A Publication by the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

GL50 NEWS

GLSO Board Needs Volunteers

The GLSO nominating committee is seeking people to run for the GLSO Board. The Board is made up of ten individuals, half of whom are up for election each year. Five members of the current Board are in the middle of their two-year term. They are: Mary S. Crone, Pres.; Peter Taylor, VP; Laura Kaplan, Brad Garrett and Terry Mullins, members-at-large. Of the five remaining members whose terms expire in June, several are considering running again: Ann Olliges, Linda Laporte, Jeff Jones, Thom Branscum (treasurer) and Brian Throckmorton (GLSO News editor).

We would like people who are interested in joining the Board to consider in what capacity they would like to serve. We will need a treasurer, a secretary, and an advertising manager. We also need people to work on the phone line, to run coming out groups, to help with the newsletter, and to be part of our speakers bureau. Several of those jobs could use volunteers who do not wish to make the larger time commitment of being a Board member.

This is a particularly important year for us and we are looking for people with time and energy to contribute to our community. If you are interested, please notify Mary Crone in writing at 1630 Ashwood Rd., Lexington, 40502 by May 15th. If you have questions, please speak with a Board member you know or call Mary at 266-5904. The election will be held in June. You must be a member of GLSO to vote.

It is not too late to become a member. Just send in the form in this newsletter with \$15.

National Gay/lesbian Crisis line (800) 247-4283 Teenage Gay/lesbian Support (800) 347-TEEN Thurs.-Sun. 7pm-Midnight

Lesbian At Large by Linda West

This month's *Lesbian at Large* is an interview of singer/songwriter Cris Williamson before her recent concert in Lexington.

LW: What's the most important thing in your life? CW: Happiness.

LW: And has life been happy?

CW: Oh yes! First of all I have my relationship with Tret. We've been together fourteen years now, living and working together, and that has been a tremendous strength for me. And then I'm doing work that I love and have loved for twenty years. I couldn't ask for more. Plus we have a beautiful home in a community that has worked so hard to be the best it can.

LW: Where is your home? CW: The Northwest. Oregon.

LW: Oh! Were you there when Proposition 9 was on the ballot?

CW: The whole time. Once it was announced that 9 would be on the ballot we didn't leave home except to do a couple of out-of-state fundraisers to fight it. Mostly we stayed home doing fundraisers. In fact,

continued on page 3

GLSO News

Published Monthly by the

Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services Organization

P.O. Box 11471 Lexington, KY 40575

Editor:

Brian Throckmorton

Layout Editor: Elizabeth A. Gilliam

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

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

Imperial Court Elections

The R.S. Imperial Court of Kentucky will hold "Coronation XIII, An Imperial Salute to Animation" on Sunday, May 15 at the Holiday Inn South.

The focus of the evening's events will be the crowning of the Emperor and Empress, who oversee the fundraising activities of the year.

Voting for candidates for Emperor, Empress, and the Council - who control the day-to-day operations of the Court - will take place on Saturday, May 7, from 1 - 5 p.m. at the AVOL office on 214 W. Maxwell. A valid picture identification, indicating Kentucky residency is required to vote.

The Board of Directors of the Imperial Court encourage everyone to come out and vote.

Berea's ACE League Meets

The organization for lesbians, gays and bisexuals at Berea College has meetings every Sunday at 4 PM at the Draper Building, Room 220.

For more information, call Foula at 986-5669.

Gays Online

If you have Internet Access, you can subscribe to the LambdaNet, an electronic mailing list based at the University of Kentucky.

To subscribe, or for more information on LambdaNet or other homosexual-oriented e-mail lists, send to: jajone02@ukcc.uky.edu.

GLSO Teen Support Group Making Headway

The teen support group program which has een in the wings for some time now expects to fully come into being in May. Citing letters and calls from area teenagers seeking support, GLSO has found there is a definite need for this service for those in emotional pain.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Mary at 266-5904.

