

# the GISONEWS

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

### RACISM/HOMOPHOBIA OPPRESSION

Mary Sojourner Crone

One of the methods the right wing uses to propagandize against us is to say we are mistakenly calling ourselves an oppressed minority, equating our struggle with the Black Civil Rights Movement, and claiming for ourselves a victim status that we do not deserve. We don't want equal rights, they say, we want special rights. For the purposes of this article "we" refers to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people, or, in short, queers.

Examples of this particular right wing tactic can be found within the recent discussions over our right to legal marriage. When a spokesperson for gay marriage says that marriage has not always been available to all, that slaves were often not allowed to marry and that their unions were not honored, (the language of the vows was changed in some cases to read "until death or distance do us part"), that within this century mixed race couples were not allowed to marry in many states; these arguments are met with the observation that we are using such examples in an attempt to latch on to the "legitimate" history of African American oppression and struggle towards equal rights. (Which, of course, the right wing has always supported?)

In the face of such rhetoric, we need to be clear about what we say and what we believe concerning our status as an oppressed minority and what similarities and differences there are between our status and that of other SURVEY: GAYS CRITICAL OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE

SEATTLE — One in four gay men or lesbians who see mental health care providers report they received poor or inappropriate treatment, according to a survey reported at a national science symposium.

The treatment described included the refusal of the therapist to accept the client's sexual orientation, therapy seeking to change that orientation and inappropriate verbal, physical behavior and even sexual abuse.

"This reflects a rejection of the health care field's fundamental rule to `first do no harm,' "Nancy Nystrom told the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its annual meeting Sunday in Seattle. Nystrom, a University of Washington doctoral candidate conducted the study. "It is time for the mental health industry to break away from ancient biases and obtain more client input into treatment."

The 25 percent dissatisfaction rate reported by gays and lesbians is actually higher than the corresponding figure for "involuntary" mental health patients, Nystrom said. According to another study, 18 percent of patients forced to see mental health professionals report dissatisfaction with their care.

Nystrom called for the mental health licensing organizations to create avenues for complaints about inappropriate treatment. None of the survey respondents who experienced proper treatment said they knew how to go about bringing a grievance.

Nystrom told a reporter for the Houston

glso ONLINE:

Peter: pjtayl00@ukcc.uky.edu

Chronicle that Texas fared especially bad in the survey, but had no exact numbers on hand to document her recollection. She said treatment described was no better in urban areas than rural ones.

Houston attorney John Paul Barnich, a former gay activist, said the survey results were "depressing, but not surprising." He said many gays have become resigned to poor treatment by mental health professionals, relying on others within the gay community for emotional support.

The survey also found that 42 percent of the gay men and 1,466 lesbians in the survey had sought mental health services, an amount Nystrom called alarming. The general population rate is 10-12 percent, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Forty-six percent of gays and lesbians who sought mental health services reported encountering a homophobic therapist; 34 percent

continued on page 10

the glso
Sponsor of the Month

Crossings

continued on page 2



the glso NEWS

Published Monthly by the

Lexington Gay/Lesbian

Services Organization

P.O. Box 11471

Lexington, KY 40575

Editor: Peter Taylor

Layout Editor: Charlie Perkins

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

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

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

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

minorities. Most of us do believe that we are oppressed as a group and yet we know that not all of us have been discriminated against as individuals and that all oppressions are not the same. Or if we don't know this, we should. Oppression can be defined as institutionalized discrimination that functions to limit the lives of a group of people in a variety of ways. "Institutionalized" means that there are laws or policies of government and/or of other major institutions (religious, educational, social, economic).

There have not been many explicit laws, although now we have DOMA, but there are many policies within institutions that exclude us, label us as deviant or sinful, and encourage discrimination. We are oppressed in that we can and have been denied employment, education, and housing on the basis of our sexual orientation.

Our oppression is supported by ministers who tell their congregation that we are sinful and a danger to the American family. I am not arguing that queer oppression is worse than other forms of oppression or that it effects all of us equally. As individuals within the LGBT community we may also carry with us privileges of race, gender, class, or education that enable us to protect ourselves from some of the effects of homophobia.

