

GLS O NEWS

OCTOBER * 1994

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEXINGTON GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

COMING OUT 101

BY KENT W. ECHLER

Thinking about coming out this month? Told by one friend it was no big deal and nothing changed? Told by another that the family changed the locks and burned the picture album?

What you may learn from the experiences of other is that coming out is an extremely personal matter. Never let anyone make the decision for you; only you will know when you're ready. But listen to the tales, read the books, be prepared for any reaction--then do it. Tell someone your real story.

You don't have to come out to the world. Start out small. Coming out is a process, done over a period of--well, your whole life. Forget the "big ones" (usually the parents) for a while. Get some practice first. Some may have to begin with themselves. Have you come out to yourself? Have you ever written the sentence "I am gay" or said it out loud? The next step may be telling someone gay that you are, too. Telling just one person, you'll be surprised how empowered you feel. That goes for those who have been out for years. Telling just one person, every October, extends gay pride and public awareness just that much further. You will feel the empowerment every time.

National
Coming Out Day
OCTOBER 11

National Gay/Lesbian Crisis Line

(800) 247-4283

Teenage Gay/Lesbian Support

(800) 347-TEEN

Thurs.-Sun. 7pm-Midnight

Coming out is liberating and frightening. It changes your life. Accepted or rejected, things are not the same as before. The central point is that to all persons you tell, you give back to them the responsibility for their reactions and dealings with them. You, to one more person, stop telling lies, stop living the lies, become to yourself and others a real person. There is a big difference between making up all those stories (and keeping them straight) and offering the real information if asked. You will discover how much energy you were using to protect other people's feelings. Let *them* deal with their feelings, and use your energy for yourself.

We have been trained by our culture, the media and ourselves to accept extremes as the whole story. Yes, there are those who have come out to unconditional acceptance, and others who have lost their children, families, and jobs--but those are the extremes. The majority of us are somewhere in the middle: we aren't completely out, and have lost and gained friends and family along the way. What's more, the reactions are also in the middle--once the mystery is taken away, people tend not to ask questions if they don't want to hear the answers. Eventually, relations with your family will get back to the usual stuff, although with a decidedly different twist.

continued on page 2

GLSO News

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

Editor:
Brian Throckmorton

Layout Editor:
Elizabeth A. Gilliam

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Dues and Newsletter for Couples: \$20
Newsletter Only: \$10

Views or opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board of Directors. Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must indicate full name and address of the author. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and ads to meet publishing requirements, as well as the right to reject any submissions. Placement of advertising in GLSO News denotes neither a person's sexual orientation nor a business' customer preference.

That's why coming out is important. It takes you out of the talk shows and right-wing propaganda, and places you in the real world, where life is not black and white and relationships are complex. By bringing the issue to yourself, you make the greatest contribution to all other like yourself. For every person who sees you as a three-dimensional individual who happens to be gay, you have decreased the influence of radical against us all.

Hardest to find is the courage to accept another's reaction to and the consequences of your coming out. It is easier to go along with familiar suffering than risk unknown change for the good. But this October, and every October from now on, whether you are new to the process or think it doesn't matter any more, COME OUT to someone, in your own way, on your own terms. You can make positive change for yourself and the entire community.

LETTERS TO GLSO NEWS

Dear GLSO:

"How gay is gay enough? How much is too much?" These questions attracted my attention in the last newsletter.

First, the nature of these questions imply that a definitive measure exists. Not so. Homosexuality is not a measurable quantity. Being homosexual is not defined by one's visibility, openness, or involvement in gay groups. As individuals (not just as homosexuals) we contribute in our own unique way, to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community as well as to society in general. Our contributions as individuals may be measurable to some extent. The use of arbitrary standards which allegedly define a gay person or group is misguided and detrimental.

Some individuals/groups are critical if other gay people or organizations operate outside the artificial parameters of "what it means" to be homosexual. Recent rumblings over the names of organizations is particularly ludicrous. As an individual who happens to be gay, I salute the efforts of those who "get pierced, wear triangles and (are) visibly queer". I also commend those who display their pride and accomplish goals through less demonstrative venues. Both types of individuals and groups are needed and both contribute to our progress.

The senseless struggle amongst ourselves for acceptance as a gay individual or group certainly diminishes the larger struggle with society. Think about it.

Sincerely,
Tim Banks

LEXINGTON'S M.C.C. CHURCH SPONSORING LEADERSHIP TRAINING


Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church is sponsoring a ten-part video training series on developing leadership skills. The training program, LEADING THE WAY, features Bruce Cook, a graduate of the Harvard Business School, and Howard Hendricks, author of eight best-selling books on related topics. The one hour, twice monthly programs will begin on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Les-Bi-Gay community are welcome to attend.

