



GAY and
LESBIAN
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
Lexington, Kentucky

GLSO NEWS

April 2003

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Volume 18 Number 4

FALSIES AWARDS

The Seventh Annual Falsies Awards will be handed out Tuesday April 8 at the Kentucky Theater at 214 East Main Street in Lexington. Ceremonies will begin at 8 PM and tickets will be available at the door for \$10. Many of Kentucky's favorite performers will be on hand including Empress XV & XX Natalie Gaye and members of the Imperial Court's Reign XXI.

Jeanytte Wylde will be presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Drag Arts & Sciences. Considered to the "Godmother of Female Impersonation in Lexington", she started in Evansville, and then moved to Louisville, then on to Lexington. She was show director at both the Odyssey and Trixie's in Louisville. In April 1986 she opened the Showroom at The Bar Complex. She has held several club/bar titles and was Miss Kentucky/America and Miss Indiana/America. She was Regent Empress V of the Imperial Court of Kentucky.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement award, the Academy will recognize outstanding achievements in Hair, Makeup, Best Dramatic Performer, Best Comic Performer, Best Bartender, Best DJ and more. Two new categories will recognize achievement in Wardrobe and Karaoke. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Court's charities including Moveable Feast Lexington.

The court has several other fun events in April. The annual Hair Care 2003 will be held on April 13 at ...continued on page 2

Men In Tights... Celebration

The Lexington Men's Chorus' Fifth Annual Drag Show Fundraiser, "Men in Tights...Celebration," will be held on Wednesday, April 9 at 9pm at The Bar Complex. Join us for a night of illusion with door and raffle prizes too!

The evening will open with a "cast of thousands" performing *Celebration*. Sundae DeLarouge, Tuesday DeLarouge, and Lazy DeLarouge will entertain you along with special guests including Kelesa Sands. The Chorus puts on a great show; being music lovers, they choose some unusual and fun numbers.

Door Cover will be \$5. In addition to a great show there will be a chance to win a TV and DVD player and some fabulous door prizes. Don't forget your tipping money for the "girls"!

ACTOUT Tryouts

Sordid Lives

April 7 and 8 at 7 pm
Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave.

Sponsor of the Month

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The GLSO NEWS
Volume 19 Issue 4

published monthly by
**The Lexington Gay Lesbian
Service Organization**
389 Waller Ave.

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**GLSO Annual Dues &
Newsletter.**
Individual - \$15
Couple - \$25

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 staff reserves the right to edit submissions and advertisements as well as the right to reject submissions or advertisements.

Posh Salon and Spa located in the French Quarter Shops on Richmond Rd. Stylists from many area salons will be participating. We invite everyone to attend and get you're hair done for a worthy cause. Cuts will be \$10 and cut and styles available for \$20.

In addition to the ICK, this event is sponsored by L&N Communications, and Posh. Profits benefit Moveable Feast and other Court charities. Miss Derby Pride will be April 30, see details in Community news on the next page.

AVOL Annual Walk for Life

On Sunday April 27, we will walk again to raise money for AIDS prevention, support and treatment services in Central and Eastern Ky. We need individuals and teams of caring people to gather donations and participate in this 11th Annual Aids Walk for Life.

Our theme is "Doing Our Part" in honor of the thousands of friends and neighbors who have been involved in some way during the years of the AIDS epidemic, the unsung heroes who have given of their time and talents to provide care to those infected, to do research in ways to treat or prevent HIV, to raise money, or to influence law and public policy about HIV/AIDS.

The walk will begin at Triangle Park in downtown Lexington. Individual and team prizes will be awarded for the highest money raisers. Call AVOL for pledge forms and other information at 225-3000.

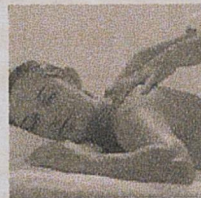
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Community News

Pride Month Planning

The next meeting of the Pride Planning Committee will be on Sunday, April 13 at 2 pm at the Pride Center. All individuals willing to work on some aspect of Pride Month are encouraged to attend. Organizations are invited to send representatives. The calendar is filling up with the Pride Picnic on the 15th, a Pride Reading and ActOut's production of *Sordid Lives* in late June. If your organization is planning an event, call Terry at 252-2867, days.

PRIDE MONTH AUTHORS READING

Please call Kelly at 225-6269 if you would like to read/chant/sing your work in June for a Pride Month Reading. You can read absolutely anything you have written, everything is allowed. Erotica. Story. Poetry. Fiction. Non-fiction. Just please come out and read, sing, or perform it. Date and place will be announced soon.

Miss Derby Pride

The Imperial Court Miss Derby Pride will be held on Wednesday, April 30 at Club 141. Applications will be available after April 1 from Regent Emperor Larry, Empress 21 Nicole, or JD Vaughn or Jenna at Club 141. Contestants will compete in Derby Wear, Talent, Evening Gown, and On-Stage Questions.