I want to focus on some differences I see between queer oppression or homophobia and racism. Most obviously, queer folk have never suffered the devastation of slavery. Slavery tore people from their homeland, denied them their language, culture, religion, heritage.

Slavery prevented or destroyed emotional bonds by separating parent from child, husband from wife, for hundreds of years. The effects of slavery are numerous and long lasting; the legacy for African Americans in particular and for our country is emense. The oppression of racism began with slavery and has continued with embellishment since that time.

The history of queer people and of homophobia is more difficult to unearth as part of American History. Not that African Americans have not been short changed and African History missing from our history classes, but our queer ancestors are perhaps even more hidden. As scholars begin to explore our history they are questioning how to define sexual preference or gender identity in differing cultures and times.

It is clear, however, that although our differences were deeply repressed within the western tradition for centuries, queers haven't been through anything like slavery within the last several hundred years. We don't have a shared history of that sort.

Your race is something you share with your family (yes, I realize there are exceptions) and this has both positive and negative aspects. One positive aspect is that an individual's family will understand the difficulties of being a racial minority making "home" a place where you can talk about the effects of racism on your life and a place where you can "let down your guard" and be yourself.

On the negative side, the effects of oppression can be passed down within the family. Economic disadvantages, fear, or hopelessness are often passed on from one generation to the next. For example, a parent who has not been allowed access to a college education will be at a disadvantage in helping his children prepare for college.

Sexual orientation and transgendered characteristics are not something lesbigaytrans individuals usually have in common with their family. Too often this means that our differences are something we first face alone. LBGT children and adolescents often feel a need to hide who they are, or think they might be, from their parents and friends.

Of course, some parents are supportive, but often not at first. Other parents and extended family members belittle,harass,

continued on page 10

## COMMUNITY NEWS

#### PRIDE MONTH PLANNING

of

ıd

ry

le

ie

h

5)

ce

et

of

or

lg

ed

18

ir

ır

ed

ıd

The Lexington Pride Celebration '97 will be from June 6th through June 22nd. The GLSO Pride Planning Committee is open to everyone and in need of your help. Our next meeting will again be at the downtown Public Library on Wednesday March 12th from 7 to 9. We meet in one of the conference rooms on the forth floor. If you are planning a pride event please let us know by this date if at all possible.

We have sent out one letter asking for community participation and will follow this up by sending out Pride Event Planning forms to groups who have participated in recent years. If you do not receive a form but would like one, call Mary (266-5904).

Already on the schedule are: U. U. Church Interweave Program Wed, June 11th, The Men's Chorus Pride Concerts on Saturday, June 14th, the family picnic on Sunday, June 15th, and the Banquet on Sunday, June 22nd.

The Pride calender will fill up fast. There are already seven events planned, but there are still weekend nights available. Preference of dates will be given to organizations that send a representative to planning meetings and/or that send in an event form by March 12th.

Another meeting is planned for the second week in April. After the April meeting a brochure will be printed advertising the Pride events. The Pride Committee, which is open to all, will be making the final decisions as to what to include on the final calender and in the brochure.

#### **PEGASUS TRAVEL NEWS**

Pegasus Travel has recently made a donation to GLSO of \$75 for which we thank

them very much. For those of you who don't know, Pegasus gives GLSO 1% of all tickets sold to people who mention us when they are ordering tickets. We use to get more income from this than we have lately, so don't forget to ask for the 1% donation! Pegasus added a donation to the 1% this year and we appreciated that.

In the coming months Pegasus will be writing some articles informing our readers of travel possibilities. There has been a great increase in tour companies that offer specialized programs for the gay and lesbian market. There are more international offerings and special interest tours

You can find trips based on activities such as skiing, hiking, or kayaking, cruises, tours of specific countries, and even a Murder/ Mystery tour in England . Watch for the Pegasus articles about some of these interesting possibilities in the next few months and if you need tickets before then, give them a call at 253-1644. ♣

#### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The GLSO Board would like to welcome two new members, Tim Banks and Jane Minder. Jane has been active with Dignity and has attended and chaired the Networking Meetings. Tim served on the Board many years ago when we were GSO and has rejoined us to serve as treasurer.

