

GLSO NEWS

Vol. 14

JULY 1999

No. 6

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

July 4th Parade

This year's 4th of July Parade will be held on Saturday, the 3rd of July (hey, made sense to the city planners) and I'm one of the people helping to organize the lesbigaytrans contingent! Fairness, GLSO and the Court have arranged for two entries so that we can have 100 marchers.

Show up on Midland Ave., which is by the Herald Leader, to line up at 12 noon. We need to have a good percentage of people there to hold onto the two places we have paid for. So, no, do not plan to join us along the route after you have had a few; join us at 12 noon!

For this year's parade it is very important that we have as many folks marching as possible because we are in the process of asking our city to pass some pro-gay, pro-trans legislation. (and we want them to WANT TO!)

Through this parade, we want to show lexington that:

- 1) We represent a huge segment of this cities population (and we do)
- 2) Aside from the obvious, we're very much like them,
- 3) We are good citizens, neighbors, parents, and friends
- 4) We have supportive straight friends and family (ask supporters to join us!)
- 5) And mainly that we are not the huge, lavender menace that some think. That we are, rather, a friendly, fun-loving, good group of people who also are

proud of their country and want to be a part of Independence Day!

If you are a leader or member of any local or statewide community organizations, please ask them to march with us on the 3rd. If you aren't a member of any organizations, we need you too! Invite your friends and other folks you think might join us.

For more information contact Laurie Davison, by email at <ldavison@pop.uky.edu> or by phone (after 5:30pm on weekdays) at 299-3098 and I'll tell you everything you need to know!

Rock, Women, & Blues

On July 4 "The Independent Music Showcase: "Rock, Women & Blues" will be presented at the State Theater, entrance through the Kentucky Theater in downtown Lexington. This concert starts at 6:30 and will feature the music of Wishing Chair and Mother Jane. Tickets \$5.

This is a fundraiser for the RSIC of All Kentucky, and is sponsored by Kevin Fillips, Candidate for Emperor 18. The designated charities of the RSIC of Kentucky are; Moveable Feast Lexington, the Pride Center of the Bluegrass, and AVOL's Solomon House.

This concert is designed to appeal to the women in our community; not a common occurrence by the Court. Let's turn out to enjoy ourselves and to say "Thanks Kevin!"

Volunteers Honored

The eighth annual Volunteer Awards Banquet was held at the end of Pride Month to recognize individuals who have given their time and energy to our community and to provide us all with a celebration of our progress. The names of individuals given awards by the groups in which they volunteer were not available when we went to print; they will be printed next month.

The Rainbow Community Service Award is in its third year and is given to the group judged to have contributed the most to our community within the preceding years. This year the Rainbow Community Service Award was given to Movable Feast Lexington (MFL).

The Episcopal Diocese AIDS Ministry had been organizing monthly dinners with the help of other church groups ...continued on page 3

Fairness News-Page 3

Sponsor of the Month

The Bar
Complex



The GLSO News

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Opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board. Submissions are welcome and become the property of the GLSO. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject any submissions or advertisements.

Pride Wrap Up

In 1999, we did shine. The GLSO Pride Committee thanks everybody that participated in pulling together a wonderfully varied month of events for 1999. If in this review I neglect to mention something close to your heart, please forgive and realize that I am trying to summarize a month full of large and small successes. (Or if you can not forgive, write your own review and mail it in by July 17th!)

Probably the event that brought the greatest number of people together was *Sing Out*, the Pride Concert brought to us by the Lexington Men's Chorus with Voices of Kentuckiana and SisterSound. Having over one hundred people on stage was a spectacular sight, and the sound was fabulous. Particularly notable was the amount of music written by LGBT individuals or specifically for GALA Chorusus. Our music is another gift we give to the cultures in which we live.

Directed by Dawn Coon, the Men's Chorus sung selections from *NakedMan*, commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. It was a delight to listen to; I was particularly glad they printed the lyrics which deepened my appreciation of the work. Directed by Caren Tandy, *Sistersound* sparkled particularly on *Big-Legged Woman*. ("When God made woman, She made hips and thighs.") Getting the opportunity to hear Voices of Kentuckiana, was a treat that we hope will be repeated in Lexington.

The GLSO Picnic was another successful event, probably with the best attendance in the last ten years (maybe even counting the bashes which included alcohol sales from the past.) The atmosphere was great and

we thank everyone who volunteered their time, talents, raffle prizes, and food to make this into our own kind of family reunion. A special thanks to Joan and Jennifer for sharing Windy Knoll Farm with us and to Kelly O'Ferrell for her organizing skills. By the way, some reasons we have not considered going back to Bell House are that it costs about \$400 to rent that space and no amplified music is allowed.

