

the glsonews

a publication of january 1997 the lexington gay and lesbian services organization

LETTER TO A D J contributed by Mary Crone

One evening near the beginning of December, I was driving home from the grocery store listening to a radio station chosen by one of my children, when I heard Chris Goodman respond to a caller in a homophobic manner. I composed an angry letter in my mind, not an infrequent occurrence. But this time I have actually put fingers to computer and sent him the following letter. I may not get a response but I'll share my thoughts this with all of you in hopes that if any one else hears this DJ being homophobic, you might add your voice to mine or let me know what you hear.

Dear Mr. Goodman,

I'm writing to you in hopes that your comments on the air last Tuesday evening (Dec. 10) were meant to be humorous rather than cruel and that if I explain to you how they might have been hurtful, you will be less likely to repeat this form of humor.

A young man called to ask if he could ask a girl to go out with him over the air. You expressed surprise that this young man wanted to ask a girl out and you kept repeating your skepticism that he would want to date a female. You assumed by his voice that this young man was gay. He may be gay, but he obviously isn't out, perhaps not even to himself.

Coming out is difficult and particularly so for the young. Realizing that you might be gay can be a trigger for despair and self-hatred. Because of intense homophobia, young people perceived to be gay are harassed and assaulted in school. A surprisingly high number of us are also ridiculed and assaulted by family members. If home isn't safe, where is? The suicide rate for lesbian and gay youth is higher then that for adolescents in general, some studies indicate that one third of suicidal teens are in despair because they think they are or might be gay. We are also over represented in young people who are living on the streets, runaways or throw-aways. Falling grades, low self esteem, drug and alcohol abuse are all results of the homophobia within our culture. Is it any wonder that many of us stay in denial?

On the other hand, coming out can be liberating, joyful, and the blossoming of the ability to love oneself and others. Support helps young people to move away from despair towards self-acceptance. The negative reactions listed above give way to the realization that gays and lesbians live happy productive lives.

In the gay/lesbian community we often find humor in the coming out process and within our lives. However, I did not find your comments humorous but an attempt to ridicule. You could have easily stimulated fear and humiliation in the young caller. Was this your intent? I hope not. Do you mean to be harassing callers on the air, do you want to be cruel? Again, I hope not.

If you wish to respond to my concern you can find an address and phone number above. Please do not respond on the air as this could further humiliate the young caller.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Crone

President, GLSO

Post Script: The DJ called me and apologized personally. $\mathbf{\Phi}$

glso ONLINE:

Peter: pjtayl00@ukcc.uky.edu Elizabeth: bee@mis.net Tammy: sappho@mis.net

HELP UPDATE US FOR THE NEW YEAR

If you know of any updated names or phone numbers for the Directory listing on the back page, please contact Elizabeth at the above e-mail address, or at 277-3644. **亞**

The GLSO is now taking signups for its remaining sponsorships for 1997. If you or your organization has an interest, contact Mary at 266-5904.

Typesetters Needed

We are also looking for a typesetter to continue this publication. As much as we (the typesetters) hate to admit it after three years, we are rapidly being piled with too many obligations, and are having a hard time giving our time for the community.

If you have an interest in taking over typesetting, contact Mary or Peter. ₩

the glso Sponsor of the Month Windy Knoll Farm



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

Editor: Peter Taylor

Layout Editor: Elizabeth A. Gilliam-Strong

glso Annual Dues and Newsletter: \$15 Dues and Newsletter for Couples: \$20

Views or opinions expressed in the GLSO News are those of the authors and don't necessarily represent those of the GLSO Board of Directors.

Submissions are welcome. All submissions become the property of GLSO and must indicate full name and address of the author. The staff reserves the right to edit submissions and ads to meet publishing requirements, as well as the right to reject any submissions.

Placement of advertising in GLSO News denotes neither a person's sexual orientation nor a business' customer preference.

REDISCOVERING OUR HISTORY SAN FRANCISCO 1965

contributed by Mary Crone

The beginning of the Gay Civil Rights Movement is often said to be the Stonewall Resistance of 1969 in New York City. There were, however, politically active gay, lesbian and bisexual people before that time and it is appropriate for us to acknowledge their struggle and progress for we stand on their shoulders.

