

JANUARY 1992 GLS NEWS

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

LOUISVILLE GAY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE STALLED

The Fairness Amendment to Louisville human rights ordinance, that would prohibit city-wide discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation failed to get out of committee at the Dec. 23 meeting of the city's Board of Aldermen. The amendment was the focus of a six week lobbying effort by those who supported and opposed it.

Supporters of the measure say that if the ordinance were brought to a vote it would probably result in a tie vote and therefore not pass. Their are two newly elected members of the board, one is considered to oppose the amendment and the other is thought to support it.

Support for the measure grew following the unanimous endorsement of the amendment by the Louisville and Jefferson County Human Relations Committee in August.

During the fall supporters of the measure met with all twelve aldermen to argue for its passage and blanketed the community with buttons, pamphlets and T-shirts. An extensive letter-writing and phone-call campaign to the Board of Aldermen was also undertaken.

The Board adopted a hate crimes ordinance in early November. This was seen as a good omen for the passage of the addition of a sexual orientation clause to the city's anti-discrimination law.

The amendment was introduced at the board's November 12 meeting, with seven aldermen as cosponsors.

The board held five public hearing during December. Many citizens appeared at the hearing to speak for and against the proposed ordinance. At the Dec. 5 meeting citizen testimony lasted for five and one-half hours.

Opposition to the measure seems to have weakened the support of of west Louisville Alterman Paul Bather for the amendment. Seven votes are needed to pass the law; at present supporters of the measure count only six aldermen who will vote for it.

RESEARCH ON TWINS SUGGEST GENETIC LINK TO BEING GAY

A study of twins done at Northwestern University suggest that being gay has a genetic or biological basis, questioning the arguments that same-sex orientation results from maladjustment or moral defect.

"We found 52 percent of identical twins brother of gay men were also gay, compared with 22 percent of fraternal twins, compared with 11 percent of genetically unrelated (adoptive) brothers," said co-author J. Michael Bailey, professor of psychology.

"Which is exactly the kind of pattern you would want to see if something genetic were going on," he said.

In August of last year researchers in California reported identifying brain cell cluster traits that indicate being gay could have a biological trigger.

The Northwestern University study, published in December, examined 56 identical twins, 54 fraternal twins and 57 adoptive brothers.

Identical twins are genetic clones, they develop from a single egg that split continued on page 7

GLSO News

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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.

HELP NEEDED IN EDITING *GLSO News*

The *GLSO News* needs people who will help write and edit the newsletter. If you are interested and can spend three or four hours a month, please contact us. A new editor for the newsletter will be needed starting in May. For more information, call Chuck Smith at 253-0061.

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NATIONAL GAY NEWS BRIEFS

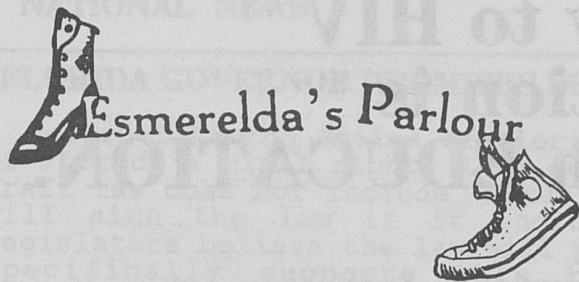
Charlton Heston want TV dating show contestants tested for AIDS - Actor Charlton Heston suggested in an opinion piece in the Nov. 18 issue of the *Los Angeles Times* that the men and women who appear on the ribald TV date-and-tell show "Studs" should be tested for HIV. "Since the show is predicated on two young men taking three young women to bed and then discussing it," he wrote, "surely the producer should provide all participants with a free AIDS test as part of the casting process."

Michigan city begins domestic partner registration. -- Sally Johnson and Nona McKenna became the first couple to register under the Ann Arbor, Mich. newly enacted domestic partners ordinance. The Law allows gay and unmarried heterosexual couples to register their relationship. Ann Arbor is the first Michigan city to enact such a law.