Lesbian Study Needs Volunteers

Volunteers requested to participate in a survey study on lesbian intimate relationships. Participants must be at lest 18 years old and have been living with a partner for at least 6 months. All inquiries are confidential. All returned survey materials are anonymous and confidential.

Please contact B.J. at (606) 269-2536. Your participation will help us to better understand the dynamics of lesbian relationships.

Let the Games Begin!

Attention people interested in summer volleyball. I would like to get a group together to play at Jacobson Park on Sunday afternoons. Pick up games, anyone can play any time. Call Jo or Bob if interested at 278-5032.

continued from page 1

the only performances we gave during the six months before the election that weren't fundraisers for "No on 9" were when we went to Colorado and did some benefits there to help fight Amendment 2. And now we're doing more benefits all around the country, because of course the Right has introduced these anti-Gay, anti-Lesbian measures everywhere they can. When we leave here we're going to Florida to do a performance for our community there that's facing the same thing.

LW: What was it like, going through that in Oregon?

CW: It was devastating. It was an unleashing of hatred; I mean murderous hatred. People were assaulted, two were murdered, homes and businesses

were vandalized, burnt, and it made people realize that our community is vulnerable in this country to the worst that bigotry can do. I don't think a day went by that I didn't hear anti-Gay advertisements by the OCA in the newspapers, on the radio, on TV. You couldn't get away from it, and it made it very hard to pretend that we live the same lives

as other Americans. It was very politicizing to people who before that had kept themselves at a distance from any kind of activism.

LW: Did it really do that instead of driving people deeper into the closet?

CW: Actually it did both. In rural areas I think most people retreated deeper into the closet. But in Portland and Eugene people came out in droves to fight 9. It really depended on the strength of the local community. Which is why having a strong community is so important. Where there was a solid Gay or Lesbian community people were scared, yes, but they also came together and responded to 9 collectively. They were up front about saying "we aren't just thousands of isolated people who can be individually bullied, we're a community and will

fight for that community." There are a lot more people out of the closet in Oregon after 9 than before.

LW: That's a different perspective than what most straight people expect from us, that idea that "I'm not just fighting for myself, I'm fighting for my people."

CW: Exactly. I think that the strength of the collective response in Oregon opened straight people's eyes to the existence of this flourishing minority community in their midst that had been invisible to them before.

LW: Do you see wimmin's music -- and I'm spelling that w-i-m-m-i-n -- as having a role in constructing community?

CW: (Laughs) You know that spelling dates a person, don't you?

LW: Almost everything dates me anymore. I'm getting used to it.

CW: I had someone tell me recently that they wanted to write a history of wimmin's music -- and I'm definitely spelling that w-i-m-m-i-n. I thought: "Is it time for the history books already?" It really made me feel like a museum piece, but what's even scarier is watching the

It's not that I insist that there's only one answer to a question like, "Is it sexist to weat a T-shirt to the March on Washington that says, 'March, Bitch'?" but I do insist that the question be asked.

au-dience age with me.

LW: So do you think wimmin's music is not reaching the next generation?

CW: Not like it did women who are now in their forties. And I find that disturbing because of the question you asked about the role of wimmin's music in creating community. Music, any music, whether it's rap, or country, or blues, or whatever, has a potential role in creating community for the people who perform it and listen to it. Music is universal, but specific types of music are embedded in specific cultures and communities, and when the people living in those cultures or communities control the means of production of the music, the music can reflect their culture and lives with the clearest possible voice. That was the whole impetus behind

wimmin's music -- that women's lives, lesbian lives, could be sung about with the clearest possible voice only if women owned their own recording companies, because the commercial, male-operated recording industry was never ever going to record a love song from one woman to another. If we forget that, it will be to our detriment.

LW: Are we forgetting it?

CW: I don't want to say we're forgetting it, but I do see that wimmin's music is not the expanding force it was just ten years ago, and we do need to touch younger fans so that that reservoir of skills and knowledge isn't lost, but gets passed on.

