

GLSO NEWS

NOVEMBER * 1994

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEXINGTON GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES ORGANIZATION

COMING-OUT DAY OBSERVANCES

The following stories were solicited for our National Coming Out Day issue in October. Due to our temporarily reduced size, we didn't have room for them then. Thanks to the contributors, and thanks for waiting

from Kevin F.

I think I knew I was gay in high school. I went out with a few girls though. As a freshman, I was very close to a one guy. We were inseparable. We never did anything, or even talked about it. He transferred to a different school.

As a sophomore, I shared a room with a guy a lot of people assumed was gay. We got along great but never did anything, nor even talked about it. He transferred to a different school. I began to see a pattern.

After my junior year I had a pretty intense relationship with a woman. I assumed during that relationship that maybe I just thought I might be gay. After we broke up, I was certain I was gay. I had several crushes on guys after that. But I never did anything about it or talked about it.

My 5th year I shared a house with 4 men. I was looking for a shirt that Matt borrowed from me, and I saw a copy of Mandate in his room.

I couldn't believe my eyes. Matt, my cutest roommate, had gay porn in his room. That night I thought things through. I needed to say something. I lay in my bed, staring at the ceiling. I said aloud to myself: "I am gay!" Once I became comfortable saying it to myself, I knew I could admit it to others. The next day while we were sitting on the couch, I blurted it all out to Matt. He

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was surprised and told me he and Jim (another roommate) both were too. In fact, they had been lovers.

Once I told Matt, I felt a weight had been lifted. I was coming out to everyone. I couldn't believe how many people told me that they were too. Nearly half of my friends were and one coworker was. I was surrounded by supportive people. I knew I was very lucky.

from K.P.

Saturday was the night before my thirtieth birthday, and I was a little depressed. I'd had calls all day from friends and family, but decided to get in touch with someone I've been close to since high school and come out to him. I called his house (in England by the way) but he was out, so I called another friend. He answered the phone VERY VERY drunk...and said he had something very important to tell me.

I came out to this guy a while ago and I started to think...."wow...he's gonna tell me HE'S gay too!" I was ready to buy a plane ticket home! Sadly (for me) he said he was getting married and he wanted me to be the best man. There was a huge party going on there and the friend I'd originally tried to call was there and came on the line....we talked for a while and then I told him I

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GLSO News

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was gay. "Oh but I know" he said. "I've known for at least 10 years. Everybody knows. We all thought you knew?"

Well, duh.

Apparently everyone has thought this through and decided for me but were kind enough to wait for me to be able to tell them what they already knew. Friends...gotta love 'em.

from Jeff Jones

The first time I thought of myself using the adjective "gay" was on New Year's Eve while watching *Torch Song Trilogy* with my best friend whom I had a major crush on. In fact, he later also turned out to be gay and headed off to San Francisco. *Torch Song Trilogy*, though, remains an important movie to me. I was initially bothered

by Arnold, the drag queen and a walking stereotype of what I feared in myself...or how I would be seen. As the movie continued, though, I discovered two important things:

o that Arnold's dreams for life were not that different than my own or the other people I knew.

o that I was not alone. There were other gay people: some of whose lives were easier and some who faced a lot of hardships because they fit a stereotype too closely. *Torch Song Trilogy* gave me a sense of belonging to a people with whom I had a common identity. I soon then came out to a lesbian couple I knew and away I went out that closet. So, like my own personal Stonewall, it took a wise drag queen and lesbians to out me.

from Sarah Carrigan

My "daisy moment" came at 13 years of age when reading Ann Landers, or perhaps it was Dear Abby. A woman had written for advice on what to do with her boyfriend who had accused her of being a lesbian because she and a female friend would undress at the same time when preparing for the beach. I had no idea what a lesbian was so I checked the dictionary. I still had no clue what female homosexual was, so I looked up that.

Ah! In a sudden moment of clear internalized homophobia, I could certainly empathize with and understand the concept but denied to myself that I might be *that*. Never mind that I had written and would continue to write love letters to various girls in junior high and high school. Those were simply professions of deep and abiding, but non-sexual, friendship.