Student with AIDS want Professor fired. -- A Los Angeles City College student, W. Wayne Karr, who has AIDS, asked the school's administration to fire political science professor Don J. Wilson because the teacher expressed fear in before a class that he might contract AIDS by touching Karr's papers.

Klan show up at AIDS vigil -- Eight robed Ku Klux Klan members came uninvited at a small candlelight vigil commemorating World AIDS Day, December 1, in Lakeland, Fla.. They argued with some people, claiming AIDS was "God's punishment for homosexuality." They left without incident after trying to pass out anti-gay pamphlets.

Condom ads come to network TV. -- The Fox network aired TV first condom ads on network TV during *Herman's Head* on Nov. 17.



Safer Sex for Lesbians

By Debbie Currie

So what about safe sex for lesbians? Is it something that we really need to be concerned with? After all aren't we supposed to be, by far the group at lowest risk of contracting AIDS? The chosen people, as it were? The fact is that being the lowest risk group is far from being immune, as many of us seem to believe we are.

How many lesbians who practice safe sex do you know personally, or for that matter, even give a significant amount of thought to whether or not they should?

Ironically, two no less divergent publications than *On Our Backs* and *Off Our Backs* have helped to bring the topic safe sex for lesbians into the spotlight in recent issues. Both publications devoted a substantial amount of space to a topic that to date has received for too little attention.

In November 1991 *Off Our Backs*, a commentary entitled "Does Lesbian Sex Transmit AIDS? Get Real!" approaches the topic from a strong political angle, examining the role of lesbians in the AIDS activism movement and, somewhat surprisingly to me, comes right out and says that "lesbian sex sure looks like safe sex" (keep in mind that this is a commentary).

The article in *On Our Backs* (July/August 1991), which is quite lengthy and very informative, "A Decade of Denial: Lesbians and HIV." Its author makes it clear that she believes that we are most definitely at risk, and that we

can no longer keep our heads buried in the sand to avoid facing that fact. Our lives are at stake!

Obviously, whether or not to practice safe sex is a personal decision. Over the next few months, we will try to provide you with the information you will need to make your decision an informed one. Using the two articles mentioned above as a framework, we will discuss the various risk groups and preventative measures, as well as other aspects of safe sex and the AIDS activism movement that we think might be of interest to you.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN WINS SEATTLE CITY ELECTION

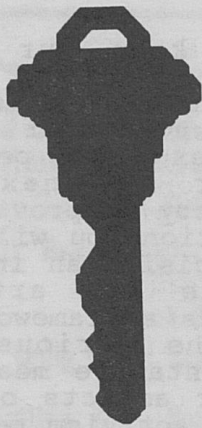
Sherry Harris defeated a 24-year incumbent Sam Smith to become the first openly-lesbian African American woman elected to public office. Harris outpolled Smith 96,055 to 48,697 in a fierce run-off election.

The landslide victory startled even Harris. She attributed her victory to the high turnout of voters from Seattle's gay and lesbian precincts and the financial support from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's national donor network.

KOWALSKI'S LESBIAN LOVER NAMED AS HER GUARDIAN

The Minnesota Court of appeals named Karan Thompson as the guardian of her paralyzed lover Sharon Kowalski.

The dispute over guardianship has been in the courts for years. Kowalski was paralyzed in an auto accident. Her parents refused to allow Thompson to see her, even though Kowalski expressed the desire to see her lover.



**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.

KENTUCKY

RESPONDS

TO AIDS

FLORIDA GOVERNOR PROMISES SUPPORT FOR GAY CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

Governor Lawton Chiles of Florida has committed himself to a revision of Florida's civil rights laws during the 1992 legislative session. His draft law does not include sexual orientation. However, he has said he will sign the law if it includes sexual orientation. Likewise, legislators believe the law will pass with sexual orientation if Chiles specifically supports this by including it in his draft.

The law was drafted with the help of various state-wide civil rights groups including the Florida Task Force (FTF), a state-wide gay and lesbian lobby. Three of these groups FTF, the National Organization for Women, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Brith, have agreed that they will not support the law unless sexual orientation is added.

The Broward County legislative delegation (the second largest in the state) has likewise committed itself to the inclusion of sexual orientation in the bill.

