



GLSO NEWS

Vol. 11

February 1998

No. 2

A Publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Services Organization

Speak Out

Every year, the Lexington mayor's office organizes "speak outs" where citizens are invited to come together to express their opinions on a particular topic. This year the topic is 'Youth,' with a effort to include many youth groups in the discussion. There are four questions for an hour and a half discussion, although there are ways to focus on two primary questions for shorter sessions.

One of my concerns with this process is that lesbigaytrans youth will not have their needs reflected in most of the 'speak outs.' LBGT teens face a lot of harassment and violence, family rejection, and isolation. It is past time for teachers and school counselors to receive training in how to offer help or at least safe space to these young people. I am therefore encouraging LBGT people to attend and LBGT groups to hold speak outs where we can express our opinions and include the difficulties faced by LBGT youth as one of our major concerns. (not that I'm telling you what to say but...)

The GLSO Board has scheduled a "speak out" for Monday, February 9th, at 6:30 at the Pride Center. Everyone is invited to attend. We will hold our regular meeting at 7:30. The MCC congregation will speak out after church on Sunday, February 22nd at approximately 12:30.

Other groups can schedule sessions by calling the mayor's office at 258-3119 and asking to register for a "speak out" session. I have requested gay or gay friendly moderators when arranging the GLSO session. I am also available as a moderator, Mary Crone 266-5904..

MCC to Observe Freedom To Marry Day

The Metropolitan Community Church will celebrated National Freedom to Marry Day, Thursday, February 12th with a special service at 7 pm. The service will feature gay hymns, prayers for those seeking love in their lives, and a special message from Deacon John Cutright, the Justice Minister for the Great Lakes District of UFMCC. There will also be a Blessing Ceremony for all those in relationships who attend. Everyone who longs for the day when we all will have the same civil rights as other citizens are welcome to attend.

Personal action is also urged by Judy Dale, the District Coordinator of the Great Lakes District. Have you ever talked to family, friends, or co-workers about the inequities of their being able to get legally married and our not being allowed to do so? How are people to understand this injustice if no one explains it to them? This is an excellent time to write a letter to the editor, particularly since the Ky State Legislature will be considering bills that ban recognition of gay marriages if they should become legal in other states.

Other possibilities: call a radio station and have them play "your" song on Feb. 12th, or send in a special love message to the newspaper for Valentines Day. People listening to the radio or reading such messages will experience a new awareness of what our love is about.

Yes, a few churches are willing to perform Holy Unions for same sex couples, but these are strictly religious

ceremonies. They bestows no civil rights on the couple. Heterosexuals are free to choose a religious ceremony or a simple courthouse wedding. In either case, the legal rights of marriage come with the license which is not available to gay and lesbian couples.

A few of us have employers willing to extend spousal benefits to us, but most of us do not. We can have legal documents drawn up to ask that our health decisions be made by our partners if we become incapacitated, but these documents have been ignored in some situations. We can draw up wills naming our partners, but again, these are not uncontestable documents. We can not file joint tax returns. Heterosexuals take these rights for granted, they come with being married.

Does any of this matter to you? If so, make plans to talk to someone, to write a letter, or to participate in an event on National Freedom to Marry Day, Feb. 12th. You can make a difference as we move toward attaining our basic human civil rights. Please join us at Lexington's MCC, 387 Waller, Feb. 12th, 7 pm.

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The GLSO News

Vol. 11 Issue 2

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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.

Mature People Make The Best Partners

first in a series by Kelly O'Ferrell

"I think mature people make the best partners...(among) several mature attitudes: they resist the temptation to offer solutions for their loved one's problems or make decisions for them..." from Living With Sobriety

Tammy (my Partner) and I were arguing on the way to "The Nude" art opening at the Loudon House Gallery last Friday evening. I wish I could have remembered the words "You can be right or you can be happy" but I was too busy trying to prove my point. One thing's for sure, it's a lot easier to be happy when I allow Tammy to experience life at her own pace. Fortunately, I have a wonderful teacher to demonstrate how to do this--Tammy.