The power of the social process is incredible, isn't it? A relatively naive country girl who'd never heard the words homosexual or lesbian, but who had fantasized about devoted same-sex "friendships," knew instinctively that the concept of homosexual love and the identification as lesbian were not socially positive, nor should they be discussed with anyone. I was twenty-two before I declared to myself that I am a lesbian. I don't remember what Dear Abby advised that writer.

THE ADVENTURES OF BTHROCK, QUEEN OF THE INTERNET

by Brian Throckmorton, aka BThrock@aol.com

Another coming-out day-what to do? Hunt for babies born since last October 11? Scour the globe for those undiscovered tribes? Perhaps a séance wherein I could come out to those who went to their reward before I was born. National Coming Out Day does present its quandaries when one has already come out to pretty much everybody

Fortunately, I am manifesting myself digitally on America Online, and an ideal came to me. Those of you who have visited AOL know that 80 % of the "member rooms" that people set up tend to be defined by such titles such as "M&M Locker Room" or Bears for Bears" or some other tag denoting someone's sexual interest. In an effort to demonstrate to straight AOL onlookers that there's more to us than sex, in an effort to find a way to celebrate coming-out day, and in an effort to help someone, possibly, I opened a room called "Coming Out Support."

I had to wait only a few minutes before other people began to arrive. About two-thirds wanted to offer support; the rest happened to be online and thought this room might have something to offer them.

The chat lines of the Internet are a perfect milieu for the emerging homosexual, I discovered. Some of the people I talked to were clearly unaccustomed to putting their gay feelings into words. They must have been aided tremendously by the anonymous format, and the fact that the room just

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presented itself on the menu. No need to summon the guts to go to the counselor, or even to summon to an emotional conversation on a gay phone line.

One young man in his twenties told me (us) that he didn't know of any other gay people in his small town in Louisiana. He felt alone, obviously, and being able to talk about it seemed to help. He got suggestions from some of us about where to meet people, advice about safe sex, and taking one's time to find Mr. Right. I could sense the gratitude in his postings. (Later that week, I looked for him online and found him in "Louisiana M&M," where he was happily mingling. He introduced me around and told the others how much he appreciated my coming-out room idea. I invited anybody to create it anytime, and some say they would.)

Another day, when I opened the Coming Out Support room, one of the folks who appeared was a half-black, half-Hispanic teenage boy from Kansas who was not out to anyone. He was shy about talking in from of other people, so we exchanged private messages. He said "all my friends would hate me if they knew," and "if I don't tell someone, I'm gonna bust." Taking cue from the official coming-out literature, I asked if he had ever said "I am gay" out loud. He replied emotionally, and it came to light that he sometimes had suicidal feelings. I walked him through the range of possible people he should call on if he were to have those feelings again—gay hotline, suicide hotline, public health

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counseling service, minister, or teacher. When I said he might want to talk to an older gay person, he said he didn't know any. We talked a little more. It's hard to know how serious he was about agreeing to call someone, but I did get an e-mail thank-you from him a few days later

And a valedictory note...

Any of you who have access to the internet chat lines—I have no idea what there is other than America Online—feel free to use my Coming Out Room idea. Like many other people, including GLSO News' *Lesbian At Large*, Linda West, I sometime's feel that "gay culture" finds most of its energy in the arenas where we meet, greet, and pair off. I enjoyed my coming-out encounters online because I felt like I was giving back something of value. Until the Pride Center opens here in Lexington, GLSO seems to be the main outlet for such energies.

Within GLSO, I thought I would be able to contribute to some of the other arenas through this newsletter when I accepted the editorship last January, but I discovered that I don't have enough of a feel for what gay Lexington is interested in, other than The Bar. So I am going to let the pen pass on to someone else (Call GLSO president Mary Crone at 266-5904 if you're interested!) My hunch is that what this job needs is a real extrovert. I don't socialize a lot, and I had limited network of people to hit on for articles. I may still write for the newsletter, and I encourage all of you to write, subscribe, and pass it around. The newsletter looks better than ever, thanks to Elizabeth Gilliam, our Mountain Dew-chugging typesetter, and it has strengths and purposes that are yet to be seen.

**The Dating Game for Womyn and Men
& The Newly/Oldie-Wed Game**

Saturday, November 5, 8:00 p.m.