CALIFORNIA APPEALS COURT SUGGEST ANTI-GAY LAWS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

In a preliminary ruling, the state Court of Appeal has found that the voter initiative in Riverside, California that removed protection for gays and lesbians from the city's ordinance on anti-discrimination is a violation of the constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law.

The initiative backed by fundamentalists and conservative passed earlier this year and specifically removes sexual orientation from the civil rights ordinance, prohibits the city from enacting any legislation concerning sexual orientation without prior voter approval, and repealed anti-discrimination protections for people with AIDS.

The preliminary ruling did not overturn the initiative, but the court advised lawyers what legal issues they should be prepared to argue and suggest the initiative will face an uphill battle before the court.

WOMEN ARE AT RISK FOR AIDS

The fastest growing group being stricken with AIDS isn't gay men, isn't IV drug users, isn't African-Americans -- it is women, experts say. And the risk of AIDS for women has been largely ignored by the federal government and AIDS agencies generally until very recently.

Although the federal government is gradually recognizing the threat AIDS poses for women, many activists and researchers fear it may be too little, too late.

At the end of 1991 AIDS was the fifth leading cause of death among women ages 15 to 44 in the United States. The disease is already the number one killer of African-American women in New York and New Jersey. Even more frightening, by the year 2000, the number of women infected with HIV is now expected to equal the number of men infected.

As the nation enters the second decade of the epidemic, we are only now beginning to see the impact of the epidemic on women. "Ten years into the epidemic, we know virtual nothing about women and AIDS," says Dr. Paula Schuman, an infectious diseases specialist at the School of Medicine at Detroit's Wayne State University.

In the U. S. 20,309 women have been reported with AIDS since the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta began collecting data on the epidemic in 1981. More disturbing, the number of newly reported case of AIDS among women rose by 13 percent during the past year, for men the increase was only 3 percent. Minority women are 73 percent of the infected women.

LOCAL NEWS

UK GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENT PLAN FOR SPRING SEMESTER

The University of Kentucky's reorganized gay, lesbian, and bisexual student organization, GLUE, ended the fall semester with a flurry of events and plans for a full schedule in the spring. The organization met regularly in November and December.

Thanks to the coordination efforts of Tom Murphy, the group sponsored a successful protest rally against the anti-gay views of Kentucky Kernel columnist Alan Cornett. Students from GLUE also traveled to Centre College and to Elizabethtown Community College to support gay students at those colleges, who were presenting sexual orientation seminars.

The group's final activity for the semester was a festive Christmas pot luck dinner at The Pampered Chef cafe on Dec. 15.

The first meeting of the spring semester is on Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Plans for electing officers for 1992 will be made at the meeting.

Meetings are scheduled on the first and third Thursdays for the spring semester. They regularly meet in room 228 in the New Student Center. Social, political, and educational activities are planned.

The GLUE office is in Office 29, Room 106, Student Center.

KENTUCKY'S ONLY LEVI-LEATHER BAR

CROSSINGS

WHERE MEN MEET

117 N. LIMESTONE
LEXINGTON, KY
606/233-7266

STUDY OF TWINS SUGGEST THAT BEING GAY IS TIED TO GENES

Continued from page 1

after being fertilized by a single sperm. Fraternal twins develop simultaneously from two separate eggs fertilized by two separate sperm, making them only as similar as non-twin siblings.

Baily and his co-author, Dr. Richard C. Pillard a psychiatry professor at Boston University, recruited their subjects through ad in gay publications in Chicago, other Midwestern cities and Southwestern cities.

Professor Gregory Carey at the University of Colorado, Boulder calls the study very important research.

The nature versus nurture debate in sexual orientation has gone on for years. Bailey said he hopes to look at how environmental factors, such as prenatal conditions, diet, disease, and social conditions, might have affected the subject in his study.

LEXINGTON NIGHTLIFE

The Bar Complex, 224 East Main, 255-1551. The restaurant, Cafe Montparnasse, open from 6 - 11 pm, Saturday 6 pm - 3 am. Also features Johnny Angel Disco, Gilded Gage Cabaret, and the Living Room Lounge. Afterhours Saturday night from 1:30 - 3:30 am.