I don't remember hearing Tammy offer solutions or get annoyed when I wanted to learn how to replace the heating coil in the clothes dryer but took several months to actually get the courage to ask someone to help me; or when I knew it was time to leave my job but took a year to get the courage to actually do it; or more recently, when I'd been ignoring something I heard spoken in the stillness of my soul several months ago but had been too afraid to take any action on until just this past week.

As I talked to Tammy about my excitement and my fear of pursuing this latest idea, she has shown me the difference between being supportive and being involved by simply saying "I think it sounds like a wonderful idea and I believe you'd have a lot of fun doing it." She has yet to come up with a solution on how I might get it started or whom I might call for more information.

I could easily interpret this as total disinterest in my idea, but I don't. I know how much freedom Tam's maturity in this area gives me to make my own decisions in my own time. After hearing and feeling the idea over and over in my body, I began the process of gathering information and I have had the wonderful opportunity to create my own solutions. I'm grateful she hasn't taken this part away by telling me what or how to do, to be, or to believe.

Now, Tammy is experiencing some areas in her own life that require courage and trust. One day she said, "I wonder how I'll find out the name of someone to call." My first thoughts were about possible solutions to her dilemma, even though I didn't have the slightest idea how to go about getting the information. My body felt tense with uncertainty. Then I remembered, "I don't have to figure this one out." I've had several opportunities this week to experience the freedom of being supportive without parenting my partner.

I am thankful when Tammy and I are able to "resist the temptation to offer solutions...or make decisions" for one another. I knew, on the way to the art opening that I was creating my own unhappiness by believing I knew what was best for Tammy. My body was telling me this from the very beginning, but old habits are hard to change. I reached for her hand as we walked back to the car and apologized to her and reminded myself that I would have other opportunities to try again. Thank goodness! And thank goodness maturity is about progress, not perfection.

National Women's Music Festival

Due to plans at Indiana University to close their auditorium for renovations, the National Woman's Music Festival (NWMF) that is usually held in Bloomington has been searching for a new location for the festival this year.

They have just announced that they will be moving to the campus of Ball State University in Muncie Indiana. "Ball State offers us a wonderful campus with buildings much closer together and with a better date available (June 25-28, 1998)." Muncie is located one hour N.E. of Indianapolis. If you want details on the upcoming festival, put your name on the mailing list by writing NWMF, PO Box 1427-1427, Indianapolis, IN, 46206.

Pride Planning
Tues. Feb 3rd
Pride Center 7:00 pm

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pride Planning

A pride planning meeting has been set for February 3rd, at 7 pm at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Ave. The dates for Lexington's Pride celebration are June 6th through June 21st. Several groups have already begun planning their pride events and previous participants will be available to help other groups get started. We are particularly looking for individuals interested in working on advertising or on planning the Pride Picnic. Please join us in creating Pride 98. ☪

Networking Meeting

Twenty one individuals gathered on January 20th at the Pride Center for networking and a great potluck. These evenings, which will now be held every month on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm, provide organizations the opportunity to connect to the larger community and newcomers to Lexington a way to become part of our lesbigaytrans community. It is also a fun social event for all of us.

Organizational representatives at January's meeting included Bluegrass Belles, Ebony Male, Lexington Men's Chorus, Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity, GLSO, Lexington Fairness, and Department of Justice Pride, (DOJ Pride has just been added to our directory).

Mark your calendars for Tuesday Feb. 17th at 6:30 and join us for networking and potluck at the Pride Center. Bring a dish and a friend and come discover that there are many ways to be involved in our community. Come out and join us!. For more information, contact Mike 225-1828.



Interweave

Interweave will be showing a video on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7 pm at the Fellowship House. This is a change

in date so as not to conflict with Pride Planning and Networking evenings.

Our next luncheon will be Sunday, February 8th following the church service at 12:30 p.m in the Fellowship House. Please bring a dish to share. We will be having a "speak out" while we eat. For more information about Interweave, call Davina at 271-6174. ☪

Images of Blackness

The fourth annual Images of Blackness show sponsored by Ebony Male will be titled "Snap Divas." It is to be 8 pm Wednesday, February 25th at the Bar Complex. A \$5 donation is requested; the money will go to Fayette County Health Dept.'s AIDS Medication Fund. Some of the performers will be Miss Ebony Male Rayna Starr, Angel from Dragn' for Jesus fame, Miss Cincinnati Pettoi Pouf, that Bubbling Brown Sugar Miss Mary Christmas Latoya Bacall, and many more.

