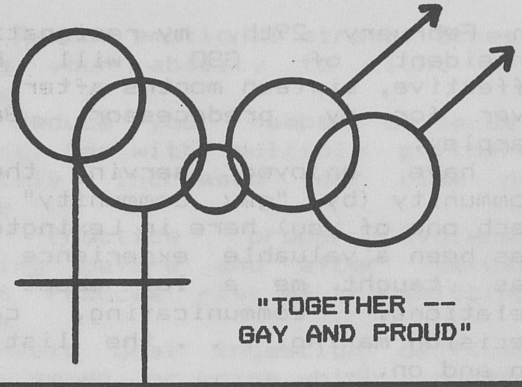


GSO NEWSLETTER

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION
POST OFFICE BOX 11471
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511

FEBRUARY, 1984



February Potluck

The February pot-luck will be at Eddie W.'s apartment on Central Avenue, Sunday the 5th at 1:30pm. Bring a dish and come enjoy a winter's afternoon of good food and conversation. For more information, call 259-0878.

We wish to thank Jim W., our gracious host of the January pot-luck. A good time was had by all.

My Funny Valentine . . .

Are you wondering what to do this Valentine's Day? GSO has this advice for you:

Get a friend or group of friends together, have a nice dinner and then come on down to **The Bar** for the annual **Valentine Day Dance** to benefit GSO. Tickets are \$3.00 at the door and a door prize will be awarded. Doors will open at 9:00pm. See you on Valentine's Day.

Volleyball

We are happy to report that volleyball has returned. Currently, the group meets every other Friday at the High Street Branch of the YMCA. Since the YMCA charges \$35.00 a night, participant are requested to donate \$3.00 a night to help defer costs.

Check the calender for the exact date and times.

US reports fewer new AIDS cases in '84

Preliminary figures indicate that the number of new cases of acquired immune deficiency disease dropped in the second half of 1983. Federal health officials caution, however, that case reporting is not yet complete.

The national Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported a noticeable decrease in diagnoses of AIDS in the fourth quarter of the year. 204 new cases of AIDS were reported from October to December 19, compared to 563 in the second quarter and 546 in the third.

Exactly 3000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the US since the spring of 1981. 71% of all victims have been homosexual or bisexual men and 43% of all AIDS victims have died. Even with the slowdown, the CDC warned that "trends in reported AIDS incidences must be interpreted cautiously." The CDC also cautioned that the downward trend could be due to incomplete reporting for the final quarter, with some cases not yet having been reported.

Clean your Closet

You want more closet space and we need you old newspapers and magazines (and those aluminum cans)! Those old copies of the Advocate, GQ and Christopher Street that are cluttering up you house are needed for our recycling project. Won't you help out? Please drop off your recyclables at the office.

From the President

On February 29th, my resignation as President of GSO will become effective, sixteen months after I took over for my predecessor, Belinda Tarpley.

I have enjoyed serving the gay community (by "gay community" I mean each one of you) here in Lexington. It has been a valuable experience which has taught me a lot about human relations, communicating, caring, decision making, . . . the list goes on and on.

In the past sixteen months, I have become painfully aware that unless we stand up and are counted, the politicians that run this country will never listen to our needs. What do politicians listen to? VOTES !!!

Because of activists who have brought pressure to bear on politicians in the form of voters, we are experiencing some success. According to the Wall Street Journal (1/11/84), there are about 100 elected officials around the country who are openly gay. A gay political action committee, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, raised \$609,000 in 1981-82, making it the 55th largest out of 3371 PACs across the nation. Sixteen candidates who accepted the money were elected.

Candidates are now beginning to realize that an endorsement from a gay group is not the kiss of death, but rather something to be openly sought. Your vote can change your life quite literally. The wonderful part of it is that, as Dan Bradley has often said, "The largest, safest closet in the world is the privacy of the voting booth."

Bowling is Back

Sundays don't have to be boring! Southland Lanes is the spot for Sunday open lane bowling.

Bowling will be every other Sunday from 4 to 6pm starting February 12th. Games are \$1.30 and there is a \$.50 shoe rental fee.

Come out and join the fun, everyone is welcome regardless of skill (or lack thereof). For more information, call Jim at 299-0352.

With these thoughts in mind, I decided that it was necessary to form a group whose primary purpose was to secure our rights through the political process. Since GSO is a service organization and, because its tax-exempt status, it cannot be politically oriented, I came to the tough decision to break away from that group and form Gay and Lesbian Democrats of Kentucky.

