# APRIL 1992 SLS NEWS

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

## MANY ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR LEXINGTON PRIDE CELEBRATION 1992

By Debbie Currie

The 1992 Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Pride Committee has been working hard the past few months We also have a raffle planned making plans for this year's and will be selling PRIDE 1992 celebration and things are really buttons. Watch for the raffle beginning to take shape. schedule of events isn't finalized in early May. Also mark your yet. So for now, I thought we'd calendar for May 8, when we'll be yet. So for now, I thought we'd just let you know about some of the events we have planned. We're very proud of this slate of events -- there truly is something for everyone:

\*\* MOVIE NIGHT at the Kentucky

Theater.

\*\* Two plays by BETWEEN THE ACTS: "Dos Lesbos" and a return engagement of that wonderful lesbian gothic drama, "This Brooding Sky."

\*\* PRIDE CHURCH SERVICE at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

\*\* BARN DANCE (sponsored by the Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association).

\*\* COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET (sponsored by the Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association).

Events will be scheduled between June 5 and 14.

The tickets and buttons to go on sale having another Pride 1992 Benefit featuring Yer Girlfriend!

We are very excited about this year's Pride Celebration! The planning got off to an earlier start than ever before, fund-raising has been going on since last fall, and we are planning our biggest publicity push ever. We need your support, so please be there! Watch for the final schedule, including dates, times and

times and

locations in the May GLSO News.

If you would like to assist with the 1992 Pride Celebration or for please phone more information, Debbie at 255-3851).

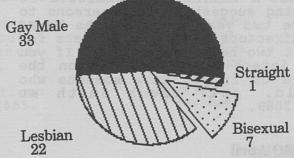
## SURVEY GIVES INSIGHT INTO GLSO NEWS READERS' CHARACTERISTICS

sixty-three GLSO News readers responded to the survey in the February issue. This is a good response; 500 copies of the News are distributed. Although the survey is not scientific and cannot be used to make projections about the gay and lesbian population of Lexington, it does

provide an insight into the demographics and attitudes of the readers. The readers responding to the survey identified their sexual orientation to be: gay males, 33; lesbians, 22; bisexuals, 7; and

straight males, 1.
A detailed report on the results of the survey starts on page 8 of this issue.

# Sexual Orientation of Survey Respondents



## GLSO News

Published monthly by the Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services Orginization, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575

Chuck Smith, editor Craig Clere, president, GLSO Board

Mailing: Lee. Folding and stuffing: Lee, Laurie, Mark, Steve, and Willy.

The Esmerelda's Parlour column with news and viewpoints of interest to lesbians in the Bluegrass is produced by Esmerelda Collective.

Views or opinions expressed in 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 submission. Placement of advertising in the GLSO News does not denote a person's sexual orientation nor a business's customer preference.

### NOMINATION SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT

GLSO's nominating committee is seeking suggestions for persons to serve two year terms on the board of directors. The board meets for about two hours each month. If you are interested in serving on the board or if you know someone who would, call Chuck Smith at 275-2089.

## A word from the editor

## **CLOSET ARE FOR CLOTHES**

By Chuck Smith

There is no reason to believe that the survey results published in this issue of the GLSO News represent views of a cross section of the gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in the Lexington area. In fact they represent a narrow part of that community: the people who for various reasons read the News. If the survey tells us anything at all, it says the organized "gay community," such as it is, needs to reach out to other segments of the community.

The past year has seen the growth and development of groups concerned with the spirituality of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. Let's make the coming year a time to develop other resources for the

community.

The survey asked what sort of gay/lesbian/bisexual groups are most needed in Lexington. In the responses, three ideas were mentioned most often: (1) a bisexual support group, (2) an organization for gays and lesbians under 21 years old, and (3) organized outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, softball, and volleyball.

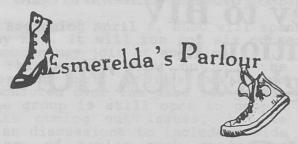
If you would be interested in a bisexual group call Beth at 253-0955. People interested in developing an under 21 group can phone Chuck at 275-2089. If you are interested in organizing outdoor activities, or if you would like to take part in such activities phone Chuck at

257-2089.