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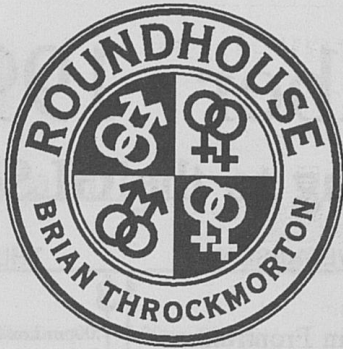
Volunteers are needed to work on the next edition of the Pink Pages. Call Shea Elders at 225-7432

Donations are needed by GLSO to pay for Teen Support Group mailing, flyers, and printing of handouts. Cost of about \$23 has been shouldered by an individual member. If some of you can help pay for this, she can pay for the next unexpected expense. Send to PO BOX 11471, LEXINGTON, KY 40575

The Stonewall Network and the Pride Center Task Force are making progress towards opening a community center for the lesbigay community. Since money is always a necessity, there will be fund-raisers happening over the next several months. Check out the announcement concerning the Iris Events Dating Game. There is also a need for volunteers. If you would be willing to put your name on a list to be called as a specific volunteer need arises, please call Allen Barger, Volunteer Coordinator for the Pride Center, at 254-4067.

UK Lambda will sponsor a Lesbigay singles event on Sunday November 20 from 5-9 pm at 117 N. Limestone. It's open to all ages and women are encouraged to attend even though it's at Crossing's. This will be an alcohol-free event. It's a "games potluck"—if you want bring a game instead of a casserole. For more information call Julien at 272-7232 before 10:00 pm.

**FAIRNESS REMINDS YOU TO
GET OUT AND VOTE!!!!**



As I am retiring as editor, and as the Roundhouse was my "baby," this will be the last installment unless a future editor chooses to revive it. I leave you with these comments from a Richmond reader, and his questions,

which perhaps are not answerable anyway...

(reprinted without corrections)

Roundhouse,

Question? Can a straight person and a gay person can have a relationship together?(guys)

Question? Can a straight person and a gay person can fall in love with each other. (guys) and be happy together?

I love to read the GLSO news. For myself, I do not condemn no one on sexual orientation or color or race. I write to Scotty Baesler all the time.

I have a dream to show the public that a straight guy and a gay guy can have a relationship together. I know have to be seem together. I believe a straight gay and a gay guy can open the door, be a guide, show around. I have learned a whole lot from a gay guy . But he is dead.

(name withheld due to writer's request)

Laura E. Kaplan

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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SUNDAY

November 1994

Happy Thanksgiving to the GLSO Family



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:00pm GUESS (EKU) 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	2 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	3 7:00pm Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	4 7:00pm Dignity 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild	5 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 8:00pm "The Good Times R ..." 8:00pm Dating Game-UU....
6 2:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild 6:00pm MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	7 7:30pm Pride Ctr. Taskforce	8 Election Day-VOTE!! 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:00pm GUESS (EKU) 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	9 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	10 7:00pm Lex.Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm UK Lambda 8:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	11 Veterans Day 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild	12 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 8:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild
13 2:00pm "The Good Times R Killing Me"-Actors' Guild 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U. 6:00pm MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	14 7:30pm Stonewall Network	15 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:00pm GUESS (EKU) 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	16 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA "Pterodactyls" @ UK (UK Lambda)	17 7:00pm Lex.Men's Chorus R... 7:30pm UK Lambda 7:30pm P-FLAG 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt.Grp.	18 7:00pm Dignity 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "Times Sq. Angel"-Actors' Guild	19 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 10:00am Men's Network
20 2:00pm Lesbian Potluck 6:00pm MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	21 7:30pm Fairness Meeting -Alfalfa's 7:30pm Pride Ctr. Taskforce	22 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:00pm GUESS (EKU) 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	23 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	24 Thanksgiving 8:00pm HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp.	25 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00pm "Times Sq. Angel"-Actors' Guild	26 9:00am Frontrunners 10:00am HIV/AIDS Sppt. Grp. 8:00pm "Times Sq. Angel"-Actors' Guild
27 2:00pm GLSO News Folding 6:00pm Imperial Ct-Club U. 6:00pm MCC-Greenleaf Motel 7:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA	28	29 7:30pm Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon 8:00pm GUESS (EKU) 8:45pm Rainbow Bowling-Southland	30 6:00pm Frontrunners-Woodland Park 8:00pm Gay/Lesbian AA			

October

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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WANTED: Female to share 2 BR home and expenses with female owner in Historic Constitution. Call 255-7645

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Be sure to vote on Nov. 8!

