

APRIL NEWS 1990



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

SENATE REJECTS HOMOPHOBIC AMENDMENT SECOND MAJOR GAY VICTORY IN LESS THAN A MONTH

from Human Rights Campaign Fund

For the second time in a month the Senate has sided with the lesbian and gay community on a critical gay-related vote. In February, Senator Jesse Helms' (R-NC) effort to attach anti-gay language to the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act was resoundingly defeated. In early March the Senate rejected the Armstrong amendment, which would have allowed organizations in the District of Columbia to bar any lesbian or gay man from serving as a "role model, mentor or companion to any minor."

Armstrong sought to weaken the strong protections for lesbians and gay men included in the Washington, DC Human Rights Ordinance. He said that the law is being used to "force Big Brothers and other similar organizations to admit homosexuals into their program as counselors and role models." Armstrong stated that the District of Columbia "should not be able to impose a requirement that these organizations accept people who have not historically been deemed suitable for that kind of work."

The amendment was drafted broadly, however, and would have applied to all institutions that serve children in Washington. For example, lesbians and gays could have been fired from schools, refused positions in volunteer organizations and prohibited from treating young patients in hospitals.

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) devised the strategy and led to the floor fight that defeated the Armstrong amendment. Kennedy offered alternative language that would allow organizations to deny positions to heterosexuals, gays and bisexuals who have been charged or convicted of sexual offenses with minors.

The critical vote came on an Armstrong move to table the Kennedy substitute amendment. The Senate rejected Armstrong's attempt 50 - 47. It then adopted the Kennedy language.

"What Senator Kennedy did was shift the issue from one of attacking gay people who work with youngsters to an issue of protecting children from any kind of sexual molestation, straight or gay. Senator Kennedy stuck a blow against the anti-gay bigotry of the Armstrong amendment," said Stephen Smith, legislative director of the HRCF. Smith continued, "Once again, Senator Kennedy has taken the lead in fighting the bigotry we face on Capitol Hill."

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON FIGHTS HOMOPHOBIC ARMSTRONG AMENDMENT

The following is the text of a statement by Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) delivered on the Senate floor regarding the Armstrong amendment, which would have legalized discrimination against gays and lesbians in the District of Columbia.

I urge support of the Kennedy amendment and defeat of the Armstrong amendment.

The Kennedy amendment deals with a real issue -- the Armstrong amendment plays with unfounded prejudices.

The Kennedy amendment makes it clear that any program which involves children can exclude any person likely to engage in the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor. It covers any person, heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.

The Armstrong amendment does nothing, absolutely nothing, to protect children from the vast majority of sexual abusers. It is simply a concession to unsubstantiated fears. It diverts us from dealing with real life problems

[Continued on Page 2]

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GLSO News is published monthly by the Lexington Gay Services Organization, Inc. (Lexington Gay/Lesbian Services Organization), P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575.

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2 Apr GLSO

[CRANSTON, continued from Page 1]

The proponent of the amendment seems concerned that the Kennedy amendment deals only with the sexual abuse of minors and not with the issue of role models.

If role modeling is the concern of the sponsors of this amendment, then they have a long way to go. This amendment is not limited to volunteer organizations, it covers any organization or entity that holds out an adult as a role model to any minor.

Our society is full of role models for young people. I could rattle off a long list of business leaders, social leaders, people in law enforcement, people in every field that we can think of.

What about athletes and entertainers? Shall we ban gay and lesbian performers from the stages of Kennedy Center and RFK stadium.

What about movie stars? Shall we set up a board of censors to prevent distribution of films that have gay or lesbian stars?

What about our public officials? Elected officials surely are role models for millions of young Americans. Should we ban gays and lesbians from public office? Of course, that would not be constitutional. Besides, how would we ascertain who is gay or lesbian?

Do we want to drive them back into the closet? That is the path the proponents of this amendment are driving toward.

This is an ugly amendment and it should be defeated. If we really want to protect young children from sexual abuse we should adopt the Kennedy amendment. Sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a real problem and we ought to deal with it in a meaningful fashion.

LESBIAN OR GAY, AND A TEACHER? from **GLSO News** staff

There is a new national group working for the rights of school employees and students who are also lesbian or gay. The group is the National Education Association's Gay/Lesbian Caucus (NEA-GLC). The caucus has two goals: find interested members of the NEA who are gay or lesbian, and, identify and network with other groups working to advance the civil rights of lesbians and gays.

For more information, or membership forms, write the Mid-Atlantic contact: Harry J. Hillegas, 218 Crain Ave., Kent, OH 44240.

**GAY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE TO CONTRIBUTE
OVER \$500,000 IN 1990 ELECTIONS**
from Human Rights Campaign Fund

The Human Rights Campaign Fund will contribute over \$500,000 to candidates for the US House of Representatives and Senate in the 1990 elections. Contributions at this level will place the Campaign Fund among the largest political action committees (PACs) in the US.