Mystery Theater and Chilli Cook Off

GLSO has planned a Mystery Dinner Theater and chilli cook off for May 21 at The Bar. Call Terry if you would like to enter your favorite homemade chilli in competition. 252-2867 days.

SoulForce

National Action to be held in Cincinnati

On April 8, 2003 the Rev. Stephen Van Kuiken, minister of Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church (USA), will stand trial in the Cincinnati Presbytery. A complaint was filed against Rev. Van Kuiken last year because he publicly stated that he will not abide by the denomination's prohibition against marrying same-gender couples or the Presbyterian Church constitution's ordination standard which prevents the ordination of anyone in a gay relationship. Because of his stand, charges were filed by the investigation committee, calling for the trial of Rev. Van Kuiken.

The Rapid Response team of the national Soulforce group has called for training and direct action to take place in Cincinnati on April 7-9. Soulforce will conduct nonviolence training and spiritual preparation at the church prior to the trial and then plans to conduct a silent vigil during the trial. We have been asked to invite GLBT people and our heterosexual allies to come to the nonviolence training at Mount Auburn at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 7. Mount Auburn is located at 103 William Howard Taft in Cincinnati. For more information visit www.soulforce.org or call Lex. Coordinator Jamie McDaniel at 859-230-5625. (meetings continue twice a mo. see calender)

LEX DRESS AND GENDER ALLIANCE

The next meeting of the LexDGA will be Saturday April 5, at 8pm. For location call 433-8388, or email LexDGA@yahoo.com. For mre information check us out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LexDGA>

LexDGA is a peer discussion group which meets ..continued on next page

monthly to discuss how gender affects our lives and to help members network with each other in a supportive casual atmosphere. You are encouraged to dress in any manner you feel comfortable.

Men Of All Colors Together

KY Men of all Colors Together (MACT) is a gay multiracial organization which fosters a supportive environment where friendships and partnerships can be celebrated free of racial and cultural barriers. For more info email mactky@aol.com or check out our web site www.mactky.com

Sistahs in The Life

Sistahs in the Life is a support group for Black Lesbians and Bi-sexual women. Join us for provocative discussions about our lives and experiences. We meet at 7 pm every first Tuesday at the Pride Center. For information, contact Joan at 859-539-2657 or email Jweslie@aol.com

UK Therapy Group

Anne Edwards, a lesbian therapist at the UK Counseling and Testing Center, is offering a therapy group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. The group is meeting from 1 pm to 2 pm on Wednesdays and is co-lead by Dr. Colby Cohen-Archer. For information please call and ask for either Edwards or Dr. Cohen-Archer if you have any questions. 257-8701.

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Pride Picnic

The Annual Picnic will be at Windy Knoll Farm on June 15. Vendors should call Kelly to reserve a space as soon as possible (225-6389), We need volunteers NOW to help us with planing and to raise money to make the picnic a great event. We do not charge admission so we are hoping to have a silent auction as well as a raffle. If you would like to participate, come to the meeting on April 13 at 2 pm at the Pride Center. Or call Kelly or Mary (266-5904) Volunteers is a great way to meet people!

Lesbian Fifty Plus Group

The fifty plus group had a wonderful time at dinner last month. The Red Seville had good food and great Spanish music and dancing. Our next meeting will be at the Pride Center on Sunday, April 6. The group will discuss and plan future events.

Several women who had called in saying they were coming in March did not show up, probably because it is a bit intimidating to go to a restaurant if you have not previously met people in the group. So, we will plan some less public events including the upcoming meeting.

In an attempt to contact women that do not get the newsletter, we are advertising in the newspaper under "clubs and organizations". Please invite your friends and we will have a great time. Call Ginger at the Pride Center for more information, 253-3233.

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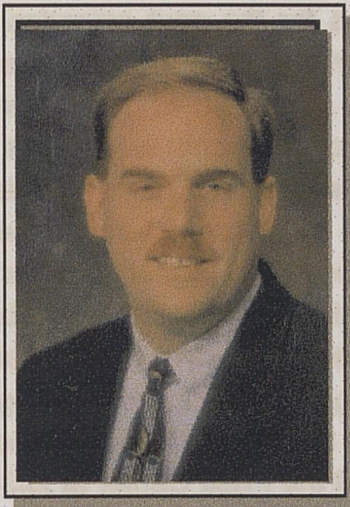
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PRIDE CENTER NEWS



389 Waller Ave. 859-253-3233 Mon-Sat 10 - 3

LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT

Join us Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m. for *Gia*, the 1998 HBO drama about the life of 70's supermodel Gia Carangi. Angelina Jolie stars as the Philadelphia teen, whose sexy looks catapulted her to modeling fame during the late 1970s. Although the world wanted her, Gia could not attain what she wanted - love. This would lead her on a path of self-destruction.