FROM THE GLSO PRESIDENT

Since the publication of the October newsletter, GLSO has received enough income to continue publishing the newsletter in this twelve page size. We appreciate the donations, new subscriptions and advertisers. We expect we will hear from more of you in the next few weeks. We particularly need more subscribers. We are enclosing a subscription form in a Fairness mailing to the entire Community Mailing List and hope to have 400 subscribers by the end of the year.

I think we can do even better than this. I would like to suggest that all community members consider setting aside some amount of money every week for donations to various lesbigay organizations. How much a week is a strong community worth to you? What are your weekly expenses? If you subscribe to the Herald-Leader, that is about \$4.50/week. How much do you spend on coffee a week? How much on beer and/or fast food? I believe that most of us could afford one dollar a week, and many of us could give more. There are thousands of us in Lexington and the surrounding counties. Fifty-two dollars a year from each of us would make a tremendous difference. We could have a larger newsletter. We could have a greater influence on the politics of the area. These are all areas in which we are making progress and with some money from each of us, a lot would happen. If 5,000 of us (and we are here) gave \$52 each, that would be \$260,000! What fun. Lexington would never be the same.

-Mary Crone



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For an anthology of writing and artwork by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth (13-22). We are seeking all forms of writing and art and are committed to including youth of diverse backgrounds and experiences.


We are most interested in heartfelt, articulate expressions of growing up lesbian/bisexual/gay/transgendered. How does your racial, cultural, socio-economic, religious upbringing influence your life? Does your geographic location affect your experience? Do you have a disability? How have you transcended difficult odds to get where you are now?


Feel free to pass this on to anyone you know of who would be interested in this project.


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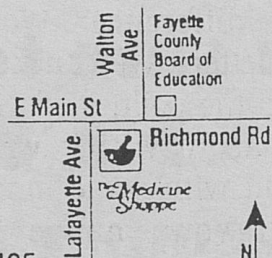
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HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE

This information was provided by the Office of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Services at The Ohio State University. (Compiled from Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life by Warren Blumenfeld and Diane Raymond).

There are two verses in the Bible that refer to male homosexuality:

- Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is an abomination (Leviticus 18:22)
- If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. (Lev. 20:13)

Some things to keep in mind, however:

- Jesus never spoke against homosexuals.
- Translations have drastically changed the Bible over the past 2,000 years.
- Nothing in the Bible concerns lesbians or female homosexuality.

A lot of people who condemn homosexuals because of "religious beliefs" conveniently forget what the Bible says about:

Food:

- Do not eat fat of ox, sheep or goats (Lev. 7:23)
- Do not eat rabbit. Do not eat ham, bacon, pork chops or ribs. (Lev. 11:6-7)
- Do not eat blood of fish, fowl or beast (Lev. 7:26)
- Do not eat lobster, crab, scallops or shrimp (Lev. 11:10 and Deut. 14:19)

Hygiene:

- Male babies must be circumcised eight days after birth (Lev. 12:3)
- Anything a woman touches during menstruation and for seven days thereafter is unclean (Lev. 12:6)
- Hybridization of animals and crops is condemned (Lev. 19:19)
- Do not wear clothing of two kinds of material (Lev. 19:19 and Deut. 22:11)
- It is an abomination to trim the hair on one's temples or to trim one's beard (Lev. 19:28)

Punishment:

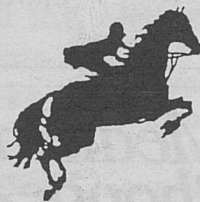
- A stubborn or rebellious son shall be brought to the authorities and stoned to death (Deut 20:11)
- The citizens of cities which surrendered during wartime are to be made slaves (Deut. 20:11)

Women:

- If a man marries a woman and discovers she is not a virgin, she is to be stoned to death (Deut. 22:13)
- An unmarried man who sleeps with an unbetrothed virgin must marry her (Deut 22:28)
- No bastard shall enter the assembly of the Lord (Deut. 22:29)
- Wives must obey their husbands (Eph 5:22)
- People who divorce, then remarry, commit adultery. (Matt 5:3, 19:9 and Mark 10:11)

The Friends (Quakers), Unitarian Universalists, and United Church of Christ are all very supportive. Many other denominations openly ordain gay and lesbian ministers.

