# OCTOBER 1991 PLS NEWS

Free at Selected Business Locations Home Delivery at \$5 per Year

LEXINGTON GAY/LESBIAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION, P.O. BOX 11471, LEXINGTON, KY 40575

### NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 11

Gay people across the nation will celebrate the fifth national coming out day October 11. Supporters of the event say that there are several reasons for the national observance. First of all, the day is intended to emphasize the personal, social, and political importance that come with any individual coming out.

The day also provides encouragement to those who are considering coming out, and reminds those who are out of their opportunity to encourage and support those who are taking the step. The Day also suggest that there are usually ways those who are out can come out even more.

Finally, having a nationally observed coming out day serves as a reminder to the larger society

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Come out!
Come out,
wherever
you are!

# NATIONAL AIDS ACTIVIST BELINDA MASON DIES

Belenda Mason, a woman from the mountains of Kentucky, who was a prominent national spokeswoman on behalf of those suffering from AIDS, died September 9, in Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Ms. Mason was the only member of the National Commission on AIDS who suffered from AIDS, and led several national organizations concerned with AIDS. She was past president of the National Association of People WIth AIDS.

Ms. Mason, contracted HIV, the virus that communicates AIDS, from a blood transfusion given to her after complications accompanying the birth of her second child. She and her husband sued the hospital and won an out of court settlement.

She was quite critical of the Bush administration's AIDS policy. Even after she was appointed to the National Commission on AIDS, Ms. Mason noted her appointment reflected a bias of the Bush administration.

AIDS activists had demanded for some time that a person living with AIDS serve on the panel. Ms. Mason suggests that she was chosen

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# GLSO News

Published monthly by the Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services Orginization, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575

Chuck Smith, editor Craig Clere, president, GLSO Board

Mailing: Lee. Folding and stuffing: Lee, Laurie, Mark, Steve, and Willy.

The Esmerelda's Parlour column with news and viewpoints of interest to lesbians in the Bluegrass is produced by Esmerelda Collective.

Views or opinions expressed in 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 submission. Placement of advertising in the GLSO News does not denote a person's sexual orientation nor a business's customer preference. .

#### GLSO ENCOURAGES COMING OUT

GLSO sponsors a support group for those gay men and lesbians who are preparing to or beginning to publicly acknowledge their sexual orientation. The group provides an opportunity to meet with others who are coming out and to learn about area resources for gay people. For information call Mary: 266-5900.

2 - GLSO/October

#### A word from the editor

# Closets Are For Clothes

By Chuck Smith Coming out is the coming out is the most politically significant action a gay man or lesbian can take. In our society, being gay is both a threat and a political issue. By leaving the closet, one refuses to conform to the gender and sexual arrangements that define and reinforce the dominant patriarchal heterosexual norms. Coming out is political precisely because it defies and criticizes

the majority standards.

Moreover, each person who comes out has a positive social and political influence. Analysis of opinion surveys shows that the factor that correlates most strongly with a persons positive acceptance of gay people is that they know a gay man or lesbian who is open about their sexuality. This means is that the strongest indicator that someone is probably indicator that someone is probably going to accept gay people is that they know someone who is out of the closet. This seems to do more to form positive attitudes about gays than a person's age, religion, income level, gender, level of education, or ethnic background.

Coming out is an individual decision; one needs to be ready to take the step and choose the time to throw open the closet door. But the gay community must play a role too. We must created a supportive environment for people to come out into. As more and more people come out there is wider acceptance of gay people, but there are still those who discriminate against gays. must help stand up and speak out against such prejudice.

If you are out of the closet, be supportive of those who are preparing to or have recently come out. If you are still in the closet, we are here to support you when you're ready to come out.

# Viewpoint

#### Testing of Healthcare Providers Isn't Answer to Danger of Transmitting HIV

By Ron Jerrell

HIV testing of healthcare providers has been a huge topic of discussion and often paranoia the last few months. I don't even want to discuss the Florida

dentist case.