Participants will learn through teaching, self-assessment tools, role plays, and a feature film. They will discover the right leadership position for them, building on their own strengths. They will improve communication skills and sensitivity, as well as how to motivate others. For further information, call 277-1407.

INTEGRITY CHAPTER FORMS


Integrity, the lesbian and gay ministry of the Episcopal Church, has formed a chapter in Lexington. A worship service will be held the third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Chapel, 472 Rose Street, Lexington. For more information, call (606) 233-1782

Integrity was founded in 1974 and has grown to more than fifty chapters in the United States. The organization is open to all who support gay and lesbian rights in the Episcopal Church. Members include several bishops and many supportive clergy. Most Integrity chapters meet in Episcopal churches. Integrity's goal is "to be the Church in the lesbian and gay community and to be the lesbian and gay community in the Church." To do this, Integrity chapters sponsor worship, educational programs, fellowship and service for the community and witness to and dialogue with the Church.



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GLSO UPDATE

BY MARY CRONE

You may notice that the GLSO News is somewhat smaller this month. We have to cut costs and increase our income if we are to continue this publication. It costs us \$260 to \$310 dollars and a lot of volunteer time to get this to you each month. We do not receive enough paid subscriptions to continue to give 250 copies away. Last month we received one (one) check for membership and subscription. We need twenty-five new or continued subscriptions a month in addition to advertising income for the newsletter to pay for itself. Last time we asked for new subscribers we did receive 25 checks a month, but only for two months. It is actually the generous donations from \$10 to \$500 that have kept us going over the years.

Those of you who are in the habit of picking up the newsletter free every month need to find some way to pay for what you are getting. We think \$10 to have the newsletter delivered to your home is more than reasonable. If you cannot afford this, consider sending us a five dollar donation. We are going to put donation boxes out with the newsletters at some locations to see if we can get some immediate cash. We are asking that everyone that picks up a newsletter puts a dollar in the box. This, of course, is an unreliable way to increase our income but we are going to give it a try. We will have people out at bars and community events asking that you subscribe. We will also be reducing the number of copies we put out, but we do not want to diminish our advertising income by cutting our distribution severely. In many ways our Les-Bi-Gay community is growing stronger, but to lose this newsletter would be a big setback. Please take a few minutes to send in this subscription form.

The Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization *Working to Unite Our Diverse Community Since 1974*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

_____ \$10 Newsletter Only _____ \$15 Membership and Newsletter


_____ \$20 Couple Membership and Newsletter


_____ I do not wish for my name to be added to the Community Mailing List
used exclusively by and for Kentucky Gay/Lesbian organizations.


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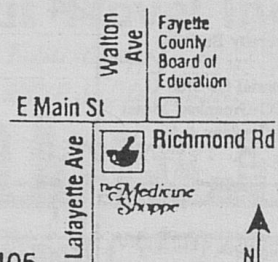
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October 1994

October Is Lesbian/Gay History Month



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

2 2:00pm "Marvin's Rm." - Actors' Guild 6:00pm MCC-Greendale Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	3 7:30pm Pride Ctr. Taskforce	4 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	5 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm G/L Volunteers for Todd-Cheapside HQ 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	6 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm "Marvin's Rm." - Actors' Guild 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp.	7 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "Marvin's Rm." - Actors' Guild	8 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 8:00pm "Marvin's Rm." - Actors' Guild																																																																																				
9 2:00pm "Marvin's Rm." - Actors' Guild 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U 6:00pm MCC-Greendale Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	10 Columbus Day (Observed) 7:30pm Stonewall Network	11 National Coming Out Day 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	12 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 6:30pm G/L Volunteers for Todd-Cheapside HQ 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	13 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp.	14 7:00pm Dignity 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA	15 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 10:00am Men's Network 7:00pm Healing Svc. - Christ Church Cathedral																																																																																				
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GLSO CAMPS OUT IN SCOTT COUNTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!

The 14th annual GLSO campout is scheduled for Saturday, October 8. Once again, Eddie will host the campout at his secluded farm in rural Scott County. Campers will begin arriving at 4pm.

The event attracts people from both central Kentucky and Louisville. Regulars at the event say it is a great way to meet people and enjoy both new friends and old, just 30 miles north of Lexington.

Eddie will provide a comfortable ground to sleep on, a campfire and a clear sky. Because the campsite is not visible from the road, if you have not attended a previous campout, please call Eddie at his Lexington home at 259-0878 for detailed directions.

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arnold, spanish omelettes,
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**Wednesday is International
Night**

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daily in our kitchen

Free evening parking.