Costars include Faye Dunaway as modeling agent Wilhelmina Cooper, Mercedes Ruehl as Gia's mother, and Elizabeth Mitchell (Dr. Weaver's first girlfriend on ER) as Gia's girlfriend. The unrated version, which includes nudity, sex scenes, graphic drug use and some violence, will be shown.

GAYMES NIGHT

Do you enjoy a good game of cards? Maybe you like talking with a group of people about the last movie you saw? Perhaps you are an excellent speller who dazzles everyone with your brilliance on the Scrabble board? If you are a serious game player or someone who is just looking for a fun place to hang out, come to Gaymes Night at the Pride Center Friday, April 25. All the fun begins at 7:00 p.m. Bring games and snacks to share, but most importantly bring yourself.

Xena at the Pride Center

It's been two long years since Xena, the Warrior Princess and her gal pal (wink), Gabrielle traveled the world, fought bad guys (and girls), died and came back to life, hung out with goddesses and gods, traveled through time, and generally kicked ass where ever they went. Are you are still suffering the effects of Xena withdrawal? Or maybe you are an "X:WP Virgin" who

missed out on the whole phenomenon. Well guess what? **THEY'RE BACK!!!**

Join us for the next episodes of *Xena and Gabrielle* at the Pride Center, on Saturday, April 19th at 1pm. Every third Saturday of the month we will get together to watch several episodes of this classic series, in order, commercial free, in the newly issued DVD format. See for yourself what the "lesbian subtext" is all about.

It's free and everyone is welcome. We are hoping for a big crowd so bring a friend and some snacks to share. For more information call the Pride Center at 253-3233 or email Jane at ladyjaneky@yahoo.com.

Discussion Group

The GLSO Discussion/Support Group meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at the Pride Center. We are always open to new people dropping in to join us. We discuss a whole range of issues. If you have something that you need to think out loud about, we will listen. For information contact the Pride Center at 859-253-3233, or Jane at email ladyjaneky@yahoo.com.

Art for Fun

A free art group will meet on the first, second, and fourth Saturday, from 1pm to 4pm at the Pride Center through May. The goal is to help you release your creative energy that was no doubt squelched by teachers or parents. (Well, the wall may not have been the best canvas.) Two local artists will give informal instruction in drawing, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, oils, sculpting, or any medium you would enjoy working with.

We plan to do gallery hops here in town, and trips to Louisville and Cincinnati art museums. Some art history and appreciation will be taught. ...continued on page 8

THE IMPERIAL COURT
OF
KENTUCKY
PRESENTS



The
2003
Falsie
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April 8, 9pm
State Theatre
\$10 donation

The "Best of" Lexington vie for top honors in categories such as:

Annie Cummings Achievement in Bartending
Outstanding Achievement in Hair
Imperial Court Lifetime Achievement Award
Niagara Falls Community Service Award
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Come early for good seating!
Sure to be a standing room only crowd!

<http://kentucky.impcourt.org>

The group is drop-in, you do not have to attend every session. Come see what fun it is to enjoy the process of creating without too much concern for what is created.

Garage Sale

GLSO has a garage Sale planned for May. As you do spring cleaning, save items to bring to us next month. We will need volunteers to help sort, price and to be here the day of the sale. contact the Pride Center 253-3233.

PRIDE CENTER LIBRARY

Highlights: Videos "Missing in Action"

One of the most popular parts of the Library is our collection of over 75 videos and DVDs. At any given time over half are checked out, and they fly off the shelves as soon as they are returned. There is everything from classics like Torch Song Trilogy and Desert Hearts to the newer favorites, Boys on the Side and A Beautiful Thing. Comedies like She Must be Seeing Things and In and Out to dramas like Bent and Claire of the Moon. The collection also includes documentaries, short films, and concerts videos.

But as popular as the collection is we have developed a problem ...overdue and missing videos. We love that the collection is being used, but other people (who want to watch them) hate when they are not returned. The following titles are currently "Missing in Action."

Bar Girls
Better Than Chocolate
Bound Boys Don't Cry
Boys Life 3
Broken Hearts Club
Forbidden Love
Kiss Me Guido
Priest Siren
Talented Mr. Ripley
Times of Harvey Milk

Women from Down Under World and Time Enough

If you have any of these videos please bring them home to the Pride Center Library. You can even slip them through the mail slot. No fines and no questions asked, we just want them back.