A running/walking club, the Lexington Front Runners, already exists. It meets every Saturday morning at 9:30 at the UK water tower, southeast of Commonwealth Stadium.

++++++
The Pride Committee meets at
00, April 9. If you have ideas

8:00, April 9. If you have ideas or want to help call 255-3851.



## A MONTH WITHOUT LESBIAN SEX

By Debbie Currie
I know you are going to feel
deprived, but this is going to be
another month without sex. Or
rather, without one of my
stimulating articles on safe sex.
I plan to continue with them next
month.

Actually, I don't have much this month, but what I have is big, or at least it is to me. I am in the same position I was in three years ago, when I decided that I was trying to do more than I could really handle.

I had to say goodbye to Esmerelda's Parlour then, and I'm going to have to say goodbye now. The June 1992 issue of the GLSO News will be the last one for me, I hope that once again someone will step forward to take this column under their wing. We're lucky to have this forum--let's keep it alive!

## ATHENA PRODUCTIONS OFFERS SPIRITUAL RENEWAL RETREAT

A retreat for spiritual renewal led by Jacqueline Metheany will take place at Mockingbird Hill House, April 10 to 12. The weekend is designed to help you connect with your spiritual path in a deeper, more meaningful way.

Metheany, Director of Spiritual Formation of Shalem Institute, Chicago/Columbus will present methods for ritual meditation, and imagery techniques.

Space is limited, reservations needed. Contact: Janette 276-2685.

## TROUBLE

By Gina Rose

I could read any eyes the horse if fire or not A dog's bite the lover's look minds of mistrust the soul kept within

Then you nothing appeared gambler cool no trace of telling green deep water of hidden depths hidden rocks below the surface still silent mute eyes

Captured I wanted to move the stone prize the treasure

An unknown woman unchartered paths I followed being seen not seeing I traveled on never did I read those eyes when in love and in love wasted peace war

I never knew never sure of the places you gave me or how much I was there



# The key to HIV Prevention is Through EDUCATION.

Spread Facts, not HIV.

For more information, call your local health department or the

## KENTUCKY AIDS HOTLINE 1-800-654-AIDS

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

RESPONDS

TO AIDS

## GLSO SPONSORED GAY AND LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

Beginning April 6, GLSO will sponsor a support group for lesbians and gay men. It will run for six consecutive weeks on Monday nights. New

members may join at any time.

This group grew out of the coming out groups we have sponsored over the past few years. The group is still open to people with coming out issues, but we plan discussions to include a wide range of topics such as how to encourage long-term relationships, the pressures of living in a straight society, religious and spiritual concerns, political choices, and so forth.

The group will choose a focus week by week. For the location of the meetings or more information, please contact Cole at 233-9991 or

Mary at 266-5904.

The group meets each Monday in April and the first two weeks in May at 7:15 p.m.

## GLSO NEWS READERS IDENTIFY GAY FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

In a recent survey of the readers of the GLSO News, 31 area businesses were identified as gay friendly. At the head of the list were Joseph-Beth Booksellers and Sqecial Media, overwhelmingly the most reported. Pegasus Travel, Alfalfa's, Fleur de Lys, Cat's Corner, Hensley State Farm, Paisley Peacock, Imperial Flowers and the Pampered Chef each also captured several votes along with four local bars (The Bar Complex, The Metro, Joe's, and Crossings).

**Airline Tickets -- Cruises -- Tours** 

PEGASUS TRAVEL INC.

**GLSO** Donation With Each Purchase

2040 Idle Hour Center Richmond Road, Lexington, KY 40502 800 228-4337 606 268-4337

## 800-LINE OFFERS PEER SUPPORT TO GAY AND LESBIAN TEENAGERS

Gay male and lesbian teenagers can now talk to other teenagers about matters related to their sexuality on an 800-phoneline. The service provided by the Indiana Youth Group, is staffed by gay male and lesbian teenagers.