Look over this summary of our financial situation over the last three months. It is easy to see we need more income to continue. The summer months are often slow, but this year has been particularly difficult.

Monthly Expenses

GTE	\$ 95
Phoenix (phone line)	\$ 50
Copy Company	\$280
Bulk Mail	\$ 30
Welcome pacs	\$ 10
TOTAL	\$490

Monthly Income

Newsletter Advertising	\$110
Subscriptions	\$ 40
Memberships/Donations	\$ 30
TOTAL	\$180

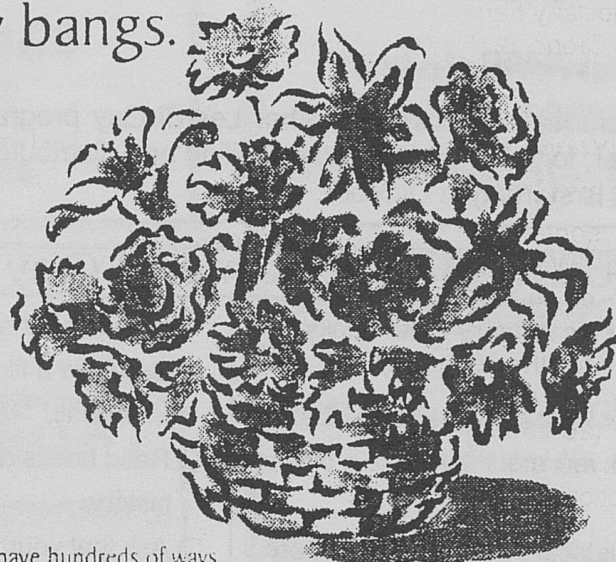
*Miscellaneous includes advertising in other Les-Bi-Gay programs, copying, mailing and so forth. In September, for example, we did a mailing and distributed flyers concerning our youth support group that is starting in October.

Things to Do for Lesbian and Gay History Month

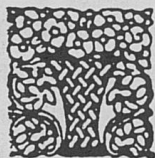
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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Request that your local library order books on our history <input type="checkbox"/> Make certain your local library is aware that October is LGHM; ask that they make a display of books. <input type="checkbox"/> Make certain your local bookstores are aware that October is LGHM; ask that they make a display of books. <input type="checkbox"/> Request that your local school order the Chelsea House teen series on "Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians." <input type="checkbox"/> Make certain that your local school is aware that this October is LGHM; request that your local school celebrate LGHM just as they | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> celebrate other history months around the year. <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a film festival; show the films "Before Stonewall," "After Stonewall," etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Read books on lesbian, gay and bisexual history. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask that your local newspapers (gay and nongay) publish a column on gay and lesbian history. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask your local TV and radio stations to do news and features on lesbian and gay history. <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a lecture on lesbian/gay history, especially local history. <input type="checkbox"/> Throw a gay-and-lesbian themed Halloween party to say so-long to the first annual LGHM. |
|---|--|

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Well, except for that time you goofed up my bangs.



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YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

BY MARY CRONE

GLSO and P-FLAG are starting a youth support for young people between the ages of 16 and 19. This is a part of the "Let's Talk Lexington" program that is designed to improve parent/child communication on sexuality. We have done a mailing to all Kentucky Comprehensive Care Centers and to local high school counseling offices. Ruth Fiscella of P-FLAG is contacting some church youth group leaders. (We may get some interesting calls!)

We intend to encourage the group to become self-directed, to set its own agenda, and so forth. We will have adult advisors available to provide information, locate speakers, and provide emotional support and referrals for participants who are having a particularly hard time. For more information call Mary Crone (266-5904) or Mike Taylor (225-1828).

WOMYNWEAVE

BY MARY CRONE

Womynweave, a social support group for lesbians, is re-forming. We hope to have a get-together every month or so to provide lesbians new to our community an avenue to get to know us and an opportunity for the rest of us to have some fun. Our first event will be a potluck at the home of Mary Crone (266-5904) on October 15 from 6:00 to 9:00. If you are interested, please give me a call for directions and details.

PERSONAL NOTES

WANTED: Female housemate to share home with one female and two dogs. Non-smoker. Tates Creek area. Call 273-1952.

OCTOBER DECLARED LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY MONTH

Several national les-bi-gay organizations, educational associations and prominent historians have declared October as National Lesbian and Gay History Month. Participating in the declaration are the American Historical Association's Committee on Lesbian and Gay History, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Gay and Lesbian Americans, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Project 10 (provides support to gay/lesbian teenagers in high schools), Project 21 (advocates for curriculum reform), City of Chicago Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, and Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth.