The real issue behind all the discussion is whether there is a chance of transmission of HIV from a healthcare worker to a patient. The answer is "Yes." But, only if the healthcare provider is carelessly ignoring universal precautions while performing invasive procedures or is not making sterilization of equipment a top priority in the

provision of care.

Testing of healthcare providers is not the answer to this problem. We know that testing can produce false results including false positives and false negatives. The level of discrimination against people with HIV is still very high, it is just covered up by other excuses for dismissal now. In a "perfect" world, where discrimination does not exist, healthcare who test HIV positive could simply disclose their HIV status and be reassigned to a position or work that did not require invasive procedures.

It would seem to me to be more productive, less costly and far more humane to concentrate our efforts (and dollars) on research, education, prevention, and services than to implement a policy of mandatory healthcare testing which would definitely be challenged to the Supreme Court as an invasion of privacy protected by the Constitution.

I would suggest that the public

learn more about this disease and its transmission and if their healthcare provider is not practicing universal precautions -- demand it. Users of the healthcare system must some responsibility for their own safety safety.

[Ron Jerrell died of AIDS related complications August 10. He had been the executive director of the Kentuckiana People With AIDS Coalition since it was founded in 1989.]

# Caution Suggested in Analysis of Study Linking Sexual Orientation With Variation in Brain Structure

In response to a study released today by Science magazine suggesting male sexual orientation could be related to brain structure, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund welcomed honest scientific inquiry on issues regarding sexual orientation but cautioned against conclusions about the

preliminary findings.

As a matter of historical perspective, minority groups have often been the object of studies seeking to locate a biological explanation for difference. Most of these studies have been fully discredited. Whether this preliminary study of the purported "biology" of homosexuality will eventually be confirmed is completely unclear. It is therefore probably prudent not to draw too many conclusions

from Dr. Simon LeVay's study.
Never-the-less, the findings are intriguing, from a purely

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# The key to HIV Prevention is Through EDUCATION.

Spread Facts, not HIV.

For more information, call your local health department or the

# KENTUCKY AIDS HOTLINE 1-800-654-AIDS

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

KENTUCKY
RESPONDS
TO AIDS

# News

#### STUDY FINDS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BRAINS OF GAYS AND STRAIGHTS

An 18 month study of the brains of 41 cadavers, has shown a structural difference in the brains of gay men and those of heterosexual men. The results of the study showed a very different pattern: a segment of the brain that governs

sexual behavior was half the size in gay men as it was in

heterosexual men.

"It tells us that sexual orientation is an aspect of human nature that can be studied by biologists; it does not tell us how sexual orientation is determined or when," said Simon LeVay, who carried out the 18

month study.

The brains used in the study were collected after routine autopsies from people who had died in New York and California. Nineteen were taken from gay men who died from AIDS associated causes. The other brains in the study came from persons presumed to be heterosexual 16 men and six women.

During the study the brain tissue was coded so LeVay never knew which ones came from gays of

heterosexuals.

LeVay, who is gay, is a graduate of Cambridge University. is a He taught and conducted research for 12 years at Harvard University's Medical School before joining the staff at Salk Institute, San Diego, Ca.., where the study was done.

He undertook this study after the man who had been his lover for 21 years died of AIDS. LeVay took a year off work to care for his partner, Richard, whom he had met when they were in college.

LeVay and other scientists warn that it is too early to assign any significance to the such preliminary findings.

#### DEFENSE FUND URGES CAUTION IN VIEWING SCIENTIFIC STUDY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

scientific perspective. But it is important to remember that, regardless of whether being gay is biologically based or accelerated, a person's sexual orientation is an intrinsically

private matter.

Even if being gay completely the product of free choice, there would still be no basis for any criminal, coercive, or discriminatory penalties against same-sex orientation. And regardless of any biological basis for homosexuality, it is difficult to fathom on what moral, ethical, or religious basis one can reasonably discriminate against people who are sexually and emotionally oriented toward their own gender.

