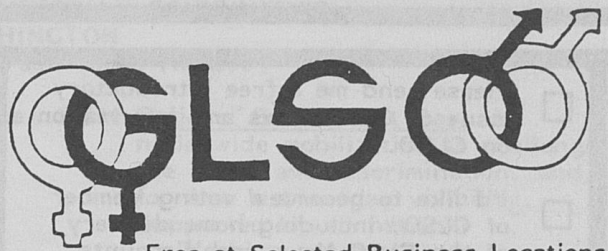


September
~~AUGUST~~
NEWS 1988



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

GLSO SERVES CENTRAL KENTUCKY GAY COMMUNITY

Lexington's Gay/Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO) is now a little over eleven years old. During these years the local gay community has experienced triumphs and troubles, has expanded and deepened. GLSO has been a part of Lexington's gay history and continues to serve gay and lesbian needs in Central Kentucky.

Communication is the key to GLSO's success. This includes communication between the various gay and lesbian organizations in Lexington, among its individuals, and with the straight community.

To facilitate dialogue GLSO established services which can be divided into four areas of endeavor: education, referral, social and recreational services. **GLSO News**, the monthly Forum, the Gayline, and the many social events all promote one or more of these goals.

GAYLINE

GLSO's Gayline, 231-0335, has become a very important tool in providing both educational and referral services. In an average month 300 people call the Gayline. Unfortunately only a fraction of these callers talk directly to a Gayline volunteer because staff shortages allow the line to be covered just three nights per week.

Some of the calls are fun, such as the conversations with people from places as far away as California and Alaska. These callers are usually moving to our area or are here on a visit. In either case, it's enjoyable telling people about Lexington, comparing notes, and finding out about gay life in cities around the country.

Many of the callers are more serious, in particular those struggling with the anxieties of first dealing with their gayness. Often the Gayline staffer is one of the few persons who

the caller has ever talked with about being gay. Almost always this is the only person who has been supportive, non-threatening, and knowledgeable about the realities of gay life. Calls such as these, when you can hear the pain and loneliness in the caller's voice slowly ease into relief - these are the really rewarding calls.

The Gayline is staffed completely by volunteers. Training is provided on the last Sunday of each month at Comprehensive Care Center at 1 pm. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for two, three hours shifts each month. Shifts are set up so that incoming calls are forwarded to the staffer's home, creating a convenient, comfortable setting for the volunteer. Presently the line is staffed Wednesday through Friday, 8 - 11 pm. If more people volunteer the schedule can be expanded; women are particularly needed.

GLSO NEWS

The monthly newsletter is another major effort aimed at providing a link among the gay people of Central Kentucky. Currently 450 names are on the mailing list, which includes addresses throughout the US, Canada and Europe. Another 200 copies are distributed through Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Special Media, Great Moments, Good Foods Co-Op, The Bar, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. These copies are available for those who do not enjoy the luxury of being able to have it delivered to their homes without fear.

Many recipients of **GLSO News** who live in the smaller towns in Central and Eastern Kentucky have written commenting that the newsletter is their only contact with anything gay. Their isolation is particularly painful.

Each month the newsletter staff of 14 people strives to present a variety of
(continued on page 2)

- 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.
- I don't wish to become a Member but please send me the **GLSO News** each month. I enclose the \$5 annual fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Mail to: Newsletter, P.O. Box 11471
Lexington, KY 40575

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Steve Savage, Editor

Craig Clere, Asst Editor, Events Calendar
Debbie & Teresa, Asst Editors for Esmerelda
Aunt Mary, Advice Columnist

Additional Contributors: The Advocate, NGLTF, NABWMT, John Elliott, Terri, Eddie, Karen; **Typists:** Dave, Craig; **Equipment:** Dave, Karen; **Typesetting:** Matt; **Layout:** Brian, Craig, Gerry; **Mailing:** Dave; **Courier:** Barry; **Folding & Stuffing:** Mark, Steve, Shelby, David, Gerry, Jim, John, Steve, Craig.

Views or opinions expressed in **GLSO News** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors. Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must include the full name and address of the author. Anonymous submissions are not accepted. The editorial staff reserves the right to alter any submissions (including advertising) to meet publishing requirements.

The placement of advertising in **GLSO News** does not denote a person's sexual orientation nor a business's customer preference.

(continued from page)
informative articles with an emphasis on local concerns. Local, national, and international news is included in the belief we must all be aware of decisions and activities which relate to gay issues. Whether these events occur here in Lexington or on the other side of the globe, somehow, sometime, they will affect our own lives.

Most articles report local information in order to inform the community about upcoming events, and as a means of uniting the local organizations and the thousands of gay people who live in the area.

FORUM

On the second Monday evening of each month GLSO joins Dignity/Lexington in hosting a meeting open to all members of the gay and lesbian community. These meetings begin with a discussion of issues recently handled by the GLSO Board in an effort to maintain close communication with the community, and announcements of upcoming events. This is an excellent opportunity to keep up with events in gay Lexington, and provides a good chance to meet new people.

A group discussion follows. Topics range from serious issues such as discrimination, AIDS, and facets of coming out, to lighter concerns such as gay and lesbian vacation opportunities, gay characters on TV, and lesbian humorists.

These relaxed meetings are held in the rear, first floor conference room at Comprehensive Care Center. The facility's large chairs and sofas provide a comfortable atmosphere. Meetings begin at 8 pm when the building is empty, so there are no interruptions. If the front door is locked, push the button and enter at the buzz.