We appreciate their willingness to serve and welcome them to the Board. If you are interested, we still have one position open. GLSO Board meeting are on the calender and are open to any interested members of the community. We meet at the MCC building, We will also be having elections for board members in June so if you might

be interested, come and see what we do. ₩

#### SUPPORT GROUP

A new support group has been organized to meet the needs of community members who feel the need for some support or would enjoy talking about their experiences as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered person.

The group is meeting on most Tuesday evenings at the MCC building at 387 Waller Ave, just behind Imperial Plaza. Karen has volunteered to lead this group and she is looking for participation from a variety of community members. We know there is a need for this group for people who are in the process of coming out, who are new to the area, or who would like to meet new people. Interested people should call Karen (245-2271) before attending the first time.

#### MARCH SOCIAL POSTPONED

The March Dance planned by Interweave and GLSO has been postponed. The roof of the Unitarian Church has to be repaired in March and so we will not be able to use the building. We have a possible date in late April. Watch for flyers and ads next month.

#### KISMIT RELOCATED

Kismit, the store with Universal Gifts for the Cosmically Inclined, has moved to a new, bigger, and brighter location. We are now ar 321 S., Ashland, near the corner of Euclid and S. Ashland.

New Items include a huge pride line, gargoyles for every home, a vast assortment of scented candles, and as always, fabulous selection for bumper stickers. ♥

#### FACTS ABOUT GLB SUICIDE

Studies consistently show that a high percentage of gay and lesbian youth (25-30%) attempt suicide.

- \* In a study of 686 gay men, 337 heterosexual men, 293 lesbian women, and 140 heterosexual women - 35% of gay men and 38% of lesbian women considered suicide. 8% gay men and 23% lesbian women had attempted - compared to only 3% heterosexual men and 14% heterosexual women. The majority of the suicide attempts were before the age of 20, nearly 1/3 of all attempts were before age 17.
- \* In a study of 5,000 gay men and women -35% of gay men and 38% of gay women had seriously considered or attempted suicide.
- \* In a study of 60 gay males ages 16-22, 32% had attempted suicide.
- \* In a study of homeless youth entering a shelter, 65% of the gay youth had attempted suicide as compared to 19% of the heterosexual youth.
- \* In a study of 137 gay and bisexual males, 41 had attempted suicide (31%). 18 made multiple attempts. The mean age of those attempting was 15.5 years old. Studies also show that gay and lesbian youth are at least 3 times more likely than heterosexual youth to attempt suicide.
- \* In a study on gay male and lesbian youth suicide, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found lesbian and gay youth are two to six times more likely to attempt

heterosexual youth to attempt suicide.

If you are interested in receiving the sources for these facts, please contact Peter Taylor via phone or e-mail.

#### NEW TRANSGENDERED SUPPORT GROUP IN LOUISVILLE

A new support group for transgendered people in Kentucky met in Louisville on December 21. The Bluegrass Belles is open to new members.

For further information, write to Bluegrass Belles, c/o Anne Casebeer, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY 40250; pager: 502/672-8673 plus your area code/ phone number and the code 55 (for example: 502/672-8673-606/387-4598-55)

email: Dwils00@ukcc.uky.edu.

DRAGIN' FOR JESUS contributed by Terry Mullins, Vice-Moderator, Board of Directors, LMCC

Coming to the Bar Complex Wednesday, April 9, 1997:

A fund-raiser for Lexington's Metropolitan Community Church. LMCC is very pleased to announce a new concept in its fund-raising in order to better serve the community and its congregation.

It will be a female impersonator show. featuring the best performers Lexington has to offer, along with a very promising newcomer.

These performers will be doing very uplifting contemporary music such as Bette

stance, Higher Love, by Spirit's In It, by Patti You and Me, from The a few hot gospels thrown

rific performances, the setting up tables of hors wd and over thirty door

ne brainchild of LMCC ler, who has put his

unusually creative talent to work in coming up with everything from the catchy show title and the music to advertising. He will be making his drag debut as the lead singer in the group Angel and the Heavenly Rays. He has lined up such top talent as Natalie Gay, present Emperor of the Royal Imperial Sovereign Court of Kentucky, Tracy Taylor, Miss Gay Lexington, Lexington's Entertainer of the Year, Miss Chandelier, and if you didn't get enough of them in E-Male's Black History benefit, Leigh Angelique, the first Miss Gay Lexington and Miss Gay Lexington Natasha Colby, Rayna Star, and LaToya Bacall, among many beautiful and talented others.