LW: Actually there is one area of growth in the wimmin's music genre and that's "mehn's" music.

Our long-term monogamous

relationships and ourselves

more challenging to straight

society than any amount of

"sexual liberation" will be.

as ordinary people are far

CW: That's true. Gay men are starting to produce their own Gayaffirming recordings on their own independent labels, and a lot of the backup musicians and engineering are being supplied by the

wimmin's music in-dustry. Of course, this is also a byproduct of the fact that Gay culture and Lesbian culture have been undergoing a meshing and merging.

LW: How do you feel about that merging?

CW: Politically, in terms of our mutual survival, I think it's vital. Culturally, I feel more ambivalent. I think feminism has to continue as a core value for Lesbians. It's less of a value for Gay men, and not a value at all for some of them. And it's not that I insist that there's only one answer to a question like "Is it sexist to wear a T-shirt to the March on Washington that says 'March Bitch'?", but I do insist that the question be asked. Also, there are basic differences in our cultural emphasis. Sex has a much higher profile in the Gay community than it does among Lesbians. The greatest outlet for my Lesbianism, the greatest expression of my Lesbianism, is not sex. It's my everyday life with Tret and the work I do in our community. At the risk

of being called a prude, I'll say that Gay men need to deepen and diversify the ways they have of expressing their Gayness that aren't sex-based. Not because sex is bad or dirty, but because an overemphasis on sex can distract from more important things in life, and because in this day and age it's dangerous.

LW: But a lot of men would say it's only unsafe, unprotected sex that's dangerous.

CW: Yeah, I've heard that -- so many times. I've had this same conversation with my very dear friend Michael Callen, a very very beautiful Gay man, who sang like an angel and who's now dead. And that makes me angry for more reasons than I can articulate. But I can tell you one reason I'm angry,

and that's that bigots and homophobes aren't troubled by dead faggots. Their narrow little minds aren't disturbed by dead faggots. Only by live, healthy, happy, ordinary faggots. And for that reason alone, even if I

had no love for Michael at all, I would wish that he and every other Gay man who's died from AIDS was still alive.

LW: That reminds me of a poem I read once about how what straight people really can't accept about Lesbians and Gays is our ordinariness.

CW: I think that's true. They expect us to be bizarre and exotic and commit suicide or go crazy. And that makes our long-term monogamous relationships, and ourselves as ordinary mortgage-paying, lawn-mowing, standing-in-line-at-the-grocery people far more radical and challenging to straight society than any amount of "sexual liberation" will ever be. If you want to be radical, be monogamous.

LW: What do you think the future will bring?

CW: I couldn't say. Struggle, the need for courage, a recycling of the past -- you know the past is always being recycled. Maybe freedom. The most important thing is to go on living and passing life on.

GLSO:

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Working to Unite Our Community
Since 1974

We would love to have you join us as a member of GLSO, a volunteer, or a subscriber to the GLSO News.

The News can be obtained free of cost, but it would help us continue to provide free copies to the larger community and those who are just finding out about us (or themselves!)

Please consider a subscription, membership, or a donation, as it would aid our community a great deal.

\$10 GLSO Newsletter \$15 Membership & Newsletter \$20 Couple Membership & Newsletter

Mail to: GLSO Newsletter P.O. Box 11571 Lexington, KY 40575

Please indicate whether you would prefer to have your name withheld from the Community Mailing List used exclusively by and for Kentucky Gay and Lesbian organizations.