Up to this time in the current election cycle, the Campaign Fund has given over \$121,000 to 46 candidates and incumbents and five other PACs all over the country. Notable contributions include Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), \$5,000; Representative Sid Yates (D-IL), \$5,000; Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), \$5,000; Oregon Democratic challenger Mike Kopetski, \$2,500; and Representative John Miller (R-WA), \$2,500.

"Lesbians and gay Americans are committed to making a difference through the electoral process. Their generosity has allowed the

Campaign Fund to make strategic, early contributions for the 1990 elections," said Tim McFeeley, the Campaign's executive director. "We have gone a long way in countering the pernicious influence of our extreme right-wing opponents. On Capital Hill, the lesbian and gay community has become a force to be reckoned with."

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is the largest lesbian and gay political and legislative organization in the United States. Its political action committee contributes to both Republican and Democratic members of and candidates for the United States Congress. In the 1988 election, it contributed over \$400,000 to congressional campaigns and was listed by the Federal Elections Commission as the ninth largest non-connected political action committee in the country.

WESTERN UNION LOSES \$350,000 LESBIAN AND GAY ACCOUNT
from The Human Rights Campaign Fund

HRCF has announced it will no longer use Western Union to deliver "Speak Out" constituent messages to Capitol Hill, a decision that will cost the firm \$350,000 this year. The Campaign Fund's "Speak Out" constituent mail program is the most successful grassroots mobilization effort in the history of the lesbian and gay rights movement.

Tim McFeeley stated the decision "to terminate our relationship with Western Union is

based on the company's efforts to overturn a twelve year-old San Francisco discrimination ordinance protecting lesbians and gays."

Western Union is challenging the constitutionality of the ordinance. Armand Ertag, a Western Union employee in San Francisco, sought damages against the company for harassment and intimidation. Rather than addressing specific allegations, Western Union seeks to have the ordinance overturned.

**A RESPONSE TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE
NATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE HETEROSEXUAL ETHIC (NTFPHE)**
from Rev. William Sloane Coffin

People never do evil as cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction. The NTFPHE is a good case in point. They cite the Levitical law: "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." What they never say is that in the same book of Leviticus it is also "an abomination" to eat pork. Perhaps instead of coming to Washington to denounce gays, these folks should be in Iowa preaching against eating chops.

Clearly it is not Scripture that creates hostility to homosexuality, but rather hostility to homosexuality that prompts certain Christians to

retain a few passages from an otherwise discarded code. The problem is not how to reconcile homosexuality with scriptural passages that appear to condemn it, but rather how to reconcile the rejection and punishment of homosexuals with the love of Christ.

Just as "the black problem" turned out to be white racism, just as "the woman problem" turned out to be male sexism, so "the homosexual problem" is really the homophobia of many heterosexuals who just won't grant God the right to a more pluralistic creation. It's bigotry, pure and simple.

LOCAL NEWS

GLSO BOARD PLANS FOR PRIDE WEEK

from Teresa Reynolds and Craig Clere

The GLSO Board of Directors met for their regular monthly meeting on February 28. Committee reports opened the meeting. Presentation of the new promotional brochure was delayed until the March meeting due to the absence of that committee's co-chairs. Other committees presented routine reports.

Craig Clere of the Gayline Committee reported needing new volunteers due to the recent resignation of two members. Staffing for four nights a week has become problematic.

John Cutright reported that the Pride Week Committee would begin meeting in March. Tentative dates for Pride Week have been set for June 10 - 17. Several Board members will serve on the Pride Week Committee. GLSO holds a \$365 reserve from prior years to provide operating funds for Pride Week.

Debbie Currie discussed the possibility of the Coffeehouse & Dance Committee working with Crossed Fingers Productions to bring women's music performers to Lexington. After discussion a Crossed Fingers representative was invited to the next meeting to answer questions that arose. Further action was postponed.

After several months of consideration an advertising policy was set on announcing the monthly Coffeehouse & Dance in the **Lexington Herald-Leader**. The announcements will begin with the March Coffeehouse.

GLSO has been invited to participate with the National Organization for Women Bluegrass Chapter's "Take Back the Night" festival to be held in the fall. GLSO's exact role will be decided as the activity is planned.

The meeting concluded with discussion of the upcoming June election of board members and officers. Three, two-year at-large board positions and one, one-year position will be open. The offices of secretary and treasurer will also be filled. The current treasurer announced his intent not to seek re-election, and Craig Clere reiterated his desire to turn over editing the **GLSO News** to a new editor in July. The Board agreed to discuss nominations and staffing positions at the March meeting.

AVOL PRESIDENT DIES STAFF CHANGES OCCUR

from GLSO News staff

William O. Lamb, Jr., 44, died March 9. He is survived by his wife, Vickie, and his mother, both of Lexington.