Newcomers are always welcome and not pressured to take part in the discussion if they prefer, as many new folks do, to just sit and listen. When the meetings conclude around 10 pm, some of us adjourn to Jerry's, The Bar, White Mountain, for more conversation - especially if anyone's met someone of "special" interest at the meeting.

ESMERELDA COLLECTIVE

GLSO sponsors a women's collective, Esmerelda, which formed to meet the special support, social, and community needs of Central Kentucky lesbians. Esmerelda hosts monthly potlucks, has a team in the city softball league, and each month contributes a (see GLSO SERVES, page 4)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY'S
RETURN TO WASHINGTON**

from National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)

A number of cultural, political, and community events are planned in Washington, DC during the anniversary week of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (October 5-13, 1988). The following calendar will be updated in the October issue of **GLSO News**.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|--|----------|---|---|
| Wed | 10/5 | <u>Names Project Press Conference.</u> Announcing Names Project events, goals, etc. | Tue | 10/11 | <u>National Coming Out Day.</u> A nationwide mobilization to challenge the closet and discrimination, and to raise lesbian/gay visibility. Supported by all national gay/lesbian organizations. Organized by National Gay Rights Advocates. Info: (213) 650-6200. <u>Lesbian & Gay Community Press Conference/Breakfast on the G/L Movement.</u> 8 am, National Press Club. Sponsored by NGLTF. Info: Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF. <u>Demonstration and Civil Disobedience Action</u> at the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Sponsored by ACT NOW. Info: Sue Hyde, NGLTF. | |
| Thur | 10/6 | <u>Rock Concert Benefit for Names Project.</u> Talent to be announced. Capitol Centre, Landover, Maryland. | Thur | 10/13 | <u>Benefit Birthday Party Gala for Cleve Jones,</u> founder of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. To benefit NGLTF. | |
| Fri | 10/7 | <u>Lesbian/Gay Community Concert to Benefit Names Project.</u> Lisner Auditorium, Georgetown University, at 730, 21st St., NW, with Holly-Near, Cathy Fink, Patti Larkin, Julia & Co., and others. | Thur | 10/6-Fri | 10/7 | <u>National Lobby Days for Gay/Lesbian Rights.</u> Organized by National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. Briefing, 10 am - noon, Rayburn House Office Bldg, lobbying to follow. Info: Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF. |
| Sat | 10/8 | <u>Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.</u> Dawn: Unfolding begins; reading of names all day; refolded at dusk. Capital Mall. <u>National AIDS Activism Conference</u> begins with Teach-In. Info: ACT NOW (AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize, and Win). Info: Scott Sanders, (202) 234-8001 or John Fall, (213) 668-2357. <u>Candelight March from Capitol Mall to Lincoln Memorial,</u> immediately following display of Quilt. Organized by Names Project. | Fri | 10/7-Sun | 10/9 | <u>International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival,</u> Biograph Theater, 2819 M Street, N.W. Sponsored by Frameline and NGLTF. Info: NGLTF. |
| Sun | 10/9 | <u>Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.</u> Dawn: Unfolding and display begin and continues until dusk. Capitol Mall. <u>Kennedy Center Gala Benefit for Names Project.</u> <u>Interfaith Memorial Service.</u> National Cathedral. 6:30 pm. Sponsored by: Episcopal Caring Response to AIDS. | For information concerning all events sponsored by the Names Project, or held as a benefit for the Names Project, call (415) 863-5511. Call (202) 334-6483 for information about events sponsored by NGLTF. | | | |
| Mon | 10/10 | <u>National Parents Conference on AIDS.</u> 9 am - 4:30 pm. Crystal City Sheraton. Info: Sandy O'Rourke, Names Project. <u>Demonstration at the Department of Health & Human Services to protest AIDS policies.</u> Sponsored by ACT NOW. Info: Sue Hyde, NGLTF, or Scott Sanders, (202) 234-8801. | The film festival will begin the evening of the 7th and will continue all day and evening during the 8th and 9th. In addition to a Gay/Lesbian Shorts Program, and a special AIDS Film Project, a variety of feature length European and American gay and lesbian films will be shown. Frameline is the producer of San Francisco's Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, and serves as a national resource on gay and lesbian film. For detailed information and ticket locations, please contact NGLTF at (202) 332-6483. | | | |
| The Names Project has made arrangements with United Airlines and A
(continued on page 4) | | | | | | |

(continued from page 3)

Washington, D.C. hotel reservations service to assist in making travel arrangements with toll free 800 telephone numbers. For hotel reservations call (800) 554-2220; the number for reservations with United Airlines is (800) 521-4041. The Names Project will receive a donation from these businesses each time reservations are made through these numbers.

Hotel rooms may be difficult to reserve because the American Dental Association has over-booked many D.C. hotels for their convention. Many of these rooms may become available in coming weeks as hotels begin to release the unconfirmed rooms.

United Airlines is offering special discounts for those traveling to Washington for the Names Project Quilt display. To receive 5% off any applicable domestic fare from First Class to Ultrasaver, or 35% off full coach fare simply call the toll free number above and give the Names Project account number 8664N. United will mail tickets or they may be purchased from a local travel agent. Be Sure

the reservation is made through United's Convention Desk.