Videos, books and audios can be checked out of the Library Monday through Saturday from 10-3. The Pride Center is located at 389 Waller Avenue, Suite 100. For information call 859-253-3233 or email ladyjaneky@yahoo.com

BOOK REVIEW: DEATHS OF JOGATS

Deborah Barker

I have read a lot of Lesbian novels and this one captured my heart. It begins a little slow but picks up and becomes an engrossing story. The writing is good, you will care about the characters and the relationships. It is a murder mystery but has more depth than the average of this genre.

Jubilee Fellowship

The Jubilee Fellowship meets most Thursdays at the Pride Center at 7pm. On the 4th Thursday we plan an activity at a different location. (This is a change-use to occur on the 2nd Thurs.) We begin the evening by singing songs of praise and worship and then read bible passages to study together. You are welcome to join us at any time.

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The Imperial Court of Kentucky has teamed up with Posh Salon and Spa, and many local stylists have volunteered their time to provide you with a day of "Hair Care." Get your dream cut or style for the holidays!

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF KENTUCKY

It's almost Derby time! Thunder! The Great Steamboat Race! And Miss Derby Pride 2003! Join the Imperial Court as it celebrates these festive days in Kentucky with its 2003 "Miss Derby Pride" pageant. One of the biggest pageants hosted by the ICK each year, the competition is sure to be fierce as many of your favorite entertainers battle for this title!

2003 Miss Derby Pride

Wednesday April 30, 2003

Club 141

Door at 8:30 pm, Show at 9:30 pm

Interested contestants may contact Empress Nicole or Regent Emperor Larry Stanley.

<http://kentucky.impcourt.org>

Religious and Spiritual Resources

JUBELEE FELLOWSHIP news on page 8

INTEGRITY

Integrity is an organization for GLBT Episcopalians and other persons of faith. Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 4:00 - 5:30 P.M. at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2025 Bellefonte St. in Lexington. The topic for the April 13th meeting is a continuation of a discussion of "Christian Perspectives on Dating and Relationships." If you have any questions, please call Rectors, David Boyd or Sandy Stone at 859-277-7511 or email Stmintegrity@yahoo.com

Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes visitors any time. There are now two services every Sunday, at 9:30 and 11:15. On April 6 there will be a first Sunday brunch starting at 10:15. On other Sundays there will be social justice discussions between the two services.

A Course In Miracles study group meets from 1 to 2:30 on the first and third Sunday afternoons of each month. Anyone is welcome to attend, no prior knowledge or experience necessary. For info call Leslie Dodd at 266-9990. For more information check the web at www.uucl.org.

WICCAN PATHWAY PART 3 BELTAINE

By Iggie

Beltaine is special to me. Three years ago I found my spiritual path just before Beltaine, then at sunrise on Beltaine I dedicated myself to the God and Goddess. I was not sure of their names but I know they were calling me to them all my life.

At a very young age, I knew I was an outsider without knowing why. I was raised by my mother who encouraged me to go to church but didn't forced me to. At church I questioned why some of the things they were teaching did not make sense and as I grow I felt things were missing. I knew I was different because I liked boys better than girls but something else was also lacking.

Around the age of twenty, a friend gave me the book "The Power of Magick" by Yvonne and Garth Frost. With this book I begin my search into Wicca. For the next seventeen years, I read every book, watched any TV show and listened to any radio show that had any thing close to Wiccan information. On one show hosted by Lynn Gladhill, I heard Yvonne and Garth Frost speak. I read all of Shirley Mcleain's books.

Then three years ago, I found a coven and started to go the Sabbath, esbats and studies; I really started to grow. During this time I also found out that egos could hurt these meetings, and came to the realization that a spiritual path is a personal thing, which can be share but mostly has to be traveled alone.

So on Beltane I dedicated my self. That afternoon at the coven sabbat I had a vision of my lord and Lady welcoming me home. From that time until now my life has grown and will continue to grow into future. By the way, if you are wondering, Morrigan is My Goddess and Dagda is My God.

Beltane is named for the God Belenus, the God of Crafts. It is also known as Mayday, Walburgo (Teutonic). Rudemas (Mexican Craft), Festival of Tana (Strega), and Bealtinne (Caledonii). It is celebrate

