



GLSO NEWS

Vol. 13 **December 1998** No. 12

A publication of the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Service Organization

Elegies

Elegies for Angels, Punks, and Raging Queens by Bill Russell with music by Janet Hood will have three encore performances early in December. This moving play will again be directed by Homer Tracey and produced by ActOut. Inspired by the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project and based on real life stories, *Elegies* presents a cross-section of Americans affected by the AIDS crisis. A series of monologues, punctuated by songs, weaves a moving tapestry of life with AIDS.

The performance on Dec. 1 will begin at approximately 8 pm in the Radisson Hotel Ballroom and will be held in conjunction with Ebony Male's Miss Daisy's Toys for Kiddies project. Admission to the play will be one new toy. The toys will be given to the HIV Care Coordinators at the Fay. Co. Health Dept. to be distributed to children in families affected by HIV/AIDS. Admission will be \$5.00 for those who wish to see the play that evening but did not bring a toy. Toys can also be dropped off at Movable Feast, 472 Rose Street.

On Dec. 4 and 5, the play will be held at the downtown public library at 8 pm. Admission \$7. When this play was produced during Pride month, audience members begged for a repeat. This is your second chance--don't miss it!!

RING OUT

The Lexington Men's Chorus kicks off its 1998-99 concert series with "Ring Out!" in two performances on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 8:00 P.M. and on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3:00 P.M. The gay and gay supportive chorus is directed by Dawn Coon, with accompaniment by Loren Tice.

The centerpiece of the winter program is the premiere of "The Bell," a setting of a short story by Hans Christian Andersen. Lexington composer Brian Throckmorton wrote the piece for the chorus. It is funded in part by a grant from GALA Choruses, an international association of more than 150 gay and lesbian choruses. This composition, which is scored for male chorus, piano, cell, violin, and chimes, tells the story of an Old World city where the townspeople are enchanted by the mysterious sound of an invisible bell. The narrator for these performances will be Debra Hensley, Lexington actress, business woman and former urban county council member.

Other highlights include Irving Berlin's *Snow* from *White Christmas*, *Joy*, a gospel number from "The Preacher's Wife" and forays into the *Ring Out* continued on page 2

Drag with Dignity, Wed. Dec. 2
"Sea Cruise" at The Bar page 3

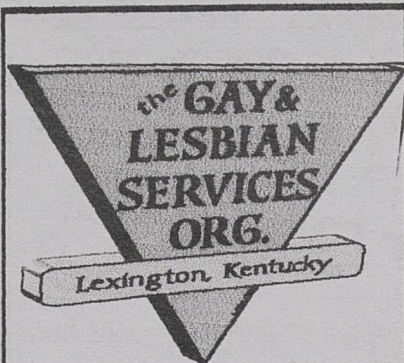
SisterSound Opens Fourth Season

SisterSound, the Lexington Women's Chorus, opens its fourth season on Saturday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall, Singletary Center for the Arts. Focusing on its theme for the season, *Leave No Song Unsung*, the 35 voice chorus offers a wide variety of musical treats ranging from Native American to traditional holiday fare. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 students and seniors, and \$5 for children. Tickets are available through the Singletary box office, 277-3809.

On April 24th and 25th, special guest Margie Adam joins SisterSound to help continue the promise to *Leave No Song Unsung*. Pianist/vocalist/songwriter Margie Adam has long been a leader in the women's music community and her appearance in Lexington promises to *SistersSound* continued on page 2

Sponsor of the Month

**Lexington
Men's
Chorus**



The GLSO News
Vol.13 Issue 12
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*The Lexington Gay
Lesbian Service
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**GLSO Annual Dues
and Newsletter: \$15**
**Dues and Newsletter for
Couples: \$20**

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GLSO PAGE 2

continued from page 1

RING OUT

worlds of jazz, classical, doowop and traditional holiday favorites. The chorus's small ensembles, Fourte and Sweet Evening Breeze, will also perform. And for those who need a break from too much holiday cheer, the chorus will offer *Fa, la la (blah, blah, blah)*, an ode to stress, which begins 'The holidays are squalid days...'