This phoneline provides young people who are coming to terms with their sexuality the opportunity to talk with other teenagers about their concerns. The toll free number is (800)

347-8336.

AIDS Information and Services
A V O L: 254-2865

UK Women's Studies presents

LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY and

DIANNE DAVIDSON

IN CONCERT

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 p.m Singletary Center for the Arts

**Ticket Information: 257-4929** 

# April SLSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1992

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 1992 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	10 11 12 13 14 15 16		8pm gay/lesbian AA	pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp. 7:30pm UK LAMBDA	7pm gay mens spirit. grp. 8pm gay/lesbian AA	9am Front Runners am HIV/AIDS supp. grp.
4pm gay/lesbian AA  Tri-state Gay Rodeo Asso.	7-9 pm lesbigay support group	noon:UK LAMBDA lunch 7pm gay/lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow bowl. lg.	7 NAMES Project meet.	9 pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp. 7 NAMES Project Panel making	10 8pm gay/lesbian AA	9am Front Runners am HIV/AIDS supp. grp.
4pm gay/lesbian AA	7-9 pm lesbigay support group	14 7pm gay/lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowl. Ig,	15 8pm gay/lesbian AA	16 pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp. 7:30 UK LAMBDA 8 pm Pride Week Com.	17 8pm gay/lesbian AA 7pm gay mens spirit. grp.	9am Front Runners am HIV/AIDS supp. grp.
2pm lesbian potluck 4pm gay/lesbian AA	20 7-9 pm lesbigay support group	21 7pm gay/lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow bowl. lg.	<b>22</b> 8pm gay/lesbian AA	23 pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp.	24 7pm Dignity meeting 8pm gay/lesbian AA	9am Front Runners pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp. 8 pm Tremblay & Davidson Concert
4pm gay/lesbian AA	27 7-9 pm lesbigay support group	<b>28</b> 7pm gay/lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow bowl. lg.	29 6:30 GLSO board meeting 8pm gay/lesbian AA	30 pm HIV/AIDS supp. grp. 7:30 UK LAMBDA		

## DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline	231-0335
GLSO Board (Craig) GLSO News (Chuck) GLSO Speakers Bureau (Bill) GLSO Phoneline (Tony) GLSO Support Group (Mary) (Cole)	
Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S (Mark) Rainbow Bowling League Tri-state Gay Rodeo (Terry) NAMES Project Kentucky (Katie) Lesbian Potluck Esmerelda's Parlour (Debbie) Front Runners/running club (Dan) UK Gay/Lesbian Students (Keith) Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby) (Michael)	267-2127 233-7266 223-3855 231-3851 255-3851 254-6850
Gay/Lesbian AA (Dave)	. 293-6822 . 293-0516
RELIGIOUS GROUPS Dignity: Catholic (Don) Interweave: Unitarian (Craig) Gay Mens Spiritual Group (Steve)	299-4458 . 277-4384 . 233-1782
AIDS Information & Services Kentucky AIDS Hotline 800 AVOL (info. & services) . HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Groups (AVOL)	645-2437 . 254-2865 . 254-2865
Anoymous AIDS Testing Lexington-Fayette County Madison County Jessamine County Woodford County	885-4140
National Cov/Lashian Chinina	

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline (800) 347-4283

 $\begin{array}{c} Lexington \ Gay/Lesbian \ Information \\ 231-0335 \end{array}$ 

Teenage Gay & Lesbian Support (800) 347-TEEN
This line is staffed by teenagers

6 GLSO/April

GLSO/April 7

## GLSO SURVEY SHOWS LIMITED DIVERSITY AMONG RESPONDENTS

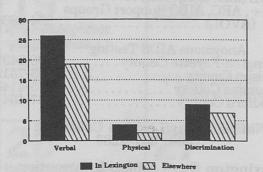
By Jeff Jones and Chuck Smith
A recent survey of the opinions and practices of readers of the GLSO News provided some unexpected information, but no shocking surprises. In the February issue of the News readers were asked to answer a readers' survey; 63 people responded. This digest presents some of the

findings.