LGHM advocate Rodney Wilson, a St. Louis high school teacher, says, "We hope to educate society about the contributions made by lesbians, bisexuals and gay men to the history of our world and reclaim our heroes whose contributions have been 'sanitized' of their sexual orientation."

"This is an ideal way to identify role models for the nation's gay and lesbian youth so that they can see a future where they are valued regardless of their sexual orientation," says LGHM advocate Kevin Boyer, president of the Board of Directors of the Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives in Chicago.

October was selected rather than June because of this academic component of History Month celebrations. Few secondary schools and no colleges or universities are in session throughout June.

"October has important anniversaries for the lesbian and gay community, as well," says Johnda Boyce, an LGHM advocate from Columbus, Ohio. "The first and second marches on Washington for gay and lesbian rights were in October and National Coming Out Day is October 11."

A National Coordinating Council will assist in the development of activities. The National Council has materials available to those interested in celebrating Lesbian and Gay History Month. Send a SASE with 52 cents postage to LGHM, Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 3352 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60657. Call (312) 883-3003 for more information.

GLSO DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline.....231-0335

Staffed 8pm-11pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday (Voice Mail Available When Not Staffed)

GLSO

GLSO Board (Mary)	266-5904
GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff)	276-5383
GLSO: News (Brian)	278-0795
Ads (Mary).....	266-5904
Calendar (Jeff)	276-5383
Folding (Lee)	277-9365
Layout (Elizabeth)	275-7801
GLSO Gayline Volunteers (Peter)	273-5845
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Bill)	266-9175
GLSO Support Group (Mary).....	266-5904
(Mike)	225-1828

STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League: Berea College (Foula)	986-5669
AGLF: NKU (Pat)	572-5604
Alt. Voice: Murray State (Jeff).....	(502) 574-5792
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol).....	238-5332
GLOBAL: UofL (Ken)	(502) 852-3436
GUESS: EKU (Brian).....	622-5144
Lambda: UK (Julien before 10pm).....	272-7232
Lambda: WKU (Larry)	(502) 796-9114
Phi Omega Epsilon: MSU (David)	(502) 783-4729

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

Jessamine County	885-4149
Lexington-Fayette County	288-2437
Madison County	723-7312
Woodford County	873-4541

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Dignity [Catholic] (Don)	299-4458
Episcopal Diocese AIDS Ministry (Steve)	233-1782
GLAD [Disciples of Christ] (Jeff).....	255-4958
Honesty [Southern Baptist] (Eddie)	(502) 637-7609
(Dorothy).....	(502) 458-5392
Interweave [Unitarian] (Craig)	269-8215
MCC-Hopkinsville & Horse Cave.....	(502) 897-3821
MCC-Lexington (Rex).....	271-1407
MCC-Louisville	(502) 775-6636
MCC-Paducah	(502) 441-2307
Pagan Forum (Pat)	268-1640
Quaker FLGC (Connie).....	276-2554
Roman Catholic HIV Ministry (John)	231-9955

COMMUNITY

Asians and Friends, Ohio	(614) 341-7349
Bluegrass COLTS (Mark)	233-7266
Country Dykes (Debbie)	(502) 866-2304
Cumberland Cares	678-0587
Diversity Business Coalition	281-8444
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville.....	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith).....	254-6850
GBL Veterans, Columbus (Mike).....	(614) 299-7764
G/L AA (Dave)	293-6822
G/L Al-Anon	277-1877
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2896
Stonewall Network (Ann).....	(502) 839-8417
ICK (Ken/Ashley)	255-9881
KY ACLU (Keith).....	266-3934
KY Fairness Alliance (Keith).....	266-3934
Kentucky Legislature	
Bill Status Line	(800) 382-2455
Legislator Message Line.....	(800) 372-7181
Meeting Info Line	(800) 633-9650
Lesbian Potluck (Esmerelda)	231-0335
Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby)	231-0090
Louisville Youth Group.....	(502) 635-1302
Names Project, Lexington (Katie)	272-2588
P-FLAG (Ruth).....	272-7075
Rainbow Bowling League (Teri)	268-8563
Tri-State Gay Rodeo Assn. (Terry)	255-5469
(Paul)	278-8023
Womynweave (Mary)	266-5904

AIDS INFO/SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE.....	231-7545
AIDS Volunteers of Lexington.....	254-2865
AVOL Legal Referral Program.....	254-2865
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	(502) 584-1254
HIV+ Youth Support Group	254-2865
Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE	(502) 564-6539
Partners of HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(Greg)	288-2437
Thursday HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(KIPWAC - Edwin).....	281-2100
Saturday HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(AVOL)	254-2865