The concert will be presented at the Recital Hall of the UK Singletary Center for the Arts. Tickets (\$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students, \$6 children under 10) are available from the Singletary Center ticket office, 257-4929 or from any chorus member.

GLSO SPONSORSHIPS

It is again time to reserve your month for Sponsorship of the GLSO News. For 1999 the cost has gone up to \$200 a month because of the increased cost of printing, mailing, the use of color and the larger size of the newsletter. Each sponsor receives one full page advertisement and a boxed announcement on the front page during the month of sponsorship, a listing with address and phone number every month, and reduced prices for the 1999 Pink Pages. Sponsors can also purchase additional ads in the GLSO News at our lowest prices.

We appreciated the generosity of our sponsors over the past three years, you have provided GLSO with the financial stability to grow and offer a variety of services to our community. One third of the sponsorships for 1999 have been spoken for, so if you are interested, call John soon. (269-6969)

Discussion/Support Group

The Holiday Season is a time of family togetherness, good cheer, and...extra stress. LBGT People are

often faced with decisions about how to answer *those* questions from relatives, wheather to ask that our partners be included in invitations, or even wheather to go "home" at all.

If you would like to discuss the stress of Holidays, talk about coming out and "living out" issues in general, or share with us your solutions to family pressure, come join us on Thursday, Dec 10 at 7:30 pm at the Pride Center, 387 Waller Avenue. Jeremy and Mary will host this discussion in the tradition of GLSO Forums of years past. We will also talk about an ongoing support group starting in January. If you would like more information contact Jeremy at ciscoboy@webtv.com or Mary 266-5904.

continued from page 1 **SISTERSOUND**

be a very special event and one not to be missed. Mark your calender and help us spread the word!

In other performances this season, SisterSound will join with MUSE, the Cincinnati Women's Choir on May 29, in a performance of "Orobora" under the direction of composer Kate Gardner. Capping an exciting and challenging season will be the performances with the Lexington Men's Chorus and the Voices of Kentuckiana for Pride Week concerts on June 5 and June 12.

Want to be part of the fun? SisterSound will be accepting new members during the month of January. Rehearsals for the spring season began on Sunday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Park Methodist Church, Clay Avenue and High Street. There are no auditions and you do not have to have previous singing experience to join. For more information contact Barb at 277-3809 or Lee at 873-7791.

Community News

WORLD AIDS DAY CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

By the time you get this it will be too late to sign up for the World AIDS Day Conference, but not too late to attend the candlelight vigil. It will be held in triangle park at 5:30 with a performance of *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks*, and *Raging Queens* following in the Radisson. (see front page for more information about this play.)

Drag with Dignity Sea Cruise Extravaganza

Dignity Lexington is planning a drag/variety extravaganza for your enjoyment. This year's theme is "Let Us Take You On A Sea Cruise". We will have some of your favorite performers, various groups, and some newcomers in their very first performance. We plan to have great production numbers sure to please.

This benefit drag show will be Wednesday December 2 at The Bar Complex. Doors open at 7:30 and the show will begin at 8:30 sharp. Admission will be \$5.00 at the door. We'll "sea" you there.

Miss Mary Christmas

The Court's gala *Miss Mary Christmas* pageant will be held on Wed. Dec. 9 at Club 141. If you are interested in participating, call Mika (269-9465) for the particulars. If you want to come join the fun, the cost is \$3 and the time is 10 pm. (Need we say "drag time"?) Proceeds will benefit the RSIC charities of this year: Movable Feast, the Pride Center, and AVOL.

Interweave

Join us Sunday, Dec. 20 after the Sunday Service for our next monthly luncheon. To cut down on what you have to do in this busy time of year, we plan to leave church at about 12:15 for lunch at a local restaurant. For more information call Davina (271-6174)

P-FLAG

Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (corner of Armstrong Mill and Tates Creek Roads). December 8th this month.

P-FLAG is open to anyone who has need of support or is willing to offer support to people, including straight spouses, who have friends or family members, who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered.