Smaller events such as the films at the Unitarian Church, the Working Class Kitchen Pride Reading, and several Social Concepts get togethers were fun and popular. We had a nice mixed crowd (ie: gay and str8, men and women, Pagan, Christian, and other) at the Women's Spirituality Films which is a good thing that happens not often enough. It is great to have these opportunities to meet new people

The two gay themed plays that were produced this month were both excellent but were under-attended. Do we give you too many events to consider in one month? *Beyond Therapy* directed by Homer Tracy was a hilarious look at strange relationships and equally strange therapists. "So, I met this guy..." written by our own Dave Morrison was a funny and poignant one act play, well directed by Shannon Christy. We think we will be seeing more plays written by this talented man. We hope that the directors, actors, and others involved do not get discouraged by the low attendance, they did some great work.

We did even more this month. We danced at our prom, we raised money for Movable Feast, and after this goes to press, we will be bowling and banqueting. To quote from *Naked Men*: "There is no map for where we go...We're not lost, We're here."

Community News

in Lexington for several years. Michael Thompson and others saw a need for a larger effort to feed person living with HIV/AIDS. After a year of planning, fund raising and getting the kitchen at St Augustine's Chapel remodeled, MFL stated serving hot nutritious meals on October 3, 1998. Operating seven days a week, 365 days a year, MFL and the hundreds of volunteers they have recruited, have served over 7,000 meals to people in need in our community. This success would not have been possible without the generous time and abilities of Michael Thompson, Terry Mullins, and Carol Farmer. Thanks to you and all the other volunteers that have made Movable Feast a success.

The Wasson Award for the outstanding volunteer of 1999 was given to Mr. Bill Chandler. Bill served as President of the Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association, both of the Lexington Chapter and of the three state organization. He is a past member of the Lexington Men's Chorus and is presently serving as President of Ebony Male. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Community Church, AVOL, and GLSO. He is a founder of and active participant in ActOut, the theatrical group that raises money for the Pride Center. He has been active with the Pride Committee for years.

Bill is a member of the Community Planning Group which determines how HIV/AIDS prevention money should be spent in Kentucky. In addition to all of this, Bill spends countless hours at his computer doing graphic design for

any organization that asks. It is clear that our community has benefited from his willingness to share his talents, his time, and his energy with us. We congratulate him on winning the Wasson Award for 1999.

Fairness

Lexington Fairness has succeeded in getting the Fairness ordinance on the docket of the Lexington/Fayette City Council. The Human Rights Commission unanimously recommended that the council adopt an ordinance that would extend existing discrimination protection to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

A public hearing has been set July 1 at 7 pm, second floor, City Hall. Fairness supporters will be given time to speak, as will our opposition. Casual business/business attire is appropriate. We will have stickers ready to make supporters stand out. Be there before 7 PM if you want to be sure of getting into the room. A vote on this ordinance could come as early as July 6. We believe we have the votes on the council to pass this, and a good turn out can help educate the public about who we are.

Social Concepts

Social Concepts had one whale of a good time in June, different folks showing up each time, attending many pride events, sharing laughs and eating some good food. We have two events planned for July, but if you can not make these, give Ginger a call and see what else is planned as the month progresses.

On Sun July 4, Nat is hosting a barbeque at 5PM. BYOB (Nat says

that can mean bring your own butch, bottle or whatever you want the 'b' to stand for). On Saturday July 17, we will have a hot tub party in Richmond. BYOB and plan to stay over if you get plastered. No drunk driving. If you want to attend either of these events, call Ginger at 389-7698 or e-mail her at gg40504@hotmail.com.

GLSO Discussion Group

The GLSO discussion group is going strong every Wednesday night at 7 pm at the Pride Center. We have a lot of fun and we are always open to new members and new ideas. Call Jeremy for more information at 269-6658.

MOONSHINE BEARS

The Moonshine Bears are planning their next Bar Night for Saturday, July 17 at Crossings. This is a Bear Beach Party so break out your beach wear and come and join the fun!!! Prizes will be awarded and an After Hours Party will follow.

CUUPS

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is a group made up of gay and str8, male and female individuals who follow a variety of earth centered spiritual practices. The July CUUPS meeting will be at the Unitarian Church on July 25 at 12:15 pm after the service. It will feature a potluck, discussion of the ongoing stone circle project, participation in Peace Camp, and "revving up" CUUPS to include weekly meetings, rituals and workshops, and youth activities. The group is open to anyone interested.

Out of the Closet Into the World

If you hadn't noticed, more and more progressive groups in Lexington are reaching out to the LGBT community, asking for us to serve on their boards, to educate them about our issues, and to participate in their endeavors. Some of us have taken steps to join other groups, and to be "out" in these groups; there is a need for a lot more of us to join in.

Historically, gays and lesbians have made our presence known in the peace movement (such as locally in the Council for Peace and Justice), in the woman's movement (locally in the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center and other groups) and in other efforts such as downtown restoration movements.