United's Convention Discounts will be applied to the best available fare, subject to any restrictions. Your exact fare will be guaranteed when your ticket is issued. Seats may be limited, so call early for the best availability. (Full MILEAGE PLUS credit is awarded on all discounted fares.)

First estimates of volunteer needs for the Washington display indicate a need for people to staff 4,000 five-hour shifts. In addition, volunteers will be needed to help set up on Friday, October 7 and clean up on Sunday evening, October 9. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for as many shifts as they realistically believe they can work. However, we recommend volunteers sign up for no more than two shifts on the same day. Volunteers during Saturday and Sunday evening shifts will be expected to help clean up. To volunteer to help with the Quilt display call the Names Project at (415) 863-5511.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TORONTO, CANADA

Toronto's board of education unanimously voted to establish a high school sex-education program designed in part to combat homophobic bias and violence, despite strong opposition. The course, the first of its kind in Ontario, will educate teachers, guidance counselors, board members, and social workers to handle questions from students.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The world's first condom bar, located in Sydney, should sell more than 3 million condoms during its first year of operation. Located inside the city's largest record store, half the proceeds from the condom bar will be donated to the AIDS Trust of Australia, which funds AIDS care centers, support groups, and education programs throughout Australia.

GLSO SERVES, continued from page 2.

section to the GLSO News called Esmerelda's Parlour. Another of Esmerelda's major efforts is the production of the monthly Coffeehouse and Dance with the assistance of other members of GLSO.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Every year GLSO sponsors various social events in the hope of providing a variety of activities for gay and lesbian people to socialize, make new friends, enjoy each other's company, possibly meet someone very special, and just enjoy the freedom of being ourselves without any pressures from the straight world.

These activities include the monthly Coffeehouse and Dance, an annual Derby Party, summer volleyball and potlucks at Jacobson Park and the wintertime Rainbow Bowling League. Check the monthly Calendar and GLSO News for a complete listing of events sponsored by GLSO and the other gay and lesbian organizations in Lexington.

U.S. SENATE VOTES TO LEGALIZE ANTIGAY DISCRIMINATION

On July 12, in a vote on an amendment to the District of Columbia Appropriations bill, the U.S. Senate limited the application of Washington, D.C.'s gay rights law by exempting religious educational institutions. The amendment was introduced by Senator William Armstrong (R-CO) specifically to limit the impact of a recent legal decision requiring Georgetown University to grant equal access to facilities and funds to its gay and lesbian student groups.

The Georgetown case involved a nearly eight year legal battle by gay and lesbian student groups at the university and its law school to obtain funding, formal recognition and access to school facilities for group meetings and functions. The lawsuit was based on the D.C. Human Rights Ordinance which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The suit was favorably resolved early this year, with Georgetown being ordered to grant the benefits of formal status to the gay groups.

The new amendment reads as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of the laws of the District of Columbia, it shall not be an unlawful discriminatory practice in the District of Columbia for any educational institution that is affiliated with a religious organization or closely associated with a tenet of a religious organization, to deny, restrict, abridge or condition A) use of any funds, services, faculty, or benefits, or, B) the granting of any endorsement, approval, or recognition to any person or persons that are organized for or engaged in promoting, encouraging or conducting any homosexual act, lifestyle, orientation or belief.

In the July 12 vote, both Kentucky senators Wendell Ford and Mitch McConnell voted in favor of the discriminatory legislation. Senators Lloyd Bentson (D-TX), Dukakis' vice-presidential running mate, and Robert Dole (R-KS) also voted to pass the amendment. Among those legislators voting against the amendment were Brock Adams (D-WA), John Chaffee (R-RI), Alan Cranston (D-CA), Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), John Kerry (D-MA), Barbara Mikulski (D-MA), Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), William Proxmire (D-WI), Lowell Weicker (R-CT).

AMERICANS CONSIDER AIDS NATION'S WORST PROBLEM from the Wall Street Journal

Americans now consider acquired immune deficiency syndrome the most serious problem facing the U.S., according to a survey conducted for the Conference Board.

"The widespread media attention focused on the AIDS dilemma is obviously being heard across the country," says Fabian Linden, executive director of the board's Consumer Research Center.

In January 1987, the last time a survey of problems worrying Americans was conducted for the board, AIDS ranked ninth while drug abuse was thought to be the major problem. In the latest survey, in July, drug abuse ranked second, followed by the cost of medical care.

"While AIDS has climbed rapidly as a primary public concern, some other problems have receded," Mr. Linden said. "Unemployment for instance cited as the fourth most serious problem in 1987, now ranks much closer to the bottom of the list. This, of course, reflects the steady improvement of the unemployment rate."

Regionally, pollution was thought to be more of a problem in the Northeast than other parts of the country, as were housing and homeless issues. Unemployment prevailed as a more serious concern to those in the Rocky Mountains and the East South Central region - Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi - than in the New England and Pacific regions.

The survey was conducted for the nonprofit industry-supported group by National Family Opinion Inc., Toledo, Ohio, which polled 5,000 U.S. households.

CARDS & GAMES CHANGES SCHEDULE

Karen, the host of GLSO Cards & Games, will be taking a well-deserved vacation in September. The next meeting of Cards & Games will be held the second Saturday in October. Beginning on this date Cards & Games will be held every 2nd and 4th Saturday. Previously Cards & Games has been held on Friday evening. Call Karen, at the number listed in the GLSO News Directory, for time and directions.