This could easily prove to be the most exciting impersonator show in Lexington in a long time. A sure don't miss!

The show begins at 8:00 Real Time -- not Drag Time. And the cover will be \$5.00. LMCC wishes to thank the Bar Complex, Kentucky Wranglers, The Imperial Sovereign Court of Kentucky, and E-Male for their co-operation. ₩

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

Report It Now.

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

276-5383



confidential care for teens adults couples families seniors · specialties in women's health men's health · andrew schechterman phd · licensed clinical psychologist · woodford hospital · versailles kentucky · just say Dock-tur Sheck-tur-min · 606.873.5361

#### THE CHURCH LADY

by Margaret Christopher Cartwright

ming

v title ll be

er in

. He

Gay,

erial

aylor,

er of

't get

story

Gay

asha

nong

most

in a

- not

MCC

ıcky

t of

n.₩

This is the first of a series of articles entitiled "People like us in the Bible." The text of this article is taken from a pamphlet of the same title by the Reverend B.R. Van Alstine, our pastor. The Biblical text is from Exodus 1:6-21.

A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He reported to his people. "Look, the Israelites are multiplying and becoming powerful people. We must do something to prevent their rise to power. If they were to team up with one of our enemies, we would be defeated. The king sent out taskmasters to oppress the Israelites. But the more the Pharaoh had the Israelites oppressed, the more they became resilient and the more they multiplied.

The Egyptians then increased their pressure on the Israelites. They put horrendous tasks before them and "made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field." Despite this adversity, the Israelites continued to flourish.

The only thing the Pharaoh could think of to further suppress these people was to begin killing the Israelites male children. He told the midwives "When you birth a male child, kill him" midwives, Shiphrah and Pauh felt this was morally wrong, they "feared God and did not do as the King of Egypt commanded them." So the Pharaoh called them in and asked them, "Why haven't you been killing the Hebrew's male children?" Shiphrah and Puah told him that the Israelite women were different from the Egyptian women. They are stronger and labor quickly so that the births occur before the midwives get there. God was pleased with the midwives and answered their prayers for healthy families for

Gertie Mae Noe

#### DEAR GERTIE MAE

I'm single and I spend a lot of my time in the local bars. Therefore, I see a lot of people. Well, the other day I ran into an old friend of mine outside the bar and in a casual conversation I happened to mention that I saw his other half out the other night.

He was surprised and asked me to do him the favor of calling him the next time I saw "Jake" out. Well, I did as my friend asked and now I'm in big trouble, because Jake is angry with me to the point of violence. I am very upset over this situation. Did I do the right thing in letting my friend know? What should I do if Jake gets more threatening?

-Out too much

Dear Too Much

It never fails to amaze me how so many of us queens get ourselves into trouble because we don't mind our own business. I think you know you shouldn't have done your "friend" that favor, at least without some agreement of non-disclosure about where his information was coming from. That's where your problem really stems from, a REAL friend wouldn't have divulged his source. It's not only stupid on

his part, because #1 he ruins you as a source for any future information and #2 he has put you, the friend in the middle of what could and did turn into an ugly situation. If this Jake has a propensity toward violence, your "friend" surely knew it and keeping you out of it should have been a high priority. In short, I'm telling you that he was no friend Do Him No More Favors EVER!

As for your problem with Jake. Are there any witnesses to his threats? If so, you could go to the police and get a terroristic threatening charge file against him (the witnesses would make it stick in court). You can also get a protective order to keep him away from you. Of course, if he actually DOES hit you, you can not only have him arrested, but if he has anything, you can sue him for anything you (or your lawyer) can get.

OK, now all that said, one last piece of advice... Mind Your Own Business from now own.

Love and Bisses. Gertie Mas

themselves. And of course the story goes on during this time and had to be hidden to escape being killed.