More recently in Lexington, out members of our community have been involved in the Humanitarium, the Center for Culture and Diversity, the One World Festival, and other progressive efforts. Established groups are also supporting us in many ways. The National Conference for Communities and Justice (NCCJ), for example, has had a gay lesbian panel for Anytown, their week long, diversity experience for high school students for several years. This is one of the few opportunities we are given to talk directly to young people. NCCJ also hosted a discussion on Fairness in June.

More of us need to be active in our larger community. Many of us see ourselves as "out" but remain within the safety of LGBT organizations. (bigger, roomier closets?) As we ask churches and groups to support our Fairness Campaign, we need to support their work for social

justice also. This month, I have received two news releases from groups looking for our participation. In their own words (well, mostly)...

The Alternative Transportation Project

Everyone is invited to the heart of downtown Lexington to support the use of Alternative Transportation in Lexington! On Saturday, July 10, from NOON to 6:00 PM, ride your bike, roller blades, or skateboard, get on the bus, or walk downtown to Phoenix Park (in front of the Lexington Public Library) to show your support of alternative transportation and have a good time while doing it.

Listen and dance to the music of Almost Everything, Hexose and DJ Matthew Bandy, Alien Squad and Subterror. The Lex-Tran Singers will be there to entertain and Mayor Pam Miller will speak out about the benefits to Lexington of foregoing the use of your car once in a while in favor of other methods of transportation.

There are many ways to get to the A.T. Project besides using your car, but come no matter what if you support a cleaner, quieter environment in our city. Bring a picnic lunch, support a wonderful cause, and make a day of it! We hope to see you there!

MANY FACES OF SPIRIT CONFERENCE

The Planning Committee of the fourth annual Many Faces of Spirit conference is excited to announce this year's event. Our theme this year is: Welcoming the Stranger; Embracing our Diversities.

We invite you to join us Thurs. evening July 15, through Sat. July 17, at Lexington's Newman Center,

to celebrate the diversity of religious expression in the Central Kentucky area. There is no charge for any of the events. For more information call 255-8566 or 269-6588

The conference will begin Thurs. evening at 7:30, with a panel entitled: Understanding Oppression. Dr. Jimmy Kirby will moderate this panel composed of Blackbear of the Blackfoot Tribe; Mohammed Mohiuddin, and Rabbi Uriel Smith.

Friday evening will feature the keynote address by Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a local and nationally known leader in the ecumenical movement. On Saturday, twenty workshops will be offered including the teachings of a number of modern spiritual prophets, as well as prayer, meditation, and social action practices. Small discussion groups are planned for both Friday and Saturday to allow interaction between people of diverse religious traditions.

In tune with the theme of "Welcoming the Stranger", we will have breakout discussion groups composed of persons of diverse identities (religious, sexual preference, ethnic.) This would be a chance for LGBT people to participate in an open discussion with others who want to listen and understand diversity. It is obviously not a requirement to identify oneself as gay but we would love to hear your views on religion and spirituality.

This conference is a completely grass-roots effort in our community. It is not sponsored by any one group or denomination. The Newman Center has generously offered their facilities for our use, but this is not a Catholic project. I want to take this opportunity to invite members of the LGBT community to attend this conference and join in dialogue with us.

Mina, Billie, and Moma Pris

By ReINETTE F. Jones

Mistakes and misunderstandings are ingredients that add umph to our lives. Meeting Mina was one of those umph times. I was admiring bodies in the dance class, she caught my gazing eyes, I sprung a leak, and she came over to introduce herself. I thought that I had unknowingly given off a "come here" signal, but it was my name that had attracted her attention. ReINETTE, my first name, was also Mina's grandfather's last name.

To my understanding, the name was nothing more than a bunch of letters that had gotten slapped together shortly before my birth. But Mina insisted that I talk with her 70-year-old grandmother for more information. The older woman was coming to campus as a guest speaker.

Lucky me, one minute I was basking in confused admiration, and the next minute I had a lunch date with Mrs. Professor Grandmother Wilhelmina ReINETTE. Sounded like a convoluted mutation to me.

Mina didn't think that was funny. She said her grandmother looked like all other grandmothers, and she preferred to be called Billie. And for my information, Billie had never been married, she had never slept with a man, and she had never taken the name ReINETTE.

Right then and there, I knew something was strange about this family. A grandmother, no man, no sex, and a phantom grandfather? These people had to be the Martians that H. G. Wells had written about. The old lady would probably show up with her teeth in backwards or her

hair on fire. What had I gotten myself into?

Lunch took place on a Friday as planned. Billie turned out to be a six-foot, muscle-lean, weather worn woman in blue jeans. Her teeth were her own and her hair was styled into an immaculate silver ducktail. She was a leather wallet in the hip pocket kind of a grandma. Her straightforward disposition scared me.

It took the entire meal for me to get my bearings back. I finally tuned in to Billie talking about the various types of ReINETTE apples. The ReINETTE family had owned apple orchards in France dating back to the 1600s.