👉👈 Rock CLIMBING 👉👈

Rock climbing is experiencing a nationwide explosion in popularity and here is an opportunity to try it out. Shannon Stuart-Smith is currently employed as a rock climbing guide/instructor introducing all types of people to the exciting world of climbing at the Red River Gorge. She is offering her services free of charge to women until the end of the year. The only expense will be renting a pair of climbing shoes to fit you, or time at the climbing gym if you

choose to climb indoors. You can reach Shannon at (606) 335-0067. or e-mail her at RRGCC@aol.com.

MCC Games Night

The Metropolitan Community Church is planning Games Nights as a non-alcoholic alternative on cold Winter nights. This month, we will meet on Friday, Dec 18, from 7 to 11PM in the Pride Center. Bring you favorite snack item and game. This will be a fun way to meet new people. If you have questions you can call Tomas Edison at 226-0978 or e-mail me at (twedis1@pop.uky.edu).

WOMAN'S BASKETBALL

We are looking for women basketball players who would like to play recreational basketball on a regular basis. Currently, we are playing on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Seaton Center Gym. To get into the gym, you must have a valid UK student/faculty/staff ID or you must purchase passes for \$2 each. For more information (or to suggest an alternative site/time), please call 258-9332.

Pride Center

Because of the seasonal increase in advertising, an article about the financial status of the Pride Center has been postponed until next month. We will need more financial support in the coming year to keep the center up and running

IF YOUR LABEL IS LAVENDER--PLEASE RENEW HELP!! WE NEED MORE LEXINGTON SUBSCRIBERS NOW

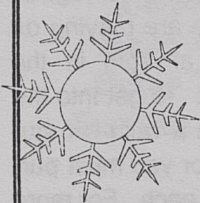


Sister Sound



Lexington Women's Chorus
invites you to our Holiday portion of

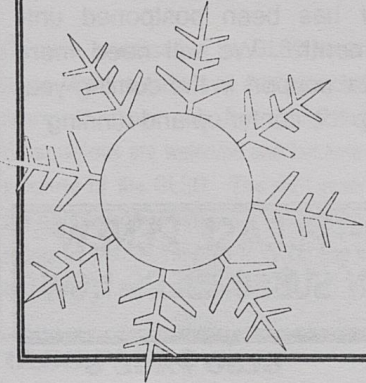
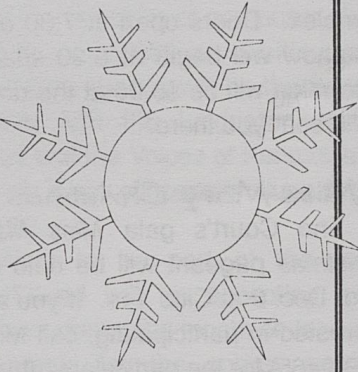
Leave No Song Unsung




December 12, 1998, 8:00pm
Singletary Center for the Arts
Recital Hall

Tickets are \$12.00 for adults,
\$5.00 for children, and
\$8.00 for students and seniors

- Tickets are on sale now at the
Singletary Center for the Arts Box Office
(257-4929)



Please join us for the continuation of "Leave No Song Unsung" with
Guest Artist Margie Adam, April 24 and 25, 1999



MISEDUCATION OF THE MELTING GIRL

By Renette F. Jones

Why doesn't life include a handy dandy manual that explains the zing that causes your drawers to start skidding during the early teen years? It was not easy for me to find answers about what my body was doing every time I got a whiff of a certain neighborhood girl.

A concerned family member gave me a 1930 medical book that explained the male sexual response. There was nothing in the book about females. The local library had books about the menstrual cycle, the sperm and egg union, and the joy of being a mommy.

But there was absolutely nothing that explained how or why my drawers did the tuck and roll for that sweet smelling girl. Somebody somewhere had to know something about this stuff.

Who exactly was I supposed to ask about the melting sensation if all the books said that this was a man thing for the sake of procreation? My young mind concluded that if this was a normal thing it would be mentioned in the same books that talked about menfolk. Since it wasn't, I sought the expert opinion of older women (older teenagers) who boasted about their knowledge of the itch and the urge.

First I asked for a detailed explanation of the physical cause, origin, and residue of the itch and the urge. They all looked at me like I had two heads. The answers to my questions were the simple facts that it does, it is, then its done. When I asked what all the outside parts were suppose to do, I was told to be quiet and stop asking so many dumb questions.