It should be emphasized that the survey is not scientific and cannot be assumed to provide an faithful reflection of either the GLSO News readers or of the Lexington gay male, lesbian, and bisexual community. But it does provide some interesting insights into the characteristics and thoughts of the readers who took

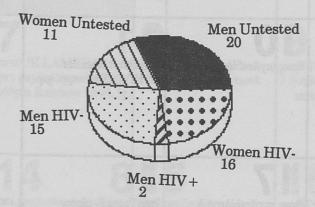
Who Answered the Survey: Of the 63 respondents, 26 are women and 37 are men with almost exactly half falling within the 26 to 35 age range. All but 5 of the respondents are white; 95% live in Fayette County. A religious or spiritual preference was claimed by 87%, with Roman Catholics and Unitarian Universalists comprising the largest number. The vast majority are registered Democrats (67%) with fewer Republicans (6%) and independents (6%). And, (pay attention politicians) 88% voted in the last four years.

## EXPERIENCES OF HARASSMENT



Finally, in occupation, the largest single category of respondents are college students (16%). Showing a great diversity with 28 different job categories reported, the others' occupations include horse groom, clerical worker, priest, law enforcement, nurse, engineer, teacher, and lawyer.

**HIV Status** 



A Surprise: Although lesbian women have a much lower incidence of HIV infection than almost any other group, a higher proportion of the women (59.2%) have been tested for the HIV compared to the men (45.9%). This finding is unexpected. Disturbingly, 23% of the men and 16% of the women did not always practice safer sex.

Education: The respondents show a tendency to have a high level of education: two-thirds have college degrees with half of these degrees being at the Masters or Ph.D. level. Even more telling is the fact that 97% of the respondents report having some college

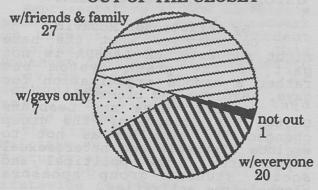
education.

Income: On the other hand, the respondents show a low income level with a third having annual incomes below \$10,000. This is at least partially accounted for by the number of college students responding to the survey. This

group includes graduate students who already have at least one degree. On the other end of the scale, 23% of the women answering the survey and 11% of the men earn over \$30,000 annually.

"Outness:" One-third of those responding to the survey classify themselves as "out," or open about

## **OUT OF THE CLOSET**



their sexual orientation to everyone. Another third report being
out to their families and friends.
The final third classify
themselves as not out at all (1),
out to a few close friends (5) or
only to other lesbigays (7).

Most of the men report realizing their sexual orientation in their mid to late teens with the women readers showing a trend toward a later realization coming in their late teens to early 20's. Forty percent, however, report 'coming out' between 19 and 24 years of age.

Discrimination: Forty-one percent of the respondents have experienced verbal harassment in Lexington and 6% also report being physically harassed. With 14% of the respondents reporting discrimination in Lexington in housing, insurance, etc., it is clear that Lexington is not a community protecting all of its citizens.

Respondents also experienced discrimination in places other than Lexington. Thirty percent report having been victims of verbal harassment with 3%

suffering physical attack and 11% facing other forms of discrimination in housing, insurance, etc.

insurance, etc.

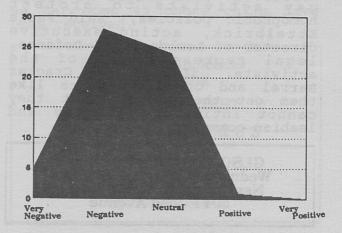
Family and Friends: Considering the youth of many of respondents, a satisfying 40% of respondents report being in a long term relationship or holy union. Another 28% report not currently dating. So, there be wives on the wing and husbands on the hoof out there.

Four men and three women report having children. Considering this small sampling for this survey such statistics point to a need for a group for gays and lesbians with children in Lexington.

Also interestingly for a community often noted for gender divisions, 78% of respondents report that they mostly socialize with a mixed crowd of men and women, gays and heterosexuals.