Billie and her "friend" had met Mr. ReINETTE in 1931, all three were foreign affairs journalists. (Thanks to Eleanor Roosevelt's influence, women journalists were able to find work during the Depression.) But Billie's career took a turn in 1933. Her not as wealthy father believed the Depression was coming to an end: thus, it was time his odd and only child got married. A woman, especially one of her status, had no business working. He had let her have her way long enough.

Before returning home, and feeling that she had nothing to lose, Billie and Mr. ReINETTE conceived their daughter - by way of a medicine dropper. (I thought artificial insemination was a fairly recent adventure. This woman really was a Martian.)

Billie's father was outraged at her unnatural behavior and pregnancy method. Her refusal to marry was the last straw; she was forced to live in the family cottage in Maine. There was to be no family contact and she was forbidden to leave the island. She and her "friend" could continue

their sordid relationship, but they were to do it out of sight and out of mind.

Shortly after their daughter's fifth birthday, Billie's "friend" was killed while covering Germany's march into Poland. That same year her father died of a heart attack. Billie took over the management of what was left of the family fortune; it had all been too much for her mother.

Mr. ReINETTE survived W.W.II, and every summer his daughter visited him in France.

I got so caught up in Billie's story that I barely heard her ask if I knew the genealogy of my namesake. I couldn't answer. I couldn't tell her that I was clueless as to why I had been given an Old French name. This small bit of information made my heart hurt. I tried not to cry, but tears kept dripping down my face. Lunch was over.

Mina and Billie insisted on driving me to the baby-sitter's house to pick up my daughter before heading home. The widow baby-sitter, Moma Pris (Priscilla), was overly happy to have company. She was not a relative, but she was like the grandmother that I had always wanted. It was she who had encouraged me to "go to college girl, and stop waiting on the Black knight with golden arms, the world's got some other goodies". I didn't know what her words meant, but I trusted her wisdom.

Moma Pris had lived through the Depression also. Trying to make a living had been hard, but harder times took away her teaching job. To keep food in her belly, she had sung and played saxophone in gigs, including a few with Bessie Smith. She had liked Bessie, but she also

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knew when it was time to go; Bessie's business tactics could get shaky and rough. They had parted on friendly terms. (Moma Pris had given me a framed picture of Bessie that was taken a couple of years before the singer's death.)

After leaving the music circuit, Moma Pris had done hair, taken in laundry, and stood in soup lines. There was even a period when she was a "sister of the road", a hobo. She had slept in cardboard boxes, and boxcars, and the cotton fields where she sometimes found work. She had even considered prostitution, but according to her, "sweet stuff wasn't even selling in the 1930s, mine had dust on it, so I knew it was a no sell."

None of her ventures had brought in enough money to save the family farm. The dust blew in and her family moved out.

After the War, she made a good catch and married an army man who was about to finish his time with Uncle Sam. They never had children. Their marriage lasted 20 years, and then her husband succumbed to the damage the War had done to his lungs.

I loved this woman and I was happy to see that she and Billie had hit it off so well. But things had gone

a little too well for my liking. As we were all leaving, I thought that I heard Billie tell Moma Pris that she would be back to pick her up at 6:00 sharp.

I called Mina. She told me that Billie had asked Moma Pris out on a date. They had planned dinner and dancing. Mina thought that they might even spend the weekend together, because of the way they had taken to each other.

What had gotten into those two old birds? Moma Pris did not date, or dance, or diddle. That Northern hoo-doo Martian woman was up to something, she was trying to convert Moma Pris. I needed to intervene.

The phone RUNG and RUNG and RUNG. No Moma Pris. Saturday morning to Saturday night, no answer. All day Sunday, nothing. Late Monday afternoon, no answer and no Moma Pris.

What could they possibly have been doing for three days? They were old! Had their hearts stopped and no one had found the bodies? I called Mina. She had the nerve to tell me to tend to my own business and stay off the phone. Some friend she turned out to be.

Monday night they finally showed up. Both of them looking like fresh fireflies. Not one explanation. They had stopped by so that Billie

could say good-bye. She would be leaving in the morning, from Moma Pris's house. (Good Riddance!)

Moma Pris whispered a "THANK YOU". What was she thanking me for? Everybody in town knew that woman in the Mercedes had taken her off to God knows where for three whole days. Now she was going to be spending the night. I didn't want any thanks, I wanted things back the way they had been.

Billie left her address and phone number, just in case I ever wanted to talk. I never did. Mina and I cooled our friendship and eventually lost touch. Moma Pris continued to babysit and keep in contact with Billie and smile a lot.

Life moved along, as it always does. I managed to respect other people's happiness. And four years later Moma Pris passed away. I still miss her. Every time I look at Bessie Smith's picture, I think of the weekend that Billie came to town and made Moma Pris smile.