A Lexington native and UK alumnus, Lamb was a retired floral designer and the former owner of Reeds 'N' Weeds. He was elected President of AIDS Volunteers of Lexington, Inc. at their December, 1989, meeting and assumed office in January, 1990. He was hospitalized with an infection, later diagnosed as pneumonia, during the third week of February. He never recovered.

Former Vice President Scott Hallam is the new President. AVOL Board Member Mike Ethrington was appointed Vice President of the organization.

In action unrelated to Lamb's death, Lexington attorney Pam Goldman was hired as Executive Director. The funding of this salaried position was an important goal of AVOL's Winter Fundraiser.

PRIDE WEEK PLANS BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE

from GLSO News staff

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1990 is beginning to become a reality following a series of organizational meetings by the 1990 Pride Week Committee. Currently the committee is served by representatives from the Lexington Gay & Lesbian Services Organization, Interweave, Dignity/Lexington, Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates, Rainbow Bowling League, AVOL, Crossed Fingers Productions, the Imperial Court, Lexington COLT's, and NAMES Project.

While the agenda it still to be formalized, Pride Week will likely begin on June 10 and conclude on June 17. Highlights of the week already include: an Imperial Court Pride Week kick-off show, Arts Night, a featured speaker, Bowling Night, the Pride Week Worship Service, and a afternoon concert and picnic.

More community input is needed and new volunteers are welcome. The next meeting is Monday, April 2, at 7 pm. For more information or meeting location call Craig Clere, 266-8887. Watch the May **GLSO News** for more details of Pride Week 1990.

NANCY CHODOROW TO SPEAK AT UK
from GLSO News staff

Nancy Chodorow, a leading feminist and psychoanalytic theorist, will speak in Lexington on Monday, April 16, 8 pm, in the Recital Hall of the Singletary Center for the Arts, University of Kentucky. Chodorow's talk is entitled "The Power of Feelings". She is well-known for her book, The Reproduction of Mothering, which argued that fathers and mothers must be equal parents if children are to fully develop capacities for nurturance and autonomy. Her newest book, Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory, explores how the unconscious awareness of self and gender that we develop from earliest infancy continue to shape our experiences as women and men. Her visit is sponsored by the Blazer Lecture Series and the College of Arts and Sciences. For information call 257-6689.

GAY RODEO COMING TO AREA
from GLSO News staff

The Tri-State Gay Rodeo Association (TSGRA) is determined to bring the rodeo circuit to the Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio area. Formed in August, 1989, TSGRA is the first club east of the Mississippi River to be sanctioned by the International Gay Rodeo Association. It has further distinguished itself as the fastest growing chapter within the International Association.

TSGRA cowboys from the Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Lafayette groups converged on Lexington the weekend of March 24 - 25 to generate enthusiasm for a local satellite chapter. Support from Lexington is important since the group plans a full-fledged gay rodeo in the region during summer, 1991.

TSGRA has scheduled its First Annual Tri-State Regional Rodeo for Cincinnati the weekend of April 20 - 22, 1990. This initial competition is planned as a "People's Rodeo," emphasizing individual and team participation rather than livestock events. The People's Rodeo will generate additional interest and generally provide the opportunity for people to get acquainted with each other, and the rodeo concept and events. Proceeds raised by TSGRA will be donated by the satellite chapters to local gay/lesbian organizations, especially those providing AIDS-related services. For more information call Rick at 606-431-2692.

NAMES PROJECT KENTUCKY ORGANIZES
from the NAMES Project Kentucky

Hundreds of people came from across the state to see the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt when it was at the Capitol Rotunda, in Frankfort, those active in the fight and those wanting to learn more about the epidemic shared in the three day event. For many the display was the first time that they had experienced the Quilt and it made the epidemic a reality. For others it provided an opportunity to see panels made for loved ones and to share stories. The school children were most impressive in their compassionate response and their curiosity of questions. Their thoughts on the signature panels reflect that while they don't totally understand the disease, they understand the reality of its consequences - and they care.

With the display behind us, the focus of NAMES Project Kentucky is to outreach throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In doing so, Kentucky will have a vehicle by which to: "confront individuals and governments with the urgency and enormity of the AIDS pandemic and the need for an immediate compassionate response;" "to build a powerful, positive, creative symbol of remembrance and hope, linking diverse people;" and encourage donations within the community. United We Stand . . . united we need to respond.

Outreach on a state-wide level is now important to increase AIDS awareness throughout the State; overcome the association of stereotypes to the epidemic; provide an outlet for families and loved ones who have experienced a loss; and to include Kentucky as a part of the international NAMES Project effort. An outreach program in Louisville is being planned for April. A panel making workshop is scheduled to be held in Lexington April 28, 1990.