Be sure to be early the show is always standing room only and in the past couple of years people were turned away. ☪

PINK INC.

The lesbigaytrans community has more than our share of talent. The creative arts ooze out of us like hate from a right wing fanatic. Let's put our talent to work for our community. On Thursday February 12th a new committee of the GLSO, tentatively named PINK INC., will meet at the Pride Center at 7 pm. to discuss how we can use our talents for fundraising.

We have many community groups including Fairness and The Pride Center that have an ongoing need for income. Health issues including the AIDS Medication Fund and breast cancer are also in need of money.

Homer Tracey and Bill Chandler have agreed to co-chair this meeting and plan to

start off by producing a play for Pride Month next June. Homer, who is a professional director and professor at Eastern Ky. Univ., has agreed to direct this endeavor. Anyone interested in helping with this production, (props, lighting, music, etc.) should come to the meeting or call Bill at 255-5469.

Looking ahead, Pink Inc. hopes to produce an old fashion variety show in the fall. This promise to be great fun and perhaps the most successful fundraising group our community has seen. Join us! ☪

PINK PAGES

The Pink Pages Task Force is meeting regularly but at the time of printing their February meeting had not been set. Call Charlie Perkins at (606) 389-9352. He can also be reached at charlieky@hotmail.com.

Men's Chorus in Drag

For eight seasons, the Lexington Men's Chorus has managed to maintain a certain sense of dignity and grace. That is about to change! On Wednesday, March 11, at 8 pm LMC will take the stage at the Bar Complex for a benefit amateur drag show. There may not be enough makeup and wigs in all of Lexington to make these men "pretty" but they are determined the audience will not be disappointed.

This show will mark the drag debut for many but certainly not all chorus members. Sisters Tuesday and Sundae De La Rouge are experienced performers and will lead a cast that will include the members of Fourte as the Supremes. A portion of the \$5 door will benefit the Lexington Pride Center. ☪

GLSO ONLINE

Peter: peter@uky.campus.mci.net

Mary: Marycrone@aol.com

Terry: misterb@gte.net

Gay Themed Movie To be Filmed in Lexington

A low budget independent gay themed comedy is scheduled to be filmed in Lexington in the near future. The organizers are looking for rooms in private homes for secondary cast and crew. They will be needing sleeping space for a two week stay but all their other needs will be taken care of.

As an added incentive, hosts will have the opportunity to be extras in a couple of scenes, one at a club and another at a party. If you are interested call Katherine at 255-6163 soon. She will want to visit your home to check out the accommodations.

The producers of this film are in negotiation with the agents of Dolly Parton, Naomi Judd, and Richard Simmons as possible leads in this movie. When completed, they hope for a two week run at the Kentucky Theater.

The Watering Hole

The Watering Hole has become the first non-smoking bar in Lexington. Owner Harold Hamilton says that he dislikes smoke

especially after losing a brother to lung cancer in 1993. With California adding bars to the list of public places where smoking is not allowed, he thought it would be the right time for him to do this. If you don't like smoke but like going out for a drink, you now have a place right here in the heart of tobacco country to go.

Harold is also holding auditions for live shows to be held on Saturday night. He is looking for singers, drag numbers, comedians, male strippers, etc. So if you have a talent, give him a call. If you're not the "on stage" type, come for a drink, Karoke, or to see the shows on Saturday night.

HIV/AIDS THERAPY OFFERED

by Eric Richardson

Finding adequate, affordable and accessible health care is important to us all these days. For people who are living with HIV/AIDS, the search can be quite a challenge. Even today, nearly twenty years after the disease was identified, there are very few professionals both capable and

willing to provide their services.

Some of us with HIV/AIDS have benefited from using services or treatments which are alternative to contemporary medical treatment. Many persons with HIV/AIDS use these alternative treatments to compliment standard medical care. Some, like myself use alternative treatments exclusively. My health insurance, Medicare does not cover these types of services in many states, including Kentucky.