And don't be messing around with the outside parts a whole lot cause they will stretch out of shape and no man will want to be with you. Believe it, when the time came, the parts would do their part. Everybody knew that women had instinctive thrusting gyrations that no man could resist. Only a funny woman would let another woman work her gyrations up into a steamy lather.

Funny woman! I knew this was not a good thing, but who could tell me exactly what drove a woman to be funny? According to my girlhood friend, there was no such thing as funny girls until after a girl had her first period. Cause then you get breast and you have to be able to hide your breast before you could be funny. And furthermore, I didn't have a burgundy pinstriped suit, wing tipped shoes, and a 'Feedora' hat like that funny woman that floated through the projects late Sunday evenings. My friend said that you could always tell a woman was funny by the way she dressed and by the way she hid her breast.

I was stunned to find out the pinstriped woman was funny. The sight of her just made my world come to a screeching halt. Everybody in the projects looked at her with their mouths hung wide open. Everybody except my know it all friend, who would never shut up about how much the funny woman's clothes cost and how her breast never shook under the white silk shirt. My friend even swore that she saw a print in the crouch of the professionally pressed and creased pinstriped slacks.

Forget about the clothes, I wanted to understand what it was that made that woman funny. She had children and she said "Hi Baby" just like those saved sisters at Sunday

service. According to my friend the woman was funny because she had a thang and a you know what. The children came before she got the thang. My friend also told me that her moma said that woman was a 'hermoreforadyke' and that's where the word dyke came from. Her moma said funny women are sometimes called diesel dykes, cause they drive diesel trucks. Diesel dykes got a bigger thang down there because they tough, they kick ass. Lesbians are the ones who do the nasty thing.

What nasty thing?! My friend told me that her moma would not tell her what nasty thing lesbians did, it was too bad of a thing to talk about. Her moma was going to tell her when she got older and could understand. My friend's moma said some things were better left unsaid to keep from jinxing a girl, because once a girl started her period the hormones could get messed up and make her a lesbian or make the girl's you know what start growing a tiny thang.

My friend's misinformation sent me straight to the bathroom to make sure my you know what had not been joined by a budding thang. Next I went back to the library to find out what a 'hermoreforadyke' was and what nasty thing lesbians did. I found that the word dyke was spelled d-i-k-e and dikes were really lesbians who were really homosexuals who were mentally ill people.

Since most things in books didn't apply to people who lived in the projects, I assumed that the library books were not referring to the funny women who lived on my side of town. None of these people had been in the nut house. I never heard anybody say that they were on the zombie drugs. I would come back later to

Continued on the next page

see if there was anything about Black funny women. I was desperate to find out what a 'hermoreforadyke' was and what nasty thing lesbians did.

I spent the entire day in the library. The word 'hermoreforadyke' was not in the dictionary or the encyclopedia or any of the medical books. Nor was there anything about the nasty thing that lesbians did. I was not going to ask the librarian about any of this. Just asking about the word homosexual had made her glasses bounce off her face.

She asked me if my parents knew that I was reading such material. I had to say yes. She kept staring at me through the bottom half of her crooked glasses. Her magnified eyes looked like they were perched on the very edge of the sockets from hell.

I concluded that this lesbian and

'hermoreforadyke' stuff was extremely serious and secretive, just like whatever it was that made me melt when that girl was around. It was best I not tell anybody else about what I was feeling. I would come back to the library and keep looking for the books that would answer my questions. I would keep checking my drawers to make sure no tiny thang was starting to grow down there, I knew I would die if I became a 'hermoreforadyke'. And no matter how much time it took, I was going to find out what nasty thing lesbians did.

Intercultural Lesbians!

"The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans are suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they are OK, then it's you."
Rita Mae Brown

HERMAPHRODITES WITH ATTITUDE

by Mary Crone

I borrowed the name for this article from a newsletter I received at the American Psychological Society Annual Convention held in San Francisco this year. I was glad to find quite a number of excellent workshops on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues.