We are pioneering new horizons in our battle against AIDS and we need your help. NAMES Project Kentucky will have its next meeting, Wednesday, April 11, 1990, at 7 - 9 pm at the Rosenthal Center at Transylvania University. For more information about the local NAMES Project, please call J.C. at 299-8836 or Steve at 233-1782. You can also write the NAMES Project at PO Box 588, Lexington, Kentucky, 40586.

Together we will "Keep the Love Alive."

TRILOGY PROJECT BEGINS IN APRIL

As most **GLSO News** readers probably know by now, a study of lesbians and gay men in Kentucky is being conducted by University of Kentucky Sociology professor Dr. William F. Skinner. The **Trilogy Project**, which is funded by a \$350,000 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will provide an opportunity for a systematic collection of data which can be used in our efforts to address such issues as drug and alcohol use and factors which affect such use, discrimination, victimization, and AIDS. The questionnaire consists of a combination of standard questions which measure events relevant to all individuals as well as other questions which identify events specific to the lives of persons who are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

The provision of funds for the **Trilogy Project** represents an investment of federal tax dollars into our local communities. The degree to which this investment proves useful to the lesbians and gay men who live in Kentucky is directly related to the response level of individuals who receive the survey. A low response rate will provide limited information for our communities to combat the many issues that affect us all, since reliable data is generally required to demonstrate proof of a need for change. Once the data has been collected, Dr. Skinner has agreed to offer his expertise to the local communities. In doing so he will provide local groups with a valuable resource, particularly during efforts to legitimize our stance with local and state governing authorities. Additionally, the statistical information will be made available to local organizations to assist in documenting identified concerns. All data will be confidential and presented as group patterns. In other words, data from any single respondent will not be reported.

Questionnaires will be distributed sometime in late April. Individuals who are on the GLSO mailing list will receive a research packet in the mail. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive a research packet, you may return the coupon provided on this page and we will send one to you. A similar approach will be taken with individuals on organization mailing lists in Louisville. In addition to the research packets that will be mailed, Dr. Skinner has solicited the assistance of 50 members of the Lexington and Louisville communities to contact possible study

participants. This approach will allow for a broader, and therefore more representative, sample of gay men and lesbians in Kentucky.

In order to secure the anonymity of respondents, only the Lexington Community Coordinator will have access to the GLSO mailing list and any future database mailing lists which might be used during the **Trilogy Project**. The Lexington Community Coordinator is Melanie Otis, GLSO at-large board member. Dr. Skinner will never see the names of the individuals who receive questionnaires. Likewise, the Community Coordinator will never see the completed questionnaires, as they will be returned directly to Dr. Skinner and will contain no identifying information about the respondent. The same will be true for questionnaires which are distributed by the indigenous researchers that have been hired in Lexington and Louisville.

Participation in the project is completely voluntary and all information will be confidential. Your willingness to examine the questionnaire will be appreciated, regardless of whether or not you choose to complete and return it. If you have questions about **Trilogy Project** please contact Dr. William F. Skinner (606-257-6891), or, Melanie Otis (606-257-6878).



I am not on the GLSO mailing list, but I would like to receive the **TRILOGY PROJECT** questionnaire.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail to:

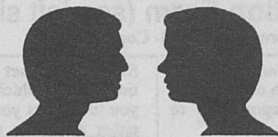
Trilogy Project

Melanie D. Otis, MSW

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What does it cost, and what do I get?

For only \$20 or \$30 you get the contact information for the 5 or 10 men, respectively, who are your best matches from our current pool of members in your area. Also, your contact information will be "listed" for three months (with unlimited free extensions) for other members to contact you (unless you leave Step 2 blank). You will know of these matches only when they contact you.

What if my matches don't work out?

ComQuest receives numerous letters from members who have found lovers or who are otherwise quite pleased with our service. However, *if you are not satisfied, you will receive a prompt refund of your membership fee.* (You have 30 days to notify us and return your match printout).

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We fill most orders within a week. If the difference between your postmark date and ours is more than 14 days, we will include an extra \$5.00 credit voucher with your order, applicable to future ComQuest orders. All correspondence from ComQuest is mailed in discreet envelopes.

OK, I'll try it. What do I do?

This is the hard part. But it can be fun, too. The questionnaire is on the other side of this page. Refer to the instructions to the right to complete Steps 3, 4, and 5. It is very important to read them carefully. If you don't follow the instructions we can't guarantee the results. If you need help call 1-708-991-0693 (9-5 CST, M-F). For additional application forms call 1-800-633-6969 (24 hours).

Send the completed form with \$20 (for 5 matches) or \$30 (for 10 matches) check or money order to:

ComQuest, PO Box 1069, Palatine, IL 60078

Questionnaire Instructions

Step 3 - Describe yourself by circling the word *me* beside each descriptive item which is a true description of yourself. You should circle at least one *me* under each category. Circle more than one *me* if appropriate.