I was fortunate last year to meet Reverend Charlene Hart of Herbs Plus in Nicholasville. Charlene is a very talented and capable health care professional who has been practicing for over twenty years. She is a master herbalist, an iridologist, and a reflexologist.

Rev. Hart has been providing the herbs that I require at no cost to me. She is now accepting applications from other HIV/AIDS-affected people with the intention of providing therapy for five people based on need. For more information call her at (606) 881-9022.

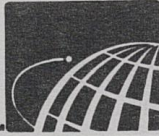
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Rediscovering Our African American History

Sojourner Truth

by Mary Crone

Most of us know her name, or at least this name she chose for herself in her mid-forties, Sojourner Truth. But how much do we know about her life? We remember her for the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, although the version we know is probably a misrepresentation. Truth seems to live within our consciousness more as a mythic figure or symbol rather than as a human being who lived an interesting and noteworthy human life.

To discover the complexities of Truth's life, I was excited to read the biography *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol*, by Nell Irvin Painter, an African American and Professor of American History at Princeton University. I was particularly pleased to read descriptions of Truth that confirmed my impression of her as a strong transgendered woman. (I use transgender as a broad term that includes individuals that challenge our culture's definitions of gender by exhibiting nontraditional gender behaviors, appearance, and/or other characteristics.

Painter does not use the term transgender but then, not many historians would. She does, however, discuss how Truth was repeatedly described as "other" by her contemporaries. Being one of the few public black women at this time in American history made her noteworthy then and is one of the reasons we remember her today.

But Truth stood out for others reasons also. She was almost six feet tall with an imposing physique, sparse and muscular. She was said to have a masculine voice and a forceful style that demanded attention. She was also noted for a beautiful singing voice, a sharp wit, and a style of preaching that was powerful and electrifying.

She was more than once accused of being a man pretending to be female to make

herself more sensational. In one public appearance she was harassed on this point so much that she bared her breasts to prove that she was indeed a woman, and managed with her sharp wit to embarrass her accusers rather than herself.

Truth was referred to as exotic, as black as night, an Amazon, native of Africa, Ethiopian, Libyan, and once, even to have tribal markings. Sojourner was a dark woman, but was clearly born in this country, in upstate New York in about 1787. Named Isabella, she grew up speaking Dutch, living as most northern slaves did at the time, isolated on a small farm with few other African Americans with whom to relate.

Painter suggests that Truth's dark complexion was one of the reasons she was so frequently marked as different and that the emphasis on Truth's blackness, in comparison to the brown shades of some of her abolitionist contemporaries, reflect a racist assumption that free Negroes of mixed parentage were more likely to become leaders and public speakers. I agree with Painter on this point, but I also believe that Truth was impressive for those characteristics I term transgendered: a tall, masculine woman, a forceful speaker for whom the term Amazon was fitting, not simply because of her darkness.

At the turn of the 19th century, the state of New York passed laws to gradually emancipate slaves. Slavery legally ended in New York on July 4th, 1827. Isabella (Truth) made an agreement with John Dumont, her "owner," that she and her husband, Thomas, were to be freed a year in advance of this in exchange for the large amount of work Isabella accomplished. For years Dumont bragged that Isabella did a full day of household tasks and then worked in the fields, outdoing his male slaves. But when

the time came, Dumont would not honor this agreement.

Isabella worked six more months for him and then picked up the youngest of her children and walked away from Dumont's farm. She sought help from a local Quaker family who were abolitionists. She did not want to go far because she believed she was not running away but had earned her freedom and wanted to force Dumont to acknowledge their agreement.

With the help of local abolitionists, Isabella remained free and within a few months was taking legal action against the extended Dumont family. Her son Peter, age six, had been sold to a cousin and slaveholder in Alabama in direct disregard of New York state law that made it illegal to sell slaves into states where they would not be freed. The legal process took a year but eventually Peter was returned to New York and set free.

How did Isabella develop this ability to act autonomously, how did she become so sure of her right to freedom? In the *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* that she wrote years later, Truth says it was in part her conversation with God that provided her with the self-confidence and strength.