This story applies to us, as a people. Like the Israelites, we experience moral outrages yet we continue to flourish as a people. We must continue to come together as a people to achieve our rights as a minority. We are working to have our recognized marriages and relationships validated. It is imperative

that we do this, even in the face of a "bitter" life that is secondary to society's oppression. Remember, God was pleased with the midwives and She shall be pleased with us!

Come see us. We talk about things like this at church.

GLS(	O CAL ne Directory on t	ENDA he last page to a	R M. confirm meeting	ARCH s date, time and	1997   place	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum)
2 SUNDAY 10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church 7:00 p.m. Eborry Mole 7:00 p.m. Dignify, (MCC Sulfe)	3 MONDAY 7:30 p.m. Pride Center Task Force	4 TUESDAY 7:00 p.m. Coming Out Support Group (MCC Suite) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Frontrunners (Woodland Park) HIV/AIDS support Group 8:00 p.m. Goy/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. Two Stepping & Swing	6 THURSDAY 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Baptiet Church) 7:30 p.m. UKLAMBDA (231 UK Student Center	7 FRIDAY 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	8 9:00 a.m. Hontrunners (Arboretum)
9 10:45 a.m. Uhltarian Universalist Church 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church 12:30 p.m. Interweave Potluck (U.U. Church)	10	11 6:30 p.m. Lesbian/Gay Parenting Group (U.U. Church) 7:00 p.m. Corning out Support Group (MCC Sulfe) 7:30 p.m. P-Flag (Chapel Hill Prestlyferian Church) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6:00 p.m. Fronthunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS support Group 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. Ball Room Dancing	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Bapitist Church) 7:30 p.m. UK LAMBDA (231 UK Student Center)	7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9.00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboreturn) GLSO NEWS DEADLINE PLEASE SUBMIT ADDITIONS, UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS FOR APPEL NEWSLETTER 273-6845
16.6 10.45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church 11:30 a.m. Metropolitian Community Church 7:00 p.m. Dignity, (MCC Suite)	17 7-15 p.m. GISO Board Meeting (MCC Suite)	18 7:00 p.m. Coming Out Support Group (MCC Suite) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	6.00 p.m. Frontrunners (Woodland Park) HIV/AIDS Support Group 8.00 p.m. Gay/Lesblan AA 8.00 p.m. Line & Partner Dancing	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Baptist Church) 7:30 p.m. UK LAMBDA (231 UK Student Center	7:00 p.m. Dignilly Potluck, For 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum)
23/30 (10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church 11:30 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church	24/31	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Coming Out Support Group (MCC Suite) 8:30 p.m. Rainbow Bowling League	26 6:00 p.m. Frontruners (W. Park) 6:00 p.m. HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 p.m. MCC Holy Week Services 8:00 p.m. Gcy/Lesbian AA 8:00 p.m. Open Dancing	7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Practice (Central Baptist Church) 7:30 p.m. UK LAMBDA (231 UK Student Center) 8:00 p.m. Bluegrass Colts members 9:00 p.m. B.C. non-members	28 7:30 p.m. Gay/Lesbian AA	9:00 a.m. Frontrunners (Arboretum)



#### RESTAURANT

557 S. Limestone Lexington, KY 253-0014

featuring the
Famous Alfalfa
Weekend Brunch:
serving blueberry
buckwheat pancakes,
eggs benedict arnold,
spanish omelettes,
gourmet desserts, and
much more...

All of our breads and desserts are baked daily in our kitchen.

FREE EVENING PARKING.

# WORKING TO UNITE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY SINCE 1972

EW Dride WPRIDE pride WPRIDE & Dride WPRIDE pride WPRIDE PRIDE PRI

PRIDE PRIDE

Name (s) DEprize V plide V PRIDE V PRI
Address DESide PRIDE W Pride V PRIDE W DIDE W PRIDE W
City, State, ZIP Plide PRIDE Pride PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE
\$15 Membership and Newsletter PRIDE vide V PRIDE V PRI
\$20 Couple Membership and Newsletter
I am (we are) including a donation of \$3 or more. Please add the above name(s) to the OUT AND PROUD sponsorship page in October, 1997.
I do not wish for my name to be added to the Community Mailing List used exclusively by and for Kentucky Gay/Lesbian organizations.

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

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

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

publish this newsletter

REER

35...