SENATE JUDICIARY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES HATE CRIME STATISTICS LEGISLATION from National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's historic effort to enact federal legislation addressing data collection on anti-lesbian/gay violence moved a step closer to passage with the Senate Judiciary Committee's unanimous approval of S 702, the Hate Crime Statistics Act. NGLTF began the effort to pass the bill in January of 1987.

S 702, sponsored by Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), is legislation designed to collect statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. In May, the House overwhelmingly passed a similar bill, HR 3193, by a vote of 384-30.

S 702 is now referred to the full Senate for floor consideration. The Senate is not expected to take up the measure, however, until September when it resumes business after the August recess.

Unlike House action, the Senate Judiciary Committee was not embroiled in a

controversy to strike the sexual orientation provision. During consideration in the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. George Gekas (R-PA) introduced an amendment to strike "sexual orientation" from the legislation. The Gekas amendment failed by a vote of 22 to 11. The Senate Judiciary Committee did not have the introduction of a similar amendment to strike.

"Our strategy was to seek unanimous consent through constituent pressure and compromise," said NGLTF lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic. "We worked closely with Senator Simon, Senator Hatch and the Department of Justice to develop language around the issue of anti-lesbian/gay violence that kept everyone satisfied. S 702 originally included the victim categories of race, religion and ethnicity. The bill now includes the category of sexual orientation and this addition was approved by unanimous consent," continued Radecic.

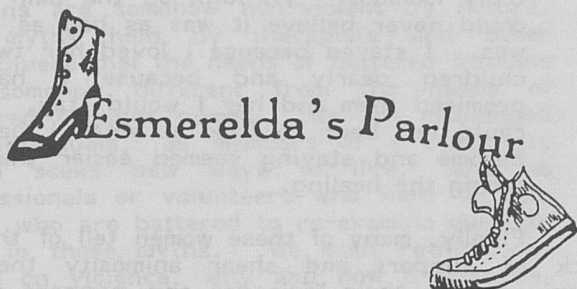
Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns

working for support, equality and justice--
in our church, in our community, in our world.

interest in a local group?

contact:

Jim Oxyer
PLGC
P.O. Box 7692
Louisville, KY 40207



Greetings! We trust your summer continues to be both relaxing and exciting. It's fun to see all the new relationships that have cropped up since spring. With the heat everyone seems to be content to stay in the confines of air-conditioning. Those of us without simply have to "sleep around" to stay cool.

Much activity continues in the "hotbed" of Lexington. We've had Pride Week this summer (which was a huge success.) The Passion Group continues to sizzle, and there's even a writer's group starting up in town (we'll let you know more about that as things develop.) In fact, there's so much to do it really surprises and bemuses Esmerelda to hear that some people don't do anything because they say "there's nothing to do in this town." Oh really . . . ?

For those of you who truly believe this, flip to the back of the **GLSO News** and check the Calendar section. Amazing isn't it?! Nearly every day there's something! All it takes is a phone call or two. We know sometimes it's easier to hide from new people and strange places; all of us have felt that way at one time or another. But you only end up hurting yourself. So take a chance! Go to a potluck, train to work the Gayline (they still need women volunteers), join the GLSO Dance Committee, write an article or poem for Esmerelda (she'll love you for it,) help with the **GLSO News**. Trust us, the possibilities are limitless.

If none of the above appeals to you, start up a group of your own - something that you find interesting and think others may too. Why not - it's been done before! All it takes is you. Think about it.

Until next month.

Teresa & Debbie

WOMEN'S WRITING COLLECTIVE FORMING

Now that Esmerelda's writing contest has your creative juices flowing, a Women's Writer Collective is being formed! Here's your chance to share your talents. Whether you write poetry or prose, a collective provides an opportunity for feedback and information to help you polish your skills. For more information call Carol at 259-3258.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME: VIOLENCE BETWEEN WOMEN

One of the great strengths of the women's movement and the lesbian community has been our willingness to challenge what society says is "right," (or simply "the way things are") and show there are other ways of thinking, other ways of being. One area lesbians have long been connected with is the battered women's movement. Here, straight women and lesbians have struggled together to redefine what society and battered women understand about violence in intimate relationships. For most of us the time is long past when we believe a woman who is battered "deserves" the beatings she gets from her husband or boyfriend. Nor would we tell a battered woman to simply try harder to take care of her partner's needs or play down the significance of the trauma she experiences. Still many lesbians have held onto myths about our own relationships, believing that while there will be many problems we may have to deal with (chemical dependency, recovery from sexual abuse or rape etc.) at least WE don't have to worry about being abused by our lovers. Men after all, are the ones our society teaches to be violent, women learn only how to submit. Women who love women are simply incapable of violence toward their lovers.

This myth of safety in lesbian relationships is finally beginning to crumble. With the publication of **Naming the Violence: Speaking out about Lesbian Battering**, editor Kerry Lobel and her publisher, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Lesbian Task Force, begin to tell a story many of us already know to be true. In this landmark work, lesbians "come out" yet again, this time as survivors of physical, sexual and emotional abuse at the hands of other women.