In 1828, Isabella moved to New York City and joined the movement of Methodist Perfectionism, a religious community that emphasized experiencing God directly through feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit. Unlike most religions of this era, Perfectionism encouraged women to speak and to preach. In 1832 Isabella became a follower of the Prophet Matthias who claimed to be the "Spirit of Truth." No longer allowed to preach and again subjected to beatings, she nevertheless gave money and years of hard work to this community. Painter suggests that her allegiance to Matthias can be seen as Isabella's unfinished work of freeing herself from the effects of slavery. Painter also reports that Isabella had a brief sexual encounter with *continued on page 9*

FEBRUARY 1998

USE DIRECTORY TO CONFIRM

1 SUNDAY	2 MONDAY	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY	7 SATURDAY
10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church) 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Pride Center)	8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	7:00 p.m. Pride Planning (Pride Center) 7:30 p.m. MCC Board Meeting 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 pm Frontrunners (WPK) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm 2 Step & Swing Dancing (Club 141)	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
8 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 12:15 p.m. Interweave Pot Luck (U.U. Church) 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	6:30 p.m. Speak Out (Pride Center) 7:30 p.m. GLSO Board Meeting (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	10 7:00 p.m. Movie Night (U.U. Church) 7:30 p.m. PFLAG (Chapel Hill Presby. Ch.) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	11 6:00 pm Frontrunners (WPK) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 6:00 pm Dept. of Justice Pride (Shoney's) 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness (Pride Ch) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Ballroom Dancing (Club 141) 10:00 pm Miss Gay Valentine (Club 141)	12 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 7:00 p.m. Pink Ink play meeting 8:00 p.m. Bluegrass Colts members 9:00 p.m. Colts non-members	13 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
15 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church) 7:00 p.m. Dignity (Pride Center)	16 7:00 p.m. Pink Pages Task Force (Pride Center) 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study GLSO NEWS DEADLINE ALSO SUBMIT ADDITIONS, UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER 273-9649	17 6:30 p.m. Networking Forum and Pot Luck 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	18 6:00 pm Frontrunners (WPK) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness Elections (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Line & Partner Dancing (Club 141)	19 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	20 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	21 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA
22 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Ch. 11:30 a.m. Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church 6:00 p.m. SisterSound Rehearsal (Park Methodist Church)	23 8:00 p.m. AA Step Study	24 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	25 6:00 pm Frontrunners (WPK) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Images of Blackness: Ebony Male Black History Month Show (The Bar) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Open Dancing (Club 141)	26 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center)	27 7:00 p.m. MCC Games Night 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	28 9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA

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Cupid Transgendered God/dess

Everyone recognizes the valentine symbol of Cupid, the chubby baby ready to shoot arrows of love into unsuspecting hearts. Did you know that this figure originated as the intersexual offspring of Hermes and Aphrodite? Cupid was a Greek god/dess born with both male and female anatomy, and is the origin of the term hermaphrodite. Intersexual is the term that has replaced hermaphrodite for individuals born with genitalia of "both" genders. Could it be that our two category gender system is too limited?

It is not unusual for earth based religions to have intersexual god/desses for a variety of reasons. Some are multi-gendered to portray their origins as predating the male/female split on earth, others reflect the sacredness of all beings "in between" male and female. So, this Valentines day, send Cupid cards to your friends and lovers with wishes for a less gender rigid culture. Blessed Be.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES BEING A GIRL MAKE?

By Jon Shelton

Different for Girls is the first screen romance in recent memory written about a transgendered person for transgendered people. Made in England, it tells the story of two pals from a boys school who reunite as adults. As kids, the tough one always defended the more effeminate one from gay bashing. When they meet by chance many years later, the tough guy is only slightly surprised to learn that his boyfriend from school is now a girl. Naturally, he asks her for a date.