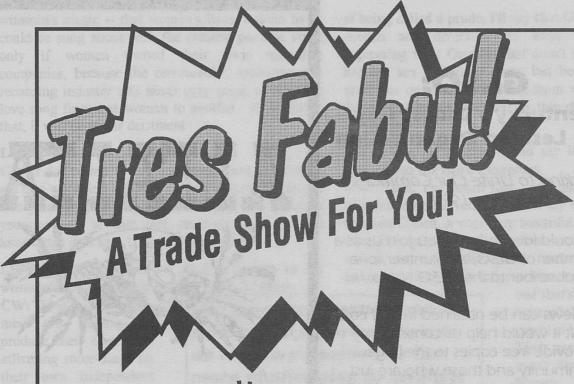
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GLSO Discrimination Project: 1993 Review by Jeff Jones

Over a year ago, GLSO began the Discrimination Project to monitor and document violence against people due to their sexual orientation or HIV status. Although personally I know of people who have faced vandalization of property, loss of jobs, and denial of services in the last year, only ten acts of discrimination have been reported for that time period. Considering the newness of this Project and the fact that many people do not report many acts of homophobia-based discrimination, these ten cases represent the tip of the iceberg, so to speak.

Number of Reports: 10

Demographics of People/Reporting Involved:

Sex: 7 men, 3 women

Race: all white Sexual Orientation:

2 lesbians, 6 gay men, 1 bisexual, 1 heterosexual

Average Age:

23.2; ages range from 16 to 38

Residence:

Lexington: 8

Outside Fayette County: 2

Types of Incidents Reported:

Assault: 3

Denial of child custody: 1

Firing from job: 3

Robbery: 3

Threats/verbal abuse: 8

Discriminatory acts

by public officials: 3

Have you been discriminated against or been the victim of a hate crime in the Commonwealth of Kentucky due to your sexual orientation?

REPORT IT!

THE GLSO DISCRIMINATION PROJECT 276-5383







1	MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 3	WEDNESDAY 4	THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7	
Beltane/May Day 12:00pm AVOL Walk for Life 2:00pm "XXX Love Act"-Ac 6:00pm MCC/LexGreenleaf 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	● ró	7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	6:00pm Frontrunners- Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	Cinco de Mayo 7:00pm Men's Chorus 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	Wasson Award Nominee Deadline 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp. 11:00am Stonewall Network	
Mother's Day 4:00pm ACE League (Berca) 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U 6:00pm MCC/LexGreenleaf 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	9 Santa Francis	● NM 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al- Anon 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	6:00pm Frontrunners- Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7:00pm Men's Chorus 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	ICK In-town Show 7:00pm Dignity 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA	ICK Out-of-Town Show 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	
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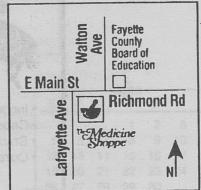
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GLSO News Shorts by Jeff Jones

Washington, DC: Apparently to avoid the conservative outcry from a general executive order banning discrimination in the federal government based on sexual orientation, the Clinton administration has added such protections at the individual department level in several cases. The Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Justice, and the Interior now ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Albany, NY: New York's highest court upheld the right of the state housing authority to extend the definition of "family" to include same-sex couples in connection with policies relating to rent control apartments.

Atlanta: A gay rights group put up a billboard visible from I-75 on roads leading into the city from Cobb County that read "Welcome to Atlanta. Hate Stops Here." The billboard was up for 30 days in Dec./Jan. and protested Cobb County Council's antigay policies.

San Francisco: Eddie Haroun, the former head of security for 11 Bay area Tower Records stores, filed suit against Tower Records after he claims he was forced to resign when he refused to spy on gay employees and managers both on and off the clock. Tower reportedly told Haroun that they wanted to fire/demote gay employees as not fitting with Towers' "family image."

Research Triangle Park, NC: Although most other leading computer companies (Apple, Lotus, Microsoft, etc.) provide domestic partnership benefits for their gay/lesbian employees, a recent response in IBM's Speak Out program reiterated that IBM does not provide such benefits nor intends to do so in the near future. IBM said that such domestic partnership benefits would discriminate against unmarried heterosexuals.

Lexington, KY: A Channel 36 newscaster apologized to viewers for showing the Roseanne episode involving a lesbian couple and gay bar after

receiving numerous negative calls.