Homosexuality, since it clearly occurs with a significant frequency and regularity in all cultures, is as "natural" as heterosexuality. This fact remains true whatever the "origins" of homosexuality or

heterosexuality.

These reflections are taken from a news release of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay legal defense organization.

Kentucky AIDS Count -- July 31, 1991 Reported AIDS cases: 600 Persons HIV infected: 926

# **Book Reviews**

#### GAYS IN WW II MILITARY BUILT FOUNDATIONS FOR GAY LIBERATION

COMING OUT UNDER FIRE, by Allan Berube, Free Press, 1990, 377 pages. Reviewed by Chuck Smith.

This book takes us back 50 years to a time when the few gay bars were well kept secrets and only bombardiers wore bomber jackets. It is a well-written, thoroughly documented history that tells of the gay Americans who served in the military during the Second World War. With insight and sensitivity, Berube brings to life the heroism, humor, and pathos of these men and women who contributed to the war effort while under the threat of assault by their own country because of their sexual orientation.

The book provides first hand accounts of how serving in the war helped many gays come to terms with their sexuality. Then it describes the often humorous, sometimes tragic, ways gays in the military made themselves known to each other and developed their own communities. It reveals that tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians served ably in every job in the military.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is the description of how the networks that developed among gay people in the military were the beginnings of the modern gay movement. Of particular interest is the leading role played by drag queens in setting the stage for the development of a gay political consciousness.

This book is welcome because it fills in one of the many gaps in the history of gay people and shows their contributions to the war effort. Moreover, this book is especially timely as the public debate heats up over whether the

military should continue its homophobic policies. It traces the haphazard development of the military's policy about gays in the ranks. The book's depiction of gay men and lesbians in World War II provides documentation for making well developed arguments against the military's continuing discriminatory policies.

EIGHTY-SIXED, by David B. Feinberg Viking Penguin Inc. 1889. Review by Dan Mynear.

Have you ever envisioned living the 1980s in a large gay metropolis? In Eighty-Sixed David B. Feinberg provides an extremely realistic first person account of gay life in the Big Apple -- first in a month by month scenario of free-spirited 1980, followed by a depiction of the weighty responsibilities of 1986.

The book's protagonist, B.J. Rosenthall, vows to find himself a lover in 1980. This is not a seemingly impossible goal for an energetic young man with a college degree and a body that turns heads in the gym. A bet with his friend Dennis, a Catholic priest, as to who will "couple" first propels neither character toward a match. Instead, B.J. plods through one-nighters and one-weekers -- always admitting to himself that there is something more out there and wondering how to attain it.

Many aspects of the freewheeling early eighties come back to amuse and haunt the reader. B.J. visits the baths in a weak moment and ends up with a case of the clap. He finally find his "Mr. Right," only to avow, "I'm sure we would have ended up lovers if Phillip hadn't given me herpes." CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# Local News

### ELEVENTH ANNUAL GLSO CAMPOUT SET FOR FARM IN SCOTT COUNTY

The Eleventh Annual GLSO Campout is scheduled for the second weekend in October, Saturday 12. Once again Eddie will host the campout at his secluded farm in rural Scott

will begin There is no County. Campers arriving at 4 p.m.

rain date this year.

The event attracts people from central Kentucky and both Louisville. Regulars at the event say it a great way to meet and enjoy new friends and old just 30 miles north of Lexington.

Campers will "rough it" there are no facilities. Those attending are to bring your own supplies: warm clothes, sleeping bags, an breakfast. and food for dinner and

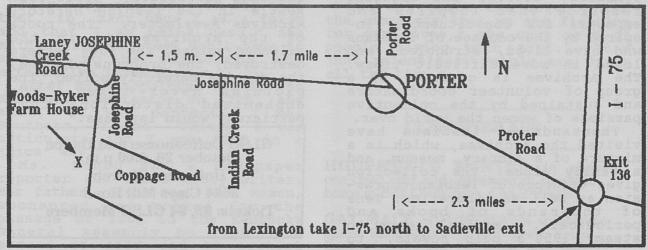
Eddie will Eddie will provide a comfortable ground to sleep on, a provide campfire and a clear sky. Because the campsite is not visible from the road, if you have not attended a previous campout, please call Eddie at his Lexington home, 259-0878, for detailed directions. The map below provides the basic direction for finding the farm.