Lexington's Gay Climate: The overwhelming majority of the respondents report that Lexington does not have a gay-positive environment. Only one feels the climate is a positive one for lesbigays; while 24 feel it is neutral. But 28 see overall attitude about lesbigays to be negative and 5 consider it to be very negative.

## Lexington's Acceptance of Gays



## CRACKER BARREL BACKS DOWN ON LAWSUIT AGAINST GAY ACTIVISTS

By Penny Perkins

Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores has dropped its lawsuits against lesbian and gay activist whom the company had restrained from protesting at one of its restaurants in Tennessee. The restaurant chain had used

lawsuits to prevent gay and lesbian activist who own stock in the company from attending its annual shareholders' meeting in Tennessee last November. The company voluntarily dismissed the suit just weeks before a court hearing at which it would have been forced to defend its actions against the gay and lesbian shareholders.

Cracker Barrel restaurants across the country were the target of protests after the company's decision in early 1991 to implement a policy of blatant discrimination against employees who are or are perceived to be gay or lesbian. The policy, imposed on the more than 100 Cracker Barrel restaurants throughout the Southeast and other parts of the country, resulted in the arbitrary firing of at least nine gay and lesbian workers. The company lesbian workers. policy stated it is inconsistent with the company's "traditional American values . . . to employ individuals whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

"This is a clear victory in stopping a corporate bully from denying the rights of lesbian and gay activists to protest homophobic policies," said Paula Ettelbrick, acting executive director of Lambda Legal Defense, legal representative of the activists. "I hope that Cracker Barrel and other companies like them get the message that they cannot intimidate the gay and lesbian community."

GLSO FORUM & SOCIAL Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 P.M. New Morning Coffee House 504 Euclid Avenue

## **UK GAY STUDENTS REORGANIZE:** G.L.U.E. BECOMES UK LAMBDA

By Christopher McDavid Contrary to what the name might suggest, UK LAMBDA is not part of the greek system but rather a campus organization for

gays, lesbians and bisexuals.
Formerly Gays and Lesbians United for Education, the group changed its name so as not to exclude bisexuals and heterosexual supporters. The political and social student group sponsors alcohol-free activities.

The letter lambda has been adopted as an international symbol for gay, lesbians and bisexual liberation.

### HEPATITIS INCREASE INDICATES RESURGENCE OF UNSAFE SEX

Federal health officials reported March 5 an increase in hepatitis Type A among gay men, who have not historically been at high risk of the disease.

Researchers with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said they fear the outbreaks in several cities could signal a resurgence of unsafe sex, a decade after concern over AIDS prompted changes in sexual behavior.

**CLASSIFIED ADS** 

Roommate wanted: Female or gay male wanted to share a lovely home in Versailes. Lots of privacy w/fenced-in yard, pool, fireplace and 2 great roommates to live with. We need a very discreet and neat person. We prefer a non-smoker, but will negotiate. Need \$250/month, includes utilities. If interested call Jane at 873-1566.

## UK GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS ATTEND AREA MEETING

By Rob Howell

Four members of UK LAMBDA and a member of B-GLAD at Centre College recently attended a conference of gay, lesbian and bisexual students in Nashville sponsored by Vanderbilt LAMBDA. The conference attended by students from many colleges and universities in the South, was wellorganized, informative and best of all, incredibly empowering. All of us returned from Nashville with much enthusiasm about making positive changes at our schools.

Representative at the conference planned the formation of a network of bisexual/lesbian/gay student organizations in the South. This Southern Coalition is intended to provide efficient lines of communication and support to small, less well-established

campus groups.

The first step to establish and maintain an instrumental role for Kentucky students in the Southern Coalition is to establish a statewide coalition. Efforts to get this project under way have already begun with UK, U of L, NKU, WKU, EKY, Berea, and Centre participating. For information, participating. For call Rob at 254-5326.

The newly reorganized UK gay, sbian, and bisexual students lesbian, group, UK LAMBDA, has about 30 active members and remains fairly busy. Unfortunately, a large percentage of this active membership will be graduating in May. If the numbers don't increase, the group is potentially faced with severe problems in the fall.

feel that perhaps many students simply don't know that we are here for them. In order to become better know, LAMBDA has begun an extensive flier campaign around campus as well as initiate public service announcements on

the student radio station, WRFL. The group has also reserved for the latter part of April, a large display case in the student Center. We plan to fill the case with educational media and other positive image/aspects of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. For more information call Rob at 254-5326.