All this is told within the first five minutes of the movie. With such an abrupt premise, one might think the film would begin to lose steam, but not so, things are just warming up! The evolution of this relationship is the film's central focus. It's clear that the two characters are in love, the audience can't help but desire that they'll get together in the end. What point in the relationship did they

first realize they were in love? When they were boys together in school? When the other became a woman? Does one of them being a girl really make a difference? When you're willing to accept a person for exactly who they are and you're in love, just what difference does any of that make?

Different for Girls is the film that should make a difference in the way transgendered people are portrayed on the screen. Hopefully more films about the lives of these remarkably gifted and versatile people will begin to surface. And hopefully more people will see *Different for Girls* when it comes out on video or plays again at the Ky. Theatre.

Lexington Fairness

Fairness needs committed people to combat homophobic legislation. Put your name on our phone tree or write your legislator today. Call the LFC Hotline at (606) 296-7812 for more information. The LFC Website is: <http://lexfair.home.ml.org>



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continued from page 5

another woman in Matthias' movement. Painter does not footnote this revelation but as a thorough historian I am sure she had some evidence. One of these days I will contact her for more information.

Matthias was eventually accused of murder, which was not proven but prompted a change of residence for him. Isabella returned to Perfectionism and spent years developing her evangelical preaching style emphasizing the joy of spiritual faith.

In 1843, on the day of the Pentecost, June 1st, she was "called in spirit" to become an itinerant preacher. She left New York abruptly, changed her name to Sojourner Truth, and committed herself to leading people to God. She was a middle-aged woman of about 46 years. She continued living communally with other religious and political activists, becoming acquainted with abolitionists and feminists. In another reference I find intriguing, Painter reports that Truth lived "mostly among women, as what we would now term a 'woman identified' woman."

The most famous of Sojourner Truth's speeches, "Ain't I a Woman?," was made at the Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio in May of 1851. Truth was residing with Marius and Emily Robinson, editors and publishers of the *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, the only abolitionist feminist newspaper west of the Alleghenies. Marius was the recording secretary of the convention and reported on Truth's speech, quoting her at length. This account has much of the same content as the speech that has become famous, but is reported in standard English, not in an imagined southern or black dialect. The famous phrase, "ain't I a woman?" appears nowhere in his account. Truth prided herself on speaking "correct" English and if anything, had a slight Dutch accent. Painter accepts Robinson's rendition of the speech as the most accurate available to us.

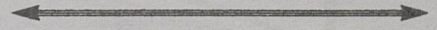
The phrase, as "ar'n't I a woman?," appears twelve years later in an article by Frances Dana Gage. According to Painter, Gage was writing in response to an extremely inaccurate but popular article about Truth by Harriet Beecher Stowe, "*Sojourner Truth, the Libyan Sibyl*," in which Truth was portrayed as a native African who spoke with a "barbaric accent" and was quoted as saying "Honey, I h'nt heered much bout Jesus."

Truth herself responded to Stowe in a letter to the *Boston Commonwealth* in which she corrects her place of birth, suggests that her *Narrative* would be a better source of information about her life, and says "I don't make use of the word 'honey'." In spite of the inaccuracies, Stowe's piece was popular and resulted in increased attendance at Truth's speaking appearances where she sold copies of her *Narrative*, and thus was able to tell her own story.

Truth did not respond to Gage's article or to her rendition of the speech, perhaps because it was not as blatantly false as Stowe's article. However, Painter spends a good deal of time examining Gage's representation of this speech and Gage is shown to lack accuracy, particularly in her use of dialect and her confusing Biblical references. (Truth knew the Bible well and was very accurate in her references.) Painter suggests that Gage was reflecting the popular desire to see Truth as an exotic curiosity, as southern, and as less intellectual than she was. Gage did, however, convey Truth accurately as a powerful speaker and a feminist, reasons we still are attracted to this representation of Sojourner Truth today.

Painter has found many people, including historians, reluctant to accept her research and reasoning on this speech. It is difficult to put aside a piece of writing that has so much power for us, but we should nevertheless become better acquainted with Robinson's rendition and with the real Sojourner Truth. The mythic Truth is

important to us, but the myth should not obscure this fascinating woman and the real life she lead. I highly recommend Painter's book, *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol*.