- **₫** to co-ordinate Pride Month
- to support other community organizations
- to provide speakers for various groups throughout central kentucky

E Pride VPRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE VPRIDE V

GLSO News Page 8 Pride P

E Pride V PRIDE VILLO V NII do V PRIDE W PRIDE

DIIde PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE Pride V

to hold social events for our community, in PRIDE PRID

E pride VPRIDE VALUE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE VPRIDE VPRIDE

## THE GLSO NEWS IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR SUPPORTERS FOR 1997:

WINDY KNOLL FARM299-7410
RIDING LESSONS, DRESSAGE AND JUMPING, TRAIL RIDING, BOARDING
SCORSONE AND RANSDELL, ATTORNEYS AT LAW255-5766
CROSSINGS, A MAN'S BAR, INCLUDING THE RACK233-7266
117 N. LIMESTONE
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH271-1407
387 WALLER AVE, SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 AM
A CHURCH FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE
TED RICHARDSON, OD278-4201
RICHARDSON VISION CENTER, GARDENSIDE PLAZA
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH223-1448
2564 CLAYS MILL RD
SEEKING A DIVERSE CONGREGATION: SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45
IMPERIAL FLOWERS AND GIFTS233-7486
SERVING THE COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE
SUE STRONG, PH.D., LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST277-3119
JAMES W. GARDNER, ATTORNEY AT LAW253-1320
TIM BANKS AND JAMES SLALINE
FRONT RUNNERS
LEXINGTON MEN'S CHORUS
PEGASUS TRAVEL253-1644
DONATING 1% OF YOUR TICKET COST TO GLSO
OUT AND PROUD MEMBERS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY
PART OF OUR QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL CAMPAIGN TO BE LISTED IN OCTOBER

#### THE QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL CAMPAIGN

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

assault, and humiliate children or teens they perceive as queer. The fact that LBGT teens are over represented on the streets and in suicide statistics is often a result of the homophobia directed toward them by the people who are suppose to love and protect them. The painful truth is that our oppression often starts at home and many of us had no safe place as we were growing up and realizing that we were different.

As queers, many if not most of us can pass as straight. This has both positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, it provides some safety from harassment and allows us to hold jobs that we might otherwise be fired from. Passing certainly feels safer to many young people in our typical high school environments where the few students identified as gay are harassed and assaulted. As we grow older, passing may be a social lubricant that helps us get alone with people who would be made uncomfortable, angry, fearful, or even scared if they knew we were queer. We also hide from our families.

Passing has its negative aspects. It's about hiding, being careful what you say, how you move your hands, how you talk, what you talk about. This is energy consuming, is not self affirming, and may get in the way of our ever being ourselves as it becomes second nature to hide. It is difficult to speak of all the ways in which hiding who we are from our parents, our sisters and brothers, our nieces and nephews, from our "loved ones" hurts us. Lying to our family, or choosing to distance ourselves from our families, means we actually lose our families.

I realize that not coming out to a family member may be the best choice in some situations, it was in one instance for me. It is the homophobia within our society that leads us to the decision to pass or lie, this homophobia is often damaging to healthy self esteem and to family bonds. Of course, there

are those among us who can not "pass", usually the most transgendered of our community. They often receive the worse harrassment and abuse that our society has to offer.

Most African Americans can not pass and therefore have to deal with racism head on in whatever circumstances they find themselves. At best, this is tiring and at worst it is life threatening. Historically, some people of mixed African and European dissent have "passed" for white. Sometimes this meant leaving their families of origin and denying part of their heritage.

This too can be psychologically damaging to an individual as well as damaging to the cohesiveness of families. Because of this history of "passing" within their community, African Americans may be able to understand how it can be damaging.

These are only some of the differences between racism and homophobia. Again, this is not an attempt to say one form of oppression is worse that another. The better we understand oppressions, the more able we become to challange them.

I would be interested in hearing from readers about their thoughts on oppression and how to overcome its effects within ourselves and within society. For example, how has organized religion added to oppression of various groups within our society? Please sent us your thoughts or an article. Send to GLSO News, P0 Box 11471 Lex. 40575. ♥

from the front page

reported their therapist had refused to acknowledge their sexual orientation or dismissed it as a temporary "fad;" 10 percent reported attempts to "cure" them; 7 percent reported derogatory verbal comments; and 3 percent reported inappropriate sexual behavior.