In the fall of 1964, several gay organizations in San Francisco came together and planned a New Year,s Day dance, the Mardi Gras Ball. Some of these groups were the Daughters of Bilitis, the Mattachine Society, The Society for Individual Rights, the Tavern Guild, and the Coits. They also had the support of gay friendly community groups such as the Council on Religion and the Homosexual.

Dance organizers met twice with police, hoping to avoid confrontation or harassment. The police agreed to ignore the party unless costumed party-goers spilled out onto the streets.

On the afternoon of January 1st, however, fifty uniformed police officers showed up before the start of the dance, arranging themselves in front of the building discouraging many from attending. Still, five

hundred brave individuals attended (way below the 1500 they were expecting). Herb Donalson, now a San Francisco municipal judge, and Evandeer Smith were arrested when they asked two plain clothed officers to produce a warrant. In addition, Elliot Leighton and Nancy May, a minister's wife, were also arrested.

On February 11, Municipal Court Judge Leo Friedman acquitted all four and ordered police to turn over photos, including negatives, taken of other participants. This is one of many steps taken by brave lesbigay people to secure the relative peace and freedom we have today.

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So, what was happening here in Lexington thirty plus years ago? I know there were frequent police raids on bars in the past, but we have no first person accounts written down anywhere. If we don't start keeping track of our own history, who will? If anyone reading this would share memories of being gay in Lexington in the 1950's, 60's or '70's, please give us a call or write your piece of history down and send it in.

Now, wouldn't it be wonderful to have 500 people attend both the Pride Picnic and the Pride Banquet in our celebrations next June?

Some information taken from an article in $\it Curve$ by Mary Ann Swissler. $\mbox{\em \colored}$



COMMUNITY NEWS

NETWORKING: PRIDE MONTH PLANNING

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A Networking meeting has been set for Monday, January 27th at 7:00 at the downtown Public Library, fourth floor, meeting room C. There is free parking available behind the Library. We encourage all groups to send a representative and bring information about upcoming events or projects.

If you are new to the LGBT community or are looking for a way to meet people and become more involved, please come to this gathering and join in the discussion. Groups looking for new members, this may be one place to find them!

This month we need to start planning and coordinating Pride Month Activities. We are looking for a couple of individuals to coordinate what has traditionally been called the Pride Committee. One possibility is for the Networking Groups to be the Pride planning group. GLSO has some money set aside for Pride Month and has started looking Other into Picnic possibilities. groups have started working on events. If you have some ideas, energy, or a willingness to take on some responsibility, please come to the Networking Meeting. For more information call Mary Crone at 266-5904. \$\Pi\$

FAIRNESS REORGANIZES

Fairness of Lexington had a

well-attended reorganizing meeting near the end November. A group of individuals have volunteered to be a focus group, to evaluated what goals to pursue and to keep up the tasks necessary to keep the organization alive during the reorganization period. Since the Ky. Legislature does not meet in 1997 it could be a good year to work on passing a Lexington City Fairness Ordinance. Another meeting is planned for January 21st at the UK Student Center. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

SUBSCRIBERS NEEDED

GLSO is still in need of subscribers. We have to have a minimum of 200 mailed newsletters to be able to use our bulk mail permit, and 150 of those need to be in Lexington for us to get the lowest rates. You can receive a membership in GLSO and a monthly newsletter for \$15. Members can vote in elections and get a discount at some GLSO events. If you are in financial need, lower cost subscriptions are available. Use the subscription form in this newsletter or call Mary for more information. (266-5904) 🐯

PARENTING GROUP GOES TO ITALIAN OVEN

The December meeting of the Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group was a social event; dinner and conversation at the Italian Oven. Lots of fun! If you have yet to go there.. Go. It is a Gay & Kid Friendly kind of place. It appeared that everyone enjoyed one another and the entertainment of two toddlers and "the big boy" all of 6 years old. Guess age is relative...

The January meeting will resume our regular schedule of meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

January 21 is the date. We will meet back at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Clays Mill Road

Childcare is provided, so please feel free to bring your children. A donation is collected for childcare and for use of the church. If your child is more comfortable staying with you, that is okay, too.