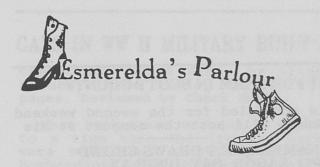
NAMES QUILT DRAWS CROWD TO LABOR DAY DISPLAY

More than 1800 people visited the display of more than 500 panels of the Names Project Quilt at Lexington Center Heritage Hall over Labor Day Weekend. The quilt is made up of thousands of panels made in memory of people who died of AIDS.

Local AIDS service organizations had information booths at the display. Donations collected at the event will go to local direct service AIDS organizations, said Katie McCormick, head of NAMES Project Kentucky, sponsor of the display.

McCormick said that the success of the event was the result of the many volunteers from Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee who assisted in planning and carrying out the event.





By Mary Crone
Saturday, Oct. 19, there will
be a potluck to inform, celebrate
and support the Lesbian Herstory
Archives. It will start at 5:30
p.m. in the basement of the St.
Augustine Chapel, before the Alix
Dobkin Concert which will start
at 8:00 o'clock. Alix be at the

potluck.

Women are invited to bring a photo, poem, or other momento of your life for the Archives. If you belong or have belonged to a lesbian group project of any sort perhaps you could bring an audio or video taped herstory of you

work, fliers, etc.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives opened in 1974 in the pantry of an Upper West Side Manhattan apartment. The Archives is a symbolic, active, and engaging resource that inspires and empowers its constituency; inspired by the courage of lesbians who have lived, struggled, and loved in more difficult times. The Archives is governed by a group of volunteer coordinators and sustained by the collective passions of women the world over.

Thousands of lesbians have visited the Archives, which is a mixture of a library, museum, and a family album. The collection gives evidence of lesbian oppression as well as liberation. Tens of thousands of books and periodicals, medical texts to steamy 1950's pulp novels, to

short lived publications are cherished along with photographs, posters, T-shirts, and jackets. Rhinestone pasties donated by a lesbian stripper rest near a team-autographed softball and a lambda-emblazoned hard hat.

The Archives collects records of all our lives, not only famous published lesbians. Each of us must realize that our lives deserved to be documented for ourselves and for future generations of lesbians. The Archives have greatly outgrown it current space. More than \$100,000 has been raised by the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation. The building fund drive now under way is attempting to raise \$150,000 for a down payment on a brownstone in Brooklyn; to house the ever-growing collection, a cultural center with performance and exhibit space, facilities for photographs and film-making, and more.

Come together on Oct. 19, learn more about the Archives, make a donation of money if you can, and add to this wonderful collection of lesbian herstory.

"The archives is filled with voices announcing our autonomy and self-possession," wrote Joan Nestle in the Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter. "The roots of the Archives lie in the silenced voices, the love letters destroyed, the pronouns changed, the diaries carefully edited, the pictures never taken, the euphemized distortions that patriarchy would let pass."

GLSO Coffeehouse and Dance October 26, 9:00 p.m. Unitarian Church 3564 Clays Mill Road Tickets: \$5, \$4 GLSO Members

#### NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS MARCH SET FOR APRIL, 1993 IN WASHINGTON

A national march on Washington in support of lesbian and gay rights is scheduled for April 25, 1993. It will support passage of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act and remind the nation that hundreds of thousands gay men and women are out of the closet and are out to stay.

The march was called for by representatives from 50 regional and local groups in 26 states at an August meeting in Chicago.

A coordinating committee was elected and charged with organizing the march. The committee was given the mandate to ensure 50 percent of the leadership be composed of people of color and that women have 50 percent parity on all committees

percent parity on all committees.