Step 4 - Describe your ideal match by circling the word *veto*, *no*, *ok* or *yes* beside *each and every* item (including those by which you circled *me*) to indicate to what extent you would want that item to be true of your match. Circle *exactly one* of these responses per item, as described below:

Circle *yes* if you *prefer* that description to be true of your match. This is a *vote for* a trait—not a guarantee.

Circle *ok* if you *don't care* one way or the other. This is an *abstention*—no vote either way. Lines left blank are counted as *ok*.

Circle *no* if you *prefer* that description *not* to be true of your match. This is a *vote against*—not a disqualification. Treat it as a "maybe."

Circle *veto* if you want *no matches* with anyone for whom that description is true, even if they have other desirable qualities. This is a *disqualification* and is not affected by category rank. Treat it as an absolute "no." We recommend that you circle between 10 and 20 vetoes to restrict age, race, residence, and other important traits of your matches.

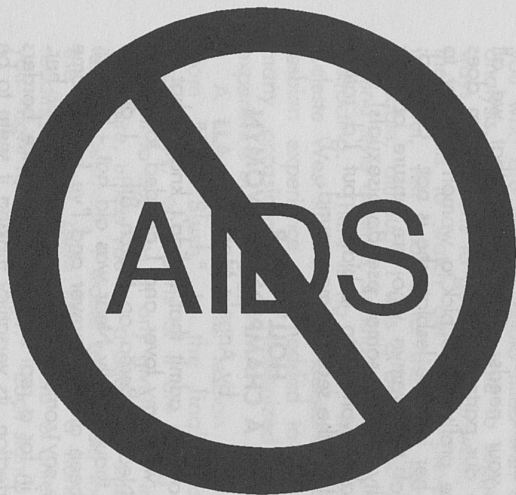
Note: The use of vetoes restricts the number of members qualified to meet you. You are guaranteed the number of matches you order, but if you use too many vetoes you may get fewer matches than you ordered initially, in which case you will receive credit for the remaining matches. You can use the credit to alter your questionnaire and/or reorder matches anytime.

Step 5 - Rank the categories. The questionnaire is divided into 16 categories. To insure that your responses on the less important items won't override those on the more important items, you must indicate which categories are important to you. Using the blank to the left of each category heading, either . . .

Rank each category from 1 to 16 in its order of importance to you, with 1 as the most important and 16 as the least, using each rank once, or . . .

Put a check mark beside the *five* most important category headings, leaving the rest blank.

Note: Your matches will be based mostly upon the more important categories, with the less important ones serving only as tie breakers. *Noes* and *yeses* have very little effect in the lower ranked or unchecked categories. Some of your matches may have traits by which you circled *no*. However, vetoes are exclusive regardless of category rank.



AIDS

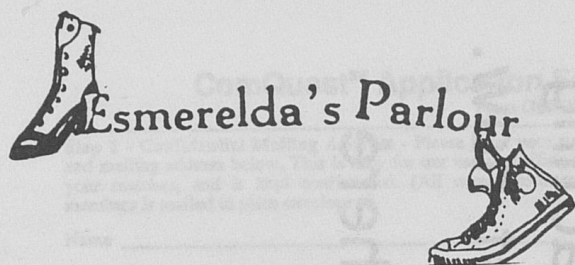
IF YOU HAVE
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TAKE THE TEST!

If you have put yourself at risk for contracting the AIDS virus, take the HIV Antibody Test now.

For more information on the test and where you can go for testing, call

1-800-654-AIDS

Kentucky AIDS Education Program



IT'S A MATTER OF CHOICE

by Angela Martin

What lesbian hasn't been through it? Is there anyone of us who hasn't felt the pain, anger and injustice that can come with choosing to be in a relationship with a woman who is unsure of her sexuality? I've certainly experienced it, unfortunately more than once! We all know the kind of woman I'm talking about, and if you haven't slept with her you've probably at least admired her from afar and felt the frustration that comes with denying yourself something that you desire, but which could be poison to your self-esteem.

Womyn who are unsure of their sexuality usually come in two forms: the woman who has no interest in men but cannot accept and is ashamed of her attraction to womyn and, of course, the woman who, like the first, cannot accept her sexuality and is ashamed of it, but who also accepts the advances of men.

The woman who will seek out a relationship with another woman, yet never identify herself as a lesbian, and who will encourage the interest of men toward the end of satisfying herself and others that she is not 'queer' is the worst kind of poison. This type of woman should be called, if anything, 'pseudo-bisexual'. She certainly should not be called lesbian because it takes much more than sexual activity with another woman to be a lesbian. Lesbianism, to me, implies an attitude: a certain respect and appreciation for womyn that colors your attitudes, your politics and your actions. Lesbians are woman-identified and woman-affirming. Lesbians form an entire, exclusive sub-culture which cannot be appreciated at a glance, and certainly not by dipping one finger into the honey.