...continued on page 14

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APRIL

2003

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6 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Services, BRUNCH 10:30 2 pm 60+ Lesbians Pride Center 6 pm SisterSound (Call) 5:30 Men's Chorus - St. Michaels Church 7 pm Dignity Call for place	7 7 pm GSA (Call for place) 7 pm P-FLAG Berea Public Library-Berea 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	8 Soulforce Study Group call Jamie 230-5625 9 pm The Falsies, State Theater	9 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm LMC "Men in Tights" Drag Show, The Bar 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	10 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	11 7 pm Lesbian Movie Night, Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place)	12 Pride Center Open 10-3 1-4pm Art For Fun - Pride Center 7pm Andrew's Club- Pride Center
13 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 12-6 pm Hair Care 2003, Posh Salon 2 pm Pride Mo. Plan - Pride Center 5:30 Men's Chorus - St. Mike 6 pm Imperial Court PC 6 pm SisterSound (Call)	14 7:30PM Lexington Lyons Pride Center 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	15 7 pm GSA (Call for place)	16 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	17 7 pm Jubilee Fellowship Pride Center	18 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7PM Wiccan/Pagan Pot Luck (Call for Place)	19 Pride Center Open 10-3 1-4 XENA - P C
20 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church 5:30 Men's Chorus - St. Michaels Church 6 pm SisterSound (Call) 7PM Dignity (Call for Place) 7P Men of All Colors Together PC	21 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place) 7 pm GLSO Board Meeting; Pride Center GSA not meeting this week	22 7 pm Fairness Steering Committee Pride Center Soulforce Study Group call Jamie 230-5625	23 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	24 7 Newsletter folding, every one welcome Pride Center	25 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) 7pm Gaymes Night- Pride Center	26 Pride Center Open 10-3 1-4pm Art For Fun - Pride Center 7pm Andrew's Club- Pride Center
27 9:30 & 11:15 UU Church Noon Aids Walk for Life Triangle park 5:30 Men's Chorus - St. Michaels Church 6 pm SisterSound (call) 6PM Imperial Court Pride Center	28 7 pm GSA (Call for place) 8 pm AA Step Study (Call for place)	29	30 7 pm Discussion Group Pride Center 7 pm Gay/Lesbian AA (Call for place) TBA Miss Derby Pride, Club 141 9 pm Rainbow Bowling Southland Lanes	Meeting at the Pride Center may be abbreviated to PC Call for Place may be abbreviated to Call		

Remembering Our History

Dr. John Fryer, Gay Psychiatrist Native of Kentucky Dies at 65

Dr. John E. Fryer, a psychiatrist considered a trailblazer in the gay rights movement for appearing before his colleagues at a 1972 convention in a mask to announce his homosexuality, has died. Dr. Fryer, a Kentucky native and a longtime Philadelphia resident, died Feb. 21 of aspiration pneumonia at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He was 65.

Fryer appeared as Dr. H. Anonymous, clad in a full mask and wig and using a voice-distorting microphone, before the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Dallas at a time when homosexuality was designated a mental illness.

"I am a homosexual. I am a psychiatrist," he said. He then told the group that he had suffered discrimination and had to remain anonymous because being gay would cost him his job. At the time, he was an untenured professor at Temple University. Dr. Fryer did not formally say he was the psychiatrist behind the mask until the association's meeting in 1994.

In 1973, the year after Dr. Fryer's appearance at the convention, the American Psychiatric Association's board of trustees removed homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the profession's bible.


"It made a big difference," said gay rights activist Barbara Gittings, who recruited Dr. Fryer for the appearance. "It opened up things a great deal, because it made many psychiatrists realize gays were not some abstract idea, but were in fact in their profession."

In a 1985 bulletin of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, Dr. Fryer wrote that the appearance was "something

that had to be done." "I had been thrown out of a residency because I was gay. I lost a job because I was gay," he wrote. "It had to be said, but I couldn't do it as me."

Dr. Fryer received his bachelor's degree from Transylvania College in Lexington at the age of 19 and earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville in 1962. He joined the Temple faculty in 1967 and became a full professor of psychiatry and family and community medicine. He retired in 2000. He was recognized in 2002 by Vanderbilt University Medical School with a distinguished alumnus award and by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists with a distinguished service award.

We thank you, Dr. Fryer, for helping to change the beliefs about GLBT people throughout the United States.



Beltane...continued from page 10

either on April 30 or May 1, or on May 5 in some traditions. Most celebrations mean the same thing. Beltane is the last of three spring fertility festivals and is when people, plants and animals prepare or warm months ahead. It is a time to make halves whole (i.e. marriages and unions or reunions).

A simple way to mark this sabbat plant your favorite flowers and herbs for the renewal of the plant then blessed and spend the day with family and friends and let them know how much you loving them. Have a cook out or dinner party, because summer will be here soon.

Next month I will be writing about the basic principles of Wicca. For more information about Wiccan/Pagan or my study group please call me Iggie at (859) 492-9904. Reminder everyone is welcome to attend the sabbats potlucks.

Blessed Be.

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TO A GIRLFRIEND ON VALENTINE'S DAY

By Kelly O'Ferrell

I decided to buy a bra for your Valentine's Day gift!!

I figured if a good part of the population believes that a woman can get pregnant without having sex then I have no need to shop for a bra. I can just wait for one to show up in the womb of my bedroom (my underwear drawer). At some point, I realized that I was going to have to go out and buy a bra after 10 or more years of not having but the one from Sears. And for some reason, others don't consider it sexy.