Crossings, 117 North Limestone, 233-7266. Lexington's mens' bar. Cowboy night 1st Saturday, Leather night 3rd Saturday. Operates The Rack, a leather shop, open Friday and Saturday, 10 pm to 1 am.

The Metro, 156 West Main, 254-9881. Shows every weekend. Afterhours Friday and Saturday, 1:30 - 4 am.

Joe's Cafe & Bar at fleur de lys, 120 South Upper Street, 259-9973. 4 pm - 1 am, Monday - Friday, 6 pm - 1, Saturday.

DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline 231-0335

GLSO Board (Craig) 266-8887
 GLSO News (Chuck) 253-0661
 GLSO Speakers Bureau (Bill) 266-9175
 GLSO Phonenumber (Tony) 266-9175
 GLSO Coming Out Group (Mary) .266-5904
 (Steve)..... 233-1782

Rainbow Bowling League 267-2127
 Tri-state Gay Rodeo (Terry).....233-7266
 NAMES Project Kentucky (Katie) 223-3855
 Lesbian Potluck 233-3925
 Esmerelda's Parlour (Debbie).... 255-3851
 Front Runners/running club (Dan) 254-6850
 UK Gay/Lesbian Students (Keith) 266-3934
 Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby) . 231-0090
 (Michael) 233-3709

Gay/Lesbian AA (Dave)..... 277-9522
 Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon (Robert) 293-0516

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Dignity: Catholic (Don) 299-4458
 Integrity: Episcopal (Kay) 277-4384
 Interweave: Unitarian (Craig) 266-8887
 Gay Mens Spiritual Group (Steve) . 233-1782

AIDS Information & Services

Kentucky AIDS Hotline 800 645-2437
 AVOL (info. & services) 254-2865
 HIV +, ARC, AIDS Support Groups
 (AVOL) 254-2865

Anonymous AIDS Testing

Lexington-Fayette County 288-2437
 Madison County 623-7312
 Jessamine County 885-4149
 Woodford County 837-4541

Louisville & Jefferson County

Gay/lesbian Information Line 589-3316

National Gay/Lesbian Crisisline
(800) 347-4283

Lexington Gay/Lesbian Information
231-0335

JANUARY

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

W E E K L Y E V E N T S

- SUNDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 p.m.,
Comp Care Center;
- MONDAY** Lesbian Adult Children
of Alcoholics, therapy
group. 4-5:30, call
Emily, 281-2100
- TUESDAY** Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 7 pm
Rainbow Bowling League,
8:45 Southland Lanes
- WEDNESDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 p.m.,
St. Joseph Hospital, CCI
Meeting Room
- THURSDAY** HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support
Group;
- FRIDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 p.m.
205 East Short
- SATURDAY** Front Runners, 9 a.m.,
UK water tower at Alumni
Drive
HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support
Groups.

GAYLINE - 231

Lexington Gay Information Service
Operates Between 8 - 11 p.m.
Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday,
and Friday evening.

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S P E C I A L E V E N T S

- SUN 5** Tri-State Gay Rodeo
Association, 4 p.m.
- TUE 7** **Gayline** meeting, 5:30
- WED 8** NAMES Project Meeting,
7 p.m., Rosenthal Center,
Transylvania University
- THU 9** NAMES Project Panel Making
Workshop, 7 p.m., Quilters
Square, Regency Road
- FRI 10** Gay Men's Spiritual Group.
7 - 9 p.m.
- SUN 12** Lesbian Potluck, 2 p.m.
- THU 16** GLUE (UK students) meeting
7:30 p.m., Room 228 New
Student Center
Pride Week Planing Meeting
for info call 255-3851
- FRI 24** Gay Men's Spiritual Group.
7 - 9 p.m.

LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH

GLSO News folding and
stuffing, for info, call
Lee, 277-9365

**TO INCLUDE EVENTS IN THIS CALENDAR
CALL 253-0661 OR WRITE
GLSO News P.O. BOX 11475
LEXINGTON, KY 40575
DEADLINE IS THE 20th OF THE MONTH**