As I mentioned earlier, those of us who do find ourselves in a relationship with the so-called 'pseudo-bisexual' (or p-b) are in that relationship because we made a choice to be there. It may not feel like a choice at the time, but it really is one. If your self-esteem is not healthy and needs a lift you may be more easily taken in by the p-b. She offers you the

chance to show a basically straight woman how wonderful sex with a lesbian can be, and maybe even, how much **better** than sex with a man. But this situation can backfire very easily. There is a grave flaw in setting yourself up to compete with a man in the realm of sex and relationships. At one time or another in our lives many of us have felt the need to get back at men, to show them how good we are, to win out over them. The p-b woman is often the tool with which this struggle is fought. It usually isn't obvious to us at the time that real love and desire may not be involved at all, but simply the need to prove to yourself that here you can win.

The flaw inherent in this design is that **no one**, not the p-b, not anyone, can compare apples and oranges. If a woman wants to be with womyn, she will be - and that will have nothing to do with the sex she might have had with men. If a woman wants to be with men - your performance in bed, your worship of her will not matter.

What does matter is that when the p-b makes her choice you will have set yourself up for a very big fall. And in the time before the choice is made your self-esteem will take one hell of a beating. The bottom line is - no one can make a person be what she is not. Ask yourself if what you really want is to be in a relationship with a lesbian. If this is what you want then not just any woman will do - and a pseudo-bisexual will not because she cannot satisfy your needs. Remember that we all choose our partners and that very seldom does it prove profitable to pick a woman and try to shape her into the lesbian she is not. Granted, some of the womyn who are unsure of their sexuality (even some pseudo-bisexuals) will eventually evolve into lesbians, but I'd rather catch them the second time around.

HOLLY NEAR STILL A CHAMPION OF WOMYN

by Angela Martin

I have to admit that I didn't know what to expect when my lover and I decided to go see Holly Near in Berea on March 8th. I guess I felt as though Holly Near was old hat - I mean, she's been around forever and I've heard some people say some not-so-great things about her. I was in for a real surprise! Her voice borders on perfection, its versatility making it seem to be a separate instrument capable of great range

and quality. How delighted we felt at intermission knowing that by the end of the evening we would have been treated to two hours of a wonderful performance for free!

The criticism I had heard about Holly Near was that she had proclaimed herself a womyn's musician and lesbian years ago but that intermittently she had been involved with men. I have to admit that sometimes my own emotional reaction does not conform with my intellectual one on this issue - I have had my share of trouble being understanding to lesbian friends who have chosen to sleep with men. But remember that we cannot define a person strictly in terms of who she sleeps with. There is

much more to being a lesbian than sleeping with womyn.

Near has transcended binary definitions of sexuality: man/womon, butch/femme, homosexual/straight. Her performance of songs such as Harriet Tubman, We Who Believe in Freedom and Simply Love prove her to be not only womon-affirming but human-affirming. She is a warriorress poised to fight for equality and justice and her worth as a performer should be judged in this light and in the light of the quality of her work.

Holly Near will be featured at the Southern Women's Music Festival in Georgia this year.

A LESBIAN LOVE ADVISOR

A review by Debbie Currie

It was with some trepidation that I began reading **A Lesbian Love Advisor** (a **LLA**) (1989, 185 pages). After all, I reasoned to myself, what more could author Celeste West possibly have to say than my guru, JoAnn Loulan, said in her marvelous **Lesbian Passion?** Thankfully, however, a **LLA** is not merely a rehashing of that lesbian classic. While it is true that the content of the two books is somewhat similar, their tones are quite different, and there is definitely some new food for thought in a **LLA**. Living up to the name "Advisor," Celeste West's book is action-oriented, which will appeal to those of you who are tired of books filled with endless analysis. She doesn't hesitate to suggest the ways and means to get what you want, noting the pitfalls to watch out for. Clever and insightful, her book is for the most part quite readable, although I was a bit put off by her writing style at times, finding it cumbersome and distracting. There is no doubt, however, that Celeste West knows, and understands well, the lesbian experience. I nodded to myself on many occasions as I recognized my own experience in her words.

A **LLA** covers the full lesbian experience, from "First Blush" to the final goodbye. Accordingly, only parts of it are going to be relevant to our lives at any given point in time. Therefore, unless you are a dedicated student of lesbian behavior, I would recommend that you use this book quite literally as a handbook, reading those chapters that are of interest to you "right here, right now." Each stands on its

own quite nicely. Indeed, the tone and style shift noticeably from chapter to chapter on occasion. The chapters which I would recommend most highly are the ones on "Bedside Manners," relationships, and surviving break-ups. West's wisdom shines in these chapters.

In her introduction, the author introduces us to Lady Clitorea (Lady C) and her Circle. Lady C is the wise old sage from whom the author has learned much of what she now wishes to share with us. Lady C and her Circle pop up here and there throughout the book, sharing their experiences or offering words of wisdom. Unfortunately, they were the least appealing part of this book for me. I was most content and absorbed when the author was "speaking" to me in the first person. Frequently, Lady C and her Circle seemed like intruders to our "conversation," serving only to dilute the impact of the author. West has plenty of worthwhile things to say, and I would have been just as happy to hear them directly from her.