Let me explain the reasoning behind this title. Gay and Lesbian is no problem. The reason I chose the Democratic part was three-fold:

1) The political hierarchy of Kentucky has been traditionally Democratic for many years, therefore it is better to work from within this hierarchy.

2) The Democratic Party has, within its charter, a clause banning all discrimination including that based on sexual orientation, and has made gay rights a national agenda issue. This includes the addition of a gay/lesbian caucus which elevates us to the same special-group status as blacks, women, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans.

3) By affiliating with the Democratic Party, we also join a National network of like-minded organizations, thereby giving us more leverage.

If you are interested in becoming a part of a movement that is sweeping the nation, there will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, February 16th at 170 American Avenue (off South Broadway near the Lexington Clinic).

Let me once again thank you for your support and encouragement and wish all the best to the new president of GSO, Jim W. and the rest of the Board of Directors.

GALUS Presents:

GALUS, the Gay and Lesbian Union of Students, is proud to present Mr. Jerry Weller, Deputy Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby on Saturday, February 4, 1984. Mr. Weller will present a Gay Rights Update, "Gay in '84."

Admission is free, however, donations will be accepted for AIDS research. The presentation will begin at 8:00 pm in Memorial Hall on UK's Central Campus. All interested persons are invited to attend.

AIDS INFORMATION

Reprinted from a pamphlet distributed by AID Atlanta

What are the symptoms of AIDS?

Many of the AIDS symptoms are subtle and may only indicate simple, everyday ailments; therefore, you should be alerted but not alarmed if you have one or more of the following symptoms:

- Weights loss of more than 10 pounds during a period of less than 2 months that is not related to diet or increased activity; prolonged loss of appetite
- Unexplained, persistent or recurrent fevers or night sweats
- Swollen glands (lymph nodes found in the neck, armpits, and groin) which persist and are unexplained by other illness
- Profound fatigue that is not transient or explainable by physical activity, substance abuse, or a psychological disorder
- Persistent and unexplained diarrhea or bloody stools
- A persistent, whitish coating (or spotting) on the tongue or in the throat which may be accompanied by soreness or difficulty in swallowing
- A heavy, persistent, dry cough that is not due to smoking and has lasted too long to be explained by a cold or flu
- Easy bruising or unexplained bleeding from any orifice
- Skin rashes or discolorations of the skin
- Blurred vision and/or persistent, severe headaches.

What preventive measures can you take?

Because so little is known about the causes of AIDS, it is most important to stay healthy and to minimize your chances of contracting any infections.

Therefore, it is suggested that you:

- Exercise regularly
- Eat a nutritionally balanced diet
- Get plenty of rest

- Reduce emotional stress. Stress reduces your ability to fight off disease

- Reduce your number of sexual partners. Sex with multiple partners definitely increases your risk of disease

- Practice proper hygiene. Showering before and after sexual contact reduces risk of transmitting disease

- Avoid oral ingestion of fecal matter, semen, or urine which increase the spread of disease

- Use condoms whenever possible. Sperm and viruses can enter the blood stream during intercourse which can interfere with your ability to combat infection

- Refrain from inserting foreign objects into the rectum that can tear its delicate lining, leading to injury and infection

- Avoid a shared source of lubrication or shared douching equipment

- Curtail use of drugs (marijuana, speed, cocaine, nitrites "poppers", downers), tobacco, and alcohol

- Don't use needles. By injecting drugs into your blood, you can also inject viruses and bacteria. Sharing needles exposes you to the blood of the other user, which is extremely dangerous

We recognize that it may be difficult to follow all of these suggestions, but even if you only follow part of them, you will decrease your risk of disease.

AIDS study focuses on habits of single men

About 1200 single San Francisco men will undergo intensive scrutiny of their living habits over the next three years as part of a \$15 million study to find out why some men get acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The study, announced the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md., will be conducted by the University of California at Berkley.

The Male Couple

The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop, by David P. McWhirter, M.D. and Andrew M. Mattison, M.S.W., Ph. D., is surely a must for any gay man involved in an ongoing relationship and for anyone who hopes to be in the future. McWhirter and Mattison, a gay couple for the past twelve years, studied 156 gay couples for this book, which has been called "a landmark study" by Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph. D., coauthor with Alfred Kinsey, Ph. D. of Sexual Behavior in the Human Male. A few of the often surprising findings:

Relationships take on a life of their own, passing through definite and predictable stages. The change from one stage to another can be a time of great emotional stress for the individuals within the relationship, who may not understand why the relationship and their feelings are changing, and who may blame themselves or their lovers for these changes.