I would like to think that within the LBGT community there is now enough information available to make our childhood confusion about "Hermoreforadykes" a thing of the past. But no, its still confusing. For this and future articles, I have gotten information from *Transgender Warriors*, by Leslie Feinberg and from the Intersex Society of North America. *continued on page 13, go ahead and turn that many pages, its worth it!!*



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ELEGIES

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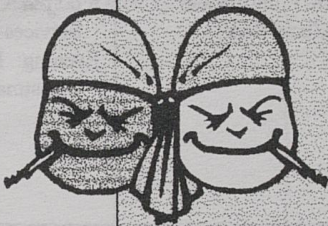


Selections from "Elegies" will be performed during the 1998 World AIDS Day Conference at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Lexington. The play will be presented in its' entirety starting at 7:30 in conjunction with Miss Daisy's Toys for Kiddies following the Candlelight Vigil. Admission is \$5.00 or FREE with the presentation of a toy.



Friday, December 4 and Saturday December 5 performances at the Lexington Public Library Theater will be at 8:00p.m. Admission is \$7.00 and proceeds are to benefit Moveable Feast and the Pride Center of the Bluegrass. To reserve tickets please call 255-5469 or email misterb@gte.net.

About Elegies: Inspired by the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project and based on real life stories, Elegies presents a cross-section of American society affected in some way by the AIDS crisis. A series of monologues, punctuated by songs, builds to an unforgettable, emotional climax. Making Elegies a must see night of theater.



A "New" Toy
ya' Slacker!



The Toys will be delivered to the HIV Care Coordinators at the Fayette County Health Dept. for distribution to children in families affected by HIV/AIDS.

DECEMBER 1998

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 TUESDAY 9:00 am WORLD AIDS DAY Conference (Radisson) 5:30 pm Candlelight Vigil (Triangle Park) 8:00 pm Elegies (Radisson) 10 pm Out of the Past film (KET) | 2 WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Grp 8:00 pm Dignity Drag Show (The Bar) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA | 3 THURSDAY 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center) | 4 FRIDAY 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Elegies (Downtown Public Library) | 5 SATURDAY 9:00 am Frontrunners (Arboretum) 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 8:00 pm Elegies (Downtown Public Library) |
| 6 SUNDAY 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 6:00 pm Dignity (Pride Center) 6:00 pm SisterSound rehearsal | 7 MONDAY 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study | 8 7:30 pm PFLAG Chapel (Hill Presbyterian Church) | 9 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA 10:00 pm Miss Mary Christmas R.S.I.C. (Club 141) | 10 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center) | 11 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA |
| 13 CHANUKAH begins 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC | 14 7:00 pm GLSO Board Mtg (Pride Center) 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study | 15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">GLSO NEWS DEADLINE SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS FOR NEXT CALENDAR 273-9649</div> | 16 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 7:30 pm Fairness Lexington (Pride Center) 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA | 17 7:00 pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Pride Center) 7:30 pm UK Lambda (Student Center) | 18 7:00 pm LMCC Games Night 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA |
| 20 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC 12:15 pm Interweave Lunch 6:00 pm Dignity (Pride Center) 3 pm Men's Chorus Concert (Singletery Ctr) | 21 SOLSTICE 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study | 22 | 23 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) | 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Services (UU Church) Evening: LMCC Christmas Eve Services | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 7:30 pm Gay/Lesbian AA |
| 27 10:45 am UU Church 11:30 am LMCC | 28 7:00 pm Women's Basketball (Seaton Gym) 8:00 pm AA Step Study | 29 | 30 6:00 pm Frontrunners (Woodland Park) 6:00 pm HIV/AIDS Support Group 7:00 pm MCC Study Group 8:00 pm Gay/Lesbian AA | 31 NEW YEARS EVE | |

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Money, Marriage & Me

by Kelly O'Ferrell

"You have one more root thought about money...that there's not enough...money is scarce...money is never given freely...money doesn't grow on trees (when, in fact, it does)..." from *Conversations With God, book 1*

Well, as you know, that's certainly been my philosophy about money - that there's not going to be enough. I'm usually sitting in the present with a little bit of money trying to pay all the bills due in the future.