A friend asked me if I thought I might have reacted differently to a **LLA** if I had not already read **Lesbian Passion**. Of course, there is really no way of knowing the answer to that one, but I suspect that, even under those circumstances, I would have felt a similar respect for, and lack of connection with, the author. However, I do recommend a **A Lesbian Love Advisor** as a worthwhile addition to the well-rounded lesbian library.

GAY AMERICA

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

A federal appeals court panel in San Francisco upheld a defense department policy that subjects gay applicants for security clearances to more stringent standards than heterosexual applicants. The plaintiffs said they would appeal the ruling.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Board of Directors of the NAMES Project Foundation have decided to boycott the 6th International Conference on AIDS, which will be held in San Francisco, June 20-24. The boycott is in response to the US federal government's visa restrictions discriminating against people with HIV infection.

As a result of withdrawal of NAMES Project participation, the Quilt will not be displayed within the conference this year. Conference attendees, will have the opportunity to visit the Quilt at Ft. Mason's Festival Pavilion, June 20-24. Sections of the Quilt will also be on display at the San Francisco International Airport.

ATLANTA, GA

An exhaustive federal study of changing patterns of the HIV epidemic in the United States has discovered a dramatic and unexpected decrease in the number of new cases of AIDS among gay men. Since mid 1987, up to 36% fewer gay men developed AIDS than had been predicted. The sharpest drop in numbers of men progressing from HIV infection to an AIDS diagnosis was found in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles: In those three cities the number fell as much as 72% during the last six months of 1988.

PORTLAND, OR

A jury awarded \$500,000 to Joe Griffin, a former bus dispatcher for Portland's mass transit agency, after finding that transit agency officials illegally discriminated against him because they believed he tested positive for HIV antibodies.

DES MOINES, IA

The Iowa Supreme Court has rejected a trial court's order that a gay father restrict visitation with his children only when "no unrelated adult" is present. In lifting the restriction, the court stated that "his unusual provision was obviously imposed on account of the father's homosexual lifestyle."

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed a joint friend of the court brief arguing against the trial court's ruling. The groups urged the Supreme Court to treat the father like any other parent entitled to visitation under Iowa law unless specific harm to the children is proven.

TRENTON, NJ

Following massive publicity in both the gay and non-gay news media, the newly-appointed New Jersey state police superintendent announced the termination of the undercover operation at the service area on the New Jersey Turnpike. The operation led to the entrapment and arrest of hundreds of men on "lewdness" charges. The superintendent stated that "It's kind of repulsive . . . that the state police should be involved in undercover activity to arrest people for [allegedly] lewd behavior." He announced that only uniformed troopers would be assigned to patrol where necessary.

NEW YORK, NY

Rev. Bruce Ritter, the New York City Roman Catholic priest who founded Covenant House, a shelter for teenage runaways, temporarily stepped down from his post as the shelter's executive director after a teenager who was staying there alleged that Ritter had sex with him. Two young men had already alleged that Ritter had sex with them, and one of them, Kevin Kite, accused Ritter of financial improprieties. Ritter has denied the allegations.

OLYMPIA, WA

A gay rights measure has gained approval for the first time in the Washington state house of representatives. Gay activists predict defeat however in the more conservative state senate.

INTO THE FUTURE

Events listed are representative of the many gay and lesbian oriented cultural, political and social activities taking place around the country.

April 16, 1990. Nancy Chodorow lecture. Singletary Center, UK. Lexington, KY.

April 21-22, 1990. Spring Meeting of Affirmation-United Methodists. Kansas City, MO.

April 27-29, 1990. More Light Churches Conference (Presbyterian). Louisville, KY.

May 4-7, 1990. 10th Annual Gay & Lesbian Press Association Convention. San Francisco, CA.

May 20, 1990. Seventh Annual Worldwide AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

May 24-28, 1990. IGBO X, the International Gay/Lesbian Bowling Tournament. Los Angeles, CA.

May 31-June 3, 1990. Womonwrites 12th Annual Southeastern Lesbian Writers' Conference. Central Georgia.

CLASSIFIED AD

Help Wanted: Temporary, part-time position to assist recovering lesbian psychiatric patient's re-entry into community. Active involvement needed at various times during the day. Most evenings and weekends free. Experience in mental health, nursing, or substance abuse recovery helpful and nurturing, supportive attitude required. Small salary and meals, with possibility of room and board. Please, no druggies or drinkers. 259-0694.