The last gay and lesbian march on Washington for civil rights in October, 1989, has over 500,000 participants from around the

# NATIONAL AIDS ACTIVIST BELINDA MASON DIES

continued from PAGE 1 because she was from the American mainstream: white, middle class, heterosexual, and married.

"I'm very conscious of the fact that, in many ways I am a token and that I am being used." she said. "With me, they don't have to appear to be condoning any alternative livestyles."

After Bush appointed her to the National Commission on AIDS, she said, "I was perfect. I was Southern, I was white, I was articulate and I got AIDS in a 'nice' way."

Ms. Mason was a newspaper reporter and short story writer. Her father, state Rep. Paul Mason, sponsored and worked for the passage of laws in the Kentucky General Assembly to fight the spread of AIDS and to protect those living with AIDS from CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN

discrimination.

Anne Johnson, director of an Appalshop documentary film on Ms. Mason. She said Mason, "She always believed that AIDS was a kind of a test or a challenge to Kentuckians on how we're going to deal with our neighbors or kin or people we care about that are living with AIDS."

"She call on all of us to have a response that's compassionate."

Governor Wallace Wilkinson, and several state legislators, attended Ms. Mason's funeral.

"She was the best example in our nation our president could have chosen as a spokesperson to ask people to understand this disease and its causes and efforts." Gov. Wilkinson said.

Ms. Mason fought courageously for the day AIDS would be conquered. Unfortunately that day came to late for her, as it has

for so many others.

"We all share the urgency and the immediacy that we are fighting for our lives," she once said of people living with AIDS. "It's just relentless. People are dying all the time."

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

HOUSEMATE WANTED to share one-third rent and expenses in specious home in Bell Court area. Call 233-9223.

GAY MALE HOUSEMATE wanted to share furnished, elegant town house. Eastend. Private bedroom and bath. \$300.00 monthly plus deposit. Call 266-8567, after 6:00 p.m. Ask for Will.

# Legal News

#### COURT RULINGS ADVANCE GAY RIGHTS LITIGATION

The march toward civil rights for gay men and lesbians is taking place in several courts around the nation. Advances on behalf of gay rights were made in several cases the past few months. Two of the cases

concern lesbians who are fighting to be reinstated in the military. Each was discharged after she disclosed her sexual orientation.

The Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals has reinstated the suit of Dusty Pruitt. The ruling places the burden on the Army to prove that the military's Army to prove that the military's policy of excluding lesbians and gay servicemembers is based on legitimate evidence and not founded upon prejudicial stereotypes. This is the first time a federal court has not deferred to the military's claim that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" military service."

Pruitt served 16 years in the Army and Army Reserves before she was forced out in 1986.

The Pruitt ruling, may favor the Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard, Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer's fight to

preserve her 25-year career. Cammermeyer faces discharge, because she acknowledged being a lesbian. She served in Vietnam, where she was awarded the Bronze 1985 she was named V.A. Star. In Nurse of the Year.

Cammermeyer was being considered to become Chief Nurse of the

National Guard.

"I am being discharged for my honesty and integrity. Had I lied I might have achieved my ambition of becoming Chief Nurse," she said.

Meanwhile, in a case in the New York courts a judge recognized the right of gay and lesbian employees of the city to sue for health insurance benefits for their domestic partners.

The court rejected the argument by New York City that the cost and

administrative inconvenience extending the benefits to lesbian and gay employees of the school system justified the policy of excluding their partners from benefits programs.

# Alix Dobkin

(a founder of Womyn's Music)

in concert

Saturday, October 19 8:00 p.m. St. Agustine Chapel 472 Rose Street

> Tickets: \$8 in advance at Sqecial Media \$10 at the door Financial Problems? Call Linda, 266-9748

Concert preceded at 5:30 by potluck and presentation about Lesbian Herstroy Archives. Come meet Alix and bring your stories.