Last month I heard from Mina. She was calling to tell me that 89-year-old Billie had died in her sleep. I told her that I was so, so sorry for a lot of things. We both started to cry. I hung up the phone. There was nothing else to be said.

Intercultural Lesbians!

Happy Anniversary Jo
Thank you for two wonderful
years -and we will continue.....
"from here to eternity."
all my love, Karen



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A JOURNAL OF SEXUAL HEALING

PART I OF ...UNTIL THERAPY ENDS

by Kelly O'Ferrell

I've contemplated this series for a few weeks now. I remember sitting at the play *Beyond Therapy* saying to my partner Tammy, "You know, if I write that series about sexual healing, people are going to know that we don't have sex as often as I want them to think we do."

"And what will that mean?" she asked. Sounded like therapy to me.

And I've thought about that, and I've felt about it, and I have been afraid to be truly known in this community. But, I'm not sure it's really me anyway. I wonder if it's my mother and grandmother and generations of women in my family that people know?

So, why am I turning to sexual healing now, six years into this relationship? Because it's time. I could no more ignore our differences in sex any more than I could ignore our differences in money or housework. And I am grateful to be with someone who seeks her own healing.

And I'll tell you one thing we've experienced - almost from the moment we both turned into this part of our relationship, we seemed to move away from one another emotionally and physically.

That was scary for a while. We talked about our feelings with one another. I talked about it with a friend and heard her experience of how sometimes things get worse before they get better, especially if even one person is exhibiting new behavior.

It is our previous commitment and resolution in the areas of money and work that gives me hope at the

beginning of this journey. You see, Tam and I brought all that we knew into this marriage, and we have to continue to create our own lives inside this relationship.

We've been in therapy before, and we've tried redefining sex, used JoAnn Lulan's sexual pyramid as "permission" to call any act or willingness "sex", read the intimacy books, talked about how intimacy and sex are the same. And these things have worked for us. But not to our satisfaction.

And, I will not stop wanting this part of my relationship to feel different - not until it's working for both of us. Tammy reminds me that just because my desire for sex is not the same as her's, this is not "my problem", as I refer to it periodically.

This is not, not yet at least, a series about my sexual relationship with Tammy. It could be, for the last 25 years, a series about me in relationship with anyone.

Sometimes I feel hopeless when I feel what I feel now (or rather what I don't feel now), see where I've come from and wonder if I will always feel like this. Often I feel like there's something desperately wrong with me.

Until I hear the voices of other women telling my story: "We hardly ever have sex anymore." "I could have sex with a stranger easier than I could with my partner." "I learned what I know about sex through porn films." "Moving in together just did something to our sex life." "I love the way I feel after we've had sex, so I wonder why we don't spend time like that more often."

Some people have said to just accept that this is how I feel and it's perfect. And I believe that might be true if I knew that how I felt was

based on my choices, not the choices of a child filled up with shame. I want to at least be able to say to her, "this is how I feel" based on who I am, not who my mother raised, or who her mother raised.

I started by writing about the myth's I learned about sex: sex before marriage is a sin (I wonder what it would have been like to have had sex for the first time without guilt and total terror of getting caught?); vaginas and penises are not good parts of our bodies (my father believes we should not use the words vagina and penis as a result of Adam and Eve's original sin - we are to use the words "private parts"); don't touch yourself with your hand unless specifically required by a doctor; 'playing with yourself' is hideous.

Recently I was asked to write about "Me, as a sexual being - alone". Alone for god's sake! I wondered for days what in the hell I was to write about. I've only known who I was sexually by what someone else wanted. The women in my family learn early on that we are basically sexless by disassociating from our own vaginas.

So, I looked up the word "sexual" in the dictionary: "of or pertaining to sex, occurring between or involving the sexes, having sexual organs." Now who ever heard of using a part of the word or the word itself in the actual definition?

Thesaurus offered: "bestial, intercourse, animalistic, erotic, intimate, loving, passionate, procreative, sensual, sharing..."

Passionate. "Me as a PASSIONATE being - alone." Well, that began to open up a whole new world for me. One I am still thinking and feeling about.

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GLSO CALENDAR ~ JULY 1999

USE DIRECTORY ON LAST PAGE TO CONFIRM LISTINGS.
MOVEABLE FEAST EVERY DAY. CALL 252-2867.