So, off to Target I went to find 38A, white, lace, push up bra for your Valentine's Day gift, to no avail. So, since Meijer was in close proximity, I decided to give them a whirl too, but no!

Last night I decided to head to the mall (where I saw clothes I didn't know existed because I also haven't shopped for clothes in about 10 years either) and ended up at Victoria Secret. From the moment I walked in I knew this was not going to be easy. I've never seen so many bras and panties in my life. Fortunately, a woman dressed in black - which was the color dejour of Victoria Secret - appeared and asked if I needed help. I told her YES!

I proceeded, in my nervousness, to give her WAAAYYY too much information. "I'm here to buy a white, lace, pushup bra. I don't normally wear a bra and haven't bought one in years and basically I won't wear this one much since it's a Valentine's Day gift, but I'd at least like for it to be comfortable somewhat for when I do wear it and...." God, was I ever going to shut up? Not to mention that I literally gasped when I saw the price tag on the bras!

But, she was nice and very helpful - except for the times when she kept showing me bras with no lace and I really wanted

something with lace. Not to mention, that they don't make 38A in these styles and where, she asked, had I gotten my last bra in a 38A anyway?

"Sears" I replied with confidence - the bra capital of the Southern world.

So, off I went with my 36A and 38B and a pair of undies.

One really nice thing about Victoria's Secret is that the saleswomen actually come and check on you and ask if you need anything else. A few minutes later, another woman was knocking on the door. I cracked it open, as I stood there in my too short green Dockers with my old teeny shoes and no shirt or bra on.

She said that the other girl had told her I was looking for a 38A and she had something to show me, could she come in. I said yes if she didn't mind seeing my boobs. She didn't mind. "Probably seen everything", I kept saying over and over to myself as I now stood there in my too short green Dockers, old teeny shoes and now my stomach sucked in.

She proceeded to show me a no lace bra, which I turned down because of that "lace" issue and she asked if I'd been measured for a bra. Nope. So, around my chest she went with her French manicured fingernails finding the size of my breast for a bra. Indeed that was the problem - I wasn't a 38A but a 36B - something Sears had failed to mention to me. That's why the 36 bras felt too tight because the cup was too small. Not a bad thing to hear - that I'm not as big around as I thought (cause I figured I was going to have to go to a 42A to find a really comfortable fit) and I have bigger breasts than I thought.

So, she proceeded to bring me bra after bra in pushups - which, come to find out, meant padding. I personally don't get that padding concept. I mean, when you put your hands on my breasts, I don't want you feeling padding - ...continued on next

Questioning Gender by mary crone

I certainly don't want to feel padding, I want to feel your hands on my breasts for pete's sake!! But, padding was apparently the only way I was going to get those breasts of mine pushed up there!!

So, since I wasn't getting any push at all from the lace bras I was trying on and I was going to have to let go of the whole lace thing in order to achieve that look, I told the saleslady that I thought I'd just go with a pure lace bra and forget the pushup part. By this point, however, I'd gotten pretty nervous with this stranger in the room and me not only undressed but having to suck in my stomach - which was making my stomach hurt. Eating that raw spinach salad apparently didn't help much either cause my stomach really started hurting and I wanted to have gas, but couldn't cause I'm standing in a dressing room feeling like a bumpkin with a stranger.

Well, she brought two pure lace bras in for me to try on and I found the one I was going to buy. She agreed that she liked it best too.

I also wanted a pair of thong underwear (I must have really liked this woman!). Fortunately I didn't have to try it on because the saleslady knew how to convert Sears Hanes Her Way Briefs into thong underwear.

As I stood in line to pay for my items, I was mesmerized by one of the cashiers who had a set of breasts like I wanted - they were pushed right up there with a low cut shirt. Perfect! I'll bet if I had spent more time in there I could have gotten that look, but it would have meant no lace. And that's out. When my girlfriend says she wants lace, she's going to get lace! They put my bra and thong underwear in a real pretty shopping bag with pink tissue paper and I high tailed it back to the car where Lucy, my dog, was waiting for me - home at last.

Many cultures, but not all, teach that human beings are either male or female and that they are "opposites." This concept is woven into our culture and is considered a scientific fact by most people in our country. However, there are many ancient stories, myths and even religious texts, that let us know that gender has always been a social construct. That is, gender is not the simple binary system that we have been raised to consider as obvious. It is not that male and female as we think of them, are not found as part of most culture's gender concepts, but they are often part of a broader system with more possible categories.

In the Jewish tradition, The Talmud is the collection of writings of rabbis from many past centuries who offer various interpretations of the Torah, the sacred text of the Jewish Faith (the first five books of the First Testament.) In the Babylonian Talmud in writings from before the 5th century, there is a discussion of four gender categories in addition to the male and female categories.