Actors' Guild

Beast on the Moon will be opening at Actors' Guild on February 19th and will run through March 15th. Set in 1921 Milwaukee, this is the story of an Armenian immigrant and his mail-order bride who find unexpected love and tenderness in America after surviving the Turkish massacre of World War I. Call 233-0663 for tickets or for more information.

Keith Hennessy Performing at U K

Interdisciplinary performance artist and community organizer, Keith Hennessy will perform at the University of Kentucky's Memorial Hall on February 28th at 8:00 pm. as a part of the Student Center Activities Board's Next Stage Series.

Hennessy is Co-director and co-founder of 848 Community Space in San Francisco. He teaches performance and ritual at New College of California and Redwood High School, and is also a facilitator for Body Electric School. Co-editor of the book *More OUT than IN: Notes on Sex, Art and Community*, his articles and essays have appeared in *Contact Quarterly*, *Changing Men*, *High Performance*, *Movement Research Journal* and *RFD*.

Tickets are \$13, \$10, and \$7, and are available at UK's Ticket Office in Singletary Center.

**Networking Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 17th
Pride Center
6:30 pm
387 Waller Ave.**

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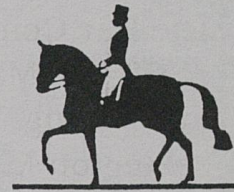
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AGLF: NKU (Pat)	572-5604
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GUESS: ECU (Neil).....	622-5816
Lexington Youth Support Group (Kenneth)	222-1919
Morehead State (Angela).....	783-2950
Transylvania University (Bill).....	233-8490
UK Lambda (pager).....	244-3344

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

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

AIDS INFO/SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE	(800) 840-2865
AIDS Volunteers, Inc.....	278-7494
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program	278-7494
Health Department HIV Support Programs	
(Patty).....	288-2377
(Amanda).....	288-2374
HIV/AIDS Legal Project	(502) 584-1254
HIV-Education Youth Group	278-7494
HIV Support (Somerset)	679-7578
.....	678-5814
Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE	(800) 840-2865
Thursday HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(Hospice of the Bluegrass)	276-5344

IYG LESBIGAY YOUTH HOTLINE
800-347-TEEN

7p-midnight Thurs. & Fri.

COMMUNITY

Ask Us, Inc.....	255-2374
Bluegrass Belles(Marjorie).....	278-2608
(Dawn).... dwilsoo@ukcc.uky.edu (Ann).....	(502)672-8673
Bluegrass COLTS (Mark).....	233-7266
Cumberland Cares	561-6763
DOJ Pride(Robin)	231-8526
E-Male (Bill)	254-9812
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE.....	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville.....	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith).....	254-6850
G/L AA (Charlie)	224-4067
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2896
IGBO(Steve).....	276-3058
Kentucky Legislator Message Line	(800) 372-7181
Bill Status Line	(800) 382-2455
Lake Cumberland Gay Alliance(Roger)	
.....	roger@hyperaction.net
The Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group (Laura).....	276-2685
Lexington Men's Chorus (Bill)	266-9175
Louisville Youth Group	(502)894-9787
Names Project, Lexington (Katie)	272-2588
Pride Centerβ (voice mail)	255-4016
P-FLAG (Jan)	278-7461
(Perry).....	(502) 226-5478
Pegasus Travel.....	253-1644
Rainbow Bowling League (Shawn)	255-7379
Rainbow Cotillion (Laura)	277-8017
RISC of KY(Paul).....	225-5151
(Steve)	255-4636
SisterSound (Lee)	873-7791

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(Dorothy).....	(501)458-5392
Interweave [Unitarian] (Davina)	271-6174
MCC-Bowling Green (Rev. Donna).....	(812) 282-9404
MCC-Elizabethtown (Rev. Cathy)	(800) 484-8498
MCC-Lexington (voice mail).....	255-4016
(Rev. Rex).....	lmccbvr@juno.com
MCC-Louisville (Rev. Dee)	(502) 775-6636
MCC-Paducah	(502) 441-2307
Path of the Personal Divine	
.....(multi-traditional) (Chris).....	268-1640
Pagan Forum (Rev. Pat)	268-1640
RainboWind [Pagan] (Sarah)	252-7673