**Be sure to
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November 8!**



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GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff).....	276-5383
GLSO: News & Ads (Mary).....	266-5904
Calendar (Jeff).....	276-5383
Folding (Lee).....	277-9365
Layout (Elizabeth).....	275-7801
GLSO Gayline Volunteers (Peter).....	273-5845
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Bill).....	266-9175
GLSO Support Group (Mary).....	266-5904
(Mike).....	225-1828

STUDENT GROUPS

ACE League: Berea College (Foula).....	986-5669
AGLF: NKU (Pat).....	572-5604
Alt. Voice: Murray State (Jeff).....	(502) 574-5792
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol).....	238-5332
GLOBAL: UofL (Ken).....	(502) 852-3436
GUESS: EKU (Brian).....	622-5144
Lambda: UK (Julien before 10pm).....	272-7232
Lambda: WKU (Larry).....	(502) 796-9114
Phi Omega Epsilon: MSU (David).....	(502) 783-4729

ANONYMOUS AIDS TESTING

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

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Dignity [Catholic] (Don).....	299-4458
Episcopal Diocese AIDS Ministry (Steve) ...	233-1782
GLAD [Disciples of Christ] (Jeff).....	255-4958
Honesty [Southern Baptist] (Eddie) ...	(502) 637-7609
(Dorothy) ...	(502) 458-5392
Interweave [Unitarian] (Craig).....	269-8215
MCC-Hopkinsville & Horse Cave.....	(502) 897-3821
MCC-Lexington (Rex).....	271-1407
MCC-Louisville.....	(502) 775-6636
MCC-Paducah.....	(502) 441-2307
Pagan Forum (Pat).....	268-1640
Quaker FLGC (Connie).....	276-2554
Roman Catholic HIV Ministry (John).....	231-9955

COMMUNITY

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Country Dykes (Debbie).....	(606) 871-7452
Cumberland Cares.....	678-0587
Diversity Business Coalition.....	281-8444
Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE.....	275-7812
Fairness of Louisville.....	(502) 893-0788
Front Runners (Keith).....	254-6850
GBL Veterans, Columbus (Mike).....	(614) 299-7764
G/L Al-Anon.....	277-1877
G/L Defense Fund.....	(502) 589-2896
Stonewall Network (Ann).....	(502) 839-8417
ICK (Ken/Ashley).....	255-9881
KY ACLU (Keith).....	266-3934
KY Fairness Alliance (Keith).....	266-3934
Kentucky Legislature	
Bill Status Line.....	(800) 382-2455
Legislator Message Line.....	(800) 372-7181
Meeting Info Line.....	(800) 633-9650
Lesbian Potluck (Esmerelda).....	231-0335
Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby).....	231-0090
Louisville Youth Group.....	(502) 635-1302
Names Project, Lexington (Katie).....	272-2588
P-FLAG (Ruth).....	272-7075
Rainbow Bowling League (Teri).....	268-8563
Tri-State Gay Rodeo Assn. (Terry).....	255-5469
(Paul).....	278-8023
Womynweave (Kathy).....	271-3484

AIDS INFO/SERVICES

AIDS HOTLINE.....	231-7545
AIDS Volunteers of Lexington.....	254-2865
AVOL Legal Referral Program.....	254-2865
HIV/AIDS Legal Project.....	(502) 584-1254
HIV+ Youth Support Group.....	254-2865
Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE.....	(502) 564-6539
Partners of HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(Greg).....	288-2437
Thursday HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(KIPWAC - Edwin).....	281-2100
Saturday HIV+/AIDS Support Group	
(AVOL).....	254-2865

To Report Hate Crimes:
United States Department of Justice
(800) 457-HATE (4283)