Funny how my mind always remembers the fantasy - that there's not going to be enough - instead of the truth - that there has always been enough.

When Tammy, my partner, and I first moved in together, we argued about money a lot - arguments born of our fears. I remember a friend asking me, "But Kelly, hasn't Tammy always come up with her half of the expenses?"

That's how Tam and I did our money in the beginning. You'd think that if we were splitting our bills 50/50, each paying our own specific bills, and Tam always paying her part, that there wouldn't be anything to argue about. Fear finds a way.

From the very beginning, Tam wanted to pool our money. There wasn't any way in hell I was going to do that - my fear was too great, my trust too little.

Now, I trusted her enough to fall asleep beside of her and I trusted that she wouldn't have an affair, but I would not trust her with money - with paper. I trust her with my life but not with paper.

Tam and I tried for about two years to work out our money problems. We knew that a large part of

our conflict was a product of our histories and we knew we wanted something different. But how?

I remember I was with a small group of friends and I asked to hear their experience about how they handled money in their relationships. I heard different ways that worked for each couple. I also heard one woman talk about how money was more about trust and honesty.

She and her husband had been where Tam and I were. The hardest transition for her was not changing how they handled money together, but how she changed how she handled her lack of trust in her partner and in The Universe.

Tam and I met with them, had dinner and sat around their kitchen table and talked intimately about our feelings and problems with money. We knew that what we'd been doing wasn't working, so we were willing to at least try something different.

We agreed to put our income together and pay our bills from that money (fund money). We give ourselves spending money each week just like one of our bills. We have our own VISA's and one together. We have to agree on mutual purchases - if we don't agree, then the one wanting the item gets to decide if she wants to spend her own money. We considered all bills brought into the marriage as our bills (medical, loans, amendments). Any personal debts other than medical acquired inside the marriage is the responsibility of each person.

I remember how close we felt as we drove home. A great weight had been lifted off both of us, and we were beginning to learn how to do money together.

Was it a perfect solution? It couldn't be! Tam and I had to meet

with our friends again recently (now two years later) to talk about more specific issues (or maybe, ultimately, the same one - trust).

We'd talked with them individually over the past two years, but now it was time to sit down together. Tam had been unemployed since her graduation from UK in August until sometime in October. This became prime fodder for my fears. I began to not trust that she was spending just her money as opposed to the fund money.

So, we sat again with our friends and talked intimately about our feelings. Something that had worked for them was to sit down together, write out all their expenses and their income just to see where they were financially instead of relying on their fears. I also heard, again, about trust. Only this time, I didn't feel very different on our way home.

About two weeks after our meeting, Tam and I decided to take a cash advance from our VISA to pay some bills. I called our friend to talk to her about this option. She asked if Tam and I had sat down and written out our expenses and income? She suggested we do that before taking a cash advance.

So, we sat at our kitchen table and saw, on paper, our expenses. I knew there was no way I could make that much money every month. But, we wrote down the income anyway, and, with a few adjustments to expenses, we saw that, just for that month, with my bit of income and what Tam was able to contribute (emergency food stamps and house cleaning money), we could pay our bills without a cash advance. There was enough. There always had been.

continued on next page

I still say things best left unsaid: "You'll have to spend your own money" and "How are you going to pay for that?" And Tam thinks that I say no to mutual purchases more than she does - which is true.

This is just what works best for us for now. It's not a perfect solution. It's not **the** solution. A solution is whatever brings more peace into our lives.

Today, we have all our bills paid and \$172 dollars in the bank and Tam gets paid this Friday (she found a job she really likes). I'm starting to believe that money really does grow on trees.

P.S. It's been about a week since I wrote that article and we're in the hole and I'm scared again. I start wondering when I'm going to go out and just get a real job and what's wrong with me? This fear takes up a lot of space in my life; it pushes Tam

away and steals my today.

Fantasy: there's no money in the bank, I won't ever find a job I love and make decent money, there won't be enough money when we need it for bills, a check is going to bounce, something horrible is going to happen.