NATIONAL GAY/LESBIAN CRISISLINE

(800) 767-4297

DIRECTORY

GLSO Gayline	231-0335
GLSO Board call Craig,	266-8887
GLSO News call Craig,	266-8887
GLSO Speakers Bureau ..call Bill, ..	266-9175
GLSO Coming Out Group	
.... call Alan,	253-2414
.... or Teresa,	252-3106
GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance	
.... call Esmerelda,	255-3851
GLSO Rainbow Bowling League	
.... call Chuck,	268-8541
NAMES Project Kentucky	
.... call J.C.	299-8836
Lesbian Potluck	
.... call Esmerelda,	252-7837
Lesbian Passion Discussion Group	
.... call Esmerelda,	255-3851
Esmerelda's Parlour	
.... call Angela,	255-3851
Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates	
.... call Kate/Amy,	231-0350
GLUE (UK Support Group)	
.... call Suzanne,	231-0255
Gay/Lesbian AA	
.... call Dave,	277-9522
Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon	
.... call Robert,	293-0516
Imperial Court of the Bluegrass	
Empire .. call Terry,	266-8715
Dignity/Lexington	
.... call Keith,	263-5940
Liturgy call Don,	299-4458
Interweave call Craig,	266-8887
(UU gays, lesbians and friends.)	
AVOL	276-AVOL
(AIDS support and education)	
ACT-Lexington	281-5151
(AIDS education and referral)	
HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group	
.... call Edwin,	233-0444
Lexington-Fayette Co. Health Department	
AIDS Testing	288-AIDS
(For anonymous counseling and testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)	
Madison County Health Department	
AIDS Testing	623-7312
(For anonymous counseling and testing, call the above number and ask for an AIDS Counselor.)	
Louisville Crisis Hotline	(502) 637-4342

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

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

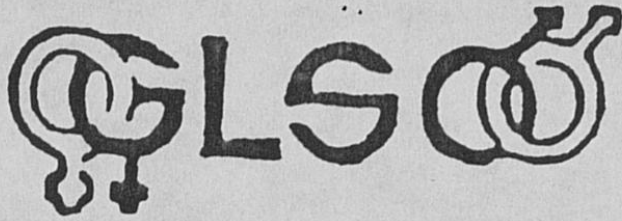
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WEEKLY EVENTS

- SUNDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 4 pm, Comp Care Center;
Gayline, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
- MONDAY** Gays & Lesbians United for Education (GLUE), 7:30 pm, St. Augustine's Church, 472 Rose Street
- TUESDAY** Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon, 7 pm; GLSO Rainbow Bowling League, 9 pm, Joyland Lanes
- WEDNESDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, St. Joseph Hospital, CCI Meeting Room; **Gayline**, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
- THURSDAY** HIV+, ARC, AIDS Support Group; **Gayline**, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm
- FRIDAY** Gay/Lesbian AA, 8 pm, Comp Care Center; **Gayline**, 231-0335, 8 - 11 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

- SUN** 1 Bluegrass Human Rights Advocates, 6:30 pm
- MON** 2 Pride Week Committee, 7 pm
- SUN** 8 Lesbian Potluck, 2 pm; AIDS Volunteers Of Lexington, 5:30 pm, Comp Care Center
- MON** 9 GLSO Forum, 8 pm, Comp Care Center
- TUE** 10 **GLSO News** Deadline
- WED** 11 NAMES Project, 7 pm, Rosenthal Center, Transylvania University
- THU** 12 GLSO Coming Out Support Group, 7:30 pm, 3rd floor, Frazee Hall, University of Kentucky; Lesbian Passion Group, 7:30 pm
- FRI** 13 Dignity Liturgy, 8 pm
- MON** 16 Pro-Choice Alliance, 7:30 pm, Alfalfa's Restaurant; Nancy Chodorow lecture, 8 pm, UK's Singletary Center (see article)
- WED** 18 Interweave, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church
- THU** 19 Dignity Rap Session, 7:30 pm
- FRI** 20 GLSO Coffeehouse & Dance, featuring "Yer Girlfriend", 8:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road
- WED** 25 GLSO Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- THU** 26 GLSO Coming Out Support Group, 7:30 pm, 3rd floor, Frazee Hall, University of Kentucky; Dignity Rap Session, 7:30 pm
- MON** 30 Voter Registration Deadline, (Register at your County Clerk's Office)



* Doors open
at 8:30 p.m.

COFFEE HOUSE
presents

Last Dance...
Last Chance *
til September '90.

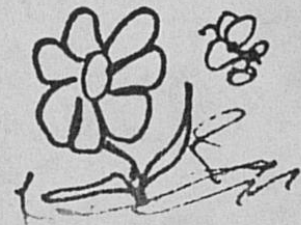
\$5.00 *
admission
(\$4.00 with valid
GLSO membership
card).

featuring ↴
"Yer Girlfriend"

Snacks
Soda
available

Friday, April 20th
Unitarian Universalist Church
3564 Claysmill Rd.
Lexington, Kentucky.

BYOB.



Loose Item