4 SUNDAY		5 MONDAY	6 TUESDAY	7 WEDNESDAY	8	1 THURSDAY	2 FRIDAY	3 SATURDAY
10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity (Pride Center) 6:30 pm Rock Women and Blues (Kentucky Theatre)		8:00 pm AA Step Study		6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm GLSO Discussion Group (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA			7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 12 noon July 4 th Parade 5:00 pm Social Concepts 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
11 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC the Coronation (Radisson Plaza)		12 7:00 pm GLSO Board Meeting (Pride Center) 8:00 pm AA Step Study	13	14 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	15		9 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	10 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
18 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity (Pride Center)		19 8:00 pm AA Step Study	20	21 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	22		16 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	17 9:00 am Frontrunners Arb) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Moonshine Bears (Crossings)
25 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:15 pm CUUP Potluck and Meeting (UU Church)		26 8:00 pm AA Step Study	27	28 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	29		23 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA	24 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA
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Free Evening Parking

....continued from page 7

I can become passionate about lots of things in my life: finding work I love, a horse in a field, cooking, putting things in order, collages, an excellent meal, a great book I can't wait to get back to...

So, that's where I am right now. I'm noticing when I feel passionate. I'm associating that with sexual. I'm noticing where in my body I feel that passion. And I'm going to feel it for more than just a minute.

I began to understand that regardless of whether I'm turned on by someone else, I want to know what turns me on without someone else. I wonder how much women (lesbian and straight) not wanting sex is related to our not feeling passionate about our lives anymore? We were taught to just accept that job or that man or that life. But I don't think it's just a lack of passion.

I've just begun to really look at the years of hearing those horrible words from mama: "Are you playing with yourself?!?" Those are the only words I remember. But I still remember the shame, the filth associated with me touching my own body. And I learned how to not feel the true pleasure I could feel because I had to come quickly and quietly in order to not get caught. I had to hurry the passion.

Imagine my amazement when I hear women say: "My mother noticed me touching myself and said 'doesn't that feel good'"; or "I was reading to my daughter in bed the other night and I noticed that she was feeling her vagina. We talked about how good it feels. I also talked to her about how there are times when she may not want to have her hand on her vagina."

Can you imagine?!? Maybe some of you can. But I had no idea that there were women out there touching their vaginas like they were touching their leg - without fear.

I want to write about this because I'm tired of comparing my insides to your outsides, only to find out when we're sharing (Thesaurus' word for sexual) in groups, that you feel and act just like me.

And, if both partners are thrilled with a sex life that works for them, so am I. This series is not about how to have more sex. It's about how I want to make decisions about sex the same way I began to make decisions about money - from a place of love, not fear.

My questions today are about my own body? Why am I coming? What's happening in my body when I touch my vagina? What's happening in my vagina when my nipples are touched? Why does passion for cooking or horses or books show up in my vagina sometimes, and other times in my chest, and other times in my hands? This isn't about 'playing with myself' like mama believed.

This is just about something wonderful happening inside of me.

Lifeprints

Cheryl Clark and Tina Orr have started Lifeprints, a photography business specializing in on site photography. That means they will come to you or to the location of your choice to take professional photographs. We featured their business last month but incorrectly printed their phone number. The correct number is 455-9633.

Cheryl has twenty years experience as a photographic artist. She is particularly proficient at handcoloring black and white photographs to obtain unique effects. They have reasonable rates. Give them a call to discuss the possibilities.

Writers Take Note

We are pleased to have two new writers featured this month in the GLSO News. In addition to Reinette and Kelly, we have Lori and Julie. Because advertising is often at a low point right after Pride Month, we had room for all of you. We are not actively seeking columnists, but if you have something to say, send it in. We do not publish everything we receive but we do like to feature LGBT writers. We could particularly use a few male voices.

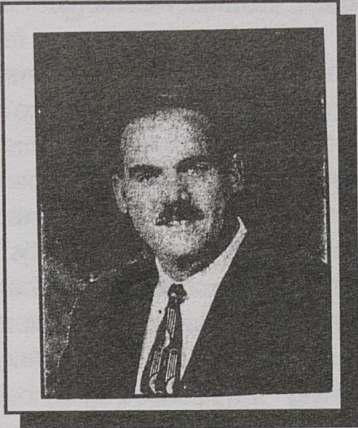
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Battle Lines

By Lori Shepherd

On a flight to New York City to meet my partner for a relaxing weekend I gave my power away to a total stranger. She was probably in her late 60's and also from Lexington. She was just making small talk, inquiring about my trip to New York, this is what complete strangers do when they are forced into a confined area for two hours, then it happened.

Her questions turned specific and I could not bring myself to give anything but vague answers. Who was I meeting in New York, she wanted to know. My partner I wanted to say, my roommate is all I heard come out of my mouth.

"What a beautiful ring," she baited me again. "Thank you, I had it made." I responded cowardly. Now at least that was true I did have it made...well, we had two of them made for our commitment ceremony, so it was half true.

"So it isn't a wedding ring then?" she prodded. I couldn't even bring myself to deny my partner out loud all I could manage was to meekly shake my head no.

Quickly I retreated back into my

newspaper and with my silence sent her back into her SkyMall magazine. I was not hiding from her at this point but from myself. I was ashamed because I had denied myself the chance to be myself.