The book contains the stories of fifteen lesbians who have lived through the kind of abusive relationships we would like to believe cannot happen to us. These women tell their stories with an openness and honesty that forces us to reconsider not only the myths we

live with but also our own relationships both past and present. Besides learning of these women's experiences, we learn too of their struggles to end the violence and of the barriers they faced within themselves, from their abuser, and from the lesbian community. In addition to forcing us to face the reality of lesbian battering, **Naming the Violence** also includes articles directed at the lesbian community and at those who provide services to the victims of abuse, challenging the communities and agencies to re-examine their own responses to battered lesbians.

One theme that runs throughout this anthology is the abused lesbian's struggle to define her relationship as abusive rather than seeing the violence as her own fault. Blair Northwood writes:

Still today when I talk about the abuse, I have to keep myself from qualifying the statement that "I was battered." I want to say "She never really injured me. She never **really** hit me. It wasn't **physical** abuse." But I was injured when, in my frustration over something she had done, I hit the wall and sprained my wrist. I was injured when my anxiety about how to avoid her temper, how to phrase a statement just so, how to convince her I had done nothing wrong, when in fact I hadn't, turned to shortness of breath and chest pains so bad that I went to a doctor. The emotional strain of struggling to maintain my self-esteem when she seemed bent on convincing me I was worthless was abuse. And it was abuse when she grabbed my arms to make me go with her, or to prevent me from leaving the room until she was through yelling at me.

Once the woman comes to see the abuse, there is still the struggle to leave and to understand what has kept them in the relationship or so long. One lesbian writes:

I want you to understand that I stayed with her for the same reasons any woman stays with her lover - because I honestly and deeply loved her, and was honestly and deeply loved by her. I also stayed because I had nowhere else to go. I had moved across the country with her. My friends were 3000 miles away. Most of my friends eventually retreated, overwhelmed by my defensiveness and my unwillingness to look at the situation despite my chronic

despair and neediness. I had no money. It was winter in the mountains. I was truly isolated. Through all the pain I could never believe it was as bad as it was. I stayed because I loved her two children dearly and because I had promised them and her I would stay. I could not bear to look at what I had become and staying seemed easier than facing the healing.

Finally, many of these women tell of the lack of support and sheer animosity they received from their "friends" and members of the lesbian community, when they make their stories public and look for support for their decision to leave and search for safety from the women who have battered them. Many write of friends who trivialized what happened ("oh it really wasn't that bad, was it?"), insisted the battered partner was at fault ("don't you know better than to say something like that to her by now?") or tried to get the battered woman to drop legal charges of assault because of the emotional pain a trial would cause the batterer and the bad publicity the lesbian community would receive.

These are things we fight against when the batterer is a man. Why is our response so different when abuse occurs in lesbian couples? For example, if a woman fights back against a man who is beating her, we understand she is protecting herself and we validate her need for protection and the reality of the abuse she is fighting to escape. Why is it then that even therapists, shelter workers or friends will see the same behavior between lesbians as "mutually abusive."

The problem then is not just in the lesbian community. Other sections of the book address therapists and other care providers, giving examples of lesbian battering being treated differently than heterosexual battering. One therapist tells of how she accepted a lesbian couple experiencing ongoing abuse into couple therapy, when partners in a heterosexual couple would have been seen individually for a time before being seen as a couple. The partners are seen individually to help assure the safety of the abused partner...it is after all unrealistic to expect a woman who is modifying her behavior to suit her partner to be able to behave differently in therapy when she has to go home with the abuser. Other articles discuss the need for "safe places" for battered lesbians both within the lesbian community and within battered women's shelters.

Naming the Violence dispels many myths, myths held by individual women who believe

abuse is only hitting and cannot happen to them, myths held by lesbian communities that lesbians are somehow non-violent by nature, and myths held by therapists and other care-givers that the needs of battered lesbians are somehow different from the needs of battered straight women. We are challenged as individuals, as members of a community which seeks new ways to live, and as professionals or volunteers who want to help those who are battered to re-examine our own part in those myths. We must rethink our views on violence, why and how it happens, who it happens to and what our response as a community and society will be.

Naming the Violence: Speaking out about Lesbian Battering can be ordered through Special Media or Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

DEFINING ABUSE IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS AND WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:

Lesbian battering is the pattern of coercive behaviors used by one partner to control or punish the other. It includes not only physical abuse, but emotional, verbal, sexual, and property abuse as well.

Naming the Violence includes a list of "Violent and Coercive Behaviors Utilized in Lesbian Battering," they are:

1. Physical. Assaults with weapons, the batters own body, sleep intervention, or deprivation of food.
2. Sexual. Rape, withholding sex, forced sex with others, and sexually degrading language.
3. Property. Damage to car, clothing, household items, furniture, pet abuse.
4. Threats. Threats to commit physical or sexual abuse, harassment, violence against third parties (partner's friends, family members, etc.).
5. Economic Control. Control over partner's assets, income, etc.
6. Psychological or Emotional Abuse. Humiliation, degradation, lying, isolation, name-calling, withdrawal, mind-manipulation.
7. Homophobic Control. Threats to tell family, friends, police, employers of the victim's lesbianism; telling the partner no one would believe her claims because she is a lesbian (and lesbians aren't violent), telling her no one would help her and there are no options for homosexuals.

For anyone suffering from any of these kinds of abuse there are alternatives. This includes men; although this article is aimed at lesbians, these same types of abuse happen in

gay male relationships also, and the same resources existing for women exist for men as well.

