. Then you and your partner actually go away somewhere for a nice little romantic holiday together. Until you can "screw your courage to the sticking point" and come out and face the music, my dear, your Christmas vacation could become your holiday tradition.

Ever since I have been out myself I have known couples in your situation and find it very sad that it so difficult for us to be with the ones we truly love for the holidays. We meet, fall in love, live together, and lose each other through death or divorce, all without the support of our families, the ones who in the traditional world are supposed to be there to help us through these stages of life.

Instead we develop our own chosen "families" to provide our emotional support. Then we are expected to spend the holidays away from the one we love and our closest "family". Maybe some day in a perfect world life will be fair. Until then be sure to let your "family" know how much they mean to you this holiday season.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Gertie Mae*

Please send your questions to Gertie Mae Noe, %GLSO News, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington Ky. 40575

## Pick of the Litter



## Pet Sitters

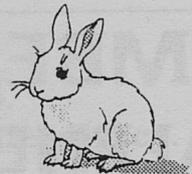


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(606) 253-3715



## SPOUSE ABUSE PART II

by Mary Crone

Partner abuse happens within gay and lesbian relationships not because we are queer, but because we are human. This is how I ended last month's article on domestic violence. A number of people questioned if this meant that abuse is inevitable within human relationships. No, ...common but not inevitable.

I believe we tend to repeat the patterns of relating that we learned in our families of origin but that these patterns can be changed as we become aware of healthier and more fulfilling ways of relating to people. Awareness is a first step, stopping our hurtful behavior is another, and learning new ways of expressing our feelings another. It is not just abusive individuals that need to examine their behavior, but those of us that repeat a victim role need to look at why we/they choose abusive partners.

It is not always helpful or accurate to divide a troubled relationship into "victim" and "abuser" roles. Both partners can be abusive and both can be hurt within the relationship. Not all disagreements, even ones in which someone is emotionally hurt, are abusive. Arguments or "fights" happen in healthy relationships as people naturally irritate each other and work out differences. However, not all claims of "mutual abuse" are accurate since this is an easy claim for abusers who do not want to face their behavior.

If a lot of "hurting" of any kind is happening, even if you do not see it as abusive, it is time to get help. There are many counselors in Lexington and surrounding communities that are "gay friendly". You can also call the spouse abuse crisis line for help (255-9808). They have support groups and counseling for both male and female victims.

I use the term "fights" above to mean nonphysical disagreements. When either or both people are physically hurtful to the other,

it is important to seek help. Physical abuse includes many different behaviors and can be viewed as a continuum which includes throwing objects, pushing, shoving, slapping, pinching, hitting, kicking, biting, choking, beating, cutting, and killing. It is not necessary to have resulting bruises or scars, any level of physical abuse is detrimental in a relationship and intervention of some form is called for. Counseling can help but it may also be important for partners to separate if physical safety is an issue. Physical abuse tends to cycle, with outbursts followed by apologies and promises that "it will never happen again." Such promises are broken more often than not, and physical abuse tends to escalate over time.

There are several other forms of abuse that I did not detail last month such as sexual abuse, and economic abuse. Sexual abuse can involve a wide range of behavior including withdrawal of sex, pressure to have sex, sexualized name calling, unwanted intimate touching, and rape. It is sometimes difficult for people to acknowledge that sexual abuse is occurring within what is meant to be a loving relationship. I think the myth that "we don't do that to each other" is particularly strong in this area.

Economic abuse includes interfering with a person's ability to keep a job, using credit cards without permission, controlling all the household money, and requiring one partner to ask for money. It can be abusive to require a person to quit their job, or to require one person to financially support another. As in other situations, the degree and type of pressure involved determines the level of abuse.

In general, if decisions are made by discussion and mutual agreement they are less likely to be abusive. If one person continually makes decisions that effect both, this sets up an unequal situation in which domination or control becomes an integral part of the relationship. Abuse is likely in such an atmosphere.

I focused on emotional abuse last month because it is so common and yet sometimes so difficult to name. There are a number of reasons for this, not the least of which is that we all experience emotionally hurtful interactions within our lives, often on a daily basis. We say or do things that hurt other people and we are hurt. We do not want to label every hurtful interaction as abusive, but simply because they are common, does not mean that we should discount emotionally hurtful words and actions as insignificant.

"Hurtful" becomes "abusive" when the interactions are used to control or dominate, to isolate, to frighten, or to harm another's self-esteem. It is often not easy to see these patterns; love, fear, and hurt, are unfortunately tied together for many of us. If you notice control issues arising frequently for you or your partner, or if you are questioning the emotional health of your relationship, get the advise of a third party, a counselor or someone you trust to be objective.