What is the worst thing that could have happened she could have been appalled and turned away in disgust? Hell, some of my own family has done that. Was I afraid she might be a Right Wing extremist packing an oozy? She didn't really look the part. What if she had been a Christian Fundamentalist and preached to me the whole flight? Growing up in a family of Methodist ministers I can quote the scriptures with the best of 'em and I love a spirited debate.

No, my reasoning for not being myself is it was not a battle worth fighting. In my own judgmental mind I had deemed her to be a 65 year-old southern grandmother who was not going to change her mind anytime soon so why bother.

My partner is always telling me that I can only affect what is in my own circle and that I must learn to choose my battles wisely. The theory here is that you should choose battles that best utilize your energies.

Therefore it would make no sense to choose a battle with someone like say Fred Phelps or my father, because that would be a waste of energy.

For the last few years this has been my excuse for every cowardly decision I have made. Why didn't I introduce my partner to my new boss? I was choosing my battles. Why didn't I insist that my father give me an explanation for missing my wedding? I was choosing my battles. Why didn't reach for her hand all those times I wanted too? I was choosing my battles.

I never gave that woman on the plane to New York a chance to hate me or maybe even to tell me about her son and his lover. I was choosing my battles.

So after a wonderful weekend, here I am on the plane headed back to Lexington. I just finished a delightful conversation with an older gentleman named Buzz, who is on his way to Lexington for a horse sale. As he dozes off to sleep, I am sure that I have shocked him a little but he will probably recover. He got to see a real person and learned to put a face on a stereotype and me well I learned that sometimes choosing a battle is

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Sponsorship page in October. Mail to GLSO News, PO Box 11471, Lex., Ky., 40575

Dyke Bars In Lexington: A History

From a posting to Lambda Net
by Julie S.

Someone asked, and no one responded, so here goes, to the best of my dusty ol' too-much-pool-playin'-and-beer-drinkin' recollection...

Fall 1978: "The Country" opens on Lane Allen in a small shopping center across from the one in back of Turfland Mall. Three small rooms, regular raids by police (yes, Virginia, police hassled the dyke bars in Lexington into the 80s). I was 17, and it was home! The name, as it was explained to me at the time, was meant to be obscure (and so according to my source, was The Bungalow's name, and The Bar's). In other words, if you were talking in a crowd, you could easily say what you did on the weekends "I went to the bungalow" or to "the country" or to "the bar", and none of the homophobes would be the wiser.

The Country changed ownership several times over the years (although the police continued to come in on weekends and check ID's...I always headed for the bathroom, and someone would knock on the door and let me know when the cops were gone). It became known as "The Hidden Door" because to get to it, you had to enter a common foyer, go to the back, and open the right door. It was small, but it was home.

The D.J. Louie spun some great jams! She even played show tunes like from "Chess" and "Evita" before anyone had ever heard of them, and "Old Cape Cod" by Bette Midler was the traditional closing song.

There was a room with benches around the perimeter that served as

a dance floor, and the Pretzel (a dance, for you whippersnappers!) and Poppers were the rage. Another room had a pool table, bar (beer only!) and foosball table. There was even occasional live entertainment, including Reel World, and two women named Sandy and Shirley who did wonderful acoustic sets heavy on Neil Young. I myself hosted a benefit once for Cardinal Hill Hospital wherein we raffled a basketball autographed by Coach Hall and the boys and raised, I believe, over \$100 which was a lot more then...

The Hidden Door closed sometime in the early 80s, and the dykes went back to The Bar and The Bungalow. For those of ya'll that never got to go to The Bungalow, you have my sympathies! I cried the night they closed down.

Around 1983 or 4 Brezing's opened on Short Street. It was apparently not intended to be a dyke bar, but that's what it quickly became as the lesbians in town desperately needed a place of our own. It was a townhouse type of place, with a sunken pool room at the end of the first floor, which the gay men I knew referred to as "the fish bowl" because of all the dykes that played pool.

Now I am just talking in rumors here, but some bizarre things happened that led to the closing of Brezing's. Keep in mind this was a bar whose primary clientele was lesbians. We arrived one warm night to find a poster displayed outside declaring a new dress code, which included the requirement that women wear skirts or dresses (now you know why I said it was bizarre).

We couldn't figure out why the owner, a gay man who was profiting quite nicely from the lesbian patronage, would do something so stu-

pid...here's where the rumor comes in...I heard that he was trying to declare bankruptcy, and the women were making him too much money. It wasn't too long after the "dress code" fiasco that Brezing's closed.

Once again, we returned to The Bar to find restrooms without doors on the stalls, bleachers upstairs that hadn't had the carpeting changed in years (imagine all the "spills" that had accumulated...) and a pretty hostile atmosphere from what had traditionally been a men's bar. (The Bar has come a long way since then.)

Since that time, I know of no other predominately women's bars in Lexington, although The Metro was originally intended to be mostly women, but became very mixed very quickly and then strangely enough became a country line dancing bar.