#### **National Coming Out Observance Set**

continued from PAGE 1
that there are gay men and
lesbians in every community. They
are to be found in every
profession, business, and school,
and are active members and contributors to churches, social groups,
interest groups, and political
parties. Furthermore, gay people
are increasingly more committed to
resist discrimination and to
demand their full civil rights.

#### **REVIEW: Book Depicts 1980's Gay Life**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
Feinberg does an outstanding job
capturing the culture of the 1980s
- John Lennon's murder, Reagan's
assassination attempt, catching a

The second half of the book makes a painful leap to 1986 and the troubled era of AIDS. It's a sad transition that one almost wants to skip. But we know 1986 wasn't a happy time for the gay community and by this time in the book, feel a strong tie to B.J. and stick with him through his tough times as he agonizes whether he is or isn't HIV positive, and as he gives up part of his hedonism to become care provider for a PWA friend. By book's end the reader feels as though he or she is leaving a friend and that B.J. has been empowered to handle whatever life deals him. He accepts that he has taken steps that he can never retrace.

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#### DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline
Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association (Terry or Mark)
Lesbian Potluck (Esmerelda)
(Dan)
Front Runners — running club (Dan)
Gay/Lesbian AA (Dave) 277-9522 Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon (Robert) 293-0516
RELIGIOUS GROUPS Dignity - Catholics (Don) 299-4458 Integrity - Episcopalians (Kay)277-4384 Interweave - Unitarians (Craig) 266-8887
AIDS INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONS
AVOL (info. & education) 254-2865 ACT-Lexington (referol) 281-5151
AVOL (info. & education)
AVOL (info. & education)
Kentucky AIDS Hotline 800-654-AIDS  Anonymous AIDS Testing Lexington-Fayette County 288-AIDS  Madison County Health Dept 623-7312

# O C T O B E R EVENTS CALENDAR

Contact names and numbers for all events can be found in the Directory on the previous page. The Comp Care Center is located at 201 Mechanic Street in Lexington.

	No. of the	OC.	ТОВ	ER		
S	M	T	W	Т		\$
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

#### WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 p.m., Comp Care Center;

TUESDAY Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon, 7 p.m., Comp Care Center Rainbow Bowling League, 8:45 Southland Lanes

WEDNESDAY Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 p.m., st. Joseph Hospital, CCI Meeting Room

THURSDAY HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group;

FRIDAY Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 p.m. Comp Care Center

SATURDAY Front Runners, 9 a.m., UK water tower at Alumni Drive

**GAYLINE - 231-0335** 

Lexington Gay Information Service Operates Between 8 - 11 p.m. Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

TUE 1 Gayline Meeting, 5:30

SAT 5 Financial Recovery in Recovery Workshop, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. for info: 277-0450, Judy or Skeet

SUN 6 Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association, 4 p.m.

WED 9 NAMES Project Meeting, 7 p.m., Rosenthal Center, Transylvania University

THU 10 NAMES Project Panel Making Workshop, 7 p.m., Quilters Square, Regency Road

SAT 12 Eleventh Annual GLSO Campout, see page 8 for more information

SUN 13 AVOL meeting, 5:30 p.m. 214 W. Maxwell Street

SAT 19 Lesbian Archives Potluck, 5:30 p.m., followed by ALIX DOBKIN Concert, 8:00, St. Augustine Chapel, 472 Rose Street

SUN 20 Lesbian potluck, 2 p.m.

MON 21 Pro-Choice Alliance, 7:30 p.m., Alfalfa Restaurant

WED 23 GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30

SAT 26 GLSO Coffeehouse and Dance 9 p.m, Unitarian Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road

TUE 29 GLSO News, folding and stuffing, 6:30 p.m., for info, call Lee, 277-9365

PRIDE
WEEK
BENEFIT



PRIDE WEEK BENEFIT



YER GIRLFRIEND

# **NEED WE SAY MORE?**

October 26

ADMISSION \$5.00 (\$4.00 with GLSO Membership Card)

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 pm

ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS AT 9:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington, KY For more information, call 231-0335 BYOB

Coffee

Soda and Snacks

Available

Loose Item