If you know someone that you believe is being abused, it can be helpful to them if you express your concern and let them know they have the right to expect better or kinder behavior from a partner. Suggest that they call spouse abuse or a counselor to talk about their situation.

If you are concerned about a friend's physical safety, suggest that s/he develop a plan for an emergency. If there have already been battering incidents, s/he should keep important documents, some cash, an extra set of keys, and a small amount of prescription medication in a safe location. Do not lose patience, it usually takes time for an individual to see hurtful behavior as abusive, or to leave an abusive partner. Studies indicate that battered heterosexual women leave their abusers an average of seven times before they leave for good. It can be just as difficult for a gay person to leave their partner. Offering non judgemental support and kindness can help in any situation.

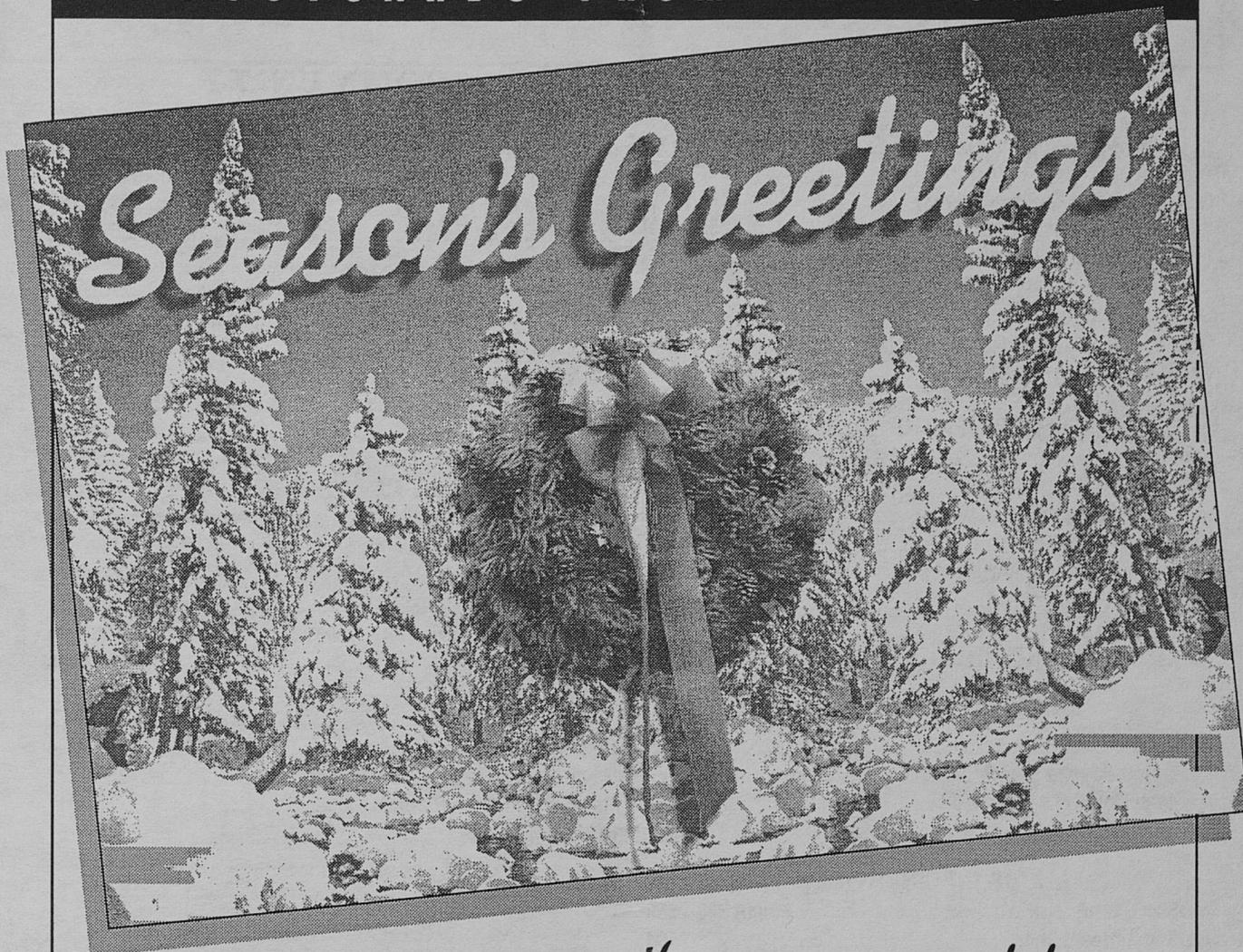
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