The YWCA Spouse Abuse Center has a variety of services available to lesbians and gay men. These are: safe shelter, 24 hour crisis line (numbers are listed below), counseling and case work, and counseling for the batterer. Other services include: legal, hospital, advocacy, and community education.

The crisis line number in Lexington is 255-9808, and the toll free hotline for callers outside Lexington is 1-800-544-2022. We urge those needing these services to call the appropriate number. There are people who care and are ready and willing to listen and help.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT), a gay multiracial organization for all people, has begun an extensive effort to promote its work. NABWMT believes in education to rid ourselves of sexism, homophobia and racism, beginning in our own gay and lesbian communities.

Since its founding in May, 1980, Black and White Men Together has formed 26 local chapters in cities across the United States and one chapter in Brazil. If you would like to receive quarterly issues of NABWMT's national publication, please write to the Media Chairman:

Michael Warner
3357 Guernsey Avenue
Memphis, TN 38122

ASK AUNT MARY

Dear Aunt Mary: I know this may sound strange, but my lover and I don't have enough time to fight. I don't mean knock down, drag out fights, but rather the little everyday kind that don't amount to much unless they are left unresolved and allowed to pile one on top of the other. For instance, coming home from work and finding the kitchen a mess when he has had the day off, or an empty gas tank after he has used the car and I am running late for work.

We work different schedules and have very little time to spend together, so I hate to bring these kind of things up when we are. On the other hand, if I don't, they seem to build up until I scream about the way he uses his fork, when what I really am upset about is that he has never taken the time to wash the fork he is using, or even set the table, etc., etc. I hope you get the idea. He is beginning to think I am crazy and humoring me through these fits over trivial things is his cross to bear. Can you make any suggestions?

Crazed in Louisville

Dear Crazed: Dear me, communication is such a tired old word these days, being overused by nearly everyone. But it seems to be one we are going to have to use, so we will just have to make the best of it. The next time your lover gets that pained look in his eyes and you realize he has begun to humor you through a tantrum over the way he ironed a wrinkle into the left sleeve of his shirt, stop and carefully explain the real problem is not the wrinkle in his shirt, but the ironing board that has been left standing in the middle of the dining room for the last week and a half.

Do this a few times, and he may get the idea and be able to figure out what you are really upset about before you do. Another thing to consider is scheduling. I realize that if you have only one night a week to spend together you don't want to waste it by discussing relationship problems. Perhaps you could agree to meet for lunch once a week for the sole purpose of catching up with each other's life and working out problems. That way, perhaps you won't ruin your one night a week together fighting about little things that don't really matter.

Finally, I hope you will each reflect on just how important your relationship is to you. If you both give your careers priority over

your relationship, this kind of strain will continue to be a problem. Isn't there any way you can come up with a compromise on your work schedules so you can have more time together? Don't you think your relationship is worth the effort?

Aunt Mary

If you would like to write to Aunt Mary, send your letter to: Aunt Mary, c/o GLSO, Post Office Box 11471, Lexington, Kentucky, 40575. If you would like a personal reply, please include a stamped, self addressed envelope. All names are strictly confidential.

ADULT CHILDREN OF GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SOUGHT FOR STUDY

During the past decade, there has been an increasing interest in the roles of gays and lesbians as parents. This is clearly indicated by the 10th International Conference on Gay and Lesbian Parenting in Columbus, Ohio this past June, as well as, the publication of numerous articles in the scientific literature. Several well respected studies of elementary and junior-high age students have indicated that no significant differences exist between children raised by straight single-parents and children raised in gay/lesbian homes with respect to the children's emotional well-being and general adjustment to society. What has been less clear is how being raised by a gay/lesbian parent affects these children throughout a lifetime.

To investigate this subject, Dr. Rory Remer, UK Department of Counseling and Psychology, and John Elliott, master's candidate in Social Work at UK, are trying to contact adult children (at least 18 years old) of gay/lesbian parents to take part in a pilot study leading to a dissertation on the topic. If you are an adult child, have adult children, or know of someone who is a grown child of gay or lesbian parents and would be willing to participate in a study, please contact either Dr. Remer or Mr. Elliott. They can be reached at the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, 233 Dickey Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0017. All responses will be kept strictly confidential. Your participation in such a study may help in the future to protect the rights of gay/lesbian parents as well as the fight for rights of gay/lesbian foster parents.

dignity

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

269-8417

FROM DIGNITY'S PRESIDENT

Recently, I had a chance to hear a remarkable woman speak. Her name is Anne Wilson Schaef. Some of you may have read her books or heard her at the various music festivals.

Her basic premise is that most people are addictive. Whether it be to alcohol, power, smoking, meetings, diet Coke (my personal favorite) or whatever, we live in an addictive society. Her books are fascinating. Co-Dependence, if somewhat clinical, was excellent at informing me about not only the addicts of our society but the co-addicts as well (those who help the addict stay addicted.) Every woman I know says Women's Reality was a powerful book for her.

At the September 12 Forum we'll talk about Co-Dependency, Adult Children of Alcoholics, and Addiction. The Forum should be fascinating and informative.

I hope to see you at Dignity soon.

Peace, Keith

DINNER WITH DIGNITY

Beginning in August, Dignity members will be dining out together once a month. Locations and dates will be set at the August Rap Session. All are welcome. Call Dignity for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to join Dignity! Be a part of one of the leading movements and organizations for lesbians and gays! For \$25 (\$20 for students, \$45 for couples) you too can be a member of Dignity! Send your check today! You'll be glad you did!