Androgynos: a person who has aspects of both male and female genitalia

Tumtum: a person whose genitals are obscured, making their gender uncertain

Aylonit: a female who fails to produce signs of female maturity by the age of 20.

Saris: males who does not produce signs of maturity by the age of twenty (this category was broken down into several sub-groups.)

The rabbis laid out their observations of gender categories in order to determine what religious responsibilities were required of Jewish individuals who did not fit into the binary male and female categories. That did not necessarily mean they were accepting of gender difference, but at least they officially recognized that people do not come in "two labels fits all" categories. *...continued on page 22*

STAGES OF LOVE

BY JOE KORT, MSW

Lesbians and Gays are a sexually abused culture. We are under sexual assault regularly from society. We are only seen for our sex acts and are told that we are dirty and bad for having sexual feelings and for wanting intimate relationships with members of our own gender.

With a lifetime of receiving these messages we run from each other so as not to be exposed or identified as one of those "forbidden and dirty people." We have no one to tell. Oprah Winfrey talks about the first time she saw African American people on television. She was watching Ed Sullivan introduce the Supremes and ran through her home yelling to her family in excitement and pride that African Americans were on TV.

Can you imagine any of us as gays and lesbians doing this as children - or even adults - yelling through our home that homosexuals were on television? Of course not.

We enter adult love relationships with internalized messages that we are inherently damaged and flawed as people. Problems begin to arise as a result. What we do not realize, however, is that these problems are supposed to happen and they can offer us the greatest amount of personal healing. Problems can also help a relationship grow and strengthen.

Romantic Love: We enter relationships through the doorway of romantic love. This is a time when people report feelings of elation, exhilaration and euphoria. Partners will say things like, "Oh, I can't live without you," and/or "It seems like I've always known you."

This feeling is strongest in the presence of one's partner. It is during this period of

time we can go without much sleep. If we have been depressed, we are less so. Addictions seem to subside and so on. This stage is what our society calls real love.

Movies, books, television, songs focus on this period because it feels so great. But it is not real love. It is only nature's way of bringing two people together. It is supposed to happen and supposed to come to an end. Most people do not know this. For us, as lesbians and gays, it is a time that has even more importance to us.

It is like we have found something that we were told we would never have. We feel so loved and authentic. We have waited a lifetime for a connection to someone like this and we don't want it to end. And when it does end, it moves us to sometimes even more despair about relationships than we had before. It is like confirmation that we

are doomed and cannot have long-term healthy relationships.

The Power Struggle: After romantic love ends, the next stage of a relationship is called the power struggle. It, too, is supposed to happen and sup-

posed to end. However, this phase does not feel as good and disillusionment arises. It is here that we are most aware of the differences between ourselves and our partner. Conflict arises as a result of the belief that these differences are not good for a relationship when in fact they are.

This conflict is growth (both personal and relational) trying to happen. It promotes a way to differentiate from one's partner and for each to keep a sense of self and also be a couple. For lesbians and gays, it is even more important to us in relationships to keep our sense of self because we have spent a lifetime being forced to conform and disown ourselves.

Thus, it seems easier to terminate the relationship, have affairs, and engage in addictions rather than face the conflict and

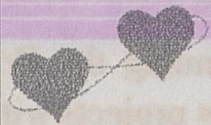
**WOULD THE
SMALL CHILD
YOU ONCE
WERE LOOK UP
TO THE ADULT
YOU HAVE
BECOME?**

fear of losing ourselves.

Many also feel that it is confirmation that we cannot have relationships. The good news, however, is that the power struggle we face with our partners is a positive indicator that we are with the right person. It is that person who will challenge us to make necessary changes for ourselves. It is an opportunity to maintain closeness while still maintaining one's own individuality.

Isn't that what we want for ourselves from society as a whole and from our families anyway? To be who we are, they who they are and to allow the differences to exist. Incompatibility is grounds for a relationship and is the norm for partnerships. If you don't know this information and what to do about working it through you can walk away from your dream partner.

Real love, mature love can only emerge once partners move through romantic love and the power struggle. Gays and lesbians deserve to know this information and to have the relationship of their dreams. It is our birthright.



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Jessica Bollinger LCSW
Certified Imago Relationship Therapist
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Real Love Can Only Emerge once Partners Move Through Romantic love.

The author Joe Kort, MSW is an Imago therapist, a presenter of Getting the Love You Want Workshops, and an adjunct professor at Wayne State University. This article appeared in Feb. 1997 in Between The Lines, a Detroit Gay & Lesbian newspaper. It is reprinted in GLSO by permission of the author. For more information about Imago Relationship Therapy contact: Jessica Bollinger at (859) 552-6533, or visit her website: imagoconnection.com

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GLSO has been running the Pride Center, our largest expense, and organizing numerous projects with the help of grant monies, donations, and many wonderful volunteers. We would like to build our organization to be able to open a larger Pride Center, fund new initiatives, and reach more people in Kentucky over the next decade. With the future in mind, we have established levels of donations and perks we offer to individual or groups that donate money to GLSO.