Washington, D.C.: Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced a bill to forbid any institution that receives federal funding from providing counseling or any other programs that affirm being gay as a legitimate lifestyle or in any way "promotes" homosexuality.

Lexington, KY: Republican state Senator Tim Philpot (Lexington) spoke at UK before a mixed audience of College Republican supporters and opponents including his 1994 campaign opponent, Democratic City Councilman Don Todd. Philpot claimed that sodomy kills people and spoke out against reproductive rights and the extension of civil rights to gay people. Originally his talk was aimed at a reported "rampant liberalism" in UK's campus newspaper editorials, but then Philpot recanted by saying that he really had rarely read the Kentucky Kernel. The Kernel's Editorial Page Editor is openly gay Chris McDavid and writers range from conservative Matt Felice to progressive, openly gay Jeff Jones.

Interfaith Pride Week Celebration

On Sunday, June 5, at 5:00 p.m., a special Pride Week Stonewall commemoration service will be conducted at the Unitarian Church on Clays Mill Road. The service is sponsored by Interweave, MCC Dignity, GLAD and the Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers) and will be affirming of all faiths: Jewish, Christian, pagan, and those whose only faith is in the human spirit. The program will feature music by the Pride Singers (the quartet from the Lexington Men's Chorus plus a quartet of female voices) and will be followed by coffee and a dessert and snack buffet.

COME CELEBRATE STONEWALL AND RENEW YOUR HERITAGE!

MCC of Lexington will not conduct services on Sunday, June 5, due to MCC's participation in the Stonewall Service. MCC will resume normal services Sunday, June 12.

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We're still trying to get you interested in sharing your insights, but we didn't get any mail this month. So here are some questions, old and new, for you to respond to.

Send your answers (and suggested questions) to:

GLSO Roundhouse, Box 11471 Lexington 40575

- If there were a pill that would make you straight, would you take it?
- How old were you when you realized you were "different"? What made you realize it?
- Who is the lesbigay public figure, past or present, whom you admire most? Why?
- What is it about Judy Garland?

Smoky Mountain Celebration of Lesbians and Gay Men Announces Spring Fest '94

The first Spring Fest, a celebration of lesbians and gay men (particularly those from rural communities in East Tennessee and nearby areas) will take place May 27-29 at the Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee. The weekend will feature music, cultural sharing, social and political workshops, and relaxes time for people to meet. The event is a celebration of the gay and lesbian community in Appalachia.

Space for the weekend is limited. You must register in advance, especially because of needed arrangements for meals, housing and child care. For fees, maps and registration forms, leave a message at (615) 932-4138, or write to SMGLS, 2001 Highlander Way, New Market, TN 37820.

Lambda Literary Awards Finalists

Lambda Literary Awards finalists have been announced. Here are the nominees in some of the categories. The winners will be announced on May 27.

Lesbian Studies: Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold (Elizabeth Kennedy and Madeline Davis); Blood, Bread and Roses (Judy Grahn; The Apparitional Lesbian (Terry Castle); Vampires & Violets (Andrea Weiss); What Is Found There (Adrienne Rich).

Gay Men's Studies: Stonewall (Martin Duberman); A Place at the Table (Bruce Bawer); Conduct Unbecoming (Randy Shilts); Cherry Grove/Fire Island (Esther Newman); The Queen's Throat (Wayne Koestenbaum).

Lesbian Fiction: Sea of Light (Jenifer Levin); Stone Butch Blues (Leslie Feinberg); Written on the Body (Jeannette Winterson); Women on Women 2 (Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, eds.); Home Movies (Paula Martinac).

Gay's Men's Fiction: Fragments That Remain (Steven Corbin); Martin and John (Dale Peck); The Listener (Bo Huston); Living Upstairs (Joseph Hansen); Scissors, Paper, Rock (Kentucky's own Fenton Johnson).

Children's/Young Adult: The Cat Came Back (Hillary Mullins); Saturday is Pattyday (Leslea Newman and Annette Hegel); We're Not Alone (Rik Isensee); Living in Secret (Christina Salat); Uncle What-Is-It Is Coming to Visit (Michael Willhoite).