REGION V MEETING HERE!

Yes, it's our turn! Lexington will be hosting the Fall House of Delegates for Region V (Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana) the first weekend in December (2-4).

The focus of the weekend, besides the business meeting, will be on interpersonal relationships, particularly highlighting those between lesbians and gay men. Our friends Kris & Shirley will be leading the workshop. Lexington/Dignity was asked to present a workshop on this topic because this chapter is so strong on women's issues. (The president's guess is we have the highest proportion of female participants of all Dignity chapters in the nation!)

Clear your calendars. We'll need people to host visitors (you need not be a Dignity member to do so), people to help prepare food and make arrangements. Interested in helping? Great! Call Dignity!

IT'S TIME TO CAMP!

We know you've been looking forward to it, and it's almost time! For the eighth year Eddie will host a campout at his secluded farm in rural Scott County. This annual event attracts people from Lexington and Louisville, so meet new friends and old just 20 miles north of Lexington.

Scheduled to begin after 4:00 pm on October 8, this is a true pioneer weekend campout (no facilities). Bring your own supplies, warm clothes, and food for dinner and breakfast. Eddie will provide a comfortable ground to sleep on, a campfire and a clear sky. Call Eddie at his Lexington home for more details, 259-0878. A map to the farm campsite will appear in next month's issue. In case of rain the event will be rescheduled for the following weekend.



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GAY AMERICA

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

West Hollywood's city council dropped plans to endorse a memorial that would have honored people who have died of AIDS. The majority of those opposing the proposed ten-foot-tall monument and eternal flame objected to the project's cost, estimated to be between \$120,000 and \$160,000.

Tony Melia, president of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, stated "How could we look at facing any kind of large fund-raiser for a memorial when there are people [with AIDS] out there who need money to live on?"

CHICAGO, IL

A proposed Chicago human rights ordinance that includes antidiscrimination protection for gay men and lesbians won approval from a city council committee June 23 but still faces an uphill fight in the full council. Alderman Percy Giles, who voted for the bill in committee, predicted a "very close call" in the full council, which defeated a gay rights bill by a 30-18 vote in 1986.

BOSTON, MA

Members of a gay Alcoholics Anonymous group in Boston said they were harassed and threatened with arrest by state capitol police for hugging at the end of their weekly meetings. The police officers allegedly told the two men they would be booked on a charge of "PDA, a public display of affection."

The Boston city council approved by a vote of 9-3 a resolution declaring the week of July 4th "National Association of Black and White Men Together Week." The week honors the gay men's group Black & White Men Together, which held a convention in Boston that week.

TALLAHASSEE, FL

A glitch in a new state AIDS testing law may enable physicians to test patients for the HIV antibody without obtaining patient consent. The new law, which took effect July 7, says doctors cannot test patients without informed consent, but includes the clause "except as specified elsewhere." Other laws allow doctors to bypass the informed consent requirement.

PARRIS ISLAND, SC

A military court has imprisoned and dishonorably discharged a second female marine for having sex with other enlisted women. Cheryl Jameson, a drill sergeant at the U.S. Marine Corps recruit depot at Parris Island, was sentenced July 15 to one year in a military prison for engaging in "indecent acts" with two other female marines. As reported in last month's *GLSO News*, Barbara Baum was convicted earlier. The two courts martial are the result of an ongoing investigation at Parris Island of as many as eight women who are believed to have been involved in lesbian activity on the base.

ATLANTA, GA

The 1988 Democratic Party platform includes several planks dealing with gay rights and AIDS. Key sections are:

We believe that equal access to government services, employment, housing, business enterprise, and education should be assured in this multicultural society to every citizen regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, handicapping condition, and sexual orientation.

We believe . . . the HIV/AIDS crisis must be recognized as a national public health and safety priority requiring increased support for expedited research on treatments and vaccines, comprehensive education and prevention, compassionate patient care, adoption of the public health community's consensus on voluntary and confidential testing and counseling, and protection for the civil rights for those suffering from AIDS or ARC, or testing positive for the HIV antibody.

Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocates was named to the Democratic National Committee as part of an agreement with the Rev. Jesse Jackson to expand the size of the size of the committee. The appointment of O'Leary, who actively supported Dukakis, raises the number of openly gay or lesbian members of the committee to five. There are currently 400 participants on the committee. The Republican National Committee has yet to have an openly gay or lesbian committee member.

INTO THE FUTURE

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

- October 7-9, 1988. 5th Annual Conference of Emergence International: Christian Scientists Supporting Lesbians and Gay Men. Washington, DC.
- October 5-13, 1988. 1st Anniversary Celebration for the March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights. See article.
- October 8, 1988. 20th Anniversary Celebration of Metropolitan Community Churches. San Francisco, CA.
- October 8-9, 1988. Annual GLSO Campout. Eddie's Farm, Scott County, KY.
- October 8-10, 1988. NAMES Project Quilt display at Capital Mall. Washington, DC.
- October 11, 1988. National Coming Out Day.
- November 18-20, 1988. NGLTF National Conference for Gay & Lesbian Organizations. Washington, DC.
- February 17-19, 1989. 5th Annual Continental Convocation of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian & Gay Concerns. Lexington, KY.