No topic is planned for the January meeting. Discussion will be open o what and who we want to schedule for future meetings. So, join us and tell us your request. ♥

RELATIONSHIP SERIES TO BEGIN

Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church, 387 Waller Avenue will resume its regular Wednesday evening study programs at 7pm January 8th.

The latest seven week presentations is a video course on Gay and Lesbian Relationships prepared by Rev. Michael Piazza, pastor of the fifteen hundred

continued on page 5

THE CHURCH LADY

by Margaret Christopher Cartwright

This month we will discuss Deborah. Deborah was described as an "unwomanly" woman (truly a woman after my own heart!).

She was a civil and religious judge, the first and only woman judge mentioned in the Bible. She was the wife or "woman" of Lappidoth. She was a counselor, judge, or lawyer (whichever occupation makes you more comfortable) but she spoke for God.

God told Deborah to go to war. "The God of Israel commands you to take 10,000 soldiers to meet Sisera which I will bring out and deliver to you." Barak, son of Abinoam said to Deborah, "I'll go if you'll go with me, but I'm not going without you!" Deborah said, "Sure I'll go, for God will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."

Thousands of warriors went, with Barak and Deborah leading them. As they were about to meet their opponents, God caused Sisera and his soldiers to panic and Sisera fled on foot. All the rest of his army perished. Sisera sought out an ally, Jael, the wife of Heber because there was peace between their houses and he knew she would hide him from Deborah and Barak.

Jael told him, "Get under this rug and I will hide you." Because he was thirsty from running, she gave him some milk to drink under the rug. Sisera told her to stand at the entrance to the tent and if anyone came to tell

them that no one was there.

While Sisera hid, thinking he was safe under Jael's rug, Jael took a tent peg and a hammer and went softly to him while he slept and drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground. Obviously, he then died.

Barak came, and saw that the leader of this army was surely delivered into the hands of a woman.

The song of celebration by Deborah (or as feminist theologians believe "the womans account of the war") is best read in Judges 5, "The Song of Deborah." The text for this incredible story is Judges 4.

WANTED: TYPESETTER. SEE NOTICE ON FRONT PAGE.

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Do you have anything to say for yourself?

You do? Well, why not write it down and send it in?

The glso is always pleased to accept pieces by members of our community. If you have something to say, tell us!

Send via e-mail (listed on page 1) or U.S. mail (listed on page 2). Although we'd like to know who you are, we do not have to print your actual name.



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WEWANTYOU AS A VOLUNTEER CALL MARY AT 266-5904 from page 3 member Cathedral of Hope MCC in Dallas, Texas.

Each class will consist of a forty-five minute video lecture with an opportunity for questions and group discussions afterwards. Whether you've finally met the person of your dreams, been with someone for several years or are still trying to figure out what went wrong the last time; this program will offer insights on the joys and struggles, talents and handicaps involved in maintaining our relationships in a nonsupportive environment. Like all MCC programs, the Relationship Series is open to everyone.

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Bits & Pieces

NAVY SETTLES ANTI-LESBIAN WITCH HUNT SUIT

In the first successful suit to challenge violations of the current "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy's prohibition on military witch hunts of lesbian and gay servicemembers, the Department of Justice and the Navy settled a lawsuit brought by former Seaman Amy L. Barnes on December 12.

Barnes sued the Navy earlier this year for wrongful discharge and for violating her constitutional rights. The Navy agreed to pay Barnes an amount roughly equivalent to the G.I. Bill educational benefits to which she would have been entitled had she been allowed to complete her enlistment term. The Navy also issued her a new discharge form removing all references to "homosexual conduct."

Barnes had been discharged following a witch hunt of women accused as lesbian on the USS Simon Lake, a nuclear submarine, in the fall of 1995. "This is a victory not just for Amy Barnes, but for all servicemembers jeopardized by the military's antigay policy and the witch hunts that can result from it," said Kirk Childress, Staff Attorney of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

BAY AREA BOY SCOUTS SET UP "DON'T ASK DON'T TELL" POLICY

In what many lesbian and gay groups speculate is an attempt to curry favor with the United Way, the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts have quietly adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards gay scouts and troop leaders.