Fact: we have all our bills paid, we have plenty of food to eat, we want for nothing today, I'm doing the best I can with work, I have a check for \$75 coming this week, Tammy and I love one another and our friends, we are loved, we have a warm, wonderful apartment, please, I could go on and on.

FEELINGS AREN'T FACT!!

It's time for me to call someone and talk about these fears instead of just letting them grow and grow inside of my body.

P.S.S. It's a few days later now. We have money in the bank because I

asked to be paid early. Even in my fear, I knew that I didn't have to be afraid if I didn't want to-if nothing else, that's different. But, I had begun to not be afraid (a little) before the money showed up. I wonder, is this like the fantasy that if I don't worry, then I must not really care? If I'm not afraid, then money won't show up? My experience, again, is that there is always enough.

"Out of the Past"

Out of the Past tells the story of a high school student in Salt Lake City, Utah who struggles to form a Gay Straight Alliance in her public school. Several historic gay civil rights activists are profiled as the story unfolds. This film will be shown on KET on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 10 p.m.



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Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered
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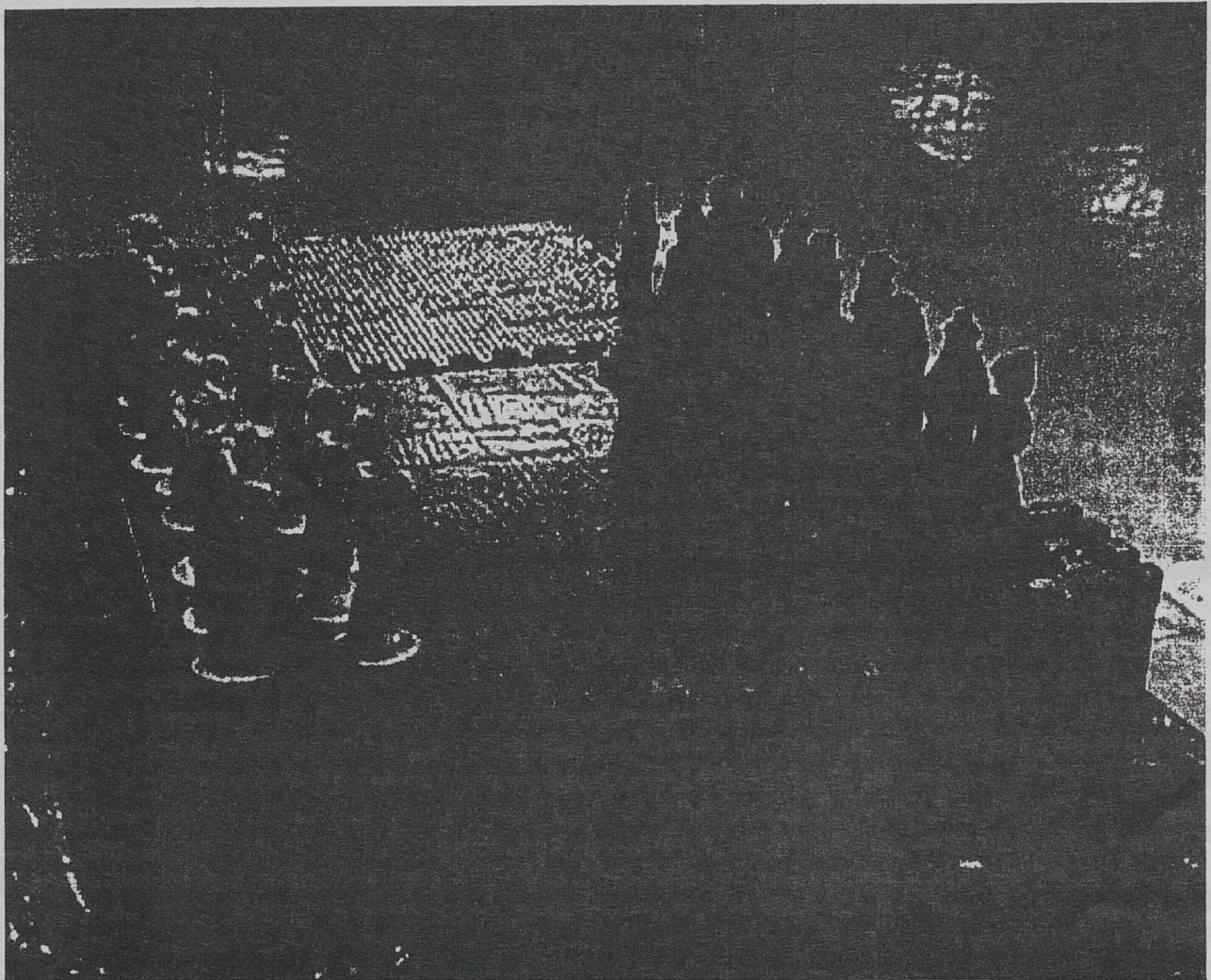