The survey found examples of patients being told that "you'd be okay if you weren't a deviant" and of patients grieving over a partner's death being focused instead on their relationship with their parents. ☼

Pride Planning
Meeting
Wednesday, March 12
Lexington Public
Library
7:00 - 9:00
Fourth Floor Conference Room



KENTUCKY'S FIRST AND ONLY LEVI / LEATHER BAR



IS GREAT! **LEVI • LEATHER CRUISE** 

# 119 N LIMESTONE ABOVE CROSSINGS

AN ALTERNATIVE STORE

SERVING OUR VARIED LIFESTYLES

LEATHER FOR WOMEN AND MEN CARDS - VIDEOS - MAGAZINES ADULT TOYS - BODY JEWELRY PRIDE GIFTS AND ATTIRE

# the glso DIRECTORY

the glee		COMMUNITY		
the glso				
GLSO Board (Mary)		Bluegrass COLTS (Mark)		
GLSO Discrimination Project (Jeff)		Cumberland Cares		
<b>GLSO:</b> News (Peter)273-5845		E-Male (Bill)		
Advertisements (Mary)		Fairness of Lexington HOTLINE		
Calendar (Peter)		Fairness of Louisville		
Folding (Mary)		Front Runners (Keith)		
Layout (Charlie)		G/L AA (Charlie)		
GLSO PRIDE COMMITTEE (Mike)		G/L Defense Fund		
GLSO Speakers Bureau (Mary)	266-5904	IGBO(Steve)	276-3058	
GLSO Support Group (Karen)	245-2271	Kentucky Legislature		
		Bill Status Line	(800) 382-2455	
STUDENT GROUP	S	Legislator Message Line	(800) 372-7181	
ACE League:Berea (Ed)		Meeting Info Line		
AGLF: NKU (Pat)		Kentucky Wranglers (Terry)	255-5469	
B-GLAD: Centre College (Mykol)		(Bill)	278-8023	
GUESS: EKU (Neil)		The Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group (Laura)	276-2685	
Lexington Youth Support Group (Kenneth)		Lexington Men's Chorus (Shelby)	231-0090	
Morehead State (Angela)		Louisville Youth Group	(502)894-9787	
Transylvania University (Bill)		Names Project, Lexington (Katie)	272-2588	
		Newcomers Group (Joe)	233-4432	
UK Lambda (pager)		P-FLAG (Jan)	278-7461	
ANONYMOUS AIDS TE	STING	(Perry)		
<b>Jessamine County</b>		Pegasus Travel		
Lexington-Fayette County		Rainbow Bowling League (Shawn)	255-7379	
Madison County		RISC of KY(Paul)		
Woodford County		(Steve)	255-4636	
woodford County	0/)-1)41	The Women's Chorus (Connie)	276-2554	
AIDS INFO/SERVIO	CES	RELIGIOUS GROU	JPS	
AIDS HOTLINE	231-7545	Dignity [Catholic] (Don)	299-4458	
AIDS Volunteers of Lexington	278-7494	Episcopal Diocese AIDS Ministry (Steve)		
AVOL Legal Advocacy Program278-7494		Honesty [Southern Baptist] (Eddie)		
Health Department HIV Support Programs			(502) 458-5392	
(Patty)	288-2377	Interweave [Unitarian] (Davina)		
(Amanda)		MCC-Elizabethtown (Cathy)		
HIV/AIDS Legal Project(502) 584-1254		MCC-Lexington (Rex)		
HIV-Education Youth Group278-7		MCC-Louisville		
HIV Support (Somerset)		MCC-Paducah		
	678-5814	(5.1)	260 16/10	

..276-5344

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

Kentucky AIDS HOTLINE ......(800) 840-2865

(Hospice of the Bluegrass)

Thursday HIV+/AIDS Support Group

To add or update a directory listing, please contact Mary at 266-5904. For a mailing address update, contact Peter at 273-5845

RainboWind [Pagan] (Sarah) ......252-7673

RainboWind@aol.com