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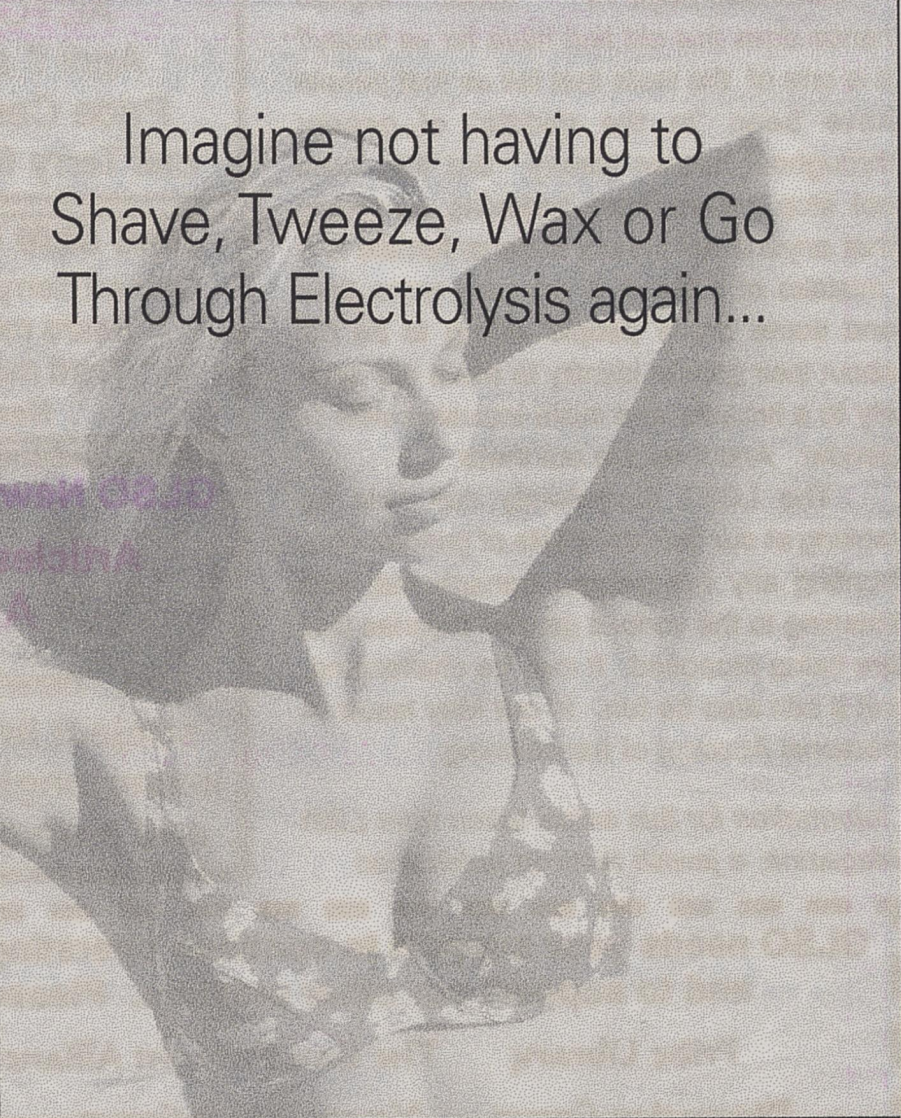
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...continued page 19 What significance does this old text have for us today? It is one of the texts that tell us that people have been "in the middle" of gender throughout human history. But that does not stop people from believing or saying that anyone not clearly male or female is a "mistake of nature." It will take some time and some brave people willing to be out about their gender identity to move our society to a broader and more inclusive view of gender. And they are out there.

The LGBT Community can help by looking at our own concepts of gender, confronting any internalized transphobia, and listening to the various gender theories that are being proposed. It may be challenging, but it can also be fun. In our May Issue: A personal Account of transitioning.

Information for this article taken from Lilith Magazine, a jewish feminist publication

ACTOUT Tryouts
 April 7 and 8 at 7 pm
 Pride Center, 389 Waller
 call Terry for info 252-2867

JUNE GLSO BOARD ELECTIONS

Contact Terry at 252-2867 days.
 Board meeting are open
 Third Mondays at 7:30.
Next: April 21

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**Articles and Ads :
 April 15**

put "newsletter" in the
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 Lexington Human Rights Commission 252-4931
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 (Shane)859-854-0596
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 Sistahs in the Life (Joan)252-2657
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 CWBM121893@aol.com
 MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev.Cathy) ..888-340-6223
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