Well that's the history lesson for today boys and girls, hope you enjoyed!

Walt Whitman School

Two-year-old Walt Whitman Community School in Dallas, Texas, the only private school in the U.S. geared for gay and lesbian youth (also attended by children of gays and lesbians and others wishing to learn in a safe, gay-affirming environment), celebrated its first graduation this spring. The three graduates very much appreciated the supportive, nurturing atmosphere at Whitman.

A number of the students are self-supporting, having been rejected by their families because of their sexual orientation. The small (about 16 students) school's willingness to be flexible around the hours that some students have to work, enables more gay youth to see graduation as a reachable goal.

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Deadlines for August Newsletter

If you have an article, advertisement, announcement, or are requesting a directory change for the newsletter, please e-mail it to Peter@QX.NET or Marycrone@aol.com or snail mail it to Mary Crone (1630 Ashwood Rd. 40502) by the 17th of July. If you write GLSO on the subject line it will make it easier. Mary will be out of town for most of July so will not be reachable by phone. It is often possible to get things into the newsletter after the deadline but articles received first will be given priority. Call Terry with questions about advertising.

*When you set
your spirit free,
where does it go?*



224 EAST MAIN STREET
255-1551

**21 I.D. required*

GLSO Directory

The GLSO

GLSO Board (Terry).....	255-5469
GLSO Discussion Group (Jeremy).....	269-6658
GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff).....	296-4170
GLSO: News Calendar (Peter).....	273-9649
Advertisements (Terry).....	255-5469
Community News (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary).....	266-5904
GLSO Pink Pages (John).....	269-6989

STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League: Berea(Nelson).....	(606)986-9341
AGLF: NKU (Pat).....	572-5604
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol).....	238-5332
Pride Alliance EKV (Josh).....	(606)622-5297
(Jessica).....	(606)622-5321
Lex. Youth Support Group (Kenneth).....	222-1919
Morehead State University (Angela).....	783-2950
Transylvania University (Jessica).....	255-2122
(Dion).....	233-8586
UK Lambda (James).....	254-6021
(Nat).....	323-4571

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

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

AIDS INFO / SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE	(800) 840-2865
AIDS Volunteers Inc.....	278-7494
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program.....	278-7494
Health Dept. HIV Support (Patty).....	288-2377
(Amanda).....	288-2374
HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....	(502) 584-1254
HIV Education YOUTH GROUP.....	278-7494
HIV Support (Somerset).....	679-7578 or 678-5814
Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE	(800) 840-2865
HIV+ / AIDS Support Group.....	255-2945
Movable Feast.....	252-2867

GLSO ONLINE

Peter: peter@QX.net Marycrone@aol.com
Terry: misterb@gte.net

COMMUNITY

Alcoholics Anonymous (Brian).....	273-6111
(office).....	276-2917
AL-Anon (office).....	277-1877
Ask Us, Inc.....	255-2374
Bluegrass Belles (Marjorie).....	278-2608
(Dawn).....	dwilsoo@ukcc.uky.edu.....(Ann)(502)672-8673
Bluegrass COLTS (Morris).....	225-9169
Council for Peace and Justice (Richard).....	277-6101
DOJ Pride(Robin).....	231-8526
E-MALE (Bill).....	255-5469
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE.....	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville.....	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith).....	254-6850
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2896
IGBO (Int. Gay Bowling Org.) (Steve).....	276-3058
Ky Leather Productions (Larry).....	253-0185
Lexington Lyons Leather/Levi Club (George).....	885-7777
(Greggers).....	792-6117
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance(Roger).....	(606) 561-9898
.....	roger@hyperaction.net
Lexington Men's Chorus (Bill).....	266-9175
Louisville Youth Group.....	(502) 894-9787
Moonshine Bears of Ky (James).....	254-9567
(Jim).....	299-2047
Names Project, Lex. (Katie).....	272-2588
Pride Center (voice mail).....	255-4016
P-FLAG (Perry).....	(502) 226-5478
Pegasus Travel.....	253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Steve).....	276-3058
RSIC of KY. (Chance).....	269-9465
SisterSound (Lee).....	873-7791

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Dignity [Catholic](Don).....	299-4458
Interweave [Unitarian](Davina).....	271-6174
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy).....	(800)484-8498
MCC-Lexington (voice mail).....	255-4016
(Rev. Rex).....	imccbrv@juno.com
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee).....	(502)775-6636
MCC-Paducah (Rev. Donna).....	(502)441-2307
Path of the Personal Divine(Chris).....	268-1640
Pagan Forum (Rev. Pat).....	268-1640
RainbowWind [Pagan] (Sarah).....	252-7673
St Augustine's Chapel [Episcopal](Rev. Chris).....	254-3726

YIG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE

800-347-TEEN 7pm-12pm Thurs.& Fri.