Drama: Angels in America: Millenium Approaches (Tony Kushner); The Destiny of Me (Larry Kramer); Falsettos (William Finn); We Oughta Be In Pictures (Julia Willis); SHe's Always Liked the Girls Best (Claudia Allen).

New LesBiGay Support/Social Group Serves South-Central and Eastern Kentucky

"Cumberland Cares" is a new social group for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and their friends in the south-central and southeastern Kentucky areas.

All "family" of all ages are welcome to join in the group, which meets the first Saturday of every month at 6 p.m. for dinner in Somerset.

For more information, call (606) 678-0587 or (606) 678-5814.

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Kentucky Congressmen Lag Behind from a report by the Human Rights Campaign Fund

In the U.S. House of Representatives, 225 members - more than half - have now stated that they will not discriminate against lesbian and gay employees, but Kentucky's representatives chose not to make that pledge. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (the nation's largest LesBiGay lobbying group) received from 44 states agreements that sexual orientation will not be "a consideration in the hiring, promoting, or terminating of an employee" in their respective congressional offices.

Although a February poll by Newsweek found that 74% of Americans favor protecting gays from job discrimination, Kentucky's Representatives apparently are unwilling to give up their right to fire someone for being a lesbian or a gay man. Still, Kentuckians can consider themselves luckier than the Oklahoma constituents of Reps. Jim Inhofe, Ernest Istook, and Bill Brewster, who have all specifically stated that they would not hire lesbian or gay individuals to work in their Congressional offices.

In response to the initiative by HRCF, Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD.) volunteered this comment: "Whether or not they wish to acknowledge so, all members of Congress have gay and lesbian constituents and an obligation to serve them as they would serve any other citizen of this nation."

Camping at "Woe-Be-Gone Ponds"

We've got camping, fishing, hiking, canoeing and more at Woe-Be-Gone. It's located in Pekin, Indiana, approximately 25 miles north of Louisville, where racism, sexism, homophobia and chicken-chasing dogs are discouraged. Disabled access available.

R & R for "alternative people" - come for a day or a season. It's \$3.00 a day for persons over 18, with the first day free. For map and information, send S.A.S.E. to R. Riverstone, P.O. Box 414 Rural Route, Pekin, IN 47165

White Women Against Racism Meet

The next meeting of white Women Against Racism will be on Saturday, May 21 from 11-1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in the Fellowship Hall.

The group encourages all who are interested in the social disease of racism to attend. Bring a bag lunch if you would like. For more info, contact Barbara at 255-3819.

Lexington Fairness Campaign Sponsoring Pride Week '94 Rally

The Lexington Pride Week celebration will include a rally again this year on Saturday, June 4, to kick off the Pride Week Festivities. Lexington Fairness is once again organizing the rally. If you would like to volunteer, leave a message on the Fairness Infoline by calling 275-7812.

Fairness will also hold a primary election on May 24. Candidates will be surveyed about their views on LesBiGay issues. When the survey has been completed, results will be reported to those on the Fairness mailing list.

The next general meeting for Fairness will be Monday, May 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Alfalfa's Restaurant.

Muse Cincinnati Women's Choir Concert

The Muse Cincinnati Women's Choir will have their spring concert on May 6th and 7th at Memorial Hall in Cincinnati. Tickets are \$10 and on a sliding scale. For more information, contact Barbara at 255-3819.

World's Largest Rainbow Flag

Raise the Rainbow: At the Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations on June 26, the world's largest rainbow flag will be the centerpiece of the parade. You can be a part of it, while helping out AIDS organizations nationwide. The Stadtlanders Foundation, which is underwriting the flag itself, is accepting contributions which it will distribute to AIDS groups.

To find out more, call 1-800-NYC-1994.

GLSO DIRECTORY

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(KIPWAC - Edwin)

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