## KKK UPS ANTI-GAY ACTIVITY

The former Ku Klux Klan leader and ex-Nazi David Duke's campaign for governor of Louisiana was paralleled by an upsurge of the KKK.

Thirty members of the Klan burned crosses in Springfield, Mo., for the first time since 1920. The 29-year-old director of the Missouri KKK, Steve Gullet, said, "By God, if some traitor commie can burn the flag, and queers can kiss in the park, we can have a religious governory." can have a religious ceremony."

In Lancaster, Pa., where a law prohibiting discrimination against gay people was passed recently, The Klan threatened to march on a local book store, that stocks gay literature and close it down.

Meanwhile, in Fort Worth, Tex., threatening phone calls have been coming into the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the homes of its officers. The anonymous callers have been saying, "a good fag is a dead fag," and "You should be burned like the Jews." So far some 45 phone calls have been received.

> Singer and Musicians are forming

LEXINGTON'S FIRST

WOMEN'S CHORUS

Interested?

Call: 254-8338 Leave message.

## EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY GAY STUDENTS ORGANIZE

By Laurie Davison

Walk across the Eastern Kentucky University campus at any time of the

day and your "gay-dar" will go tilt. In fact, Eastern gives new meaning to the saying, "We are everywhere." We certainly are! to the saying, "We are everywhere, there is no lesbigay organization, regardless of this fact, however, there is no lesbigay organization, information growing or group at FKH Student Services has no information service or support group at EKU. Student Services has no information, Minority Affairs isn't prepared to respond to lesbigay issues and the counceling center makes

makes referals either to the mental health department or a

priest.

All the people I spoke to were friendly and willing to help -- they simply didn't have the

information.

This need to change. In midMarch, a group of students
organized. It was a small but
enthusiastic group. There was an
even mix of men and women
(including one straight man).
Their goal is to reach out and
offer support in as positive a way
as possible to gay, lesbian and
bisexual students at Eastern.

We have a lots of great ideas.
But at this point nothing is set
in concrete; we are seeking input

we are seeking input

in concrete; we are from other students.

During the last weeks of March, the organizing group put humorous, eye-catching posters around campus to inform students that a lesbian,

gay, bisexual group was forming.
We know how difficult it can be to meet other gay people and how overwhelming the feeling of isolation can be. We want other gay students to know that support exists.

our new group has received encouragement from other Eastern students, UK Lambda, GLSO, Kentucky Lambda Coalition, and the newly formed organization at Berea

college.

Eastern students interested in the group can find out more by sending as self-addressed, stamped envelop to Boxholder, P.O. Box 29, Lexington, KY 40501, or by calling Joe at 624-8711.

We say to lesbigays at Eastern, "you have a family, you have a history, and you are not alone.

MEETS FUNDRAISING TARGET

By Debbie Currie The Reel World String Band Benefit Concert and the generosity of our community resulted in raising \$1500, which exceeded our wildest expectations. Not only did the band draw and entertain a large crowd, it waived its fee.

The main purpose was to provide

money toward paying for a service dog for Linda Laporte. The concert provided \$1400 for Linda to help purchase the dog from Paws With A

cause.

This concert put the money needed for the dog over the top, according to Linda. I wish you all could have seen the look of wonder on her face and heard the delight in her voice as she said, looks like I have my dog."
Pride Week 1992 received \$100

from the concert.

## WORKSHOP TEACHES FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pekoz will present Financial Recovery Within Recovery workshop Saturday, April 25, from 9:30 to 4:30 at Central Baptist char chruch.

Pekoz is a therapist, educatortrainer with master's degrees in counseling and communications and is completing a Ph.D. in nutrition and wellness. She has coached hundreds of people toward a more personally and financially prosperous and success-filled

obtained by calling skeet or Judith at 277-0450.