AIDS.
IT'S YOUR BUSINESS, TOO.

CLASSIFIEDS

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DIRECTORY

- GLSO Gayline..... 231-0335
- GLSO Board....call Steve, 266-8887
- GLSO Newsletter.....
...call Craig/Steve, 266-8887
- GLSO Speaker's Bureau....
.....call Barry, 268-3935
- GLSO Coffeehouse &
Dance.....
.....call Esmerelda, 255-3851
- GLSO Cards & Games.....
.....call Karen, 259-3292
- GLSO Rainbow Bowling League
.....call Keith, 269-8417
..... or, Chuck, 268-8514
- Lesbian Potluck.....
.....call Esmerelda, 255-3851
- Gay/Lesbian AA.....
.....call, 271-4320
- Imperial Court of the
Bluegrass Empire....
..... Jerry, 272-7381
- 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.)
- Interweave.....call Craig, 266-8887
(A group within Lexington's Unitarian Universalist Church composed of gay men and lesbians and their non-gay friends.)
- AVOL..... 252-2447
(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 testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)
- Madison County Health Department
AIDS Testing..... 623-7312
(For anonymous AIDS counseling and testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)
- Louisville Crisis Hotline.
..... (502) 637-4342
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Crisis Line and AIDS Crisis
Line..... (800) 221-7044

AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR



Contact names and numbers for all events listed can be found in the Directory on the previous page. The Comp Care Center is located at 201 Mechanic Street, Lexington.

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| THU 1 | 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 | TUE 13 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Bowl |
| FRI 2 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | WED 14 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| SAT 3 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 | THU 15 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| SUN 4 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center | FRI 16 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance, 9 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church |
| TUE 6 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Dignity Liturgy, 7:30 pm; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Bowl | SAT 17 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 |
| WED 7 | GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance Committee, 8 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | SUN 18 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; Lesbian Passion Discussion Group, 1 pm |
| THU 8 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120 | TUE 20 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; GLSO Speaker's Bureau, 7 pm; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Bowl |
| FRI 9 | GLSO Volleyball & Potluck, 6:30 pm, Jacobson Park, Shelter #5; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm | WED 21 | Interweave, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance Committee, 8 pm |
| SAT 10 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120; GLSO News Deadline for Submissions | THU 22 | Dignity Rap Session, 7:30 pm, Topic: How Do You Take Care of Yourself; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120 |
| SUN 11 | Lesbian Potluck, 2 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center; AVOL, 5:30 pm, Comp Care Center | FRI 23 | GLSO Volleyball & Potluck, 6:30 pm, Jacobson Park, Shelter #5; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| MON 12 | GLSO Forum, Topic: Co-Dependency & Adult Children of Alcoholics, 8 pm, Comp Care Center | SAT 24 | Gay/Lesbian ACA, 2 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120 |
| | | SUN 25 | Gayline Training Session, 1 pm, Comp Care Center; Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center |
| | | TUE 27 | HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Bowl |
| | | WED 28 | GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30 pm; Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |
| | | THU 29 | Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm; Gay Men's AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Rm. 120 |
| | | FRI 30 | Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm |



Doors Open
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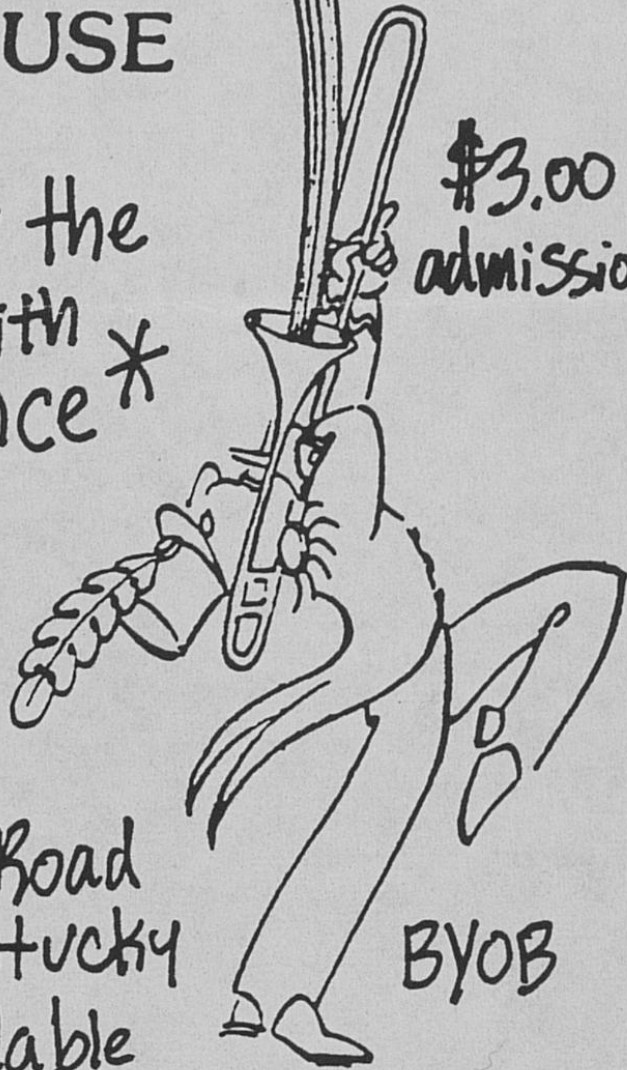
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