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America, ISSN. I purchased a film, *Hermaphrodites Speak!* from them that I will show at the Pride Center early next year.

Intersexual is a relatively new term for hermaphrodites, or people that are born in the middle of what most people see as the two genders. The existence of intersexual individuals testifies to the need for us to question our bipolar definition of gender and to consider looking at gender as a continuum.

Babies that come into the world with ambiguous genitalia are routinely operated on to make their external genitalia "normal", sometimes to correspond to their genetic and /or endocrine status although these can also be ambiguous. They are more often given female genitalia than male, simply because it is easier. Such births may occur as frequently as 1 in 500 or 1 in 1,000 (reports differ.) Parents are told, "raise them to correspond to however we have surgically shaped their bodies, there will be no problems."

Intersexuals also include those individuals who discover at puberty that their bodies are not developing "normally". This may mean that their hormones begin to feminize or masculinize a body they were told was of

the other gender. Again, doctors may intervene with hormones or surgery to make their bodies conform to societies expectations, often without informing the young teen or their parents of any other options.

It was quite surprising to me to see this issue dealt with recently on ER. A young girl who sustained some injuries in a car accident was being operated on for damage to her intestines. The doctors discovered during the operation that "she" had two undescended testicles. They removed them, informing the parents only after the deed was done that they had to be removed because of the danger of cancer (unproven) and that since she was raised as a girl there would be absolutely no problem. Out of ear shot of the parents, however, one young doctor did express concern that the pre-teen girl might grow up to be male.

I was pleased to see that the portrayal was accurate. In general, doctors operated quickly, tell parents there will be no problems with gender identification, cross their fingers, and tell them not to mention this small bit of cutting to the child. The procedures are often kept secret, increasing the isolation and shame that intersex people and their parents

experience. Intersexual adults have great difficulty in gaining access to accurate medical records to discover what happened to them.

The Intersex Society points out that physicians treat intersexual infants and children as if they were medical emergencies, when in fact the emergency is culturally constructed. The belief that there are two clearly distinct genders is accompanied by intense discomfort of any biological, emotional, or behavioral expression of gender that falls between the two poles, male and female. Many of us know that homophobia is most often directed at those of us that are the most transgendered, those of us that are in between gender in any way.

Historically, gender has been viewed in a great variety of ways. Historian Randolph Trumbach states that our cultural paradigm that "there are two genders founded on two biological sexes began to predominate in western culture only the early eighteenth century." For a fascinating and detailed look at the history gender definition, read *Transgender Warriors* by Leslie Feinberg.

I'm out of room before I'm out of words. Stay tuned for more on this topic in 1999.

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| Community News (Mary) | 266-5904 |
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| Pride Alliance EKU (Josh) | (606)622-5297 |
| (Jessica) | (606)622-5321 |
| Lex. Youth Support Group (Kenneth) | 222-1919 |
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| Health Dept. HIV Support Programs | |
| (Patty) | 288-2377 |
| (Amanda) | 288-2374 |
| HIV/AIDS Legal Project | (502) 584-1254 |
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| Ky. Legislator Message Line | (800) 372-7181 |
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| [multi-traditional](Chris) | 268-1640 |
| Pagan Forum (Rev. Pat) | 268-1640 |
| RainbowWind [Pagan] (Sarah) | 252-7673 |

GLSO ONLINE

Peter: peter@uky.campus.mci.net

Mary: Marycrone@aol.com

Terry: misterb@gte.net