While gay members and leaders have been expelled simply because of their sexual orientation nationally, the Bay Area Council will only call for expulsion if a person "engages in public homosexual conduct or advocacy." In 1992, the United Way cut nearly \$500,000 in annual funding to seven Bay Area councils because of the Scouts' anti-gay policy.

"It looks good, but it's a double message," said San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. "What do they mean by 'as long as you don't advocate?" What do they mean by 'public homosexual conduct?" It's back to the Anita Bryant days of staying in the closet."

RUSSIAN LESBIAN BATTLING FOR ASYLUM IN U.S.

On December 11, a lawyer for Alla Pitcherskaia, a Russian

continued on page 10

Are you being discriminated against in Kentucky due to your sexual orientation?

Report It Now.

Call the GLSO Discrimination Project, and help to put our discrimination on the books.

276-5383

			1 WEDNESDAY 6:00 p.m. Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 p.m. Met. Community Church 7:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 8:00 p.m. Gay/Lesblan AA	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Raptet Church)	3 FRIDAY 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	4 SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum
5 SUNDAY 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church 7:00 p.m. Dignity, (MCC Suite)	6 MONDAY	7 TUESDAY 12:00 noon Goy/Lesbian AA 7:30 p.m. P-Flag (Chapel Hill Prestylerian Church) 7:30 p.m. Goy/Lesbian AA 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Frontruners (Woodland Park) 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. MCC Relationships Study 8:00 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9 7:00 p.m. Men's Charus Practice (Central Baptist Church)	10 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9.00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum
11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church	7.15 p.m. GISO Board Meeting (WCC Suite)	12:00 noon Gay/Lesbian AA 6:30 p.m. Lesbian/Gay Parenting Group (Unitarian 7:30 p.m. (V) astrona AA 8:30 p.m. Ranbow Bowling League	6.00 p.m. Frontuners (Woodland Park) HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. MCC Relationships Study 8:00 p.m. Gcty/Lesbian AA	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Bapist Church) 8:00 p.m. Bluegrass Colts members 9:00 p.m. Bluegrass Cots non-members	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9.00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum GLSO NEWS DEADLINE ALSO, PIEASE SUBMIT UPDATES FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 273-5845
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26 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church	7:00 p.m. Pride Month Networking Meeting. Public Library	12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesblan AA 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 7:00 p.m. MCC Relationships Study	30 7.00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Baptist Church)	31	



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Please become a member: help support and build our community and receive your newsletter by mail!

MAIL TO: GLSO Newsletter P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575

Just some of the ways your donations help our community This support has enabled GLSO to...

- **b** publish this newsletter
- to co-ordinate Pride Month
- to support other community organizations
- **to hold social events for our community.**

Would you like to help sponsor an issue of GLSO next year? Check out our Queer As A Three Dollar Bill campaign (page 9).

2000

THE GLSO IS NOW ACCEPTING SPONSORS FOR THE COSTS OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR ONE MONTH, AND USE ITS OTHER ADVERTISING INCOME FOR A NUMBER OF OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL MARY AT 266-5904.

THE GLSO NEWS IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR SUPPORTERS THUS FAR FOR 1997:
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We still have two months open! Call Mary to sign up now!

THE QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL CAMPAIGN

GLSO will print an Out and Proud page of individuals who would like their names listed as financial supporters. The minimum cost is \$3 for a single or couple's name, and \$45 for a statement. Those who send extra amounts with their subscriptions can also request to be listed on the Out and Proud page. Your contributions help us with our work in community education, social events, and support of other lesbigaytrans organizations.

from page 5

lesbian, pleaded with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for political asylum, saying the woman would be institutionalized and subjected to electroshock therapy if returned home.

It is the first time a federal appeals court has heard a case using sexual orientation as a basis for political asylum. In the early eighties, "she was repeatedly threatened with forced psychiatric institutionalization solely because she is a lesbian, and repeatedly detained for political actions on behalf of gay rights," said Pitcherskaia's lawyer Suzanne Goldberg of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF).