All of the couples together for longer than five years in this study were not continuously sexually exclusive with each other. They found that gay men expect mutual emotional dependability with their partners and that relationship fidelity transcends concerns with sexuality and exclusivity.

Couples with greatest relationship longevity have the largest differences in age. All of the couple in the study who were together for longer than thirty years have an age difference of between five and sixteen years.

The Male Couple should be available in local bookstores or can be ordered directly from the publisher, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Book Distribution Center, West Nyack, New York 10995. The price is \$16.95 plus tax, which includes postage and handling.

Gay Etiquette

The following letter appeared in the Miss Manners advice column, written by Judith Martin.

Dear Miss Manners: I am a homosexual male and am planning to marry another male. Since we are both men, it has brought up a few problems about the ceremony.

First, is it proper to have two sets of groomsmen? We thought possibly of each having two men and two women and calling them attendants instead of groomsmen or bridesmaids.

I was also wondering what would be the proper way for the minister to pronounce us married. Would "man and man" be all right, or perhaps "husband and husband"?

Gentle Reader: Now, Now. You don't really want Miss Manners to tell you what tradition decrees in the way of gender distribution in a wedding party, do you?

It would be more becoming for you to adopt the evolutionary etiquette, in which relationship supersedes gender. Choose your wedding attendants for the degree of their friendship to you - as some heterosexual couples are now doing - and not for their sex or becomingness to the attire you have chosen.

The minister should pronounce the new relationship, not the gender.

Get Back at the IRS

Did you know that your contributions to GSO are tax-deductible? Why not be the first in your group of friends to make a contribution to GSO in 1984? Please help us remain active in the coming year.

Donations should be made payable to GSO.

Faeries Gather

On the weekend of February 10-13, Island Circle of Key West, Florida is sponsoring a celebration/gathering of gentle faerie folk on a private island in the Florida Keys. This will involve primitive camping and will evolve into whatever the participants fancy. For information, call Eddie at 259-0878

The following poem appeared in the August 1980 Gayzette (the former name of the GSO Newsletter). It was written by Joe Lincoln.

GAY BAR BUFFET

Mirror, Mirror, in my eyes,
Tell me whom to idolize.
The tanned one there with the open
shirt,
or the one in the corner who refuses
to flirt:
How about the stud with the muscles
that gleam,
Fresh from the spa and an encounter
with steam?
There's a nice one there, all hairy
and lank;
I could cruise right on by and give
his 'kerchief a yank.
Here's a new face; if he'd just look
my way!
Don't stand there and stare, think of
something to say
That's clever or witty and will get a
reply
Before some other person gets the
nerve and walks by.
I'll take a dozen of those on the
dance floor, my dear;
Have them wrapped - but not tightly -
I'll be anxious I fear.

HELP WANTED

Immediate opening for part time
store clerk. Call Paul at 278-1451
between 4:00 and 8:00 pm.

Beautiful Boy.
Sweet, sweet soldier boy...
(Man)

Your scent on my skin
Fingers redolent of you
Flesh memories
Mmmm.

I'm yours
And your mine...for tonight.
Take me again...

Bye soldier boy
Remember -
the night.

Paul Joseph

Say hello to your lover? You came
to unwind?
Oh, I just saw a friend...I hope you
won't mind
If I run over to see him?! Nice meeting
you two,
What's with all these couples? What's
a single to do?
I'd ask you to dance, but you'll have
to dispose
Of that bottle of poppers you've got
shoved up your nose.
Yes, I know it adds rhythm, makes you
light on your feet,
But it gives me hot flashes, turns my
face to a beet.
My options are dwindling, the bar will
soon close.
I'll be stuck with myself, not the
first time, God knows.
Well, here goes my last shot, then
I'll call it a night.
He smiled! Could this be? Oh, my
God, it's a bite!
My apartment? Oh, not far. And I
drove; we're in luck.
Never die - that's my motto. Someone
always gives a fuck.
And where have you been all my life to
this point
While I've been wasting away in this
smoke-filled joint?

Gayline Returns

The Gayline is back in operation on
Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 -
11 pm. The financial problems have
been solved for the immediate future,
but the staffing problem remains. Due
to this staffing problem, we cannot
guarantee that the phoneline will be
staffed every Tuesday and Thursday but
we hope you will keep trying to reach
us. Current event will continue to be
listed on the recording when the phone
is not staffed.

If you would like to volunteer
several hours a month to answer the
phones, please come to the next
Gayline meeting on Sunday, February
29th at 2:00pm in our office at 170
American Avenue (bring a friend).