The Justice Department asserts that since the fall of the Soviet Union laws banning homosexuality have changed, and the psychiatric counseling sessions Pitcherskaia was forced to undergo by the state were a good-faith attempt to help her. A decision is expected in anywhere from six weeks to a year.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PROMOTED IN HONDURAN PRISONS

There actually is a place on earth where same-sex marriage is encouraged, but you have to go to prison to get there. In the small Central American country of Hunduras, prison officials are urging gay inmates to get married in order to promote monogamy behind bars.

Since AIDS is the main cause of death in Tegucigalpa Central Penitentiary, doctors hope sexual fidelity will help stop the spread of the cirus there. Currently, 102 of the 2,400 prisoners have been diagnosed with the AIDS cirus, and 65 have died.

Although same-sex marriage is not legal in Honduras, officials are actually performing weddings at the prison. More than eight couples have exchanged marriage vows so far.

RAINBOW FLAG FLOWN

In commemorating Perth's gay and lesbian pride festival, October 28 through November 3, the municipality of Vincent became the first in Western Australia to fly the rainbow flag over its chambers. \$\overline{\Phi}\$

Possible AIDS Breakthroughs

Infection-fighting blood cells can be boosted in AIDS patients, a team of doctors has found - a discovery that could prove to be a breakthrough treatment of people with HIV. A recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine says that injecting patients with the immune system protein interleukin-2 can help increase the number of white blood cells, the ones that fight off the AIDS virus. Usually it's the gradual disappearance of CD4 cells that indicates the onset of a lifethreatening illness. This is the first time chemicals have been proved to help replace the precious blood cells.

Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Statutory Convention unanimously approved a nondiscrimination clause protecting gays and lesbians in that country.

In Tasmania, Australia, gay

activists have brought a court challenge to the state's anti-gay sex laws, which include a prison sentence of up to 25 years for gay sex.

In Romania, over the objection of European human rights groups, the Parliament voted 174-39 to rule that gay sex could be punishable by up to five years in prison.

The government of Indonesia will not promote the use of condoms in AIDS prevention because their use violates Muslim values, medical officials announced in November.

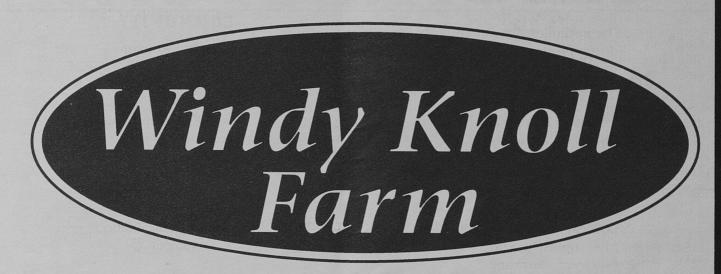
LESBIAN HEALTH CARE LACKING

Health care for lesbians is of a poorer quality than that for heterosexual women, according to early results from a survey in Miami conducted by GYNA, a lesbian health organization.

Questionnaires are still being collected, but the preliminary results duplicate those found on a national scale.

"Women have generally been excluded from medical research," GYNA vice president Rosa Royo told The Miami Herald. "When it comes to lesbians, that's even more so."

GYNA has been holding house parties so that lesbians can discuss health issues. "We are interested in having women develop their own voices as a group," Royo says. "We have to get beyond the silence and help them demand services from the medical community which are vital for our health."





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IYG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE 800-347-TEEN 7p-midnight Thurs. & Fri.

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E-Male (Bill)	254-9812
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Fairness of Louisville	(502) 893-0788
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IGBO(Steve)	276-3058
Kentucky Legislature	
Bill Status Line	
Legislator Message Line	
Meeting Info Line	(800) 633-9650
Kentucky Wranglers (Terry)	255-5469
(Bill)	278-8023
The Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group (Laura)	
Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby)	
Louisville Youth Group	
Names Project, Lexington (Katie)	
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P-FLAG (Jan)	
(Perry)	
Pegasus Travel	
Rainbow Bowling League (Shawn)	
RISC of KY(Paul)	
(Steve)	255-46364
The Women's Chorus (Connie)	2/6-2554
RELIGIOUS GROU	PS
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Dignity [Catholic] (Don)	299-4458
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To add or update a directory listing. please contact Tammy at 277-3644
For a mailing address update,
contact Peter at 273-5845